Greetings Dexter Families,

Since “Military Kids Soar,” we decided to close out our Month of the Military Child activities with this theme in mind. Students worked with Special Area Teachers to make their own kites and tested their designs. It was great! Special Area Teachers are already collaborating on our next school-wide project.

Closing out Month of the Military Child means that we are entering into Teacher Appreciation Week! Teachers and staff this year have overcome seemingly insurmountable challenges and adapted to ensure that students receive high-quality instruction each day. Please take a moment to #ThankATeacher during Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3-7.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn
Grade Level Highlights

Here are just a few of the exciting things going on in Dexter Elementary.

PSCD and Pre-K

The Pre-K students will begin working, mid-May, on a study called, "Getting Ready for Kindergarten". We will listen to stories about Kindergarten, visit a Kindergarten classroom, and compare/contrast Pre-K with Kindergarten. We will visit the lunchroom to see where they will be eating lunch and breakfast next year. We will talk about our feelings (nervous, excited, happy) about going to Kindergarten. We teach this unit of study to help ease children into the changes that are coming to them in the next school year.

Kindergarten

It has been an extremely challenging year, but we have made it to the end! We would like to thank our parents and kinder-babies for all of their hard work and support this year.

We are currently working on the following skills:

**ELA**- uppercase and lowercase letter recognition (focusing on the letters Jj, Kk, Yy, Vv, and Qq), blending sounds to make words, and sight words

**Writing**- narrative and opinion writing (writing a complete sentence)

**Math**- rote counting to 100, counting by 5s and 10s to 100

**Science**- trees and weather

**Social Studies**- Holidays
Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support,
Ms. Alexander and Mr. Miller
Mrs. Allen and Mr. Rodriguez
Ms. Frasier and Mrs. Ramey

“Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE, the word itself says, “I’M POSSIBLE!” - Audrey Hepburn

1st Grade

First Grade has been rocking through the fourth quarter! In reading, we have been talking about the sun and the moon, and how they capture our imagination. We’ve been working hard on writing to recognize the distinguishing features of a sentence. Math has been extra fun! We dug deeper into place value and learned different strategies about adding and subtracting two-digit numbers up to 100! The different strategies we discussed were drawing a quick picture, counting on, and using a Hundred Chart. Science is our favorite! We are learning about air. We made our own individual parachutes. We flew them inside the classroom and outside in front of the school. We compared the two different settings and talked about how the parachutes interacted with the air in both places. We love learning, and we love school!
2nd Grade

Science/Social Studies

Dexter second graders are busy with the Soil, Sand and Silt FOSS unit. We have been exploring the properties of soil particles and learning to categorize them from their largest to smallest states. This hands on science activity has been very interesting because we can continue the real life exploration of soils and rocks outside at recess and in our own yard and community.

Math

Our Summative math testing was a great chance for us to review some of the skills we have covered this year. We are nearing the end of our Go Math consumable book and will continue to review our math units. More time will also be available for hands on exploration with our math workstations!

Reading/Writing

We are entering Unit 8 in reading and planning another Informative Report about nature and weather. Spring is an excellent time of year for this unit since atmospheric conditions change frequently. We find ourselves analyzing the clouds and atmosphere during recess.

3rd Grade

Third grade is gearing up for our summative testing. Students will be participating in a Math Boot camp to review skills. We plan on exercising our brains in solving word problems. Students will be showing grit while attacking basic math facts and persevering through elapsed time and fractions. In social studies, we are looking at the economy in our community, state and country. We are learning why we need to trade services and goods with people in our community, country and the world.
Grab your raincoat and umbrella! Spring is the perfect time to study weather with all the rain and storms we are receiving. We are learning how a person can predict rain and the way in which different types of weather are formed.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students have worked diligently reviewing current and past skills in preparation for the DoDEA Summative assessments. In addition, all students completed the 2nd RST Writing Assessment successfully. We are continuing to enhance our comprehension skills by reading chapter books and completing book reports. All students are looking forward to the activities and celebrations scheduled for the month of May.

5th Grade

Mrs. Ramos and I are very proud of our 5th graders for being present, working hard, and trying their best on the summative assessment. Thank you to all of our parents who made sure their students were fed, rested and present each day.

In math class, students are introduced to the coordinate plane, graph and ordered pairs on a coordinate grid, and graph ordered pairs in the first quadrant of a coordinate plane. Students use this model to make sense of and explain the relationship within the numerical patterns they generate. Students classify and compare two-dimensional figures using attributes.

In ELA, students will be working on a multimedia project. They will identify areas of growth within their community and create a plan to improve their communities.
In social studies, students will be investigating how cities have changed throughout the years. They will be creating Google slides or videos explaining how the economy and developments impacted the city of their choice. Students will also have the option of designing their own city and represent it with a 3-D model. Lastly, they will research an endangered species analyzing how development of societies has contributed to the decline of their population.

Science has been fascinating and engaging! I hope students have been begging to stay up to see the moon! Students are busy developing and using models to understand Earth’s place in the solar system and the interactions of Earth, the Sun, and the Moon to reveal predictable patterns—daily length and direction of shadows, day and night, and the seasonal appearance of stars in the night sky.

Ms. Smith’s Class

The Jedi Academy has been busy learning lots of new things in room 12. We learned about cleaning up trash in space, National Parks Week, and the new Reese’s Cup flavor. We made rockets to help clean up space and shot straw rockets to see how high they would fly, collected nature materials from outside for National Parks Week, and tasted the new Reese’s Cup Ultimate peanut butter flavor, and everyone gave a thumbs up the new flavor. We had a great time eating outside for Purple Up Day.
Art: Ms. Donaldson

In April, we finished up our unit on architecture, using scale, and measurement. Kindergarten, First, and Second grades did pop-art, cityscapes inspired by James Rizzi. Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades did blue prints and then moved into designing Islamic Geometric Tiles, discussing how art reflects cultures and beliefs. The whole school continued into a unit on the moon and moon phases, doing an experiment with a light and a ball. **Your child can show you the experiment at home!**

As we move into May, we are going to be focusing on light and shadow in art. We will be doing some still lifes and drawing forms with a focus on shading to create illusions.

Music: Ms. Bocanegra

Music students are wrapping up the study of musical instruments and their families. K-2 classes are listening to Peter and the Wolf by Prokofiev. This symphonic fairy tale for children was written in 1936 and is one of the most frequently performed works in the entire classical repertoire. A narrator tells the story while the orchestra illustrates it. Ask your child about the characters (Peter and his animal friends) and what instrument tells their story. 3-5 students are working on composition and improvisation using poetry and percussion instruments. They read a poem then decide which instruments to use to perform it for their peers. They will write their composition, perform it, receive peer feedback, and then do a final rewrite and performance.

We are also going to have the 2nd Annual Dexter Talent Showcase for the end of the year. More info will be coming home at a later time. **We want to see ALL kinds of talent (music, sports, dance, art, acting, comedy, etc.)!**

Physical Education: Dr. Alderman

**K-2 Grades:** Students are improving on their locomotor skills such as turning, twisting, stretching and jumping during games.
They are also working on non locomotor skills such as striking, rolling, kicking at a target while displaying good sportsmanship. Students are working on sharing, respect of self and others, cooperation, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participation, outside play, and understanding the benefits of physical activity, participates in physical activity outside of school setting.

3-5 Grades: Non-locomotor Goals – transfer weight from one body part to another

Equipment manipulation – Strike, dribble, catch, and kick a moving object, overhand and underhand throw at a target

Social Integration – demonstrates appropriate behaviors in the classroom, cooperation in group activities, understands the value of equipment, and demonstrates concerns for others, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participates in physical activities outside of school that are interesting, engaging, and personally enjoyable.

Information Specialist: Ms. Porter

These are just a few reminders about the Information Center.

- Overdue notices were sent out April 1st through emails to parents as well as students. Please return all overdue books so that students can check out new books.

- We would like for students to have books to read for as long as possible before the end of the year. We normally set a date two weeks before school is out for all library books to be returned. We would like all books to be returned by the week of May 24th. This gives us a chance to locate missing books and send out notices of books that are still out.
• Please remember some of the online resources students have access to when they want to read a book online or learn more about a topic. An updated copy of this handout will be sent home this week.

**Storytime After School Reading Club**

We started the month celebrating Month of the Military Child with each participant receiving a book. We had 2 guest readers/authors. Two students wrote a story and asked to share it with the group. We enjoyed listening to the students as they read their stories. They each did an amazing job! During Story time we discussed Military children, kindness and Earth Day. We enjoyed stories from Storyline Online and MackinVIA. We will continue Story Time during the month of May.

**Dexter Chorus**

Dexter Elementary Chorus has been busy after school participating in many fun activities. Students have performed a basketball bouncing routine, played singing games like Pass the Ring, completed several music escape room challenges, and of course playing instruments and singing.

**Fit Kids**

Fit Kids is an after school program that meets on Fridays where students can be physically active for 45 minutes. Presently, students complete three laps around the track to earn Fitness Feet. Other activities in the program are running, walking, baseball, tag, dodgeball, volleyball, and kickball. I think it is great to see students want to come out and play!
Student Council

Dexter’s student council has been hard at work. They meet each Thursday to plan and support monthly events such as collecting donations for pets, socks, Read Across America, and Month of the Military Child. Presently, they are working to make our planet a better place by recycling. Each member decorated and placed a brown paper bag in each teacher’s classroom to collect paper for our recycling program. The members come around on Thursdays to collect the bags to be delivered to the recycling center on Fort Benning. I am very proud of Klara, Kendall, Kennedy, Reagan and Brystol for their leadership and school pride.

Upcoming Events

- **April 27-May 3**: 4th Grade DoDEA Summative Assessments
- **May 4-10**: 3rd Grade DoDEA Summative Assessments
- **May 12**: Accelerated Withdrawal
- **May 31**: No School - Memorial Day
- **June 8**: Last Day for Pre-K
- **June 9**: Last Day for Classes - Early Release
- **June 10**: Teacher Work Day - Report Card Prep (No Students)
Need Special Services for your children?

Do you live on post and suspect your child has a disability in the areas of academics, social, emotional, physical, speech/language, and/or cognitive development?

Please contact:

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) - if you have a child aged 0-3 with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-3835

DODEA GA/AL Schools Student Services – if you have a child aged 3-6 who is not currently enrolled in school with concerns in these areas.
Phone: 706-545-7276