

“News From The Peak”



The Dreaded Phone Call...

The phone rings and it is Mrs. Sattler or your child’s teacher requesting that you come and get your sick child. Usually, the classroom teacher will notice that your child isn’t acting in his or her usual manner and will ask Mrs. Sattler to take his or her temperature. If the temperature is above 100 degrees and there are other signs of illness, you will be called. Vomiting and diarrhea are also reasons for your child to be sent home. Please refer to page 11 of the parent handbook for more details. Our thermometers are checked periodically for accuracy.

Thank you,
Mrs. Tabert

Upcoming Events

- * Oct. 26-30, Independent School Week
- * Oct. 27-29, Parent Teacher Conferences
- * Oct. 30, Halloween Celebration
- * Nov. 2-3, School Pictures
- * Nov. 2-20, Butterbraid Fundraiser
- * Nov. 3, Chess Club
- * Nov. 5, Parent Group Meeting
- * Nov. 17, Chess Club
- * Nov. 18, Sharing Feast
- * Nov. 20, Pizza Day
- * Nov. 23-27, No School-Thanksgiving Break
- * Dec. 3, Parent Group Meeting
- * Dec. 11, Annual Holiday Celebration/Program
- * Dec. 21-Jan 1, No School-Winter Break

Mrs. Buckett’s class cleans up Cattail Pond Trail!



Happy Birthday!

- ☺ Aug. 10, Karson Hills
- ☺ Aug. 11, Dain Sattler
- ☺ Aug. 15, Kavya Kataria
- ☺ Aug. 19, Tom Elston
- ☺ Aug. 22, Bailey Lambert
- ☺ Aug. 24, Nathan Pargee
- ☺ Aug. 28, Jessica Checkas, Jameson Terao
- ☺ Aug. 29, Rakhi Kataria
- ☺ Sep. 6, Trevor White
- ☺ Sep. 18, Sudhiksha Sivakumar
- ☺ Sep. 29, Kale Buchanan
- ☺ Oct. 6, Thomas Jennings
- ☺ Oct. 12, Michael Jennings
- ☺ Oct. 15, Ireland Mullins
- ☺ Oct. 21, Zephran Radke
- ☺ Oct. 28, Joshua Lurie, Nick Pratt

Fall Bike Day



Touch of Class

Pre-School/Pre-Kindergarten

Our preschool year began deep in the woods where the 3 bears live. We played in the 3 bears house, studied woodland animals and acted out the story of the 3 bears.

As fall begins, our 3 bears house has turned into a Farmers Market. We are learning about the farm, farm animals and the harvesting of crops. Our Pre-K visited Miller Farms where they picked many vegetables and saw first hand how a farm works. All of the pre-school classes have weighed and painted with the vegetables brought back from the farm.

Upcoming events in November include a grocery store in our dramatic play area. We will be focusing on nutrition and learning about our bodies, inside and out. December will find us chasing those Gingerbread friends and having a Bakery in the classroom!

Kindergarten: We have been extremely busy so far this year! Thanks to our Zoo-phonics, we are all reading and a few of us are doing spelling. We blasted off and visited each planet including the 5 (at that time) dwarf planets. Our planet books came out really nice!

Our study of the ocean will conclude this week and then we will come "ashore" to begin our continents. We had a great field trip to the Anchorage Boat Store in Lyons. It was great fun to climb aboard and explore the boats. Thanks to our parent drivers! Another outing to the Longmont Museum is scheduled on the afternoon of November 17th. We will need drivers again for that trip.

Mrs. Wills: 1st –2nd Grade. As the first and second grade finishes up the first grading period, they have much to celebrate.

- The United States has been a powerful learning experience in our classroom. The students have learned about the different regions of the United States and had chance to research a state and give an oral presentation of what they learned. We also sent our good friend Flat Stanley on a trip around our great

country. He is busy traveling and we hope he will send us back a few souvenirs to show us what he has been up to.

- We wrote a beginning of the year paragraph about a special person in our life. If you have not had the chance to read them, make sure to stop by our classroom and check them out. The students are in the process of writing and illustrating their own circle stories. They are having a great time, but realize what hard work it is to be an author and an illustrator.
- PAJAMA DAY! Our class just celebrated our first reward party for good behavior. Keep it up students. We are almost ready for a second party!
- Keep Reading and practicing your math facts. Everyone is doing great!
- A quick thank you to all of the parent volunteers in our classroom. You have been such a great help.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Diorama Presentations 10/28
 - Martek Biosciences Field Trip 11/5

“What is the project today?” and “Are we doing an experiment, **Mrs. Buckett?**” are the most prevalent questions overheard in the 3rd-4th **Grade class.** Yes, they do math, writing, reading, and spelling. But the kids are most excited about life skills and science. Life skills is a Wednesday class that teaches practical skills through fun projects. Sewing skills like attaching a button, using a pattern, and using a blanket stitch have been taught and used to make wall decorations and a felt candy corn pouch for holding autumn treats. Tying a fleece blanket and cooking projects like making apple tartlets were also quite popular. Science activities include “exploding” pop bottles, mixed salads, layered liquids, and burnt sugar. No wonder the kids can’t wait to see what will happen next. A field trip to

Cattail Ponds to clean up the trail increased awareness of community service. The kids did a great job sprucing up the trail, collecting 10 bags of trash. Upcoming trips to Martek Biosciences and the Longmont Museum will further enrich the curriculum. Also causing much enthusiasm is the creation of a photo journal that will contain pictures and reflections from the entire school year. This class is a fine example for the younger students and they can take pride in their ability to inspire positive behavior.

From the Coach: A very enthusiastic group of **3 & 4 year old classes** this year have picked up the PE routine very quickly. They love doing their warm up activities each time and most of them know the words and actions to our songs already. The always popular scarves started off the quarter with the kids learning to toss and catch scarves as well as attempting juggling with them. Of course, their favorite thing to do is put them on their heads pretending to be ghosts and trying to scare Mrs. Weldon and Mrs. Sattler. We have also worked on bouncing and catching balls, underhand and overhand throwing and we have started using the parachute. **The Pre-K class** kicked off the year, literally by mastering kicking and dribbling of a soccer ball and they were even able to play a couple of games of soccer. They, too bounced and caught balls, and were able to play catch both underhand and overhand with a partner. **Kindergarten** completed a great soccer unit with some rousing games that featured great team play and enthusiasm. One and two handed bouncing and catching, along with overhand and underhand throwing were next and the quarter finished with the introduction of floor hockey. **Mrs. Wills's class** also started with

soccer and displayed some excellent skills in the many games they played. These kids can play! Jump roping was next with both long ropes and short ropes introduced. The kids worked very hard on this sometimes difficult skill and their persistence paid off. They are now in the middle of floor hockey, a class favorite, and the games played to date have been fantastic. **Mrs. Bucket's class** started off with a bang with some very competitive 5 on 5 soccer games. It warmed my heart to see the passing and strategies exhibited by these kids. Jump roping was next with both long and short ropes worked on. We have some great jump ropers in this class. Flag football is in full swing now with the kids working hard to learn the intricacies of the game. It was a great start to the school year and the quarter was highlighted once again by Fall Bike Day. I'm happy to report, no band-aids, and other than a couple of tired kids by days end, it was a huge success once again!

Music: Music is off to a great start this year. The Pre-K and Kindergarten classes have been learning note notation and recognizing how many beats each note receives. They also have learned what music sounds like when it is soft, loud, slow or fast. The students have been singing and have had the chance to play the Kazoo! The first through fourth graders have also been busy musicians. They too have reviewed note notation, crescendo and decrescendo. The students learned about the treble clef and bass clef as well. Each class can echo during a song and perform a song in a round. Once again Mountain Peak Students have extreme talent! GO RAMS!

ARE VIDEO GAMES TECHNOLOGY?

The answer according to experts is "NO". I recently attended an Early Childhood seminar in Denver along with Mrs. Wills and Mrs. Weldon. One of the sessions I attended was on the use of technology with children in our society. One of the topics of discussion centered on how U.S. children are losing ground technology-wise because of video games. Too many parents are allowing extensive video game play for their children thinking that they are learning something in the process, thus justifying it. Children are not learning to strategize or think ahead while playing these games, only how to get to the next level. It's called "Operant Conditioning". Most, if not all video games are conditioning tools. Games are all about the rules, and once the rules are understood, you can beat a computer game without really understanding it. The appearance of learning and knowledge may be either AstroTurf or grass. Both look nearly the same, but the blades of AstroTurf are not connected. There are no "roots". You can teach a 2 year old to

say $10+10=20$, but that doesn't mean they can even understand $1+1$. Facts in this case "look good" but do not have the "roots" which grass-like-knowledge has. This is knowing something without understanding it. Getting back to the video games, it was conceded that they are a huge draw for today's kids. If they can't be avoided, they suggested that parents sit down and play the game with their child. It will give the parent an understanding of the game who can then pass that understanding on to the child. I hope this information is helpful! Mr. Bucket

Educational Insights from Mrs. Wills

On October 10, 2009 I had the chance to attend a conference in Denver with a few of the other staff members from Mountain Peak. One of the courses that I attended was about how to incorporate literacy and science together while making it a hands-on experience for the students. When I sat down, the speaker introduced herself and told us that she was from Kansas. I was so excited! We then discovered that we both attended Kansas State University. Yeah! GO CATS! She definitely had my attention.

This class helped me expand my knowledge base and I acquired new references to draw from. These new references will enhance the children's learning experience throughout my curriculum. This supplemental material will really help the students tie information together. I also learned to use my current resources more. Things that I already have for one activity can be used for another in a completely different way! I picked up different art ideas to use in my classroom this year as well. So students get ready to have fun!

I was so excited that I attended this conference. I am implementing these ideas in my classroom right now. The students are learning and having a great time. What more could a teacher ask for?

Volunteer Recognition

We are off to a fantastic start to the school year in the area of volunteers. Thanks to Karla Hills for spearheading the Ice Cream Social at Baskin Robbins. It was highly attended and provided funds for the MPPS Parent Group. And extra special thanks go out to Michele Stanley for organizing and helping with the very popular "Pizza Day". The kids absolutely love it and it is a great fundraiser, too. We have already reaped the benefits by purchasing the "rock climbing" wall for the playground. MPPS Parents: YOU ROCK!

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| * Ron & Kari Aschenbrenner | * Leanne Humphrey |
| * Leni Checkas | * Jason & Renae Shook |
| * Michelle Lurie | * Jack Welch |
| * Jacqueline McGinty | * Jennifer Welch |
| * Sara Radke | * Yongqiang Zhang |
| * Debbi Welch | * Mary Kerns |
| * Ann Hovick | * Jonathan & Michele Stanley |
| * Jim Jennings | * Jim Pargee |
| * Amar Vattakandy | * Ashleigh Stevenson |
| * Reena Kuni | * Shannon Mitchem |
| * Ken & Karla Hills | * Steph Elston |
| * Traci Mullins | * Jennifer Bonial |
| * Anjan Shah | * Kat Sattler |
| * Rae Buchanan | * Denise Terao |
| * Caryne Shoning | * Don Wiechman |
| * Caren Bandi | |