



Krause Early Elementary Tiger Cub News

February 3, 2012

Full Speed Ahead for Full Day Kindergarten

Hooray! Krause Early Elementary will have full day Kindergartens for the 2012-13 school year! And our Kindergarten staff have started the planning for our new curriculum! We will keep our outstanding research based "Read Well" program as our instructional basis in the morning for Language Arts. Now that we have three extra hours for instruction we will fill those with our new Kindergarten Everyday Math program, and add new Science instruction as well as an increased focus on content area writing. This may sound like a lot

for our Kindergartners but having already had KDay and KPlus for three years, we can guarantee that most of our students are ready for the full day experience. And they will love the hands on math we are adding, not to mention the Science. We're still planning on a having a half day Readiness program in the morning — if enrollment numbers for Readiness are high enough (14 to 18 or so). We have had a Readiness section every year and it truly seems to make a huge difference for those little guys who are on the younger end of the age and

maturity continuum. The growth in their ability to maintain long term focus and in their own sense of success and security is well worth the time investment for many of them. After all, getting to the end of high school shouldn't be a race. It should be a joyful and rich journey socially as well as academically. If you have a child aged five years by December 1, 2012, please plan on attending our Kindergarten Round Up on the afternoon of March 6th or March 7th. We can better answer more specific questions at that time. See you there!

Special points of interest:

- ☺ February 14
Valentine's Day
- ☺ February 15th
Wacky Wednesday
- ☺ February 17-20
No School/Winter Break
- ☺ March 1 Half Day AM
AM Kindergarten attends
- ☺ March 2 Half Day AM
PM Kindergarten attends in AM
- ☺ March 6
Kindergarten Round Up
PM from 2:00 to 3:00
- ☺ March 7
Kindergarten Round Up
PM from 2:00 to 3:15

New Preschool Option for Four Year Olds

We are proud to announce that our fabulous preschool programs will be expanded for the coming 2012-13 year and that there will be the option of five half days a week preschool for four year olds! We will also keep

our three days a week for four year olds program and our 'classic' two days a week program for three year olds. ALL programs will be using a brand new, state of the art preschool curriculum

designed to strengthen math and science as well as pre-reading skills! It even has a math technology piece so that all of our students will have computer time each week — just part of 21st century instruction!

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Dancing With Snakes...

Our Kindergarten through Second Grade students experienced a truly FABULOUS program on reptiles this month!

Students got to see — and some got to actually touch — alligators, lizards, tortoises, and (of course) a huge snake! The presenter, excellent in this field, spoke on characteristics, habitats, food preferences and even personality traits of the reptiles he had brought. Equally as important, the audience did a superb job maintaining their great listening skills, using only soft voices even in the midst of a VERY exciting show! KUDOS!

Ms. Johnson, along with David Rogers, Jessica Weir, Savannah Solomon, and Logan Schmidt, all lend their hands to supporting a stretched out python. And yes — they all washed their hands afterwards, in case you wondered!



Talk about a natural! Kendyl Watson, from Mrs. Isaacson's morning Kindergarten class carried a lizard around the entire room to show others, as if she had been doing it all of her life! Such presence! You would have thought that she was part of the act at every presentation! Slowly, carefully, gently navigating the perimeter of the cafeteria, she had that lizard comfortably perched on her finger!

Looks as if Mrs. Connery has made a friend — a VERY big friend! From the smile on Mrs. Connery's face, she has no fear! The fact of the matter is that she had volunteered to hold this python — having just been to a family birthday party the day before and held her nephew's python, Curly. Of course, Mrs. Connery always seems to wear EVERYTHING well. Even the snake was smiling... maybe in anticipation of a well dressed meal?



Working on Improving Technology Access

Two year olds with hand helds in the hallways? By the time preschoolers graduate virtually everything will be tied together technically....and we are working to prepare for that even with the shrinking funds the state gives us in student aide.

This month all of our grade level classrooms will have ceiling mounts installed for projectors — which can be linked to the teacher's desk top computer or a laptop in order to pull instructional resource sites and for student materials.

In addition, all Early Elementary will soon be trained in "Data Director",

allowing scores for DIBELS, NWEA, and our writing assessments to be entered for each student every year. This will give the entire district the ability to more easily discern any curriculum gaps as well as to see which of our students may need to be challenged more and which may need more support.

And we have a Tech Core Teaching team that will be introduced soon to the use of the SMART Board as a

teaching tool. Our buildings are going wireless, allowing for expansion of tech tools to be put in the hands of all of our students in the future!



No Child Left Unattended...

We have had several incidents of young children being left in cars in front of the building or the parking lot while parents 'ran in' to pick up another child or get something from the office.

Please be aware that this is in direct violation of Michigan Legislature Section 750.135A and that under the law we are required to report any

such occurrences to the Department of Social Services as an act of 'Child Neglect'.

We have also had a preschooler left in the hallway unattended while mom ran back to her car to get something. Although this is not in violation of state code, it does present a huge worry for us as to the safety of the child.

All of our children are precious to us. We ask that you take that extra minute to always take your children with you when you go to and from your vehicle. Safety first....

Section 750.135A states that 'no child is to be left unattended in a vehicle.'

Grants Galore!

Congratulations to SO many of our wonderful staff for the hard work they did in successfully applying for grants this fall! Mrs. Ostrowski, our Library Coordinator, along with some support from Diane Barr, the high school media specialist, received \$2000 to expand our Accelerated Reader program choices!

Second, Mrs. Lewis was awarded

\$2015 for electronic instructional materials for Science, Language Arts, and Math. Geosafari labs, 'Hot Dots' reading and math pens, windowsill greenhouse, cross section models, and live growing kits are only part of her grant award! Third, Mrs. Connery and Mr. Wagner will receive almost \$1400 for digital scales for weighing and comparing in Science and Math!

All monies come from our local Four County Foundations Grant Program. (YOU may want to consider donating!)



All of Miss Sallie's APPLE students had a great time being little groundhogs this past Ground Hog Day! Miss Sallie set up a 'burrow' and each child, in turn, got to put on their groundhog headband and hide way down deep in the burrow — only to pop up to see their shadow and to then disappear back down for 6 more weeks of winter! (Such as it this this year.)

Elaina Bliss shows us her great big groundhog smile as she demonstrates how those critters pop out of their burrows! Adorable!



Time and Money!

Now, who now days couldn't use more time and money? (Sign me up for that list!)

But guess what? *THOSE* are two of the weakest areas on our MEAP scores in *Third Grade*! Part of the problem lies in the fact that you all are just *TOO* good at doing those parent duties! You watch the time for your children and you have their money for lunches, field trips, and whatever ready and labeled for them.

And while we applaud your Herculean efforts, we also want to encourage you to take some regular time weekly — if not several times a week — to go over coins and counting money with your children, and have them practice telling time with a non-digital clock at

home. (You can buy a cheap one!)

For *Kindergarten*, this can be just as simple as sorting coins into 'like' piles and telling what each coin is and how much it is worth.

For *First Grade*, it could be adding up different coins to show how to make a variety of values — two nickels, two dimes and 2 pennies, for example.

And for *Second Grade*, try having your child compare total values for two groups of varied coins and tell you which is less and which is more. Or have them select coins that will add up to a certain amount — say, \$1.00 or 72 cents — and then

subtract a different amount. As for time, knowing how to tell time in 15 minute and half hour intervals is a must for *Second Grade*! And these are great life skills — as adults know!

