



Kaufman Paw Print

Volume 13, Issue 4

December 2018

Upcoming Events

CISD Toy Drive	12/1-7
4th-Math Benchmark	12/4
3rd-Math Benchmark	12/5
Box Tops Collection	12/7
Peppermint Village	12/10-14
PTO Meeting @ 1:30	12/13
3rd Grade Musical 6:30 PM	12/13
Jingle Bell Run in CAMP	12/14
Kindergarten Holidays Around the World	12/18
Holiday Parties (1st-4th)	12/19
Early Dismissal @ 12:10	12/19
Winter Break	12/20-1/7

Students return January 8.



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. Our teachers will be teaching, and our students will be learning, right up until vacation starts. We greatly appreciate your support.



Kindergarten

November has been a very busy month for the Kaufman Cubs. 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 18th of December. 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.

First Grade

We are jingling our way into December in first grade. Thank you to everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving Feast. The children had a wonderful time. Keep your eye out for information on our fun festive days in December, including Peppermint Village, Polar Express Day, and our Holiday Party. We have lots to learn in December and are excited for this festive time in first grade.

Hot Topics for December:

*Reading: We will continue our fiction unit and wrap up our Word Detectives unit.

*Writing: Continue writing expository: how-to writing.

*Math: Students will wrap up place value to 99 and complete our unit on measurement.

*Social Studies: Continue our unit over culture and celebrations.

*Science: Finishing up weather and exploring characteristics of day and night.

We are looking forward to wrapping up 2018 with lots of festive activities. Please continue to read with your child every night. We appreciate your support!

Second Grade

The holiday season is upon us. We 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 7th at 1:00pm. Parents always so graciously donate items and give of their time to help us with this memory-making experience each year. 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 19th 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 Moosical," will be performed on December 13th at 6:30 for parents and December 14th at 9:25 for Kaufman. Students will need to dress in a character that can fit into "Santa's Workshop." They can dress as elves, reindeer, Christmas trees, sugar plum fairies, candy canes, snowmen, or toy soldiers. Speakers and dancers will need to dress as their character. Due to how warm our stage can get, heavy fabrics (fleece, wool, felt) are not recommended.

Our holiday brunch will be on December 19th at 9:00 A.M. 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 19th 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 be focusing on fractions up until break. 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 finish studying cultures and celebrations. In science, we will be finishing our unit over the solar system and beginning to study natural resources.

Fourth Grade

Once again, many "thank-yous" are in order to all the parents, guardians, 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 Christmas break. Fourth graders continue to work on perfecting our writing skills each day. We are now learning how to write fiction pieces. We're learning to explain, explain, and explain! In reading, students are learning about traditional literature.

In math, we are 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 skills every day, all day at school.

ART

Hello again Creative Cats!

Time just seems to be slipping by at warp speed! We cannot BELIEVE we are nearly half way through our school year already! We've been learning many great things in the art room, but we've got much more to come!

Most Western Art projects are complete, with the exception of 4th grade. Their Western Art projects are pretty time heavy projects covering many TEKS, so it takes us a bit longer to complete. They will be done before Christmas Break, and the Western Art Show will be right after we return in January! Our 3rd graders have moved on to their Foil and Glue Relief projects. They will be studying facial proportion or parts and details of insects for this project. It's always a favorite and fun project to do! Second grade will be working on mixed media projects before moving into a study on Vincent Van Gogh. First grade is enjoying the process of making their clay projects, while kindergarten is moving from their Line study to learning all about Shapes. They will be making winter tree collages or Mondrian Snowmen as they study shapes in their Kinder-Art Books. Fun, fun, fun is being had by all!!

We're sending out BIG congratulations to some amazing student artists who participated in the Veteran's Day Art Contest! This contest was open only to our 3rd and 4th graders, and the following students were selected as winners to represent Kaufman at the CISD Veteran's Day event. Congratulations to: Gabriel Campos, Ella Stark, Ava Cyr, Kaitlynn Reiney, Kyla Leiva, Brianna Robichau, Brandon Becwar, Xakery DuBois, Miriam Standlee and Rio Ingalls. Unfortunately, that event got cancelled due to inclement weather, but we're no less proud of their efforts and to ALL the students who took the time to honor a veteran. All artwork is being sent to active military members to show our appreciation for their service! Way to go Kaufman!!

No month is complete without the announcement of our Artist's of the Month for November! These are students that follow all art room rules, are helpful to others, and who work hard every single time to improve their art skills! We are very proud to announce Mary Grace Lawhon, Austin Sparks, Melody Lafollette, and Takashi Obara for last month! They are all sparkling examples of what we look for in this high honor! Their pictures will be on display in our "Hall of Fame!"

On a final note, please don't forget that Artsonia is a GREAT place to do some unique Christmas shopping! They are running several "sales" on certain items during the months of November and December! Be watching for those opportunities to give a personal gift all while making money for our Art Department! We are purchasing Ipads as we get enough to do so. You helped us buy 4 Ipads with cases last year! Thanks for your continuing support of our Art program!

Until the New Year..... Happy Creating!!



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 Moosical," which will be performed on Dec 13th at 6:30pm (for family and community members) and on Dec. 14th at 9:25am (for the school). Students will need to dress as their character (if assigned a speaking or dancing part) or ANY of the characters listed on the notes that have gone home.

The Cougar Choir will have their final performance on Friday, Dec. 14th (immediately following the 3rd grade program). Fourth grade Choir members need to wear their blue choir shirt and jeans that day. They can wear a holiday hat, if desired. Third grade Choir members will wear their costume from the musical. The Choir's final activity will be an after-school party (pizza, cookies, juice) on Tuesday, Dec. 18th during their regular rehearsal time (3:15-4:15pm).

Fourth grade Cougar Choir members will have an opportunity to sign-up and/or audition for the Oak Ridge Festival Choir. Up to 30 students from Kaufman will be selected to participate in this honor group which is tentatively scheduled to perform on February 26th, 2019, at Oak Ridge HS.



PE

Kaufman Cougars,

First, we want to brag on all the turkeys that participated in the Kaufman Turkey Trot. They had lots of fun, got plenty of sunshine and exercise, too. The whole CAMP team, otherwise known as the "Trot Squad," had a great time as well.

We just finished our Drumfit unit and are looking forward to starting basketball activities. Who knows...maybe there is a future Rocket amongst us.

Don't forget to save the date- Jingle Bell Run on December 14 during CAMP time. More information to come.

Please encourage your children to wear safe tennis shoes on P.E. days.

Boots, slippers, and crocs are not considered safe shoes.

Happy Holidays!

Your Pumped Up PE teachers



Computers

I am so proud all my students! It's very exciting to learn new things, and they are working very 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 introducing other letters. I am seeing such progress, and we will be learning to type with so many other lessons through the year. We are also learning how to do coding. This lesson demonstrates for each student to learn problem solving skills.

Second grade through fourth grade are learning to type in Google Docs. They are typing sentences about themselves, upcoming events, and about their families. They learn to change the text, color, and text style. We are also finishing up their personal narrative stories about what they will do or wish to do for winter break. It's fun to watch them use their imaginations!

Wishing you the best of holidays this magical season!

Sincerely,



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 19th. 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.

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 3rd. 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 students place a book under the library 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 14th. We hope you can join us in contributing to the Giving Tree, a Kaufman Cougar tradition.

Upcoming Library Events:

1. The library's 2nd fundraiser, The Great American Opportunities Magazine Sales will kick-off on January 14th.
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.

Please try to read 20-30 minutes each evening with your children. You will both be glad you did!

Keep 'Em READING!!

Mrs. Wright



Clinic News

Flu season is among us! Remind your child about the importance of hand washing 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.

Counselor's Corner

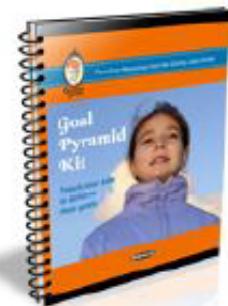


How Parents Raise Kids to Be Successful 10 Strategies

Do you hear your child complaining, "I can't," or "It's too hard?" If you'd like to motivate him to try, check the strategies below and find some you can start using today. If he has a long habit of negative self-talk, you'll need to repeat the methods often to remind him that he can succeed.

1. To promote trying, praise your child more for his efforts than for his successes.
2. Use specific praise over vague praise. "Your homework is neat and thorough." Not, "Nice job."
3. Help your child choose the goals she's willing to achieve instead of insisting on your goals.
4. Use his senses. Ask, "What does your goal look like?" Imagine your feelings when it's done."
5. For younger children, make charts for stars to show their accomplishments.
6. Create a family motto together like, "We keep trying." Post it on the fridge with family photos.
7. Show confidence in your child with words like, "I believe you can."
8. Once a week at dinner, ask each member to, "Share something you're proud of this past week."
9. Stop him from using negative self-talk. Say, "How can you use positive self-talk instead?"
10. Brag about your child to grandparents and relatives. Make sure she hears it.

[Goal-Setting for Kids](#)



Click Link to Watch Brief Video Now:

[The Motivated Child – How Parents Raise Can-Do Kids](#)



PTO NEWS

Important Dates....



- December 7th – Box Tops Collection Day
- December 10th-14th – Peppermint Village Holiday Store
- December 13th – PTO Meeting @ 1:30 PM
- December 13th – 3rd Grade "Holiday Moosical" @ 6:30 PM
- December 14th – 3rd Grade "Holiday Moosical" @ 9:25 AM
- December 17th – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon/Volunteer Lunch Duty
- December 19th – Early Release Day
- December 20th-January 7th – Winter Break



The **Peppermint Village Holiday Store** will be December 10th-14th. 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. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084aab729ab9-peppermint2>

Yearbooks

Yearbooks are now being sold! Simply go to www.Balfour.com and search Kaufman Elementary. Order your yearbook online for \$30. Dedications are available for \$10 and \$20.

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 918770 and password Kaufman. You can also search for the "Balfour Image Share" app in your app marketplace and use to share pictures from your phone.

Sponsor

Thank you to Sentry Storage for donating storage space to Kaufman PTO!



Amazon Smile

Kaufman Elementary is 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.

Facebook



Connect with us on FB <https://www.facebook.com/KaufmanPTO/>. Each grade level has its own group; make sure to join to connect with other parents from your grade level.

Remind



Text @kaufmanpt to the number 81010
Or Visit <https://www.remind.com/join/kaufmanpt>

QUESTIONS? Visit our new PTO Website at <https://kaufmanelementarypto.wildapricot.org/>
or Email us 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 Monday, November 12th, 2018 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 2017, Children In Santa's Dreams provided gifts to 822 children in 350 families.

All gift donations should be made by
Friday, December 7, 2018

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
jmthompson@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 children's 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 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 around the house. Lice do not live long without a host to feed on. 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 can 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. Spread by contact with clothing or other personal items is fairly uncommon. 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.shtml#2>