



# LIBERTY ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

February 2012

C.L.A.S.S. Lifeskills for February: Problem Solving & Resourcefulness

## READING AT HOME

The calendars for February's Reading At Home program are being sent home today. We encourage all families to participate and be an active partner in your student's education. The calendars are to be filled in and returned **by March 7<sup>th</sup>**. Don't forget some math facts practice as well. Ask your child what facts he or she is working on during Fast Fact time and correlate your practice with those skills. **Reading with your child is a simple, yet valuable activity with great rewards. Our students also need much work on the basic facts to make them automatic! Please help us help your child.**

## MATH

One of our school improvement goals for this year again focuses on math skills and fact fluency. We practice every day for at least 5 minutes of Fast Facts practice. Everyone in the building is helping our students learn their math facts, from the librarian to the aides to the secretaries, and the custodian.

Each grade level is responsible for mastering certain facts. The following list shows the facts your child is responsible for mastering:

- Kindergarten: + & - (0-5)
- 1<sup>st</sup>: + & - (0-10)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: + & - (0-20)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: +, - & X

- 4<sup>th</sup>: X & division
- 5<sup>th</sup>: X & division

The end goal is for every child to leave LES being fluent in all their math facts! We ask that parents take just a few minutes each day (in the car, during commercials, at the dinner table, etc.) to ask your child a few of his or her math facts. The facts are considered mastered when they are answered automatically-that's what fluency is. We would greatly appreciate parents joining us in this effort to improve our students' math fluency.

## SCIENCE FAIR

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> is the date for our annual LES science fair. 4th and 5th grade students will present individual projects to our judges while all other grades will do a class project based on the scientific method. Again this year, we are fortunate to have community members and UCHS AP science students judging our projects. Please ask your child what their class is learning in science and what their ***hypothesis*** is for their experiment. You might ask what ***procedures*** have been followed so far or what ***materials*** their class has used for their experiment. These are all vocabulary words with which your child should be familiar.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 1 Student Council mtg.
- Feb 3 Mid-terms go home
- Feb 3 January calendars due
- Feb 3 Cookie decorating
- Feb 4 Circle the State- music
- Feb 7 Market Day Pick-up 5:00
- Feb 8 Science Fair
- Feb 10 Redistrict. Students-CCUS
- Feb 13 UCCCJSD Board mtg. 7:30
- Feb 14 Valentine Grams delivered
- Feb 16 Parent Redistrict Mtg. 6:30
- Feb 20 No School for students
- Feb 20 Book Fair begins
- Feb 20 Parent Conferences 12-7:30
- Feb 24 Jump Rope for Heart
- Feb 25 Regional Science Fair
- Feb 28 Violinist visits PM Music
- Mar 2 Ned Show convocation
- Mar 5 ISTEP Applied Skills begins

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS: THREE QUESTIONS HELP YOUR CHILD REVIEW THEIR TESTS

**Your child studied hard, but still did poorly on a test.** To try to figure out what happened, ask these 3 questions:

1. What was your biggest problem on this test? Did a certain type of question give you trouble? Did you have enough time?
2. What caused your problem? Did you follow the directions? Did you spend too much time on one section? Did you go back and check to see if you answered all the questions on all pages?
3. What could you do differently next time? How would you study differently? Were your notes effective or could they be improved?

When in doubt, ask your teacher for help. Have them explain again, why you missed the question.

## MATH WEBSITES

Math websites can give another practice model to work on various math skills. Listed below are examples you and your child might want to check out:

- [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com)
- <http://cte.jhu.edu/techacademy/web/2000/heal/mathsites.htm>
- <http://mathplayground.com/>

As always, it is best for parents to check out sites on the internet before allowing your children to play.



**Caught on the Web**

Web sites for learning and fun -- for kids and parents together..

This week's Site to See:

**Fraction Frenzy**  
<http://www.learningplanet.com/sam/ff/index.asp>

Match the pairs of equivalent fractions. (Grades 4-up)

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## VALENTINE GRAMS

Student Council will be selling Valentine Grams during lunch periods from February 6-10<sup>th</sup>. Students may purchase a Valentine Gram for a special friend, teacher, bus driver, aide, or parent. Grams will cost \$1.00 and will be delivered on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Be Mine**

**Remember to update your student's contact information as things change! Please keep the school office aware of current phone numbers and addresses.**