



South Walker Elementary



CARDINAL CHATTER

March 2019

Mrs. Avant

I cannot believe that we are beginning our last nine weeks of this school year already! Ours SWE Cardinals are flying through this school year! During our second semester we've had our Second Parent Teacher Conference Day, Jump Rope for Heart, Family Donuts, our First Grade Louisiana Play, our LEAP 2025 Testing Meeting, and our Second Grade Mardi Gras Parade. During this last nine weeks, we look forward to Movie Night, the Talent Show, the Cardinal Carnival, our PreK and Kindergarten Graduations, and our Honors Programs for Grades 1-5. Thanks for your continued support at our family events!

Please remember that our Kindergarten Registration will be at South Walker Elementary on Friday, March 29th from 9:00-12:00. PreK Registration will be held on Saturday, March 30th at the Literacy and Technology Center from 10:00-12:00. Please note that this is a change from prior years. The address for the Literacy and Technology Center is 9261 Florida Boulevard, Walker, Louisiana. Please check our website for all documents needed for each registration.

Our teachers have been preparing our students for the upcoming LEAP 2025 Testing throughout this school year. Students in grades 3-5 will test in April and May. You can help your child to do their best on the test by making sure your child gets a good night's rest, eats a healthy breakfast, and is at school on time each day for testing. During the week of testing, all students in grades PreK-5 may wear any school purchased spirit shirt with their khaki uniform bottoms. The dates for testing are as follows:

April 8-16 LEAP 2025 for Grade 5

April 29-May 3 LEAP 2025 for Grades 3-4

At the end of April, you will be asked to complete an on-line End of Year Parental Engagement Survey. You will be asked to complete the survey during the window of May 1-17th. Please remember that the goal of this survey will be school improvement, so your feedback is important to our school.

It is our continued mission, in partnership with you and the community, to help your child become a self-directed, life-long learner. We will continue to do everything we can to provide a positive, safe and productive learning environment for your child every day. You can help your child be successful in school by making sure they are at school daily, get plenty of rest, eat healthy meals, have a quiet place to do homework and read daily. Additionally, it is very important for you to check daily folders/binders and planners each night and keep up with your child's progress through PowerSchool. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the classroom teacher by note, email, or phone message. If you need your child's PowerSchool Parent Portal log-in information, or help setting up an account in PowerSchool, please contact the office at 225-665-0446.

Thanks for all you do as our partners in your child's education.

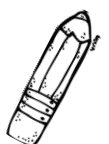
Mr. Foster

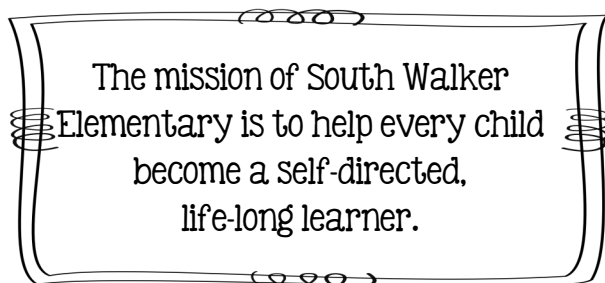
Parents,

With the upcoming LEAP exams, I want to take a moment to remind everyone about several simple and easy-to-use strategies to assist students during this time. Please ensure that your students are well rested each day. Students who are well rested are able to focus and give their best effort. Encourage your child to eat breakfast each morning. We offer all students breakfast daily with our breakfast on the go program. A well fed student is able to focus on the task at hand and not when lunch time arrives. Encourage your student to read daily and review their material from class. Reading daily will help your child's reading comprehension skills improve. Last but not least, help your child be ready and prepared in time for school each morning. Students who arrive on time and are not rushed are less likely to be stressed in the morning. A calm morning on test day will allow students to have confidence leading to a successful day.

Parents, we greatly appreciate all of your continued support and help as a partner in your child's education.

Thank you for all that you do.





The mission of South Walker
Elementary is to help every child
become a self-directed,
life-long learner.

CURRICULUM COACH

Recently, I read an interesting book, Raising Happy Kids, and I wanted to share a few words of wisdom I learned. As parents we often hear about building a child's self-esteem and self-confidence; however, self-reliance may be the most important quality to nurture in children. Self-reliance is being able to manage on your own: to know how to think independently: combined with the ability to take risks and solve problems.

When a child is self-reliant there is no need for other people's approval before trying something new or detailed and constant guidance to achieve the end product. You rely on yourself.

Self-reliance is broader than self-confidence. Having confidence relates to what we can do, specific skills, and aptitude. Whereas being self-reliant relates to being—Independent, creative, self-sufficient, active, and competent.

It's about helping your child...

- have confidence in his/her own ideas
- carry things through to completion
- develop a degree of physical competence so that lack of strength or coordination does not stand in the way of achieving a goal
- not be restricted by the fear of failure.

Suggestions to Encourage your child:

- Involve them in real-world tasks, so that they learn how to do things, such as cooking, mending things, small repairs
- Let them achieve the task their way
- If they express an urge to do something, let them try as soon as possible. Cheer their spontaneity and confidence that they can do something. Let them prove it.
- Let them define their own challenges, not simply follow those you set.

Book written by Elizabeth Hartley-Brewer

Words to Ponder

Parents do a disservice to their kids
when they try to remove
adversity from their lives.
When little things go wrong,
rather than rush to fix it,
let the kids figure out a solution.
They'll realize it's not the
end of the world.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Testing is Coming Soon

How can I help my child through the standardized testing that is rapidly approaching? Many parents often struggle with this question because they want to do what is best for their child. I have put some strategies together that have been proven to help children and adults during testing;

1. Get a good nights rest.
2. Eat a good, nutritious breakfast every morning of testing.
3. Avoid all confrontations and arguments.
4. Get to school on time.
5. Practice relaxing techniques (deep breathing, happy place, etc.) before testing starts.

Karen Nolan MA, NCC, NCSC
School Counselor

THROUGH THE GRADES...

Pre-K

This nine weeks Pre-K will be focusing on our last four units of the school year: Exercise, Trees, Recycling, and Getting Ready for Kindergarten. We will discuss the importance of exercising and practice our own exercise skills. Our Tree Unit will cover the life cycle of a tree and the trees we see around us. Our last two units Recycling and Getting Ready for Kindergarten will focus on caring for our community and preparing our Pre-K students for Kindergarten next year. We will extend our study of the community by taking a field trip to the fire and police station. To finish off the school year, Pre-K will have their End of the Year program for their parents where they will share everything they have learned and enjoyed for the year.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten students have been very busy in the 3rd nine weeks. We are becoming readers, writers and illustrators. We were also working hard in math to learn to add and count to 100. In the last nine weeks, we will continue to work on reading and writing and begin subtraction. During social living, we will learn about living things, like animals, plants, and insects. This is always a fun time of the year in kindergarten.

Important Kindergarten Dates:

- March 29th is Kindergarten 2019-2020 registration from 9-12. Current kindergarten students do not attend school on this day.
- May 1st is our field trip to Liuzza's Strawberry Patch.
- Our Annual Kindergarten Program will be held on May 20th.

1st Grade

South Walker's Fantastic First Graders are ready to say "Hello" to Spring! We would first like to congratulate the students on how well they performed in their LA Program in February. We have a busy last nine weeks ahead of us. We will go to Global Wildlife in May. We are excited to see our first graders' "fact power" increase with daily practice. They are becoming more confident in their math facts.

We encourage you to continue to work with your child so that sight words are quickly recognized without hesitation. Our continued focus is on the many comprehension strategies to help first graders derive more meaning and enjoyment from their reading. The goal is for students to learn how to think as they read on their own. Asking questions helps with understanding. Parents can help by asking the reader questions while reading. Stop to share conversations and have your child verbalize thoughts and retell after each reading selection.

Our first graders work so hard and we are very proud of them! Thanks for your praise and encouragement as they continue to learn and grow.

First Grade Teachers

THROUGH THE GRADES...

2nd GRADE

Second graders have been busy this past 9 weeks. The Krewe of Cardinals paraded around the school in our custom-made Mardi Gras floats. The students had a great time. Thanks to all parents for their help with the floats. They looked fabulous! Also, a special thank you to the Officers that lead and ended our parade. In addition to our Mardi Gras Parade, the students have enjoyed all of the fun experiments we have been doing in science. In reading, we are up to 80 words a minute working on reaching our goal of 90. We are excited that most of our students are well in to the 100s. Remember to have your child read each night. We know it is a tedious task, but it is feasible. The stories are getting longer and harder. In math, we have learned how to tell time, count money, and add and subtract two 3-digit numbers. Look out world, here we come! It has been a great year so far, we're almost to the end. Keep up the terrific work.

3rd GRADE

WOW! The year has flown by. It's hard to believe Spring is here. We have been working hard to get the students ready to take the LEAP test. It is here, and they are ready! Please encourage students to continue to pay attention in class and work hard the last nine weeks. We have been working hard in math. We have learned our multiplication and division facts. Keep practicing those facts! We have been working on area and perimeter and fractions. Please keep reading with your child at home. Remember to also read for AR. 3rd grade needs 5 point this nine weeks to go to the AR party. In science, we are learning about animals and fossils. The students enjoyed learning through the science experiments during our plant unit! We are looking forward to our field trip to Honey Island Swamp Tours in April. Remember to work hard and study to keep those grades up!

THROUGH THE GRADES...

4th Grade

During the third nine weeks, our ELA lessons correlated with our Social Studies content. We have been reading nonfiction texts about the American Revolution, specifically the historical events that led to the Boston Massacre and the Boston Tea Party. Throughout the year, students participate in lessons that allow them to do a deeper exploration of the texts we are reading, find text evidence to support a claim, and express their understanding in the form of a well-organized essay. These are necessary skills to perform well on the ELA portion of the LEAP test.

In math, we have completed our units on multiplication and division. We are moving forward with fractions and will soon be working with decimals. Please continue practicing multiplication tables on a regular basis. As we continue on, we will be working on much more difficult concepts than simply recalling facts.

In social studies, we are continuing to learn about regions of the United States and important historical events that occurred in each region. Students have learned about colonization of North America, the American Revolution, the birth of the United States, immigration to the U.S. in the 1800s, and important amendments to our Constitution that abolished slavery and gave women the right to vote. Our next region of focus will be our home, the Southeast.

In science, we had a great time building circuits. I think you will be surprised what they can tell you about the differences between series circuits and parallel circuits. Students learned about direct current and alternating current. Ask them to teach you what they have learned about circuits and electricity.

Thank you for everything you do as parents to support your child's success in school! We are looking forward to our field trip to the Audubon Zoon after LEAP testing!

5th Grade

The 3rd 9 weeks has now come to an end. We are preparing to take the LEAP in April. Students need plenty of rest, a good breakfast, and to be on time for the start of school.

In ELA, we are continuing to practice our writing skills and reading skills. We are in Module 3 which focuses on the Civil War. Students are reading both a nonfiction and historical fiction book in this unit.

In science, we are reviewing for the LEAP and studying Earth's systems. This is an exciting unit in science. Students will learn about our solar system, the planets, the Sun, and many other interesting facts about space.

In social studies, we have been learning about the beginning of our country. We have read about the colonies and why they were founded. We are studying what life was like during the colonial times. After this we will learn about the French and Indian War. The American Revolution unit will follow if there is enough time. This is always an exciting part of our country's history!

Fractions! Fractions! Fractions! We have completed our units on fractions. After fractions, we will be moving into measurement and geometry.

Our big field trip is coming up! We can't wait to visit Avery Island on March 28. See you there!

THROUGH THE GRADES...

ESL - Mrs. Monica

Greetings all ESL families!

It's AMAZING to me how we are now in mid-March and the school year is moving by so fast.

It's been fun to see my ESL friends grow up. They're getting taller and changing.

There's still a lot going on in school, so much learning left to do, with little time left in school. I just want to remind all of my ELL families to continue to help, support and encourage your children, and continue to communicate with your child's teacher. Communication is very important.

My ESL students have been busy with me also. Recently, they took the ELPT which is the English Language Proficiency Test which will tell me and the ESL Department if your children will continue to be ESL students. The students were tested in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The results will hopefully be in before we get out of school in May. I will let you know later how they did.

As we move forward throughout the school year, I will continue to focus on reading and writing with my students. In April, God willing, we will begin our annual poetry unit where my students will begin to learn about poetry, but we learn it in a way where it's not hard or boring, but beautiful. Hopefully, in May, the students and I will hold our Poetry Café where the students will share their poetry masterpieces with parents and family; more information to come later.

Remember always, you can only get better!

God Bless you all.

Saludos a todas las familias de ESL!

Es ASOMBROSO para mí como estamos ahora en medio de marzo y el año escolar se está moviendo tan rápido. Ha sido divertido ver a mis amigos de ESL crecer. Ellos se están haciendo más altos y están cambiando.

Todavía hay mucho que hacer en la escuela, tanto aprendizaje que se tiene que hacer, y poco de tiempo que queda en la escuela. Quiero recordar a mis familias de ESL que sigan con ayudar, apoyar y alentar a sus hijos y continúan a comunicar con los maestros de sus hijos. La comunicación es muy importante.

Mis estudiantes de ESL también han estado ocupados conmigo. Recientemente, ellos tomaron un examen llamado ELPT que es un examen de dominio del idioma inglés. Los estudiantes fueron probados en la lectura, escribiendo, escuchar y hablar. Los resultados, espero, que estarán disponibles antes que salemos de la escuela en mayo. Yo les dejare saber cómo hicieron sus estudiantes en este examen

A medida que avanzamos a lo largo del año, seguiré enfocándome en la lectura y la escritura con mis estudiantes. También espero comenzar nuestra unidad anual de poesía cuando mis alumnos comiencen a aprender sobre la poesía, pero lo aprenderemos de una manera en la que no es duro o aburrido, pero hermoso. Espero que en mayo los estudiantes y yo tengamos un Café de Poesía donde los estudiantes compartirán sus obras de poesía con los padres y la familia. Más información para venir más tarde.

Recuerda que siempre puedes mejorar!

Dios les bendiga a todos!

THROUGH THE GRADES...

Literacy Lab-Kindergarten and 2nd Grade

It's hard to believe our last nine weeks are already upon us! We hope all of our students are enjoying the warmer weather and upcoming field trips and time outside.

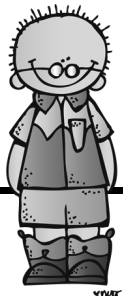
Our Kindergarten students are continuing to work on rhyming sounds, vowel sounds, syllables, compound words, sight words and more as they learn to become successful readers and writers. Their progress has been amazing!

Our second graders are working on story elements, phonograms, key ideas and details and much more as they become better readers. Nothing makes us happier than hearing how a game on websites such as Roomrecess.com and Turtlediary.com inspire them and we hear how much they enjoy playing them!

We still receive new books from our authors and illustrators and we have an upcoming class photo waiting to be featured on one of our illustrator's blog on her website.

We have seen so much progress this year and we are looking forward to enjoying our last nine weeks of literacy lab. Please continue to read with your student and encourage them to read to you! They are our greatest treasures!

Thank you,
Mrs. Cathy and Mrs. April



The Literacy Lab

Strong readers. Strong futures.



First and Second Grade Literacy Lab

The end of the year is approaching quickly. It is hard to believe that it is time for report cards again! Students are working in centers to help improve their reading skills. Not only are the students working, but they are having fun! We try to provide each student with a variety of reading skills and tasks. There have been many gains in reading throughout the year. Hopefully, this will continue. We want the students to know that reading is not boring. Reading should be fun and not a chore. As each student continues to enhance his/her reading skills, the smile on his/her face is priceless. If at all possible, please encourage your child to read more at home. Even five minutes a day is helpful. Any child would love to spend some extra quality time with his/her mom, dad, or grandparents.

Mrs. Mayo
Mrs. Valure

THROUGH THE GRADES...

PE - Coach Cleveland

In P.E. class the students worked on rope jumping skills in preparation for the Jump Rope for Heart activity. We worked with long ropes and individual ropes to improve coordination and fitness skills. Our last unit was ball-handling where students learned to manipulate basketballs. They had lots of fun practicing dribbling and passing. We also worked on layups. We will practice shooting and play shooting games after our fitness unit. The students are working now on a Physical Fitness Unit to improve their individual fitness scores. Students are focusing on seven areas of fitness which include curl-ups, pull-ups, sit and reach, 600 yard run, shuttle run, standing long jump, and 50 yard dash. After fitness, first grade will be working on manipulation skills using a parachute. Students love working with the parachute and must learn to work together as a group to accomplish many difficult tasks. The parachute provides a great upper body workout. Third, fourth, and fifth grades will continue to work on basketball skills. They will learn lead-up games to enhance their knowledge and skill levels in basketball.

It's been a great year! Thanks for all your support.

Coach D's Physical Education Classes

We are currently preparing for our upcoming softball season as well as the Livingston Parish Elementary Fitness Meet. The weather has not been cooperating with us, but we are hoping for some warm dry days in order to get outside to practice. We are working hard and looking forward to doing well once again this year.

Our upper grade students are currently participating in a basketball unit. We are focusing on dribbling, ball handling, passing, shooting, terminology, safety, and as always good sportsmanship. We will end the unit with the students playing modified games of basketball using the previously learned skills. A softball unit will follow the basketball unit. This unit will also focus on the basic fundamentals. We will be learning correct technique for throwing, catching, batting, and base running. We will also participate in softball games in which we will stress terminology, rules, and good sportsmanship.

The lower grade students will begin working on striking skills. We will learn how to strike with bats, rackets, feet and other objects. We will also participate in cooperation games and activities. We will begin working with the parachute during the latter part of the nine-week period. This is a cooperation activity which is very exciting, active and fun.

Please continue to stress to your children the importance of good health and exercise. Also, please encourage them to work on their physical fitness skills.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Thanks to the efforts of our students and their parents, South Walker raised approximately \$4,062.25 for the American Heart Association through our Jump Rope for Heart activity. The students had a wonderful experience and a fun-filled day while contributing to this organization that does so much good in research for cures and treatments of heart disease.

Thanks kids for another job well done! We look forward each year to the special day.

Coach Cleveland, Coach Denicola, Mrs. King, Mrs. Trant, Mrs. Patterson

Library

I hope everyone enjoyed the bookfair, and are reading the books they bought.

Thanks to all the students who are taking care of their books. You make it nice for everyone. To avoid sickness and spreading germs I tell the students to wash their hands before they read their book. Please use the bag to protect your book. It keeps liquids from spilling on the books. When a book is wet, the pages tear more easily. When I have 2 books of the same title, students most often pick the newer one. I love all my students, and I want them to read and take care of their books.

Read, Read, Read! It is so much fun. I love reading to your children, and I am happy for them, because they have a wonderful collection of books to check out from. The AR party will be April 3rd for 1st grade, and April 5th for 2nd-5th. For students to attend the AR party for the last 9 weeks, students must obtain the following number of points.

5th grade--14 points

4th grade--12 points

3rd grade--5 points

2nd grade--3 points

1st grade --3 points

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students at SWE voted the following titles from the Louisiana Young Readers Choice Award as the best books:

1st place--- *Wish* by Barbara O'Connor: 77 votes

2nd place-- *Step Right: How Doc and Jim Key Taught the World about Kindness* by D. Bowman: 61 votes

3rd place-- *William Hoy Story* by Nancy Churnin: 41 votes

4th place-- *Bad Guys* by Aaron Blabey: 38 votes

I will let the students know which book wins at the state level.

Tech Lab

Here in South Walker Elementary School's Tech Lab we are moving from winter to spring. Our students are using computers in amazing ways to build many skills. We have focused on keyboarding in the third quarter and using proper technique, and we plan to hold a keyboarding competition in each of the third, fourth and fifth grade classes. I am looking to crown one classroom winner (with a Wal-Mart gift card) who can keyboard accurately and quickly without looking at the keys. Please remember everyone who improves their keyboarding skills is a winner. Please encourage your children to always "use proper technique" when they use the computer, so they can continue to grow in speed and accuracy.

Fourth graders are creating an avatar at www.voki.com to generate a character to read their book talks. By composing an enticing paragraph in the style of a book jacket summary, upper elementary students are honing their writing skills and using their writing to convince readers to choose their book to read next!

Fifth graders have been working on Terrapin Logo. They have made different equilateral shapes and they learn how to define shapes in Terrapin Logo. We will be moving on to Book Talks and creating an avatar.

During the month of February early elementary students learned about Chinese New Year through Clicker 7 reading and sentences building activities. At the beginning of March students learned more about Ted Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, through BrainPopJr and other online resources.

Our lower elementary students have worked on a variety of skills and activities. Second graders have spent time in the Tech Lab exploring keyboarding and Terrapin Logo, a programming language. First graders have been reading, writing, and rhyming on several age appropriate web sites. First graders have been creating a rainbow alphabet, which is teaching them where to find the letters on the keyboard as well as many other skills. Kindergarten students have been developing their counting, sorting, and comparing skills. They have also been sharpening their reading skills by sounding out words using the Read Write Think website, among others.

We're excited about our last quarter of the year to continue using computers to enhance classroom learning.

Donna Keenan/Erin Kogel

UPCOMING EVENTS

Grade 5 LEAP Test:
April 8th-16th

Easter Holidays:
April 19th -26th

Grade 3-4 LEAP Test:
April 29th-May 3rd

Employee Appreciation Week:
May 6th-10th

Cardinal Carnival:
May 13th

Kindergarten Programs:
May 20th
9:00am Sibley/Stamley/Lawler
10:30am Lockwood/Steudlein

5th Grade Honors Program:
May 21st @ 1:00pm

Honors Programs Grades 1-4:
May 22nd
9:00-10:00am Grade 1
10:30-11:30am Grade 4
12:00-1:00 pm Grade 3
1:30-2:30pm Grade 2

Last Day of School:
May 24th

Chuckles and Heart warmers

At recess the other day, one of my students saw a bug and started moving away pretty fast. I told her it was just a love bug and it wouldn't sting her so she would be ok. Then, she starts running away from it screaming, "Get away from me! I don't want to get kissed by you because I don't want to get married yet!"

In math while discussing fractions a student asked a question that was very long and confusing. A different student responded to the question by saying "Can you simplify that?"

In science the students were discussing ways that humans use natural resources. The teacher asked how can we use fungi? A student responded by saying "We can party with them, because they are 'fun guys'!"

During our American Revolution Jeopardy review game, one student answered, "Moses?" to the clue "known for writing the Declaration of Independence".

Today on bus duty a little boy asked me if he could tell me something. Of course I said yes. He said, "My name is (said his name), I wanted you to know so you don't have to say green book sack anymore!"

Please collect the following all year round. It helps the school.

General Box Tops
Campbell Soup label (entire label)
V8 Vegetable juice label or top
Pepperidge Farm bakery product UPCs
Franco American Gravy labels & plastic lid
Community Coffee UPCs
Pace Salsa and Picante's lids
Prego label (entire label)
Swanson Label (entire front label)