Herbert J. Dexter
Elementary School

This is the inaugural edition of our biweekly newsletter for SY 2021-22. Our newsletter will follow the same format each month. The first edition will contain information from grade level teams, specialists, and our clubs. The next edition will contain information from our instructional support staff. There will be something in the Principal’s Corner and upcoming events in both editions. On to the first Principal’s Corner message...

Principal’s Corner

Greetings Dexter Families,

SY 2021-22 has been nothing short of amazing so far! Students are settling into routines and demonstrating high levels of learning. Teachers have been collaborating, co-planning, and sharing resources and expertise. We look forward to maximizing student learning as we continue strengthening these high yield practices.

As you know the safety of our students is the ultimate priority. Please read and adhere to the following reminders to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal each day.

The safety of our students at Dexter Elementary is our ultimate priority. A few concerns at arrival and dismissal have been noted. Here are some gentle reminders to ensure the safety of our students during arrival and dismissal each day.

Car Riders

**Arrival:** We begin receiving students at 8:15 each morning. All students should be dropped off at the west side of the building in the parking lot closest to Ingersoll St. When dropping off students,
please pull forward to Drop Off Station #1 or the next available station. This will allow 4 cars to unload at the same time. Staff will be on duty to greet students and will help them find their way to breakfast and/or the gym.

Please do not drop students off in the Bus Lane, in the visitor parking lot, across the street, or anywhere near the bike rack and the Dexter Eagle.

Dismissal: All car riders are dismissed at 3:20 on regular days and 2:20 for early dismissal. All students should be picked up on the west side of the building in the parking lot closest to Ingersoll St.

Please be sure the car rider placard sign is in the front car window.

Students will not be released without a car rider placard. Contact the office if you need additional car rider signs. If you are delayed and arrive after 3:45, please come to the front office to pick up your child.

Walkers

Dismissal: Students in PreK-1st grade should meet a parent/approved adult or an older sibling in the walker dismissal area on the east side of the building closest to the visitor parking lot.

Please do not pick students up while driving your car in the Bus Lane, in the visitor parking lot, across the street, or near the bike rack and the Dexter Eagle. This area is designated for walkers and bike riders only. It is not safe for cars to drive on this side of the school building while our students are walking or riding their bikes.

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 and PSCD classes are off to a great start this school year. We have established some great routines, made new friends, and found new and interesting items with which to play.

We have been practicing our four "BIG" rules:

- We play safely.
- We listen to our teachers.
- We help keep our classroom clean.
- We are nice to others.

We will continue to work on our Beginning of the Year Study that helps us to learn the practices and procedures that we will use all year long. Thank you, parents for all you do, and for sending your children to school ready to learn each day.

Kindergarten

It has been an exciting beginning to our school year! We recently welcomed Mrs. Davis as the fourth kindergarten teacher here at Dexter.

We are currently working on the following skills:

ELA- uppercase and lowercase letter recognition (focusing on the letters Mm and Aa), sight words, identifying key details of a story writing, and writing their name using correct letter formation.

Math- rote counting to 10, matching sets with numerals 0-5, and
using math terminology: greater, less, same, and pair.

Science- Exploring goldfish and guppies

Social Studies- History to include: “Who am I?” and “What is a Family?”

Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School Motto: "Where we learn from the past to create our own future"

School Colors: Blue, Red and White
Mascot: Herbie the Eagle

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
Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Fields

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

1st Grade

We are off to a great start in First Grade. In reading, we have been talking about how different people get involved in their communities. We’ve been working hard on writing using capital letters, correct spacing, and various end punctuations to conclude sentences. Math has been extra fun! We dug deeper into adding and subtracting within 10! Some of the different strategies we discussed were counting on and modeling with pictures
and objects. Science is our favorite! We are learning about planting seeds and recording our observations on how they grow. In social studies, we are learning how to get along with others, and how we can learn from one another. We love learning, and we love school!

2nd Grade

Greetings 2nd grade parents!

We are off to a great start this year! Our students are reviewing 1st grade skills and beginning our 2nd grade math skills. In math, the students are reviewing addition and subtraction strategies. In social studies we are learning about the different types of communities, suburban, urban, and rural. Our super scientists are observing the life cycle of animals like mealworms, beetles, milkweed bugs, and butterflies. We are off to an amazing 2nd grade adventure.

2nd Grade Teachers,
Ms. Harmon, Ms. Peeks, and Ms. Smith

3rd Grade

Third Graders have visitors in their rooms. We have crawfish! We will be observing how crawfish live in their environment. We will be taking a close look at their body parts and how it helps them adapt to their environment. We have already learned that crawfish live in fresh water and they live in ponds. We have enjoyed watching the crawfish walk and hide. The crawfish will “run” backwards to hide from danger. Our new class pets have led to some great discussions!

4th Grade

The 4th grade students are learning to think like scientists. During the past two weeks, students have observed the metamor-
phasis of mealworms, snails, and isopod specimens. Our students can't contain their enthusiasm as they research how to prepare the environments and practice caring for their new classroom pets. In addition, we've now added goldfish, guppies, and brine shrimp to our collection. We can't wait to share our experiences with you.

Dr. Winston & Ms. Jones

5th Grade

Fifth Grade is off to a great start! We have completed our Beginning of Year Assessments and are moving full speed ahead to a great year. In math class, we are practicing our fluency in multiplication and division. The students in reading are engaging in how to annotate a text which transfers to math word problems. Our 5th grade scientists are actively investigating living systems through experiments and readings. Lastly, in social studies, students are enjoying their mini projects while learning about the Aztec civilization. Please remember to verify your child’s agenda daily and do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any concerns.

Ms. Smith’s Jedi Academy

We’ve been busy in the academy. In August we learned about plants and animals that live in and around the ocean, as well as how people use the ocean for recreational and leisure activities. Students also explored natural and man-made features that can be found near the beach.

Our Focus for September:

All Jedi

This Is My School (Government)
Introduces authority figures and rules at school. Jedi are introduced to authority figures in schools and their jobs. They are
also learning about rules and consequences for not following them. They are reading “My Cool School,” and “Club Rules.”

Our Focus for October:

1st Grade Jedi

Animals in Their Homes (Life Science)
Explores common animals and where they live. Jedi will learn about various animals and the habitats in which they live. They will learn about what animals need to live and grow. They will be reading “In the Woods” and “Exploring Animal Habitats.”

4th Grade Jedi

Living in an Ecosystem (Life Science)
Introduces plants and animals in various ecosystems and how they survive. Jedi will be introduced to plants and animals that live in various ecosystems, with a focus on characteristics that help these plants and animals survive. They will be reading “Along the River” and “Look Out for the Cactus!”

Art: Ms. Laws

At the start of this new school year, all students learned about portraits and created a self-portrait using monochromatic colors! Each grade had their own color which they used to color their whole portrait so when all of them are hung up in the hall after Constitution Day, they will create a beautiful rainbow of self portraits!

For Constitution Day (week), the students learned what the Constitution is and why it is important. For Kindergarten and First Graders, we looked at the American flag, and how it represents us. They then created a flag using cut up construction paper. For 2nd and 3rd grade, they redesigned the Great Seal after looking at many American symbols. For 4th and 5th grade, the students
created a historical painting based on the Constitutional Convention or events leading up to it (inspired by Christy’s Scene at the Signing of the Constitution of the United States).

Next week, we will start new units: Kinder and First graders will learn all about lines, 2nd and 3rd graders will learn about cave paintings, and 4th and 5th graders will begin to learn about observational drawings.

**Music: Ms. Bocanegra**

In music class, 2nd-5th students have been focusing on CREATING music! 2nd & 3rd graders are working on a hand drum composition project using names of countries from around the world. 4th & 5th graders are continuing their work learning all about the baritone ukulele. So far, we have learned strumming and C, G, and D chords. They are starting to play some familiar songs and we will be learning something special for Veterans Day!

Kindergarten & 1st grade students are learning about steady beat and all kinds of movement! They love the "Bunny Story" and hopping to the changing tempo! We are also playing percussion instruments like egg shakers, hand drums, and lummi sticks.

**Physical Education: Dr. Alderman**

Our K-2 Students are working on 100% participation, learning locomotor movements skipping, galloping and jogging and Yoga. For games we are working on tossing and catching overhand and underhand.

In Grades 3-5 students are learning about cardiovascular and muscular endurance. They are also practicing Yoga. Students are learning to play kickball with 100% participation and continuing to work on their kicking and catching skills.
Information Specialist: Ms. Porter

During the beginning of the school year the students have been learning the library procedures. They have also learned how to use some of the online resources like Mackinvia.com, Scholastic BookFlix and TumbleBook Library. A few weeks ago, I sent home a letter with a purple sheet that list all the online resources along with the usernames and passwords. Please use this sheet to try some of them at home with your child. I am sure they will find something interesting to read and learn. If your child knows how to access their ClassLink it will be easier to utilize those online resources. There is an Information Center folder with online resources for them to use. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Porter, Information Center Specialist

kathy.porter@dodea.edu

Reading Club

We will have a Reading Club for second graders on Wednesdays after school during the first semester. We will read together, independently, and have group discussions. We look forward to all the adventures reading brings. Let the reading begin!

Upcoming Events

- **Sept. 20th** - Teacher PD Day CCR - No School for Students
- **Sept. 21st** - Early Release 2:15
- **Sept. 24th** - Lunch on the Lawn (Rescheduled)
- **Sept. 27th** - Teacher PD Day CSI - No School for Students
- **Oct. 7th** - End of Quarter 1, and NED Show (Rescheduled)
- **Oct. 8th** - Teacher Report Card Prep Day - No School for Students
- **Oct. 11th** - Columbus Day - No School
Constitution Day

In celebration of Constitution Day, our students ratified and signed their own class constitutions.
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
Read Aloud 15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.

DOES READING ALOUD REALLY MATTER?
Yes!

- Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
The number of words that a child learns at kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success.

INSTILL A LOVE OF READING
Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED & SHARED
Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.

MORE THAN ONE IN THREE CHILDREN ARRIVE AT KINDERGARTEN WITHOUT THE SKILLS NECESSARY FOR LIFE-SKILL LEARNING.

- More than 15% of young children, 3.1 million, are read to by family members fewer than three times a week.

LITERACY SKILL BUILDING
- Vocabulary
- Phonics
- Familiarity with the printed word
- Storytelling
- Comprehension
- Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.

BONDING
Is anything better than sharing a good book?

DON'T GOOD PARENTS ALREADY READ ALOUD DAILY?
No.

- Only 48% of young children in this country are read to each day.

- Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years:
  - 27375 MINUTES

IS 15 MINUTES ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?
Yes!

- 456.25 HOURS

Tell a friend at www.ReadAloud.org