



Kaufman Paw Print

Volume 12, Issue 4

December 2017



Upcoming Events

<i>PTO Kid's Night Out</i> 5-9 PM	12/1
<i>CISD Toy Drive</i>	12/1-8
<i>4th-Math Benchmark</i>	12/4
<i>PTO Peppermint Village</i>	12/4-8
<i>4th Grade Field Trip</i>	12/6-7
<i>3rd Grade Program</i> 6:30 PM	12/7
<i>Box Top Collections</i>	12/11
<i>PTO Meeting @ 1:30</i>	12/14
<i>KG Holiday Party</i> 11:45	12/19
<i>Holiday Parties</i> 1st-4th Grade	12/20
<i>Early Dismissal-12:05</i>	12/20
<i>Winter Break</i>	12/21-1/8
<i>Students return January 9.</i>	

A Note From Mrs. Oliver

Welcome to the month of December! During the next several weeks, our amazing teachers are planning to have many exciting activities and events for our students and families to enjoy. Although this is a busy time of year, we will continue to help ensure that our students are engaged as they learn many new things while they work hard each and every day. Your continued support and involvement in your child's education are greatly appreciated. As the holidays approach, we hope that you will enjoy every moment of this exciting time with your family.

Sincerely,
Tina Oliver

Attendance Counts: The Gift of Attendance

As we enter this holiday season, we want to reinforce the importance of school attendance. Every year, absences spike in the weeks before and after winter break. This holiday season, the best gift you can give your child is a good education, and the best place to get that education is in school. We know that just a few days missed here and there, even if they are excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts. We appreciate your support.



Kindergarten

November has been a very busy month for the Kaufman Kubs. We celebrated Veterans Day with an amazing performance from the Kaufman choir. How wonderful it is to honor our past, present, and future Veterans. All month we have been studying about the First Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, and Native Americans. We even made Native American vests and headpieces. Our Thanksgiving Feast was a HUGE success. Thanks to the parents for donating all of the food and paper products and the many calls and emails it took to organize the feast itself. The students really learned about the true meaning of being thankful.

December will be full of many holiday activities and learning experiences. We will study about "Holidays Around the World" in Mexico, Germany, Israel, and the United States and we will celebrate our Holiday Party on the 19th of December from 11:45-12:45. We will also have a book exchange between the students with Step Into Reading books. We will be testing for BAS reading levels and end of semester skills. Please make sure all your children are getting a healthy breakfast and a good night's rest. Continue to read with your child daily, and keep helping your children to be successful.

From all the Kindergarten Teachers, we would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

First Grade

First Grade is "blowing and going" into Winter learning fun. In language arts, we will be writing lists and letters (Maybe a wish list and a letter to Santa)! But wait there's more...we will also study digraphs (ph, sh, th, ch, wh) and compound words (gingerbread and peppermint). In social studies, we will explore Winter Celebrations Around the World. The Hot Topics for math are: Place Value to 99 (tens/ones), +/- facts to 10 and skip counting (5's & 10's). Weather, Day/Night/Moon are at the top of the list in science. We had a "gobbling" good time at our Thanksgiving feast! Thank you to everyone who helped with the food, set up and clean up. Now, we are looking forward to our annual Holiday Party on December 20th. Details will follow soon. We are going to be as busy as elves this month in first grade! We hope you have a wonderful Winter Break! **FIRST GRADE ROCKS!**

Second Grade

The holiday season is upon us. I think we are all still stuffed from our terrific Thanksgiving Feast! The participation from our parents was tremendous, and the day was a great success. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers!

We will continue our annual tradition of making Gingerbread Houses on Friday, December 8th at 1:00pm. Parents always so graciously donate items and give of their time to help us with this memory-making experience each year. We would like to send a special thank you to Borden for donating the milk cartons. This is loads of fun for everyone! We couldn't provide this wonderful activity without our special volunteer parents.

Our holiday party will be on Wednesday, December 20th this year. Watch for a reminder to come home soon about the activities that will be planned for this fun day. The students will be making a craft, exchanging a \$4.00 book for our gift exchange, eating delicious snacks in our classrooms, and having special candy treats. This is one of our three special approved candy days. Our room mothers are working hard, coordinating this fun day. Remember that this is also a half day and students will be released early.

Please continue reinforcing schoolwork at home by reading every day, going over take-home folder papers, and talking about school. Our second graders are learning a lot as well as getting into the holiday spirit.

Happy Holidays from your Second grade teachers!

Third Grade

Happy Holidays from everyone in 3rd grade! We would like to send out a BIG thank you to our parents who volunteered, sent items, and helped out with our Thanksgiving feasts. We enjoyed every minute of it! Don't forget to send in your holiday, red or green fabric for our wreaths. This is a great keepsake from your child's third grade year!

Our holiday program, "Holiday Zoobilee," will be performed on December 7th at 6:30 for parents and December 8th at 9:30 for Kaufman. Students will need to dress as any zoo animal. The program mentions monkey, tiger, zebra, lion, bear, seal, bird, hyena, owl, giraffe, leopard, penguin and elephant. T-shirts with stripes or dots, a headband with ears are great costumes! Due to how warm our stage can get, heavy fabrics (fleece, wool, felt) are not recommended.

Our holiday brunch will be on December 20th. We will send more information about the festivities in upcoming Tuesday folders. We will have a book exchange during our party. Boys will exchange with boys and girls will exchange with girls. We ask that each child bring a wrapped chapter book (\$5 limit). Don't forget that December 20th is an early release day!

We are continuing to work on basic multiplication facts in math. Please continue using flash cards at home to review all facts 0-10. We will begin 2 by 1 multiplication and introduce division. In reading, we will begin the genre of drama. We will use the structures of drama to understand plot and characters. Please continue to read each night with your child. Focus on your child's fluency and comprehension skills. In Social Studies, we will begin studying cultures and celebrations. Look for an upcoming home project in January. In Science, we will be starting our unit over the solar system.

Again, thank you for ALL you do. We appreciate you and are so very thankful to be at such a wonderful school in such a giving community!

Fourth Grade

Once again, "thank-yous" are in order to all the parents and grandparents who helped by sending items, setting up, serving food, and cleaning up for our Thanksgiving feasts. We all enjoyed spending time with our "school families" that day! We hope you enjoyed the time you had with your family during the Thanksgiving break.

Please look for information to come home soon about our class holiday parties.

We are very busy at school during these weeks leading up to our winter break. Fourth graders continue to work on perfecting our writing skills each day. We are now learning how to write expository pieces of writing. We're learning to explain, explain, explain!

In math, we will be now learning about geometry. As you are driving, shopping, or spending time with your family, ask your child what type of angles, lines, and shapes they see. Please continue to practice multiplication facts daily.

We hope that you are enjoying the sights and smells of the season. It is always a fun time for children and adults alike. Please remember that attendance is important at school, and that we are still learning important

Counselor's Corner

FOUR WAYS TO DEAL WITH STRESS

The holidays can be stressful; take care of yourself with these tips from the American Heart Association:

1. Positive Self-Talk

We all talk to ourselves; sometimes we talk out loud but usually we keep self-talk in our heads. Self-talk can be positive ("I can do this" or "Things will work out") or negative ("I'll never get well" or "I'm so stupid"). Negative self-talk increases stress. Positive self-talk helps you calm down and control stress. *With practice, you can learn to turn negative thoughts into positive ones.*

2. Emergency Stress Stoppers

There are many stressful situations— at work, at home, on the road, and in public places. We may feel stress because of too much work, poor communication, and everyday hassles like standing in line. *You may need different emergency stress stoppers for different situations and sometimes it helps to combine them.*

- Count to 10 before you speak
- Take three to five deep breaths
- Walk away from the stressful situation & handle it later
- Don't be afraid to say "I'm sorry" if you make a mistake

3. Finding Pleasure

When stress makes you feel bad, do something that makes you feel good. Doing things you enjoy is a natural way to fight off stress.

Try to do at least one thing you enjoy every day for 15 minutes.

- Take up a hobby, new or old
- Read a favorite book, short story, magazine, or newspaper
- Have coffee or a meal with friends
- Exercise and/or Listen to music

4. Daily Relaxation

Relaxation is more than sitting in your favorite chair watching TV. To relieve stress, relaxation should calm the tension in your mind and body. Some good forms of relaxation are yoga, tai chi (a series of slow, graceful movements) and meditation. Like most skills, relaxation takes practice. *Deep breathing is a form of relaxation you can learn and practice at home.*

ART

It's hard to believe December is already upon us! This month, we are very busy in our art rooms creating and experimenting with many different mediums. Here is a couple of things each grade level is working on—fourth grade is painting western themed watercolor still lifes and one-point perspective coffee or batik barns. Third grade is completing western paintings and pointillistic drawings and soon will be starting their much anticipated foil relief projects. Second grade will be creating textured pinch pots while learning all about earthen clay. Our first grade friends will be making under the sea and outer space themed crayon resists. And lastly, our sweet kindergartens are learning about the element shape and the artist Piet Mondrian.

We would like to give a big shout out to Alanah Clark, Shayden Shumway, Nash Poe, and Lauren Pavlock for being chosen as November's Artists of the Month! These four students come to class with a great attitude, ready to learn, are good examples to others, and strive to improve their art skills each and every day! We are so proud of each of you and appreciate all of your hard work and dedication!

In other art news, we would like to congratulate the following outstanding Kaufman Artists.... Katelyn Oncken, Marina Burchard, Kade Rodgers, Kinsey Praeuner, Brandon Becwar, Zane Burton, Karah Funderburg, Keagan DeYoung, Charlie Adams, and Kass Landrum!! Their artwork was recently selected and was on display at the CISD Veterans Day Celebration which was held on November 10th at the Woodforest Stadium. Their artwork was there to greet the honored Veterans and will now be mailed by CISD to a currently serving military member as a thank-you for their service to our great country. Way to go Creative Cats!! We are very proud of all of you! We would also like to thank all of our Kaufman students that participated in donating a special piece of artwork to help brighten a Veteran's day!

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 listening for fast, slow, high and low sounds within a song. First graders are reading, writing and performing rhythms with quarter, eighth notes and rests. Fourth and second graders are reviewing the melodic elements do, re, mi, sol and la (the pentatonic scale). They are also learning sixteenth notes and syncopation rhythms.

Third graders are working on their upcoming winter program called "Holiday Zoobilee", which will be performed on Dec 7th at 6:30pm (for family and community members) and on Dec. 8th 9:30am (for the school). Students need to dress a zoo animal (unless they have an assigned speaking part).

The Cougar Choir will also perform on Friday, Dec. 8th (immediately following the 3rd grade program). 4th grade Choir members need to wear their blue choir shirt and blue jeans that day. They can wear a holiday hat, if desired. 3rd grade Choir members will wear their costume from the musical, but can add a holiday hat, if desired. The Choir's last activity will be an after-school party (pizza, cookies, juice) on Tuesday, Dec. 12th during their regular rehearsal time (3:15-4:15pm).

4th grade Cougar Choir members will have an opportunity to audition for the Oak Ridge Festival Choir in January. Up to 20 students from Kaufman will be selected to participate in this honor group which is tentatively scheduled to perform in March 2018.

PE

We have many Fall fitness activities going on in Physical Education class. First we want to congratulate all our second, third and fourth grade Kaufman Cougars who participated in the Cup Stack Tournament. They did a great job representing their team with great speed and awesome sportsmanship!

All our students have enjoyed the cooler temperatures and have had many opportunities to run on the Healthy Heart track outside. In the month of December, kindergarten and first grade students will have lots of fun with rhythms and holiday games. Our second, third, and fourth grade students will participate in a fun bowling unit. This unit is exciting for everyone, and we encourage you to go bowling with your little cougar over the winter break.

Please encourage your children to wear safe tennis shoes on P.E. days. Boots, slippers, and crocs are not considered safe shoes. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Fitness Fact: There is no better exercise for strengthening the heart than reaching down and lifting up another. :)



COMPUTERS

I am so proud all my students! It's very exciting to learn new things and they are working really hard with their typing skills.

Kindergarten through first grade are still learning to type! We are using keyboard basics to familiarize where the home keys are positioned and gradually inducing others letters. I am seeing such progress and we will be learning to type with so many other lessons through the year.

Second grade through fourth grade are learning to type in Google Docs. They are typing sentences about themselves, upcoming events and their families by changing the text, color and text style. It's fun to watch them use their imaginations!

Wishing you the best of holidays this magical season!

Sincerely,

Ms. Alonso :)



CLINIC

Flu season is among us! Remind your child about the importance of handwashing before eating, after using the restroom, and anytime in between. Handwashing really is the best way to prevent the spread of infection and the flu. If your child is sick, make sure that they are fever free for 24 hours before coming back to school. This will give their little bodies time to start recovering from illness and help prevent spreading the illness to their friends at school.

Please contact the clinic for any changes in medications and health status so we may better care for your child.

Library

The Kaufman Library is looking forward to the hustle and bustle of the holiday excitement that December brings. The **KAUFMAN GIVING TREE** will be up and ready to accept new or gently used books beginning December 11th. Students are invited to place a new or gently used book under our tree to be donated to organizations in need of children's books. After they place a book under the tree, they may take an ornament from our small library trees to hang on their tree at home. The collection of books will end on December 15th. We hope you can join us in contributing to the Kaufman Giving Tree, a Cougar tradition.

Upcoming Library Events:

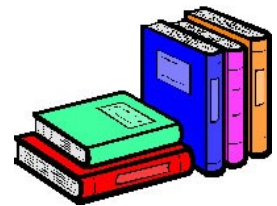
1. The library's 2nd fundraiser, The Great American Opportunities Magazine Sales will kick-off on January 22nd.
2. Our Third and Fourth Grade students have been reading books from the **Texas Bluebonnet Master Reading List**. Students who have read at least 5 of the 20 books will be eligible to vote online for their favorite book, the last week of January.

Parents are **always** welcome in the library. You may check out up to 7 books at a time to share with your children. You are always welcome to ask questions and offer suggestions.

We support and follow Dr. Stockton's **READ FOR A BETTER LIFE** initiative. Please try to read 20-30 minutes each evening with your children. You will both be glad you did!

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

Kaufman Kids Night Out Friday, December 1st, 5 PM - 9 PM

Craft, Movie, Pizza and Pictures with Santa!

Thank you sponsors: [Spring Auto Pros](#), [Inner Element Fitness](#) and [Christian Brothers Automotive](#)



The **Peppermint Village Holiday Store** will be December 4th-8th. This is a place where children can buy inexpensive items for the people on their holiday shopping list. We need all the volunteers we can get to make this a success for the kids.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084aaba729ab9-peppermint2>

Teacher Appreciation

PTO will be catering an appreciation **luncheon** for the teachers and staff on Wednesday, December 13th. We would like to have parents volunteer to work lunch duty so that our teachers and staff can eat lunch together. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084aaba729ab9-lunch>

PTO Meeting - December 14th, 1:30 PM

Spirit Night - December 14th Sammy's Sports Grill from 5 PM – 10 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 are 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 who submitted Box Tops. We are having a great submission rate for Box Tops this year. We would like to announce the first class to reach the 50% mark: **Congratulations to MRS CARRELL – 2nd Grade!!** Several classes are close to reaching the 50% level. All classes can win by reaching 50%. Check out the Box Tops poster board in the cafeteria to see how your class is doing. **Next submission date: December 11th**

A huge thank you to UPS Store Rayford/45 who mailed our Box Tops for free. If you are able, please support all of our Kaufman sponsors and/or thank them when you frequent the business.

Thanks to Michele Blair, Jennifer Wiggins, Bianca Campos, Sarah Mabile and Kaitlin VanVeen. If anyone else is interested in helping the Box Tops Clip and Count Club, email Kimberly Holmes: kimberlyholmes@hotmail.com

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



Children In Santa's Dreams

The CISD Police Department would like to invite you to help us make a child's dream come true. On Wednesday, November 15th, 2017 the CISD Police Department will start collecting "NEW" unwrapped gifts for boys and girls of all ages. These gifts will be wrapped and given to families who, without our support, may not otherwise have a wonderful Christmas.

In 2016, Children In Santa's Dreams provided gifts to 850 children in 342 families.

All gift donations should be made by **Friday, December 8, 2017** to ensure the gifts will be wrapped in time for Santa to deliver.

To have a toy collection bin placed on your campus or for any questions, you may contact any CISD Police Officer or call/email:

Sergeant Julie M. Thompson
(936) 709-8921
jnthompson@conroeisd.net

Many thanks and have a Merry Christmas!

Children in Santa's Dreams

The Police Activities League (PAL) has founded a Christmas program dedicated to less-than-fortunate children in the Conroe Independent School District. The need criteria for this Christmas Program is based on personal references from counselors, teachers, principals, and other school staff who work with children every day. Counselors work with parents and PAL in order to maintain the anonymity of our less-than-fortunate children. Children in Santa's Dreams provides gifts and stockings for our children enrolled in school and their siblings who may be too young to attend school. Citizens, service organizations, and youth organizations are invited to participate by donating new, unwrapped gifts and/or by attending an annual wrapping party where all donated toys and gifts are organized by age and gender. Each volunteer receives a family identified only by a number. The volunteer is asked to pick out gifts for each child listed and wrap the gifts selected. (The number of gifts each child receives is determined by the amount of donations and number of students referred by the program.) In past years 1-3 gifts per child have been given, with the addition of one game per family. Since 2002, Children in Santa's Dreams has helped make 10,100 childrens' Christmas a little merrier with gifts and stockings.

Conroe ISD Health Services

Head Lice Fact Sheet

What are head lice?

Head lice are parasitic insects that can be found on the head of people. Head lice feed on human blood several times a day, and live near the scalp. Head lice lay eggs, called nits, on the hair shaft, very close to the scalp. Nits further than ¼ inch from the scalp are likely dead/hatched. Lice do not spread disease.

What are the symptoms of head lice?

- Tickling, feeling something moving in your hair
- Itching, caused by an allergic reaction to the louse bite
- Irritability and difficulty sleeping; lice are most active in the dark
- Sores on the head caused by scratching (which can lead to secondary bacterial infection)

How do you get rid of head lice?

- Examine everyone in the home for lice and nits. Look carefully through the hair and at the scalp, behind the ears, and the back of the neck. Nits are easier to see than live lice.
- Treat only the household members who have lice. Use products available over-the-counter (according to package directions) or by prescription (according to physician directions).
- Comb the hair after treatment, using a special lice/nit comb. Separate the hair into sections and try to comb out every nit and louse you can. Live nits that are not combed out will hatch within 7-10 days. **Combing is the most time-consuming step, but also the most important.**
- Clean the house. Lice do not live long without a host on which to feed. However, to pick up any stray hairs that may have a live nit attached, wash and dry clothes, sheets, pillow cases, and towels using hot water and high heat. Vacuum the floor and furniture to pick up loose hairs. Combs and brushes should be soaked in hot water for 5-10 minutes.
- Follow the lice treatment product directions for when to retreat. It is usually recommended to retreat 7-10 days after the initial treatment. Continue to check heads daily until 1 week after second treatment or 1 week after last louse or nit is removed.

How are head lice spread?

- Head lice are spread by direct contact with the hair of an infested person. The highest risk involves head-to-head contact. Lice crawl - they do not jump, and they do not have wings. It is fairly uncommon for lice to be spread by contact with clothing or other personal items. Personal hygiene and cleanliness have nothing to do with getting head lice.

How are head lice prevented?

- Teach children to avoid head-to-head (hair-to-hair) contact during play at home, school, and elsewhere (sports activities, playground, sleepovers, camp).
- Avoid sharing clothing (hats, scarves, coats).
- Avoid sharing brushes, combs, and hair accessories.

Is there a season for head lice?

September is National Head Lice Awareness Month. Head lice incidences peak shortly after school starts particularly among young children. This is most likely due in part to younger children playing closely together and having head-to-head contact. During the winter season, the sharing of coats and hats may contribute to head lice occurrences. As spring comes, outdoor playing and sports activities bring children close together.

Summertime often means summer camps and sleepovers which can lead to the spreading of head lice. So it seems as if there is no "one" season for head lice. Year round awareness and routine family inspection will help prevent head lice occurrences.

Resources:

Center for Disease Control & Prevention-<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.html>
Texas Department of State Health Services-<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/schoolhealth/lice.shtm#2>
CISD Health Services 8/2017