

News from your child’s classroom...

Kindergarten

by Deb Harstine, Teacher
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January has been filled with fun and learning! We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and some of the state symbols of our great state, KANSAS! We have counted and counted and finally reached the 100th day of school on Thursday. We had a great day filled with counting fun and celebrating the number 100! I’m so proud of the students and how well they are reading our snap words. Happy January Birthdays to Breklyn and Michael.

Kindergarten

by Misty Pope, Teacher
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It is the second semester of Kindergarten already. We have met 15 Letter People and have enjoyed every one. Ms. S had to travel to San Diego for a Special Surgery, but she made it back in time to finish the week with us. Thank you to parents and students for working on “Snap Word” lists and continuing to send in your dictionary pages. Our reading groups are going well. Remember to Read, Read, Read with your child. Let’s have a great third nine weeks!

First Grade

by Sara Martin, Teacher
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What an exciting week we have had. Thursday was the 100th day of school. We found 50 short vowel words and 50 long vowel words, made 100 tally marks, wrote what we would be like at 100 years old, and wrote our spelling word so they added up to 100 words. Today was Kansas Day, this afternoon we got to play Kansas Bingo. In math we have been counting change using quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies. We have also been working on telling time to the five minute interval. Practice at home would be great.

First/Second Grade

by Kristi Torrey, Teacher
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Congratulations to first grader Quinn Laney who has passed all of her 50 addition problems and is now working on subtraction. Another congratulations to Sydney Herbert and Samantha Johnson for passing all of their 100 addition problems and they are now working on subtraction. Finally, congratulations to Logan Ward who has started working on multiplication timed tests. WAY TO GO FIRST GRADERS!!

Congratulations to second graders Aubrey Travnichek and Emily Erwin who have passed all of their addition timed tests and they are now working on subtraction. Another congratulations to Marvin Zuke, Boston Fernandez and Kirsten Dufoe for passing all of their addition and subtraction timed tests and they are now working on multiplication. AWESOME WORK SECOND GRADERS!!!

A big thank you to all of the parents who helped out, donated, and made our Christmas Party a huge success. The second graders had a wonderful time thanks to all of your help.

Second Grade

by Robin Allison, Teacher
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This week we read two stories about baking. We discussed family traditions that you may have and how you celebrate your traditions. We focused on these skills with our stories: ea spelling the short e vowel sound, suffix –er, identifying adjectives, base words and synonyms.

In Math this week, we solved comparison number stories. This is reading a story problem and filling in a diagram with the information given to help the student get to a solution. We read graphs and interpreted the data and explored probability.

Congratulations to Hunter Woodard, Brady Thompson and Hudson Vaught for passing all addition and subtraction timed tests!!! They are now taking multiplication timed tests!! AWESOME!

Third Grade

by Sharon Corbin, Teacher
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We have really been working hard to prepare for our reading state assessment. The children are giving their best. We are taking practice tests in the computer lab and working in small groups in the afternoon on specific reading and math skills. My class is learning lots about the 70’s and the other decades represented in the school competition. We have a physical feat each week. This is a fun, silly game we play in the gym.

Third grade celebrated Kansas Day by frosting graham crackers shaped like Kansas. We are studying about several Kansas towns in social studies. Keep reading!!!

Third Grade

by Chris Oliver, Teacher
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For the month of February, Mr. Oliver’s Science Classes will be experiencing **Force** and **Motion**. Students will be asked: What makes objects move? What makes objects stop moving? This is a fun Unit that will show students how most objects they see everyday can be related to motion and force.

For Math please continue to work with your child on subtracting money. A trip to Dillon’s or Wal-Mart is a fun way of doing this. Just remember to take paper and pencil to have your child work out the problems.

Fourth Grade

by Marilyn Luszcak & Nanci Duncan, Teachers
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The fourth graders did a wonderful job at the “Tour of the Decades” opening ceremonies. We loved the poodle skirts and big hair!!! We have begun to do our practice formative tests to prepare for the state assessment. The kids have done very well so far. This week Mrs. Duncan’s class is in first place and Mrs. Luszcak’s class is in second place for the competition. Each week the students take one formative test and compete in a physical feat, this has been a lot of fun so far.

We will complete the Southwest Region soon and move onto the Western Region in Social Studies. In Reading we are requiring all students to read one William Allen White book. Thank you for encouraging your child to read thirty minutes each night so that they can

complete their goals. In Science we are finishing our Life Science Unit and we will move onto our Earth Science Unit. In Math we are working on multiplication and division.

We have our January birthday party Friday. Thank you to those parents that bring treats and drinks. Thank you for sending coats, hats, and gloves for the days we go outside.

Fifth Grade

by Karen Gruver, Teacher
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Over 8000 items were collected for the community drive. (A little over 3000 were collected last year.) We delivered three truckloads, a trailer, a van, and part of a bus load to the organizations we helped. This year some of the items went all over the world through the Salvation Army. Thank you for your great support.

Thank you to the parents who furnished goodies for the winter party. We had a good time bowling.

Both classes are busy preparing for the state reading assessment and writing letters. We are preparing our January letter to go to the soldiers and a thank you letter to Lisa Cooley. She visited with Mrs. Gruver’s fifth grade about the 1940’s, for the competition in the “Tour of the Decades”, and the sixth grade about the internment camps, concentration camps, and POW camps of WWII in conjunction with the novel, Number the Stars. Sixth grade is publishing the poems they wrote on topics from their novel study. Fifth grade is doing a short research project on an Olympic event. Both fifth grades are beginning a comparison/contrast essay about two Pilgrim children, Sarah and Samuel. It is a very busy time.

We had the honor of having several students win in the Butler County Conservation District’s limerick contest. Each will receive a monetary award. Fifth grade: Abby Gates-first; Austin Hatch-second; Jonathan Schelske-third. Sixth grade: Taylor Allison-first; Brooke Toedman-second; Logan Linot-third. Maggie Cannon placed in the poster contest. Her poster was printed in the conservation district’s newsletter and in the Shopper’s Guide. Congratulations to each. They will receive their awards at the conservation district’s annual meeting, February 6, 6:30, at the First Baptist Church in El Dorado.

Fifth Grade

by Cindy Hearn, Teacher
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These nine weeks has been very busy. Both 5th grade classes have working on “Trees are Terrific... and Energy Wise” poster contest. This theme ties in with our study of the biomes, ecosystems, and the environment. The winner in Mrs. Gruver’s class is McKinna Elrod. The school winner and Mrs. Hearn’s class winner is Brianna Martinez. Another poster contest Mrs. Hearn’s class participated in is the Butler County Soil Conservation contest. The winner of that contest is Dalyn Garrison. She also won the Kansas Soil Conservation poster contest. Her poster has been entered into the national poster contest. The other winners for the Butler County Soil poster contest are Harley Wright with second place and Brylee Thompson with third place. Mrs. Gruver also had several winners from her classes.

Both classes also participated in an IDL (Interactive Distance Learning) session from

Texas. The National Archives Museum of Fort Worth presented “**Animals in Space and Other Cool NASA Stuff!**” The next unit Mrs. Gruver’s class will learn about is space. The current math topic is fractions. After fractions the next unit will be geometry. In communications, the class is working hard preparing for the state assessments. There will be a RAP or Read Around the Planet IDL opportunity on February 26 at 8:30 AM. My class is paired with a fifth grade class from West Canada Valley, New York. We will be sharing different language arts presentations and information about Oil Hill School.

Sixth Grade

by Tammy Leis, Teacher
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It’s an exciting time in 6th grade! We are currently studying Ancient Greece in Social Studies, and your child is involved in a simulation, acting out many of the Ancient Greek traditions! You will probably see a lot more research needing to be done at home, and many projects due with this unit. For the next few weeks in math, we will begin concentrating on geometry and in Science we will be working on properties of matter.

Two important items for parents! PLEASE encourage your child to work on Study Island each night if possible. This is an internet-based program which is closely tied to the math standards, and it gives great practice skills for state assessments. Your child knows his or her password. Secondly, if you need to know anything regarding homework assigned for the day or what project is due soon, please visit our class website at www.scholastic.com/classhomepage. The user name is “6thleis” and the password is “oilhill”.

We are REALLY working on skills to prepare our students for middle school, including keeping up on agendas. Please remember that I check for a parent signature on Fridays. Please do NOT sign the agenda if your child hasn’t completed it for the week. I require a full signature and NOT initials. Thanks so much!

Music Class

by Kelly Middleton, Teacher
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The music students have been learning/reviewing the note names on the treble clef staff. They have been playing *Around the World*, doing individual board races in teams, and utilizing the individual dry erase boards that were provided to our students through a grant from the Circle Education Foundation. Ask your child if they can name the space notes on the treble clef staff (they should tell you “FACE”). Then ask if they can name the line notes. They will likely need to say “Even George Bush Drives Fast” to remember the EGBDF notes on the treble clef staff. They have all been doing very well with this.

If inclement weather forces the closing of school an announcement will be made to: TV & Radio Stations On line at: www.usd375.org kansas.com and SchoolMessenger

Accelerated Reader News

by Jonna Garbee, Librarian
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These students received AR awards as of January 12. Prizes were awarded on January 12th at the BEST assembly.

10 Point prize

Aubrey Travnichek Alexis Brueggeman
Emily Erwin Cierra Jesseph
Destiny Foshee

25 point prize

Dakota Demo Veronica Fisher
Marque McAnally Charity Miller
Kilyr Pringle Cole Allison
Kelsie Kelly Sydnie Stewart
Kade Winn Gavin Hutson
Mikayla Lamb Justin Long
Blue Stephens Autumn Olson
Schauna Altis Abigail Bilson
Jaden Laing Brice Stephenson
Brady Thompson Jaidan Bowlin
Brooklyn Hunter Garrett Dufoe
Isabella Pope Jason Shell
Cody Donovan Brianna Martinez
Adam Deewall Mason Lain
Drake Middleton Hanna Wright

50 point prize

Mrs. Ratcliff Mrs. Torrey
Asia Baker Hudson Vaught
Hunter Woodard McKayla Schenker
Sage Brown

75 point prize

Jillian Foes Noah Stewart
Brooke Toedman Cole Duncan

100 point prize

Eileen Chen Anthony Cutsinger
Noah Stewart Cade Erikson

150 point prize

Tanis Newby
250 and 275 point prizes-Dathon Weber
225, 250, 275 point prizes-Benjamin Engels
300 and 325 point prizes-Abby Gates

Congratulations to Mrs. Duncan who has earned 222 points! You go girl! You 4th graders better get busy reading.



Physical Education

by Kate Robinson, Teacher
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Heart disease is our nation’s No. 1 killer, therefore, putting our kids at risk. Jump Rope for Heart is a way to encourage students to take care of their hearts through physical activity while making a difference in the lives of others. Students will receive a packet on February 10 explaining how the money raising process works. The money raised by the students will be donated to the American Heart Association for research and to help others with cardiovascular disease. On February 23, students in Kindergarten through 4th grade will participate in jump rope activities during their P.E. time. Fifth and sixth grade will participate in Hoops for Heart and will do different activities with basketballs during their P.E. time on February 23. An informational letter will be sent home in the coming weeks!



Library News

by Jonna Garbee, Librarian
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Our library received a General Dollar grant this year to purchase audio books and mp3 players. Reading along with the audio is one way to increase fluency. The mp3 players may be checked out by 3-6 grade students. If your child has an mp3 player of his/her own, we would be happy to download a book onto it. Mp3 players can be purchased for about \$20 and would be a great birthday gift.

Many parents have logged onto **Renaissance Home Connect and found it helpful.**

<https://Hosted96.renlearn.com/200201/HomeConnect/Login.aspx> After logging onto the website you will enter your child’s name and password, which your child should know. You will have access to this years points, test average, and book level average and a bookshelf showing all of the books your child has read since starting AR. You can also set up automatic email to receive AR scores as your child takes a test. Please email me if you have any problems jgarbee@usd375.org

The following are new books in the library that were donated as a memorial. *Ghost of Spirit Bear* donated by Karen Gruver and *Stolen by the Sea* donated by Deb Hall, both in memory of Sharon Corbin’s father. *Fairies* and *Asthma* donated by Pat Mitchell and *Abby’s Asthma and the Big Race* donated by Deb Hall, all in memory of Annie Gomez, niece of Jonna Garbee and former Oil Hill student. *Motorcycles* donated by Brad and Roxann Cool in memory of their son Blake Cool, former Oil Hill Student. *Me and My Dad!* donated by Deb Hall in memory of Nancy Corkill’s father. *You can’t do that, Amelia!* donated by Bev Beaman. *The Leprechaun Companion* donated by Wayne Kavanaugh. Thank you to PTO for purchasing the *Jake Maddox* sports series. These are favorites among 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade boys. Our students appreciate your generosity. Thank you also to Cade Erikson, Shianne Miller and Hudson Vaught who donated “like new” books from their own home libraries.

Just a friendly reminder that the next PTO meeting will be on **Monday, February 1st** at 7:00 pm. There will be a gift card drawing that night and childcare will be provided.

Counselor Corner

by Billy Jackson, Counselor
Helping Your Student Improve in Test-Taking

Beginning the last week of February, students in Circle School District will participate in state assessments. At Oil Hill School, this testing will take place in the 3rd through 6th grade. All students in these grades will be assessed in math and reading. The 4th grade will also be taking a science assessment. As you know, these assessments are instrumental in assessing not only individual achievement, but also to determine the success of some programs and to direct future student learning. **It is therefore very important that your student be at school during this testing cycle.** Adequate rest and a proper breakfast the morning of each test day is also helpful in giving your student their best opportunity for success.

The state assessments are important achievement tests which provide certain information important to our schools, but there are other testing

situations which reflect your student's school experience. Knowing what you can do as a parent to assist your child in this process can give your child an important edge. Keep in mind the following do's and don't's regarding testing:

- Don't be too anxious about a child's scores. If you put too much emphasis on test scores, this can upset a child.
- Do encourage children. Praise them for the things they do well. If they feel good about themselves they will do their best.
- Don't judge your child on the basis of a single test score. The child's mental or physical state on a particular day can impact their score.
- Make sure your child attends school regularly and on time. Remember, tests do reflect children's overall achievement. The more effort and energy a child puts into learning, the more likely he/she will do well on a test.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home and make study time a priority.

STATE TESTING DATES

- 3rd/6th Reading Assessment.....February 22nd thru February 26th
- 4th/5th Reading Assessment.....March 1st thru March 4th
- 4th Math Assessment.....March 8th thru March 10th
- 5th Math Assessment.....March 23rd thru March 26th
- 3rd/6th Math Assessment.....March 29th thru April 1st
- 4th Science Assessment.....April 19th thru April 23th

Recycle Pop Cans

by Karen Gruver, 5th Grade Teacher
 The fifth grade students are in charge of gathering our recycling here at Oil Hill Elementary School. Please collect your pop cans (rinsed please) and bring them bagged up to the school. They may be dropped off on the front porch of the school at anytime. We use the money collected to purchase items for the school's memory garden.
 Thank you for your support!



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Breakfast Funnel Cake Lunch Chicken Pot Pie Celery Sticks Peaches 1	Breakfast Pancake on a Stick Fruit Lunch Burrito w/Cheese Sauce Corn Mixed Fruit Brownie 2	Breakfast French Toast Sticks Fruit Lunch Chicken Nuggets Potato w/Cheese Sauce Peas Strawberry Shortcake 3	Breakfast Muffin-Cereal Juice or Fruit Lunch Hardy Beef & Vegetable Soup Crackers Tossed Salad Fruit Cup Cornbread 4	Breakfast Yogurt-Cheese Stick Fresh Fruit Lunch Turkey Sticks Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Pears Warm Roll 5 <i>Oil Hill BEST School Spirit Day</i>
Breakfast Frosted Long John Cereal-Fresh Fruit Lunch Chicken Fry Steak Sandwich Cheesy Fries Coleslaw Fresh Fruit 8	Breakfast Breakfast Pizza Juice or Fruit Lunch Soft Taco Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese Corn Spiced Apples 9	Breakfast Super Bun Cereal-Fruit Lunch Chicken Drumsticks Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Green Beans Pineapple & Mandarin Oranges Warm Roll 10	Breakfast Pop Tart-Cereal Juice or Fruit Lunch Pepperoni Pizza Tossed Salad Fruit Cup Valentine Cake Strawberry Milk 11	NO SCHOOL Staff Development 12
NO SCHOOL 15	Breakfast Waffle Sticks Juice or Fruit Lunch Chicken Strips Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce Pineapple Warm Roll 16	Breakfast Biscuit w/Jelly Juice or Fruit Lunch Quesadilla Lettuce & Tomato Salad Green Beans Bananas & Mandarin Oranges 17	Breakfast Muffin-Cereal Juice or Fruit Lunch Steak Fingers Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Carrot Coins Peaches Warm Roll 18	Breakfast Oatmeal-Toast Fruit Lunch Chicken Nuggets Seasoned Rice Broccoli Mix Applesauce 19
Breakfast Apple Stuffed Bread Stick Juice or Fruit Lunch Little Smokies Macaroni & Cheese Peas Strawberries & Bananas Warm Roll 22	Breakfast Breakfast Bites Juice or Fruit Lunch Taco Crunch Lettuce, Tomato, Cheese Corn Pineapple 23	Breakfast Cinnamon Tasterie Fresh Fruit Lunch Chicken & Noodles Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Peaches Warm Roll 24	Breakfast Pancake Pod-Sausage Link Juice or Fruit Lunch Sausage Pizza Corn Rosy Applesauce Chocolate Cake 25	Breakfast Biscuit & Gravy Fruit Lunch Chili w/Crackers Celery Sticks & Baby Carrots Pears Cinnamon Roll 26 <i>Newsletter goes out School Spirit Day</i>

February 2010 Menu

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Oil Hill Elementary at Its BEST

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OHS Happenings.....

- Jan. 29: •School Spirit Day
•Newsletter goes out
- Feb. 1: •PTO Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Feb. 3: •Progress Reports 3-6th gr.
- Feb. 5: •OHS BEST Day!
(aka School Spirit Day)
•Butler County Spelling Bee 1:00 PM at BCC
- Feb. 8: •BOE Meeting, 6:00 PM
- Feb. 11: •Valentine Parties, 2:30 PM
- Feb. 12: •NO SCHOOL
Staff Development
- Feb. 15: •NO SCHOOL
President's Day
- Feb. 19: •Yearbook Sales End
•1-6th grade students to BCC to see a play
- Feb. 22-26: •Jump Rope For Heart Week
- Feb. 25: •Spring Individual Pictures
- Feb. 26: •School Spirit Day
•Newsletter goes out
- Mar. 1: •PTO Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Mar. 4: •End of 3rd Nine Weeks
- Mar. 5: •NO SCHOOL
Staff Development
- Mar. 9: •Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 11: •Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar. 12-19: •NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
- Mar. 24: •Honor Roll Breakfast, 7:30 AM
- Mar. 26: •School Spirit Day

Mr. Janzen's Comment's

by Michael Janzen, Principal
 mjanzen@usd375.org

Looking at my school calendar I have a lot of hand written notes coming up that yours may not have. This current flurry of school activity centers around the upcoming State Testing Season. This can be a stressful time for teachers and students alike. This year all 3rd - 6th grade students will be taking the assessments in Math and Reading with 4th grade taking an additional assessment in Science.

In order to combat this stress of the season and to make learning fun, 3rd - 6th grade classes have adopted a decade from the 1940's through the future. These decades are competing in both physical and mental competitions in an effort to be the BEST. Next week starts our third week of competition and excitement. Aside from the excitement that this intuitive builds for learning, it also focuses the classes and the staff to all work together to be at our BEST competitive level. The lower grades classrooms also adopt a decade to cheer for and support during the assessments. More events will be held in the coming weeks. Ask your student about how we are learning to work together to achieve academic excellence as the competition progresses.

Your support, understanding and enthusiasm for your child's education plays a vital role in their academic success. Learning can and should be exciting for your child. This is only possible with effort from all of us. I thank you for your past, present and future efforts in making Oil Hill its "BEST"



NO SCHOOL
 February 12 & 15
 March 5, 11-19
 April 5 & 26

USD 375 Mission Statement
The Vision and Purpose of Circle USD 375, in partnership with our communities, is to educate each student to be an engaged, knowledgeable citizen and responsible, productive worker in the 21st Century

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 Michael Janzen-Principal
 Sue Edwards-Editor

Notes from the Office

ABSENCES: Contact the school office by 9:30 AM if your child is absent from school to excuse them. If you have not called to excuse your child, the SchoolMessenger program will automatically call you to remind you to do so. Also, if your child will be absent in the morning for an appt. but will be here for lunch call us by 9:00 AM. This helps us provide the cooks with an accurate meal count. The cooks appreciate your help.

TARDIES: Students accumulating 4 or more tardies in this next semester will be required to eat lunch in the office on the days they come in tardy. Attendance is a very important part of your child's education. *Many things happen in the first few min. of school you don't want your child to miss.*

PROGRESS REPORTS: These will be available with all grades updated on February 3rd in PowerSchool online for grades 3-6. If you forgot your child's password or login information, you can call the school office for it.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES: Letters about your child(s) scheduled time will be sent home the last week of Feb. Conference's will be held on Tuesday, March 9 in the evening and Thursday, March 11th during the daytime. If you have a preference as to what day or time your child's conference is held, please contact the school office as soon as possible so we can accommodate your needs.

YEARBOOK ORDERS

will be taken through
 February 19th
 Standard-\$12.00
 Personalized-\$16.50
 Delivery in May

Make checks payable to
Oil Hill Elementary note: yearbook
 Order forms went home in mid January.
 If you are unsure if you ordered at enrollment, please contact the school office.

Valentine Parties
 are February 11th
 beginning at
 2:30 PM
 All classes are
 participating