



Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Elementary School

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October 4, 2018

Happy Thursday! Another busy week is flying by! Classrooms are full of wonderful learning and, in a happy moment, our playground was filled with sunshine at recess on Wednesday. After the large quantities of gray skies and rain, the sunshine was exciting to see!

Last week we mentioned the importance of daily opportunities to write. Becoming a more confident and fluent writer requires a combination of explicit instruction and time to practice writing. Our curriculum presents writing instruction in three genres. When visiting classrooms during fall conferences, you will see samples of the writing that your child has been completing.

Currently in writing:

PreK: Drawing what you see and then having an adult write a description of the picture.

K: Launching Writer's Workshop by writing personal narratives.

1st: Writing small moment stories and instructing writing in complete sentences.

2nd: Launching Writer's Workshop by focusing on brainstorming seed ideas (small ideas that you can grow bigger).

3rd: Writing person and place stories where they are writing 'bit by bit', being sure the reader can hear their voices.

4th: Narrative writing through Writer's Workshop and the Lucy Calkins Units of Study.

5th: Setting up their writer's notebook by organizing their ideas and constructing it to reflect them as individual writers.

6th: Gathering memories and crafting them into written pieces.

Type to Learn

Our school has a new "Type to Learn" program this year, which is web based. Students can practice their keyboarding skills at home and school by going to our school website and clicking on the Student tab and clicking on the first link, "Type to Learn". Students put in the account code (143707) and then their user name and password, which are both the same, and is their school ID, (lunch ID, library #). Once the student is in, they click on "Launch Type to Learn". The program gives the student an accuracy and WMP (words per minute) goal. It also gives them feedback on their current accuracy and WPM. Students in grades 3 – 6 will be introduced to the new program during library time. Grade 2 students will be introduced to the program in January by their teachers.



On October 18th, our K – 6th grade families will be receiving a blue envelope in their Thursday folders. These envelopes contain information on the My Cards fundraising endeavor that has the children using curriculum topics to design greeting cards. Families can see their children's work and then let us know if they would like to purchase any cards. The profits from the fundraiser go towards the Marlborough Education Association's college scholarship fund that is presented to a college bound RHAM student who attended MES.

Tickets for the MEA Pasta Dinner are still on-sale. On pasta dinner night, there will be a dunk tank manned by both of us, some teachers, and even a very brave parent, to help raise money for our new Trestle Tree (physical education equipment to build vertical traversing and critical thinking skills) climbing apparatus.

The Marlborough Lions Club asked us to remind you that t-shirt designs for the Marlborough Masquerade 5K shirt are due to Ms. Ketterer on Friday. Also, families (or individuals) can still sign up to run on Sunday, October 28 at www.plattsys.com.

Dan & Kim

Upcoming Events:

October 8 – No School – Columbus Day

October 9 – No School – Professional Development Day

October 12 – MEA Pasta Dinner & Dunk Tank

New Fliers:

Park & Rec – [Acrylic Painting on Canvas](#)

EASTCONN – [Adult Education](#)

PTO – [Trunk or Treat](#) (also on the back of the letter)



Trunk or Treat



MES Community Room Parking Lot & Cafe

Saturday October 27

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Decorate your car: (or suv, truck...whatever): creepy, kooky, mysterious or spooky. You and your family will have a blast decorating your vehicle. Prizes for the top 3 cars. Car decorating from 5:00-6:00 pm.

If you decorate your car, your whole family is admitted for just \$5.

Trick or Treat: Even if you do not decorate a car your children can enjoy trick or treating going trunk to trunk! Who will be there this year? Scooby Doo? The Wicked Witch? SpongeBob? Come check it all out! Trick or treat from 6:00-8:00 pm.

Haunted House: Those who are brave enough can walk thru our spooktacular-haunted house sponsored by our MES 6th grade class! ENTER IF YOU DARE!!!! 6:30-8:00 pm.

Creepy Carnival: Creepy and Kooky Carnival games (indoors and out) 6:00-8:00 pm. Tickets for games and pumpkins sold at the ticket booth in front of the Community Room: 2 for \$1 or 15 for \$5. Games 1 per ticket.

Refreshments: Come into the cafeteria for some food and fun. Have dinner here: pizza from 5:30-8:00 pm; popcorn, cider, cotton candy and more! Face painting and tattoos too!

Pumpkin Decorating Contest: We supply the pumpkins and all the works: you supply the creativity. Decorate your pumpkin in the cafeteria and join the contest. Prizes!

Tickets: BUY Now! **Tickets \$8 per child until 10/22.** After 10/22 and at the gate, price is \$10 per child. Adults are free. If decorating a car, pay just one \$5 fee for entire family - not per child. Send in money and form below in envelope marked Trunk or Treat. Checks made out to **Marlborough PTO.** You will receive tickets via backpack mail!

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Family Name: _____

Children's name(s): _____

Children's grade and teacher: _____

Number of tickets for children (adults and kids 3 and under are free): _____

Family email and /or phone number: _____

Please email Melissa Jordan at salvia601@aol.com if you have any questions.

Decorating car: (circle one): Yes No Just \$5 entry fee for entire family if you decorate

Candy donations are appreciated
Please drop off donations at the Main Office