

# Mt. Mahogany News for Rams & Ewes

Website: <http://mahogany.alpinedistrict.org>

## Principal's Message

November 2012

### 2012-13 School Trust land Plan

Our 2012-13 School Trust land plan is based on three specific reading goals. Our first goal is to continue to maintain or increase the number of students who score at proficiency levels (3 and 4) as reflected on the CRT assessment in grades third through sixth. This would be identified by a 2% - 3% increase as reported for each grade. It will also be identified by an increase in the number of UCAS points our school generates.

Our second goal is to see an increase of 10% in proficiency levels, as related to the DRA test (Direct Reading Assessment), with first and second grade students from fall 2012 to spring 2013. To help us achieve this goal we are utilizing "Double Dosing" opportunities for students who are in need of additional Tier 2 interventions.

The third goal is to provide professional development opportunities for teachers as related to reading and language arts

To help achieve these goals our Trust land funding for this year is being used to hire teaching assistants and fund professional opportunities for teachers.

### 2011-12 CRT and DRA Proficiency Percentiles

One of our academic goals last year was to increase the number of students who scored at proficiency levels on the CRT assessment in both reading and math in grades 4-6.

In language arts the 4th grade percentage remained at 76%, the fifth grade percentage increased from 73% to 76%, and the sixth grade percentage increased from 70% to 75%. Our overall percentage in language arts increased from 73% to 75%.

In math the fourth grade percentage remained at 77%, the fifth grade percentage increased from 75% to 77%, and the sixth grade percentage increased from 63% to 71%. Our overall percentage in math increased from 71% to 75%.

Our second academic goal was to increase proficiency levels as related to the DRA assessment in grades first through sixth. In first grade percentages increased from 67% to 77%, second grade percentages increased from 59% to 78%, third grade percentages increased from 65% to 83%, fourth grade percentages increased from 27% to 59%, fifth grade percentages increased from 16% to 34% and sixth grade percentages increased from 47% to 77%.

# 1st grade news

We have had a great time in first grade so far this year! We have been learning how to use reading strategies to become better readers, playing math games to understand number combinations, writing excellent stories, and learning all about how to be good citizens and friends. We have just started learning about the Scientific Method and have had a lot of fun doing experiments.

Please continue reading with your children at home. It really helps improve their reading they are practicing at home and school. Don't forget about RAZ Kids. This is a fun online reading program that children love using. Talk to your teacher if you have any questions about how to use it.

Also, the seasons are changing and the weather is getting quite cold. Please remind your children to wear warm clothes and shoes. Remember to write their names on coats and jackets. It's easy for things to get lost. Thank you for all you are doing at home to help your children succeed. We love teaching your children and know how important these first few years are.

Sincerely,

The First Grade Team

# 5th grade News

The Fifth grade has been harvesting the talents of our fifth graders. Each student has completed a final project on their U.S. map for Social Studies and many have taken their maps home.

We are completing a multiplication unit. This includes mastery of facts, utilizing the multiplication process to find answers to decimal multiplied by a decimal, and extending this knowledge to solve basic algebraic expressions.

All of our fifth grade teachers are completing their first Science rotations of Genetics, Physical & Chemical Change, Geology, and Electricity/Magnetism.

In Language Arts, our focus is on the writing process. Students have received instructions on using a graphic organizer to outline their paragraphs before typing them in the computer lab. This is a rigorous process which requires each student to write at least five paragraphs, which includes: a beginning (contains the main idea), three supporting paragraphs, and an ending.

Parents, teachers, and students are preparing for their annual grand opening of the Christmas Store on Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

# Kindergarten NEWS

Kindergarteners are working hard to have all their letters and letter sounds learned by the end of this month. Those students who are able to pass these off in November will receive a "turkey treat." (But if it takes a little longer, there will still be a reward for all that hard work!)

Our weather can't stay warm forever, so don't forget to send your children with a coat or jacket just in case.

Please continue reading with your children and helping them to develop of love of reading!

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade News

We have just finished learning all about Egypt, and are now on our way to Greece and Rome! Anciently speaking, of course. We will be learning all about the gods and goddesses and how the ancient Greeks used them to explain things they didn't understand, such as seasons and death, as well as how the Romans stole their ideas from the Greeks.

On Nov. 20, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take the school on a trip to Mars. Each 6<sup>th</sup> grade student, along with a group, will build their idea of a livable colony on Mars, making sure to supply all 100 colonists with the 6 needs of all living things: living space, food, water, gas exchange, correct temperature, and a place to use energy.

Now we are learning all about space, including the seasons, moon, sun, our solar system, the galaxy, and the universe. Whew!

Thank you for sharing your awesome 6<sup>th</sup> graders with us. It's shaping up to be a great year!

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Another successful Halloween has come and gone and the costumes were all crazy, scary, funny, and imaginative. Great Job!!! We would like to take a moment and thank all of the parents who helped in our classrooms, during the month of October, especially with the Halloween parties. We could not have enjoyed such wonderful events without your help.

This month we are continuing to learning about Utah History. The current focus is on Mountain Men and Explorers. We are work on Multiplication and Division in math. It would be helpful for students to be working on their multiplication facts at home.

Our first term is quickly coming to an end with the last day on November 16<sup>th</sup>. We want to remind our students to get their late work in so they can end up with the grade they are expecting.

We hope everyone has some fun plans for the Thanksgiving vacation, and **Happy Holidays** from the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers.

## Student Council

The Penny War was a Great Success!

A big thank you to Mt. Mahogany for collecting \$1,690.46 to donate to KSL's Quarters for Christmas to provide shoes for the needy in Utah. This is a HUGE, generous amount from our students and parents. The class that earned the most positive points and will receive a doughnut party, traveling trophy and poster is our now two time winner..... Mrs. Hillman's class. They earned +7648 points. Great Job!

The Canned Food Drive is Coming!

November 12-16 is our annual Canned Food Drive. Our goal is to beat our 2006 all time high of 4,316 cans. We are going to need your help so start cleaning out the cupboard. The food bank will take any canned or boxed food, peanut butter and baby food. They also love soups, bathroom supplies and cereal. Let's make this the BIGGEST drive EVER! Go Rams.

## 3rd grade news

Hooray for a fabulous group of third grade students this school year! We have been studying light, heat & how the earth's temperature changes throughout the year. The students experienced solar cooking by making delicious s'mores. They also learned that many caves have a constant temperature due to lack of exposure to the sun. Each student grew a charcoal coral which represented how fragile and individual cave coral is. As a culmination of this unit, the students hiked the 3 mile, round-trip trail to Timpanogos Cave last month. We appreciate all the parents who ventured with us to view the spectacular stalactites, helectites, soda straws and other magnificent formations.

To enrich our math and literature, October was filled with fun Halloween art, music, and factual creature stories. (Bats, spiders, & owls.) Thanks to all the parents who contributed to the terrific Halloween parties. Upcoming projects will include triple-digit addition and subtraction, Native American studies, and reader's theater.

## 2nd grade news

2nd Grade has been busy. On Oct. 17th we got to visit Hee Haw Farms. This was a fun field trip and we appreciate all the parent helpers. We have learned about our skeletons, bats and have recently had science rotations. In math we are working on geometry, double digit addition, money and time. We are also testing on quick math facts. Please support your child at home with their reading 20 minutes each night. Please record that your child read. We are looking forward to more learning fun as we learn about voting, celebrate Thanksgiving and we will learn about Christmas Around the World in December.

## BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



This year we have made a goal to reach **\$3,000** in Box Tops. So far we are off to a great start. In September we brought in 7,255. This number multiplied by .10 per Box Top equals \$725.50. We will be awarding each class that brings in 500 Box Tops with a mystery box full of fun and prizes. We already have several classes who are close to winning one of these boxes.

Help us meet our goal by turning in your Box Tops each week. Just cut out each box top and turn them in to your child's teacher. There are also new ways to earn boxtops online at [boxtops4education.com](http://boxtops4education.com) by watching video clips, playing games and entering drawings. Each Box Top you earn helps to raise money for educational programs and activities at our school. Thanks for your continuing support!

## PTA Notes

*Utah PTA will help every child realize his or her full potential and will advocate, involve, and develop.*

*The Mount Mahogany PTA would like to thank all those who helped with the SEP dinners, as well as giving each of our teachers an extra half hour lunch in connection with our membership drive. We have great parents and appreciate all you do to make our school great!*

*This year we are encouraging our students to read and participate in our Raise the Roof Reading program. Our goal as a school is to accumulate 8,000,000 minutes by adding up all of the minutes the students read. Chick-fil-A is sponsoring the reading program and awarding the students according to how many minutes they read each month. Check out the PTA section of the website for more up to date information as well as upcoming events.*

# October Student of the Month Recognition

Bella Naylor	Smith,L.	AK
DJ Anderson	Boyle	LD
Brooklyn Haskell	Bunting	K
Natalie Davis	Christensen	K
Hayden Savage	Spaulding	AM K
Dalin Winder	Spaulding	PM K
Lillyana Garcia	Christiansen	1
Daegan Sorensen	Glass	1
Katelynn Miller	Longenecker	1
Anna Hansgen-Medina	Nielsen	1
Michelle Vazquez	Pack	1
Will Lawyer	Smith V.	1
Kira Beck	Leavitt	2
Camille Ferguson	McClure	2
Mia Clegg	Olson	2
Addie Bedke	Valdez	2
Nicholas Bingham	Woolf	2
Brenden Keen	Kern	3
Rylr Olsen	Lawyer	3
Olivia Tonga	Lindley	3
Tanyan Witehira	VanWagenen	3
Zane Elkins	VanZant	3
Abby Powell	Briggs	4
Alejandra Madrigal	Church	4
Crysta Childress	Hillman	4
Jenna Walker	Crowton	5
Luisiana Martinez	Dominguez	5
Emily Warnick	Miner	5
Jazmin Jaime	Trafny	5/6
Brayden Anderson	Anderson	6
Lily Hirst	Frampton	6
Zacj May	Sumsion	6