

Chaffee Trail Elementary

D U V A L C O U N T Y P U B L I C S C H O O L S

December Events

Dec. 12-15th—Patrols will be selling candy canes

Dec. 14th—5th grade spelling bee

Dec. 15th—CTE Holiday program—2nd grade performance and Santa Shop open from 6pm-8pm

December 19- January 3rd- Winter Break No School

January 11 & 25 -Early Dismissal dates

January 19th- End of Second Nine Weeks

January 23-27-Celebrate Literacy Week-

January 27th-Flag Raising

HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Come out and enjoy the Holiday festivities at Chaffee Trail Thursday December the 15 starting at 6:00pm. Our second grade students will be performing some favorite holiday carols for your listening pleasure and Mrs. Walker will read Wild Christmas Reindeer by Jan Brett to our students. The Santa Store will be open for business from 6 to 8pm, before and after the performance. The PTA and Patrols will also have pizza and other food and drink items available for purchase from 6pm to 8pm. We hope to see you at this fun and exciting holiday event.



DCPS RELEASES WINTER PACKETS TO BOOST LEARNING DURING THE BREAK

DCPS has released Winter Packet (http://www.duvalschools.org/static/students/student_software/winterPackets_2011.asp)

designed for student enrichment during Winter Break.

Remember, just because students are on winter vacation doesn't mean learning has to stop - - Research suggests that students who continue to read while on school breaks and vacations maintain their academic progress made during the school year.

The Department of Education's Just Read, Florida office released its 2011 Holiday Reading List, which provides suggested literary works to encourage families and students to both share and enjoy the gift of reading and literacy throughout the holiday season. For more information, visit www.justreadfamilies.org.

K I N D E R G A R T E N

We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving break! We have a lot to learn in a few short weeks before Winter break. The following is what we will be learning. Skills: Applying our letter sound knowledge when we read and write. Reviewing our sight words everyday. Blending, segmenting, onset and rhyme, and initial consonant blending. Here are a few tips to help your child at

home: look through magazines, books and newspapers for sight words. Write them on flash cards and practice reading them every night. Reading: Talking about books we've read. Working on retelling stories from beginning, middle and end. Here are a few tips to help your child at home: Read a story with your child. Ask them what happened in the beginning, middle and end of the

story. Does he/she include important details? Do they use the names from the story or generic pronouns (he, she, they)? Are you having to prompt them by "What happened next?" or "What else happened?." Being able to retell a story is an important step in the process of comprehension. Writing: Persuasive writing: Students need to persuade or talk someone into doing on

holiday related activities and crafts. At the end of the day we will have our Polar Express pajama party. We will watch the movie, Polar Express while wearing our pajamas! Don't forget to bring your pillow and sleeping bag! We will see you back at school on Tuesday, January 3rd. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

F I R S T G R A D E

We are very busy Growing Great Minds and do not want to miss the opportunity to reach all of our seedlings as much as possible! So please make every effort to have your student in school EVERY DAY! During Reader's Workshop we have been focusing on the comprehension strategy of Summarizing. Students are encouraged to think about the important parts of the story including: characters, setting, problem and solution. We are still

utilizing Read, Stop, and Think to have meaningful conversation about the books we read. In writing we are continuing to work on our persuasive writing. Remind your student of the OREO: Opinion, Reason, Explanation, and their opinion restated at the end. We will be working on double and triple stuffing our Oreos!! In math we are moving more in depth with number operations. We will be working on addition and subtraction strategies and solving story problems.

Encourage your child to use pictures, numbers and words to solve their problems when working at home. As the 2011 portion of our school year is coming to an end the first grade team would like to wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday season. Enjoy this time with your family and friends. Remember: There are some FANTASTIC holiday books to READ out there!! See you in 2012!

S E C O N D G R A D E

It is going to be a busy December as we come to the end of 2011!!! We have so much to happy about at Chaffee Trail Elementary!! Learning is taking place everyday and we are excited about the progress we are seeing in our students! In reading we are continuing to learn comprehension strategies that will make sure we understand what we read. Without understanding reading is not complete. December is a great month to snuggle up with your child on a cold day and read a book together!! In writing we continue to work on narratives. The children have participated in making a rubric ,together with their teacher, to help them decide if their narrative has all of the necessary elements. Peer conferencing is also being used to make and take suggestions for improving their narratives. In math, we are continuing to work on number patterns. It is important that children be able to identify the pattern in a series of numbers, such as, 3,6,9,12, and 15. After identifying the pattern (add 3 each time), they should be able to continue that pattern.

We are inviting all of you to attend the second grade holiday program Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:30. Go ahead and tell your family to mark their calendar. It will be sure to bring all in attendance joy and happiness!!!

T H I R D G R A D E

This December third grade is ready for the beautiful weather. In reading the students are continuing to learning about author's viewpoint as well as the author's message. Also, getting deeper into questioning using higher-level thinking. The students will be using their prior knowledge for the importance of rereading. Please continue to practice these reading strategies at home when reading with your children. In social studies and science the students will be using text features to identify key answers to questions. Social studies will be studying the history of the Native American Indians, and in science we are finishing up with animals and soaring into space real soon. Math is finishing up with multiplication and division. Soon 3rd grade will start geometry and measurement. Please take advantage of all the online resources available for your child. Have a safe and healthy holiday.

F O U R T H G R A D E

As we move into the second semester of the school year please continue to encourage your children to use Study Island and Destination Success at home. Here is a brief overview of what the next few weeks have in store for each of the subject areas.

Reading- During this month the children will be reading biographies and American Stories. They will be asked to use strategies such as summarizing and making generalizations to comprehend what they've read. We will continue to review making inferences and visualization. Read with them nightly and check their comprehension by asking lots of questions!

Writing- The children are beginning a new writing genre which is called Expository writing. In this genre the children will be explaining their thoughts about a given topic. They will have to provide support for their reasons as well as personal anecdotes to help create voice in their work.

Language and Skills- In language the children are continuing to work on dictionary skills, thesaurus skills, understanding guide words, and understanding multiple meaning words. They are also practicing daily repeated skills such as understanding prefixes/ suffixes, adverbs, adjectives, homophones, contractions, and proper punctuation.

Social Studies/ Science- We are beginning a new unit in science that will explore matter. They will be doing a lot of explorations that include describing matter and learning how to measure it using scales and graduated cylinders.

Math- The children are continuing to learn several new strategies to help them to multiply larger numbers. Continue helping them to commit their basic multiplication facts to memory. They will soon begin taking timed quizzes that ask them to recall their facts in a certain amount of minutes.

Have a safe and healthy holiday!

F I F T H G R A D E

We will be spending the next several weeks learning how to write a persuasive essay. Students will research a topic and learn about audience, persuasion, counter-arguments, and organizing an effective essay. The "Read It Forward" Strategy for Nov/Dec is Questioning. Students will use questioning strategies to investigate a text and/or author.

Questioning helps students clarify meaning as well as predict and check for understanding. The genre focus this month is Poetry. Students will learn about figurative language, rhyme and rhythm, and interpreting poems.

In Math we will be completing our unit on fractions, decimals and percents. The holiday break would be an ideal time for students to use Study Island and Destination Success. Don't forget that

www.pearsonsuccessnet.com is a great resource for math practice. We hope you have a happy and restful winter holiday.

