



## Jamie Dudley, Principal

Children need responsibility. If children aren't allowed to make decision about the small stuff, when faced with making decisions about issues like drug use or dating, they won't know how to make responsible choices because they have never had to make them.

Children must learn responsibility from responsible adults in their lives. As a parent, you have a critical role to play in helping your child become a responsible adult. Responsible children do better in school, and they grow up to become productive, responsible adults.

Here are just a few tips from The Parent Institute for building responsibility in your child:

- Talk about how choices have consequences: During dinner, have family members talk about choices they made during the day and the result of those choices.
- Make sure your child learns that his/her actions have consequences: Use logical consequences that your child can see. If he's late for school, have him get up earlier the next morning.
- Consider giving your child an allowance or some way to regularly earn money: Learning to manage money responsibly is a skill every child needs to master.
- Don't make it easy to forget: If your child often forgets an assignment at home, don't always drive it up to the school.
- Expect your child to honor commitments: Talk with your child about promises.
- Reward jobs well done.
- Let your child make some choices about homework: Whether to do it in her room, or on the kitchen table; whether to do math first or start with spelling.
- Give your child an alarm clock: Have him assume the responsibility of getting himself up in the morning.

Remember, the best way to build responsibility in your child is to give your child responsibility. Your child will learn that actions have consequences.

## Mike Nuñez, Assistant Principal

WOW! What a wonderful start to the 2017-18 school year. With this being my first year at the elementary level, I have had a blast working with this age group. The students have been given expectation to "ACT RIGHT...DO RIGHT...AND...BE RIGHT" at all times- to become leaders of Ballinger Elementary School.

The BES administrators had a wonderful time at Pizza Hut with some of our Perfect Attendance recipients. Perfect attendance incentives include being recognized at the awards ceremony, pizza with the elementary administration, and getting their name in a drawing for a new bike each six weeks. This helps show how much our school values their attendance. Student attendance is essential for your child to be academically successful. As we welcome cooler weather and flu season begins, please be sure that when your child returns to school, they have a note turned into the office. They have three school days to turn in their note.

## Jennifer O'Donnell, Elementary Counselor

Hello from the counselor! I am super excited and honored to be part of an amazing school. It is my desire to help students achieve their highest potential. My purpose is to guide students through the process of making good choices by helping them solve problems and learning coping skills in a variety of situations.

October is Bully Prevention and Drug Awareness month. Each morning during the month of October, students listen to a special message from the counselor, "Bullying is an act that someone does using their body, words and/or objects to hurt someone on purpose." In addition to learning about what bullying looks like and sounds like, students have learned to stand up for themselves by using their voice. Tell the bully to STOP, then tell the nearest adult immediately. Drug Awareness month is more than teaching students to, "Just say no!" We encourage students to stop and think so they can make good and healthy choices.

Please visit with me if you need help or have concerns about about the path your child is traveling. Together we can help guide your child down a safe and healthy path of education.

## Pre Kindergarten- Mrs. Faubion and Mrs. Skelton

We did it! We made it through the first six weeks- unscathed. We have been working hard on learning rules and routines, and we are getting pretty good at them. Thank you for being so patient with us. Thank you for sending the bags back daily and for picking up your children promptly. The report cards will give you some idea of what we have been working on academically, but don't panic if your child seems off to a slow start. They will generally pick it up during the year- we all learn at different paces.

On that note, it really helps if you are encouraging your child at home. Please work with them in the areas that they seem to be having trouble with. Your time and attention will pay off! Please work on: bathroom skills, putting on and taking off jackets, and writing their first name. Praise them for good work, and for staying on green. And read, read, read to them!

## Kindergarten- Mrs. Beene, Mrs. Drennan, Mrs. Jarvis, Mrs. Smith

We have had some amazing days at school! Kindergarten students have been busy learning school and playground rules and cafeteria routines for breakfast and lunch. They are becoming so independent! They are doing a very good job of listening and following directions.

We have worked on writing our names correctly, learning phonics, and math concepts. We have also been learning sight words and will soon begin reading our readers and weekly reading lists. Please spend time each evening practicing with your child.

A few reminders to help things run smoothly: Breakfast is served from 7:20-7:45 and clean up is at 7:50. Please be sure your child arrives early enough to have time to eat or eat breakfast at home. Please check your child's folder and remove papers each day.

We are in the process of beginning of the year testing of all the kindergarten students. Parent conferences will be scheduled soon. Be watching for information on the day and time of your conference.

If you are not a member of your teacher's "Remind" group, please ask her how to join. "Remind" is a very easy way for your teacher to contact all parents as a group or individually as needed.

Coming up before Christmas Break:

**Phonics:** Letter identification and sounds (R, K,U and B) and plenty of review for all letters and letter sounds previously learned.

**Math:** Using numbers to name quantities up to 15, reciting numbers to 90, addition and subtraction to 10.

**Science:** Exploring Earth materials and weather.

**Social Studies:** Comparing family customs and traditions.

## First Grade- Mrs. Stapper, Mrs. Ueckert, Mrs. Cavazos, Mrs. Gunyon

Happy Fall! It's been a great beginning of the year for our first graders! We have been learning how to change classes, checking out our own library books, using the scientific process to explore solids, liquids, and gases and we had a great time at the Ballinger Pep Rally! We are working hard at growing our reading comprehension "flowers" (AR points display), and tackling the first grade curriculum! It is hard to believe that they were just in Kindergarten last year!

The students have completed their Beginning of the Year testing in Math and Reading. Teacher Conferences will begin shortly. Please be looking for the note in your child's folder.

**Math:** First graders have been working extensively on addition and subtraction up to 10, place value up to 20, and greater than/less than in math class. Currently, we are working on story problem with addition and subtraction up to 20. Our math problems often involve several steps and really require careful work and thought!

**Reading:** We have been studying story elements in fairy tales and fables including "Little Red Riding Hood", "3 Little Pigs", and "The Lion and the Mouse". We are identifying characters/setting, making predictions, and using our background knowledge, plus textual evidence to make inferences about our stories. We are also working hard at becoming independent readers. We are building stamina and reading our pictures and our words and retelling the stories we are reading from the library. Please have your first grader to read with you nightly to help build their reading stamina and vocabulary!

**Language:** We are reviewing the letters and letter sounds we learned in kindergarten and learning about blends, digraphs, suffixes, and spelling rules. Incorporating this knowledge into our reading series helps develop fluency and comprehension. We are also learning about parts of speech, ABC order, and sentence structure.

## First Grade (Continued)

**Science:** We have been learning about scientific inquiry- using our senses to investigate our environment. Forming and testing a hypothesis is a skill we have been working on. We are currently learning about matter (solid, liquid, gas). Next, we will study force and motion.

**Social Studies:** We have been studying communities, American Symbols, wants and needs, goods and services. Labor Day and Veterans Day were also a source of study for our social studies classes.

Thank you for all your help with your child's homework (reading/spelling) and attending your child's conference. We appreciate your involvement in your child's success!

## Second Grade- Mrs. Schaefer, Mrs. Holden, Mrs. Pelzel, Mrs. Lange

Wow! We are already into the 2nd Six Weeks. The children are learning and growing daily, and it is such a joy to watch this take place. Thank you for sharing you children with us. Beginning of year testing is complete, and we would like to visit with every parent to share your child's results. If you were not able to have made it to your conference, please call and we can get a conference set up. Also, please check the homework assignment page to make sure homework is being completed each night.

**Social Studies:** We are learning about our communities and how they function. We will be studying different cultures and their celebrations. The students will learn about Mardi Gras, Independence Day, Cinco De Mayo, Veteran's Day, and the Chinese New Year.

**Reading:** We are working on a new phonic's skill each day. Through various stories, we have been and will continue working on characterization, setting, plot and author's purpose. We are sending reading passages home with your child weekly. Please make sure they are reading them aloud to an adult nightly and getting initialed. We are not looking for speed but for accuracy. Through repetitive reading, children become more comfortable and better understand what they are reading.

**Math:** We have been working on our addition flashcards, odd and even numbers, place value, reading and writing numbers in the hundreds, and thousands putting numbers in order from least to greatest, comparison symbols ( $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $=$ ), and much more! Soon we will be adding 2 digit numbers with regrouping, 2 and 3 dimensional shapes, as well as fractions. Watch out, the subtraction flashcards are coming out soon- please practice!

**Science:** We have conducted investigations using our senses and have identified physical properties of objects. We have also been investigating how we can change things; such as: by cutting, tearing, folding, sanding, melting, cooling, and more. We are currently learning what forces are and about magnetism. Next, we will be investigating rocks, minerals, water, and other natural resources.

Continue to check their homework assignment sheet for each day's homework. Let's show them how to become responsible second graders, by making sure their homework is completed and returned in their folder the next day. Please look for their graded papers in the red paw print folder that comes home on Thursdays. Take the papers out, sign the sheet inside, and return the folder. Praise them for work well done!

## Third Grade Reading/Language Arts- Mrs. Hatler

The first twelve weeks has flown by, and we are excited to have a new group of Third Grade readers. We have read several books since school started including: A Gift for Tia Rosa, by Karen Taha, How to be Cool in the Third Grade, by Betsy Duffey, and Freckle Juice, by Judy Blume. The second six weeks we finished up a unit on traditional literature including fables, folk tales, myths, legends and tall tales. We read Borreguita and the Coyote and Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears, by Verna Aardema, as well as Legend of the Bluebonnet, by Tome de Paola. These books are all exploding with rich vocabulary, and your Third Grader has learned over 100 new words. We have learned to "activate our schema"- or use what we already know to figure out the meaning of words. The students have been writing summaries about what they have read as well as producing some fantastic illustrations. We have worked on capitalization and punctuation as well as what makes a good sentence. We will be moving into non-fiction reading and writing in the third six weeks. The work will be more difficult, the stories will get longer, and they will be doing more of it on their own. Please make sure your child is in school as much as possible. When they are absent or leave early, they miss more learning than you realize! Please continue to listen to your child read daily. We are focusing on fluency and being fluent readers. The more they practice reading aloud, the better they will get. Please encourage your child to read his/her AR books and remember to collect box tops to help fund our AR trips and prizes. If you have questions about your child's progress in Reading or Language, please call Mrs. Hatler at 365-3527 ext 3011 or email [dann.hatler@ballingerisd.net](mailto:dann.hatler@ballingerisd.net).

## **Third Grade Math Blasters- Ms. McNaley**

What a way to start a fantastic school year! The first six weeks of school were spent reviewing, learning new procedures and getting to know each other. Then, we moved on to the new concepts for third grade. Concepts we have covered are: place value, rounding, perimeter, adding, subtracting, and money. Now we are diving into multiplication. It is very important that your child memorizes the facts. They should each have flash cards to practice in their backpack. With our help and your help, your child can be successful in Third Grade. Working together is the key to success. So, thank you for all you do to help your child!

## **Third Grade Science and Social Studies- Mrs. Wilson**

**Science:** We had a wonderful First Six Weeks in Science. Students have learned how to be a Scientist, work with Science Tools and were introduced to the Scientific Method. We will continue to work on the Scientific Method all year long. The 2nd six weeks is full of Energy, Force and Motion! We have already been busy learning about Sound, Light, Heat and Mechanical Energy. Force and Motion will have us analyzing and investigating simple machines. Simple machines are all around us. Help your child find them all throughout Ballinger!

**Social Studies:** 3rd Grade Social Studies is all about Communities. All year long we will be studying how communities are built, how they change, and the important resources for each community. Ask you child about what they are learning and see if they can connect it to our wonderful community!

## **Fourth Grade Math- Mrs. Dankworth**

Recently, our students have been diligently learning how to solve division problems. Students have learned to solve problems using methods and models such as the standard algorithm, the box method, arrays, and area models. During the first two six weeks, fourth graders stayed focused as they learned concepts such as the place value of whole numbers and decimals, addition and subtraction, and multiplication. Beginning next week, students will dive into fractions for the remainder of the 3rd six weeks. Overall, the fourth grade math students of Ballinger Elementary are on track for a successful year!

During the first six weeks, the fourth grade science students enjoyed getting their hands “ooey and gooey” with “oobleck.” Using their knowledge of physical properties of matter, the students were able to identify “oobleck” as either a solid or a liquid. During the 2nd six weeks when we studied about mixtures and solutions, students learned that their breakfast cereal is considered a mixture! Of course, we had to sample the demonstration! The students also learned about different forms of energy, such as: kinetic, potential, mechanical, chemical, electrical, light, and sound. We will finish up the 3rd six weeks exploring the processes of weathering, erosion, and deposition of the changing Earth.

## **Fourth Grade Science- Mrs. Freeman**

During the first six weeks, the fourth grade students learned about science safety, tools, and completed labs all about matter. Students learned the physical properties of matter and how matter changes. They had fun testing out different ingredients to make mixtures and solutions and then explored ways to separate them.

Every other Friday, the students get excited to try a new STEM challenge. These challenges encourage teamwork and problem solving! This six weeks we have started a unit on forms of energy, such as mechanical, electrical, light, thermal and sound.

## **Fourth Grade Reading/Language Arts- Mrs. Burrell and Mrs. King**

The 2nd six weeks of fourth grade is up and running! Fourth graders are keeping very busy studying Judy Blume's novel *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*. We are analyzing the story, working on ten new vocabulary words a week, and practicing writing in complete sentences. We are digging deeper into the novel through class discussion, literature stations and reader's responses.

In Language Arts we are working hard to develop our writing skills. We are learning how to create great paragraphs through literary devices such as figurative language, proper punctuation, and imagery. We are also practicing our grammar TEKS through our bi-weekly spelling lists.

Some ways you can help your fourth grader at home are:

\*encourage them to read

\*read aloud to your child

\*let them listen to [storylineonline.net](http://storylineonline.net)

## **Fifth Grade Reading and Social Studies- Mrs. Cook**

Students in the fifth grade are enjoying reading The Indian in the Cupboard, by Lynn Reid Banks. They can't wait to see what happens to Omri and his Indian named Little Bear. The students will be creating a diorama from one of the scenes from the novel. We have discussed numerous ideas for their project. The dioramas will be on display in the library for everyone to enjoy.

I am very pleased with the improvements and efforts demonstrated by the fifth graders!! In Reading, students have been learning about the elements of a story, characters, setting, plot, main idea, drawing conclusions, and sequencing. STAAR is an important part of the curriculum in fifth grade and we will continue to work on the objectives that will be covered on this test.

In Social Studies, we have been learning so much!!! We have read and discussed three of the five major regions of the United States. We have learned about the products, natural resources, landmarks, climate, land and water of each region.

## **Fifth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies- Mrs. Phillips**

During this first eight weeks of school we have been working on improving our knowledge of revising and editing skills. The students are learning about ARMS (add, remove, move, substitute) and CUPS (capitalization, usage, punctuation, spelling). Using these thinking strategies helps the students analyze what specific skill the questions are testing.

Journals are a very important part of our classroom. We use them for vocabulary, practicing mini lessons, storing our foldables, and writing journal entries on a myriad of topics. We will begin to use our journal mini lessons to master procedural expository essays, narratives, and persuasive writing.

Social Studies has been centered on learning about the regions of the United States. With each region, we are learning the states' names, abbreviations, capital cities, landmarks, culture, products and natural resources, climate, and fun facts.

## **Fifth Grade Science- Mrs. Busenlehner**

Our 5th graders have had an amazing time in the science lab this first few months of school! We have explored the properties of matter and have conducted several experiments involving magnetism, electricity, solubility, and density. We are currently investigating forces and different forms of energy. The students are particularly enjoying learning about light energy and using the laser pointers and mirrors! In the next few weeks we will dive into changes of the Earth's surface due to weathering, erosion, and deposition. Your child is becoming quite the inquisitive scientist and will continue to bloom!

## **Music Notes- Mrs. Jordan**

The students have been doing such a great job in music. They impress me every day. They have learned so much already in the 1st six weeks. Some examples of what we been working on are reading notes on a music staff, clapping and identifying note values, categorizing instruments in their families, and even learning some Italian words like piano and forte. The students have enjoyed playing with instruments including rhythm sticks, drums, tambourines, xylophones, bells, triangles, and maracas.

We have two exciting events coming up: Music Memory and the Christmas program. Please see below for important music dates:

December 4th- Music Memory at Wall Elementary, for 2nd - 5th grades (only top finalists will attend).

December 15th Christmas Programs (All grades on one day.):

Kindergarten and First Grade = 9:30 - 10 a.m. in the Elementary Cafeteria.

2nd - 5th in Ballinger High School's auditorium:

2nd and 3rd = 6 - 6:30 p.m

4th and 5th = 6:30 - 7 p.m.

## Physical Education- Coach Hope

Wow, I can't believe how quickly this year is going by. We have been busy in PE so far this year. Our Kindergarten students are beginning to get the hang of things, and we have introduced some new activities for them.

We normally have completed our fitness testing with FitnessGram by this time of the school year, which is mandated by the state of Texas for students in grades 3-12. Unfortunately, we are still without a gym, so we haven't been able to complete that testing. In regards to not having a gym, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for the weather. There are times when we do have to go outside, especially K, 2nd and 5th grade students who are outside daily. There is light at the end of the tunnel! The gym is coming along nicely and hopefully we will be back in the gym by November!! The kids and I couldn't be more thrilled!

Please take time to do some physical activity with your child. Children desperately need more than 30 minutes a day of physical activity. I encourage them to go outside and turn the television and gaming systems off. Enjoy some fun time as a family.

I encourage you to go online to [www.fueluptoplay60.com](http://www.fueluptoplay60.com), which is a great site. Take a look at all the activities that you can do as a family. Fuel Up to Play 60 includes strategies that encourage students to "get up and play" for 60 minutes a day and to "fuel up" with nutrient-rich foods kids don't get enough of, such as low-fat and fat-free dairy foods, fruits, vegetables and whole grains. Fuel Up to Play 60 empowers students to make their own healthy choices.

Ballinger Elementary has again joined schools from around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day. In the U.S., International Walk to School Day was expected to include 5,000 schools from all 50 states. Walkers from the U.S. also joined children and adults in 40 countries around the world. Walk to School events work to create safer routes for walking and bicycling and emphasize the importance of issues such as increasing physical activity among children, pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, concern for the environment and building connections between families, schools and the broader community. We had a great group of kids, parents and teachers walk with us again this year!

I strongly encourage tennis shoes for PE, they make our activities much much safer! Please encourage your child to either wear tennis shoes or bring some for PE.

We are approaching the holiday season and will begin to incorporate several holiday games, which the students seem to enjoy. I'm looking forward to another great six weeks.

## GT and UIL News- Mrs. Kvapil

**GT:** It's hard to believe it is the middle of October! I have really enjoyed getting to know your kiddo. A lot have "come out of their quiet shell" this year, which is good. Students have worked on engineering challenges and recently traveled the Oregon Trail. Some of you may remember this game when you were in elementary. However, we had to use large floppy disc to play it! Students had to engineer a covered wagon to hold weight. This week they will see if the covered wagon can "float the river" without losing a family member.

I will be sending a note home soon asking for donated items. Please do not go out and buy these items. If they are no longer of use at home, we would appreciate you sending them to school. Thanks for sharing your kiddo with me.

**UIL:** Ballinger Elementary students will participate in the district UIL meet on Monday, December 4. This year's meet will be held at Wall. BES students will be competing in over 20 events against TLCA, Wall, Grape Creek, Reagan County and Sonora. If your child has been selected for a UIL team, please help them study/prepare for the meet. BES wants to bring home medals and ribbons!

A note will come home if your child is attending the meet closer to time of event. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's event coach or myself if you have any questions ([christy.kvapil@ballingerisd.net](mailto:christy.kvapil@ballingerisd.net)).

## Three-Tier Math- Mrs. Cauley

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve all of our Ballinger Elementary Bearcats. The purpose of my TIER 3 math class is to help students with math concepts they are struggling with. Each one of my students has a specific math goal and we work hard everyday to reach that goal. Please take time when you are driving in the car to have your child practice counting or listing multiples of a given number.

## Accelerated Reader and BoxTop News- Mrs. Duke

**Accelerated Reader News:** The students at BES have read 14,126,557 words this year through the AR program!

**BoxTop News:** Thank you for collecting BoxTops! Please check out the BoxTop app, and help BES earn even more BoxTops. The money from BoxTops will be used to promote reading.

As you continue to save BoxTops please remember to:

1. Cut out the BoxTop along the dotted line.
2. Check the date.
3. Place BoxTops in a snack baggie. Remember to include your child's name and homeroom teacher.
4. Place Bonus BoxTops in a separate baggie.
5. Place them in the grade level box outside the cafeteria.

## Head Start News- Julie Collier

Ballinger Head Start is accepting applications for the 2017-2018 school year. Our program provides services to 3 and 4 year olds that meet income or disability requirements. Please call Julie Collier at 325-365-3527 EXT 3058 for more information.

## Library- Mrs. Pratt

We are off to a great start this year with many enthusiastic young readers coming to the Library. To date, there have been 4,445 books checked out. It is encouraging to see our students so eager to read. Our ultimate goal is to foster a genuine love of reading in all our students.

We have already received several orders of new books this Fall. To a Librarian as well as students, opening a new box of books is almost like Christmas. We always look forward to the arrival of each new book order. I welcome suggestions from our students as to what new books they would like to see in our Library. I will then review the books and try to purchase their suggestions. This gives our kiddos a sense of ownership of their library. Some classes are now selecting two students each week to be the classroom librarians. Those children will be sent to the library to select around 20 books to take to their room for the week. Then the next week, two other students will be selected to return those books and select 20 more. This is another great way to involve children in the library process.

We are again blessed to have Ms. Starla thrill our PreK and Head Start children with her stories at Story Time each Friday morning. We so appreciate the time she volunteers and her interest in our young students.

Parents, as we begin the new school year, please take the time to read with your children. Research supports the tremendous benefit to children who are read to very early in life. Here is a short verse you might share with them:

*Here's a book with something new.....  
You read to me!  
I'll read to you!  
We'll read each page to one another.....  
You'll read one side,  
I the other.  
But who will read, now guess the riddle.....  
When the words are in the middle?  
The answer's easy!  
Plain as pie!  
We'll read together, you and I!*

### Title I and Ballinger Elementary

Ballinger Elementary is involved in a Title I Federal School Wide Program. The Title I Program provides supplemental resources for schools of a high concentration of students from low-income families in order to provide high-quality education. This is to ensure all students have a "fair, equal and significant opportunity" to meet the state performance standards. The program also provides parents opportunities to become partners with the school in promoting the education of their children at school and at home. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the planning, reviewing, and improvement of the Title I program. Please contact Mrs. Dudley concerning Title I involvement or questions.