



# Puppy Tales



**April 2010**

**A Publication of Clarkdale Attendance Center**



## **Principal's Pen**

Amazingly, we are already into the fourth nine weeks of this school year. These past 27 weeks have zoomed by. We are working hard with third and fourth graders to make sure everyone is ready for state testing in May. One thing we are emphasizing with them is to remember the four scores students can make on the MCT2 test. The scores are minimal, basic, proficient, and advanced. We tell our students that we like proficient and we LOVE advanced. Take the opportunity to ask your third or fourth grader about the four scores and see if he or she knows them.

Math Challenge is doing very well. 249 students have passed so far. We are shooting for 300 for the year, and I believe we will get there. Students who pass receive a certificate, a pack of Starburst candies, and attend a pizza party. You will find the latest list of students who have recently passed later in this publication.

*John Lisenbe, Elementary Principal*

## **Upcoming Events**

**April 14 Spring Pictures**

## **A Message from Attendance Center Principal**

It is wonderful to be part of such a caring and involved community at Clarkdale Attendance Center! Parents and community continue to support so many activities at Clarkdale that contribute to the learning environment and the academic support of our students. We sincerely thank you for all you do for our students!

In an effort to maintain clean, attractive, and properly functioning facilities, at a time when financial resources are limited, two work days are being scheduled during the month of June. **June 5 and June 26** will be days during which parents and community members can contribute to the beautification of our campus in several ways. Needed work includes power washing, landscaping, sandblasting, and other general maintenance.

The work scheduled for these days cannot be secured through district maintenance. Also, we will not be able to hire additional summer help through district funds as we have in past years.

Please check your calendars, and if your schedule allows, plan to help at Clarkdale on one of these days. Call the school office at 601-693-4463 to let us know the date and hours that you can help. Lunch, cold drinks, and good fellowship will be provided.

Thank you in advance for your help!

*Cheryl Thomas*

## Wrapping Up the School Year!



The end of the school year brings about many special

events and activities. Kids are involved in spring sports, field trips, programs, and parties. Continue to stay informed and involved in the activities of your children. Work with your child in order to meet school responsibilities while taking time to discuss daily happenings, experiences, and achievements. It will help your child end the year on a strong and successful note!

### Compliments/Encouragement



In the story *Charlotte's Web*, Wilbur the pig was born the runt of the litter. The farmer did not think that he would amount to much

and wished to do “away” with him. As a result, Wilbur grew up feeling sad, anxious, and alone. Wilbur’s friend Charlotte, through praise and encouragement, was able to help Wilbur discover the good in himself.

We often directly associate life’s difficulties or problems with perceived personal “flaws.” Unfortunately, most of what we tell ourselves is negative:

**I am not good enough. I am not worthy. I am not lovable. I am not in control of my life. I am ugly.**

Begin monitoring what messages you tell yourself. Try to replace negative thoughts with more positive ones:

**I am a valuable person. I am unique. I have talents and gifts. I am strong. I am in charge of my future.**

We must always try to realize the good in ourselves and be willing to recognize the special gifts in others. Often, we will never know the influence it has on a person’s life. But remember Charlotte, and the enormous impact that she had on Wilbur and his future.

*Angie McHenry,  
Elementary Counselor*

### Pope’s Pre-K

Pre-K is busy getting ready for Kindergarten! We are learning sight words and reading books to our families and friends. Great job, Pre-K!

One of the fun things we did the month of March was "Hat Day." We studied letter *Hh* one week and made newspaper hats. Pre-K students took their hats home and decorated them. We wore them back to school on Friday and had a hat parade. There were a lot of pretty hats, cool hats, and creative hats.

Happy "March" Birthday to Blake Jones, Cole Freeman, and Hayden Beech!!

### **Kindergarten Korner**

March has been a busy month. We have been busy learning our sight words, sounding out words, and have begun reading simple sentences. We are also doing lots of writing in the room.

In math we have studied measurement and simple addition. Keep reading those Reading Counts books-each child needs 20 points to go on the field trip.

On March 29th we went to the Riley Center and saw a production of "The Little Engine That Could." It was wonderful, and everyone enjoyed it. The first week of April we are having a story-teller come.

### **First Grade Puppy Bites**

Spring Break has come and gone. We all had a great break, and now we are into our last nine weeks of school. This year has really flown by! We still have many skills to learn. These last nine weeks we will continue to work on word recognition skills such as reading our high frequency words, using a dictionary to find spelling

words/meaning of unknown words, and composing and editing.

In math we will be adding and subtracting two digit numbers, counting money (mixed coins), measuring length (inches, centimeters), and weighing objects on a balance scale. We will be busy little bees!

First grade elected class favorites before spring break. We had representatives from each of our four classes. Our whole first grade voted on these boys and girls. Our winners were Mary Ashley Culpepper and Jackson Morgan. We are proud of them.



We are happy to have Mrs. Regan Harwell filling in for Mrs. April Lewis. Mrs. Lewis and family have a new addition-a baby boy "Robert Wesley." We know that Lauren is a super "big sister." Congratulations!

We also congratulate Mrs. Lewis on being chosen as our Elementary Teacher of the Year!

### **Spotlight on Second Grade**

Second grade has welcomed teacher assistants: Mrs. Rachel Smith, Mrs. April Larkin, and Mrs. Kristy Ellingburg to their classrooms for the remainder of the year. We are happy to have them at Clarkdale.

In reading, second graders completed a study of Peter Rabbit and author Beatrix Potter to tie in with the Easter season. Skills we worked on include homophones, verbs, and making judgments. After finishing our unit called Family Time, we will begin a unit called Talent Show. We will work on adjectives, and adverbs. We will also do an author study on Tomie dePaola.

In math we are finishing up with counting money and beginning to learn to tell time.

On March 29 we went to the Riley Center to see *The Little Engine That Could*. We enjoyed the play and learned about the value of optimism and to never give up.

We are proud of our Beauty Review participants. No matter where each one placed, each is a winner for being in the contest. Good job!

## **Thrilling Third Grade**

### **Fast Track to Fourth Grade**

WOW! Spring Break has come and gone. Easter is quickly approaching and excitement is in the air as students begin enjoying the warm weather while playing outside. We are entering the fast track to the end of third grade. Where has the year gone? It is hard to believe that summer vacation is only nine weeks away and fourth grade is just around the corner. The focus for the fourth nine weeks will be reviewing and practicing skills for the MCT2 assessments that will take place in May. Students received instructional fuel during the first, second, and third nine weeks placing them on the fast track to success.

Stressing the importance of practice and effort are daily strategies that will be used as students set their eyes on the finish line. When they reach the finish line and experience success, students will know that their excellence was worth the effort. Congratulations to all the students in third grade that have passed Mr. Lisenbe's Math Challenge. We are proud of you. Way to Go!! Keep up the good effort and embrace your success. A huge thanks to parents for your support at home because working together as a team produces successful students. Students, reach out and take the gold.

*Parents + Students + Teachers=Success*

## **Fabulous Fourth Grade**

March has been busy for our fourth graders. We started the month off running with our fifth annual Link-Up Concert at the Riley Center. Some of our fourth graders were even fortunate enough to play their recorders in two shows! We would like to say a big "Thank You" to Mrs. Henson for making this concert possible each year.

Some of our fourth graders have been studying rights and privileges through a story set in Mississippi. Students read Mississippi Bridge by Mildred Taylor and participated in several discussions and activities surrounding the events of the book and Mississippi's Civil Rights history. Also, this month Mrs. Goodman hosted a waffle-eating contest in order for her students to learn more about fractions. It was packed with fun and lots of learning. In addition to Mr. Lisenbe's regular language assignment, he now works with small groups of fourth graders in the afternoon. The children enjoy

spending time with him and are learning a lot. Students have been busy reading and earning their last few Reading Counts points, and we have also begun a Study Island challenge! Ask your child about this. Of course, Spring Break was another exciting part of this month, and summer break is just around the corner!

The time between Spring Break and state testing is very important. We spend this time learning the last skills needed along with a great deal of review of the skills we have already learned. Each day is packed full of instruction and review, and it is very important that your child is at school each day. Children learn to their fullest capacity if they have had a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast each morning. If you are short on time in the mornings, please encourage your child to eat breakfast in the cafeteria. We would like to thank you for having your children here and ready to learn each day! We couldn't do our jobs without our partnership with great parents.

### **Fifth Grade News**

- 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working hard to prepare for MCT2 which will be in May.
- Mrs. Heard's math class is reviewing MCT2 tested skills daily with a focus on geometry.
- Mrs. Bennett's science/social studies class is discovering the American Revolution and deciphering the Periodic Table.
- Mrs. Fant's language class is reading *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George and reviewing MCT2 tested skills.

- As a literature activity, students are compiling a 5<sup>th</sup> grade cookbook. Be sure to send your child's favorite recipe in by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Each student will get his/her own copy.
- Congratulations to 5<sup>th</sup> grade class favorites: Skylar Vance and Keaton Jones.
- Parents, thanks for all you do!

### **Sixth Grade News**

6th Grade Bulldogs!!!

Congratulations to all those who worked hard on meeting their RC goal!!!

Everyone keep up the great work!!  
Your teachers are very proud of you!

### **Art QUEST**

I hope everyone had a great Spring Break! As the end of the year approaches, we are working very hard to get our projects finished for several upcoming events. Mark your calendars for these events:

\*April 3rd – Three-foot Arts Festival in downtown Meridian - Each student will submit a piece of artwork for the Children's Art Contest. All of the artwork will be hung in the Meridian Museum of Art. There will be prizes such as money and ribbons awarded to the winners. I will send a letter about this with more detailed information.

\*April 22nd - Art QUEST Art Show/Reception at the Meridian Museum of Art - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

\*May 18th - 2nd/3rd Grade Art QUEST/QUEST field trip to Tuscaloosa, AL.

\*May 21st - 4th/5th/6th Grade Art QUEST/QUEST field trip to New Orleans, LA.

*Reanna Mathis*  
*Art QUEST Teacher*

## QUEST

Congratulations to the Quest Students of the Quarter for the Third Nine Weeks:

Second Grade--Jodee Crane; Third Grade--Lexie Rawson; Fourth Grade--Hannah Quigley; Fifth Grade--Baylie Harbour and Sixth Grade--Kaylan Fisher

The Quest second and third graders are learning about dinosaurs. The fourth graders are participating in a study of Australia, and the fifth and sixth graders are studying Africa. All the students do thinking activities, creative writing, and artwork in addition to their unit activities.

## Clarkdale Music Makers

Mr. Thomas Cabaniss and Marte Siebanhar from Carnegie Hall visited 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Clarkdale in preparation for their Link-Up performance with the Meridian Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Cabansis worked with students on creating their own ostinato that they performed at both performances of Link-Up at the Riley Center on March 5.

I would like to thank Mrs. Cheryl Thaggard, Mrs. Katie Anderson, and Mrs. Greta Campbell for transporting students who had to be at the Riley Center for the early

performance of Link-Up. Thanks also to all the parents and grandparents who came to the Riley Center to support the students.



*Marte Siebanhar and Mr. Thomas Cabaniss*

We are still working on our skip counting, music and movement, reviewing music notation, and various activities.

We read *The Little Engine That Could* in preparation for the field trip to the Riley Center to see *The Little Engine That Could*.

*LaNeta Henson, Music Pre-K-4*

## Library News

We are fast approaching the Reading Counts deadline! I hope everyone is working hard towards their goal. The field trips have been put on the calendar and here's what it looks like: May 17th-2nd-4th grade-Dixie Bowl Lanes 9:00-10:30 (bowling will be paid for) and then we will go to Bonita Lakes Mall for lunch (students must bring lunch money or a sack lunch). We should return to campus by 1:30. May 19th- K-1 Bonita Lakes Playground-Leave around 9:00 and return by 2:00- (lunch will be provided; students can purchase a snowball). Thanks for all of your hard work. Keep on Reading!

## Math Challenge

### *First Grade*

Jake Jones  
Jody DeBord  
Kiersten Mabry  
Jack Wright  
Jaiden Harris  
Gavin Jones  
Justin Hopkins  
Kate Johnston  
Zoie Graham  
Conner Alsobrooks  
Harley Armstrong  
Jessica Harrison  
Macie Manasco  
Lauren Lewis  
Belle Pickard  
Hayley Brewster  
Braxton Anthony  
Tyler Evans  
Dylan Reynolds  
Agi Thomas  
Karlee Clark  
Rayondra Bush  
Mary Ashley Culpepper  
Reid Coleman  
Katherine Lollis  
Jackson Morgan  
Brendon Robinson  
Natalie Wakefield  
Christopher Dupre  
Kayleigh Wright  
Austin Freeman  
Will White  
Carson Jones  
Kacie Jackson  
Michael Gibson  
Dalton Mann  
Brooke Robinson  
Cole Todd  
Alexander Irby  
Ethan Woolridge  
Ean Fisher  
Amber Fant  
Braeden Smith  
Madison Dixon  
Kaylee Weir  
Nicholas Crouch  
Andrew Priester  
Sharon Pech  
Jasmine Ibarra

Donovan Knight  
Anna Johnston  
Jillian Lewis  
Malcolm Castle  
Jacup Carney  
McKensy Dearman  
Maggie Freeman  
Zoe Wilson  
Chris Cook  
David Mayerhoff  
Braylee Blalock  
Dalton Davidson  
Chase Brown

### *Second Grade*

Courtney Tucker  
Ralie Boles  
Isaac Moore  
Chris Knight  
Emmie Brewster  
Joseph Jernigan  
Marcos Reyes  
Lake Morgam  
Mary Margaret Freeman  
Emma Grace Clark  
Cade Null  
Audrey Anderson  
Landon Conklin  
Carson Thomas  
Maggie Meadows  
Gavin Chaney  
Tucker Mayatt  
William Saterfiel  
Maggie Harris  
Whitley Hester  
Makaila Castle  
Garrett Evans  
August Briggs  
Anna Russell  
Shadimon Johnson  
Cheyanne Wyrick  
Michael Murphy  
Audrey Scisson  
Karen Weir  
Chris Allen  
Cameron Garrett  
Haley Coody  
Kaeli Winstead  
Hannah Agent  
Korey Boman  
Destiny Jenkins  
Tristin McKee  
Hannah Cooper

Bristol Nelms

***Third Grade***

Shelby Wheat  
Kimbriann Hood  
Heath Roberts  
Gregory Evans  
Destiny Waller  
Chance Thrash  
Ashini Patel  
Allie Redmond  
Hunter Johnson  
Bryce Blalock  
Maranda Quinn  
Selest Nieto  
Dewayne Brooks  
Will Smith  
Samantha Ward

***Fourth Grade***

Callie Goodson  
Allie Goodson  
Lauren Mann  
Kellye Phillips  
Rosalie Doherty  
Ashley Gatewood  
Ethan Briggs  
Reagan Robinson  
Kayla Gentry  
Josh DeBord  
Zack Warren  
Alexis Hart  
Benjamin Collatz  
Baylee Robinson



*Hannah Beech  
Elementary Talent Show Winner!*

## Spring Pictures April 14, 2010

### Adventures in Art

I can't believe how this year has flown by.

We have been very busy this month learning about new artists. We have learned about Leonardo da Vinci, his life and his great art works such as the Mona Lisa and *The Last Supper*. We also discussed Michael Angelo from this same era of art. Next, we came back to our generation with a study on Eric Carle, who is an artist, author, and illustrator. The students tried their hand at writing a line and illustrating it in Eric Carle's style. To celebrate Easter, we did watercolor paintings of what Easter means to us. I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter holiday. Thanks for sharing your children.

*Dawn Booker  
Pre K- 6th Grade Art*

### Quotable Quote

*Reading aloud to children is known to be the most single activity for building the knowledge and skills they will eventually require for learning to read.*

*~~~Marilyn Jager Adams~~~*

