

The Panther Press

Peach Plains Elementary Newsletter

March/April 2011

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CELEBRATIONS!

- **Media Club:** Soon these clips will be posted on our Peach Plains website. Keep your eyes peeled!
- **SCORE with Team Peach:** Last month, nearly 1800 tickets were handed out for positive behaviors!
- **A Great Kindergarten Parent Night:** What fun to meet new parents and also to see returning ones!
- **Lipdub:** Your very own Peach staff is now on YouTube. Search for our performance under "Peach Plains Gotta Get Reading". Students are also working on their own lip dub!

ODDS & ENDS

- **Spring Has Sprung:** Even though it's sunny out, it's not always warm... Please continue to help your child come prepared for chilly spring weather.
- **Lost & Found:** Our collection is large! If your child hasn't come home with something, please check out our lost and found outside the office. We'll be cleaning out over Spring Break.

LOOKING AHEAD

- 3.29 Last Tee-shirt Tuesday
- 4.1-4.8 Spring Break
- 4.11 School Resumes
- 4.15 Fun Friday, GREEN OUT
- 4.30 Link Up Concert for 4th Grade
- 4.19 PTA meeting, Construction Meeting
- 4.28 Panther Preview (Incoming Y5/K visit)
- 4.29 Poetry Alive assembly

CURRICULUM CORNER



MEDIA SKILLS UPDATE

Mrs. Sibyl Smith

Read on for recent projects:

- 1st Published animal books using Kidworks
- 2nd Created Inspiration web reports
- 3rd Created Timeline Biography
- 4th Created State "Glogs"
- 5th Created podcast book reports and Human Body System Glogs

Hoping to see a good turn out at our **Family Reading/Game Night** on Tuesday, 3. 29 from 6:30-8:30!

We are looking forward to the **4th grade sleepover** on 4.15. Over half of the 4th grade class is expected to attend.

BIG NEWS!

During Media Skills time each week, students now have the opportunity to learn a foreign language. Spanish instruction just began the week of 3.14 with Mrs. Stephanie McFarland.

How neat we can offer Spanish to our students!

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MORE CURRICULUM CORNER



ART UPDATE Mrs. Bethany Reid

The annual elem. art show runs Saturday, 3.19 through Wed. 4.13 at the Grand Haven Community Center. Hours are 8:00am-8:00pm, except Sunday which is 8:00am-5:00pm.

Other things we're working on:

- 5th Egyptian self-portraits
- 4th Finished weaving and beginning brush stroke painting
- 3rd Finishing skinny weaving to make characters
- 2nd Plaid clowns
- 1st Favorite book paintings for reading month
- K's Very Hungry Caterpillar paintings for reading month
- Y5's Texture caterpillar for reading month

CONSTRUCTION INFO

Our school will be undergoing construction over the summer. It's important for us to be able to prepare and share with families what changes will be occurring. According to Operations Director Ted Rescorla, some work will begin in May.

Please know children's safety is a priority. Ted Rescorla, along with Keith Konarska, will be on hand on **Tuesday, 4.19** to meet with families about changes. Join us at 6:30 for PTA with the meeting to follow!

IDEAS FOR PANTHER FAMILIES

Between school, errands and activities, families spend a lot of time on the go. Try to use some of that "on the go" time in the car to play thinking games.

- **Would You Rather?** offers two options to children. Ask what they prefer and why. "Would you rather live near the beach or the mountains?"
- **Three Favorites** is a game in which someone picks a category (movies, food, animals, etc) and participants share their top three choices. This also supports the idea of categorization.
- An extension could be **What Doesn't Belong?** Participants name items and ask others to explain what doesn't belong and why. There can be more than one correct answer, such as with owl, ostrich and eagle, someone might say, "Ostrich because it can't fly", but another might say, "Owl, because it hunts as night."

A Note from the Principal

Our students have an opportunity to contribute to our community on Fun Friday, 4.15. We're having a **GREEN OUT** where children can wear green for a waterfront recycling initiative! We'll be collecting donations for new recycling bins along the channel and boardwalk. More to come!

As we ready for Spring Break, it's amazing to reflect on how quickly the year is passing! Regardless if you stay close to home or travel far for the break, enjoy the time and please continue to encourage your child to read.

Thanks for your continued support of our Panther community!
Kate Drake, Principal