

THE WILDCAT SCRATCHING POST

Thomas E. Kerns Elementary

"Our mission is to become responsible, successful, life-long learners"

News From The Principal

Greetings friends!

What a joy it is to work with your children at Thomas E. Kerns Elementary. We have a fantastic group of teachers and support staff that make learning fun. Thank you for sharing your children with us every day!

Our Spring Book Fair will be held March 26 – 30, 2007. Please join us and help us raise funds for the library! There is no better gift than a book, so stop by and enjoy our stress-free shopping environment! If you have some time, book fairs are a fun place to spend some volunteer time! Buy a book and stash it away for summer reading!

Our lives continue to be packed with exciting things happening here at Thomas E. Kerns Elementary. We have had several guest artists and still have some coming to create amazing connections of understanding with Art and the required standards of learning.

Exciting events are happening for our staff members, too. Our staff has celebrated the birth of 3 babies so far, with two more to come before the end of summer. We also have four staff members who will take a spouse before we return next year! Congratulations to all of them! I hope that all of their lives will be blessed with happiness!

The boys and girls are sharing their enthusiasm with us as they see their MAP (Measuring Academic Progress) test scores climb from where they were in the fall. The students took the computerized MAP tests in September and again in March so that we can "measure" their academic progress. It is a joy to watch their excitement when they recognize their success. We expect the students to feel ready when the PACT tests roll around in May!

Thomas E. Kerns Elementary PTA continues to be on the move! Watch for the Cookie Dough fund raiser at the end of March! Please support the PTA! Our PTA Board has been outstanding in their commitment to creating excellence for your children. PTA still needs members. Please JOIN the PTA! Your \$4.00 commitment provides our school with a basis of support, not only locally, but also nationally. Thanks for your support!

Title I Planning Meetings for the 2007-08 school year were held in January and February. Kenyetta Smith, our Title I Facilitator, has consolidated all the information from those surveys and meetings into the beginning drafts of our plan. Thanks, Kenyetta! Contact Kenyetta if you are interested in learning more about Title I.

Spring Break is just around the corner! We are all excited about the time away to rest and regroup. When we come back, we will have only three weeks before the PACT test begins. Our State and National systems "measure" our school largely by how the students perform on the PACT. We are always very proud of how much effort the children put forth on these tests. The PACT takes two weeks to complete so please try to be sure your children get enough sleep during those weeks! Thanks for helping!

Once again, thank you for all of your support! It is a joy to serve you and your children.

Mrs. Mulkey

Volume 1 Issue 3

March 26, 2007

Dr. Phinnize Fisher
Superintendent

Dr. Michelle Meekins
Director of Principal's
Supervision and School
Accountability

Mrs. Judith Mulkey
Principal

Mrs. Leslie Scott
Assistant Principal

JoAnn Lewis
&
Dena McCombs
PTA Co-Presidents



*Our vision is to
encourage a
community of
excellence for
students, staff,
and parents.*

Thomas E. Kerns Belief Statement

We believe all children can learn.

We believe every student can achieve success.

We believe teachers are responsible for providing a high-quality education to all students.

We believe education should be developmentally appropriate and differentiated to meet individual needs.

News Worth Investigating By Carmen Selman

We are looking forward to rolling into Spring in the Science Lab! Third graders have rolled and raced cars while learning about pushes and pulls. They continue to learn about forces and work while experimenting with simple machines. Fifth graders have even been able to make their own vehicles while studying about forces and motion. Fourth graders have been doing electrifying work, as well! They have been making circuits while learning about electricity.

You may be surprised what your little genius knows about the world around himself/herself. The next time you are at the park, ask your third grader about the force he/she is

using on the simple machine on which he/she is playing. While preparing dinner, ask your fourth grader what type of circuit is used in your house and why. The next time you are at the store, ask your fifth grader about the importance of friction while you are walking.

Spring is definitely in the air, and we will be taking advantage of this while in the lab. We will be examining items that can be found in our outdoor world. The next time you are outdoors with your budding scientist, ask him/her to investigate the surroundings for you.



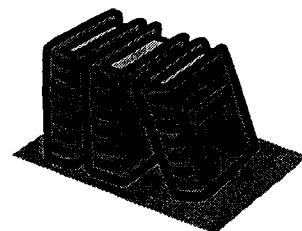
Media Messages by Joan Mullin

We had a wonderful visit with Gil Garret as General Moultrie in the media center on Tuesday the 13th. He really brought South Carolina history to life for our third graders.

Our display case has a great display of rabbits loaned to us by Mrs. Houghton. Thank you, Mrs. Houghton, for sharing your collection with our students.

Our next book fair is March 26th through March 30th. Remember that we have to pay tax. There will be a very good selection of books and other items for sale. You are invited to come with your student(s) before and after school. If anyone can volunteer any time during this week, please let Mrs. Mullin know. We especially need help from 7:00 to 8:00 each morning.

Support your library! Buy Books!



News from the Computer Lab By Ann Heatherly

Computer Lab is always an exciting place to be. We have explored New Keys for Kids, Graph Club, and Kidspiration. Our fifth and fourth graders have made a brochure. Fifth graders worked on a newsletter. Third and second graders practiced taking digital pictures. First graders and kindergartners are practicing using the Smartboard.

Our students may now use Compass Learning. They may use this at home. The user name for this program is the student's first and last name with no space. This is a great time to make sure your child knows how to spell his/her first and last name. The password is x. The school's password is gves. The link for the Compass site is: http://compass.greenville.k12.sc.us/CLO_Login.aspx. There is a link from my website to Compass Learning.

My website has moved. There is a link from the old site to the new. My new website address is: <http://teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/sites/aheather>.

Please let me know if I can help you in any way.
Voice Mail: 355-1324
Email: aheather@greenville.k12.sc.us

Kindergarten Happenings

Welcome Spring! It has been a busy time in Kindergarten! On February 21st the Kindergarten classes performed a Black History Month show. The students played roles of famous black Americans and sang songs with the school chorus. Thank you so much Miss James for helping us make the program extra special and to all those that participated.

The classes have been working hard talking about dental health and safety. On March 7th and March 12th the classes visited Roper Mountain Science Center to learn more about these top-

ics. We had a great time talking and learning! It was such a joy to see the children's faces when they were shown the giant teeth model to demonstrate how to brush and floss. It really helped make the unit "larger than life"!

On March 21st we visited the Peace Center to see the show Aesop Bops. What an exciting experience for our students! Using funny voices, songs, and puppets David Gonzalez, a professional story teller, performed the stories of "The Lion and the Mouse", "The Fisherman and His Wife", and "The Turtle's Shell". All of these stories not only entertained our students but also taught them valuable lessons about life.

First Grade News

First grade has been very busy learning a lot of exciting new things! We just finished a unit on the food pyramid. We learned how eating the right amount of healthy foods will make us grow up to be strong. March 30th we will be going on a field trip to Publix and Kid's Planet. We are looking forward to that! Our hot chocolate party was a huge success. Congratulations to everyone who got to participate. The hot chocolate was yummy and the children really enjoyed it. It was great to see that so many first graders challenged themselves! Continue reading with your child every night. We will be learning about solid shapes and symmetry in math very soon. Encourage your child to find shapes around your home.

The First Grade Team

Mrs. Randall, Mrs. Cely, Mrs. Hollingsworth, Mrs. Darnell, Miss Ciesielski, Mrs. Reeves, Mrs. Turner, and Miss White

Second Grade News

Second graders went on a field trip to Roper Mountain Science Center on February 12. We attended two programs about animal life cycles and habitats. We will go to the Peace Center on Monday, March 26 to attend a performance entitled "Ramona Quimby." Students participated in "Jump Rope for Heart" on Friday, March 16 during related arts. There will be a Book Fair during the week of March 26-30. Students are excited about learning multiplication facts and solving problems using multiplication. Soon, we will begin a science unit in which the students will learn about the life cycle of butterflies and watch their own butterflies hatch! The process will take about a month then students will release their butterflies into nature. We hope everyone enjoys Spring Break!!!

PE News

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ **FIELD DAY** ★

★ Monday, May 21 ★

★ – K5, 1st, 2nd ★


★ Tuesday, May 22 ★

★ – 3rd, ★

★ 4th, ★

★ 5th ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



K4 News

Parents need to pre-register children for 4K, 5K and 1st grade for next year.

*Parents with children that will be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2007 must register their child for 4K. Parents can go to any elementary school or child development center in the district. The pre-registration deadline is May 18. All pre-registered applicants will be contacted to schedule a May screening appointment. Students must be screened to qualify for a 4K program.

Please help us by telling your family and friends about pre-registration.

Other important dates to remember:

- April 20- Safe Kids Fest @ the Mall
- May 10- Zoo Night at Greenville Zoo
- May 7-18- End of the Year Conferences
- May 18- Last day for 4K students
- May 21-25-Screening for 2007-2008

Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Fowler

Third Grade News

The third grade has been very busy. We have been working on our timed multiplication tests. We are trying to get all of our multiplication facts from 0 to 12 correct. We are all hoping to get all of the ingredients for a banana split. Please check with your child to see how he/she is doing.

We are completing a study unit of simple machines. This skill often shows up on the PACT. The information is difficult so we are looking for examples of simple machines that

we use everyday. In South Carolina history we have completed our study of the American Revolution and we are beginning our study of the causes that led to the Civil War.

Third graders were very fortunate to get to work with Mark Mulfinger. He taught us how to make prints. It was a very complicated process, but the end results were wonderful. Thank you Mr. Mopps for letting us experience this!

We are looking forward to our upcoming field trips. On

March 29 we will go to the Peace Center to see the play, "Ramona Quimby". On May 3 we will visit Columbia. We will visit the State Museum and the State House. It should be wonderful trip. We have chartered a bus and should be quite comfortable.

We are continuing to prepare for our PACT tests. We are completing our MAP testing and we are hoping for great improvement from the fall.



Fourth Grade News

It has been a busy time in the 4th grade! Our trip to Camp Greenville was a HUGE SUCCESS!! The students participated in many activities that involved our science and social studies standards as well as teamwork. Our activities involved learning about life on a farm during the colonial days. We learned about making clothes and cooking during the 1800's. We also learned how to identify various animal tracks, distinguish between predator and prey, and discovered many living things in the wild.

Students enjoyed their bouldering experience that used their teamwork skills to "spot" their partner and work together to get across the bouldering wall. The students did a wonderful job at each meal with their great table manners. We learned to make good decisions about food choices and food waste. Our night hike challenged us to use our senses to discover the mysteries of the night time wilderness. Camp Greenville was a wonderful, "hands on" learning experience for our students. We would like to say a big "thank you" to the following people for their wonderful and invaluable

help on the trip: Mrs. Mehagan, Mrs. Garrett, Mrs. Azeizat, Mr. Rice, Mr. Harvey, Ms. Benson, Ms. Shipman, Mrs. Betzer, Mrs. Lawson, Ms. Kinard, and Ms. Green. We could have not done it without these wonderful chaperones.

We are proud of so many of our fourth graders for their hard work and the respect they exhibit each day. Please remind your children to do their best each day they come to school. They are representing their home and school each day they are here. We will continue to work hard each day to be successful, and we thank our parents for their continued support!

Fifth Grade News

The third grading period was quite exciting for our fifth graders! A recent field trip to the Peace Center was amazing. We watched *Step Afrika*, which is a group that celebrates stepping, an art form born at African American fraternities and based on African traditions. The students enjoyed their intricate

kicks, stomps, and rhythms. Some of our students were even able to join the group on stage! We are now looking forward to our trip to Charleston on April 19th.

Academically, our third quarter was very busy. We have been reading stories from our theme on *One Land, Many Neighbors*. Math has been filled with learning about charts and graphs, with the students creating their own graphs in various

forms. Science has been quite interesting with students learning about the elements, motion, and energy. We are all diving into the Roaring Twenties Era and working our way into World War II. Look for many exciting things to be learned as our fifth graders prepare for middle school!

Guidance News from Mrs. Keller

The end of the year is swiftly approaching and with it comes some exciting events.

The Talk About Touch program will be here to visit out K5, 2nd, and 5th graders on March 26th and 27th. This is an informative and excellent personal safety program.

PACT Bingo night will be April 16th at 6:30. Don't forget to come out and learn about our state standardized test and hopefully win some prizes while

you are there.

Our Career Day is scheduled for April 20th. Career Day will be held in our gymnasium from 9:00am-1:00pm. We hope to have many different guests from a variety of work environments participate and share their jobs with our students.

PACT testing starts the week of May 7th and ends May 17th. All of our students in 3rd through 5th grade will be required to participate. We hope

to exceed all expectations and see excellent scores!

I know we are all ready for Summer Break, but let's hang in there and do our best work until the very last day we are in attendance! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Alicia Keller
Guidance Counselor

★
★
★
★
★
★

PRIDE: Parents as Partners
Leslie M. Scott, Assistant Principal

Ending a quarter is always an exciting time of the year for me. At the end of each nine weeks, our school proudly announces our students' accomplishments in attendance, academics, and behavior at a "Quarterly Celebration". Then the Honor Roll and PRIDE (behavior) winners are invited to join me for a treat-filled lunch on the stage! Before they are allowed to leave the stage, all students have to tell me what college they are planning to attend and what is their goal in life. It is a deserving time of boasting for our students.

I would like to shout "Hooray!" to the students in grades 3-5 because we increased our number of students who earned a certificate for PRIDE Star Behavior during the second nine weeks! During the first quarter we had 51 students with PRIDE behavior and now we have 62 students earning a certificate! I challenge you to increase it to at least 80 students by the end of the year!

With much pride, I am listing the students of Thomas E. Kerns who have attended our school since the beginning of the year and come to school daily with the following PRIDE expectations: prepared to learn, respecting all, being responsible, following directions, and keeping hands, feet, and all objects to themselves. During the first two quarters of school, these students have never earned a letter for inappropriate choices. What an amazing accomplishment! Congratulations to:

- 3rd- Alex Barton, Kenyada Clowney, Keianna Crawley, Milia Flores, Cierra Freeman, Erica Harrison, Christain Hill, CK Moore, Que Rayford, Brianna Redfern, Autumn Smith, Janeazia Teasley, Travonna Vance
- 4th- Ludy Azeizat, Aaliyah Brown, Haley Garrett, Teandria Green, Katlyn McCullough, Alandra Lindsey-Poole, Micaela Ramirez, Taylor Shipman, Tammy Vo
- 5th- Sierra Benson, Dunte Carson, Sage Glenn, Rekina Hawkins, Xavier Louissaint, Diego Mariano, Ashley Miller, Michael Montesion, Amy Nguyen, Franco Rebolgar, Aniesa Ryans, Jeniffer Smith, Justin Stamey, Deanna Sullivan, Joree Thomas, Harold Thurston, Katie Wardell

I look forward to see who will continue to make it at the end of the third and fourth quarters!
Respectfully,
Mrs. Scott, Assistant Principal

Reminder: Please review the Student Handbook on our website for further details about our expectations for a safe learning environment!

News from the Social Worker– Ms. Mehegan

As we enter the last grading period for this school year, attendance is still very important. The South Carolina Compulsory Attendance Law states that students require a parent or medical note for any absence. After a student has ten absences, all additional absences require a medical note to be excused. Help your student by having him/her at school every day. In addition to being present, students need to be in his/her classroom by 8:00 AM.

This year we are recognizing classes that spell out “PERFECT ATTENDANCE.” The class earns a letter each day the ENTIRE class is present and on time. The class receives a special treat when they have successfully completed the spelling. During the second grading period, the following classes have been recognized: Mrs. Bailey, Ms. Fauble, Ms. Hudson, Ms. Kaisand, Mrs. Lowe, Ms. Morris, Mrs. Hancock, Ms. C. White, and Mrs. Randall. Both Mrs. Randall and Ms. Morris were recognized during the first grading period. Keep up the good work.

Karla Mehegan
Social Worker
355-1303

Ready to Read– Gwen Bolt

Dear Parents,

Ever wonder how to entertain your child on a wet rainy day? All you will need is a few old newspapers, crayons, glue, and pencils. Try a few of these ideas. It could make your day go a lot easier.

1. Newspaper Quick find game-Find an old newspaper and some crayons. Ask your child to highlight some of the following words: compound words, words with double letters, number words, color words. Give them a time limit. Count to see how many they can find.
2. Cartoon fun-Another day, cut apart cartoon strips and ask the child to glue them in the correct order.
3. Ads-Fact or Opinion-Look through the advertisements. Have the child underline the sentences that are true facts about the product being sold. Then circle the statements that are opinions of the manufacturer.
4. Sports and verbs-Sports writers are very good with using different verbs to describe the action in events. Have your child use the sports section of the newspaper and circle all the different verbs in an article.

These ideas will help your child enjoy reading and see the importance of reading in the everyday world.

Gwen Bolt
Reading Coach

From the Desk of Debbi Long, Instructional Coach

As spring approaches, teachers and students become increasingly aware that standardized tests are around the corner. There are a number of skills that you can easily incorporate into your home routine to help your child become more successful at school.

Reading

As your child reads a book or watches a television show, ask her to repeat the plot, the story's characters, and the setting. Ask her to retell what happens in the beginning, middle, and end. Have her retell the story in her own words. Work on increasing your child's vocabulary by using more difficult words in everyday speech. Use a dictionary to check meaning. Have your child become proficient at alphabetical order by organizing materials that way--books, items in your kitchen cabinet or pantry, or names of family members.

Math

Standardized math tests usually involve spatial skills, patterns, and sequencing in addition to computation skills. Encourage your child to practice counting by twos, threes, fives and tens. Have your child practice telling time. Create graphs about your family's favorite activities and practice reading graphs together. Have her count the change in your purse or pocket at the end of the day. Many students become very nervous about taking tests. Be sensitive to your child's anxiety. Talking about the test may cause her stress which will negatively affect her results. Instead, think of ways to ease the anxiety. Take a walk together, play a board game together, or play a game of basketball with your child. Build in physical activity and downtime throughout the test-taking period. Make sure that your child gets a good night's rest and eats a healthy breakfast. Your child has learned so many new skills throughout the school year. Assure her that this is a time that she will get to show off her new skills.

Title I News– Kenyetta Smith

Spring Greetings Thomas E. Kerns Family and Friends:

Spring opens up a window of “new beginnings” to everything fresh, exciting, and new. Spring is a time to plan for “new” things with “fresh” ideas! We are looking forward to completing an “exciting” year at Thomas E. Kerns with boundless accolades of academic success for our children! We have just conducted several planning meetings for our 2007-08 Schoolwide Title I Plan. Special thanks to our parents, staff, and community members who participated.

Special thanks to **Alicia Keller**, our school counselor, for presenting at our **PACT Lunch-n-Learn** on February 22nd. Parents walked away with tons of information as well as requests for instructional aides to assist their children prepare for the PACT test in May. For those of you who missed our PACT Lunch-n-Learn, we will be sponsoring a **PTA/PACT BINGO Night on Monday, April 16, 2007 @ 6:30pm**. This will be a fun night to be had by all!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! **Jean Dickson** conducted **Love & Logic for Parents, Part 2 on Wednesday, March 21, 2007**. This parent training was held in the cafeteria from 12:30pm-2:30pm. Childcare services and catered deli lunch were provided.

Title I is also proud to provide one-one tutoring in addition to our After-School Program. We now serve a total of 38 students. Special thanks to **Linda Hardesty, Dena McCombs, Lauren Hudson, Alicia Cely, Christy White, and Amanda Turner** for joining our already awesome team of tutors and for going the extra mile to provide additional academic assistance to our students.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming event listed below:

Monday, April 16th –PACT BINGO Night, 6:30pm.

*On a personal note, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the faculty and staff of Thomas E. Kerns for all of your well wishes as my family and I welcome the “addition” of our son (Any day now..)! I would also like to thank the following parents for the “surprise” baby shower in my office- **Janette Firpo, Michelle Killingsworth, Chanel Leonard, Jo-Ann Lewis, and Dawn Cheatham**. My family has been blessed by your thoughtfulness.*

Lastly, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns about Thomas E. Kerns’ School-wide Title I Program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kenyetta Nicole Smith

knsmith@greenville.k12.sc.us

864.355.1304

Resource News– Mrs. Lewis Speaking of Speech– Mrs. Collins and Mrs. MaJoy

The children continue to work hard in resource. We have been having fun while at the same time meeting goals and objectives for our current IEP’s. Speaking of IEP’s it will soon be time for annual review meetings for each child. Please watch for invitation letters to be coming home with your child in the next few weeks.

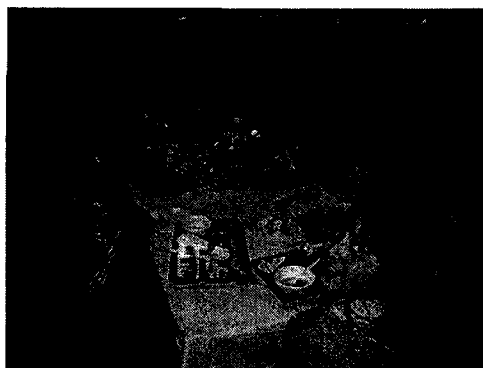
Already it is time to be making plans for Speech students for the next school year! Speech parents, be on the lookout for invitation letters. We need to meet as a team: you, the parent; the classroom teacher; the Speech Language Pathologist and a school representative. We all share ideas to complete the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that will best serve your Speech student. The Invitation Letter will give you a date and time as well as a listing of the people who will be a part of the team. Please sign the response page and send it back to school. If you can’t meet at the appointed time, suggest a day and time when you can come to school. We’ll do our best to make it convenient for everyone. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

**Thomas E. Kerns
Elementary**

6550 Frontage Road at
Whitehorse
Greenville, SC 29605

Phone: 355-1300

Pictures from the PRIDE 4-Star Luncheons
These are just a few of the students who had perfect 4-Star
behavior! Congratulations!



News of Note

- Book Fair – March 26 – 30
- Report Cards go home on Thursday, March 29
- Third Quarter Awards Day will be celebrated on Friday, March 30, 2007
- PTA Cookie Dough Sale begins at the end of March! Be sure to buy some!
- Spring Break is Monday, April 2 through Monday, April 9, 2007. We all return on Tuesday, April 10, 2007! Enjoy the time away!
- PTA PACT Night – Monday, April 16
- Career Day will be celebrated on Friday, April 20, 2007
- Spring Sing participants: Jeniffer Smith, Jamie Robinson, Demario Cheatham, and Sierra Benson will performance at the Peace Center, Tuesday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10. Come enjoy a fabulous night of singing!