**Why read with children?**

Many experts say that daily reading to children at an early age is a great way for parents and caregivers to help children keep pace in school – and later in life. A proven way to achieve this is by making sure a child is read to every day for 20 minutes.

Reading can do many things to help a child on the road to lifelong learning. Here are just a few examples of what reading can do:

- Children learn by being talked to and read to.
- Reading helps children learn about language - they learn new words and what they mean.
- Children hear words in books that they don’t hear in conversation.
- Reading can calm and comfort a child.
- It exposes children to a wealth of experiences outside of their own.
- Reading can help stimulate a child’s imagination.
- Colorful pictures in books give meaning to words.
- Hearing books helps children learn to listen.
- As they follow along, children learn that the ‘marks’ on the pages have meaning. This gives them the background
- As you read for longer times, you help increase a child’s attention span. Being able to pay attention in school will help a child succeed.

**It encourages a child to be comfortable with books and reading - this will lead to a lifelong love of books and learning!**

Tim Lease  
Koch Elementary Principal
“It’s Dr. Seuss’ Birthday!”
say the Junior Kindergarten Students!

The Junior Kindergarteners LOVE snow, but all of the COLD weather this winter has made “going outside for recess” a rare privilege! JKers do continue to keep BUSY inside, however, and they finished February learning about their country – the USA, Abraham Lincoln, and George Washington!

February was also Dental Health Month, so the students in Junior Kindergarten enjoyed a visit from Bierschbach Dental. They learned the importance of brushing their teeth each day and taking good care of them. Also, they enjoyed doing an experiment. They pretended that hard-boiled eggs were teeth, and they put them in dark-colored soda. The teeth turned “brown”, so then they had to brush them and get them clean again! That took some serious brushing!

March started out with great activity as we had to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday! The students love to hear the rhyming of the made up nonsense words along with the enjoyment of all of the stories by Dr. Seuss. The students had already listened to at least 10 of his books BEFORE his birthday even arrived! Of course, with his birthday celebration it seemed only appropriate to wear “Cat in the Hat” hats and eat “Green Eggs and Ham”! There is no end to our action in Junior Kindergarten!
Kindergarten News

Spring is coming! Or is it? Our winter has been interesting! The month of February went quickly. The 100th Day of School celebration, Valentine parties, President’s Day, our visit to the dentist and our Luau went well and the children had a great time!

The end of the third quarter is on Wednesday, March 12. Report cards will be issued shortly after that.

Please continue reviewing sounds, letters, words and #’s to 20 with your child. Encourage your child to keep reading! In math we will be working on measuring, number sense, solid shapes and adding and subtracting.

Please continue to send warm clothes with your child. Even though the weather will warm up (hopefully) our playground is unprotected and the wind gets cold. We need our winter things to keep warm, dry and clean!

Thanks parents for everything you do!
February has been a busy month in 1st grade! We have enjoyed learning about the Winter Olympics and seeing the various events athletes can compete in such as Figure Skating, the Skeleton, and Bobsledding. This last week, we got visitors from the high school’s FFA team. Students learned how products, such as chicken, get from the farm to the home. Also, Johnson’s Dental Office made a stop by 1st grade to talk about the importance of dental health. Students asked a lot of great questions and were excited to receive their goodie bag filled with dental products.
Meet Magnet Man

From Second Grade

Who is Magnet Man? Second graders, learning about magnets, created Magnet Man using a magnetic wand and pieces of colored pipe cleaners. Once Magnet Man was created, the students named him, photographed him, and wrote a story about him. They also used his wild hairdo to practice some math concepts. The students tallied the different colors and then worked on place value. Red represented hundreds, orange pieces were tens and yellow represented ones. Each Magnet Man had his own unique number of hair strands. The students also tabulated what a haircut might cost Magnet Man. Red stood for dimes, orange symbolized nickels and yellow represented pennies. The Magnet Man project was a fun integrated activity that addressed several Math and Language Arts standards.

Following is a fantasy story written by Sunne.

Once there was a Magnet Man named Franky. He was red, smart, and had colorful hair. Franky lived in Sunne’s house in the dollhouse. He played with the X-box game “Just Dance”. One fall day, Franky was bored. He wanted to stick to the Schwan’s truck and eat ice cream all day. Sadly, he got stuck to a garbage truck and it smelled like poopy diapers. Sunne pulled him away. Franky went back to Sunne’s house to take a shower.
FFA Makes Ice-cream with Third Graders

The AG Issue team Kiera Leddy, Rebekah Tuchscherer, Taylor Seehafer, Jacob Erickson, Chris Loutsch, Wyatt Kelly, and Brenna Schears made ice-cream with the third graders at Koch School in recognition of FFA week. While the students ate their ice-cream, the students were told about FFA. National FFA week was February 15-22.
Fourth graders recently participated in a healthy choices day during their Core instruction time. Each class visited two stations that encouraged them to make good choices regarding their health and safety. We were fortunate to have local volunteers donate their time to teach the students.

Duane Tillman, a local ambulance crew member, taught students about calling 911 for help, the basics of CPR, what to expect if they ever have to ride in an ambulance, and basic first aid tips. Linda Quade, a nutritionist, taught the students about choosing drinks that are healthy, rather than those that only provide empty calories and sugar. She reviewed serving sizes of drinks and helped students figure out the amount of calories and sugar in larger size drinks, especially. Students learned to choose drinks such as water, milk, and natural fruit juice rather than soda or energy drinks.

We plan to conduct another healthy choices day near the end of the year that will include summer safety and anti-bullying tips from the police chief.
Students in grades 3-5 will be taking the Smarter Balance Test during the month of April. This test replaces the Dakota STEP test that has been used in the past. The new test will be testing the Common Core Standards. These are standards that students should be proficient at in reading and in math. Students in 5th grade will also be required to take tests over science standards.

One of the biggest changes that the students will experience with the new testing is that it will be done on the computer. Students will also be required to write and explain many of their answers rather than just choose from multiple choice answers.

Students will be practicing the types of questions during the month of March. It is absolutely necessary for students to try to be in school everyday to become familiar with the types of questions so that they have less stress during the actual testing in April.

Students and parents may go on the following website to see what the new Smarter Balance Test looks like.

https://sbacpt.tds.airast.org/student/

The following is a type of question on the practice test:

Smarter Balance Tests Common Core

Students in grades 3-5 will be taking the Smarter Balance Test during the month of April. This test replaces the Dakota STEP test that has been used in the past. The new test will be testing the Common Core Standards. These are standards that students should be proficient at in reading and in math. Students in 5th grade will also be required to take tests over science standards.

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The following is a type of question on the practice test:

Should Students be Allowed Cell Phones in

YES-

I think kids should be able to have cell phones in school because if there is an emergency students can call someone. If my friend gets hurt, I will be able to call the ambulance.

Another reason is students can do research on their phones. For instance, it would take up their battery instead of the school’s. Then their electric bill will be less.

The last reason is they are able to contact family members if needed. If there is a study group after school, they could ask if they could stay.

That is why I think kids should be able to have cell phones in school.

By Emma DeBoer

NO-

I don’t think cell phones should be allowed in school because they are a distraction and kids won’t get their work done. When your cell phone beeps it will distract other kids. Some kids might look at inappropriate pictures.

Some children have calculators on their phones so they could cheat on tests and quizzes. Some phones are expensive and it’s not fair for some kids to have them and other kids not to have phones. If a child does not have a phone because they can’t afford one, they might steal other kids’ phones. Then who is going to pay for the stolen phone?

Some kids might bully other kids on their phones. Kids might laugh at kids that don’t have phones. Kids don’t need phones in school. It will just cause more problems.

By Max Liebe
March 17th-21st
Koch School Library
More details will be coming home soon!
You can shop online starting March 12th:
http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/kochelementary
The “Out-of-School-Time” (OST) Program will be open during Spring Break on Thursday, March 13 & Friday, March 14 from 7:30 am – 5:45 pm. Kids have a great time spending “No-School” days at the OST Program as they have ample time to play with their friends.

Plans are underway for another exciting course of events at the Summer Program. Students will read daily in a fun Reading Program with great rewards and prizes for top readers. Sarah Koepke, Grant County 4-H Advisor will be leading Geo-caching with OST Kids. And the OST Garden Project will expand as students learn how to grow their own food, -planting, weeding, watering & harvest! Summer OST registration begins April 1, 2014 so watch for more information or visit our website http://sites.google.com/a/msdk12.us/milbank-ost-program/

For more information contact Mary at 605.880.9705. email: Mary.Kinder@k12.sd.us or drop by the OST Program for a visit. OST- A great place to be!

OST is a proud recipient of Combined Appeal and says Thank you!
Due to the dedication of our many volunteers, Junior Achievement is making it possible for students to understand the importance of money-management and education!

By sharing their personal and professional experiences our volunteers play a vital role in helping students make the connection between what they are learning in school and what they will need to succeed in work and life.

Please extend a special thank you to the volunteers and teachers listed below whose participation during the 2013-14 school year enabled us to inspire over 48,500 South Dakota students.

If you would be interested in sharing your knowledge and business experience with students in elementary, middle, or high school, please contact the JA office at (605)336-7318 or jasd@ja.org. Volunteers are crucial to JA’s mission to provide students with a better understanding of their financial and economic future.

### Milbank
#### 2013-14 Junior Achievement Volunteers and Teachers

**Koch Elementary School**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>JA Program</th>
<th>JA Volunteer</th>
<th>Employer</th>
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<td>SD Highway Patrol</td>
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*Menu subject to change*

**MILBANK SCHOOL LUNCH**

March 2014
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**MILBANK SCHOOL BREAKFAST**

March 2014