

Buzzin' in the Hive

APRIL - 2017



From the Principal...

Dear Graden Families:

First things first, a big thank you to Blake and Kelli Pryor, who organized the Read-a-Thon, and to all our families who generously donated to this fundraiser, this was a HUGE success! More details will be forthcoming from the PTA regarding specific details on celebrations and allocation of monies. Thank you for attending our student-led conferences in March, 525 of our families were in attendance.

Believe it or not, this is the time of year we begin planning for next school year. One item on the 2017-2018 transition check list is creating class lists. Due to the importance of this process, I would like to take this opportunity to provide parents information about how this process works. **Parents wanting to provide class placement input should request a parent input form from the office prior to May 1, indicating their child's learning style and description/ characteristics of their child's personality. PLEASE refrain from asking for a teacher by name.** A great deal of time and energy is put forth in creating classes to best meet the instructional needs of all children. This process involves equalizing ability, gender, student personalities, and learning styles.

We are fortunate at Graden to have quality staff members at all grade levels. Once class lists are given to staff and teacher assignments are finalized, it will be nearly impossible to make changes. Now is the time to provide information about your child's placement for 2017-2018. Due to the uncertainty of staffing patterns and growth issues, class assignments will be mailed to you the first part of August. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. If your child **WILL NOT** be returning to Graden for the 2017-2018 school year, please let your classroom teacher know and give the office a call (359-4340).

Remember that April and the beginning of May are important and busy months of testing for all Graden students except for our kindergartners. We appreciate your help and encouragement during these assessment times. The general suggestions we make to our families during testing weeks include the following: make every effort to see that your child gets a good night's sleep, make sure your child is on time for school, let your child know that you believe in his/her outstanding abilities, and that you know he/she will put forth their best effort each day. As always, continue the structured, calm environment at home. Our goal is to have 100% of our students on time and at school each and every day.

Park Hill's summer school will provide transportation and a full-day program for Pre - kindergarten through fifth grade. Packets for enrollment were mailed to homes on Friday, March 31. You can also visit the district website at

www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to download your enrollment form and learn more about summer school.

This year GRADEN students will attend summer school at UNION CHAPEL. Enrollment forms will need to be completed and returned to the Graden office in order for your child to attend summer school. There is no fee for summer school and bus transportation will be provided, see important dates below.

IMPORTANT SUMMER SCHOOL DATES:

March 31 – Packets mailed to homes

May 12 – Enrollment forms due to Graden in order to secure busing

May 31 – Summer school begins for Graden at Union Chapel (8:40 – 3:40 pm)

June 30 – Last day of summer school

Be proactive enroll now for summer school.

We are looking forward to hosting our Annual Science Fair in conjunction with our spring Book Fair on Thursday, April 6.

Raising independent thinkers and good problem solvers is a goal we all have for our children. We need to take advantage of any opportunity we have to help teach or strengthen those skills. The Science Fair is a great opportunity to achieve this and has been an annual tradition at Graden Elementary for many years. We hope to see you on Thursday, April 6 from 5:30 – 7 pm for this event.

The annual **Graden Art Fair will take place on Wednesday, April 19 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.** There will be art activities for families to participate in, a silent auction and of course, art work will be displayed throughout the school from all Graden artists. This is another fun-filled family event you won't want to miss.

There is a change regarding Take Your Child to Work Day. The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education language regarding attendance states, "Students must be in attendance in an instructional capacity under the direct supervision of a certificated employee of the district to be counted for attendance purposes." Therefore, if students are absent, for part or all of the day, on Take Your Child To Work Day (Thursday, April 28th), they would be counted as absent for the time they are not in school, and be required to make up the work they missed while they were absent. In the past, a letter has been sent home with all students stating that if they completed a signed form and reflection activity, they would be counted as present. This will not be the case moving forward. Please let me know if you have any questions.

It's a great day to be a hornet!

With hornet pride and appreciation,
Dr. LuAnn Halverstadt, Graden Principal

Mark Your Calendars – Graden's Testing Schedule

| Grade Level | Testing Dates | Testing Time |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 st and 2 nd grades | April 10, 11, and 12 | 9 – 11:15 am |
| 3 rd grade | April 18, 19, 20, and 21 | 8:50 – 10:30 am |
| 4 th grade | April 25 and 26 ; May 2 and 3 | 8:50 – 10:30 am |
| 5 th grade | April 24, 25, 26; May 1, 2, 3, and 4 | 10:30 am – 12:00 pm |

Art Room Update

The Graden Art Show will be held from 5:30-7pm on Wednesday, April 19th. All students will have ONE piece of framed artwork on display in the gym. The frames will be available for purchase, but artwork will be returned regardless. The artwork to be framed includes: **5th grade Animal Prints, 4th Grade Crystals and Gemstones, 3rd Grade Architecture Paintings, 2nd Grade Monochromatic Pigeons, 1st Grade Donut Prints, Kindergarten Texture Sheep OR Kandinsky sheep.**



Frames can be purchased with **CASH OR CHECK ONLY** for \$25 each.

During the Graden art show, there will be a silent auction with one collaborative art piece from each class. The proceeds will benefit the art room.

Some students may have additional work in the hallways. Look for a flyer the week before the art show that will indicate which piece(s) to look for.

Some students will have work that is displayed in the Park Hill District Arts Festival. The district art festival will be held on April 29th and 30th at Park Hill South High School. These students will be notified prior to the Arts Festival.

Future Kindergarteners

By Katie Hawkins and Maggie Steitz



Graden Elementary Leaders will be receiving 63 or more kindergarteners. It is amazing that new people are going to join our school! We

better be great role models. Being a role model means being kind, helpful, and respectful. Make sure if you see a new kindergartener struggling to try to lift their spirits.

Spencer Hawkins is one of those 63 new hornets. He has gone to at least 2 kindergarten round-ups and is already excited to join the Graden team. "Mrs. Bowser sounds really nice," He said. Spencer is also very excited about the school. "I like this school because the learning is great." Well, there is a lot for him to learn.

Miss Robeson, a kindergarten teacher, is also very excited for the new hornets. "I am so excited because the kids are future hornets and future leaders. New hornet leaders are always learning

something new!!" They are learning something new because you are there for them, Miss Robeson. Thank you for being there! Her siblings have students coming to Graden, "I am excited for them and Spencer. I would also love anyone who wants to be in my class." Miss. Robeson also has big thoughts on these new leaders. "I am looking forward to learning with the kindergarteners and having fun. Most importantly getting to know them for example, what they like. Looking forward to getting to know their families and see what is unique about each of them." That is very sweet.

We have learned that kindergarten is not scary at all. It is a great experience for everyone. Everyone is excited for the new hornets to join the hive. Everyone has experienced going into a new school, it is scary for everyone so... be kind!



Science Fair

By Greta Bowman and Peyton Shaw



Are you someone who loves experiments? If so you will love the science fair which lets you put your imagination and science skills to the

test. Every year at Graden students can make and create a science fair board and project.

Many people see the science fair in many different ways. We were wanting to find out what different staff members thought about the science fair so we asked our amazing assistant principal Mrs. Ward to see what she thought about the science fair. She responded by saying, "science is such an exciting subject to study. Sometimes students like other areas of science than what they are studying in class. I think the science fair is an important event to give students an opportunity to explore areas of science that are interesting to them and design experiments on their own."

She also said, "I think the science fair is a great way for students to dig into topics that interest them and challenge their thinking. It is a great way to apply knowledge and inquiry processes that are learned in class in order to stretch students' minds. The inquiry process is a great model to think through problems and explore solutions to problems in a fun way. I always look forward to seeing all the wonderful thinking from students of all ages at the science fair."

In the science fair, you can show your contraption-making skills by making a unique science fair project! In the science fair, everyone's a winner! No competition, just winners! Be sure to participate!

As you can see there are many great things about the science fair! Remember to mark your calendar for April 6 because that's when the science fair is! We hope to see many hornets putting their science skills to the test!

Interest Group Assemblies

By Carson Blackburn and Isabel Littlejohn

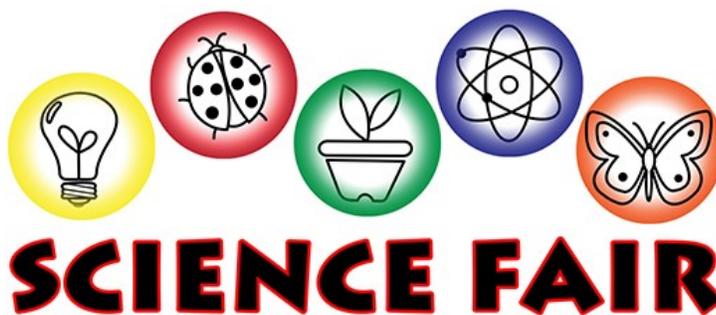


What was your favorite interest group assembly? We interviewed Grace Blackburn a first grader in Mrs. Teson's class and Joey Luken a third grader from

Ms. Berka's classroom for this article. Grace and Joey said, "I really liked the science assemblies". Grace claimed "I really like to watch the assemblies." Joey said, "interest group assemblies are interesting to him."

What do you want to be the next interest group? Grace said, "I want art as the next interest group assembly." Joey claimed, "I would like to have our next interest group assembly to be history." So far we have had a Science, Music, facts about Russia and more. Both Grace and Joey said, "we want to keep the interest group assemblies because they are fun and interesting to watch."

Kids at Graden Elementary love our interest group assemblies and our interest groups. Kids at Graden want to keep our interest assemblies and interest groups so that they can learn facts and experience new things. The interest group assemblies inspire students to find things they love to do.



Testing

By Sydney McMachen and Isabella Murillo



Every parent knows that their kids test at the end of the year but do you know what kind? At Graden Elementary School, different grades do different tests. But

let's talk about the fine line between them.

At Graden Elementary, kindergarten gets off easy without testing. First grade is where it all begins. When you are in first grade you do one test split into the period of 3 days so you do it over the course of about half of a week. Mrs. Luebbert a first grade teacher talked to Buzzin' in the Hive and said, "Before they know how everything's going to go I think they are a little nervous just because it's new to them."

Mrs. Luebbert also added, "Considering they have never done it before they do pretty well for the most part, they understand they need to be quiet and stuff like that. The last day of testing is probably the hardest, just because they get tired." Mrs. Luebbert had some great points. If your child is in first grade or second, they will be taking the shorter test over the course of 3 days. When your child gets to third grade it gets a tiny bit harder, you have to do the MAP test. The MAP test is a little longer than the Terranova test it's also a different subject. Third graders do testing over a period of about a week or two just to give some spacing. We talked to Henry Dodson, a third grader in Mrs. Vernon's class, about what he thought. Henry said "I feel nervous about testing for the first time because I did not like the other testing. The other test was easy but I think it's just because I was prepared." he told Buzzin' in the Hive. "I just think the MAP test will be harder to understand." We hope you do great on your test.

Do you think you're ready for your child to test you about testing? Good luck to all students. We're sure they will all do great, have fun!!





SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

To make sure transportation is available for your child, please complete and return the enrollment form to your school office by Friday, May 12.



Sonic's High Five Club April Recognition

Reinforcing personal development and leadership - that is what Sonic's "High Five" Club is all about. The High Five Program was introduced in December 2012 to recognize personal development and leadership. Students who are selected each month will receive a certificate which they can redeem at the 63rd Street Sonic location in Parkville, Missouri for a free ice cream



cone. A "High Five" handprint with the child's name will be displayed on the wall inside Graden Elementary. At the end of each month, the High Five Hands are taken down and replaced with the High Five hands honoring students for the next month. The hands are then put up on a special bulletin board at Graden Elementary and remain up until the end of the school year. This list recognizes all students who received High Fives between March and April of the 2016-2017 school year. Please join us in congratulating all of the members of the Sonic High Five Club! Great job students!

Kindergarten

Spencer Campbell
Teddy Havelka
CJ McDonald
Kinsley Sutherland

1st grade

Maci Blake
Jace Jarvis-Hickey
Nora Swanson
Saofetalai Tuula
Daisy Williams

2nd grade

Griffin Cramer
Olivia Davies
Adisyn Rice
Taylor Shoopman

3rd grade

Stella Catlin
Gigi Isenberger
Jordan Ostling
Alex Rodriguez

4th grade

Jaxson Clark
Caleb Elton
Sydney Martin
Matthew Ringo

5th grade

Michael Good
Cohen Rich
Tierra Robison
Jorge Rodriguez



Graden at a Glance



April Calendar of Events

- 3 3rd & 4th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 3 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 3 Young Rembrandts, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 4 5th Grade Choir, Music Room (7:45AM)
- 4 5th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 4 Bricks 4 Kidz, Room 4 (3:30PM)
- 4 Mad Science, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 4 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 5 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 6 Science Fair Presentations for Students, Gym (10AM)
- 6 J-Club, Room 18 (3:30PM)
- 6 Science Fair Presentations for Families, Gym (5-7PM)
- 6 Book Fair for Families, Cafeteria (5-7PM)
- 7 Chess Club, Library (3:30PM)
- 7 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 7 PTA Mercury Gymnastics Night, Mercury Gymnastics (6:30-8PM)
- 10 Terra Nova Testing - 1st & 2nd Grade
- 10 3rd & 4th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 10 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 10 Young Rembrandts, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 11 Terra Nova Testing - 1st & 2nd Grade
- 11 5th Grade Choir, Music Room (7:45AM)
- 11 5th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 11 Bricks 4 Kidz, Library (3:30PM)

- 11 Mad Science Club, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 11 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 11 PTA Night at Culver's, Culver's (5-8PM)
- 12 Terra Nova Testing - 1st & 2nd Grade
- 12 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 13 **EARLY RELEASE DAY - DISMISSAL AT 1:30PM**
- 13 Early Release Chess Club Camp, Room 4 (1:30PM)
- 13 PTA Meeting, Library (6:30PM)
- 14 Chess Club, Library (3:30PM)
- 14 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 14 Watchdogs Dodgeball Tournament, Lakeview Gym (6PM)
- 17 **NO SCHOOL**
- 18 5th Grade Choir, Music Room (7:45AM)
- 18 5th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 18 MAP Testing - 3rd grade (8:50AM)
- 18 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 18 Mad Science Club, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 18 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 19 MAP Testing - 3rd grade (8:50AM)
- 19 LifeTouch 5th Grade Graduation Portraits (9AM)
- 19 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 19 Art Show, Hallways (5:30-7PM)
- 20 4H's Meeting, Library (7:45AM)
- 20 MAP Testing - 3rd grade (8:50AM)
- 20 Kindergarten Field Trip to Kaleidoscope (9:30AM)

- 20 J-Club, Room 18 (3:30PM)
- 20 Student Lighthouse Meeting, Library (3:30PM)
- 21 MAP Testing - 3rd grade (8:50AM)
- 21 Chess Club, Library (3:30PM)
- 21 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 24 3rd & 4th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 24 MAP Testing - 5th grade (10:30AM)
- 24 Girls on the Run, Trail (3:30PM)
- 24 Young Rembrandts, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 25 5th Grade Choir, Music Room (7:45AM)
- 25 5th Grade Bridges (8:50AM)
- 25 MAP Testing - 4th grade (8:50AM)
- 25 MAP Testing - 5th grade (10:30AM)
- 25 Bricks 4 Kidz, Library (3:30PM)
- 25 Mad Science Club, Art Room (3:30PM)
- 25 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)
- 26 MAP Testing - 4th grade (8:50AM)
- 26 MAP Testing - 5th grade (10:30AM)
- 26 Girls on the Run, Trail (15:30)
- 27 J-Club, Room 18 (3:30PM)
- 27 4H's Play Unified Day at Graden, Gym & Playground (5:30PM)
- 28 Chess Club, Library (3:30PM)
- 28 Let Me Run, Trail (3:45PM)

April PTA Events

Friday, April 7th — Mercury Gymnastics Night from 6:30-8pm.

Only \$7 a child (does not have to be a Graden student), \$1 comes back to Graden.

Come to Culver's on Tuesday, April 11 from 5-8pm.

Come support Graden and our local supporters, 10% comes back to Graden!!!!

Thursday, April 13th - PTA Meeting 6:30pm, Graden Media Center.

All welcome, come meet your new Board Members: President(s) Erin Hladik & Jolayne Gorman, Secretary Juli Vaupell, Corresponding Secretary Tara Garcia, Treasurer Kim Luken, Fundraising The Pryors, Parliamentarian Shannon Windmeyer, and Teacher Representative Amy Baker.

**Calling all Talented Hornets...Talent Show forms are coming home!!
All Participation forms and music due April 21st.**

