



January 13, 2010

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### Love and Logicisms *Wise Words about Kids:*

Wise parents know that the worst time to try and talk and "reason" with a child is while the child is angry. Wise parents simply say, "I know, it's so sad" in a soft voice until their child calms down.

## A Word from the Principal

Dear NYOS families,  
Happy New Year to all! We are working hard as we begin the second semester of the school year. Please be on the lookout for notes and emails from your child's teacher as we are now scheduling mid-year conferences. Every student is expected to meet with their teacher and parent/s to discuss progress towards meeting goals.

**OPEN HOUSE at NYOS!** Tell your friends and neighbors. We are having an Open House at **both campuses this Thursday, Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> from 9-11AM and 5-6:30 PM.** NYOS just may be the perfect place for their child to attend school next year.

Our **PVC (PARENT VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE)** will also be meeting on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM in the Lamar

library. Please plan to attend. This group works very hard for our teachers, students and school and they depend on our support!



### SCIENCE FAIR

**Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> in the Magnolia Gym**

All students are encouraged to complete a science project and present it at the fair. Each class will also have a project to share. Six Mad Scientists from Mad Science of Austin will be bringing 6 exciting science stations to share with our students and families, as well. Hope to see you there!

Terry Berkenhoff, Principal

## School/Home Connection

<http://all-science-fair-projects.com/>

Check out the above website for tons of great ideas on science fair projects. Be sure and read over the science fair packet sent home with your child. It has specific directions on how to record the scientific process.

Jenna Tintera

Assistant Principal

January 2010					
11	12	13	14 OPEN HOUSE PVC LOVE & LOGIC	15	16/17
18 MLK DAY HOLIDAY	19	20	21	22 Student led conferences	23/24
25 Early Release Student led Conferences	26	27	28	29	30/31
February 2010					
1	2	3	4	5	6/7
8	9	10	11 Science Fair Magnolia Gym	12	13/14

### Go Forth, Fourth Grade!

The fourth grade team is flat-out, full-tilt BUSY! In addition to launching our preparation for the upcoming Science Fair (with a focus on matter) and learning about mission life and the Texas Revolution, we are honing our personal narrative writing skills, reading-reading-reading *and* mastering long division!

Speaking of math, students in this grade are expected to have gained (almost) instant recall of multiplication facts through the twelves. **If your child has not yet done so, please insist that he or she work those facts for twenty minutes per day until mastery is achieved.** Some fourth grade teachers have been encouraging students in this endeavor by implementing "Mad Minute Math," a flexible testing program offering incentives for various levels of accomplishment.

Additionally, fourth graders should still be reading 20 to 30 minutes per day, Monday through Thursday and for at least an hour on the weekends. Filling out reading logs consistently fosters accountability in your student. If the reading and/or reading log completions have diminished recently, please encourage your reader to get back on track. Reading lots is the best way to become a great reader, especially if a parent or the family occasionally (or often) shares a good book with the child.

By now, fourth grade parents know that this year is a very special time. Children at this age have many new cognitive capabilities. Included among these new skills is the ability to "understand that not everyone sees the world as they see it."\* This new understanding is part of what makes nine and ten-year olds such pleasures to teach, even when we're all "flat-out, full-tilt BUSY!"

(\*For more on the cognitive development of fourth graders, go to [http://www.education.com/magazine/article/How\\_child\\_thinks\\_fourth\\_graders/](http://www.education.com/magazine/article/How_child_thinks_fourth_graders/) .)

*Sally Phillips*

Team Leader, Fourth Grade