

# Corning Elementary School

December 2011

## Elementary News Patty Morris, Principal

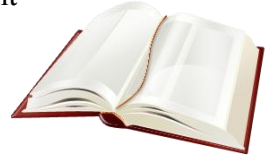
We have some very talented students! Their holiday music programs were awesome as usual. I really appreciated how dressed up the students were for their concerts. I was impressed with all the beautiful holiday dresses the young ladies were wearing. It was also quite thrilling to see so many of the boys wearing dress shirts and ties. Several even had on suits! THANK YOU PARENTS for helping them see that concerts are special and a dress-up occasion.

Matura partnered with us again this year and invited our Preschool-Kindergarten students to do some Christmas shopping for their parents. They are able to provide gifts for students to choose and help them wrap them and take them home. How proud our young students are to have gifts to give their parents!

We are in the process of getting bids on a new playground for our preschool students. This will be a fenced-in area appropriate for our 4 year olds and give them a special place to play. This is a requirement for our program. We were fortunate to receive part of the funds for this new equipment from a grant. Look for this construction to begin after winter is over.

Teachers continue to study research-based practices for reading instruction during our inservice times. We continue to study and hone our skills in Daily 5 and CAFÉ reading strategies to make sure we are providing the best opportunity for our students.

When parents come to visit, they will see students working independently while teachers work with different groups. While students are not working directly with teachers, they are being asked to complete one of the Daily 5 activities. A very important Daily 5 activity is “read to self.” To become a better reader, students need to practice. When parents attended school, they probably completed worksheets or center activities while the teacher worked with other students. We have learned that these activities may not have been the best way to improve reading and to help students become independent readers. Students need time to practice their independent reading skills. Teachers give direct instructions on the “read to self” expectations.



In between Daily 5 sessions, students are taught lessons in a large group format. Then they are sent to work independently or in small groups with teachers. As the year progresses, I will explain more of the Daily 5 process and what parents will see during a visit. To the students, this is already routine and normal. But to visiting adults, it is a different format than when they learned reading skills. Just as we expect our physicians to keep up with the latest in medical research, our staff is working to keep up with the latest in educational research. These improvements in learning opportunities will help each student reach their fullest potential.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 322-4020.

**PTO News**  
**Boxtops Bring in Extra Funds**

I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for saving those boxtops for us. It is amazing how fast that money adds up! In the past two years we have been able to purchase lockers for the junior kindergarten, and have put \$3,000 towards the purchase of books both for the classroom and the library from money collected through boxtops. We were also able to purchase a document camera with these funds. So you can see, in two years time, those boxtops you send in have allowed us to purchase many items. Keep saving and sending them in, please!

I hope you will be able to attend the next PTO meeting that will be held Thursday, January 5 at 5:30 PM. The middle team will be presenting information about how they implement The Daily 5 Reading.

**Middle Grades**

We have had a busy time in Middle Grades this first semester. Science is the favorite subject of many students. We have learned about the main types of clouds. We learned what weather to expect with each type of clouds. The next subject was the water cycle and forms of matter. We finished this semester with how animals adapt to their



environment and how they use body parts for survival.

Language Arts time comes right after first recess. We do a rotation that includes Sitton Spelling, cursive hand writing, and the art of writing. The students have been engaged with story writing which includes revising and editing their own work.

Fourth graders have been working on multiplication, division, decimals, percents and the task of solving word problems during Math time. Third Graders have been working on fractions, probability, map scale, and missing addends.

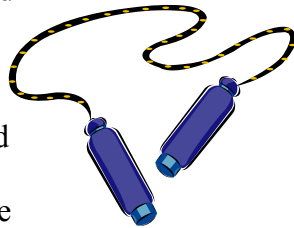
The Middle Team staff has been so excited about the wonderful progress our students are making during reading time. They have moved up several guided reading levels. With the multi-age format, we are able to teach students at their own reading level. The students are arranged into small groups where the teachers are able to individualize reading strategy instruction for each learner. Students have the opportunity to be engaged in reading books of their choice. The teachers sometimes assist with selection of the books to ensure all books are at a “good fit” level.

We are looking forward to sharing our learning with friend and families on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at our sharing event. With this being the second year of multi-age, the students adjusted more quickly and were ready to learn from day one.

We look forward to the New Year and want to wish everyone a happy holiday.

## **Physical Education** **Mr. Naugle**

Greetings! We are at the half way point of another year and the time of the year again in which the students are given the opportunity to participate in Jump Rope for Heart. This will be the fifth year that we will have participated in this fundraiser while I have been teaching at the elementary. It is a great fundraiser to be a part of. I can remember when I was in elementary and participated in Jump Rope for Heart. This is not a mandatory fundraiser. I will be distributing the Jump Rope for Heart information the first week of February. The money that is raised goes to the American Heart Association which in turn uses those funds to help support heart related research, programs and helps children pay for heart procedures. The information that I send out in February will explain more about the program itself, the who, the what, the why and the where. I hope that we can get as many students involved as possible and continue to do our part to help a great organization. If you have any questions now or after the information is received, please feel free to contact me at the elementary school.



### **Junior Kindergarten News**

Is it really Christmas time already? The year goes by so fast. We hope that you will find some time during the busy time ahead to enjoy some peace and family traditions this holiday season. The Junior Kindergarteners have been busy with holiday preparations. Here is how our December school days have been spent.

1<sup>st</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...their attention to learn numbers, letters, sounds, and so much more.

2<sup>nd</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...oatmeal to make food for all the Reindeers to enjoy.

5<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...snow pants, boots, coats, hats, and gloves and snow on the playground.

6<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...shoelaces to learn to tie.

7<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...applesauce gingerbread ornaments to hang on our tree.

8<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...1 Holiday Concert, in which they did wonderfully.

9<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...de"light"ful little reindeers that shine so brightly.

12<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...snowmen made from glue to make them look frosty.

13<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...snowflakes for our window, in hopes that the snow will fall to let us go sledding.

14<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...homemade ornaments for their parents to enjoy.

15<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...a story time done by the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, with *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* read to us.

16<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...decorated sugar cookies, thanks to the high school FCCLA.

19<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...a search around the school to find our Gingerbread Man.

20<sup>th</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...a shopping trip for presents for their parents made available through the MATURA Neighborhood Center.

21<sup>st</sup> Day of December the Junior Kindergarteners gave to me...a Holiday party with Gingerbread house decorating and Christmas music to keep us jingling to the New Year.

Although we have done many fun activities throughout the month of December, the Junior Kindergarteners have been hard at working learning their alphabet, numbers, letter sounds, and so much more. Many of the kids are starting to read, and we are enjoying reading different books in the process. Throughout this holiday season we have also learned that it isn't about receiving gifts, but instead what we can give to others. We hope each and every one of you has a safe and fun holiday season!

# Reminder!

## Winter Break:

Wednesday,  
December 21-  
Monday, January  
3.

Classes resume  
Wednesday,  
January 4, 2012.

