



# Kaufman Paw Print

Volume 13, Issue 5

January 2019



## Upcoming Events

Students return	1/8
PTO Meeting @ 1:30	1/10
Box Tops Due	1/11
Magazine Sales Begin	1/14
Grade Level Awards	1/18
Martin Luther King Day School Holiday	1/21
Cool Cougar	1/25
Great Kindness Challenge	1/28-2/1
Family Fitness Night	1/29
100th Day of School	1/30
PTO Meeting @ 1:30	1/31

## A Note From Mrs. Oliver

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope you had a fantastic break! We had a great first day back as we begin the second semester of the 2018-2019 school year. As always, it is amazing to see our students engaged and excited about their learning each and every day here at Kaufman Elementary. I am very proud of our students and staff and all they accomplished the first half of the school year, and I look forward to many more great things in 2019.

Thank you for all of your help and support with our activities during the busy month of December. Our staff members and families definitely went above and beyond to create wonderful memories for our students.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope 2019 is a wonderful year for everyone!

Sincerely,  
Tina Oliver

### Attendance Counts

Congratulations to the following classes for having the best overall attendance in each grade level for the second grading period:

Kindergarten: Jamie Rodgers– 97.6%

First Grade: Samantha Saltsman– 98.3%

Second Grade: Andrea Harness– 98.3%

Third Grade: Melanie Cordaway– 98.3%

Fourth Grade: Kelly Moore– 99%- Best Attendance at Kaufman!

We would like to encourage all of our students to have good attendance and to be present each and every day. Remember, “Attendance Counts” at Kaufman!



### GT Nominations

GT nominations are now closed. For nominated students, paperwork will be coming home for parents to fill out the week of January 14. Please return this paperwork by January 18. All testing information will be included in the paperwork. Any questions can be directed to Tonya Twilla.

## Kindergarten

Happy New Year to everyone! Your child will begin bringing home their reading binder on Monday or Tuesday with 2 little readers. (This might vary in different classes.) Keep encouraging them to use good strategies to help sound out unknown words. Continue to ask them questions about the setting, characters, sequence of the story (beginning, middle, and end) and ask what was the main idea of the story. In math, we will study counting objects to 20, measurement, money, addition and subtraction using manipulatives, 2D and 3D shapes, problem solving and counting to 100. (Please help your child so they can join the 100 club!) During science, we will cover living and non-living things and seeds. This month, we will learn about Martin Luther King Day and celebrate the 100th day of school. On January 30th, we will ask the students to dress as if they were 100 years old. We will have a parade at 8:15 and do 100 day activities throughout the day. Thank you for all that

## First Grade

Happy New Year from first grade! We hope that you had a wonderful Winter Break. We had a "jingle jangle" good time at our holiday parties! Thank you to everyone who helped with the food, set up and clean up. Now, we are ready to rock and roll into 2019 with lots of fun learning!

Hot Topics for January:

\*Reading: We will begin learning about the world around us using nonfiction expository texts.

\*Writing: Students will become authors of informational and procedural texts.

\*Math: We will be continuing our unit on measurement: time (hour/half hour) and length.

\*Social Studies: Students will learn about New Year's customs and concepts of time (long ago/present).

\*Science: We will explore the characteristics of the different seasons as well as begin our inquiry of rocks/soil.

Please continue to read with your child every night and check backpacks for important information. We appreciate your support!

## Second Grade

Happy New Year! We wish to extend our sincere THANKS to the many, many parents who helped make our December celebrations such a success. We had so much fun decorating and displaying our beautiful gingerbread houses. Hopefully, we created a memory that your second graders will never forget. Our Christmas party was also a very special time. We couldn't do these fun holiday activities without the support from our wonderful volunteers! Our second grade field trip to the Houston Zoo is on January 29th, and we look forward to a fun day!

We are gearing up for the second half of second grade and will start the year off by learning about New Year's customs from around the world. In reading, we will be working on our strategic reading skills to improve reading comprehension. We will be focusing on specific skills the students will need to become effective readers of higher level reading passages, such as those they will encounter in third grade.

In math this month, you will find us learning about measurement, including linear measurement, area and time. We will also spiral back to one of our previously taught topics, number patterns, but this grading period we will be learning about number patterns up to 1,200.

In science, we're going to be exploring the earth's resources, beginning with rocks and minerals. Our focus in social studies will be on communities and how they change over time.

As always, we thank our parents for their support in helping their children complete and turn in their homework and by reading at home regularly. Your involvement in your child's learning makes the difference.

## **Third Grade**

Happy New Year and what a fast first semester! How time flies...

We would like to send out a BIG thank you to our parents who volunteered, sent items, and helped out with our classroom parties. We enjoyed every minute of it!

Coming up in math, we will extend on our knowledge of multiplication and division. We will use these operations in two step problems and go higher with two digit numbers multiplied by a one digit number. It is very important that your child studies and memorizes their facts up to 10x10. You can find flashcards at many local stores such as Lakeshore or Teacher Heaven.

In science, we will explore the different types of landforms, rapid changes, and weather.

In reading, we will continue to work on critical thinking and inferencing through fictional stories. Students will sequence and summarize the plot and observe character relationships, including changes the characters undergo. Please continue to read with your child for at least 20 minutes a night! Continue asking them comprehension questions over what they have read.

In social studies, we will finish up our unit on celebrations. We will then learn how citizens change a community. We will look at the importance of people and the impact they have on a community. We will finish up January with our geography unit and gain an understanding of how people in different communities adapt to their environment.

## **Fourth Grade**

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2019 has arrived. We are at the half-way point in the school year, and the Spring semester is always a busy one.

We would first like to thank all of the parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, and uncles who helped make our holiday parties so much fun. Each class had wonderful snacks and treats, and all students seemed to enjoy themselves greatly.

On Wednesday, February 13th, all fourth graders will be taking a Writing Benchmark. This test will be very similar to the STAAR Writing (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) that will be taken at the end of March, and it will be important for your child to be at school on time and well-rested. The STAAR is very different than the state assessments given in the past. Students now provide one writing sample and will complete one multiple choice portion. We work extremely hard on developing good writers every day, and this benchmark will give teachers a good indication of the progress students are making.

In math classes, students are continuing to work on multiplication and long division. It is always important to link what we learn in math to real-world situations. Look for ways you can show your student how multiplication and division are used at home and as you go about your daily routines.

As we begin 2019, we think of celebrating new and fresh beginnings. Please help us at home by continuing to emphasize the importance of students completing schoolwork and giving their very best effort in all they do. Thank you for all that you do!

## ART

Welcome back Creative Cats! We hope you had a joyous holiday break and are ready to get back to making some new masterpieces. Fourth grade is finally finished with their Western Art projects and will now be moving on to the much anticipated Foil Etchings. Third grade will be working on facial proportions and Georgia O'Keeffe inspired Foil Glue Reliefs. Second grade is learning all about Post-Impressionism and Vincent Van Gogh. First grade is either finishing earthen clay Hand Bowls or Whimsical Birds and will begin Snowmen Collages. Lastly, our kinder friends will be learning all about shapes and how they are the basis for any drawing. Then they will be learning about the Abstract artist Piet Mondrian.

Congratulations to **Brooklyn Lower** for representing Kaufman well in the preliminary round of the Youth Art Month Capitol Art Show. Her Bluebonnet painting was selected as a finalist for our District and will go to compete in Austin at the State level! We are so proud of her, and we can't wait to hear how her painting does there!

In other art news, we are proud to announce Alexandra **Sorn**, **Jonathan Harrell**, **Bella Pollard**, and **Elliott Meldrum** have been chosen as our December Artists of the Month! These students come to art class ready to learn, have a positive attitude, are helpful to others, and always try their personal best to increase their skills! We absolutely LOVE having them in our classes!

Until next month, happy creating!

Mrs. Gregory and Mrs. Rowley



## MUSIC

It's hard to believe that it we are already half-way through the school year! We have a busy second semester ahead of us. Here are some things we are doing in January.

- 4th graders will be learning more about the treble staff and standard notation as they prepare for their recorder unit. Students will be able to purchase a recorder for \$6. The link to the online order form will go home on January 9th. The last day to purchase instruments will be Jan 28th, and they should arrive approximately 10 business days later.
- 3rd will be reviewing rhythmic and melodic concepts learned this year and creating short compositions for the xylophones and boomwackers.
- 2nd graders will start working on their music program "Arf" which they will perform on February 7th at 6:30pm for family and community members, and again on February 8th at 9:25am for the school.
- 1st graders are reviewing basic rhythm patterns with quarter/eighth notes and rest. We will begin playing short melody and rhythm patterns on xylophones and boomwackers.
- Kindergarten students are continuing to work with the long/short, high/low, fast/slow and loud/soft concepts. We will be adding instruments and creating simple accompaniments to songs we have learned this year.

Cougar Choir News: I am so proud of all of our 3rd and 4th grade Cougar Choir members! They sang so well at their concerts! Their events have ended for the school year.

Festival Choir News - Congratulations to the 18 fourth graders selected to participate in the Oak Ridge Feeder Zone Festival Choir! They will begin practicing their music on January 15th from 3:15-4:15pm. They will perform with students from all eight elementary schools in the Oak Ridge feeder zone and members of the ORHS Choir at the end of

## PE

Happy New Year!

Wow, did December fly by? The Jingle Bell Run was a blast! Along with getting fit, we collected sock donations to give to Love Out Loud, an organization that takes care of the homeless.

We are so excited for January. This month we will get active in participating in a heart obstacle course along with some bowling fun. On February 28, we will host our 1st Family Fitness Night. Save the date! We hope you can join us.

Please encourage your children to wear safe tennis shoes on P.E. days. Boots, slippers, and crocs are not considered safe shoes.

Your Pumped Up PE teachers



## COMPUTERS

Happy January! We are already midpoint way through the school year and are so busy learning such wonderful things in computers!

Kindergarten through first grade are learning word processing skills by typing their name in Word Document along with continuing their typing skills. We will also continue to work at different levels of coding.

Second through fourth grades are learning how to make graphic organizers called Bubble Maps in Google Docs.

All grade levels are learning basic computer coding. This lesson promotes a fun way for students by using their problem solving skills and challenges them to work on different levels of coding. We are also learning the basic parts of a computer and its functions with computer technology words.

Sincerely,



## CLINIC

A reminder as the weather becomes colder, have your child start dressing in layers. Students then have the option of taking off a layer of clothing or adding that sweatshirt or jacket when playing outdoors. Don't forget to restock that extra clothing supply in their backpack with weather appropriate clothing. We will continue to have outdoor recess as the temperature allows.

Flu season is among us! Remind your child about the importance of hand washing before eating, after using the restroom, and anytime in between. Hand washing really is the best way to prevent the spread of infection and the flu. We have been having grade level conversations with our students about how to stay healthy. 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.

# Library

Welcome back to the Kaufman Library in 2019!

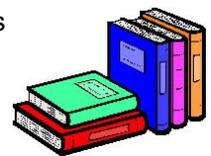
As we enter 2019, I would like to say "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated a book to the KAUFMAN GIVING TREE. Watching the students bring in their donated books in hopes of making someone else's Christmas a little brighter, was truly a magical sight! We hope you and your students enjoyed hanging the "Kaufman Cougars Give" ornament on your tree and will be able to treasure it for many years to come. We collected over 300 books, which were donated to The Montgomery County Women and Children's shelter.

I would also like to express a special "THANK YOU" to all of our library volunteers: Kimberly Candelaria, Paul Thayer, Diane Medina, Miriam Amend, Corina McDonough, Katie Lawhon, Becky Goring, Jennifer Wiggins, Lauren White, Janna Dimitrijevic, Rebecca Watt, Amanda Ishee, Kim Lower, Shayna Stubblefield, Emily Lafollette, Angela Cone, Stephanie Bell, Hailey Hall and Library Volunteer Liaison, Juliet Modesitt for helping to make the first half of the school year a success! I could not have done it without their help.

Please mark January 14th on your calendar as the Kick Off for the Great American Opportunities Magazine Subscription Sale Fundraiser. Students are encouraged to buy new subscriptions or renew present subscriptions for magazines. **We do not want students to go door-to-door for sales!!!** Each student will have a postcard pack to fill out names of family and friends who might be interested. The company then mails these out for us. Students will receive a prize for each subscription ordered or renewed and each completed postcard packet. The profit goes directly to the library for new library books, guest authors/illustrators, and Reading Bingo prizes.

Third and Fourth Graders will vote for their favorite Texas Bluebonnet book January 28th – 31st. Please note that students must read 5 of the 20 books on the TEXAS BLUEBONNET MASTER READING LIST to be eligible to vote. Our final tallies will be submitted on January 31, 2019. We will announce the Kaufman winner in the next newsletter...and the winner for the state of Texas too!

Please remember that parents are ALWAYS welcome in our library. YOU may check out books



too!

Keep 'em Reading!

## Counselor's Corner

### Find Time for Family

Kids rely on their families for love, guidance, and a sense of belonging. Without these things, it's hard to do well in school or in life. Activities like the following will show your child she has family support:

- **Eat meals together.** Extend your time together by preparing and cleaning up as a family too. Turn off the television during meals so conversations can take place!
- **Take trips.** Go to a concert, local museum or sports event. Ask your children, "What would you like to do?"
- **Play together.** Choose games that everyone can enjoy, such as charades, board games or 20 questions. Let your children pick what to play.
- **Plan family nights.** Decide together what to do, or take turns choosing. You might order pizza, bake cookies or see a movie. Sometimes invite another family to join you.
- **Do something silly.** Some of the best family memories are the funniest ones. You might make breakfast for dinner, or dress in the craziest outfits you can find.
- **Relax.** Some parents find that right after school is a great time to spend with children. The kids are ready to plop down and talk about their day. Talk about family news, goals, concerns, and successes.

## PTO NEWS

### Important Dates....



- 1st-7th – Winter Break
- 8th – Welcome Back!
- 10th – PTO Meeting @ 1:30 pm
- 10th – Sk8town Spirit Night
- 11th – Box Top Collection
- 17th – Papa Johns Spirit Night
- 18th – Lunch Duty
- 21st – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
- 28th – Library Magazine sales
- 31st – PTO Meeting @ 1:30 pm

### Yearbooks

Yearbooks are now being sold! Simply go to [www.Balfour.com](http://www.Balfour.com) and search Kaufman Elementary. Order your yearbook online for \$35.

**Submit Photos to Yearbook!** Send in any pictures you take when visiting Kaufman! Visit [images.balfour.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:KaufmanPTO@gmail.com).

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to our First Lego League Robotics teams: **Cougarbotz**, **Cougarbitz** and **Cougarbytes** that competed December 15<sup>th</sup> at the CISD Qualifier tournament.

The **Cougarbotz** team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in Research Project and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Robot Mission runs and are advancing to the Houston Championship! The **Cougarbitz** rookie team is also advancing to the Houston Championship for their solid Robot Mission runs & overall performance!

## 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