

The Mustang Minute

**James Monroe
Elementary**

March 2010

Upcoming events

- March 3rd Spring Picture Day
- March 3rd K-2nd grade Science Fair
- March 4th First Interest Group ends
- March 5th Hat Day
- March 8th Science projects due for 3rd-5th grades; First and Second grade music concert
- March 10th Science Fair 3rd -5th grade Judging
- March 10th PTO Meeting at 6pm
- March 12-15 NO SCHOOL
- March 17th Hats for Haiti. Students can wear a hat all day in school for a \$1 donation for Haiti help.
- Kindergarten Roundup March 18th at 6:00pm or March 19th at 1:30pm
- March 22-26th Spring Book Fair
- March 23rd First and Second grade reading parent workshop.
- March 31st 2:00pm Fifth grade band concert in the gym...parents are welcome.
- April 1st Half Day
- April 2-11th Spring Break
- Week of April 12th Conferences
- April 14th Half Day

**Monroe Elementary School
1501 Grove Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192**

734-759-5800



**We have Grace
We have Power
We have Strength**

Principal's Letter

We are two months into our Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program at Monroe and we are happy to see the excitement in the students. Each month we look at the data (when and where problems occur) and the PBS team makes changes and recommendations to the staff. I would like to share with you some of the new highlights to PBS at Monroe that have come about after studying the data and continuing our research.

One difference you will notice is that there are more steps along the color continuum. Below are the updated intervention steps:

1. **Blue** Great day; Student participates in 10 minute PBS Reward Time
2. **Green** Student restates expectation; Student participates in 10 minute PBS Reward Time.
3. **White** Student restates expectation; Loss of 10 minute PBS Reward Time.
4. **Yellow** Student restates expectation; Lifeskill Think Sheet and student/teacher conference.
5. **Orange** Student restates expectation; Phone call to parent
(Note: Three or more oranges in a month results in a loss of the monthly incentive.)
6. **Red** Student restates expectation; Office Discipline Referral (ODR); Loss of monthly school wide incentive.

You will notice the significant changes are the addition of two colors (blue and white), Lifeskill Think Sheets will not be sent home but will be followed up by a conference with the teacher (and pep talk), and the teacher will initiate a parent phone call on orange. Students will now begin their day on blue and move down the continuum throughout the day according to their behavior.

The PBS team is also identifying several options of a 10 minute PBS reward time in each individual classroom. The 10 minute reward time will be a teacher-led structured activity that is fun and motivating to the students, thus encouraging positive behaviors through the day. Students must be on blue or green to participate.

Respectfully,

Vicki Wilson

Classifieds

Wanted

Teachers will be seeking volunteers to assist in videotaping students making Science Fair presentations.



Wanted

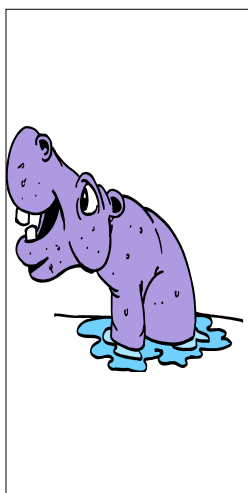
Continue to clip and save Box Tops and Campbell's barcodes.

Science Fair Projects

Science Fair Projects encourage children of all ages to pose questions about the world, science, or how things work. The words “What would happen if . . .” is how a science fair project is conceived. Parents, thank you for your support in encouraging your child to be curious, to pose a question, to predict (or hypothesize) what they believe the answer will be, and design and carry out an experiment that they think will provide them the answer. Children are natural scientists. They are curious, creative, and always have questions. All students are required to complete a project. They will receive a participation ribbon and present the project and what they learned from it to their class. Students who learn to make presentations at an early age are less likely to develop a fear of speaking in front of an audience. We are happy to tell you your child will be recorded while making their class presentation. Each year, we intend to add their new science fair presentation to this DVD and give it to you as a special gift when they leave us for the middle school.

I would like to thank our PTO for their financial support in this independent project. They cover the cost of this project including the presentation boards, ribbons, and cost of DVDs for children who need them. The PTO has also organized volunteers to help with set up, take down, making copies of the packet and so much more.

This week is our K-2 Science Fair. Our 3rd—5th grade projects are due Monday. The upper grade projects will be on display for visitors Wednesday after school and Thursday after 12:00pm (March 10th and 11th). If you come to view projects, please respect our hands-off rule. Judges from Marathon Oil will be judging projects Thursday until noon, so we cannot allow viewing at all Thursday morning while the judges are evaluating and discussing projects.



Did you Know?

- The color blue has a calming effect. It causes the brain to release calming hormones.
- When hippos are upset, their sweat turns red.
- Your left lung is smaller than your right lung to make room for your heart.

Announcements and Reminders

- Please help. We have a bus pick up afterschool in front of the building on Grove. Signs have been posted in front of the school to leave the bus zone open from 2:00-4:00pm on school days. The bus needs to pull up to the curb and many vehicles are still parking in this zone. Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students. Also, it would be greatly appreciated if you would apply that courtesy to our dismissal time on half days (10:30-11:30am).
- Thanks you for helping us speed up our Drop and Drive. Your quick goodbyes and adjusting of car seats so that kids can exit on the curb side help out a lot. Please continue wise actions and patience during rush time (7:55-8:10am). Together we can make this successful and safe for our children.