

# **THE JAGUAR TALES**



February 2016

<http://www.mccsc.edu/childs>

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Bloomington, IN 47401

## *A Note from the Principal...*

### 2015 ISTEP Results

We have recently received the spring 2015 ISTEP results, and I wanted to say a few words about this test, and our current focus at Childs Elementary School. Overall, our test results were good last year, and to be quite honest, they were absolutely meaningless and useless to us as we prepared our curriculum and instruction for this school year. The testing process from the Indiana Department of Education in 2015 was lengthy, unorganized, inconsistent, and from a technology perspective, completely chaotic. We have high expectations and standards for the building principal, teachers, and the students we serve. The Indiana Department of Education should be held to the same standards. In so many ways, I truly believe that this test is simply slowing down our progress. I want to thank our teachers and parents for the tremendous amount of hard work and effort devoted to our children on a daily basis. We see our students learning and growing at high rate, and formative assessments and data show us that our hard work is paying off. Our emphasis on the social and emotional well-being of each child, as well as the strong academic support leads to a very positive, healthy school community. We are looking forward to a more organized and consistent summative assessment this school year, and if it is more of the same, my hope is that educators and all actively involved stakeholders demand change. Our students deserve it, and our educators who work tirelessly to ensure high student achievement and growth deserve it as well. As always, thank you for the love, support, and encouragement you give your children every day.

### Ch-ch-changes...

We have a new face on our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team, and I wanted to say a few brief words about this transition. Mrs. Beyers has been given the opportunity to teach in a school district in Indianapolis, and she will now be closer to her husband's new job as the head basketball coach at Warren Central High School. The commute is difficult on families, and she was able to find something close to her new home in Indianapolis. I want to personally thank Mrs. Beyers for her many years of service at Childs Elementary School. She will be missed, and I know that she will continue to have a positive impact on the students in her new 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. We have hired John Zwissler as our new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, and we are excited to have him on our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade team. John was a former student at Childs Elementary School and he student taught in one of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms last year. We are looking forward to the positive contributions John will make to our school community.

\$

Sign in to [SchoolStore.com](http://SchoolStore.com) to shop with over 400 merchants.

Search for Childs Elementary and

A percentage of your total purchase will go back to our school.

Thank you for your support!

\$

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**THE NEXT PTO MEETING  
WILL BE HELD**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18TH  
FROM 6:30-7:30**

## The Library Corner



### *From the Corner of the Library*

#### **Childs Book Fair**

Many thanks to everyone who visited our Book Fair in December.

It was a huge success! Our gross sales were a little over \$12,500 this year. We make a profit of 25% which means we earned approximately \$3,000. Look for the new books in our library!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers who worked the Book Fair. And a special thank you to our treasurer, Jim Sutner, who keeps track of all the pennies! This would not be possible without his help.

#### **Volunteers:**

Karen Adams

Ruth Amos

Mandy Baker

Tori Champion

Marcy Cook

Erin Crowley

Ally Deakin

Marta Deibert

Stephanie Hulett

Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer

Claudia Giles

Kim Gill

Tamara Hallett

Jamie Kirkley

Yi Liao

Idee Mou

Patty Orth

Shelly Scott-Harmon

Kathy Van der Schans

Julie Van Voorhis

Elizabeth Walter

Noelle Zeichner

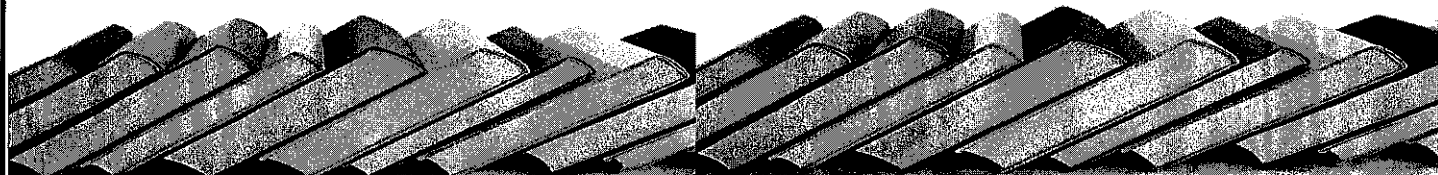
#### **Social Media Sites:**

As always I invite you to follow me on twitter @judybooklady and Childs School @Childsschool to learn more about what is happening with the library program and at Childs Elementary.

Visit shelfari to see what I'm reading at <http://www.shelfari.com/judybooklady>

I have also started a Pinterest page for parents at <https://www.pinterest.com/jwilliam1308/>

Watch as it grows!



# THE LITERACY CAFE

Words mean more than  
what is set down on paper.  
It takes a human voice to  
infuse them with deeper  
meaning.

## What is writing?

Writing is practical (lists, reminders, notes), job-related (memos, letters, sales reports, proposals), stimulating (provokes thoughts and organizes them logically and concisely), social (thank-you notes, emails, letters, blogs), and therapeutic (journaling). In writing, as with reading, meaning is the primary goal. The following are some suggestions for parents from the National Council of Teachers of English.

**Build a climate of words at home.** Go places and see things with your child, then talk about what has been seen, heard, smelled, tasted, touched. The basis of good writing is good talk, and younger children especially grow into stronger control of language when adults share experiences and rich talk about those experiences.

**Let children see you write often.** You're both a model and a teacher. If children never see adults write, they gain an impression that writing occurs only at school. What you do is as important as what you say. Have your children see you writing notes to friends, letters to business firms, perhaps stories to share with them. From time to time, read aloud what you have written and ask your children their opinion of what you've said. If it's not perfect, so much the better. Making changes in what you write confirms for the child that revision is a natural part of writing -- which it is.

**Be as helpful as you can in helping children write.** Talk through their ideas with them; help them discover what they want to say. When they ask for help with spelling, punctuation, and usage, supply that help. Your most effective role is not as a critic but as a helper. Rejoice in effort, delight in ideas, and resist the temptation to be critical.

**Provide a suitable place for children to write.** A quiet corner is best, the child's own place, if possible. If not, any flat surface with elbow room, a comfortable chair, and a good light will do.

**Give your child, and encourage others to give, the gifts associated with writing.** Pens, pencils, erasers, diary or journal, pads of paper, stationery, envelopes, thesaurus, dictionary, camera, scrapbook.

**Encourage frequent writing.** The best way to learn to write is by writing, but be patient with reluctance to write. "I have nothing to say" is a perfect excuse. Recognize that the desire to write is a sometime thing. There will be times when a child "burns" to write; others, when the need is cool.

**Praise your child's efforts at writing.** Emphasize the child's successes. For every error the child makes, there are dozens of things he or she has done well.

**Share letters from friends and relatives.** Treat such letters as special events. Urge relatives and friends to write notes and letters to the child, no matter how brief. Writing is especially rewarding when the child gets a response. When thank-you notes are in order, sit with the child and write your own notes at the same time.

### **Encourage your child to write for information, free samples, and travel brochures.**

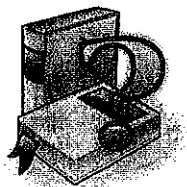
**Be alert to occasions when your child can be involved in writing.** Your child can help with grocery lists, add notes at the end of parents' letters/emails, send holiday and birthday cards, take down telephone messages, write notes to friends, help plan trips by writing for information, make scrapbooks of vacations or special occasions and prepare invitations to family get-togethers.

Writing for real purposes is rewarding, and the daily activities of families present many opportunities for purposeful writing. Involving your child may take some coaxing, but it will be worth your patient effort.

Here is a website with some wonderful resources:

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"Write On!" Kris Stewart, Literacy Coach (kstewart@mcsc.edu)



## What are the IB-PYP Attitudes?

What do we want our students to feel, value and demonstrate?

During the next few weeks we will have a weekly focus on each of the IB-PYP Attitudes. These are vital pieces in the development of positive attitudes toward people, the environment and learning. The IB-PYP Attitudes are meant to be an explicit part of our daily learning and school life and are to be modeled by both students and staff. Our students will reflect on these attitudes during learning experiences and assessments. When reinforced at home and other places, these become second nature for children.

<b>Appreciation</b>	Valuing of the wonder and beauty of the world.
<b>Commitment</b>	Being committed to learning, perseveres and shows self-discipline and responsibility.
<b>Confidence</b>	Confident in their ability as learners, courage to take risks, applying what they have learned and making appropriate choices.
<b>Cooperation</b>	Works in a group, collaborating and leading/following as the situation demands.
<b>Creativity</b>	Creative and imaginative in thinking and in approach to problems and dilemmas.
<b>Curiosity</b>	Curiosity about learning and of the world and its people and cultures.
<b>Empathy</b>	Able to project themselves into another's situation in order to understand thoughts, reasoning and emotions.
<b>Enthusiasm</b>	Enjoying learning
<b>Independence</b>	Thinking and acting independently, making own judgments based on reasonable principles and being able to defend their judgments.
<b>Integrity</b>	Being honest and having a considered sense of fairness.
<b>Respect</b>	Respect themselves, others and the world around them.
<b>Tolerance</b>	Sensitivity towards differences in the world and being responsive to the needs of others.

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

Winston Churchill

Kris Stewart, IB Coordinator [kstewart@mccsc.edu](mailto:kstewart@mccsc.edu)

Dear Parents,

First of all, I would like to wish you a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and I hope that you enjoyed your time with your family during the holidays.

I am extremely pleased to know that my students, your children, continue to show great enthusiasm when learning something new during the Spanish classes. Thank you for your support and continue to encourage your children to reach for new limits!

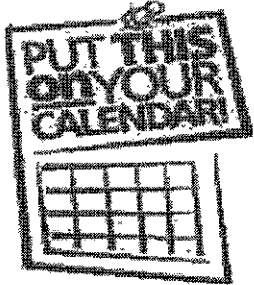
I am sharing with you some of the topics that will be covered during the next nine weeks in Spanish class.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

<u>k-1</u>	<u>2-3</u>	<u>4-6</u>
Weather/Seasons	Holidays	Professions/Business
Family/Friends	Hobbies/Chores	Family/Friends
Self	Time/Clock	Sports/Leisure
Face/Body	Self	Body
	Senses	Self (Autobiographical Events)

Thank you,  
Gabriela Coolidge

**Remember to order your Childs Elementary Yearbook! Order forms are due by March 4th. Yearbooks are \$14.00**

□ Tuesday February 9	Band concert field trip, 2nd	
□ Thursday February 11	Kindergarten Open House 6:30-7:30	
□ Tuesday February 16	Orchestra field trip, 5th	
□ Thursday February 18	PTO meeting, 6:30-7:30 p.m.	
□ Wednesday February 24	MCPL visit, Capik and Zwissler	
□ Tuesday March 1	MCPL visit, Powers	
□ Thursday March 3	Kasey the Fire dog, K-3rd	
□ March 14-18	Spring break—No School	
□ Tuesday March 22	Spring immunization clinic, 5th	
□ Thursday March 24	Ballet performance field trip, 3rd	
□ March 28-30	Bradford Woods field trip, 5th	

# KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

MCCSC Kindergarten Registration Begins 2/1/16

Join us at your school for an engaging and informative "Meet & Greet"

- Meet current Kindergarten Teachers
- Meet the principal and other staff
- Visit Kindergarten classrooms
- Explore a typical Kindergarten day
- Get answers to your questions
- Meet other parents and students
- See the school and campus
- On-Site registration (see back)



Thursday, February 11th, 2016

6:30-7:30pm

Location: ALL MCCSC  
Elementary Schools  
[www.mccsc.edu/kreg](http://www.mccsc.edu/kreg)



**MONROE COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION  
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

## PTO Carnival News...

Even though the weather is still cold outside...it is already time to start thinking about our Spring Carnival and Silent Auction!!! This event is by far our largest fundraiser with every single dime going directly to Childs Elementary!! We can only make it a success with the help of our entire Parent Community.

The Carnival requires at least one Parent Representative from every classroom, but ideally each should have two; one volunteer to collect and organize the class basket, and one individual to run and organize the class game. If you have just a little spare time to help out, please contact your child's teacher to see if they need these positions filled.

Our Silent Auction, which collects items from across the US, is always looking for new and exciting pieces. If you run a small business, or know some one who does, please consider donating an item to the Auction. Exposure at our Carnival reaches hundreds of people, and the article will be listed in our Auction Booklet along with the business that donated. And as always, your donation is tax-deductible.

This year, our amazing art teacher has a very cool project planned for the Silent Auction. If you happen to have an old wooden piece of furniture that needs a new look, please consider donating it to the project. It will get a whole new look from our kids that will add a bit of style and flare to any room.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to use the following contacts:

Carnival Chair: Katie Mae at [childs.elementary.carnival@gmail.com](mailto:childs.elementary.carnival@gmail.com)

Silent Auction Chair: Kristen Lockatch at [childs.elem.auction@gmail.com](mailto:childs.elem.auction@gmail.com)

## *Notes from the Literacy Cafe*

### What is writing?

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