

Twain Times

Twain Families –

February is another busy month around here! Thanks in advance for the time you take to read the newsletter and look over the important events coming up this month.

The first Thursday, **February 2**, is our monthly **Domino's Night**. Domino's on W. Sunshine donates \$1 to Mark Twain Elementary for each pizza sold that evening. In addition, the class with the most students participating wins a free pizza party. Call 522-3322 to place your order and be sure to give them the name of your child's teacher!

All Pro Dad Breakfast will be **February 10th** at 7:30 AM at South Haven Church. If you have not joined us, please consider. This is a wonderful time for students and dads (or other male role models in their lives) to spend time together building their relationships. Don't forget to RSVP (return form or call school) so we know how much food to bring!

Valentine's Parties will be Tuesday, **February 14th**, at 2:20 PM. Your child's teacher will send home a class list for Valentines. Please contact your child's homeroom parent for more information on how you can volunteer or help with the parties.

Our **First Grade Program** is on Thursday, **February 16th**, at 6:30 PM. This is always a fun program where we get to see our first grade students put their rhythm and dance moves to work!

Students are **out of school** on Friday, **February 17th**, while teachers participate in Professional Learning/Work. Students are also **out of school** on Monday, **February 20th**, for Presidents' Day.

The monthly **PTA Open Forum** is scheduled for Tuesday, **February 21**, at 6:30 PM. We meet in the Mark Twain Library, and we hope to see you at the meeting. PTA is busy planning important events such as Fun Night, Book Fair, and Field Day. We would love to have your ideas and support!

Sincerely,
Stacye Manlove
Principal – Mark Twain Elementary
smanlove@spsmail.org

Thank You to the
Hamel's Foundation!

Their generous grant makes the
Running Club and the Jump Rope
Club possible.

**Please see the
calendar for
important dates
and upcoming
events!!**

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

February 1-14, students will be able to make "friendship grams" to send their friends on Feb. 14th. Pencils will cost 25 cents, erasers will cost 50 cents, and pens 75 cents. All supplies are Valentine themed. The "friendship grams" will be available during lunch. All proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House of the Ozarks.



Family Life Videos

As part of our regular curriculum, students in grades 1 – 5 will be viewing Family Life videos. The videos will be shown in classrooms from Feb. 1-22. Look for a note coming home early in February giving a description of the videos shown for each grade. If parents are interested in watching a video before it is shown in the classroom, previews are scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 2 or Fri. Feb. 3 in the morning. Call Miss Baxter, school counselor, to make an appointment. 523-4360.

PTA Reflections 2011-2012 Diversity Means...

This program is designed to enhance quality arts education for students in preschool through grade 12. All student entries submitted by Mark Twain Elementary will move to the state level for competition. The following results are from the Springfield-level competition. Congratulations!

Claytin Barton—Honorable Mention for Visual Arts (Primary Division)

Sadie Upchurch—3rd Place for Literature (Primary Division)

Aubrey Albert—Honorable Mention for Literature (Intermediate Division)



Yearbook News...

*Parents, you can still email pictures of school events and submit them for the yearbook, but time is running out!!

The email address for photo submissions is:

twainyearbook2012@hotmail.com

*Class and school group photos are scheduled for February 8.

[Jump Rope for Heart](#) has started in P.E. This is a fundraiser for the American Heart Association. The money helps researchers develop new technology--saving lives for patients who have heart problems. Your child will bring home a collection envelope this week. Simply write down the name of the person who donates to your child, and how much that person donates. Then, place the money in the collection envelope. You may turn in the envelope to me at any time, but I encourage you to keep it until the end of February. Did you know your company can match what your child raises? I had a student from a school last year raise \$500 and her parent's employer matched it-- and paid her an additional \$500! Our school goal is \$1500. If we meet our goal, Mr. Charlie will wear a red dress! ☺

Contact Mrs. Stoneking for more information.
kstoneking@spsmail.org



ALL Pro Dad Breakfast

February 10th

7:30 AM

@ South Haven Church

This month's All Pro Dad Breakfast is coming up! This will be a wonderful time for students and their dads (or other male role model in their lives) to spend some time together talking and eating. Breakfast will be FREE. Please return the RSVP below or call (523-4300) if you can make it so we can plan for the food. Thank you to South Haven for allowing us the use of their facility.

All Pro Dad RSVP

Yes! Count us in for the All Pro Dad Breakfast!

Name _____ number of children _____

Please return this slip to the Mark Twain Office by Tuesday, February 7.

Staff of the Month-

Congratulations to Mrs. Dawn Snapp, our teacher of the month. Mrs. Snapp is a third-grade teacher here at Mark Twain Elementary. Listed below are a few of the comments made regarding Mrs. Snapp:

- 1) I can't say enough positive things about Mrs. Snapp. She is optimistic, outgoing, and an especially wonderful friend. She always puts her students first and is creative in her teaching. I have learned a lot from Mrs. Snapp and am so thankful to work with her.
- 2) Mrs. Snapp is a hard-working teacher who tries to help each of her students reach his/her potential.
- 3) Mrs. Snapp is a dedicated, hard-working and loving teacher. She cares about her students and works hard to help them be successful in every way possible. She is a positive influence on everyone and has a wonderful smile and caring heart. I consider her a dear friend.

Clothing Bank

The PTA Clothing Bank will be open this Saturday,
February 4, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM.

First-time visitors will need a voucher issued. Vouchers may be obtained for qualifying students through your School Nurse, School Counselor, or School Secretary. Subsequent visits require only identification at check-in.

Families may visit the Clothing Bank up to three times during a school year.

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM:

Dental Health Is Important!

Jordan Valley Dental Clinic looked at the teeth of all 3rd and 5th graders last month to see if sealants are needed for protection. Jordan Valley is offering to provide sealants for students who need it and qualify for assistance.

Parents, if you received a letter requesting permission to place sealants on your child's teeth, this is at no cost to you. If you complete the form and return it to the school nurse, the procedure will be completed during the school day. Please take advantage of this great opportunity to protect your child's teeth against decay. If you have questions, feel free to contact Nurse Deason.

Nurse Deason

Congratulations to our 3-5 grade students who competed in the Title I Math Contest held on Saturday, January 21.

Participants for Mark Twain Elementary's Math Team included: Alex Tran, Lindsey Losey, Ian Hansen, Ever Cole, Brendan Gregg, Kiauna Haun, Alex Dula, Hannah Curnutt, Simon Stirewalt

We also had two students receive special recognition:

Ever Cole- 3rd Place, Problem Solving (3rd Grade Division)

Lindsey Losey-3rd Place, Problem Solving (4th Grade Division)

A great big THANK YOU to Math Team sponsors Mrs. Penny Carroll and Mrs. Nicole McCord!



Calling all Box Tops!

PTA is sponsoring a Box Tops contest for each classroom. Please send in your Box Tops January 30-February 17. The class with the most Box Tops will win an ice cream party March 16. Box Tops translate to cash for our PTA events such as Fun Night. Thank you for participating!

RIF News Reading is Fundamental

PTA sponsors RIF for our 1st and 2nd grade students. Each student receives a free book three times a year during the RIF presentations. Mrs. Upchurch is Twain's RIF Chairperson, and we thank her along with the many volunteers she organizes for each RIF event.

Current RIF events:

-Your child should bring home information regarding a poster contest for 1st and 2nd grade students. Please read the information on the flyer. Deadline for contest entries is March 15. Please contact Peggy Stepp at 883-6727 or via email at rifspringfieldmo@gmail.com if you have any questions.

-Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast is Saturday, February 4, 8:00 AM- 10:00 AM. The Applebee's restaurant at 1855 E. Primrose is hosting this event. Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at the door. For more information, email

rifspringfieldmo@gmail.com

-Legends Car Wash at 1820 W. Battlefield will donate 20% of each car wash to RIF if you enter code: 1036 at the screen. Again, contact rifspringfieldmo@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for supporting RIF!