

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9



CHAFFEE TRAIL ELEMENTARY: A DUVAL COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE

Surf To Success!

Open House is tomorrow,
Thursday, Sept. 3rd.

Please remember that YOU are a most important member of the Chaffee Trail Family! When parents work together with their child's teacher, student achievement soars.

Communicate often with the teacher, check your child's agenda and virtual bookbag daily, and read with your child nightly.

Do we have your email? Newsletters will be distributed electronically. To opt out,



DEVELOPING GOOD HOMEWORK AND STUDY HABITS

It is that time of year again to get back into the habit of doing homework! Please help your child get back into the swing of things by:

- creating an environment that is conducive to doing homework. Students need permanent work space in their bedroom or another part of the home that offers privacy.
- Set aside ample time for homework.
- Establish a household rule that the TV set stays off during homework time.
- Supervise computer and internet use.
- Be available to answer questions and offer assistance, but never do a child's homework for her or him.
- Take steps to help alleviate eye fatigue, neck fatigue and brain fatigue while studying. It may be helpful to close the books for a few minutes, stretch, and take a break periodically when it will not be too disruptive.

We are looking forward to another productive and fun year.

CAR RIDERS:

Thank you for your patience the first week as students learned the rituals and routines of dismissal time. We have some parents parking along Sam Caruso Way and walking to collect their child. If you would like to park and retrieve your child, please use our "Park 'n Ride" service by parking in the school lot and picking up your

child in the cafeteria. Simply let your child's teacher know your child will be going home via "Park 'n Ride." For safety reasons we cannot release students to walk with parents through the cars along Sam Caruso Way. The car riders' line goes quickly once parents and students have learned the routine. Thank you for adhering to this policy.

READ-ALoud TIPS FROM MEM FOX, CHILDREN'S AUTHOR

- Spend at least ten *wildly* happy minutes every single day reading aloud.
- Read aloud with animation. Listen to your voice and don't be dull, flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.
- Read with joy and enjoyment: real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.
- Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are really short.
- Never teach reading or get tense around books.
- Please read aloud every day, mums and dads, because you just love being with your child, not because it's the right thing to do.

KG

Kindergarten is an exciting place to be! The students are working very hard to learn all of our rituals and routines in school. Please check your child's agenda each night, sign it, and return it the next morning. This is an important communication tool between you and your child's teacher. We are beginning to learn our ABC's and their sounds. You can help by practicing these with your child at home. Also encourage your child to read signs (environmental print) as you travel in the car. Can they read signs such as: McDonalds, Burger King, Publix, Pizza Hut, etc? This is an important step as they begin to read. Finally, please read every day with your child and record the books in their book log. Your participation in your child's education is vitally important.

1ST GRADE

Welcome to First Grade! We are so excited to work with your family as we Surf to Success in meeting the first grade standards. For the first few weeks of school, our students will be learning the habits needed to become great readers, writers, mathematicians and scientists. During this time we will be teaching students how to learn, as well as, how to work together with their classmates. We will be spending time getting to know our students and tailoring our lessons to meet their unique needs. We look forward to meeting each family at Open House on September 3. Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you or your child to make this a smooth transition into learning and a successful, productive year!

2ND GRADE

Second grade has started off with a bang! We are thoroughly enjoying getting to know each child. Please remember that although it is the beginning of the year, we have started academics and your child will be learning a lot each day. We encourage you to ask your child about their day and what they have learned. Within the next few weeks your child will be tested for their reading level. When choosing books from the library or your home, if your child plans to read it on their own, please make sure he or she is able. At home, it would be a benefit to your child if you review with them basic addition and subtraction facts. We look forward to seeing you all at Open House and for a fabulous second grade year.

3RD GRADE

Welcome back, third graders! We are excited to begin the 2009-2010 school year! Your child has been learning a lot of rituals and routines these first few weeks. In reading and writing, students have been learning about Reader's and Writer's workshop through the District Anchor Lessons. Student should be reading 30 minutes nightly and turning in a book response every Friday that goes toward their 25-book goal. Students have spelling homework Monday-Thursday. Students have begun the Combining and Comparing unit (addition and subtraction). Students will be comparing two number and developing strategies for figuring out the difference between them. Students will also be developing ways to getting close to 100 combining numbers. We look forward to Surfing toward a successful year in the 3rd grade.

4TH GRADE

Fourth grade is excited about their new students this year. We hope to see all the parents at Open House on September 3rd. This month during math workshop they will be working on Arrays and Shares which covers multiplication and division. We would like for parents to please practice times tables with your child at home. In Science we will be studying our solar system. In October students will be assigned a project which will be completed at home. More information will be sent home in the future. We also want to make sure that students are reading nightly and that they are choosing many different types of books to read. We look forward to a fantastic school year.

5TH GRADE

The surf is up for the month September as we look forward to putting our rituals and routines into practice. This month in reading, students will focus on visualizing, predicting, sequence of events and text organization. In addition to learning those reading strategies, students will participate in building knowledge of folk tales. In math, students will continue patterns to help solve multiplication and division problems. Students will also develop strategies for subtracting 4- and 5- digit numbers. Science will be all about matter as students explore the nature of matter. We're off to a great start as we surf to success here in 5th grade.

ESE

Welcome to a new school year, ESE is off to a great start! We have been working very hard on rituals and routines so that we will have a bodacious year! Since our school theme is Surf

to Success this year, we have been talking about what it means to be successful! Therefore, it is important that the students are aware of what they are successful at and what they want to become successful at doing or becoming. Please have conversations with your child at home and talk about ways he/she can be successful not only at school but also at home with family. Field trips to be excited about include the Jacksonville Zoo, a day at the Cummer Museum, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts Camp, and even Career Day just to name a few! We look forward to a great year with your dudes and dudettes!

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 23:
Early Release Days

SEPTEMBER 3:
Open House 6:30

SEPTEMBER 7:
Labor Day- No School

SEPTEMBER 8:
Girl Scouts
Recruitment 7pm

SEPTEMBER 9:
School Magazine
Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 10:
Boy Scouts
Recruitment 7pm

SEPTEMBER 15:
Flag raising and
reading kick-off

SEPTEMBER 25:
Progress reports go
home