



— SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL —

**COYOTE CLASSIFIED**



NOVEMBER 2017

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

**A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL...**

*October has proved to be a very busy month here at Southwest! Our 4th grade volleyball season came to a close with a student/parent scrimmage game followed by refreshments. Fun was certainly had by all!*

*It was wonderful getting to see so many familiar faces at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Thank you for your constant support and your willingness to partner with us to provide your student with the best education possible.*

*Thank you to our PTA for running the Book Fair the week of Parent/Teacher Conferences. Profit from our book fair provided books for every classroom teacher's library. Students were excited to get ahold of the new books and begin reading!*

*Our Family Reading Night was a huge success. We had over 100 families in attendance and are proud to say every Southwest student went home with a brand new book! Thank you to the Southwest staff for spending the evening working with our Southwest families at our annual Reading Night.*

**Thank you for your contribution to our education:**

Southwest PTA-Book Fair Books

Forrest Glenn- Outdoor School

Southwest PTA- P/T Conference Dinner

Mr. Penrod- Hayride Driver

Pet Supplies Plus- Guest Speaker

Col. Gaffney-Guest Speaker

- 11/1 PK-4 Read-A-Thon
- 11/2 PK-4 Family Skate Night at Illini Skate Land 6-8 PM
- 11/8 Early Out 1:30 K-4 Extra Recess 50¢ PK-4 Family Council Meeting followed by PTA meeting 5:15PM @ SW Cafeteria
- 11/14 K-1st Polar Express 11 AM @ Civic Center
- 11/15 Progress Reports go home BOE Meeting 6:30 pm @ JB
- 11/17 Student Birthday Celebrations
- 11/22 Early Out 1:30 K-4 Water w/flavor 50¢ PBIS Fear Factor
- 11/23 No School PK-4th
- 11/24 No School PK-4th
- 11/30 Picture Retakes (Uniform Required)

The Preschool classrooms have had a busy October! We started the month with a field trip to St. James Pumpkin Patch, where everyone got to choose their very own pumpkin! Some of this month's classroom themes and projects have included learning about fall, seasons, apples, pumpkins, fire safety, pets, mixing colors, and buildings. We will end our busy month with a hayrack ride and fall fun activities as we continue to learn about following rules and being good learners! Thank you to all of the families who met with the teachers during Parent/Teacher conferences. We had one of our bigger turn-outs since moving to Southwest! Hopefully you were able to see the wonderful fall classroom doors! Our wait list is growing, so if you know someone who would be interested in getting their 3 or 4 year old into the program, encourage them to call 444-3266 to get signed up for the next screening!



Mrs. Swinson's Class at the St. James Pumpkin Patch fields trip.

## KINDERGARTEN

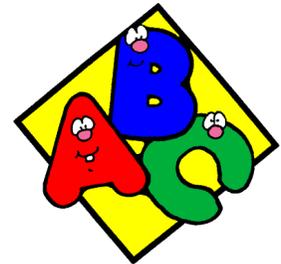
Kindergarten is happening!

We would first like to thank all the parents who attended the Parent/Teacher conferences. We had a great turnout! Please continue to work on the skills that were discussed at conferences. The basic skills are the foundation of great students.

Congratulations to Ms. Wallis's classroom! They won our shoe tying contest! Don't forget to work on tying those shoes.

The Kindergarten classes will begin a new class contest this month. Our new contest is identifying all 26 letters of the alphabet, both capital and lowercase and their sound.

Thank you for your support and dedication to your child's education!



## FIRST GRADE

**We are incredibly excited about our Read-A-Thon! Teachers will be dressed as special book characters on November 1st, reading some of our favorite books! Remember, sign-up to be a special guest reader in our rooms. Our students will LOVE it! During November we will be working on math fact fluency, including our doubles facts and problem solving. In reading, we will study characters, setting and plot. Lastly, don't forget to join us on Wednesday, November 8, @ 5:15 PM for our Family Council meeting followed by our PTA meeting.**

## Second Grade

Thank you to all the families for attending conferences. We enjoyed meeting and talking with you about your child. Please encourage your students to work on comprehension while they are reading AR books. November 1st is our Read-A-Thon. Your student is able to wear their pajamas this day and we will be doing a lot of reading and reading activities. We would also like to congratulate Miss Strebing. She recently got married and is now Mrs. Roach!

### Third Grade

Third graders have been busy this month! At the beginning of October we welcomed Susie Willard, the “Ag Lady”, to our classroom. She taught us about corn and we actually dissected a kernel of corn. She will return in November for a lesson about cranberries. The students really enjoy her lessons and activities. In reading, we are studying and analyzing fables. We will soon become authors and write our own fables! In math, we are learning strategies for all the multiplication facts. Students should be practicing their facts at home. Try out xtramath.com; it is a great resource! All 3rd grade students have an account and password, and can be accessed from home. It was great to see so many parents at conference time! Thanks for all you do at home!

### Fourth Grade

**Fourth grade really enjoyed outdoor school and learning about our natural habitat and resources in Vermilion County.**

**We have moved on to multiplication in math. We will be multiplying multi-digit numbers and then moving into division. Students need to practice their multiplication facts at home.**

### Attendance Counts

With attendance being one of our goals for the year, it is imperative for students to be here everyday and on time. Classrooms with the best attendance record for the month are awarded with a special classroom party. Mrs. Lehman's class received a Donut Party for the month of September and we have a very tight race for the month of October. The class with the most perfect attendance days will earn a S'mores Party!!

### VERMILION COUNTY HOME VISITING

Did you know that there are free home visiting services throughout Vermilion County?

The H.O.M.E. Hands On Meaningful Experiences Program provides home visiting services that offer family-focused services to expectant parents and families with children up to age 3 who reside in District 118. Brandye Kizer and Debbie Plush, Parent Educators offer information about what a child should be doing at each developmental stage, help families to locate needed resources, fun family events, education, support, and free books! In addition to personal home visits and group connections, our Family Store helps supply baby items and household products for H.O.M.E. participants. If you are interested in home visiting services, or even learning more about them, please

**call Niah at (217) 483-BABY (2229).**



## A Note from Ms. Wilt, School Social Worker

### Reconnecting with your Children

Sometimes parenthood can feel very stressful or overwhelming. This is especially true during holidays or after big transitions such as the start of the school year. During these times it may help to “reconnect” with your children, which can be beneficial in changing your perspective about child-rearing. Here are some tips to assist:

- Spend quality time with your children doing some sort of interactive activity such as playing a board game, going outside and playing (go Trick or Treating!) or just have conversation with them. Maybe even plan a special date night with your child!
- Ponder your child’s positive attributes and tell him or her what those attributes are and how proud you are to be his or her parent
- Look at your child when they are not looking at you, such as when they are watching television or sleeping, and let your heart feel the love and care you have for them

Remember, even the tough times pass, and it is important to continuously work on our parent-child relationships.

## Congratulations to our August, September, and October AR Winners!

August/September	October
1st Grade: Todd Herring, Kalyssa McCollum, Sophia Wright	1st Grade: Kaleb Robinson, Elijah Potts, Emily Mikel
2nd Grade: Demauri Thigpen, Emma Cosat, Hunter LaGrand	2nd Grade: Amiel Bryant, Mary Pendleton, Payton Heroux
3rd Grade: Jontaya Glover, Jack Jones	3rd Grade: Alexis Pollard, Sakiya Mitchell
4th Grade: Alexious Moorman, Haydyn Hall	4th Grade: Gavin Fauver, Anna Evans

## AVID

This past month, Southwest teachers have introduced the organizational note-taking strategy of two and three column notes. This strategy helps students take notes and format them in two or three columns to support synthesis of information, meaningful connections, and retention of concepts. Please ask your child what important information they have taken from class and placed in this two/three column note format. As always, please encourage your child to be the best AVID student they can be!

**A**lways prepared, **V**ery respectful, **I**ntentionally safe, **D**etermined and responsible