



A NOTE FROM PRINCIPAL BAGGETT:



Dear Parents,

Friends and Family was another hit at RES! I would like to thank our cafeteria staff and countless others who made this special day possible. It was our biggest Friends and Family event to date and we were thrilled to have all the visitors in our building. I enjoyed meeting lots of new friends and family members and reconnecting with others. It was wonderful to see that so many of you came out to make this a special day for our students.

The first half of the year has been jam packed with exciting happenings for teachers as well as students. Riverchase's Teacher of the Year is Ms. Carpenter and Mrs. Kinsley Hyche is our nominee for the Jacksonville State Teacher of the Year. I am sure that both of these candidates will represent us well as they proceed to the next round of competition. They are both excellent teachers and strive to go beyond the basic curriculum daily. They work to make the curriculum come alive by taking students on field trips, make real world, authentic connections, plan hands on activities and the list goes on and on for both of these individuals. Good luck to both of these wonderful educators!

The students have been busy this year in Student Leadership roles. They have gotten off to a great start with running the school store, taking pride in working safety patrol, HAWKS and Ambassadors, Book Buddies with younger classes, Library Page program, Student Government, JMAC, coordinating special projects and the list goes on. Some of the projects taken on by individual students are spot lighted on the bulletin board outside of the office headed down to hallway to Mrs. Tanner's room. Thanks to our students for showing great character in representing our school and your classroom in the student leadership role.

In reflecting on what really is important here at Riverchase what comes to mind is: Our children caring for themselves and others. Our children learning to read and fostering a love for reading. Our children having the opportunity to work and think like mathematicians and scientists and being able to relate this learning back to real world experiences. Our children developing an appreciation for music, art and developing skills in PE that build a foundation for later use in team sports if they so desire. Our children being safe at school. Our faculty and staff work hard to make this reality look easy. They join me in expressing our gratitude to you for sharing your most precious possessions—your children—with us. Your children are what really matter!

Before ending my article I would like to remind everyone of a few important things. First is our early dismissal on Dec. 20th at 12:45. Lunch will be served on this day. Students return to school on Wednesday, January 4th. Report cards will go home on January 9th.

Happy Holidays,
Dianne Baggett
Dr. Alice Turney



Missing anything from home???
Chances are if you are missing a coat, sweater hat or gloves you may find these items in the hallway outside the cafeteria. PLEASE COME LOOK FOR YOUR ITEMS!
Any unclaimed items from our Lost & Found will be donated to charity on the last day of school, Dec. 20th.

Don't miss in this issue:
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*want to find something quickly in the newsletter? Just click the link above.

Stay informed about PTO and school issues.
Visit our PTO website
<http://respto.wiki.hoover.k12.al.us/>
for the latest information, newsletters,
calendars, etc.

Dear Parents,

The Reformed Alabama Ethics Law applies to all public employees (including teachers, administrators, support staff, custodians, and child nutrition workers). Changes made within the law went into effect for this school year. One of the more noticeable mandates within the law is a provision relating to gifts and the term, "de minimus value". Based on the law, no school employee is allowed to accept items of value. Violation of the law does not have as much consequence to the provider as it does to the person accepting the gift. We have been told that acceptance of a gift deemed above the "de minimus value" threshold could cause a teacher to lose his/her teaching certificate. Hoover City Schools Chief Financial Officer, Cathy Antee, shared "It is heartwarming that our parents are trying so hard to reward our teachers and staff. It is equally sad that a piece of legislation is causing this much strife." There has been conflicting information shared in media sources relating to what may or may not be acceptable. The directives provided earlier in the year from Hoover City Schools Finance Dept. remain in effect for all Hoover schools. Donations in the form of materials for classroom/school instructional use are permissible. Small edible treats (cookies, candy, muffins, etc.) are also allowed. However, gift cards for the purchase of goods or services are not permitted.

Riverchase teachers and staff want to assure our parent community that we're very appreciative of the expressions of care and support shown to us over the course of years. We have felt valued and consider it a privilege to serve the children and community of Riverchase. Thank you for helping us to adhere to the current interpretation of this law.

Sincerely,

Dianne Baggett AS OF 12/14/2011*** **Additional information updating this policy will be sent home this week*****

Get ready for RIVERCHASE ELEMENTARY's 2nd Annual Talent SHOW!!!

The 5th grade class is hosting a talent show in March. Participants must be in 4th or 5th grade. Routines must be limited to 2-2 1/2 minutes. Don't forget to practice your special talent over the holiday break so you'll be ready to shine!!!

More information to come- including the exact date. Any parent wishing to help plan the event please contact: Martha Storm marthastorm@aol.com



Holiday Shop 2011

THANKS to all of you who participated in the HOLIDAY SHOP this year either through volunteering or having your children shop at the store. The children had a wonderful time and we enjoyed helping them shop for their friends and family. A big thank you to this year's chair people, Kelly Miles and Kim Kuhn. We appreciate all your hard work to make the shop a success. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Notice of Nondiscrimination for all Mass-Distributed Publications: **Effective July 2009**

EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

(Board policy, 6.6) No student will be unlawfully excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the Board on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, disability, creed, national origin, sex, immigrant or migrant status, non-English speaking ability, or homeless status. All career and technical education opportunities are offered to all students regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

Dr. Barbara Mayer, IDEA Coordinator

Dr. Deborah Camp, Title II Coordinator (grades K – 5)

Dr. Barbara Mayer, Title III Coordinator

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

(Board policy, 5.13.1) The Board is an equal opportunity employer. Personnel actions and decisions will be made without regard to factors or considerations prohibited by federal or state law (as such laws may from time to time be amended), including but not limited to race, gender, age, disability, national origin, citizenship, and religious preference. Subject to the limitations set forth in 4.6.2, the general complaint (grievance) policy (4.6.1) may be used to present any complaint alleging unlawful discrimination or harassment. Inquiries regarding compliance and complaint procedures can be directed to:

Mary Veal, Equal Opportunity Employment Coordinator Hoover City Schools 2810 Metropolitan Way Hoover, AL 35243 (205) 439-1000

Dr. Tara Ferguson, Section 504 Coordinator

Ron Dodson, Title II Coordinator (grades 6 – 12)

Carol Barber, Title IX Coordinator



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CHILD FIND

Help Hoover City Schools locate, identify, and evaluate Hoover residents from birth to age 21 who have disabilities or who are suspected of having disabilities. Contact the Department of Instructional Support Services for Hoover City Schools at (205) 439-1051

Counselor's Corner...

December.....a busy time of year! In Guidance we are finishing up a unit called Too Good for Violence. Students have been learning how to solve conflicts in safe and healthy ways. They have been learning to respect others' differences and to use I-messages when sharing negative feelings. One of my favorite messages from the curriculum is "Just because someone says something about you doesn't make it true unless you believe it!"

Our character value for December is Generosity! How appropriate as we enter this season that we teach the children ways to be generous! True happiness comes from giving to and serving others which is one reason our school strongly supports the Salvation Army toy drive. Students were encouraged to do an extra chore to earn some money to purchase a toy for a child in need. Even during difficult times, we find it helpful to look outside of ourselves and toward others. It is through simple acts of giving and serving others that we experience real joy. Once again we find ourselves teaching children through our example. I hope you and your family will have many wonderful experiences in the days and weeks ahead.

Wishing You Joy and Peace,
Mrs. Patti Tanner, counselor

Adopt-a-Grandparent: Thanks to the thirty students and their parents who visited the Golden Living Retirement Center. The residence really appreciated our visit.

A special thanks is extended to Gabrielle Saia for making Thanksgiving cards for the sick and wrapping gifts for Grace House Ministries.

Lunch and Learn for Parents

Please email Mrs. Tanner at ptanner@hoover.k12.al.us to rsvp so we can prepare for you to be here.
Bring your lunch from 11:30-12:30

January 26th "Helping Your Child to Stay Focused on Learning"
Dr. Michael Fetter, Child psychologist

February TBA - what are your needs? book discussion?
March TBA - what are your needs? book discussion?
April "Hoover City Schools"
May "Gearing Up for Middle School"

Poptab Collectors: These students collected poptabs that will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House to help support the work they are doing to provide housing for families who have children in Children's Hospital. Students are asked to put their first and last name on a baggie and fill it with poptabs. All poptabs should be placed in the basket that is outside Mrs. Tanner's classroom. Please do not include boxtops in the same bag.

Thanks to the following students for collecting during the month of November: Drew Hoseman, Claire, Luke Abston, Mary Payton Everette, William Vinson, Trevor York, Andrew Hulcher, Will Mashburn, Hunter Grace Fairfax, Jasmine Greene, Aidan Rahmeyer, Tyler Young, Gabby Saia, Braxton Harrelson, Evan Thibodeaux, Avery Shaw, Danielle Brewer, Mia Phillips, and Ricky Abel. Those that collected in the month of December are: Greer, Luke Abston, Ryan Cole and Gabrielle Saia.



Where are you eating dinner on January 10th???
Chick-fil-A at the Riverchase Galleria??
Take a break from cooking and come join the fun at our
Chick-fil-A Spirit Night.
More information coming soon.

EAT MOR CHIKIN

RES PTO would like to once again thank our 2011-2012

PLATINUM SPONSORS.

Your support for our school is greatly appreciated!!

***** Anglin Pediatric Dentistry *** Alabama Rentals *** Dance Et Cetera**
***** Donohoo Automotive *** Pita Gourmet**

For more information on these sponsors, please see their ads in this year's Student Directory.

Character Counts... Congratulations to our character winners for the month of December for demonstrating GENEROSITY. Making someone's day by giving something away.

Kindergarten:

Braylen Toole- Farrell
Drew Herman- Sellers
Richard Moon- Slaton
Ethan Kline – Burnett
Jordan Benson - Dempster
Andrew Roebuck- Patton

First Grade:

Cecilia Daigle- Hyche
McKinney Shea- Fite
Zachary Gray- Turner
Amari Bivens- Chick
Joey Friedman-Globetti
Olivia Mooney- Hottel

Second Grade:

Mary Beth Storm- Holmes
Marissa Mayo- Collins
Will Moulton- Woodward
Lauren Baker- Kirkpatrick
Anthony Hays-Rogers
Tyler Young-Frederick

Third Grade:

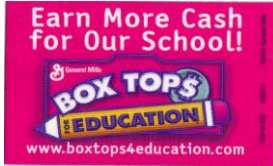
Lizzie Dills-Kline
Emma Johnson- Beam
Sims Hunter- G. Rogers
Deacon George- Weaver
Michael Ogletree- Wilson

Fourth Grade:

Andrew Smith- Everette
Zayd Abusud Causey
Charlie Trower- Carpenter
Makenna Kuhn- Rodas
Alex Cotumaccio- Long

Fifth Grade:

Caleb Scott- Warner
Wesley Picard- Dunn
Hannah Luther- Ross
Clancee Synco-Carlisle
Layth Abusud-Wallis



Remember to keep collecting Box Tops and Labels for Education over the holiday break. Our next deadline for turning these in is January 27th. Be on the lookout for more information when we return in January.

Publix.

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®
When doing all your Holiday food shopping, don't forget to have your Publix card scanned at checkout. You can pick up a key chain scanner in the main office.

Staff Birthdays in

DECEMBER: 5: Maggie Burnett 14: Lori Wilson 14: Nicole Barnes 20: Emily Causey
JANUARY: 8: Courtney Beam 22: Rebecca Fite 23: Averee Patton

"Happy Birthday to you, Happy Birthday to you..."



Happy Birthday



Literacy Learning

In Focus: Strengthening your child's vocabulary

The single most influential way to increase your child's vocabulary is to read aloud to your child. As you read be on the lookout for "Tier 2" words. These are words that your child will encounter in many books. Examples include words like coincidence, trotting, and curious, or words that have multiple meanings (slate) or pronunciations (record).

While you are reading stop when you come to the word and ask your child about their level of understanding a word (Level 1: Never saw it before, do not know it; Level 2: Heard it or seen it before, but don't know what it means; Level 3: Knows something about it or can relate a situation to it; Level 4: Know it well, can explain it and use it). Then discuss the word's meaning by using in the following steps:

Step 1: Identify the word and your child's level of understanding

Step 2: Reread just the sentence that the word is in.

Step 3: Have your child say the word with you

Step 4: Tell your child the meaning of the word.

Step 5: Give some examples of using that word in different contexts

than the context of the story. (This is the most critical part of the conversation with your child. They need to understand how they might see this word used again in a different book, or said in a different kind of conversation)

Step 6: Ask your child to give an example of using that word

Step 7: Have your child say the word again

Want to build your child's vocabulary? Read and talk about words!

Kathy Snyder, Literacy Coach

BEYOND THE BASIC CURRICULUM...

Science in First Grade

We are currently studying the human body and how we can keep our bodies safe as well as healthy. This unit is very enlightening and a rewarding experience for young child. Although all of us believe we are familiar with our individual bodies, we may also feel that they are mysterious. Throughout this unit we identify parts of the human body, recognize the importance of a balanced diet for healthy bones and discuss the relationship with our muscles and bones to movement. We also discover different ways that we use our senses every day. We discuss the skeletal system and the vital role it plays in keeping our organs safe. To supplement this unit we will take a field trip to the Alabama Theatre to see Slim Goodbody. You can visit his website www.slimgoodbody.com, to explore different ways to further incorporate this study at home. Also visit www.choosemyplate.gov, this is the new website for the USDA. It contains a great deal of information about nutrition and how to eat healthy.

2nd Grade Goes on a "World Tour"

During the month of December in social studies, second grade studies holidays around the world. We begin by discussing many of the diverse holidays that are celebrated by students in our classrooms. Students are able to share about their family traditions and the meanings behind their traditions and celebrations. Then, students go on a "world tour" visiting places like Mexico, Italy, and Sweden to learn about holidays celebrated in each country. Last, students are given an opportunity to research a country of his own choosing and present to other classmates about holidays and traditions special to that country.

3rd Grade

To go beyond our basic curriculum in Science, the third grade invited McWane Science Center to come and visit us here at school. For this visit, we focused on chemistry. Through exciting demonstrations and fun experiments our students learned fun facts about chemistry and all about physical and chemical properties of matter.



The students were fascinated by the experiments and were eager to participate. They were able to see experiments with liquid nitrogen that we would not have the opportunity to use in the regular classroom. It was really exciting for them to see! Make sure to ask your child about their friends who breathed out steam!

We can't wait for our next visit from McWane in February. Our program will be on simple machines.

5th Grade

Our basic curriculum requirements pack our day FULL of things to learn. Yet, we strive to give our students opportunities to go outside and beyond the curriculum because we believe this educates the entire child and gives them real life experiences.

October 17-19, we sought learning AND fun as we moved our classrooms outside to the Environment Learning Center at Camp McDowell. This three day camping trip was filled with rich educational experiences. The students were able to study ecosystems, food chains, and the rock cycle. What better way to learn about these topics than hiking through a forest? We were even able to go canoeing as well as learn survival skills from our favorite naturalist "Big Dave"! Night time activities included sessions for students to be able to get up close and personal with wildlife that is native to Alabama forests. We also were introduced to the "Big Screen", the night sky. Camp is a fifth grade favorite because it lets students take their knowledge and apply it away from the classroom.

DECEMBER 2011/ JANUARY 2012

S	M	T	W	R	F	S	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
					Teacher Appreciation Lunch		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
		Early Dismissal 12:45PM	WINTER BREAK →				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
← WINTER BREAK →							
JAN 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
WINTER BREAK →			CLASSES RESUME				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
			Report Cards		GEO BEE		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
	MLK Day NO SCHOOL						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	
					Box Tops/Labels for Education deadline		
29	30	31	FEB 1	2	3	4	