



# JM Hill In The News!

**Kindergarten-** Kindergarten has been very busy transitioning into school and meeting new friends. We are learning about school rules and making good choices for ourselves. We are working hard to do this with the help of our "We Will at Hill" school wide behavior program where we are earning tickets for making good choices, helping others, improving ourselves each day, as well as living responsibly and respectfully. We are looking forward to learning and growing each day while we work and play. We have been working on learning the names of all our letters. Our first science exploration will be the season of fall.

**First Grade-** September was a super month for First Grade. We said hello to old friends and made new friends in our classrooms. We enjoyed reviewing our letters, letter sounds, and kindergarten sight words while reading fun stories such as Chicka, Chicka, Boom Boom!, Jump Frog Jump, Fox In Socks, and many others. Now we are ready to begin our new reading unit. Math class is exciting as we count and put numbers in order from least to greatest. First Graders are able to put together parts which make a whole. We are beginning to add! We learned about the Constitution, Johnny Appleseed, and watched President Obama. It has been a busy month. We even went to an assembly with star crowns to celebrate the new school year - We Will At Hill, Reach For The Stars!!!

**Second Grade-** Second Grade is off to a wonderful beginning!! In Communication Arts we have been reading stories around the theme of "You + Me = Special". Our writing is reflecting the use of complete thoughts with correct punctuation. In Math, we have daily timed practice of our basic addition facts. The boys and girls are continuing to develop their understanding of addition and subtraction. We are starting our Social Studies unit on Communities!!

All of the students at J.M. Hill attended a school-wide kick off assembly which gave us enthusiasm to continue our positive behavior plan. Every day the students strive to be responsible, respectful, help others and improve themselves.

It was great seeing all the families at our Open House and we are looking forward to an exciting year together!!

**Third Grade-**Third grade is off to a good start! We have been busy learning about living things and what they need. We started by focusing on plants and are now ready to begin studying animals. We are also working hard on mastering our math



facts. Addition and subtraction are well underway, and we will soon be moving on to multiplication!

In reading, we have visited the Wild West, spent some time with *Goldilocks* and the Three Bears, and learned about Antony Reynosa, a famous young roper. We are focusing on our skills and encouraging the students to read independently to increase their fluency and comprehension. We are looking forward to what lies ahead.

**Fourth Grade-** Fourth graders have started the school year with determination. They are already working hard to do their best!

In Communication Arts class, students have focused on the skills of setting, sequence, cause and effect, character traits, synonyms, and antonyms. Mrs. Marshall's class read the novel *James and the Giant Peach* while Mr. Hatcher's class read stories from the reading book in order to practice these important skills.

During Math class, students have worked on reviewing place value, reading and writing large numbers, using various problem-solving strategies, telling time, and completing patterns. Many students have learned how to solve "24" problems. Ask your child about them!

Science students have been learning about vertebrate and invertebrate characteristics and ecosystems. In Social Studies, students have been practicing map skills.

**Fifth Grade-** We began our year by creating time capsules that we will open in June. We can't wait to see how much we have grown and learned!

We have been studying generalizing, character and cause and effect in communication arts. We wrote autobiographies and read about Leigh Botts building a lunchbox alarm in the novel Dear Mr. Henshaw.

In Math, we are multiplying and dividing whole numbers, rounding decimals, and identifying geometric polygons. We have begun to determine appropriate metric and customary units when measuring.

Science class has helped us learn about plant-life. We learned the function of different plant parts, how plants reproduce and how they interact with the environment.

In Social Studies, we made dioramas, PowerPoint presentations and posters depicting typical Ancient Civilization scenes. We had a great time researching and learning how the environment helped shape different civilizations.



On September 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Constitution Day. We discussed the importance of, and particular aspects of, our own Constitution and the value of those rights we hold so dear.

**Music-** Music classes are well under way. We started the year out by learning and singing patriotic songs. The third grade classes are memorizing "America". The fourth grade classes are memorizing "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the fifth grade classes are memorizing "America, the Beautiful". See if your child can sing one of these songs!

After finishing patriotic music, we will be moving on to our first element of music: steady beat. We will spend a good deal of time working on steady beat by singing, moving, and playing instruments. A new feature this year in music class is the Song of the Month. Every month the whole school will learn a new song so that at the end of the year the whole school will be able to sing nine or ten songs together as a group. The song of the month for September was "We Will at Hill". We have already sung that song at an assembly and it sounded GREAT!!!

Chorus rehearsals have begun. There are around 70 children signed up for chorus. We are working on getting ready for our winter concert which will be held at JTL on Thursday, December 8, 2011. Hope to see you there!!

**P.E.** -The upper grades are involved with tennis. We are working on the forehand and various racquet skills. The lower grades are working on motor skills and learning simple folk dances. All grades have reviewed the importance of bus safety.

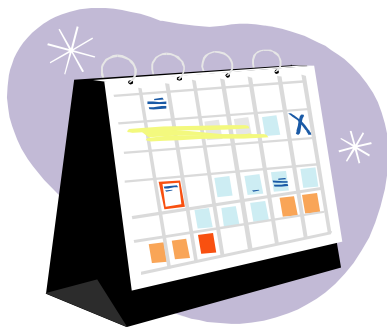


## A note from Mrs. Arnold...

Happy Fall! A few reminders; children are allowed in for breakfast at 8:30; if they do not eat breakfast, they are allowed in at 8:40. As the weather is getting cooler, please keep this in mind, and don't drop your child off too early!

Harvest Fest is scheduled for October 22nd, come on out and have some great fun! The PTO is always looking for volunteers; give them a call to help out!

Please be careful walking or dropping off your child; pay attention to our Crossing Guards, they are here to keep you safe!



## Upcoming Events...

### October is Bully Prevention Month!

October 6-PTO meeting

October 10-No school

October 13-Big Wheel

October 17-School Board Meeting

October 19-School Store

October 20-Great American Fundraiser pickup

October 22-HarvestFest