

Mt. Mahogany News for Rams & Ewes

Website: <http://mountmahogany.alpineschools.org>

Principal's Message

November/December 2013

2013-14 School Trust land Plan

Our 2013-14 School trust land plan is based on three specific reading and language arts goals. Our first goal is to increase Direct Reading Assessment (DRA) proficiency levels by 7 - 10% for students in grades first through third from fall 2013 to spring 2014. To help achieve this goal the need for additional one-on-one learning opportunities for students is required. Teaching assistants have been hired to work with students in small groups.

Our second goal is to Increase Student Growth Percentages (SGP) in language arts for students in grades third through sixth from 40 to 45. To help reach this goal teaching assistants, under the direction of the regular classroom teacher, will use "Double Dosing" strategies to assist students who score below proficiency levels.

Also, to enhance our teaching assistants instructional skills, in-service was provided for them before school started in August.

Our third goal is to provide professional development opportunities for teachers as related to reading and language arts. Four teachers will be given the opportunity to attend the CITES conference this spring. The conference will provide opportunities for these teachers to enhance their reading and language arts instructional skills. All teachers will also have the opportunity to participate in other professional development activities throughout the year.

2012-13 Spring Test Results

Our CRT proficiency percentages from 2012-13 for students in grades 3 – 6 were: (1) language arts 76%, (2) math 78%, and (3) science 73%. From the previous year, our overall percentage in language arts increased from 73% to 75%, math increased from 73% to 78% and science remained at 73%.

We were also extremely pleased to see an increase of 24% in our 5th grade DWA proficiency percentage from the previous year. Also, our overall UCASS score increased from 387 points in the spring of 2012 to 414 points in the spring of 2013.

There were also increases in DRA benchmark percentages. First grade increased from 60% in the fall to 75% in the spring, second grade increased from 52% in the fall to 78% in the spring, third grade increased from 42% in the fall to 63% in the winter, 4th grade increased from 21% in the fall to 53% in the winter, fifth grade increased from 14% in the fall to 68% in the winter and sixth grade increased from 38% in the fall to 51% in the winter.

My thanks and appreciation to our group of outstanding teachers for their persistent and continuous efforts in helping our students learn and achieve from year to year.

Mr. Westover

6th 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 myths, 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. 21, the 6th graders will take the school on a trip to Mars. Each 6th 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 6th graders with us. It's shaping up to be a great year!

3rd grade news

Thank you to all the parents who helped with the Halloween parties! The kids really enjoyed the different activities you planned. To go with this time of year, we have learned about our skeletons and the names of our bones. We had a great field trip to the Clark Planetarium that introduced our moon unit. We are excited to expand our knowledge of the moon with some engaging activities in the classroom. The third grade would also like to thank the PTA for a successful Red Ribbon Week. We had a fun time participating in the activities each day to show our commitment to be drug free. We have started our multiplication unit which is a big part of third grade. Please help your child practice multiplication facts 0-10.

2nd grade news

The 2nd grade has gone batty! We have been studying bats the past few weeks. We've learned about where bats live, different species, echolocation and much more. We've also learned about our skeletons. We've also recently had our science rotations. Ask your child what they've learned in science. Also, remember to have your child read for 20 minutes each night.

4th grade news

WOW! It's hard to believe we've been in school for over two months. We are off to a great start, and everyone is getting into the fourth grade routine. We've been studying our great state in social studies and have learned about our state symbols, the geography, the first people of Utah, and have been gathering information for county reports. An especially fun project was making salt dough maps of Utah.

Math has been challenging in fourth grade, but by working hard we have steadily been improving our math skills, especially in multiplication.

We've already been on a field trip this year. We took a step back in history as we toured Camp Floyd/Stagecoach Inn Park. It was fun and educational experiencing being pony express riders, making candles and adobe bricks, participating in military drills, attending class in a one room school house, playing old-fashioned children's games, and touring the old army buildings.

We've been very busy these first two months, and there's much more to come! It's great to be in fourth grade!

Kindergarten News

This past month in kindergarten, we had a visit from Pleasant Grove City's firemen and paramedics. The children were able to be taught firsthand about fire safety from the experts.

Kindergarten students are working hard to earn a "pumpkin prize" as soon as they can pass off every letter along with its sound.

We are beginning sight words as well as simple addition. We are very proud of each student's hard work in these areas!

1st grade news

Things are going great in First Grade! We are working hard on doing our best every day. Our major focus right now is on reading. We hope you are taking advantage of the PTA Take-Home books that should be coming home daily. Please remember to initial the paper to let us know that you have listened to your child read the story. Otherwise, it will not be traded in for a new book.

Raz-Kids is also a great resource for your child to use at home. This program gives your child a variety of books to read on their reading level. If you need your child's Raz-Kids login information, please contact their teacher.

Starting in mid-November, we will be learning our songs and parts for the annual First Grade Christmas Program. Our program this year is, "The Night Before Christmas" by Clement C. Moore. Please mark your calendars for our performance the evening of Tuesday, December 17. More information will be coming soon.

PTA NOTES

•Fridays are school spirit days! School colors are maroon and dark green. Kids who wear school colors or a Mt. Mahogany shirt receive a small treat or prize at lunchtime.

•We still need several volunteers who can work mornings in the book room exchanging books for grades K-3. If you are willing to do this please contact Jill Davis (matandjill@gmail.com) or Janet Taylor (janettaylor175@gmail.com).

If you are already exchanging books and could give a little more time, or if you no longer have kids in lower grades but remember how valuable this program is, we would appreciate your help!

November PTA activities:

•**Reflections entries due** Tue. Nov. 5

•**Dads and Donuts** Thu. Nov. 7 **Track A 7:15-8:00 Track B 8:15-9:00**

•**Chick fil A Spirit Nights** Wed. Nov. 13 and Wed. Dec. 11, 5:00-8:00pm at the American Fork store.

Mrs. Lindley's class is the class to beat! They brought in the most revenue in September and October, and won two free in-class lunches with the Chick fil A cow. Remember, this is not a fundraiser for PTA; all money earned will be given to the school.