



The Egret Express

James B. Edwards Elementary school's weekly Email newsletter

Dates to Remember

February 15: Presidents Day: Offices and School Closed

February 18, 19, 22 and 23: Scholastic Book Fair

February 23: Family Reading Night

A Note from Mrs. Mitchell

Dear Parents,

The month of January has flown by! February will also be fast and furious! We are ecstatic that James B. Edwards met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the 2008-2009 school year. Under the accountability provisions in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, all public schools are evaluated for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Schools are required to meet AYP criteria on three measures: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, and either Graduation Rate (for high schools and districts) or Attendance Rate (for elementary and middle/junior high schools).

Many of you know that the district focus for this year is literacy. The school board recently approved the new literacy policy and plan, "Accelerated Literacy Pathways." This plan will improve literacy by ensuring that below-grade level readers enter "literacy pathways" defined by intense supports, effective teaching, and extended time. The district will provide more detailed requirements and expectations to parents in the near future.

Our "Family Reading Night" will be held on February 23, 2010. We will send information home with your child next week with more complete details. We are looking forward to another fun-filled evening!

At our last faculty meeting, the JBE staff, discussed ways that our school could help with the plight in Haiti. Our faculty decided that we would sponsor "Hugs for Haiti" with all proceeds going to Water Missions International, a local charity. Our plan is to collect funds the week of February 8-12. We will send detailed information home with students next week.

Thanks for all that you do,

Mrs. Mitchell

The PTA Post

Your PTA Money Takes Students to a "Study Island"

Did you know that PTA money raised through fund-raising and membership is used to purchase the Study Island software? Our children are given an opportunity to improve their reading and math skills by working independently at their individual levels. This educational software is even available for use at home. Ask your teacher for your student's id and password, and visit Study Island soon.

Thank you to everyone who joins the PTA and participates in our important fund-raising efforts.

Reflections Art Contest Winners

Reflections is a national program designed by the PTA to inspire young artists to prepare art in accordance with a theme and submit it for competition. Art is submitted first at the school level at a school with a current PTA in good standing. Art receiving first place awards then move forward to district, state, and finally, the national level of competition. In District IX, many schools participated and over 173 pieces of art were received for review. The ones given a first place will be sent on to state from the district, while the remaining pieces will be sent to the state from the school.

Music Composition: 1) Gabrielle Blackburn "Music is Beauty", 2) Graham Tulowitsky "Beauty is Everywhere" 3) Lidia DiPaulo "Carolina Sunset"

Honorable Mention-Marianna Murray "Dew-Drop Rose"

Visual Arts: 2) Giovanni Meli "Lazy Summer Day", 3) Elise Blackburn "Iridescent Glory"

Photography: 1) William Tulowitsky "The Mighty Oaks", 2) Jacob Fisher "Mr. Murry's Beloved Oliver"

Mr. Simpson's Book Drive

Mr. Simpson (Third Grade) is still looking for book donations to help classroom teachers build their classroom libraries. He has had a great response so far and has found homes for many books. He can always use more, so start your Spring Cleaning early and donate your gently used books to help him add to our classrooms. If you know of others with older children who may have outgrown their books, please let them know.

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held February 18, 19, 22 and 23 In the Media Center. There will be special evening hours during Family Reading Night on Tuesday, February 23. A preview of books available will be sent home next week. If you send money with your child, please remember to Include 7.5% sales tax.

JBE School Book Drive-"Gifts for Ghana" and "Board Books for Babies"

JBE is teaming up with the South Carolina International Reading Association (SCIRA) to help promote literacy worldwide. Our school will be accepting donations of gently used and new books for school libraries in Ghana. This is an excellent opportunity to have your child study Ghana as a country and help the children have books to learn about new things and to take many journeys through the words of authors. The SCIRA is also collecting gently used or new board books

for babies. These board books will be distributed among local health centers for new mothers. The Book Drive will run from December through February and donations may be sent to school with your child or dropped off in the front office. Let's all try to donate a book and share the gift of reading with children near and far.

Around Town

January 29 and 30: Motown Mania: Charleston Black Box Theater. For more information, visit www.charlestonballet.com

January 31: Lowcountry Oyster Festival. Boone Hall Plantation 10:30-5:00pm. For more information visit www.charlestonrestaurantassociation.com/oyster_festival.php.

South Carolina - Did you know?

There is an old saying in Marion that anyone who drinks water from Catfish Creek becomes infatuated with the area and wishes to remain there.

In February 1852 William Bruckhalter Dorn discovered the second richest vein of gold in SC history on the site of the present town of McCormick.

The Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport was the first airport in South Carolina opening in October 1927.