

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School Courier



Fall 2016 Edition Volume 4, Issue 5

1108 W. Fairview Avenue Urbana, IL 61801 (217) 384-3675

<http://www.usd116.org/king/>

Upcoming Events

Family Writing Night

Tuesday, January 10th
6:00-7:00 p.m.

Families will have the opportunity to learn more about what their children are learning about writing; and, receive skills and strategies to support writing at home.

Dr. King Day Assembly

January 20th
1:30-2:30 p.m.

Our students will honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. **Families are invited to join us celebrate Dr. King's life.**

McTeacher Night

Tuesday, January 31st
5:00-7:00 p.m.

McDonalds
601 N. Cunningham Ave
in Urbana

This is an annual fundraiser to purchase additional technology for our classrooms. Each family is responsible for paying for their own meals. Our school receives 20% all sales between 5:00-7:00 p.m. This includes drive thru sales if you are unable to come inside and purchase your family's meal.

Message from the Principal

Warm Greetings King School Families! Our first semester of the 2016-2017 school year is coming to a successful close. Your Shining STAR Students and their outstanding teachers have worked extremely hard this semester to make significant educational gains this semester. Please ask your child what he/she learned at school each day. This is an excellent way for your child to review the material and skills they learn at school daily with you at home. Please contact your child's teachers to find out how you can support learning at home. Our school has a wonderful partnership established with Monical's Pizza. If students complete a reading log,

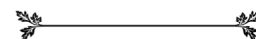
they receive a free 8" one topping pizza certificate from Monical's Pizza. Several of our students have completed numerous reading logs this semester. If you have not seen a King School Reading Log in your home, please ask your child to get one from school. Students will receive a Winter Writing Challenge from me on Thursday, December 15th. Please check your child's backpack for the Winter Writing Challenge directions. The Winter Writing Challenge will be due when students return from Winter Break on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

In Support of Academic Success,

Mrs. Webster

Character Trait of the month: **Responsibility**

Responsibility is the ability to act independently and to demonstrate accountability, reliability, and sound judgment. Please discuss **Responsibility** with your child at home.



"The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

-Denis Waitley

Fine Arts Corner with Ms. Maurizi

I can't believe how fast this semester is going by. I thought that my first year at one school full time would feel a lot slower, but in fact it feels the opposite! I have so many things I want to experience and create with the students; I wish there were more hours in the day. For half of the students at King School, I have the privilege of teaching music, drama, and dance. This is a great advantage to me because I get to see the students in so many different contexts.

My class periods are short, only 30 minutes, so transitions are very important. Remind students to come in to fine arts ready to learn. I try to pack as much learning as I can in my half hour, while still keeping the activities fun and engaging. All of my activities build upon each other. The concepts we learn in Kindergarten set the stage for all of the years to come. The skills we learn in music, drama, and dance are useful in all parts of life. Fine arts are social, emotional, behavioral, cooperative, and academic. When we create music, a scene, or a dance, we are usually working together as a group. Many of the songs I teach have movement to them or a game. How can you help with this at home? Ask your student to teach you a song or game he/she learned in music. Ask them to pantomime an activity. Play charades together when it's too cold to go outside. Challenge your student to use his/her imagination. Make the arts a part of your together time, and you'll see the magic of our creative sides at work!

Weekend Writing Challenge Excerpts

I (Mrs. Webster) issue a weekend writing challenge once a month to encourage students to utilize the writing skills they are learning at school over the weekend. These are a few excerpts from the many magnificent weekend writing challenges I receive each month. I am very proud of my Shining STARS' writing skills growth!

A King School STAR.....

"A responsible STAR does things like turning in his or her homework or doing things they were told to do by an adult. Also a responsible STAR always remembers his or her work. But the most important thing a responsible STAR does is he or she is responsible for their own learning." -Eduardo Diego

"You have to be a peace maker everywhere at anytime. You have to be a peace maker because you want the world to be a better home or place."

-Aly Bilal

"A King School STAR respects, listens when the teacher is talking, ignores when someone is being a bully, etc." -Marisa Nzengu

"Do what your teacher says at all times." -Tarryn Winters

"A STAR Student is responsible by helping kids and being nice." -Alah'ni Hernandez

"A responsible King Star should be kind and respectful with colleagues and school staff. Listen to the teachers and participate in all activities." -Karina Berceanu

The Importance of Honoring and Celebrating Veterans

"It is important to honor and celebrate veterans because they fought for our country and for our freedom. They sacrificed their lives for us." -Grace Fuka

"Without the service of veterans, Americans may not have the freedoms they have today." -Jordi Nsilu

"It is important to celebrate and honor veterans because they are heroes who work to save the families of the United States of America." -Roman Drake

"If I used three words to describe veterans, the three words would be: loving, brave, and great." -Joy Chen

"Veterans defeated our enemies so we can learn and live happily now." -Lawrence Lou

"We honor veterans because they served the country. We thank them because of their braveness." -Shyan Donley

I Am Thankful for.....

"I am thankful for my family. They take care of me, and they are nice to me." -Maryam Orabi

"I give my thanks to my doctors who keep me healthy. They injected me with a vaccine to protect me. They removed the bad teeth from me too." -Joey Li

"I'm thankful for my family because they love and support me in what I do. They also help me when I need help." -Besserat Stifanos

"I'd like to thank my teachers. They take care of me and teach me. I learn a lot of things and enjoy every day at school." -Joy Li

"I am thankful for my mom because she is all I have counting my sister. I love my mom very much." -Keyvon Young

"I'm thankful for my dad because he works hard for money, and he pays for stuff for our family. He cares about me and that's why I'm thankful for him." -Jessy Nzinga

We All Benefit from Parent Engagement

Submitted by Ms. Cooke

According to researchers, the most accurate predictor of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status but the extent to which that student's family is able to:

Create a home environment that encourages learning.

1. Express high (but not unrealistic) expectations for their children's achievement and future careers.
2. Become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.

This and other studies show that parent involvement activities that are effectively planned and well implemented result in substantial benefits to children, parents, educators, and the school.

Benefits for the Children:

- Achieve more, regardless of ethnicity or race, socioeconomic status, or parents' education level.
- Consistently complete their homework.
- Improved self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, exhibit more positive behavior choices, and show higher aspirations and motivation toward school.

Benefits for the Parents

- Increase their interaction and discussion with their children and are more responsive and sensitive to their children's social, emotional, and intellectual developmental needs.
- Are more confident in their parenting and decision-making skills.
- More use of affection and positive reinforcement and less punishment on their children.

Parents, we as educators and Mrs. Webster, our principal, look forward to having you partner with us to achieve the best possible outcome for your children's education. We look forward to having you visit school on any day convenient for you, at Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and during our special daytime or evening events.

Most of the above information is excerpted from: The Benefits of Parent Involvement: What Research Has to Say: G. Olsen and M. Fuller Pearson Allyn Bacon Prentice Hall

- Better understanding of the teacher's job and school curriculum.
- More likely to help when they are requested by teachers to help the child at home
- Perceptions of the school are improved and there are stronger ties and commitment to the school.
- Participate more in developing policies that affect their children's educational outcome.

Benefits for the Educators

- Experience higher morale and job satisfaction.
- Improved communication and greater respect for their profession from the parents.
- Acquire a better understanding of families' cultures and diversity, and they form deeper respect for parents' abilities and time.

Benefits for the School

- Better support and reputations in the community.
- Higher quality programs than programs that do not involve parents.

PBIS Home-School Connection

"At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents." -Jane D. Hull

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports/PBIS utilizes school-wide behavior expectations to communicate how students should behave in all areas of the building. King School's school-wide behavior expectations are Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Ready. When King School Shining STARS (Successful Through Acting Responsibly) demonstrate the expected behavior, they are recognized for "doing the right thing" with verbal praise, yellow STARS, classroom privileges, etc.

When students demonstrate inappropriate behavior, they are re-taught the behavior expected from them. The King School Shining STAR Staff needs your help to support positive behavior by at school:

1. Using our school's behavior expectations matrix in the parent handbook you received at registration to discuss what your child's behavior should look like at school.
2. When you are contacted by a King School staff member regarding a problem behavior your child has exhibited at school, refer to our school's behavior matrix and discuss the correct choice your child could have made.

Positive Behavior in the Classroom

Written by Ms. Stephanie Cockrell

Positive behavior is important to ensure success in the classroom. The strategies we implement and practice on a daily basis provide students with a guide for classroom expectations. King School teachers use the Second Step Curriculum kit materials in their classrooms to teach students important tools to decrease disruptions, increase instructional time, and improve students' social behavior and academic outcomes.

You can help! By discussing the expectations with your child and practicing PBIS strategies at home, students will become more familiar with these strategies, and many students will adopt them as a way of life. This creates a Win-Win experience for all of us! Positive behavior can add support to academic growth and development; and, the students will learn methods that will prove useful throughout their lives.

Let's work together for continued growth and development of our King School family!

Young Authors Contest... This Could Be Your Year!

Written by Mrs. Czelder

The annual Young Authors Contest is in January. We need stories, poems or non-fiction writing from our inspired writers! All grade levels are encouraged to submit an entry! We will have 5 winners from our school that can compete at the district level and hopefully move on to the city and state contests. We have had students win at the highest level from King school...it could be you!

Some guidelines must be followed:

- All entries must be proofread, **edited** and approved by your teachers
- Grades 2-5 must be typed in 12-inch font and submitted digitally to your classroom teacher
- Grades K-1 can be handwritten
- Drawings can be included with your writing

The deadline to submit entries for the Young Authors Contest is Monday, January 23rd. We suggest that you start now! Make it a Winter Break project!! When you return from break you will have time to edit and submit, just like real authors! See Mr. Karny or Ms. Czelder if you have questions.

King School Mission

Our mission at King School is to help our students develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make responsible life choices and positive contributions in a diverse society. In collaboration with home and community, we will respond to the needs of every child, ensuring that **each child can and will learn.**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Elementary School's Mission and Vision

Please read our school's mission and vision statements below; think about ways you can work with our school to help us achieve our mission and vision. Please e-mail Mrs. Webster, the building principal, at dwebster@usd116.org with any ideas our suggestions you have to support our mission and vision. Mrs. Webster is looking forward to hearing from you.

King School Vision Statement

We envision a school in which staff:
Work together in collaborative teams
Provide a positive atmosphere conducive to student learning
Seek and implement effective strategies for improving student achievement on a continuing basis
Embrace and respect cultural differences and individual learning styles

We envision a school in which students:
Take responsibility for their learning
Respect themselves and others

We envision a school in which families:
Support school-wide expectations
Ensure students arrive ready to learn
Play an active role in the education of their child by working collaboratively and positively with staff to maximize their child's learning