



## “The Little School With The Big Heart”



### Principal’s Pen... Keeping it Simple

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have so graciously given your time and talents for J. R. Irvin and the Irvin PTV. I have been overwhelmed by the response of parents, grandparents, churches, businesses and community that have supported our wonderful school and school district. I hear parents say that the reason they moved to this area was because of the schools. How wonderful to hear that! Since so much has been done for Irvin, we want to show our appreciation. If you have been to J.R. Irvin and helped in *any way*, please join us for a very special luncheon just for you. We would like to show how thankful we are for all your hard work and time spent to help make Irvin better each year. ***Please join us on May 18, 2012 beginning at 11:00 for a delicious lunch in your honor.*** We hope to see all of you on that day!

I came across this article the other day from the Love and Logic website and thought I would share it with you. Think about what kind of parent you want to be and see if you have the “basics”.

Do great parents use a large variety of good parenting skills? Not typically!

Great parents don't overwhelm themselves by trying to use every trick in the book. Instead, they rely on a small number of skills, yet apply them with consistency.

If you're feeling overwhelmed by your kids, could it be that you're trying too hard to do too many things? Might it be time to get back to the bare basics?

- What are these "bare basics"? Listed below are the top three I've observed from my experience with thousands of truly great parents and educators:
- **They demonstrate unconditional warmth and love.**
- Kids feel this magical type of love when their parents spend plenty of time with them, when their parents focus on their strengths, and when their parents display empathy instead of anger or sarcasm when things go wrong. **Their "yes" is always "yes" and their "no" is always "no."**
- Great parents are extremely careful to set only the limits they know they can enforce. They remember this important rule for setting limits:  
*Never tell a stubborn child what to do.*
- *Instead, describe what you will do or allow.*
- Would you like your kids to believe that every word you say is important? **They allow their kids to experience the logical and natural consequences of their decisions.**
- Isn't it hard to watch our kids struggle with the consequences of their mistakes? While it breaks our hearts at times, allowing them to learn in this way gives them a tremendous advantage as they grow. They develop respect, responsibility, and a good grasp of good old-fashioned common sense.
- The key, of course, is to display empathy rather than anger.

Raising great kids really can be a joy when we remember that we don't have to overcomplicate parenting with too many skills and too much theory. Keep it simple and enjoy your kids.



Our students come first at J.R. Irvin!

## Kindergarten News



“Bebopping Through Kindergarten”



Our kindergarten classes did a wonderful job.

WOW!!! It is hard to believe that we have finished another six weeks. The time is just flying by. We began this six weeks learning about two famous presidents, Washington and Lincoln. We also learned about the important symbols of our country. We then studied the Great State of Texas and the wonderful symbols that are important to us. We also learned about different types of weather and the water cycle. We learned the words precipitation, condensation, and evaporation and even checked the weather and temperature every day for a week. We learned that the word oviparous means an animal that lays eggs. We finished up with a unit on dinosaurs, which is always a favorite amongst the kids. We also had an Egg Hunt, Spring Break and a wonderful Music Program during these last six weeks.

It is hard to believe that there is only one six weeks left in Kindergarten. Our kids have grown up so much this year! We have many fun activities left for this year along with much more learning. Thank you to the parents for all of your support and hard work with these kids.

## First Grade News



Second Grade Mathematicians!

This has been an exciting six weeks in First Grade! Our first graders are blossoming just like the flowers are this spring! We are so proud of all of their hard work! In Language Arts we have seen blossoming readers and writers. This six weeks we have learned all about U.S. Symbols and Texas in Social Studies. In Science, students experimented with forces. Our first graders have become such mathematicians! Students had to take inventory in our classrooms. They worked to organize in groups by skip counting, then specifically on groups of ten. The concept of place value is developed as the students pack objects into ten and study patterns. We also ended the six weeks by celebrating spring with a bunny bag hunt!



Bunny Bag Hunt!

## Second Grade News



Human Sundials!

Deep in the heart of Texas our second graders have deepened their knowledge of our history. They created fact books about Texas including information on the State Capitol, Sam Houston, Big Tex, Battleship Texas, and the Alamo. We also included “Not So Famous State Symbols” in our fact books.

Shortly after our study of clouds and the water cycle this six weeks we experienced the strong storms that blew through our community. Texas storms always seem to give us real life experiences when it comes to weather! The students enjoyed using their body as a sundial outside. They worked together to trace shadows of their body at different times throughout the day. They were able to see how the sun creates shadows, which connect to time.

## Third Grade News



Third grade enjoys learning Spanish!

This has been our busiest six weeks yet! We have worked on test taking skills for our upcoming STAARS test and the students are ready to take on the test! Students have been rewarded for their hard work by earning special privileges including extra recess, no homework passes and one of their favorites, lunch with Mrs. Embry and Mrs. Blackwell! We have also read a novel called Harriet's Hare and learned the differences between rabbits and hares. For a fun math review students solved word problems hidden in Easter eggs. The person who solved the most problems received a special Easter treat. It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and our third graders will be moving on to fourth grade!



Officer Hall visits with third grade.

## Fourth Grade News

Fourth graders know their math skills. Most of our fourth grade students are "Multiplication Masters" and fluent with their facts! Students have enjoyed math this six weeks with stations, teacher table work, and Study Island on the computer. Many students ASKED to come to LEAP tutoring after school! Wow...that makes me smile knowing they love math and learning. I'm so proud of the mature decision of students that chose to work hard!

In Science there were many questions with weather patterns on hurricanes and tornadoes. Students are so intrigued when it's something in the present that can affect us all. The local tornadoes even came very close to our area while we were in this unit of study! I'm a little sad to see only one more six weeks with this group of students. Just remember the year is not over and expectations are high as we continue to prepare for 5th grade.

Love,  
Mrs. Fleeman



Mrs. Fleeman's class says thank you to our wonderful PTV.



PTV officers award grant money to fourth grade.

## Fifth Grade News - Math-Reading-Science

This past six weeks was very busy for the 5th graders in math. We worked very hard learning our skills and taking the new STAAR test. We have covered many skills this year and all the students worked very hard on the actual test. I was very proud of the way they worked. I know they all did their best. Our year isn't over yet! We will continue to work on perfecting our division skills, and knowing our multiplication facts. Now we will have time to work on some projects.

In reading class it has been just as busy. We took the new STAAR reading test. Some of the skills we covered and worked on this past six weeks were; fact & opinion, analogies, suffixes, understanding characters, idioms, sequence of events, and synonyms. I know that the students also did their very best on the reading test. This last six weeks will fly by very quickly.



Mrs. Foster's students are working on a symmetry project.



Fifth grade students enjoy reading together.

# The Counselor's Corner



The Counselor's Corner

-By Elizabeth Adkins

This school year has flown by and summer will be here soon. I would like to encourage you to enjoy every minute of the summer with your wonderful children. They grow up much too fast.

The DFW metroplex offers so many fun and educational activities for families. Both the Meadows Library in Midlothian and the Nicholas P. Sims Library in Waxahachie have excellent summer reading programs that provide students reading incentives and offer family-friendly presentations each week. Specific information will be available on both library websites in May.

Another way to encourage summer reading is to log on to [www.tumblebooks.com/library](http://www.tumblebooks.com/library). The username is: jrirvin. The password is: books. Tumblebooks is an online collection of animated, talking picture books which teach young children the joys of reading in a fun format. It is for reading levels K-5th. Your child will have so much fun, they won't even know it is educational.

The Dallas Museum of Art is always free for children 12 and younger and the Nasher Sculpture Center offers free admission to all and special children's activities every first Saturday of each month. If you're wanting a day trip, you might consider driving down to the Mayborn Museum on the Baylor University Campus in Waco. It has many excellent exhibits for children and adults.

# Nurse's Corner

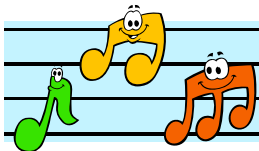


Nurse's Corner By: Brandy Kemp, school nurse

\*\*\*With summer approaching it is important to remember water safety. Also, DON'T FORGET YOUR SUNSCREEN!! This will be my last week as the school nurse at JR Irvin. My family and I are relocating to the hill country. I will miss everyone! Thank you for allowing me to serve as the school nurse!

Brandy Kemp  
School Nurse  
972-775-8239

# Music Corner



## Music Corner

Upcoming Program Dates:

5th Grade - May 10th (Thursday) 7:00 P.M.--- "Destination Rock'N'Roll"

# Library News



Thank you!!!

to YOU who volunteered countless hours at the Book Fair.  
to YOU who prepared, cooked and brought for the Mom's  
Breakfast. (WOW!)

to YOU who came late and hosted during the Kindergarten  
program.

and to YOU who purchased books to gift into your children's  
passion for reading!

Your help  
made it a success.

You all make this a great library  
to be a part of.



Mrs. Timmerman



# Fun Times at Irvin...



Mrs. Embry presents the student council candidates.



Mrs. Fleeman's fourth grade class says thank you to our wonderful PTV.



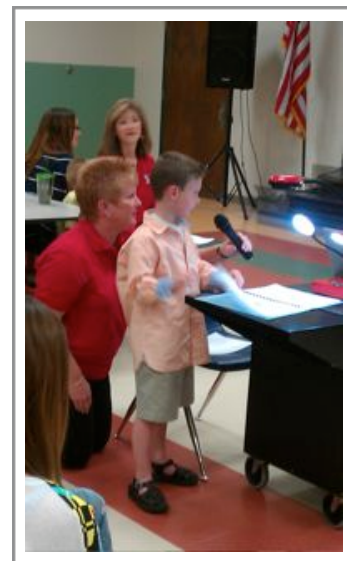
Irvin students enjoy reading.



Our parent volunteers are wonderful!



Irvin's cute little "BUGZs".



Literacy Night was a success!