



FEBRUARY 2012

PUMA PRIDE

Dear Sunny Pointe Families,

Now that we have started the second semester, we are coming into the home stretch of the school year. This is an important time for our students and the learning that is going on in the classroom. We stress the importance of students being here on time and ready to learn. Please help us ensure the children are learning everything they need to by having them here at school on time every day. We set the goal of having over 97 percent of all of our SPE students at school every day. Thanks for your help in making their attendance a priority.

The dates for kindergarten enrollment for the 2012-13 school year are April 30th and May 1st. Please visit our district website to make sure that you have all of the appropriate paperwork. We look forward to meeting our new kindergarten students who will begin school in the 2012-13 year. Please pass these dates along to anyone that might have a kindergartener starting next school year at SPE.

Also don't forget that we have a full day of school on February 21st. This is different than what was on the original district calendar. If you recall, the Blue Springs School District hosted the state soccer championships last November. We missed a day of school during this time and it was rescheduled for February 21st.

I look forward to seeing you at our next school event.

Sincerely,

Nick Goos

Important Dates

Feb 6 - PTA Skate Night

Feb 8 - Papa John's Night

Feb 10 - Spirit/Popcorn Day

Feb 14 - Valentine's Parties

Feb 20 - No School

Feb 21 - School is in session

Blue Springs School District cold
weather guidelines are:

*Elementary students will go outside
unless the temperature, including wind
chill drops below 20 degrees Fahrenheit.*



Dear Parents-

Sunny Pointe PTA wants to let you know that the school Valentine party will be held February 14, 2012. You should already have received information and volunteer sign-up forms to donate goodies and/or volunteer your time during that day. Please return those forms as soon as possible if you have not already done so. We appreciate all of your help!!



Music News

I am so glad to be back at Sunny Pointe after a few weeks of being gone for a back surgery! Your kids have welcomed me back and made me super thankful for them and very excited to be up and teaching again!

February has some big events coming up in the music room for our older grade levels! Fourth grade will be performing "Show Me Missouri!" on February 9th at 7:00 in the gym. Also, ROCK AND ROLL CHOIR will be starting on February 16th for 4th and 5th graders. We will be singing some Elvis, Van Halen, and Beatles music, plus others! Please watch for information and send back the permission form by February 9th if your 4th or 5th grader would like to sing!

2nd grade students have been learning about the Symphony to prepare for a field trip coming up in February. We have been using the San Francisco Symphony for Kids website to learn about the instruments: <http://www.sfskids.org/> Encourage your kids to check it out at home! www.classicsforkids.com is another kid friendly fun website to learn all about classical composers and instruments.

Upcoming Music Events:

Thursday, February 9th – 4th grade program

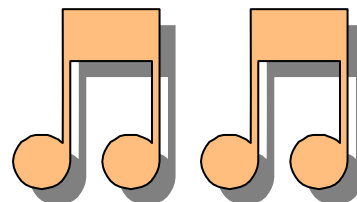
Thursday, February 16th – Choir begins, every Thursday, 4:00-5:00

Friday, March 2nd – Choir students sing the National Anthem at the Mavericks Game

Thursday, March 8th – 1st grade program

Thursday, April 12 – Kindergarten program

Tuesday, May 8th – Choir Concert, 7:00 PM





What's going on in 5th Grade?

By Nathan Andrade

In 5th grade we are doing a ton of practice for the very important MAP test!

In Communication Arts we've taken three practice MAP tests. We have been studying all kinds of stuff, including: grammar, spelling, and punctuation. We have also been working on our reading and inferring skills. We even got to make our very own MAP Superhero Folder telling us what we can do to ZAP THE MAP!

In science we have taken one MAP practice test. We also have been learning all about the steps of the water cycle and how to write great science constructed responses.

In math we have a lot of homework sometimes. But Mr. Hall's preparing us to do well on the MAP. A while ago we even made a motivational video to pump us up for the MAP.

All of us 5th graders love Miss Edwards, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Krikorian, and Mrs. Gehrs.



Outreach International Club



Kumusta kayo SPE!!!

SPE's 4th and 5th grade Outreach Club is raising money to build a school in the Philippines. Together with 5 other schools in the area, we need to raise \$6,000 by the end of the school year. Our focus is studying the world around us and learning about how, "Small change can make BIG change".

You can help by:

- donating money and change (collection cans in classrooms)
- asking for business donations
- collecting donations at work, church, etc. (we can provide the collection containers)
- watching for and contributing to club SPE fund raisers events

If you have any questions or need collecting containers, please email Tani Miller at: tmiller@bssd.net

Hopefully, our SPE students will learn more about the amazing world we live in, as well as, recognize that together, small positive actions can make BIG changes for others.



February is dental health month! For the first 12 years of life the biggest changes to your child's mouth revolve around getting and losing baby teeth and watching permanent teeth come in. Baby teeth only last a few years, but they are still very important. Most importantly they shape the mouth, giving permanent teeth a pattern to follow. If baby teeth come out too early due to poor oral care, the permanent teeth are likely to overlap each other or grow in the wrong direction. To help protect your children's teeth from decay, it's good to limit how much sugar they have and how often they have it. To give their teeth the best start in life, you might want to steer clear of cookies, cake, and sugary drinks on all but the most special of occasions.

It is never too early to begin good oral hygiene habits. Encourage your children to brush their teeth twice every day for at least 2 minutes. A great way to help kids time this is by telling them to slowly recite the ABC's in their head while brushing. Fluoride toothpastes are also important because they can help prevent a hole from forming in the tooth by replacing lost minerals in the enamel.



February's breakfast is in celebration of Valentine's Day! Simply take a can of store bought cinnamon rolls, unroll them and form them in the pan in the shape of hearts. While they're baking, add a few drops of red food coloring to the packet of icing and stir. Once the cinnamon rolls are cooked, drizzle the red icing over the top of them. This is an easy, fun way to say "Happy Valentine's Day!" while ensuring that your children start their morning right – with full bellies!

3rd Graders have fun working in the Economic Chain!

Miss Barry's third grade class had a fabulous trip to the School of Economics! After many weeks of hard work and preparation, the kids were eager to put their skills to work! The exciting day started with a production period in their designated shops. Kaylyn Smith, who worked in the Dirt Cup Shop said "my favorite part was making food! I got to crush oreos and mix it with pudding!" Andrew Smith, who worked as banker told me "I liked getting all the money set up and trying to get people to buy raffle tickets."

After producing many goods, we eagerly greeted the first graders, and SHOPPING BEGAN! From producers to consumers, the kids got to experience both sides of the economic chain! Alix Jones, who worked in the Jars and Bookmarks Shop said "I loved the shopping period because my mom got to go with me." Eli Wingert also thought shopping was a blast and stated "It was fun to shop because I had to make careful decisions about how to spend my money!"

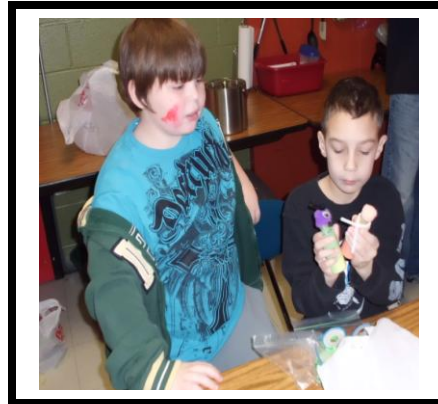
It was back to work for the third graders when it was time to clean up. Working together with their shop, they were busy doing dishes, sweeping, counting money, and closing down their business. After final evaluations and a fun raffle, the kids used their profit tickets in an auction! To sum up our trip to the School of Economics, the students shouted one word....*FANTASTIC!!*

The School of Economics is the Best Field Trip Ever

By: Miss Bartolotta's Class

Cha-ching! Have you ever been to the School of Economics? The School of Economics is a place where you learn about economics by buying food, making crafts, and playing games. We had a great time on this field trip and learned so much. "At the School of Economics, I enjoyed working with my group in the Popcorn Shop," said Kyleigh McGee. Emily West also shared, "I enjoyed making bracelets in the Dazzle Shop." "I enjoy being a consumer because I could buy stuff for family and friends," said Jaden. Not only did we have lots of fun, but we learned about producers, consumers, scarcity, and opportunity cost. Here are some students' responses to what they learned. "I learned how to be a banker by how to use money for stores," said Abby Butcher. Lily Letchworth was also a banker and learned that money is scarce and she can't always get what she wants. "I learned how to get consumers to buy my product by advertising," shared Dillon. Lastly, Miss Bartolotta's class would sum up our day at the School of Economic with these three words: fun, awesome, and (lots of) money.

What did you enjoy most?



SCHOOL COUNSELOR WEEK FEB 7-11



By Mrs. Stacy's 3rd Grade Class

Going to School of Economics was spectacular! We got to be producers in shops where we sold goods we made. We also got to be consumers. Lots of customers came to the shops. The Popcorn Shop, Dirt Cup Shop, and Sweet Shop cooked and sold hot dogs, lemonade, Kool-Aid, and a variety of other treats. Jars and Bookmarks, Dazzle Shop, and Craft World made crafts such as crowns, bracelets, eye patches, sand jar creatures, and bookmarks. All the consumers, including first graders, came to the bank where the loan officers were responsible for cashing students' paychecks. The bank tellers sold many raffle tickets to help the bank make money. All shops had to take out a loan to buy supplies from the warehouse and run their business. These loans had to be paid back. At the end of the day, each shop had a profit to spend on prizes at an auction. Everyone did a fabulous job and made a lot of money. It was hard work, but it was an excellent day!

Quotes from Miss Shearer's Students about their Field Trip to School of Economics:

"I learned that scarcity means that are more people than enough food, so items are scarce."-Kaleb Chase

"I worked in the Loan Department, and I liked when we got to deposit students' deposit slips!" - Annemarie Rehbein

"My favorite thing was when I had a hotdog and some orange kool-aid with my mom and Miss Shearer!"- Zach Graves

"My favorite thing was working Sweet Shop for School of Economics." -Jacob Popp

"I liked being at the School of Economics in the loan department and doing all the math!" -Kaitlin Johnson





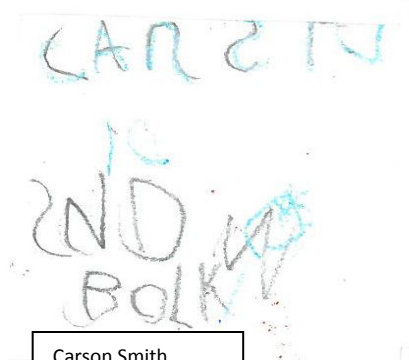
From the Reading Lady.....

Making Inferences and Drawing Conclusions

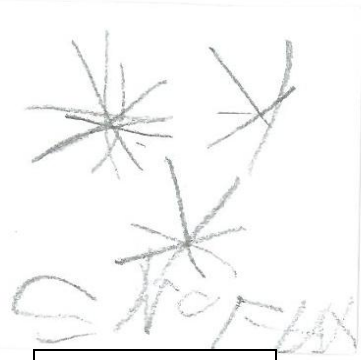
Inferring is one of several comprehension strategies your child will be exposed to during the year. It is something we do all the time, children just don't know that it has a specific name. It is also one of the most important skills used during testing time. As children begin to prepare for upcoming state assessments you might hear them talking about this strategy more and more. Here are a few things you can do at home to help build inferencing skills.

- Explain to your child that we make conclusions about things and draw inferences all the time. Draw a conclusion together and then talk about what clues were used to come to that conclusion. For example, Erin played outside today. How can we tell? Muddy shoes, jump rope on front porch, water bottle out. Dad seems tired tonight. How can we tell? He's rubbing his eyes, he's on the couch, he was yawning at the dinner table.
- Play twenty questions! This familiar word game helps build inference skills. As your child develops skill with the game, encourage him to avoid asking direct questions like, "Is it a dog?" Rather, encourage him to ask broader questions, "Does it walk on four feet?" Then, when your child figures it out, ask him to tell you the clues that lead to the right answer.

Learning to draw conclusions and inferences is a skill that develops over time. The skill requires children to put together various pieces of information, and relies on good word knowledge. Help your child develop skill by providing experience with inferential information, making implied information more clear, and helping your child draw conclusions based on the evidence.



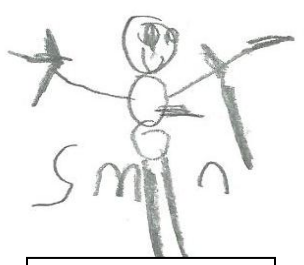
Carson Smith
Snowballs - S



Mollie Cauveren
Snowflakes S



Reagan Jarrett
Snowflakes - S



Benjamin Blanchette
Snowman - R



Ke-May Scott - P



Lorelai Stahl - P



Angela Cruz - P



Dani Blann - B



Ryan Orr - B



Myles Murphy - B



Adam Colwell - B



Anthony Traylor - R
Snowballs



David Lin - R
Snowballs



Peyton Jones - R
Skating



Keyton Fleming - R
Sledding

Mrs Cook in her pizza hat!



Mrs Cook's 1st grade class won a free pizza party for ordering the most pizzas during the December Papa John's Pizza night. Congratulations! Maybe Mrs Cook's pizza hat helped her students remember to order pizza!

PTA Skate Night

Monday February 6

Blue Springs Skating Rink

\$5 per person

Puma Word for
February

EMPATHY

Empathy is
understanding
another person's
feelings.

News from 1st grade!

Thank you so much to PTA for providing a wonderful field trip for us last week. We were lucky enough to see the Paul Mesner Puppets perform at Blue Springs High School. The stories were so funny and even riding the bus was exciting!

Our trip to the School of Economics is soon! We've learned about words such as goods/services, producer/consumer and needs/wants. It's funny sometimes to think that we NEED something...when if we really think about it, it might just be something we WANT. We are anxious to spend the money that we have earned by having outstanding behavior in the classroom! Hopefully we'll come back to school with lots of goodies!

We are also really looking forward to the 100th Day of School...we can't wait to see the 100 items that our classmates and friends bring to help us celebrate. Ask us later what ingredients were in our 100 day friendship mix. Groundhog Day is right after that and we're all wondering if the groundhog will see his shadow or not.

Being a first grader is awesome!



PAPA JOHN'S PIZZA NIGHT

FEBRUARY 8

ORDER SOME PIZZA AND HELP YOUR CLASS WIN A
FREE PIZZA PARTY!