Welcome to a Friendly February!

What a great month to emphasize the importance of teaching tolerance and being kind to others! Everyone is different and that is what makes him/her a great part of our Nike Elementary family. Encourage your child to think of simple little things to make someone's day. A kind word, a kind little note or a kind deed can have a powerful and lifelong impact. Think of a memory you have from elementary school. Can you see it clearly? Can you picture it as if it happened yesterday? I sure can! I moved from Zitzman to Coleman at the end of 2nd grade. Changing new schools was very scary. I was out of my comfort zone and felt like I was all alone. It wasn't long into my first day that a little girl sitting next to me asked if I wanted to play with her outside. I was very nervous and wanted to say no, but took a chance. Before I knew it, she was the first of many new friends. Just as we have great memories of elementary school, there are also a few memories that represent the unkind actions or words of another. I can see those clearly too. We encourage kids at Nike each and every day to make the WORLD a better place because he/she is in it! Stress the importance of honest communication at home and school and remember we are your partners!

As we continue to work together, please remember the following 4 things:

1. **Parents Play a Critical Role**
   * Teachers value you as your child’s first teacher. They are honored to take their place as another significant adult in your child’s life. Teachers want to facilitate your child’s continued development and help him/her learn how to be a successful student in a school setting.

   **What you can do:**
   * Welcome your child’s teachers as an important partner in your child’s development.
   * Share what you have discovered about how your child learns and include examples of times when your child has learned something new.
   * Support homework efforts and ensure children see the value you place on education in your life.

2. **The Value of Families and Teachers Working Together as Partners is Research-Based**
   * Research tells us that when families are involved, children do better academically and socially. Teachers are committed to developing a collaborative partnership with your family on behalf of your child’s growth and development.

   **What you can do:**
   * Tell the teacher that you sincerely want to work with them to help your child learn and grow.
   * Ask the teacher to offer specific ideas and strategies that will involve you in your child’s learning.

3. **Communication is Key**
   * Communication with families is such a high priority that teachers are willing to use a variety of methods to correspond. Some parents prefer to connect via email or text, while others prefer to receive a phone call or a printed letter in their child’s backpack. Teachers want to communicate in the ways that make sense for you and your family.

   **What you can do:**
   * Ask the teacher the best way to access information about the classroom and the school.
   * Share with the teacher your preferred method of communication.
   * Split families work together as an extended family unit to communicate regarding school events & expectations.

4. **Teachers Want to Know What Makes Your Family Unique**
   * The families we work with have varied backgrounds and different configurations. Teachers want you to know that they value the distinctiveness of your family. Learning about those qualities and values that make your family unique, improve our ability to partner in the healthy development of your child.

   **What you can do:**
   * Tell your child’s teacher about the unique characteristics of your family.
   * Let the teacher know about family changes and challenges at home that may impact your child’s attitudes and behaviors at school.
   * Building bridges between teachers and families is an important step in supporting your child’s learning and development.
Nike Elementary began using this language last year as a way to emphasize good character without the use of a reward system. We whole heartedly believe in Doing the Right Thing because It’s the Right Thing To Do, regardless of what you may get in return. Instilling in children that the feeling of doing the RIGHT thing far outweighs any reward is something we value. We hope you do too as the students of Nike Elementary are OUR future, and OUR future looks bright!

The 7 Habits of Happy Kids

**Habit 1—Be Proactive: You’re In Charge**
I am a responsible person.
I take initiative.
I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods.
I do not blame others for my wrong actions.
I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

**Habit 2—Begin with the End in Mind: Have A Plan**
I plan ahead and set goals.
I do things that have meaning and make a difference.
I am an important part of my classroom and school.

**Habit 3—Put First Things First: Work First, Then Play**
I spend my time on things that are most important.
I say no to things I know I should not do.
I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan.
I am self-disciplined and organized.

**Habit 4—Think Win-Win: Everyone Can Win**
I want everyone to be a success.
I don’t have to put others down to get what I want.
When a conflict happens, I look for a third solution.
I believe that we all can win!

**Habit 5—Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood:**
Listen Before You Talk
I listen to other people’s ideas and feelings.
I try to see things from their viewpoints.
I listen to others without interrupting.
I share my opinions and ideas.

**Habit 6—Synergize: Together Is Better**
I know that everyone is good at something.
Everyone needs to get better at something.
We can all learn something from each other.
Working in groups helps to create better ideas than what one person can do alone.

**Habit 7—Sharpen the Saw: Balance Feels Best**
I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep.
I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school.
I take time to help others.
**Secretary Sticky Notes with Mrs. Marquardt**

Hello everyone! This month I am again going to go over absence procedures. We have quite a few parents who are not calling in when their child is absent. When this happens, our school nurse takes time away from her day to make phone calls checking up on those who did not call in. It is very important that you call in when your child is not going to be at school. If we do not receive a phone call your child will be marked with an unexcused absence. After 5, 7 and 10 or more absences it is required by District Policy for us to send letters home informing parents of the number of absences. If absences are too frequent we are required to report this to the Franklin County Juvenile Office. While frequent absences are of interest to the DFS, unexcused absences are more of a concern and may prompt them to take action. We do understand that children get sick and appreciate it when they are kept home so they do not infect other students. Please just remember to call in and, if they see a Dr., a note from the Dr. is also helpful to have on file if there are questions about their absences. Thank you for taking an interest in your child's attendance. When a child is absent they miss out on classroom interaction, which is just as important as doing the required homework.

**Nurse Notes with Nurse Meyer**

Nike Nurse Notes  
February 2016

We have January behind us but we still have a few weeks of winter left before we see the first signs of spring. With the outside temperatures going up and down please make sure your children are dressed appropriately with coats, hats and gloves. They do go outside unless precipitation or extreme temperatures do not permit them to do so.

Nike will have Kindergarten registration February 9th from 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. Please bring your child’s immunization record and any health information that needs to be added to your child’s health record.

As Always, practicing good health habits can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses. A list of prevention tips are provided here.

- **Avoid close contact.** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- **Stay home when you are sick.** Stay home from work, school and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.
- **Cover your mouth and nose.** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- **Clean your hands.** Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.** Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.

**Practice good health habits.** Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious food.

The 5th Grade boys and girls puberty class will be February 4th at 11am. Permission slips will be sent out for all parents/guardians to sign. Only students with signed permission slips will attend the class.

The 5th Grade HIV class will be given in two parts: Part 1 on March 4th and Part 2 on March 18th. Permission slips will be sent home for parents/guardians to sign. Again, only students with signed permission slips will be able to attend these classes. The HIV class will be taught by me and Monica Moore, our Counselor.

Osage Dental will be visiting our school on February 26th. The Dental Group will be visiting the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade classes. February is Dental Month!!!

Please remember that our common goal is to ALWAYS keep your children safe and healthy. Never hesitate to call me with your concerns and/or questions. The students at Nike are great and I always enjoy meeting their parents.

Cindy Meyer RN, School Nurse
Classroom Commentary

KINDERTGARTEN w/Mrs. Pape

Kindergarten has a new friend in our kindergarten family here at Nike, Gabriel Curtis. Welcome! We are working hard in learning base ten in math. We are reading the Dolch words each day and writing them about 2 times a week in class. We are working on Habit 3--Work first, then play. We are “27 strong” and it takes everyone’s cooperation to be successful.

FIRST GRADE w/Mrs. Eggers

First grade is on the move in February! Of course we are reading and focusing this month on compound words, compound sentences, r controlled vowels and narrative writing. Kindness is an ongoing theme in room 140! We will be writing notes to our Valentines as well as to Veterans in neighboring areas to show our love and support for all that they have done for our country.

At the end of the month Writing on the Walls will be kicking off with a bang! Your child is writing, editing, revising and publishing work for you to read the night of March 3rd. Save the date for Nike’s Writing on the Wall event!!!! You don’t want to miss it!

SECOND GRADE w/Mrs. Frost

Happy February Everyone!
It is hard to believe, but half of the school year is already behind us. Our second graders worked really hard during the first half as they were engaged in learning and applying new concepts. This month, our instruction brings many exciting and continued opportunities for growing and learning in all content areas. As always, any support that you give, in or out of school, is greatly appreciated and has a positive impact on the success of our classroom.

Reading/Language Arts/Writing: This month, students will continue to read a variety of texts with purpose and understanding. They will focus on poetry rhythm and rhyme as well as, character’s point of view and reaction to a problem. Students will also continue to ask and answer who, what, where, when, why and how, as well as, beginning, middle and end to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. Students will read a variety of informational text to gain more clarity of the author’s purpose and point of view.

Target skills we will work on in February:
1. Adjectives
2. Adverbs
3. Contractions
4. Synonyms/Antonyms
5. Conventions of language when writing, speaking and listening

Math: This month in math, our big topic is measurement and data! Students will learn about standard and non-standard units of time and measurement. Students will continue to identify and practice addition and subtraction strategies for problem solving and regrouping. Finally, students will continue to work in small groups that are tailored to meet their individual needs.

THIRD GRADE w/Mrs. Schneebeli

Thank you very much for ensuring your child is completing the nightly homework practice. The additional practice at home helps your child master skills we are learning in class. With the numerous new concepts taught in third grade, students need exposure to the skills at home and at school.

Hooray! Third Grade will be participating in the Nike Elementary Building Spelling Bee this year! A list of words was sent home to each student for our classroom Spelling Bee. There will be three finalists from our class who will take part in the Building Spelling Bee.

If your child would like to create a box for Valentine’s Day, it may be brought in to school February 12-14.

FOURTH GRADE w/Mrs. Schlemper

Our goal for knowing our multiplication facts is quickly approaching. Students are doing well, but keep practicing. It seems that the facts of 7’s, 8’s, 9’s, 11’s and 12’s are still giving a few of us some difficulty. We are finishing up chapter 7 on adding subtracting fractions. Next to come will be fractions and decimals in chapter 8 and measurement and data in chapter 9.

Reading will find us learning about main idea supported by the main idea, summarizing the text, describing a detail, character, event or setting, and reading and comprehending literature and informational text. Language Arts will find us learning about compound words, synonyms and antonyms, analogies/personification and similes/metaphors.

Science will find us exploring electricity and matter. Topics of the Westward Expansion and the role Missouri played in the Civil War will be our focus for the next few weeks in Social Studies. We also will be doing our best on our practice test for the Missouri State assessments during the month. Our practice will allow for us to be better prepared for the state assessments in late spring.

FIFTH GRADE w/Mrs. Shoemaker

In celebration of the last elementary Valentine’s party, fifth graders will be participating in a contest. Each student will design and construct their own Valentine box according to the set requirements. Creations will be judged to find the most creative, prettiest, most "Valentine-y", neatest work, coolest, and best overall. Good Luck!!
Music Magic with Mrs. Franzen

Music Note—Mrs. Allison Franzen

In 5th grade we have been working on reading the treble clef and rhythms before we start recorders. We are also doing some research about different music careers and writing about one that seems interesting to us. It will be our featured writing piece for “Writing on the Walls.”

4th grade has been learning about spirituals: what they sound like, who sang them, and what each song’s purpose was. We are now taking a little break in our Spiritual Unit to prepare a piece for “Writing on the Walls.” We discussed different musical classes we could take in middle school and are writing a persuasive piece to convince you, our friends, or ourselves to join this group. We hope you come check it out!

3rd grade has been studying the different instrument families. When we learned about the piano, we discovered it was similar to a percussion instrument AND a string instrument. We did a little more research and each student decided which family it should be in and why. Come find out our opinions at “Writing on the Walls!!”

In 2nd grade, 1st grade, and Kindergarten we are going to take a break from our regularly scheduled program to begin working on our spring program. Our program will be entitled “Lily and Bear” and is based off the book written by Lisa Stubbs. I am still waiting on a date for our spring program but will send out a note and e-mail when it is on the calendar!

Counselor’s Corner with Mrs. Moore

Counseling Corner

During the months of February and March Kindergarten through fifth grade will be participating in Junior Achievement. Students will learn about themselves, their family, communities, cities, region, and nation.

Pennies for Patients have begun and the students are excited about helping children who have cancer. (Ask them about the program.)

Starting in March we will be focusing on test taking and study skills to help prepare students for MAP testing. Please encourage your student to BE Proactive with their learning and study habits.

To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.”
Art Adventures with Mr. Munson

Balance

This month it’s all about balance. Each grade is focusing on putting elements in their artwork that create a sense of balance. There is symmetrical, asymmetrical, and radial (circular) balance. The students are working hard to achieve these in each piece they do. As always 3rd grade is trying to get better at creating value in all that they do.

Be on the lookout for a new website. It should be up and running soon.

PTO News

Nike PTO needs YOU!

Show your leadership skills! Display your creative talents! Come help Nike PTO! We are looking for awesome volunteers to help on PTO!

March is nomination time for officer elections for 2016-2017! Although we have great volunteers for events, member numbers have been very low and we need your help!

Please make arrangements to attend our next meeting at Nike Elementary on Monday, March 14th, 2016 at 6:00pm!

Bring a friend!

We are rather informal with us being a smaller school, so come sit-in and see how meetings are run.

We are excited to hear your ideas and discover all the hidden talents out there!
**Special Education with Mrs. Carrington**

**MOTIVATE YOUR CHILD TOWARD EXCELLENCE BY YOUR EXAMPLE** by Brenda Carrington

Does your child have difficulty with being motivated to do his/her best? Children learn best from the example of their parents. Here are two ways to motivate your child to grow in knowledge through your example.

Readers are leaders. So how do you motivate your children to read more? The best way is to set an example. Read to them before bedtime, or let them see you reading magazines, books, or newspapers. I know this one mother of three boys who raised them to be readers by reading to them at bedtime even when they were in fifth grade. She had such dedication as a parent to press through any negative attitudes and even time constraints of a busy household. (Her boys were very active in sports.)

Another way to set an example is for your children to see your interest in learning new things. You can do this by using technology such as your computer, tablet, or even phone. Make the computer a primary source of knowledge and not just for fun and games or chatting with friends. Let your child hear you talking about something you learn by researching the internet. It opens a child’s mind to the importance of learning new things in an easily accessible way. Discussion of what you learn helps reinforce that teachable spirit that you are modeling.

My parents always told me from the time I was little that I would be going to college. I accepted the fact that after high school, that going to college was what you do. My dad went back to school when I was in high school. In fact, he graduated from college two years before I did. He worked his way through to support the family. I will always remember his positive example that showed me how important getting a good education was to a person’s future!

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**Cafeteria’s Cupboard**

**What’s New in the Nike Café?**

We have exciting things going on in the Nike Café. It’s chilly outside, that means lots of warm, filling foods. Please encourage your kids to fill up their trays with all the healthy delicious options we offer.

Look out for popcorn chicken, and Bosco sticks on the menu this month. You may notice the always popular cheese burger is no longer the 3rd option every day, we are trying to mix it up a bit. You will notice we are featuring a variety of fresh veggies in January. Try something new, you might just like it!!

Remember to encourage your Nike Knight to eat breakfast and lunch with us. A well-nourished body is a key to a successful day of learning.
News from the library shelves

In our library, grades K-2 are finishing up our Show Me Award Nominee books by listening to the books “The Spelling Bee Before Recess’ and “The Day the Crayons Quit”. We will also listen to some Valentine’s Day themed stories.

Third grade is exploring differences between dictionaries and thesaurus’ and uses for each. The activities give them practice at putting them to use.

Fourth and Firth grades are doing lessons gathering information about books they read including: genre, title, author, setting, characters and other interesting facts. We used these to create word art with the Tagxedo program in Fourth grade. Fifth grade is exploring how these would be used for book reports.

All grades will view our book fair preview video which shows new releases and books that will be featured at our book fair.

Please mark your calendars for Book Fair from February 22-26th. Our Muffins with Moms breakfast event will be held on Wednesday, February 24th. A form was sent home of times help is requested at our book fair. Please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time. Also, be sure to shop our online book fair at [http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/nikeelementaryschool](http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/nikeelementaryschool). The online Book Fair will be open from Friday, February 19th until Monday, February 29th.

Computer Lab Connection with Mrs. Will

Computer labs and chrome books are being prepped for MAP testing. This includes checking headphones, and each mouse to make sure they work properly and making sure the testing programs are working as they should. Students in grades 3-5 are already using them for practice tests so they get used to using the tools available to them with the different sections of the test. We plan to have another very successful year with our testing process.

Grades 1 & 2 continue to use ThinkCentral for their daily lessons and classwork. They also use Moby Max and Starfall as reinforcement of the math and reading skills they learn.

Kindergarten continues to work on typing their Dolch word lists and read with Reading A-Z. Programs such as ABCya and Starfall continue to help them practice their letter recognition and sounds.
Meramec Valley R-III School District

Volunteer Background Check

Please be reminded that if you plan to volunteer or plan to attend field trips, you MUST have a current background check on file per MVR-III District Policy. Please contact the school office, 271-1444, if you have any questions.

Web site: www.mocriminalrecords.com
Click on: Meramec Valley R-III School District Volunteers
Follow the directions on the Log-in Page
(Please make note of the ACCOUNT NAME and PASSWORD)

IMPORTANT! We cannot stress enough the importance of notifying the office in the event that you move, change jobs, or change your telephone number. We need to be able to reach you in an emergency.

Pledge of Character
I'm a Nike student and I'm proud to say, I will do my best today. I will be safe, respectful, responsible, make appropriate choices, and be a Nike Kid of Character!

Thank you for your PARENT SUPPORT
Parents are their children’s first teachers.
Teaching RESPONSIBILITY begins at home.
Organized homes, homes where there are systems and routines in place, create less-stressed children.
What is your home's system for:
* checking backpack each evening?
* packing a snack for the next day?
* returning Thursday folders, permission slips, lunch money?
* making time to read and do other learning extensions?

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL
To insure that the various traffic patterns for adults and children in and out of the building continues to be safe, please park your car and come into the foyer of the building to drop off and/or pick up your child. Thank you for your support. Also please note that kids cannot be dropped off prior to 8:15 a.m.
DO NOT DRIVE AROUND BUSES!

“SOMETIMES” BUS CHANGES
There are occasions during the school year when circumstances warrant changes in after school transportation. In order to ride a different bus, it is necessary for parents to write a note requesting that their child be allowed to ride a particular bus. A note to the office also insures accuracy in placing your child on the correct bus. Thank you.

Transportation
Drop-off and Pick-up procedures are in the front parking lot only.
Permanent Pick-ups will be released to a parent or authorized individual in the foyer at 3:35 pm. When visiting or picking up your child earlier than the normal time, please stop in at the office first. Thank you for your cooperation.

Cafeteria News

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SACC
Before and after school care is available through the district. For more information please contact our SACC Coordinator Cari Gebel at 271-1484.

SACC
Love begins at home, and it is not how much we do, but how much love we put into that action. -Mother Teresa