

From the Principal

August 27, 2007

The Grand Opening

Over the years, I have experienced many opening days. The opening of our school last Wednesday presented a very unique opportunity to observe a very high level of parental support and commitment to their children. Every classroom line was surrounded with enthusiastic parents wishing their children the best of luck for a terrific learning year.

That sentiment seemed to carry throughout the school day and the remainder of the week. In addition, the children also demonstrated a high level of participation and eagerness. Visits by our superintendent and assistant superintendent supported my classroom observations and conclusions.

It is obvious. Let us “bottle” this enthusiastic support and apply these feelings for the next 180 school days. As we all know, if your child recognizes that his mom and dad or guardian are behind their efforts 110%, the remaining job of learning is easy.

Making a Difference

Throughout the year I plan on spending a little time describing how Springer students are “making a difference” in real world events. Let me begin this year with two efforts that are now underway:

1. The students of Springer Elementary school were introduced to Principal T. Washington Kendrick from the James - Weldon Johnson Elementary School in New Orleans. Mrs. Kendrick and I have developed a partnership. Our first cooperative effort is to ask Springer students to donate one or more used children’s books to the donation box in front of the office. The request includes a short note written by our Springer students introducing themselves to their counterpart in New Orleans. The brief note would include first name only with room number. In return, children from the Johnson Elementary School will write to our Springer Students.

2. Now it is your turn. This year I would like to re - introduce a program entitled “Helping Hands”. This program is quite simple . I am seeking seniors or parents or upper grade children to donate one 30 minute period per week during lunchtime to read aloud to a first or second grade student. As I found from past experiences, the relationships established between the reader and the child are meaningful. Sharing a book offers incredible benefits. Just knowing there are caring folks makes a difference.

If interested, please email or call Connie Ingram. PLEASE INDICATE YOUR BEST DAY! I will be in touch to establish the time and location and to introduce you to the child.

Welcome

We have several new staff members on board:

Mrs. Melanie deMonet joins our staff in Room 4. Melanie is leading a new second grade class. She transferred to Springer after serving two years as a primary teacher at Santa Rita

Elementary School. I have known Melanie for about two years. When I learned she was interested in moving to Grade Two, I immediately contacted her. Melanie will be a contributing member to our second grade team. I also feel she will lead a very enthusiastic learning program.

Mr. Doug Core joins our fourth grade staff in Room 9. Mr. Core recently completed his credential program and is ready to launch his career in education. I first met Doug 12 years ago when he began the successful position of Technology Instructional Specialist at Springer. Doug has the skills to connect with children. He also taught accelerated math in Grade Five for a number of years. Mr. Core will bring additional strength to a terrific fourth grade team.

Mrs. Linda Ripley Smith joins our office staff on a part time basis. She will be assisting Connie in serving the students and parents who visit the office from time to time. Also, Linda is responsible for managing the school budget and all materials ordering for staff.

A super Springer welcome to our new staff members.