



# Mustang Messenger

September 2017

Milam Elementary

## Important Dates In September

- September 4 - Labor Day (No School)
- September 8 - Spirit Day (Hawaiian Day)
- September 15 - Spirit Day (wear slippers)
- September 20 - Read For a Better Life
- September 22 - Spirit Day (wear grade level colors: Pre-K/Kinder - blue, 1<sup>st</sup> - gray, 2<sup>nd</sup> - white, 3<sup>rd</sup> - red, 4<sup>th</sup> - black)
- September 26 - Open House (5:30-7:00)
- September 29 - Spirit Day (wear Tie Dye)



## Principal – Gilberto Lozano

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year at Milam Elementary! We had a great start of the school year. The Milam faculty, staff, and I are looking forward to a wonderful school year! We are committed to every students' academic success through direct instruction of the curriculum in ways that are engaging. We want our students to learn and excel in reading, math and writing. On September 20, we kick off our celebration of reading with our Read for a Better Life campaign. I am asking every parent to continue to read with their child(ren). Encourage them to read every day at home and on the weekends. Talk to your child about the book they are reading, ask questions, and enjoy the wonderful stories and information. Reading with your child regularly is a great way to get involved with their education.

## Nurse - Brandi Sandefer

Since September is National Head Lice Awareness month, we wanted to share some information with you. Lice are insects that can be found in the hair of a person. They are spread through direct head-to-head contact or the sharing of personal items such as brushes, hats, etc... There are over-the-counter and prescription treatments that may be used. Most treatments do not kill eggs, therefore, it is extremely important to continue to comb to remove the eggs so they do not hatch. It is recommended that you check your child's hair at least once a week and treat if live lice are found. There is more information about lice on our Milam website. Please contact the clinic for further information or with any questions.

## Counselor - Maureen Nelson

LIFE IS LIKE A PICKLE: Sometimes it's sweet and sometimes it is sour. A counselor is someone you can talk to when life is sweet or sour or in-between. A counselor is always a friend. Another definition for "pickle" is "predicament" or "trouble ". A person may say, "Now I'm really in a pickle." Good decision making skills can help a person get out of a "pickle". The 2017-18 counseling theme is "I choose to be....." I choose to be kind, I choose to be courteous or I choose to be engaged in learning are a few examples. This theme will be reiterated through classroom guidance lessons and group lessons. These lessons are designed to prevent students from getting themselves in a "pickle". Classroom guidance lessons for Pre-K, Kindergarten and first grades will begin with a focus on manners. Classroom guidance lessons for second, third and fourth grades will incorporate the "Why Try" program this school year. The "Why Try" program teaches good decision making skills and emphasizes natural consequences of poor decisions. The first Why Try guidance lesson is "The Reality Ride". Please ask your students about their classroom and group guidance lessons. With good decision making skills, a student is less likely to get in a "pickle". I wish everyone a wonderful 2017-18 school year.

# Specials

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- Please continued to wear tennis shoes to PE. We have had a great year in PE. In the month of May, students will have the opportunity to revisit all the sports that we have learned this year.
- It is going to be another great year in art class at Milam! I look forward to seeing all of our students back at school and creating in the art room!
- Welcome to another wonderful year at Milam! It is a joy to teach music at Milam! In honor of Patriot Day, we will be singing many wonderful Patriotic songs! Milam 4th graders will soon learn about playing the recorder and about Milam Choir!

# Kindergarten

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Last month in Kindergarten we were really busy learning routines and procedures and building the foundations for reading and writing. During the month of September, kindergarteners will learn about the concepts of print like the front cover, pages, spine, and how to hold a book. As writers, we will start to create personal narratives on paper. We will also count to 20, identify numbers from 0 to 5 and identify the penny. During Science, we will think like scientists and explore with our five senses. For Social Studies, we will recite the American pledge and identify American symbols.

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

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Welcome back 1st grade. We are so happy to have you in our class. We will be busy working on identifying uppercase and lowercase letters, sequencing the letters of the alphabet, and oral rhyming for Language Arts. For Writing we will be working on capitalization, and spelling our word wall words correctly. For Math we will be working on data and numeration counting forward and backward up to 120. For Science we are working on describing what scientist do, and science safety. In Social Studies we are learning about classroom communities.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

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Welcome back second graders! We have had a great beginning and students are starting to settle in to the routine of school. Thank you parents for getting them here on time each day and getting all their supplies so we can have a great start to our new year. Second grade is a huge year as we help these little ones transition to third graders by the end of the year. Wow! We have lots to do this year and lots of new things to learn! Again, welcome back!

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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The third grade teachers would like to welcome all of our students. We are working so hard already on so many exciting things! We are working on writing personal narratives in writer's workshop, and becoming excellent readers in our fiction unit. We are mathematicians in math creating some awesome graphs and exploring place value. We are also learning what great citizens are in social studies and properties of matter in science.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

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Fourth grade is off to an amazing start this year. In Writing, we are busy writing personal narratives about "small moments" in our lives. Math is focused on place value including rounding, decimals and number lines. Please help your student be successful in math by reminding them to practice their multiplication facts each night. In Science, we will be learning about the states of matter and during Social Studies, the students are learning about our government and our rights as citizens.

## Library

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Welcome back, Milam Mustangs! This year in the library is going to be great! Students will start checking out library books in September and we have lots of new books coming soon! Please talk to your child about expectations for using and returning library books, as well as keeping them clean and safe. September 20<sup>th</sup> is the district Read for a Better Life kickoff. We will be doing fun reading activities throughout the day. If you are interested in volunteering to read to a class this day look for a sign-up sheet coming home in your child's Tuesday folder. We will start the Bluebonnet Book program with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders in just a few weeks. You can find a list of the twenty Bluebonnet books on our website!

