

THE LIVINGSTON LEGEND

ESTABLISHED 1884

The Newsletter of Livingston Elementary School, Covington, GA
November, 2011

Livingston's Mission Statement

The mission of Livingston Elementary School is to foster a community of students, families, and teachers focused on learning.

Principal's Ponderings

Livingston's Fall Festival will be held Saturday, November 12, 2011, from 11 AM – 3 PM. Our PTO is to be commended for the job they are doing to prepare for this special event. Our appreciation is extended to community members who have donated goods and services. We also wish to thank Livingston families and friends who will give of their time to work the games and activities and to our school staff members who will volunteer their creative talents and time. We appreciate all of you for the effort you are putting into this project so that our students and their families can enjoy themselves again this year. I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Festival.

Shari Thomas, Principal (770-784-2930)

Stand Against Bullying Week

Livingston is a "bully-free" school. There's no place for bullying behaviors here. To show that we mean **no bullying will be tolerated**, we will participate in our 5th annual "Stand Against Bullying Day" campaign. During the week of November 14 – 18, students and staff will participate in activities which focus on preventing and discouraging bullying behavior. We're asking everyone to join us in our efforts to defeat bullying as we stand united by wearing pink for the annual "Stand Against Bullying Day" on Friday, November 18, 2011. Pink is the national color for anti-bullying campaigns (National Center for Bullying Prevention).

Math at Home

Our next Title I meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 29, 2011, at 6:30 pm in the media center. We plan to share information on the STAR Math Assessments and discuss numeracy and problem solving strategies that you can use with your children at home to improve their understanding of mathematics. Please plan to attend this very important meeting. Write it on your calendar now so that you don't forget as this is the first Tuesday we are back from Thanksgiving break. Like always, we will send out a school messenger phone call.

In the meantime, here are some things you can do: Be positive about math and it will help your child do the same. Let your child know that:

- Everyone can learn math.
- Math is important and fun.
- Different family members use math in their jobs every day.

Avoid saying that you never liked math or weren't good at it. Instead, say, "Some people have to work harder than others to learn math, but it is worth the effort." All children can be successful at math. Some students just need more support than others.

AYP

Livingston officially made AYP for the 2010 – 2011 school year after the retest data was added to the original CRCT scores. Congratulations to our staff, students, and parents that worked so hard last year to make this happen.

Attendance and Tardies

Please make every effort to have your students at school every day on time. Remember that this year the start time changed to 7:40 a.m. That means that students must be in their classrooms by 7:40 or they are tardy.

At 7:40, I do announcements. Actual teaching begins no later than 7:50 a.m. **Think about this: If your child arrives at school at 8:30 a.m. three times a week, he or she misses 120 minutes, or 2 hours of instruction, every week. This would be about 1 ½ days a month or about 15 DAYS IN A SCHOOL YEAR.** As you can see, every minute really does count.

Lately, attendance has really suffered as well. On average, we have about 22 students out on any given day.

Attendance is the second indicator for AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). If 15% of our students miss 15 or more days, then we automatically fail to make AYP no matter how well we do academically.

We take our job of educating your children very seriously. However, we cannot teach them if they are not at school.

Holiday Food-a-thon

Our annual **Holiday Food-A-Thon** benefitting the Salvation Army and the Community Food Bank will be held during the two-week period from **October 31 – November 11, 2011**. Due to the ongoing economic situation, both of these agencies have seen a tremendous rise in the number of families needing assistance.

Consequently, their food supplies are severely depleted and they are in need of donations to replenish their stocks. **The greatest need is for items such as canned meats, soups, chili, canned fruit, boxed one-meal items such as macaroni and cheese, hamburger helper, rice, Homestyle Bakes, etc.** Livingston's goal is 600 items which we can achieve easily if every student and adult will contribute 1 item.

Early Release

The next Early Release Day is November 11, 2011. Students will be dismissed at 11:05.

Dates to Remember:

October 31 – November 11

Holiday Can-A-Thon

November 11

Early Release (11:05 Dismissal)

November 12

Fall Festival 11 AM – 3 PM

November 14 - 18

Stand Against Bullying Week

November 18

Pre-K Thanksgiving Feast

November 21 - 25

Thanksgiving Break

November 29

Math Title I Meeting 6:30 pm in the Media Center

December 13

4th Grade PTO Program 6:30 pm in the Gym

December 19 – Jan 2

Winter Holidays

January 3

Teacher Workday

January 4

Students return to school for the first day of the 3rd 9 weeks.

