Dragon News

Cortland Elementary School Newsletter

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Mrs. Jennifer Hilliard, Principal
Mrs. Katie Algrim, Assistant Principal

January 2017

Mrs. Hilliard's Corner

Hello Cortland Families,

Welcome to 2017 & Happy New Year! I hope the students are excited to return after their breaks.

We have a big month coming up in January and I want to make sure I stress **two VERY IMPORTANT events!**

- **READING NIGHT - Wednesday, January 11th** beginning at 5:45 pm. Please RSVP on the half sheet which is going home 1/4/17. We need to know how many people are coming so I can order food. Many of you may remember our One School, One Book kick-off from last year (where a certain principal was dressed as a hamster) and this night will be similar as we will introduce our new book for this year! Please come as we will have dinner and many different activities for the students and families!

- **PTO Winter Fest** - Please order tickets. This will be the PTO's big fundraising event of the year and I think it will be a very fun time.

Please RSVP and come to these two major events. I think your family will enjoy it. Please contact me with any questions.
Thanks,
Mrs. Hilliard

Upcoming Dates

January 2 & 3 No School

January 4 School Resumes

January 10 PTO Meeting
6:30 pm

January 11 Reading Night
5:45pm

January 12 Early Release
Students out at Noon

January 13 End of the 2nd Quarter

January 16 No School
ML King Jr. Day

January 20 PTO Winter Fest
5:30 -7:30

Reading News You Can Use

K-2 Tips for Building Vocabulary

- Use the correct term for whatever you are talking about at home in order to expand your child's vocabulary:
  - Avoid the word "thing!"
- Board Games for building vocabulary:
  - Hedbanz
  - Guess Who?
  - Apples to Apples Jr.
  - Bingo (versions made with letters/words)
- Free Apps/Websites for building vocabulary:
  - Bluster!
  - Futaba
  - Mad Libs
  - Vocabulary/Spelling City
  - Alphabet Organizer
  - Vocabulary Catcher

3-5 Tips for Building Vocabulary

- Use more advanced vocabulary to describe everyday things:
  - Extraordinary instead of good
  - Enormous instead of big
- Board Games for building vocabulary:
  - Boggle
  - Scrabble
  - Apples to Apples
  - Scattergories
- Free Apps/Websites for building vocabulary:
  - Bluster!
  - Mab Libs
  - The Opposites
  - Vocabulary/Spelling City
  - World's Worst Pet
  - Quizlet
  - Word to Word

Specialists' Smatterings

Art

Happy New Year!! Be on the lookout, for new artwork in the halls. Our students are working on various projects from Mondrian, Dali, Vasarely, and Matisse.

Mr. V

Music

3rd, 4th and 5th Grades
Recorders can be taken home along with recorder music packets. I encourage your student to begin to practice at home to reinforce what is taught at school to develop good technique. How can you help your student? Remind them of the following:
* Left hand on top
* Tilt instrument down
* Cover holes tightly
* Breathe gently
* Start each note with "duh"

You can also help by finding a calm, quiet place for them to practice. And remember to always put their instrument back into it's case when they are finished and to put their case into their backpack so that it is always there for music class

The dates for our Concerts are as follows:
4th and 5th Grade Showcase Concert, Tuesday, February 28, 2017
Kindergarten and 1st Grade Spring Sing, Tuesday, March 21, 2017
2nd and 3rd Grade Spring Sing, Wednesday April 12, 2017
All concerts will be held at the DeKalb High School Auditorium, 501 West Dresser Road
at 6:30pm
Hope to see you there

P.E.

Letters went home regarding which session 4th and 5th grade students will be in for the Cortland after school archery club. The first session for the archery club will be January 10, 17, 24, and 31. The second session will be February 7, 14, 21, and 27. The club will be from 3:30 to 5:00 and students are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat.

Students are preparing for Jump Rope for Heart which will be on February 14th. Packets will be sent home for students who wish to collect donations for the American Heart Association.

3rd, 4th, and 5th graders will be working towards their fitness goals.

Thanks
Tim Strohecker
Bill McGuire
Shay Sticka

Specialist Classes of the Month

Each month our specialists award classes that have been following our PBIS Matrix. This month's winning classes are…

ART - **Watch for upcoming awards for next month.**

LIBRARY - On January 13 we will be having and All School Bingo PBIS Award

MUSIC -

P.E. -

Nurse's Notes

January 31, 2017: The American Red Cross will present **Scrubby Bear,** an assembly for K-2nd graders to learn about the importance of handwashing and ways to prevent the spread of germs and diseases!

Please remember to send your student with an extra set of dry clothes!!! We do go outside in the snow and students do get wet and need a change of appropriate warm clothes - SOCKS too!!

Just a reminder - if your child has had a temperature or has vomited; t**hey need to be both fever free and vomit free (without medication) for 24 hours BEFORE** they can return to school!

PTO Ponderings

Next PTO meeting is January 10, 2017 6:30-7:30

Winter Fest is Friday, January 20, 2017 5:30-7:30
$20 per family up to 6 people for dinner - hot dogs, chips and water. Chili will also be served
Game cards $5.00 a card