

The Zwink Link

High Expectations...High Support!

November/December 2014

Zebras Join Together on 1st Nine Weeks' Dazzle Day!

Over 920 zebras and their dazzling teachers joined together to celebrate the incredible things the Zebra League accomplished during the first nine weeks on report card dazzle day! Zwink super heroes Super Zebra and Captain Character flew in to lead the campus in a celebration of our core values and to showcase the way zebras across the campus have been using their leadership super powers to solve problems in our community and lend a helping hand to those in need. Our zebras are dazzling!



Attendance Reminders & Zwank Bank is Back!

Attendance plays a major role in ensuring that your child achieves educational excellence. It is our hope and desire that your child gets the most of their educational experience. By attending school every day each child is a step closer to obtaining that goal! We understand that extenuating circumstances or illness are inevitable and ask that upon your child's return to school, you promptly send in a medical note or parent notification. In order to document the excused absence we must receive a note within 5 days from the child's return to school.

To encourage good attendance, our ZWANK Bank is back this year! Students earn ZWANK by being at school, being on time, and staying all day (three Zwank per day.) Each grade level has their own Zwank Bank goals and once they reach them, can spend their Zwank on fun activities. School starts at 8:15 each day, and students are welcome in the building as early as 7:50. We love having our Zwink Zebras at school every day, all day! Questions? Please call attendance secretary, Ms. Gonzalez, at 832-375-7760.

Mark Your Calendars— Important Zwink Dates

November

- 12th Cookie Dough Delivery Day 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- 17th Big Kahuna Fundraiser Ends
- 18th Spirit Night – Spring Creek BBQ 5-9 p.m.
- 24-28th Thanksgiving Break (No School)

December

- 9th Prime Time – Zebra Polar Express 6-7:30 p.m. & PTO Fundraiser delivery
- 10th Class Picture Day/Make-up individual pictures
- 15th Spirit Night – Chick-Fil-A 3-8 p.m.
- 19th Classroom Holiday Parties, 2-3p.m. Parents invited!
- 20-Jan 4th Winter Break (No School)-Classes resume Jan. 5th

Holiday Parties, December 19th, 2-3 p.m.

Parents, please join us in celebrating the holidays at Zwink. You are invited to attend your child's classroom party beginning at 2 p.m. on the 19th. Outside food, drinks, and presents are not allowed, but your presence is much appreciated! Please see your child's Wednesday folder in December for the opportunity to RSVP prior to the party and avoid long lines checking in. We hope to see you on the 19th!

Homework Corner: "High Support" at Home

The Zwink team values the important role our parent community plays in supporting student success. Our team of educators follows best instructional practices regarding homework. The most recent meta-analysis of over 800 studies indicates that homework only positively impacts student achievement at the elementary level when it is meaningful, relevant, differentiated, supportive of learning targets, and clear. As a result, homework is designated as "opportunities for practice" and is designed and assigned to students only when they truly need additional practice in mastering specific skills. Therefore, if your child receives homework from his/her teachers, please encourage him/her to complete that work. Additionally, all students can enjoy the learning activities provided in our "homework corner" on the Zwink website to enrich their learning. Please click on "Quick Links" or go to <http://elementary.kleinisd.net/preview.aspx?name=zwi.homework>. We love our fabulous zebra parents—thanks for supporting our zebras' educational excellence.

Zwink Parent Core Values Spotlight: Attitude of Gratitude

We will give thanks to the faculty for their efforts to inspire, support and challenge our children in their educational endeavors. We will be cheerful, professional and polite in communication, live the golden rule and seek opportunities to help and support.

In the spirit of the holiday season, our zebras are focusing on our core value of "attitude of gratitude." Our parent version of this core value highlighted above defines the ways our parent community can show their gratitude every day. Having an attitude of gratitude might look like: saying "thank you" to your child's teacher for all the time and effort they give, always being polite and kind when writing emails, leaving phone messages, or in conferences with staff, or giving your time and effort as a volunteer. Also, did you know that Zwink teachers are not paid for all the extra time they give before and after school sponsoring clubs and tutoring students? This is all done out of the goodness of their hearts because they love our Zwink zebras and want them to have an amazing educational experience! If your child benefits from one of these opportunities, please take the time to say "thank you" and show your attitude of gratitude. You can also encourage your child to live this core value this month by having your zebra write thank you notes for gifts received during the holidays or other acts of appreciation. While things are not always perfect, when we focus on the positive there is always something and someone to be thankful for! All of us at Zwink are thankful for YOU, our amazing Zwink parent community! ☺