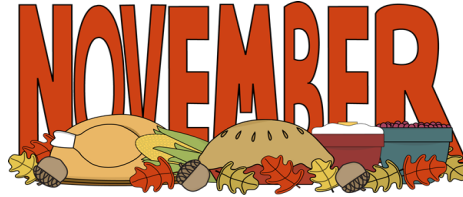




Kaufman Paw Print

Volume 12, Issue 3

November 2017



Upcoming Events

4th-Writing Benchmark – students wear purple	11/2
KG-50th Day of School	11/3
PTO Meeting @ 1:30	11/9
Choir Veteran’s Day Program 6:30	11/9
Box Top Collections	11/10
Food Drive	11/13-17
Cup Stacking Tourn.	11/16
Sk8town Spirit Night	11/16
Thanksgiving Feasts	11/17
Thanksgiving Holiday	11/20-24
4th-Reading Benchmark	11/28
3rd-Reading Benchmark	11/29
PTO Meeting @ 1:30	11/30

A Note From Mrs. Oliver

November has finally arrived! Our students continue to give their very best as they learn many exciting things each and every day. Kaufman teachers and staff are the BEST because they go “above and beyond” to make each and every day special for our students. We also have the BEST volunteers at Kaufman! We greatly appreciate all of your help and dedication to our school. As always, thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child’s education.

Sincerely,
Tina Oliver

Attendance Counts

Why is good attendance so important? Regular student participation in daily classroom activities plays a significant role in a student’s school success. In addition, students with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. Please remember that students are counted absent after 9:00 AM each day. We appreciate your help and support. Attendance Counts at Kaufman!



Thanksgiving Feasts are coming up Friday, November 17, and we will be implementing a new system for RSVP’s. Be on the lookout for an email from Mrs. Oliver, which will contain a link to online reservations for all adults attending the feasts.

Kindergarten

WOW, we have had a busy October! We have been working a lot on numbers 0-10 in small groups and in work stations. Continue to work on identifying, counting, and writing these numbers at home using small manipulatives, stamps or stickers. Each child should be able to identify numbers 0-10, continue to practice counting to 100, and identify a penny and a nickel. In language, we have focused on all letters and sounds, sight words, and rhyming words. Please remind your child to ONLY capitalize the first letter of their first and last names and to practice their handwriting at home! It was an exciting month with all sorts of Fall stories, crafty work centers, "boo-ti-ful" journal writings, and awesome pumpkin carving math. We want to thank all of our spectacular volunteers that have made all of these fun activities possible. Coming Attractions: 50th day of school (Friday, November 3rd), Thanksgiving Feast (November 17th), and Thanksgiving Holidays (Nov. 20-24).

First Grade

It is already November and first grade is "Fall"ing into learning! We are ready to read Non-fiction texts to get "stuffed" with information about: ALL THINGS AUTUMN; including social studies topics like: The First Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, Native Americans, the Mayflower, veterans, voting, and elections. The "Hot Topics" for math are: Place Value to 20 (tens/ones), +/- facts to 10, skip counting (5's & 10's) and coins (nickel & dime). Light/ Heat /Sound energy and motion (push/pull) are at the top of the list in science. Thank you to everyone who helped make our "Fun Fall Rotations" a "howling" success! The kids had a blast travelling from room to room while participating in fun activities. Now, we are looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving feast on Friday, November 17. Details will follow soon. It's going to be a busy month in first grade and we are thankful for your support!

Second Grade

We have been having a wonderful Fall! Thanks to all the parents who provided goodies for our Fall Fun Day and helped us get the students' snacks together. The students enjoyed them very much and had a great time rotating through all of our Fall Fun Day stations.

In math, this grading period, we are learning some very crucial skills. We will begin working on two digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. Fact fluency is an ongoing topic in math so please continue to practice math facts at home to 20. Graphing is another ongoing topic in math and we will begin working with picture graphs with intervals of one or more.

Please continue reading at home each night. Building independent reading skills is an important part of our daily schedule. Sustained silent reading helps to build reading fluency. In reading, we will be studying the genres informational expository and poetry during the month of November. Currently in social studies, we are learning about government officials and their roles in our community. We will also be learning and reading about the first Thanksgiving.

In science, we will have fun exploring and experimenting with energy from light, heat, and sound. We will experiment with magnets and how they can be used to push or pull an object.

In addition to all of the wonderful things we are learning, we look forward to discovering more about our own heritage and history from colonial times as well. Information will be coming home this month about our Thanksgiving feast. Each child will be given the chance to contribute something to the feast. Some of the classes will be doing a fun, optional Family Turkey Art Project for homework during the month of November.

Third Grade

We've been busy in 3rd grade! We had lots of fun during our Fall Fun Day Rotations! Also, THANK YOU parents for the sweet treats and goodie bags!

In class, we have been learning lots too. We will soon be discussing Personal Financial Literacy as well as strategies to solve multiplication facts. We have been working with the multiples of 0, 1, 2, 5, 10 and will soon be moving to 3. You can purchase multiplication flash cards from Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree and many other retail locations. Reviewing these nightly will help your child gain automaticity, fluency, with their multiplication facts. Your third graders have explored Poetry and will begin learning about the genre of traditional literature; myths, fables, legends, and more. Remember that readers are leaders, and it is so important to read to your child or have them read to you daily. When you are finished, ask them to summarize what you read about and ask those higher level questions like why would a character act or feel this way? Ask your child to retell you the events in order. Look for unfamiliar words and talk about the meaning as well as those words that have been targeted in their weekly word study. These are useful skills needed in reading as well as other subjects.

We are excited about our upcoming Thanksgiving Feast! Look for an email to be sent soon with more details. The holidays are upon us, and we have lots of fun planned in 3rd grade!

Boosterthon was a huge success, and we had so much fun! A BIG thank you to our volunteers; we couldn't do it without you!

Fourth Grade

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who sent pumpkins and helped with our annual Pumpkin Caper in math and science classes. What a fun day of experimenting it was! We always learn new things as we weigh, measure, and test the buoyancy of our pumpkins, and this year was no different.

In social studies classes, fourth graders have been learning about Native Americans and how natives to Texas lived long ago. Soon we will be learning about the citizenship and government. Not only are we learning about the branches of our state government, but we're also learning about the responsibilities we have as citizens.

Language Arts classes are continuing to write every day. We have now added expository writing to our genre collection. As we approach the holiday season, families are typically busy making memories. When your family participates in a special event or does something fun together, have your child write about it in a journal. Writing is an important way that we communicate, and we work every day at school to become better writers. Writing at home is a significant way to help your child become a better writer.

In math we just finishing our multiplication/division unit and starting our geometry unit. As you are out and about ask your child to find to different shapes, lines and angles.

Thank you again for all that you do to help your student be successful!

Counselor's Corner

Special holidays and celebrations are coming and will be here before we know it! Throughout the year, different organizations come to Kaufman wanting to assist our students and families with school supplies, clothing, holiday food and gift assistance, and other various needs. If you are interested in such assistance, please contact me via email. My email is shsimmons@conroeisd.net.

ART

Hello and Happy Fall to all our Creative Cats!

We've had a very busy month in the art department! We are in full swing on our Western/Rodeo Art projects. 4th grade is learning about perspective and shadowing through the use of coffee painting, crayon batik, or water colored 3-dimensional barns and still-life. In 3rd grade, we are painting or using the pointillism techniques of western subjects while focusing on foreground, middle ground, and background. Our second graders are learning new drawing skills with cactus and "Wacky Shacks" as our subject matter. Fun sandpaper prints and oil pastels are being used to make learning these skills fun! 1st grade is having a ball with painting scarecrows, cows and roosters. And finally, our kindergarten artists are learning about line and shape in art. They are doing Line Monsters and/or Line Sculpture Trees, and will be learning about Piet Mondrian soon. We are starting with the very basics of scissor safety and glue usage as we teach our new friends about all the wonders the art room has to offer. Please consider letting your child practice cutting and gluing at home. You would be surprised how a little bit of practice can make a huge difference. All these wonderful projects should be keeping us plenty busy for awhile!

We are excited to see all the comments and purchases being made on Artsonia! If you haven't given permission for that, you are really missing out on an amazing opportunity to see and praise your child's artwork before they even bring it home. Let us know if you need the e-mail sent again to join the fun. Looks like everybody is automatically ok'd for "classroom mode" when you initially give permissions for Artsonia. Speaking of which... if you have some free time and are willing to help your art teachers, we could use some volunteer help uploading the artwork to Artsonia. This is a big undertaking and if you have an hour or two a week that you could help with this or cutting paper or helping prep kindergarten lessons, that would be awesome! Send us an email if you have the time to help! We'd like to get a few regular volunteers who could stop by weekly to lend a hand! drgregory@conroeisd.net or krowley@conroeisd.net.

And finally, no month would be complete without the announcement of our Artist's of the Month! Congratulations to Jacob Howard and Sami Becwar from Mrs. Gregory's class and Chloe Chivrell and Clifton Truong from Mrs. Rowley's class! These students always go the extra mile to follow rules, work hard to improve skills, are helpful to others and the teacher, and are always shining stars in the Art rooms. We appreciate their efforts and interest in art!

Until next month.... happy creating!

Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. Rowley



MUSIC

Our young musicians are continuing to sing, play games and play various instruments! Kindergartners are focusing on steady beat and determining fast/slow and loud/soft within a song. 1st graders are learning about rhythms with quarter and eighth notes (ta and ti-ti) and rest (no sound). 2nd and 4th graders are reviewing simple rhythms and the melodic elements "do, re, mi, so and la". 3rd graders are beginning to work on their upcoming winter program called "Holiday Zoobilee", which will be performed on Dec. 7th at 6:30pm (doors will open at 6:15pm) Dec. 8th at 9:30am.

The Cougar Choir is off to a great start! We are having a great time and making wonderful music together. The Choir will present their first concert honoring our Veterans and Armed Service members on Nov. 9th at 6:30pm (doors will open at 6:15pm) and Nov. 10th at 9:30am.



PE

Happy Fall Kaufman Cougars!

We have many fun fitness activities going on in Physical Education class. First we want to congratulate all our third and fourth grade Kaufman Cougars who participated in the Oak Ridge Fall Fun Run. They did a great job representing Kaufman with great speed and awesome sportsmanship!

Our 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders have started their cupstacking unit! Our students get so excited this time of year because they know it's that time to practice, practice, practice their cupstacking in order to increase their speed and mobility for cupstack tryouts. Not only is cupstacking a very fun and competitive sport, it also has many other benefits. These benefits include eye-hand coordination, increased right and left brain activity, dexterity, and tremendous teamwork. We are looking forward to our annual cupstacking tournament at the end of the month.

During November, second, third, and fourth graders will also participate in a football unit. We will take advantage of the beautiful fall weather by punting and kicking outside. Kindergarten and first grade students will begin their rhythms unit with bean bags and lummi sticks. They will also enjoy the cooler temperatures outside on the healthy heart track. Parents please remember to send your cougars in safe PE shoes. Their safety is our number one priority :)

FITNESS FACT- IF YOU DON'T TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY, WHERE WILL YOU LIVE?



COMPUTERS

We are off to a great start in computers! I just love all the kids that I see every day coming into the computer lab so eager to learn!

Here is what is going on in each grade level:

Kindergarten is learning many different basic skills such as using the mouse. We are going over how to left click, maneuver, click and drag the mouse. This lesson demonstrates how to use hand coordination and apply to the use of a computer.

In first grade, we are reviewing how to use the mouse basics as well, such as left click, select, dragging objects to make pictures, resize, click and hold.

In second grade through fourth grade, we are learning good posture when learning to type and home row letters by using a program, Dance Mat.

Ask your child about it, and they can also use this program from home!

Sincerely,

Ms. Alonso :)



CLINIC

Our kindergarten, first, and third graders have been undergoing vision and hearing screenings. Referrals will be sent home when indicated. Be sure to return information from your physician. Please contact the clinic if you have any questions or need assistance in this follow up.

There are occasionally times when our "little Cougars" have accidents. The clinic has minimal extra clothing available. Providing your kindergarten and even first grade student with an extra set of clothing in their backpack will prevent us from contacting you to bring clothing to the school. Please return laundered clinic clothing as soon as possible.

November is National Diabetes Awareness Month which places focus on how Type 1 Diabetes affects millions of people around the world, including students at Kaufman Elementary. Also, November 9 is National Microtia Awareness Day. Microtia Atresia is a congenital ear disorder and affects one of our Kaufman Students. We want to bring awareness to our Kaufman families about some of the challenges our students face and are overcoming.

Library

Once again, the Storybook Pumpkin Museum was a huge success with over 100 Kaufman Cougars participating. Our students held nothing back, exhibiting outstanding creativity. All classes were allowed to visit the museum and vote for their favorite pumpkin. Please visit us on Facebook, to see the wonderful pumpkins. The winners for each grade level were: Kindergarten - London LeBlanc with Dragons Love Tacos, 1st grade – Presley Aviles with The Giving Tree, 2nd grade – Emma Cooper with Captain Underpants, 3rd grade – Ayden Lopez with Freddy Fazbear, and 4th grade – Keagan DeYoung with Smile. Congratulations to our winners and a huge “Thank You” to all of the participants. Everyone did an excellent job!

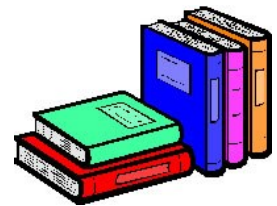
The students are off to a great start with the Cougar Bingo that began at the start of the 2nd 9 weeks. Students are encouraged to complete the bingo squares by reading a new book for each square. Once they complete 5 squares in a row, they get to pick a prize from the library. If they complete all squares, Cougar Bingo Blackout, they have a chance to win a super-duper prize from the library. I am so proud of how hard many of them are working to get a Blackout!

SAVE THE DATE: The library will be hosting our 2nd fundraiser, the Great American Opportunities Magazine Sale in January! I hope you can encourage family and friends to delay their magazine renewals until then.

Parents don't forget you too can check out library books...seven at a time! We also have the “Cougars in Training” area for our future cougars that might be accompanying you to the library. Please feel free to stop in and take a look.

Keep 'em Reading!

Mrs. Wright



Nominations for Gifted and Talented Testing

Nominations are now open for the Conroe Independent School District Gifted and Talented program. Although the testing will not take place until late January/ early February, nominations are accepted at this time. Nominations can be made by the parents and/or teachers. If you are interested in nominating your child, you may want to discuss this with your child's teacher at conferences. Nominations will be accepted through December 20th. You may request a nomination form from the front office. You can also find the nomination form and other GT information on the CISD GT homepage.

PTO News

Castle Quest Fun Run

Thank you volunteers, participants and sponsors, The Deboer Family, Spring Auto Pros, Ashton Woods, InStep Dance, Hughes & Cozad Orthodontics, Milstead Automotive and Kelly's Tees, for making the run a success! Reminder – Fun Run payments are due by November 1st in order to be eligible for Extra Recess prize.

Amazon Smile

Kaufman Elementary is now setup for Amazon Smile! Simply go to smile.amazon.com and choose Kaufman Elementary PTO as your favorite charitable organization. Now when you order from Amazon Smile, a portion of your purchase will be donated to Kaufman PTO.

Kaufman Hoodies Sale

We have Extended our sale for Kaufman Hoodies by a week to November 7th. \$20 Pull-over and \$25 Zip-up. Order directly at www.kellystees.com. Choose school pickup at checkout.

Important Dates....

November 1st – Fun Run Payments Due
November 3rd – Veteran's Day Flag Forms Due
November 7th – Hoodie Order Forms Due
November 9th – PTO Meeting @ 1:30 PM
November 10th-17th – Veterans Day Flags Displayed
November 10th – Box Tops Collection Day
November 13th-17th – Food Bank Food Drive
November 16th – Sk8town Spirit Night, 6:00-8:30 PM
November 20th-24th – Thanksgiving Break – No School
November 30th – PTO Meeting @ 1:30 PM
Save the Date: December 1st – Kid's Night Out/Parent's Night Out, 5:00-9:00 PM.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are on sale at www.Balfour.com - Search for Kaufman Elementary. \$30 until December 31st. After that, \$35 until the order deadline of March 9th. Dedications available again.

Submit Photos to Yearbook! Send in any pictures you take when visiting Kaufman! Visit images.balfour.com to upload from your computer. Use project number 818770 and password Kaufman. You can also use the "Balfour Image Share" app to upload photos from your phone.

Box Tops

Thanks to all the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, relatives, neighbors and friends who submitted Box Tops. We are having a great submission rate for Box Tops this year. Several classes are close to reaching the 50% level and winning a Box Tops party. When you are at school, check out the Box Tops poster board in the cafeteria to see how your class is doing. Next submission date: **Monday, November 10, 2017**

A huge thank you to UPS Store Rayford/45 who mailed our Box Tops for free. Please support **all** our Kaufman sponsors and thank them when you frequent the business! Thanks to Michele Blair, Jennifer Wiggins, Bianca Campos, Sarah Mabile and Kaitlin VanVeen for helping clip, sort and count in October. If interested in helping the Box Tops Clip and Count Club, email kimberlyholmes@hotmail.com.

QUESTIONS? Contact the Kaufman PTO for more information at KaufmanPTO@gmail.com.