



The Wilson School  
400 DeMun  
Clayton, MO 63105

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Confident. Passionate. Smart.



# The Wilson Word

A publication of The Wilson School, Founded 1913

**Celebrating Our 97th Year of Excellence!**

Volume 16, Issue 2

Visit us online at [www.wilsonschoool.com](http://www.wilsonschoool.com)

October 23, 2009

## Exploring the World in JK

By Helen Mamer & Elizabeth Talbott, Junior Kindergarten Teachers

The students of Junior Kindergarten have been studying the world through our unit, *Our Five Senses*. We offer the children many hands-on activities to help them develop visual and auditory discrimination as they are immersed in hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling. The children are learning to classify, sort, compare, graph, and analyze the data they collect from experiences. Activities in this unit include exploring the parts of the eye, creating texture collages, mixing colors, creating Braille messages, exploring shadows, creating class books, playing instruments and visiting the Missouri Botanical Garden. One of our larger projects in this unit is the creation of our own color box. After reading *The Color Box*, by Dayle Dodds, the children worked diligently to create a box that lets them explore the colors of our world and the concept of filtering light. This special box is also our new place to read with a friend.

Now we are learning about forests, especially the trees. The students will be taking two field trips to Kennedy Forest in Forest Park to explore and investigate a forest. A naturalist with the Missouri Department of Conservation will lead these field trips.



The students will learn about the many ways living creatures, including us, use trees. They will examine the different parts of a tree and learn what trees need to grow. The children will be comparing seeds, leaves and bark of different trees that grow in a local forest and around the school

When we can tear ourselves away from exploring our world, Junior Kindergarten is involved in many other learning experiences. The students spend a portion of every morning in literacy and math centers that reflect our focus on emergent reading skills and our current units of study in math. The various literacy centers include: writing, storytelling, reading, listening, alphabet, bookmaking and computer.

Shared reading is an additional component of our literacy program. During shared reading we have an opportunity to teach and model the strategies that good readers implement when they read. We've been working on directionality, return sweep, uppercase and lowercase letters, and the difference between a

continued on page 2



## October/November Events

October 20	Secondary School Night at St. Louis Priory, 6:30 p.m
October 20	Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m
October 21	Birthday Book Club Assembly, 8:30 a.m.
October 30	Wilson's Annual Halloween Parade & Assembly, 8:30 a.m.
November 11	Birthday Book Club Assembly, 8:30 a.m.
November 14	Wilson Public Open House, 9:30 a.m. – Noon
November 17	Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
November 18	5th & 6th Grade Musical, 8:30 a.m.
November 19	5th & 6th Grade Musical, 6:30 p.m.
November 20	Fall Festival, Noon – 3 p.m.
November 25	Grandparents' & Special Friends' Day, 10 a.m.

## Inside . . .

Fourth Graders & Their Buddies ... page 2  
Back-to-School Breakfast ... page 3  
Technology Update ... page 3  
Announcements ... page 4

Cover Story, continued

word and a letter. We use oversized books for this shared reading component of our literacy curriculum and each child becomes very fluent at reading these books. We place small copies of the big book in the reading center for students to reread many times.

Our math center has an assortment of activities focusing on numbers. We



play many games, with partners, to practice identifying numbers, comparing numbers, counting sets and adding and breaking up sets.

Of course, our day is full of drawing, cutting, gluing, pretending, building, climbing, problem solving, and interacting with friends. JK is a great place to be if you are four or five!

## Fourth Graders “Caring” For Their Little Buddies

By Roberta Goldfeder & Lisa Leuther, Fourth Grade Teachers

Fourth graders face many new challenges this year. The daily schedule is fast-paced, varied and requires the students to employ a great degree of self-discipline. The value of being focused in class, organized and conscientious about completing assignments neatly, thoroughly, and on time are important attributes we stress throughout the year. Helping students develop strong study/work skills necessary to be a responsible, productive and successful student is emphasized in each class.



The highlight of these first several weeks has been the PK/Fourth Grade Buddy Program. To observe these two classes together, you would have thought they were old friends. Fourth graders already are using our caring theme to help their friend adjust to life at Wilson School. Many in the class remember experiences with their Fourth grade friend. Now it is their time to be the role model. Watching these kids together can't help but make one smile.

Fourth graders will face challenges socially, academically, personally. Problem solving is a skill

that is taught and used throughout the curriculum. We are introducing the strategies one can use in math. These strategies can be used not only when solving a math problem, but when working with a group, planning an event, writing a story, and playing with a friend. Our goal is for each student to recognize the importance of using these different strategies to help them solve the variety of situations that can affect any one of us doing our daily lives.

The children are working diligently in new math texts, learning new spelling rules, reading biographies, and beginning to understand the value of good study/work skills. This class is off to a roaring start. They have made a smooth transition into the upper school and are beginning to adapt to their new responsibilities.

Fourth graders have busy school days and many also are involved in band, scouts, music lessons, and various sports' teams. It is easy to see why strong organizational skills and self-discipline are going to be the keys to a successful year.

## Back-to-School Breakfast: A Tasty Success

By Christy Conrad, PA Breakfast Chair

Ten parents and numerous children volunteered to serve sausage, pancakes and eggs for the annual “Welcome Back to School Breakfast” at Applebee’s on September 12. Nearly 100 family and extended family members – the Figueras family brought three generations – attended the two-hour breakfast. While it was a bit tricky keeping order in the kitchen with all of the fabulous children helping – kudos to Keith Fuller for keeping the peace – everyone



ended up happy, full and ready for the weekend activities. A big thank you to all of the incredible help we received – Kat Logan-Smith and her daughter Sarah were there from before opening to close – and thank you to all of the families for attending. It was great to see each other again and re-acquaint ourselves!

Thank you to Applebee’s for supplying us with the restaurant and staff at minimal cost.

## Technology Lab Goes Inside a Computer

By Chris Georgen, Interim Technology Coordinator

The fourth, fifth and sixth graders began the year by exploring the inside of a computer. We embarked on this journey by recording our thoughts on the parts and pieces of a computer, creating a Word Web in the program *Kidspiration*. We used this Word Web as a reference and illustrated our ideas on the inside of a computer using *KidPix*. Our pictures had motherboards, modems, microprocessors, memory, and plenty of red, blue, and green wires. Finally, we opened Michael Hinkebein’s old eMachine (Thanks Mr. Hinkebein!). Inside the computer tower we found a motherboard with memory and a central processing unit. We looked at the power supply and examined its cooling fan. We found that the hard drive was attached to both the power supply and the motherboard. We saw the modem and took out the CD-ROM drive. I wish we had a Magic School Bus; we could really get inside a computer then.

The Fourth Grade continued this unit by creating a PowerPoint presentation on a specific part of the computer: memory (RAM and ROM), motherboard, modem, hard drive, power supply, or central processing unit. Each student researched the function, size and placement of their computer part. Next, they hypothesized about the future of their part and drew

a picture in *KidPix*. The presentations were full of cool pictures and interesting animations.

Check out what else has been going on in the lab; go to the Wilson School homepage, Classes and Curriculum, Classroom Pages, Technology.



**Wishing we had a real Magic School Bus so we could actually travel inside this computer!**