

Sycamore Hills

Sycamore Hills Elementary School
14-15 School Year

From the Principal:

FALL IS HERE!!!

There is just something about the colors of fall and the cooler weather that makes me want to EAT CHILI!

(vegetarian chili of course!)

BUT THIS YEAR we also get to celebrate our Boys in Blue winning it all in the World Series (hopefully an accurate prediction!).



Though we must keep our focus on instruction and learning, I DO EXPECT TO SEE A LOT OF BLUE AROUND HERE!

GO ROYALS!!



STAR

You should be hearing a lot about STAR testing. Students will test in reading and math. This is one of our better ways to assess student growth. Encourage your student to always give their best effort!

If you need information regarding holiday assistance, please contact Mande Berg at Sycamore Hills or at

Mandee_Berg@idschools.org

Holiday Helpers Change Challenge!

Let's beat our United Way total (500.00) and raise \$600.00 to help out Sycamore Families during the holidays! There will be one change collection bucket in the front office and the challenge will run from October 27-November 7. Building prizes at stake!!

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!

<http://sites.isdschools.org/sycamorehills>

October 20, 2014

Volume 1 Issue 4

Coming up:

P/T Conferences 10/28,
10/29

Fall Parties 10/24
230-330

No School 10/31

No School/Staff 11/3
Professional
Development

Family Game 11/11
Night!!

Be on the Lookout for:

- Information from teachers regarding your scheduled time for parent/teacher conferences

VISITING?? Be sure to always sign in at the office AND get a visitor sticker EVERY TIME! Thanks for helping us keep our building safe and secure!

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS UPON US!

3 Reminders from the Nurses:

It's a good idea to have an extra change of clothing in a bag in your child's backpack. It could just be underwear + a pair of shorts or sweat pants in a Ziplock at the bottom of the bag. Accidents + spills happen.

Medication (even cough drops) should be brought to the clinic + signed in by an adult. Please never send medication with your student!

Please encourage/model healthy habits to help your child avoid illness. We all need to remember to wash our hands, cough into a tissue or our elbow, eat healthy + get a good night's sleep.

Kindergarten

Conferences are quickly approaching. Please remember to turn in your conference time preference. Kindergarten teachers are very excited to share with you your child's progress this quarter. It's amazing how much they have grown since August!

Second Grade

Second grade students are very excited about their tie-dyed shirts! Thank you to those parents who volunteered their time here at school or washing at home! This activity would not be possible or successful without your help, we GREATLY appreciate it!) Please re-

1st Grade

Come Sail Away in First Grade

1st grade is sailing on in October!! This is the month for our big "Sailboat Regatta!"

With October 13th being Columbus Day, we learned all about Christopher Columbus and his voyage.

-Students learned that Christopher Columbus was an explorer.

-He sailed the ocean blue in 1492.

-It took Columbus 69 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

member that the shirts will be kept at school and worn on second grade field trips. Our first opportunity to "show off" our creative work will be on November 21st when we go to the circus. If your child brought in \$5 for their shirt they will

IPODS, Bikes and other fabulous prizes will be drawn for monthly. Students attending at 95% or better will be eligible.

There will be a monthly popcorn party as well for all students who meet the eligibility criteria.

There will be weekly drawings for student with perfect attendance for the week. Prizes include gift certificates and other prizes to be determined.

Classrooms with daily perfect attendance earn a daily incentive or are working toward an agreed upon weekly or monthly incentive. This is a teacher and classroom decision.

-Columbus sailed with 3 ships: the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

With learning about Columbus, the students participated in a "Sailboat Regatta." Students created their own sailboat using a plastic tray, a piece of clay, a popsicle stick and a piece of paper. The students entered their sailboats into the sailboat race with their very own self-made sailboat!!

Congratulations to the sailboat winners!!!!!!

get to keep it at the end of the year (it's not too late to send your money).



Third Grade

How to help your 3rd grader be successful:

Look for these items:

* Daily Planners

(Signed and returned every day. Record minutes read. Total minutes at end of the week. Total pages too.)

* Read Every Day

(Make sure your child reads at least 100 min./

week. Your child needs to take AR test to meet their AR goal and maintain 85% or better on accuracy.

* Homework Assignments

(Look over the daily HW and help if needed.)

* Tuesday Folder

(Look through all papers and remove them from folder.)

* Weekly Newsletter

(Read carefully weekly.)

*Study Spelling daily at HOME. Test Friday.

Fifth Graders are being challenged to focus on their growth according to the STAR Reading test!!

Mrs. Miller has presented the grade level with a challenge. Month to month, if a class averages an outstanding amount of growth, they will be able to choose their own seating in the cafeteria at lunch time. If your 5th grader complains about reading, remind them that their hard work could result in the ability to sit where they'd like at lunch!

F
I
F
T
H

Fourth Grade

First Quarter has come to an end, you should have received a conference note that came home with your student. If you have not already, please choose a time that works best for you and we will do our best to accommodate to that. J With that said we now head into Second Quarter. Second Quarter will take us into the world of ecosystems in Science. We will be going to the Kansas

City Zoo on Thursday, October 30, 2014 to further our learning of ecosystems. We will be leaving around 9:15 a.m. and be returning around 1:45 p.m. If you would like to volunteer to join us on this trip please make sure you have a background check on file with the school district and fill out the form that was sent

home with your child. Be sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and wears comfortable shoes as there will be a lot of walking. Your child will need to bring a sack lunch and drink with them. Please continue to work on multiplication and division fluency at home and ensure that your child reads 125 minutes a week!

Physical Education, Herb Horseman

The year has been going fast. The students have finished their Fitness Gram testing for the start of the year. I'm pleased to say it went very well. I needed to get the heights and weights of all the students. From this I will be getting their BMI (body mass index). At this time these scores will not be going home. If you are in need of these scores please let me know. Third through 5th Graders should see these come home by years end.

Thanks for letting me work with your children, Mr. Horseman

**Sycamore Hills
Elementary School**

15208 E 39th Street
Independence, MO 64055
Phone: 816-521-5465

E-mail:
amber_miller@isdschools.org



@SycamoreHills1
#isdstrong

Kids' Safari: Explore the Possibilities



At Kids' Safari, We're Wild About

Strengthening relationships between school and families

Offering hands-on enrichment activities and clubs

Enhancing and linking learning experiences to the regular school day

Providing a fun, safe and enriching environment for every child before and after school

Enrichment of physical, cognitive, emotional and social skills

Family and neighborhood activities

Health and fitness opportunities

Nutritious snacks

For more information about Kids' Safari at Sycamore Hills call Doris Brunson, Youth Specialist at 816-521-5468.

Looking for ideas for Random Acts of Kindness? Look no further!!

For pet-owners, one of the most stressful things about planning a vacation is the ever-present question "What are we going to do with the pets while we are gone?" There are many boarding facilities that offer wonderful accommodations for pets but they can be expensive, especially if you are planning to be gone for a week or more.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if a friend or family member offered to watch your pets for free while you were gone? If it would be nice for you, it would probably be nice for them, too! The next time your friend tells you they are going away for a few days, offer to watch their pets for them! They will be surprised and touched by the kind gesture.



FALL PARTIES ARE HERE!!!

October 24th 2:30-3:30

A few details:

You should have heard from the parent coordinating your grade level or Classroom party through information sent home last week. Please see your child's teacher with any questions.

Students **MAY** bring a costume. The costume needs to be something they can change into somewhat independently if possible. Please no scary costumes, weapons or large props which can impede free movement in the classroom, hair dye, or full face masks.

Title I News

Sycamore Hills is an all school Title I program and legally is responsible for distributing specific information to all parents regardless of whether your child is receiving direct instruction from a Title I Reading Teacher or Literacy Coach. Title I is involved in many all-school programs at Sycamore (i.e. Reading and Math Nights, distribution of parenting materials, funding of various materials and programs used in classrooms, organization of tutoring at Sycamore, etc.). Currently, there are links on the Sycamore Hills website listed under Title I (right side) with the following documents for parents to read: Parents' Right to Know, Complaint Procedures, Parent Involvement Plan, and Parent Involvement + Procedures. A letter informing parents about these links will be distributed next week, as well. Please return that note and let your child's teacher know if you would like a hard copy of these documents. Thank you.

Barb Feyerabend

Sycamore Hills Reading Specialist



Do you have a student that likes to express himself/herself through the Arts? Your student should consider the PTA contest...Reflections! The theme for Reflections this year is "The world would be a better place if..."

Categories for submission include Dance Choreography, Music Composition, Film Production, Photography, Literature, and Visual Arts. Entries need to be turned in by Friday, November 7, 2014.

For more information, Category Rules and Student Entry forms, please contact *Heather Kunkel* at heatherena71@gmail.com