

Parent/Teacher  
Conference

Dates:  
Monday, March 19  
and  
Wednesday,  
March 21st  
See you there!

**Call with any changes  
for the end of the day  
as soon as possible.**



**All car, bus, walker  
and bike passes are  
delivered at 2:30.**

**Spring break  
starts Friday,  
March 23rd. No  
school until  
Monday, April  
2nd!**



SPRING  
YOUR  
CLOCK  
  
FORWARD  
ONE HOUR  
MARCH 11th!

# Mark Twain Elementary

March 2012



**Jim Pritchett, Principal**  
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**Becky Madras, Counselor**  
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**1100 MARK TWAIN DRIVE, ROLLA MO 65401**  
**573-578-0170**

Is winter over? Part of me hopes it is but part of me wishes we'd seen a little more snow this winter. I guess if I'm honest with myself, I'm ready for spring.

I'd like to mention a new Mark Twain PTO family night activity that will take place on March 5th. Our typical family night activity is roller skating at The Zone. However, due to the large number of students we have, and the overcrowding that occurs, the PTO has decided to host an activity at Mark Twain instead. Zoofari Earth will be here to entertain students and parents. Zoofari Earth is a fun, interactive learning experience that features live animals, from 6 continents. Birds, mammals, reptiles, and other creatures from across the globe will be here. Audience participation will also be part of the show. We hope you'll join us that evening for a fun and entertaining evening. The program will start at 7:00 p.m.

This month's PBS Good character trait is "Be Prepared". I hope you'll have a chance to visit with your child about ways to be prepared for both school and home. I appreciate all the time and effort it takes to be prepared for school each day. Please know all of us here at Mark Twain thank you for your efforts.

One way you can help us with being prepared will actually be coming up in April when we return from spring break. Our annual MAP test will be given at that time. We would greatly appreciate anything you can do to ensure attendance during those days. To help you prepare, MAP testing will take place the weeks of April 9th through 20th. If you can avoid making doctor and dentist appointments or anything else that might take the students out of the building during that time, I would greatly appreciate it. All 3rd and 4th grade students must test and if a student misses a test they must make it up. We've found students do much better when they test in their normal setting rather than in a make-up situation. Thanks for keeping this in mind as you prepare for March and April.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held Monday, March 19th and Wednesday, March 21st. If you haven't already received information

from your child's teacher you should be receiving something soon. I hope this is a priority for you. The communication between school and home is extremely important and we really value your input and cooperation. Also, on behalf of our entire staff, I'd like to say thanks to the Mark Twain PTO for providing supper for our staff during conferences. It is certainly appreciated.

As mentioned earlier, spring break is just around the corner. Hard to believe it is here already but students will be out of school on Friday, March 23rd. School will resume on Monday, April 2nd. I hope you have a chance to enjoy your child being home. Maybe it will be nice and you can take a hike or ride a bike with them. Or maybe even just go for some ice cream. I know they'll enjoy the time spent.

We have lots of field trips, planned later this spring. In order to continually ensure the safety of our students, the Rolla schools requires all chaperones to follow the adopted guideline for individuals who want to chaperone or volunteer on field trips. In order to chaperone field trips a name search background check must be conducted by the district each year. The cost is \$10.00 and forms are available in our office. I've been told the background checks take a minimum of 2 weeks so please don't wait until the last minute to get this done. If you are a volunteer, the district will pay for a full background check. To find out more about volunteering, please contact Jenni Hushaw at central office, 458-0100. I know she's always looking for more volunteers.

Our next PTO meeting will be on Tuesday, March 20th at 6:30 p.m. Please mark this on your calendar and plan to attend. We meet in the library and there is child care available. Hope to see you there. And finally, one PTO note to mark on your calendar. The PTO carnival will be held Saturday, April 14th from 4:00-6:30 pm. More information will be coming home soon but go ahead and mark your calendar so you don't miss it.

Have a great March and as always, if we can do anything for you, don't hesitate to stop by or give us a call.

From Counselor...

It's almost Spring and I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a wonderful spring break at the end of March! During February the students worked hard on many different topics. Kindergarten and 1st grades found the difference between safe and unsafe choices and how to do their best work. 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grades discussed how words can affect us and how quickly rumors can spread.

March's theme is "Be Prepared". Please help your student to be prepared by coming to school every day with all of their supplies!

The third and fourth grades will also be preparing for the MAP test that will be given during the week April 9-13. More details will be given to the students before spring break.

Please feel free to contact me about any questions or concerns by phone 458-0170 ext. 17030 or email at [bmadras@rolla.k12.mo.us](mailto:bmadras@rolla.k12.mo.us).

Have a great month!

Ms. Madras

From Mrs. Morgan

We are having a wonderful time in the art room at Mark Twain. Currently, third and fourth grade students are working on an Earth Day poster contest sponsored by the Ozark Rivers Solid Waste Management District. All students who participate will receive a small token as a prize. Third grade also just finished working on a t-shirt design contest sponsored by Missouri S&T for their Celebration of Nations event. The contest was open to all schools and amateur artists in the community. So proud to say that Olivia Sidwell from Mrs. Allison's class won the contest!! What an honor! Her artwork will appear on the t-shirt for the Celebration of Nations event coming next September to the S & T campus.

March is Youth Art Month. I'll be offering a variety of after-school art opportunities to celebrate the occasion. During our weekly art classes this month we will be working on special projects to celebrate being an artist and being creative in our own unique way.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child, what a fantastic group of students that visit the art room each week. I am so lucky!

Mrs. Morgan, Art

## PTO Book Fair

BUY-ONE-GET-ONE-FREE

April 9 - April 13

Mon, Apr 9 7:40-8:10 + 2:30-3:30

Tues, Apr 10 7:40-8:10 + 2:30-3:30

Wed, Apr 11 7:40-8:20 + 2:30-3:30

Thurs, Apr 12 7:40-8:10 + 2:20-3:30

Fri, Apr 13 7:40-8:10 + 2:30-3:30

**Open during the Carnival,  
April 14!**

**Check out the link below:**

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/bookfairs/cptoolkit/homepage.do?method=homepage&url=marktwainelementaryrolla>

From Coach Howard...  
In PE we've been playing basketball, bombs away, line tag, freeze tag and noodle tag. As the weather gets warmer we can hopefully spend more time outside playing kickball, wiffle ball, Frisbee golf and enjoying the fresh air. Please ask your student to wear proper shoes on PE days.

Coach Howard