



Dallas City



Elementary News

Every Bulldog Moving Forward

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A note from the principal:

Dear Families,

I trust that everyone had a chance to rest, relax, and renew over break. As we begin second semester please take a moment to help your child get organized for the new year. Things that come naturally to us as adults often times need to be explicitly taught to children. Most of us have likely made a New Year's resolution at some point to become more organized, please help your child do this, too. Checking in with your child by looking at his/her assignment pad, checking the backpack, or helping with homework can be a key to your child's success.

Just before break teachers had a chance to attend training on the 7-Habits. This is a system we are working to implement throughout the building. Some students are already familiar with the language used. Be proactive, put first things first, begin with the end in mind, and think win-win are some of the ideas used. 5/6 graders will be reading and learning about the 7-Habits of Highly Effective Teens this semester.

We look forward to a very successful second semester of helping students become empowered to make choices that encourage success.

Sincerely,

Lori Bilbrey

Junior High Organization

As we begin this semester teachers are working with all students on organizational skills. Please ask your child to teach you the new organizational system that uses a color code system.

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress)/School Choice Meeting

Please join us on Monday, January 9 at 5:45 PM in the library for an informational meeting. This meeting will help families understand the processes we are using to help every child be successful as we work towards making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) according to state guidelines.

PTO Meeting

Please join us for our next PTO meeting on Monday, January 9 at 6 PM in the school library. We will be looking for volunteers to assist with the Penny Carnival and other spring events. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to be involved, please call the office and we will get your contact information to PTO.

Connect Ed

With winter weather here, please be sure to have a family plan ready if we should have early dismissal or a school cancellation. Letting your child know in advance can alleviate much anxiety when these weather conditions occur. If you have a new phone number, please update this information in the office for Connect Ed phone contact system.

Bulldog Athletics

7/8 Bulldog boys' basketball team is finishing up their season. 5/6 grade boys have begun their basketball season. Girls' volleyball is about to begin. Be sure to come out to a game to cheer on these athletes.

Physical Exams

Please be sure to have submitted paperwork/proof of your child's physical exam. Mrs. Sly can assist with paperwork and/or questions.

Drop Off and Safety

There is no supervision before 7:30 AM. It helps us greatly and we appreciate children being off after 7:30 AM.

To increase safety in our parking and bus area we will soon be posting signs to mark one-way traffic. Traffic will flow in a Northerly pattern which is the same pattern our buses currently follow. Last January the state of Illinois instituted a law that does not allow cell phone use in school zones. On January 1, 2012, all passengers in vehicles will be required to wear safety belts. These practices will help keep our children safe.

Cold Weather Recess/Hats and Gloves

Please help your child be ready for cold weather recesses by wearing proper outerwear; coats, hats, gloves, and boots may be necessary. We will attempt to go outside when the weather (with wind-chill) is 20 degrees or above. We have had a donation of hats and gloves. Please let us know if your child needs these items.

Cyber Bullying Speaker for Families

A cyber bullying speaker will be here on Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 5:30-7:00. Christine Feller, of the Illinois Attorney General's Office, will speak on digital safety. Please plan to attend.

Junior High/Child's Play

On January 31, junior high students will visit WIU to see a Child's Play performance. After the performance 5/6 graders will return to school. 7/8 grade students will stay longer and will pair up (within our group) with a WIU student. We will tour parts of the university. The 'WIU Buddies Program' will give students an opportunity to ask questions about college, visit the library, and expose students to a college campus. Tera Monroe, Director of Residential Life at WIU, will provide these experiences for us. This is a great way for us to help our students see opportunities that are available to them. Please help us make the best of this visit and discuss the possibilities of attending college with your 7/8 grade child. Later in the spring 5/6 grade students will have a similar opportunity.

Greenhouse Project at Dallas City Elementary

A very special thanks to Dale DeSotel of Agrium. Dale and his wife Susan, fourth grade teacher, have made a significant contribution to Dallas City Elementary School. They have spearheaded our greenhouse project. This was funded by a grant from Agrium. The construction and manpower needed to complete the project were donated by Agrium and volunteers. Volunteers put in many hours throughout the fall to make this project successful. We look forward to many years of greenhouse projects. The greenhouse will be used to enrich our curriculum in science, reading, and writing. In the future we will need greenhouse volunteers to help support this program. If you enjoy this type of program and could help a couple of hours each week, please call the school.



In the photo:

Matthew Hagaman, Leslie Haskins, Shawn Asbury, John Fish, Alex Dillard, John Poland, Darren McDowell, Dale DeSotel, Josh DeSotel, and Susan DeSotel (Not pictured: Brent Sparrow, Jim French, John Shoemate and Lori Bilbrey)

January

January 3	School resumes
January 3	5:30 PM 5/6 Volleyball meeting
January 5	Report cards will be sent home
January 9	5:45 PM Parent meeting/AYP
January 9	6:00 PM PTO
January 11	7:15 AM Honor roll breakfast Sacred Heart Catholic Church
January 13	SIP Day No School
January 16	No School Martin Luther King Jr.
January 24	7:00 PM School Board meeting
January 25	6:00 PM Cyber bullying speaker
January 31	Junior High to WIU performance

Save the Date

Aladdin the Musical will be held on March 30 and 31.