



Nate Mack Elementary School

FEBRUARY 2015

Nate Mack Elementary Newsletter

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News from the Administration

February is a full of fun at Mack, and students are busier than ever! We celebrated our 100th day of school on February 3rd and it's amazing to see all of all of the growth students have made since the very first day of this year.

During Science Week, from Feb. 2 to Feb. 6, students are learning about space, insects, variables, the human body, robots, and much, much more. Also, throughout the week, students and their families are invited to the Science Materials Fair in the library, where there are books, kits, and artifacts available for purchase. We hope to see your family at our Science Mack-ademic Night on Thursday, February 5 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, so that you can experience science—and our StarLab—right alongside your child.

During the week of February 9-14, our Rugby Fever will reach its height, as the National Team from Brazil visits our school! Through art, dance, and song we will welcome the team and the team will share a rugby demonstration with our students, who have been practicing their own rugby skills all month. Eight of our students, including T-Shirt design winner Ralph Pugh and essay winners Isabelle Letourneau, Arshvir Kaur, and Gabriel Jaramillo, will be invited onto the rugby field at Sam Boyd Stadium during the rugby match on Saturday, February 14. We hope to have a great cheering section, full of Mack families, at the game.

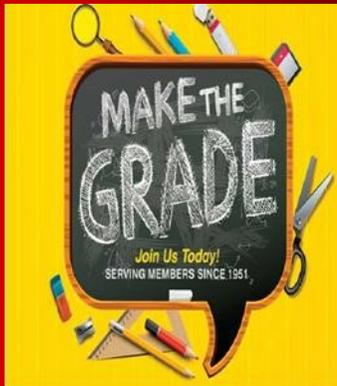
We are very excited to host the Nate Mack Bike Rodeo at school on February 12! All students will attend an important safety assembly on Wednesday, February 11 and then will be allowed to bring their bicycles to school for the rodeo. Throughout the day, each student will rotate through a number of hands-on activity stations where they will learn and practice important bicycle safety procedures. There will be prizes and snacks for all. Students won't want to miss this, as it is sure to be a great learning experience for all.

Continued

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Other important dates this month included Spring Class Pictures on February 10th, Bike Rodeo for grades K-5 on Thursday, February 12th, Grade 5's Valentine Dance on February 12th, Staff Development Day (no school) on February 13th, Presidents' Day (no school) on February 16th, and Fourth Grade NAEP Testing on February 17th.

It's amazing what we can accomplish in one month, and we couldn't do it without you! Thank you, families, for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for our students, our staff, and our school.

Mrs. Heavey

Mrs. Epperson

Mountain Lion of the Month

We would like to acknowledge our January Mountain Lion of the Month winners. Students who exemplify the Life Skills are chosen by their classroom teachers and/or peers to represent their class for this monthly incentive. A shout out to McDonalds located on Green Valley Parkway for providing lunches for our monthly winners! You can show your appreciation by patronizing this location. Congratulations to the following students for the month of January:

Mrs. Andersen: Jonas Kotula

Ms. Delzeit: Isaac Nieves

Mrs. Giunta/Lederer: Christian Ochoa

Mrs. Gould: Roni Baxter

Mrs. Baugh: Ryan Spears

Mrs. Cooke: Dylan Murphy

Mrs. Reifenhiser: Baylor Petaishiski

Mrs. Swank: Graham Giunta

Mrs. Swatch: Dylan Naranjo

Mrs. Austin: Jazz Peebles

Mrs. Chumakov: Banner Dawson

Mr. Garretson: Claudia Venegas

Mrs. Musa: Briseis West

Mrs. Peña: Ambros Neidrich

Mrs. Haney: Shannah Manuel

Ms. Juliano: Trinity Lewis

Mrs. LoBue: Giselle Almaraz

Mrs. Wright: Alejandra Padilla

Mr. Hayden: Wilfred Escobar

Mrs. Hinton: Marissa Lopez

Mrs. Rozgay-Miller: Bryce Pugh

Mrs. Castleberry: Alexandria Avalos

Mrs. Colbrook: Jake Kaye

Mrs. Marsh: Jolie Baugh

Mrs. Marsh: Terri-Ryan Nakasone (DEC)



Early Childhood News

Happy February, everyone! We were glad to see some of our families on Friday, February 6th for our Parent/Family Involvement Day! This month we will be learning about Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day and Dental Health. We will also start reading some fun Dr. Seuss stories at the end of the month to kick start Nevada Reading Week in March.

Here's to a fabulous February!
Mrs. Herrald, Ms. Horne, and Mr. Thomson

Kinder Corner

Reading

Kindergarten students will read fiction and non-fiction stories in reading groups. Students will participate in close reading activities.

Writing

Students will use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.

Math

Students will represent subtraction with objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, acting out situations, verbal explanations, expressions, or equations. Solve subtraction word problems, and add and subtract within 10, e.g., by using objects or drawings to represent the problem. Students will practice fluently subtraction within 5.

Social Studies and Science

Students will investigate water, learn about the Nate Mack life skills, and study personal and environmental health. Kinder students will also learn about Chinese New Year and President's Day.

Exciting Events

We are excited to officially welcome Mrs. Dana Gould to our kindergarten team. Students attended a Smith Center performance of 'Dinosaur Train' on Thursday, February 6th. Kindergarten teachers hosted an evening of science activities for students and their families at Mack-ademic Night, Thursday, February 6th. Students will also celebrate 100 days of school this month.

First Grade News

We have been very busy since our return from the Holiday break! Students have been taking their Discovery Education tests as well as the many other academic activities. They will return next month with more information. Thank you to the parents who chaperoned for our field trip to the Smith Center to watch the production of "Dinosaur Train". We had a wonderful time as we shared this experience with Kindergarten.

Happy Valentine's Day!
First Grade Team

Second Grade News

We are very excited about our upcoming field trip to the Smith Center to see a production of Flat Stanley.

We are asking that all second graders “dress up” for this very special event, while keeping the CCSD dress code in mind.



We will be leaving for our field trip at 11:00 a.m. which means we will be eating lunch before we leave. Please have your child bring a sack lunch from home to eat that day. A school sack lunch will be available for students who need to purchase lunch that day.

In math, second graders are working on adding and subtracting numbers to 1000 using concrete models and drawings. Students should continue to practice addition and subtraction with regrouping. Our next math topic will focus on money. We would like to suggest that you begin to practice counting sets of coins and making sure your child is able to identify all coins and their values.

In reading, we are continuing to work on improving our fluency, higher leveled comprehension questions, and long vowel spelling patterns.

We want to thank all our families who joined second grade teachers for Mackademic Night on February 5th. We observed and investigated insects and other creepy crawlers!

Second Grade Team

Third Grade News



Third Grade is off and running in 2015. We are proud of our students who auditioned and those who performed in Missoula's Rapunzel.

We have embarked on our study of Informational Text. Students will be focusing on strategies that help them to zoom in on key details to help them comprehend the main idea of text, as well as be able to compare and contrast the most important key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

In writing, students will be studying and writing opinion pieces. They will be working at forming opinions and supporting their opinions with sound evidence.

We attended the play The Little Mermaid, and our students were able to visually experience all of the parts of a drama that we have studied. It was a spectacular experience and Green Valley High School has outdone themselves again.

Third Grade Team

Fourth Grade News

This month in fourth grade math, we just finished multiplication and are beginning to dive into division. The students will be learning how to divide using partial quotient. Mrs. Hinton will have notes posed on her web site for those who are having trouble understanding partial quotient.

In reading, the students just finished their unit on Drama and performed Shakespeare plays in their classroom. It was a success and the students loved it. They are now moving into Classic Literature.

In science, we are wrapping up our unit on constellations with a constellation project in class, and then we will be moving on to bridges. Students will be learning about the different types of bridges to help them with bridge building later in the month. Students will be building bridges using popsicle sticks. We will then see how much weight they can hold by adding weights until they break.

Fourth Grade Team

Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade is gearing up for middle school! Thurman White Middle School's musical programs made a visit to show off their talents. Fifth graders were able to see what some of their choices for electives will be next year. There will be many more middle school events happening in the next few weeks.

In math, fifth graders have finished up algebra and are diving right into fractions. Discovery Education testing will take place next week, so parents should look for reports to come home after that.

Fifth grade readers and writers are immersed in informational text as they research and plan informative essays and learn all about the structure of informational texts.

The states and capitals have also been on students' minds as their test is coming up soon. Go ahead and ask our fifth graders the capital of any state. They'll be able to tell you.

Fifth Grade Team



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Resource Room News

Students in the resource programs are continuing to work on a combination of their IEP goals and Common Core Standards. Please note that IEP Progress Reports were sent home with the CCSD Report Card on Friday, January 23, 2015. Please contact us if your child has an IEP but did not bring home a progress report detailing progress on their goals.

Tips from Primary Resource - More Ways to Build Math Skills at Home:

- Notice the clock. Tell your child they can do certain things at certain times. Begin with easy times (on the hour or half hour) and get progressively more difficult.
- Practice skip counting with your child (2s, 5s, 10s to start). Skip counting is an important skill that relates to many other math concepts. Your child will need to know how to skip count in order to count coins and to tell time. Knowing how to skip count will also help when your child is introduced to multiplication.
- Bake with your child. Read the instructions and allow them to measure ingredients for you.

Intermediate Resource:

- Homework is due on 2/5/15 and 2/19/15. Parents, please sign Resource Homework sticker in agendas and Homework Reports.
- We will be reading about Brazil. Ask you child to recite some interesting facts they have learned about Brazil! Muito obrigado!

Have a LOVEly February!
Mrs. Cowley & Ms. Lopez

Room 20 News

Oh my, it's already February!

Last month we welcomed to our classroom two new additions. Our class has adopted two male guinea pigs named Giunda and Nishy. The students had a great time learning about names and their meanings. The names for the guinea pigs were contributed by a fellow classmate and selected through a class vote.

We have also begun the process of forming our teams for Special Olympics. Please watch for more info to come. We are excited to be competing once again at the end of April.

Each month our class has a theme which all content is tied to. In January our theme was: Health – Staying Healthy. We focused on a basic understanding of healthy practices. February's theme is: History – My State History. We will be focusing on exploration of our own state facts, geography, and symbols. The students enjoy activities which cross all content areas while united by a central theme.

Ms. Kanwhen

Counselor's Corner

Consequences: How do you give effective consequences?

1. **Calm yourself down.**

Stepping away from the situation (as long as your child is at least 4 years of age) is the best way to calm yourself down.

2. **Come up with a list of consequences ahead of time.**

In a calm moment, come up with a list of consequences if the child misbehaves again. You might even have your child contribute some of their own ideas of what the consequences should be themselves.

3. **Consider what would naturally happen because of the misbehavior.**

Don't discount the teaching effect of natural consequences. (Example: If your child breaks their toy, they will not be able to play with it any more.)

4. **Give clear, brief direction.**

When you are telling your child what the consequence is, be as brief and clear as possible. It can completely undo the lesson if you repeat yourself or allow yourself to get into a long discussion about it. The child will try to get you to do away or minimize the consequence.

When your child says, "I don't care," they do care, but it is simply an attempt at manipulation. You need to calmly respond, "I understand that you don't care, but the consequences still stay." Just stick to whatever the consequence is anyway.



Library News



The next AR Event will be held Thursday, February 5th and Friday, February 6th at 8:05 am. Students who have their grade level required points will be invited to sit inside the STAR LAB for a private viewing. Wednesday, February 4th at 2:30 pm is the last day to earn points for this event.

Anne Overlien
Nate Mack Librarian

February PE News

Thank you for all of your continued efforts and participation during PE! Please remember to wear proper shoes on your PE days (No Boots!). In February, we will be quite busy! We are continuing our Fitness Gram testing. We will also continue teaching the skills and the game of Rugby! Don't worry parents, we are playing flag style! Your child will learn the proper rules and skills of the game. Intermediate grades will be able to play scrimmages. The country we are representing through USA Sevens Rugby is Brazil! 16 countries will be competing for spots in the 2016 Summer Olympics. On Saturday, February 14, 2015 students are invited on a field trip to Sam Boyd Stadium to watch real live Rugby games! A big shout out goes to the Esikia family for bringing this sport to Nate Mack! Please stay tuned for more details. Field Day is coming up! Keep an eye out for order forms so you can order your PE shirt in time for Field Day! Thanks and keep on running!



Art News

We have been working hard in the art room finishing up our "Brazil" themed projects. Every student will have their art up somewhere in the school. So keep your eyes peeled for :

- K-Anacondas
- 1st- Piranhas
- 2nd-Poison Dart Frogs
- 3rd- Toucans
- 4th-Chameleons
- 5th- Rainforest Animals

I have had students help matte, label, and tape their work- so every student could be excited about the Rugby players visit. (please forgive the craftsmanship).

Thank you to everyone who assisted me in making a token big horned sheep ceramic Weeble Wobble, wearing a Brazil jersey, for each of the players! They look great, and I am sure they will appreciate the support!

Next Month's theme in the art room will center around Chinese New Year and will have an Asian influence. Each Grade level will be practicing their spacial reasoning skills creating Tangrams, in addition to their project. Challenge yourself and your student at home to create some together! There are websites where you can print Tangrams for FREE: <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/tangrams> and also apps for playing: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/tangram!/id409914201?mt=8>
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/my-first-tangrams-for-ipad/id363843653?mt=8>

Last Month's STEAM club was centered around baking/ decorating. Each team was given a "fake cake" from cardboard boxes, and had a decorating competition! We learned some basic piping techniques, practiced rolling fondant, we made royal icing, and decorating frosting, from powdered sugar; including adding our own colors!

This Month's STEAM club workshop will be making bottle cap art. Donations of flat pieces of wood (particle board, Masonite, MDF...) of various sizes, remnant house paint, and bottle caps we be kindly accepted! I am asking for colored bottle caps, not the clear caps from water bottles. ANY caps/ lids of any size and shape will be accepted! Thanks again for your continued support of the Art Room!

Nate Mack Recycling Company

“Where EVERY Day is Earth Day!”

3rd Grade GATE

We recycle:

- plastic bottles
- aluminum cans
- newspapers
- magazines
- cardboard
- e-waste (old laptops, cell phones, digital cameras, etc.)



Open Daily

No Glass Please!

20 recyclables = 1 MM

Reminder: Please have bags CLEARLY labeled with student's name and teacher's name to receive class credit and Mack Money.

N.M.R.C. Recycling Contest

Congratulations January Winners!

Pre-K	Mrs. Horne	300 recyclables
K	Mrs. Giunta/Lederer	1,720 recyclables**
1 st Grade	Ms. Swank	1,320 recyclables**
2 nd Grade	Mrs. Austin	320 recyclables
3 rd Grade	Mrs. LoBue	890 recyclables
4 th Grade	Mr. Hayden	1,460 recyclables**
5 th Grade	Mrs. Colbrook	380 recyclables

**** entered into the year-end pizza party drawing!**

Monthly Prizes:

1 st Place	20 MM Class Check
2 nd Place	15 MM Class Check
3 rd Place	10 MM Class Check

TOP recycling class will earn a year-end class pizza party!

Total School Recycling to date: 41,110 recyclables!

Nate Mack Pony Express

“The Mail MUST Go Through!”
4th Grade GATE



Writing supplies for Sale:

- Envelopes 2MM
- Stationary 2MM
- Pencils 1MM
- Erasers 1&2MM
- Stamps 1MM

Open Daily

Students, teachers, parents, and staff are encouraged to use the Nate Mack Pony Express!

Supplies are on sale at the Nate Mack Pony Express Home Station, located in room 38.

Donations of writing supplies are greatly appreciated!

The Nate Mack Pony Express Riders working at the Home Station, selling mail supplies to customers

The Nate Mack Pony Express Most Mail Contest

Congratulations January Winners!

Pre-K	Ms. Horne	8 letters
1 st Grade	Ms. Reifenheiser	16 letters
2 nd Grade	Mr. Garretson	109 letters
3 rd Grade	Mrs. Haney	19 letters
4 th Grade	Mr. Hayden	17 letters

Monthly Prizes:

- 1st Place 20 MM Class Check
- 2nd Place 15 MM Class Check
- 3rd Place 10 MM Class Check

TOP letter-writing class will earn a year-end class pizza party!

Total School Mail to date: 1,723 letters

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Mountain Lion Monthly

“A Paragraph a Day Keeps the Critics Away”
5th Grade GATE

Mountain Lion Monthly Editions:

Back to School Edition '14

Holiday Edition '14

Valentine Edition '15

Spring Edition '15

Summer Edition '15

Published!

Published!

February 13th

April 24th

June 1st



We are currently looking for sponsors/advertisers for our *Valentine Edition '15*. Please contact Mrs. Bichsel at PLB428@interact.ccsd.net or (702) 799-7760 ext. 4088 or a *Mountain Lion Monthly* staff member.

Nate Mack Student Council

Mrs. Bichsel, Mrs. Marsh and Mrs. Reifenhiser, Advisors

Nate Mack Student Council meetings:

Officers: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

Class Representatives: every 3rd Wednesday

RECYCLING BIN Program

Every 1st and 3rd Fridays—ALL Officers and Reps

Upcoming Nate Mack Student Council Events:

February Spirit Day—PJ Day--Friday, February 27th

Pennies for Patients (Community Service Coin Drive)--March

January Spirit Day Winners! Sports Day!

Pre K Ms. Horne's class

K Mrs. Gould's class

1st Grade Ms. Swank's class

2nd Grade Mrs. Austin's class

3rd Grade Mrs. Wright's class

4th Grade Mrs. Rozgay-Miller's class

5th Grade Mrs. Castleberry's class



Nate Mack Spirit Squad

Mrs. Bichsel, Cheer Coach
Mrs. Colbrook, Dance Coach



2014-2015 Practice Schedule

2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, 2:15-3:00pm, MP Room

2014-2015 Performance Schedule

GVHS Homecoming Parade	Friday, October 17 th	<i>completed</i>
Harvest Festival	Friday, October 24 th	<i>completed</i>
Nevada Day Parade	Friday, October 31 st	<i>canceled</i>
Brazil Rugby Assembly	Wednesday, February 11 th	lunch recesses
Glow Run and Carnival	Friday, March 13 th	6pm
St. Patrick's Day Parade	Saturday, March 14 th	10am
Test Pep Rally	Friday, March 27 th	1pm
Henderson Heritage Parade	Saturday, April 25 th	10am
Annual Cheer Competition	Saturday, May 2 nd	10am

Be sure to come on out and support our Nate Mack Spirit Squad!

We have a *FULL* roster at this time! If your daughter is interested in joining, you can email Mrs. Bichsel at PLB428@interact.ccsd.net for her to be placed on the waiting list.

Go Mountain Lions!

GATE Happenings

Mrs. Bichsel
www.teacherweb.com/NV/NateMackES/BichselsBrainiacs



3rd Grade GATE

Theme: "Our Environment and Me"

Unit: "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: The Nate Mack Recycling Company"

Focus questions:

1. What might impact our environment, positively or negatively through recycling?
2. How can individuals in our school community create associations through the Nate Mack Recycling Company?
3. How do technological advancements affect our environment and possibilities for the future?

Carbon Contest Update: Recycle Mart Grand Opening, January 30th! Come check out all the cool recycled products you can purchase with Mack Money!



4th Grade GATE

Theme: "Nevada, My Home"

Unit: "Go West, Young Man"

Focus questions:

1. What kinds of changes did pioneers experience over the course of the Oregon Trail?
2. How did the pioneers show interdependence among other pioneers, Native Nevadans, explorers and the environment?
3. How is the Native Nevadan viewed by the associations they had with the pioneers?

5th Grade GATE

Theme: "Discovery

Unit: "Discover Astronomy"

Focus questions:

1. "How do astrological signs create order in the night sky?"
2. "How has human influences changed space for the positive/negative?"
3. "What trends do you see over short/long periods of time in our space program?"
4. "Why does meteorological phenomenon occur?"

The Nate Mack Star Lab is [HERE!](#)

5th Grade Tour Guides are providing tours to all Nate Mack classes! Parents, family members and friends can visit the Nate Mack Star Lab during Mack-ademic Night, Thursday, February 5th. Tickets on \$ale now in the Front Office.



A Look Ahead

Feb 14 (Sat)	Brazil Rugby Field Trip to Sam Boyd Stadium
Feb 16 (Mon)	President's Day (observed) No School
Feb 17 (Tue)	Nate Mack Skate Night at Crystal Palace 6:30-9:30 pm
Feb 17 (Tue)	NAEP Testing – 4 th Grade Only
Feb 20 (Fri)	PTO Box Top Drive ends
Feb 26 (Thu)	Mountain Lion of the Month Luncheon
Mar 2-6 (M-F)	Nevada Reading Week & Book Fair
Mar 4 (Wed)	PTO Meeting – 2:30 pm & 6:00 pm Portable 4
Mar 6 (Fri)	Movie Night – Specialists' Fundraiser

Skating Anyone?

Tuesday, February 17, Nate Mack is sponsoring its monthly Family Skate Night at Crystal Palace (4680 Boulder Highway). Come anytime from 6:30 to 9:30 pm and enjoy some family fun! The price of \$6 includes skating, skate rental, and dinner (hot dog or pizza with a drink). Hope to see you there!



President's Day

President's Day is the holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, it is still officially called Washington's Birthday by the federal government. Traditionally celebrated on February 22, Washington's actual day of birth, the holiday became popularly known as President's Day after it was moved as part of 1971's Uniform Monday Holiday Act. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and other figures, President's Day is now viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.

