GATOR TALES

Grace Abbott Elementary School 1313 No. 156th St. Omaha, NE 68118 http://abbott.mpsomaha.org T: 402-715-2900



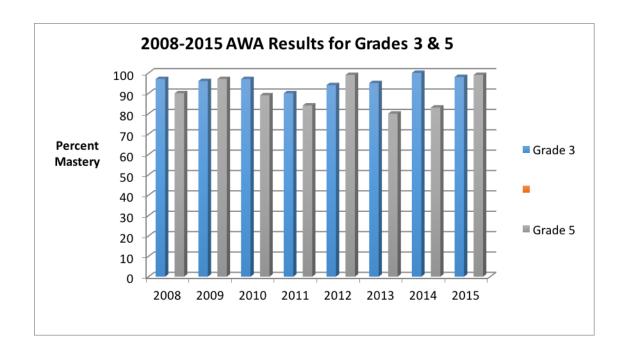
Volume 14, Issue 12 November 18, 2016

DR. CHAUSSEE'S NEWS

In December all MPS students in grades three and five will take the district's Analytical Writing Assessment-AWA. In all grades, teachers are working with students daily to improve their writing skills and to achieve mastery. In grades one and two there are four traits and in grades three, four, and five there are seven traits (five domains) on which students are scored. The traits are listed on the rubrics that the teachers and students use to help the students become better writers. The rubrics are how students are scored. One of the activities that Abbott teachers do throughout the year is to score students' papers as a practice run. Results are discussed in the teachers' Professional Learning Community meetings that are held 2-4 times a month.

This spring, a writing professional will present strategies for our teachers on how to help children become better writers. Last year he spoke to teachers and to parents and students during a family writing night. He emphasized the importance of writing, how to help students with better word choice, and how to motivate the unmotivated writer.

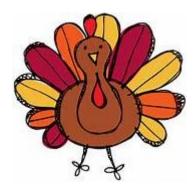
You can also find a great deal of information on the Internet by searching "six traits of writing." One particularly good site is this one: www.thetraits.org/ This site allows the reader to see examples of papers of all six traits, at different proficiency levels (1-5) and different grade levels. It is extremely beneficial in understanding how students are scored on this assessment. Of course, it is not the same way that Millard scores, but similar.



GATOR TALES Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 24 & 25
NO SCHOOL
THANKSGIVING



SPIRIT DAY November 29 Twin Day!

Sponsored by your Student Council

NO PTO MEETING IN DECEMBER

December 8

Kindergarten Fun Night 6:30 p.m.

MILLARD SCHOOL BOARD

Mike Pate, Pat Ricketts, Mike Kennedy,
Dave Anderson, Paul Meyer,
Linda Poole

Superintendent

Jim Sutfin



FAMILY TECH NIGHT!

Abbott will be hosting a Family Tech Night Dec. 6, 2016, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Mr. Joe Kannas, an Abbott parent and Certified Security Information Specialist will start the evening in the gym presenting information about Cyberbullying and How to Stay Safe Online. During the remainder of the evening smaller sessions will be held on Computer Coding, Google Tools in Education (including Google Expedition), and Robotics. We have room for 36 families (one child and one adult). If interested, you can sign up at

https://goo.gl/forms/3CtpxOoLOPYN4pTf1





Grace Abbott Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization 1913 North 136th Street, Omaha, NE 68118 * EMAIL gaptoint@gmail.com * WEBSITE gracesbbottpto.com

From the PTO:

We would like to send out our sincerest THANK YOU to everyone who donated and raised funds through the Gator Walk-A-Thon. Now it is time for the fun part, deciding how to use those funds to help our school!

We have already voted to spend some of the money that was raised. At our November meeting, we opted to fund 100% of the teacher grants that were requested by the Abbott teachers and staff! Some of the items approved include work station activities for various classrooms, anti-distraction wristbands, wiggle seats, privacy partitions and new music and books for all students to enjoy. We also voted to offer an additional \$1000 college scholarship for an Abbott graduate this year.

At our next meeting we will be voting on how to spend the remainder of PTO funds that were raised this year, here are the ideas that we generated at the last meeting:

- A Cement Track Savings Fund
 - This project is projected to cost \$25,000-\$50,000, so the dollars would be saved year over year until the project can be funded.
- A School Popcorn Machine
- 3. Additional Fitness Equipment/Circuit Equipment

If you have other ideas on how to spend the PTO funds that are raised please send an email to gaptoinfo@gmail.com to get your idea added to the voting ballot.

Note: We do not have a PTO meeting in December, so our next meeting will be Tuesday January 10th at 6:30PM in the library (remember that child care is provided!). We look forward to seeing you there!

Please mark your calendar and come to the next meeting to help us determine the best way to help the school with the funds that you helped raise!

Thank you for your continued support of the PTO.

The PTO Board: Jaime Diamond - President Josh Kitchen - Treasurer Christy Kleffman – Secretary Alyssa Mason – President Elect