CLASSROOM SPOTLIGHT:
Ms. Thorson, 1st Grade, Room 14

Welcome back from Winter Break! The first graders in Room 14 are back and ready to learn. We will begin learning how to write personal narratives. This will give us a wonderful opportunity to share about ourselves and individual adventures over winter break through writing!

We are all excited to continue learning how to use a counting chart to add and subtract. We will also be learning how to draw a quick picture to represent tens and ones. Room 14 loves to use manipulatives during math and explore the true meaning behind each concept.

In other news, we are using UNRAAVEL as a strategy to help build our comprehension and continue to practice our high frequency words to become more fluent readers. First grade loves to read and every strategy learned is a new opportunity for progress. Room 14 says practice makes progress, so thank you families for practicing those high frequency words at home and reading with your children!

Kindergarten Round-Up for the 2016-2017 school year will be held Friday, January 22, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. Items needed for registration are:

Certified copy of birth certificate
Immunization records
Proof of address in parent’s name (examples would be MUD, OPPD, Cox Cable bills, Lease/rental agreement, proof of sale)
Welcome back! The Boyd PTA is excited for all that 2016 will bring. We start the year off with a PTA meeting at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12 in the school library. All are welcome to attend. If you cannot join us but are interested in volunteer opportunities, please email boyd_pta@yahoo.com.

School Store: The PTA will offer the next “school store” on Friday, Jan. 15. The store will feature Boyd-branded merchandise, including shirts for $11, water bottles for $2, and wrist bands, pen/pencil set, Smencils and Smickers (scented stickers) for $1 each.

Family Night: Save the date for our next Family Night on Thursday, Jan. 21. There will be a book fair and other activities for the whole family. More details to come!

NOTES FROM THE NURSE!

WINTER HEALTH TIPS

Wear a winter coat, a hat and gloves. Even if the weather is warm to start, it can change in an instant. Parents please be sure your child has a hat and gloves each and every day! They can remain in the backpack if not needed, but it can be a real health concern if they aren't available when that cold wind starts blowing.

Try to prepare a winter skin care kit for your child to keep available. Dry, irritated skin can be very annoying, and can become infected if not treated. Each student should have his/her own hand lotion and lip balm readily available for comfort and care.

Wash those hands! Germs abound, and the best way to prevent the spread of infection is to wash hands.

Cover that cough! A tissue should be used whenever possible. (Another thing to add to those winter care kits!) If you can't get to a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper arm. That way, there is less risk of spreading germs through touch. Of course, the hands are better than nothing, but then they need to be washed!

Get plenty of rest! With all the days off of school, many students have become accustomed to staying up late. It's time to get to bed earlier, and aim for 10 hours of sleep each night! (8 hours for adults.) Adequate rest makes learning easier and moods better. In addition, more accidents occur when we are sleep-deprived, and adequate rest helps stave off illness. So why not go for something that is free, but does so much good?

Drink plenty of fluids to keep your body well hydrated.

Exercise remains important. Fresh air is also important. Even though it is cold, it is beneficial to get plenty of fresh air and exercise. Contrary to popular thought, you won't get sick from being out in the cold UNLESS you aren't dressed properly. Obviously in the coldest weather, skin freezing can occur quickly, but most days are just fine for some fun outside. Just remember those hats and gloves!
SCHOOL CHOICE FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

January, 2016, starts the annual school selection application process for the 2016-17 school year. Students enrolled in a transition grade (last grade at the current school), will receive a selection application to participate in the school choice process for the next school year. The School Selection process is guided by the Student Assignment Plan for the Omaha Public Schools.

School Selection Guarantee under the Student Assignment Plan:
Elementary and Middle school students are guaranteed placement in their neighborhood (Home Attendance Area) school assigned by residential address.

School Choice under the Student Assignment Plan:
Families may apply for their child to attend any OPS school. Approval of a request depends on the availability of space at the student’s grade level in the requested school and these priorities:

With limited exceptions, OPS students may continue to attend their current school. Possible exceptions include children attending a school with extremely high enrollment who move out of the attendance area (such as Castelar or Gomez), or Kindergarten-eligible children who currently attend Pre-Kindergarten and Head Start programs that are not located in the neighborhood school. They may apply through selection for placement in the non-neighborhood school however, capacity may limit their selection.

After neighborhood students, the priority for approval is for a student whose sibling now attends and will continue to attend the requested school. Approval is based on available space and is not guaranteed.

The next priority will be given to a student who resides within the Omaha Public Schools and who will enhance the socioeconomic diversity of the requested school. A student who will not enhance the socioeconomic diversity of a school may be approved if space is available.

Transportation:
Transportation provisions included in the current Student Assignment Plan for 2016-17 are designed to support the goal of increasing socioeconomic diversity in every school and to assist families whose children attend the neighborhood elementary or middle school but live more than 1.5 miles from the school.

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOICE APPLICATIONS will be distributed at school in January, 2016 to all incoming KG children now enrolled in Head Start or PK and to children in the last grade level of their school (GR 4, 5, or 6). Generic School Choice Applications will also be available at every school and at the Student Placement office at TAC during the month of January.

MIDDLE SCHOOL RECRUITMENT LETTERS will be mailed in December to families of students currently in the last grade level of their school. The purpose of the letter is to provide information about middle schools and their respective Open House dates. Families are encouraged to request theme-based middle schools through the School Choice process in order for their children to benefit from the innovative curricula and diverse environments of these schools.

KINDERGARTEN ROUND-UPS will be held in January, 2016. Please attend Round-Up at your neighborhood school based on your residential address. School Selection Applications will be available at Round-Up and throughout the month of January for families who wish to request a non-neighborhood school (s). Round-Up dates will be posted on the OPS Web page or check the date with your neighborhood school.

If you have questions about the Omaha Public Schools Student Assignment Plan or the School Choice process, please contact the Student Placement Office at (402) 557-2710
MIDDLE SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE DATES

Beveridge Magnet Middle School
beveridge.ops.org
1616 South 220 Street 68114
Grades 7-8
- Arts and Global Studies
- Visual and Performing Arts
- International Studies

Open House - Thursday, January 21, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Hale Magnet Middle School
hale.ops.org
6141 Whitmore Street 68102
Grades 6-8
- Leadership
- Social Justice
- Expanded learning time

Open House - Thursday, January 7, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

McMillan Magnet Middle School
mcmillan.ops.org
3002 Redick Avenue 68112
Grades 6-8
- Engineering
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW)
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)

Open House - Thursday, January 7, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Bryan Middle School
bryan.ops.org
5210 South 47 Street 68117
Grades 7-8
- R.U.L.E. Peers Respecting Individuality, Diversity, Excellence
- Rigorous and respectful learning environment
- Prepare High School Readiness

Open House - Thursday, January 21, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

King Science & Technology Magnet
king.ops.org
3750 Florence Boulevard 68103
Grades 6-8
- Themes of inquiry, technology, and service learning
- High level science topics
- Variety of technology & multimedia tools

Open House - Tuesday, January 19, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Monroe Middle School
monroe.ops.org
5015 Seward Avenue 68104
Grades 6-8
- Diverse instruction
- Diverse student populations
- Develop thinking skills

Open House - Sunday, January 10, 2016 - 1-3 p.m.

Buffett Magnet Middle School
buffett.ops.org
1410 Linwood Avenue 68114
Grades 6-8
- Home of the net learning center
- Rigorous core curriculum
- Communications skills & electronic media

Open House - Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Lewis & Clark Middle School
lc.ops.org
4901 Burr Street 68102
Grades 6-8
- International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
- IBMYP
- Focus Program - "Leadership through Communication and Technology"

Open House - Tuesday, January 19, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Morton Magnet Middle School
morton.ops.org
4636 Terrace Drive 68114
Grades 6-8
- Center for Community Research and Design
- Pathfinder to college readiness (AP/IB)
- Six steps decision process

Open House - Tuesday, January 12, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Davis Middle School
davis.ops.org
8650 North 125 Avenue 68114
Grades 6-8
- LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design)
- Math instruction for 90 minutes daily
- Comprehensive neighborhood school grounded in academic fundamentals

Open House - Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 6:30-8 p.m.

Marrs Magnet Middle School
marrs.ops.org
5619 South 10 Street 68107
Grades 5-8
- Specialized mathematics program
- Infusion of economics into program
- Dual Language Program

Open House - Thursday, January 14, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.

Norris Middle School
norris.ops.org
2215 South 46 Street 68106
Grades 6-8
- Dual Language Program
- Traditional middle level offerings
- ADEA: Adoptive School Partnerships

Open House - Tuesday, January 12, 2016 - 6-7:30 p.m.
Give Kids A Smile

PROVIDING DENTAL EDUCATION AND PREVENTIVE CARE FOR CHILDREN

Saturday, February 6, 2016
2802 Webster Street (Boyne Building)
8 a.m.—Noon

Uninsured children accepted between ages 3–14 are eligible for cleanings, dental examinations, dental sealants and X-rays.

Please call 402.280.2863 to schedule your appointment starting on Wednesday, January 6.

HOSTED BY
Creighton University School of Dentistry
and Give Kids A Smile!