Visit us on the Web!
https://nisd.schoolnet.com/outreach/tes1/specialists/

Artist’s Alley

As another school year draws to an end, Thornton art students are showing every day how much they have learned and how very creative young minds can be!

First graders are completing their paper bird puppets and will soon use drawing skills and origami to create a charming combination. Kindergarten students learned to curl, bend, loop and fold paper strips and are using these skills to create fantastic hats!

Second graders have been weaving with a variety of materials on paper looms, and the results are quite impressive! Third grade artists created wonderful ceramic owls. They are now reviewing cool and warm colors with an interesting collage lesson involving 3-D glasses!

Fourth and fifth graders are completing their ceramic clay units by glazing their respective projects. Fourth grade learned to roll clay “ropes” to build coil pots, and fifth grade used pinch pot bases to build rattle rocks or unique pots. The resulting projects were varied and exciting!

Your children are a joy to teach. Providing materials and encouragement for art activities at home will allow you to see how they blossom!

Have a restful and happy summer!

ALPHA

Summer Enrichment

School will soon be out and summer is fast approaching us. Your child will be anxious to get involved in something different. San Antonio offers a tremendous number of different educational, cultural, and recreational summer camps for kids.

There are adventure camps that introduce the students to nature and the animal kingdom.

Some camps provide hands on arts and crafts that teach them about the local culture.

Science Camps fill up fast. They introduce your child to many different science concept.

Other camps introduce academics, cooking, theater, dance and sports that help your child keep physically and mentally fit.

To learn more, contact Mrs. Keller at kerry.keller@nisd.net.

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Music Notes

Congratulations to the fifth graders for their outstanding participation in the Music Memory Contest! I am very proud of the students for their hard work and good sportsmanship in this event. Of our 119 fifth graders, 103 students passed Round One of the contest and became semi-finalists! Music Memory Round Two was a grueling test that narrowed each class down to only a few finalists who battled it out in the Finals. After an exciting game of buzzers, biography and musical vocabulary questions, and song-naming, the 2012–2013 Music Memory Champion and Runner-Up from each class emerged:

Class | Champion | Runner-Up
--- | --- | ---
Ms. Eakle | Raquel | Katie
Ms. Hultz | Sai | Tristan
Ms. Miranda | Gabriel | Patrick
Ms. Morrow | Paula | Muddassir
Mr. Wright | Ian | David

For all grades, the last two music classes of the school year are something special to look forward to. The students are given the opportunity to practice skills they’ve learned as they play some of their favorite singing games as a review. In addition, I have Music Bingo, Instrument Bingo, and Rhythm Bingo games to play for prizes!

Tech Talk

All students continue to learn new things in the Literacy Lab. Kinder students are learning how to group and label in visual mapping software. First graders are creating word clouds. Second graders are adding presentation software, visual mapping software, and spreadsheet software to their tech knowledge.

Third graders are learning desktop publishing and spreadsheet software. Fourth graders are also working with desktop publishing software and are becoming experts at revising, editing, and proofing. Fifth graders are learning the basics of communication tools such as instant messages, blogs, podcasts, and email.

After learning about the life cycle of a plant, each Kinder student created a Photo Story. They did a great job and are very excited about bringing their first “movie” home on a CD. We hope you enjoy them as much as we did making them.

Thornton will be getting new computers during the summer. Each classroom will have two new student computers; upper grades will have an additional one or two repurposed computers. Teachers will receive laptops and document cameras. The campus will also receive five laptop carts which will contain 16 laptops each as well as an iPod cart with iPod Touch devices.

Have a safe and relaxing summer!

Reading Roundup

Summer Reading

Summer is only a few weeks away. The pool, bike rides, and outdoor activities are on every student’s mind. Don’t forget to pick up a good book or two this summer. Students can lose up to half a year of progress over they summer. Reading during the break will help students retain skills learned during the school year. Students can read fiction or non-fiction including chapter books, magazines, comics, poetry, plays, and newspapers. Weekly trips to the public library are a great way to keep children motivated and interested in reading several different types of print.

brandi.shipman@nisd.net

How long should my child read? Here are some guidelines:

- Preschoolers: parents read to child a minimum of 15 minutes a day
- New Readers: parents take turns reading with child for 15 minutes a day
- Independent Early Readers - 2nd grade and up: 15-30 minutes a day
- 3rd Grade and up: 30 minutes a day
- 5th grade through Middle School: 1 hour a day

One of the best gifts you can give your child is your time reading with them. Cuddle up together and enjoy a great book!
**Math Matters**

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to remind students and parents that everyday events offer endless opportunities to practice math skills. Many parents want to know what they can do to help their child review math skills. The following skills are suggestions to help reinforce, as well as, prepare your child for the next year’s math skills:

- **Kindergarten**
  - Practice counting to 100.
  - Skip count by 10s to 100, by 5s to 50, and by 2s to 20.
  - Count backwards from 20.
  - Practice addition facts to 6.

- **First Grade**
  - Practice addition and subtraction facts to 18.
  - Tell time to the hour and half hour.
  - Skip count by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

- **Second Grade**
  - Practice addition and subtraction facts to 18.

- **Third Grade**
  - Practice addition and subtraction facts to 18.
  - Practice multiplication facts to 10.
  - Count groups of coins to $1.00.

- **Fourth Grade**
  - Practice multiplication and division facts to 12.
  - Subtract 3 and 4 digit numbers.
  - Round whole numbers to the nearest million.

- **Fifth Grade**
  - Practice multiplication and division facts to 12.
  - Practice place value to billions.
  - Round whole numbers to the nearest billion.
  - Round decimals to the nearest hundredths.

Tell time to five minute intervals.
Count groups of coins to $1.00.
Skip count by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, 6s, 7s, 8s, and 9s.

**jeangage@nisd.net**

**Library Link**

As the school year winds down, the library continues to be a busy place! We just finished our Spring Book Fair, and it was a huge success! Thanks to our supportive students and parents, our school made enough to purchase a new reading program called Accelerated Reader! Your child will learn all about this program next year!

Please remember to turn in all library books by **May 23**. We are reminding students to look carefully for lost books. What a great opportunity to clean out their closets and clean underneath their beds!

**kristy.decker@nisd.net**

The Maverick children’s librarian will visit our school on Tuesday, May 28. She will be explaining a summer reading program and some exciting activities to be held at all San Antonio public libraries over the summer. I hope all students will participate.

I will be posting my summer reading challenge very soon. See the Thornton library webpage for details! Participants will receive a prize at the beginning of the next school year. Keep reading this summer!

**Have a wonderful summer!**

**Read many great books!**

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**Thornton Fitness Club**

As the weather gets warmer and we get closer to summer vacation, we discuss skin protection. Apply and reapply sunblock, wear caps and sunglasses. Water safety is another topic of discussion. Respect the water and don’t take needless chances.

We wind down the year with some recreational and lifetime sports. Horseshoes, Frisbee golf, jump rope, bowling, shuffleboard, to name a few of the remaining activities. Remember, healthy snacks during the summer months will maintain the good habits of nutrition.

If you haven’t already, check out the awesome trails (bike and walking) right in the neighborhood. The trail head is at Whitby and Rochelle and is a great way for the whole family to exercise together. Leave cell phones, i-pods, etc. at home and have time devoted just to the family.

**Bond on the trails!**

Stay Fit! Don’t Quit!

**Michaelmassa@nisd.net  Stevedeskin@nisd.net**