



Red Oak Elementary School

"A Community of Learners"

Monarch Review

March 2014

A note from your Principal...

Dear Red Oak Elementary School family:

The school year is rapidly coming to a close. I have a few items to remind you of to ensure that we end the school year smoothly. I am asking for your help in the parking lot to make sure that our students enter into the building safely each and every morning. It will be greatly appreciated if you would not drop your students off in the parking lot and allow them to cross the street alone. The only designated drop off area is in front of the building. We begin receiving students at 7:05 a.m. each morning, and students should be in their classrooms seated at 7:45 a.m.

We are very excited about all of the hard work that our students have done this school year. In late April our students in grades third, fourth, and fifth will be able to display their academic skills on the CRCT. The CRCT is a standardized measure where students demonstrate their mastery of core academic subjects through established criteria set by the Georgia Department of Education. Students are actively learning new skills daily that will help them master the content on the CRCT exam. To support the learning that takes place at school, please continue to allow students to practice on Study Island and Georgia OAS.

Thank you very much for your continued support!

Professionally,

Dr. Cemon Robinson

Dr. Robinson
Principal

Dr. Korvayan
Assistant Principal

Red Oak
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Title 1 News

Happy Spring Everyone! Spring has sprung and the school year is almost gone! The Title Teachers have worked hard with our students, and now it's time for them to demonstrate what they've learned. CRCT Testing dates are April 24 – April 30th.

Mrs. Hill, our Parent Involvement Representative, is still in need of parent volunteers for the remaining school year. However, she is also seeking dedicated, energetic, and positive individuals for the 2014-2015 school year who can assist with small tasks that are needed by our teachers. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Hill at the following email address: vickie.hill@henry.k12.ga.us

Thank you for all that you do!

The Title Team

Mrs. Germaine Brooks, Mrs. Iris Ellington, Mrs. Vickie Hill, and Mrs. Sabrina Walker

Counselors' Corner

CRCT Test Taking Tips

Parents, as you know, the CRCT is quickly approaching; therefore, please join us in encouraging your child to do his or her best on the test by sharing the following tips with them.



Let them know:

- You've worked so hard all year, be sure to remember the information you've learned in class!
- Have confidence that you can do it!
- Follow the directions given in each section of the test.
- Read all the choices before choosing your answer. FOCUS!

Continued...



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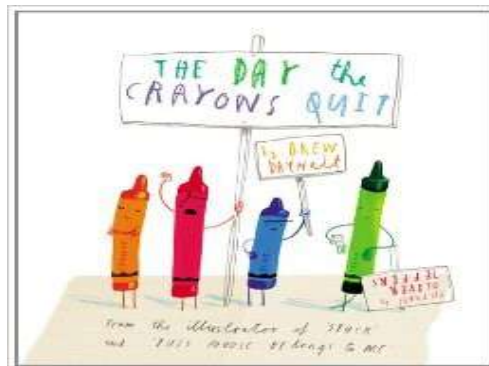
Counselors' Corner, *continued...*

- Eliminate answer choices you know are incorrect.
- Double check your work if you have time.
- For math: Be sure to use the scratch paper provided to figure out your math problems.
- It doesn't matter who finishes first; it is not a race - Just do your best!
- Stay calm and confident.



Note: Parents, please make sure your child is well-rested, stress-free and here on time.

Our spring book is *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt. The book is about fairness and learning how to figure out a way to resolve issues peacefully.



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Share Your Opinion. Join A

Focus Group

Nurse's Corner

Greetings!

Spring is here and winter colds are now being replaced by allergies, asthma, and other illnesses. We do not want your child to miss school; nor do we want your child to come to school and expose others to illness that could be contagious. In an effort to keep students healthy, we ask that you keep your child at home if he/she is sick and feverish.



In Georgia, pollen season comes in two phases. From April to June, many allergy sufferers feel the effects of trees and grasses. Then, from August through September, they feel the effects of Ragweed. If your child suffers from allergies, please make sure you medicate them at home or send a note along with the medication, as these medications are not provided at school.

Tips for Surviving Allergy Season

1. Know the pollen count.
2. Stay indoors when the pollen count is high.
3. Protect yourself from pollen when you go outside.
4. Wash your hands and face consistently.
5. Help your child's teacher by purchasing boxes of tissues.

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Attention Students!!!

Out of School????

Teacher's workday?
Government shutdown?

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Juniors under 18 pay their age!

Parents & Teachers

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appreciation special Monday-
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iMOM & All-Pro Dad News



This year, *iMoM* and *All Pro Dad* took off with a bang! For those of you who didn't have the opportunity to come to a meeting, you may be wondering what exactly are *iMOM* and *All Pro Dad* about. Both chapters implement short lessons that provide a simple idea that hopefully has a profound impact on relationships with mothers and fathers along with their children.

Last month, both groups had phenomenal topics!

iMoM's topic of the month: Passion to do Good

- Mothers and their children learned the importance of the word "passion". They discussed how passion drives individuals to be successful and how it allows them to persevere when they experience failures. We also discussed the importance of helping those who are less fortunate.

All Pro Dad's topic of the month: How to be a Good Dad

- The dads had a phenomenal program. Dads learned how a good dad looks and acts from the perspective of children. It was important for dads to hear that children love TIME with their dads! If they had a choice, they would choose time with their dads over new clothes, shoes, and money. It was an eye-opening experience!

Although our March Meeting was the last meeting of the school year for each group, we encourage you to come and be active participants during the 2014-2015 school year!

Thank you moms and dads for supporting us! See you next year!



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iMOM & All-Pro Dad News, *continued...*



Seuss & Sasia Read-a-Thon

Red Oak Elementary was a land of imagination on March 3rd as we celebrated the lives of Dr. Seuss and of Sasia Hood, a former student who loved READING. Students and teachers dressed as their favorite book characters and enjoyed a day of reading! Many classrooms had volunteers from the community to visit and share their favorite books with the students as well. It was an exciting day had by all.....President Obama even came out and supported our day!!



Red Oak will
always love **Sasia
Hood!!**



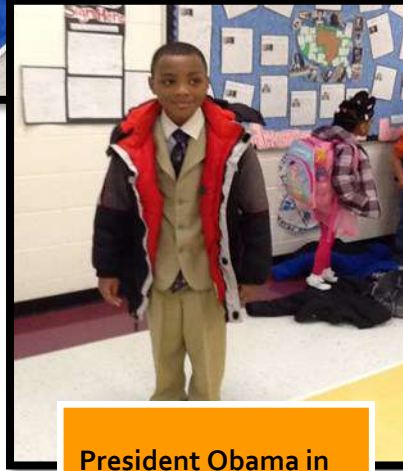
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Seuss & Sasia Read-a-Thon, *continued...*



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Garden Club



The Red Oak Garden Club had a great meeting during the month of March. We had a highly anticipated visit from two master gardeners, Ms. Kay Kersey and Mr. Jim Parks. They are volunteers that provide research-based information about gardening to home gardeners and schools.

Ms. Kersey and Mr. Parks gave planting tips for the spring and the summer. They also told the students about “companion planting.” Companion planting is the act of planting different crops in proximity for pest control and pollination.

The students also did a hydroponic planting experiment. Ms. Powell researched how to regrow store-bought celery using hydroponic growing techniques. The students were aided by Ms. Ellington, Ms. Fuqua, and Ms. O’Hara in doing this activity. The teachers gave each child a celery leaf to put in a milk carton filled midway with water. Then the students enjoyed eating the celery stalks after this activity was over!

We truly hope our companion planting endeavor was successful so we can put our celery in soil during our next meeting!



ART News

Congratulations go out to Jania Brinson and Joshua Korvayan. Their beautiful art work will be on display at the Hartsfield International Airport. Way to go Joshua and Jania!! You make our school shine!



Chorus News



Please mark your calendar. The Red Oak Elementary Chorus Concert is May 15, 2014 at 6:00 PM. Come out and support our children!

Library News

Red Oak Media Center

Thank you to all of the families that participated in our Magazine Fundraiser.



Our book fair was a success. Thank you for coming out to shop and a very special Thanks to all of our parents that volunteered.



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Library News



Spotlight on Reading!



Get a head start on your summer reading NOW! We have the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl book selection for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. The Georgia Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl is open to students in grades four through twelve across the state. Our Red Oak team consists of fourth and fifth graders. Each winter, teams of students from different schools compete to test their knowledge of the selected books. This exciting competition inspires young readers to embrace a variety of literature rich in positive social themes. Even if you do not sign up for the official Red Oak Reading Bowl team, we hope you will consider reading some of the selected books because they are literary gems in our opinion!


Georgia Children's Book Award (Gr. 4 – 8). 2014 – 2015 Nominee List

Ages 8 / 9 and Up

1. The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp By Appelt, Kathi. (2013).
2. The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale By Carmen Agra Deedy (2011)
3. Mountain Dog. By Margarita Engle (2013)
4. Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library By Chris Grabenstein (2013)
5. The False Prince By Jennifer Nielsen (2012)
6. Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltski By Liesl Shurtliff (2013)

Ages 10 / 11 and Up

1. Serafina's Promise By Ann Burg (2013)
2. Michael Vey: The Prisoner of Cell 25 By Richard Paul Evans (2011)
3. Chomp By Carl Hiaasen (2012)
4. One for the Murphys By Lynda Hunt (2012).
5. Ungifted By Gordan Korman (2012)
6. Eight Key By Suzanne La Fleur (2011)
7. Lions of Little Rock By Kristin Levine (2012)
8. The Boy on the Wooden Box By Leon Leyson (2013)
9. Three Times Lucky By Sheila Turnage (2012)
10. Navigating Early By Clare Vanderpool (2013)



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Grade Level News

Kindergarten News

Can you believe spring is already here? This school year is flying by! We are having so much fun in kindergarten. We are becoming better readers, informative writers, professional mathematicians, and brainy scientists! Let's just say...there is never a dull moment in kindergarten!



What are we learning at school?

In English Language Arts, we will continue to practice writing and reading three letter CVC words (bat, mug, kid). Your child should be able to successfully sound out these words and write the letters they hear, as well as take three isolated sounds (b-i-g) and blend them together to read the word (big). We are working hard on informational and opinion writing. As we write, the students are encouraged to sound out words and write sentences independently.

In Math, we are busy learning everything there is to know about addition and subtraction. Your child is learning to show their answers in a variety of ways (with fingers or manipulatives, pictures, ten frames, and equations). This unit requires consistent practice to ensure that your child understands the difference between an addition and subtraction problem. Encourage your child to read the math problems aloud before solving them. Ask "Does this equation want you to add or subtract?" We will also focus on the following key vocabulary words: sum, difference, add, subtract, equation.

In Science, we are wrapping up our unit on living things. We had the best time observing the butterflies in our classrooms. Your children not only learned about the life cycle of a butterfly, but they observed it with their own eyes! Letting our butterflies go was a sad and happy day...the students miss having them as our "class pets." J Now we have moved onto plants, and we are busy sorting them by their many attributes. What makes a tree different from a flower? How are two flowers similar?

A BIG CONGRATULATIONS to those students who attended our sight word popcorn party in the beginning of April! We are so impressed by your hard work! Remember, your child needs to be reading at a level D by the end of kindergarten. Sight words are one important component of reading. Did you know 75% of the words you read every day are sight words?

Upcoming Events:

Kindergarten Celebration – May 9th at 8:30 am – Help us celebrate all of the hard work our students have done this year!

Kindergarten Luau – May 16th – We've worked hard, now it's time to luau!

Kindergarten Wish List:

Glue Sticks
Tissues

Dry Erase EXPO Markers
Paper Towels

Lysol Wipes

First Grade News

Read Across America was a great deal of fun and a very successful fundraiser. The top class for our Dr. Seuss and Sasia Read-a-Thon was Ms. Peterson's class. Joshua Dukes will receive a trophy for being the top donor for the entire school! It was a fun time had by all as you can clearly see from the picture and a perfect opportunity to increase some Accelerated Reader scores and percentages.



Congratulations to our First in Math Top Players of the Month!!!

Top players for First in Math are as follows:

Malik Binon -Mrs. Waller's class

Kynan Pan- Mrs. Clayton's Class

Kennedy Hounblame -Ms. Peterson's Class

Ameena Ivory - Mrs. Kemp-Dorsey's Class

Oluwafemi Akinkugbe and El-Razzaq - Mrs. Bright's Class

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Second Grade News***Second Graders Are Special
Shining Stars!!*****Special Events:**

With the introduction of the night sky, second grade has been busily involved with fun activities!



Dr. Schmude, a Gordon State College Astronomy professor, came to visit the second grade team. The professor held a group meeting to discuss many interesting facts. One thing our students learned is that different colored stars have different temperatures. Based on their shirt color, students stood up to represent the different types of stars. Next, we went outside to use a special instrument called a sun spotter. This instrument gave students the opportunity to view an image of the sun and where the sun's spots were located.

Students were also able to visit the Star Lab. The Star Lab is an inflated globe that students are able to crawl inside. Once inside, the night sky and all its constellations are viewed on the ceiling. Students enjoyed hearing the stories of how the constellations were first named.

In March, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday! Teachers and students dressed as book characters and read for several hours to promote reading. (One class was even brave enough to try green eggs and ham!)



Second Grade News, *continued...*

In some classrooms, students were given the opportunity to make moon phases using Oreos. The moon phase was displayed by using the black cookie and white cream as representation of each phase.

This month, students learned about bicycle safety from McGruff the Crime Dog and a local officer. He explained the bicycle hand signals and gave the students a safety booklet. We enjoy our monthly visit from McGruff to teach us how to remain safe at all times!

Special Projects:

We had a wonderful turnout for our Black History celebrations. Students completed a research project that consisted of creating a booklet of information about a specific African American that has contributed to our history. Students made a pipe cleaner person, stamp, and timeline to accompany their bibliography research. As a school competition, all classrooms developed a bulletin board that was representative of Black History Month. We used our projects, along with other activities completed in class, as our artifacts to celebrate this special time. A volunteer came for each class as part of the Read-in-Chain. The children enjoyed listening to stories such as *The Freedom Box* and *The Other Side* to name a few.



As we begin our unit on lifecycles, second grade purchased live ladybug larvae which grew in our Ladybug Land habitat. We watched as our ladybug larvae quickly grew to become pupa. Once they became adult ladybugs, we released them near the garden that our Garden Club has built.

The students have worked hard to create a three-dimensional replica of the ladybug lifecycle using a variety of materials. They were asked to display each stage of the lifecycle and to provide a written explanation of the change that occurs.

Special Reminder:

Keep up the great work with First in Math, Study Island, and Accelerated Reader. We hope to recognize students who have excelled in their performance by the end of the year!

Continued...

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Second Grade News, *continued...***2nd Grade Curriculum Information****English/Language Arts**

All students should know and be able to:

- Refer to details and examples when explaining what a text says explicitly
- Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson
- Identify features such as pictures, subtitles, bold print, and graphs to gain meaning
- Describe similarities and differences of two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text
- Read and comprehend a variety of literary and informational texts within the Fountas and Pinnell instructional level L
- Decode words based on text around them
- Understand how to self-correct and self-monitor comprehension
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Refer to details and examples when explaining what a text says explicitly
- Write informative/ explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points

Science

All students should know and be able to:

- Investigate the life cycles of different living organisms

Mathematics

All students should know and/or be able to:

- Solve word problems involving money including bills and coins
- Partition and describe shapes using halves, thirds, fourths and wholes
- Recognize, draw and reason with shapes having specified attributes, such as a given number of angles or a given number of equal faces
- Identify, compare and contrast triangles, quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, and cubes

Ongoing throughout the school year, students should be able to (1) Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them; (2) Reason abstractly and quantitatively; (3) Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others; (4) Model with mathematics; (5) Use appropriate tools strategically; (6) Attend to precision; (7) Look for and make use of structure; (8) Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. The SMPs are addressed on an ongoing basis throughout grading periods 1 – 4.

Social Studies

All students should know and be able to:

- Explain the lives and contributions of Georgians (Jackie Robinson & Martin Luther King, Jr.) in History
- Explain the culture & geography of famous Georgians
- Describe the need for rules & laws
- Describe character traits of Georgians
- Explain scarcity
- Identify goods & services
- Describe and identify uses of money

Third Grade News

Fernbank Museum Field Trip

We are looking forward to our Third Grade field trip to Fernbank Museum. Our field trip to the museum brings a unique opportunity to explore cultural treasures, experience the thrill of a film in the IMAX® Theatre, enjoy science interactives and marvel at the largest dinosaurs ever discovered. Our trip is scheduled for Friday, April 4th. If you are interested in chaperoning this event, contact your child's teacher.



Important Resources



Please continue to help your child practice skills and prepare for the upcoming CRCT. Study Island, First in Math, and Georgia OAS are just a few excellent resources available for your child to strengthen his/her knowledge.



Read, Read, Read!



We would like to emphasize the importance of having your child read every night at home. Students who are good readers do better in school. Your child should be taking AR tests regularly at school. You can monitor your child's AR progress from our school's website under "Media Links".

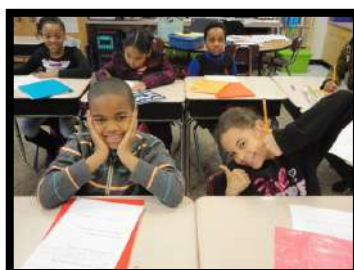
Curriculum Highlights

We are wrapping up our science unit on heat and starting a unit on pollution and conservation.

In math, we have concluded our unit on fractions and we are teaching a unit on measurement. We will be working on telling time to the nearest minute and solving elapsed time problems. In addition, we will be learning about mass and volume.



In social studies, we are focusing on the basic principles that provide the foundation of a republican form of government. Our third graders will be learning about the responsibilities of the three levels and three branches of government.



We are planning to have a special visitor share with our third grade students: Tim Thompson, the mayor of Stockbridge!

Fourth Grade News

Please continue to use Study Island and Georgia OAS to prepare for the CRCT.

In math, we will be studying measurement and data. In science, we will be studying weather. Lastly in social studies, we will be studying westward expansion and women's rights.

Fourth Grade had a great time at the Georgia Aquarium. On behalf of the fourth grade teachers, we would like to extend a special thank you to all of our chaperones that accompanied us on our field trip.



As allergy season approaches, please send in Kleenex for the children who suffer from allergies.

Fifth Grade News



Middle School Bound!

Happy Spring! As we embark upon the nice spring weather, please be remindful of appropriate and inappropriate attire for school. Please.... no spaghetti straps or tank tops. Shorts should be knee or fingertip length.

During the month of May, the fifth graders have a lot of fun and exciting happenings to look forward to. It is expected that the students come to school each day with a positive attitude and a good work ethic in order to participate in all the great things we have planned.

Below you will find the dates and the activities planned from April to the end of the school year!

Upcoming Dates:

April 3rd- DMS visits Red Oak

April 18th CRCT Pep Rally

April 24th – May 1st – CRCT TESTING and Make- up Day
(5th graders must pass Reading and Math)

May 15th - High Museum of Art Field Trip

May 16th - 5th Grade Dance

May 19th - Warm Springs Field Trip

May 22nd - Cook-Out and Good-bye Walk-through of Red Oak

May 23rd - 5th Grade Promotion and Award Ceremony at 8:30am

Mrs. Holder's Class News

Mrs. Holder's class has enjoyed several field trips throughout the school year including trips to a local fire station, the Henry County Fair, and Noah's Ark Animal Sanctuary.

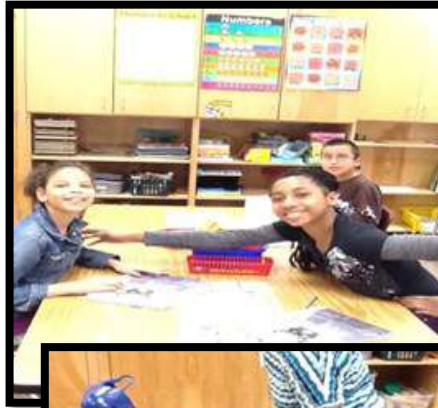
In February, students attended the Area Motor Skills event in Atlanta. Students participated in a variety of activities including volleyball, bowling, and basketball skills. We had a great day competing in the Special Olympic games and look forward to competing at the Track and Field event in April.

Please enjoy a few pictures from our many adventures both in and outside the classroom!



Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Langley's Class

Mrs. Spencer and Mrs. Langley's class has been working really hard. Using the Unique Learning Program, the students are learning so much. Presently they are working on identifying the main idea and supporting details in a paragraph. The students are learning to identify words, trace words, and write sentences. In math, the students are using a variety of manipulatives to understand the content!



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CRCT UPDATE

Due to harsh weather conditions and the loss of instructional days, the county has adjusted the CRCT/CRCT-M testing window. Below you will find the updated testing window for 2014 CRCT/CRCT-M administration:

April 24th- Reading

April 25th- ELA

April 28th - Math

April 29th- Science

April 30th - Social Studies

May 1st- Make-ups

First in Math News



Congratulations to the Top First in Math Teams for the Month of March

Mrs. O'Hara's Second Grade Class

Ms. Peterson's First Grade Class

Mrs. Bright's First Grade Class

Congratulations to the Top Players for the Month of March

Jason Thieu- Mrs. O'Hara's Class

Kaya O'Brien - Mrs. O'Hara's Class

Chiagozieum Osuji - Mrs. Cross's Class

Save the date!



- ◆ We are so excited **Fun Run** is coming to Red Oak Elementary – details coming soon.
- ◆ **Spring Fundraiser - Boosterthon – May 5th- May 9th**
- ◆ **Picture Day- April 2nd**
- ◆ **April 3rd -The Fifth Graders will have a special visitation from Dutchtown Middle School**
- ◆ **April 4th - Hats for Hightower Day!** Students, faculty and staff will donate \$1 to Red Oak's Relay for Life team, and in exchange, may wear a hat all day! This fun event is to raise money for our team and to honor Red Oak's first principal, Mike Hightower.
- ◆ **The Beta Club** would like to thank everyone for participating in the can food drive for the past three weeks. The total number of canned foods donated is still being calculated so the final total will be mentioned in the April Newsletter. Beta Club's next event is the 5 mile Walk for the Fight Against Childhood Cancer which will be held on **April 5 at Gerald Mathews Park in Hampton.**
- ◆ **Spring Break - April 7th – 11th** Have a fun, safe, and relaxing break!!
- ◆ **On-going until April 25th - Shoe Drive!** Donate your gently-used shoes, and we will receive 85 cents per pair to donate to ACS! Any type of shoe, any size (ladies', men's, children's, athletic, dress, heels, you name it!). We have a collection bin in the lobby.
- ◆ **April 24th – Skate Night at Starlite!** Each skater gets free cotton candy!
- ◆ **May 2nd – Red Oak's Recess Relay and Henry County's Relay for Life**