College Grove Families,

As we prepare for our last two months of school, students are continuing to work diligently and we are so pleased with their progress this school year. The days ahead will be filled with continuing to learn new content as well as reviewing content that has been taught this school year. I am very impressed and proud of our students hard work!

I firmly believe that our school is an incredible place because of our students, teachers, and parents. At times I am hesitant to share websites that rank public schools because they use a variety of different measures and it can vary from site to site and change throughout the year, but I came across these about our school and I wanted to share because it is awesome!!

According to the School Digger website College Grove is ranked #32 in the entire state. This includes magnet schools and is out of almost 1,000 schools! Amazing!!

According to the Niche website, College Grove is ranked #13 for best public elementary schools in the entire state of TN. Incredible!!

We have been diligent about our instruction and I am so very proud of our school’s progress. We continue to grow at an incredible rate! We examine our data closely as a school and our teachers plan their instruction based on our student’s needs. Our TCAP data for our students in grades 3-5 has improved at an amazing rate over the last five years and our district STAR data for students in grades K-5 looks impeccable as well! I am so very pleased to work alongside such an amazing group of professionals and families! Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Sincerely,

Kathy Lillard

RIGOR ● RELEVANCE ● RELATIONSHIPS ● RELENTLESSNESS
News from the Coaches...Dr. Young and Mrs. Schwartz

TCAP (AKA “The UMOL”!!!)

The arrival of April is an important month for all educators across Tennessee, including here at CGES, as it marks an important month for our final steps in preparing our 3rd - 5th grade students for TCAP, which will be held from May 1-7. This is an exciting opportunity for our students to show what they know and have learned this past year in all subjects, including (of course!) math. In fact, Mrs. Schwartz’s often refers to the assessment as the “UMOL Test,” an acronym for “Ultimate Measure of Learning” for their school year in mathematics. TCAP measure students’ learning and provides critical feedback about how effective our instruction, gives us a great picture of students’ strengths, and tells us if we’ve reached our academic goals for our students. In Literacy, TCAP provides one avenue to explore the larger picture of literacy development. TCAP ELA assessments generally focus on grammar, reading comprehension skills, vocabulary, and genre. Other literacy skills such as written expression, oral reading fluency, phonics, and phonemic awareness are not examined specifically on the May assessment. However, these areas may impact the efficiency in which students are able to access the testing information in all content areas.

Happily, we’ve been preparing our students all year long for this test through several means. In Mathematics, the first being our CATs (Checkpoint Assessment Tests) which are created using previously-used TCAP questions and assess the students’ progress toward our goals frequently throughout the year, as well as our weekly Smartie Cat quizzes, which are geared toward TCAP tested standards in grades 3-5. We also ensure students’ learning in math is reviewed continually via the Rocket Review Homework Packets.

In regards to reading skills, the Wonders literacy curriculum is designed to offer a good match to the skills that are tested in TCAP. The Wonders Weekly Assessment and Grammar Practice provide the means for teachers to monitor the skills that are tested in TCAP. The Grade 3-5 teachers examine the weekly tests and practice page results and plan small group instruction throughout the year that supports the development of the skills measured in TCAP. Our literacy curriculum spirals through the skills throughout the year allowing our teachers to reteach TCAP tested concepts multiple times to help our students retain and expand knowledge.

Finally, a concentrated focus on standards and the amazing expertise and dedication of our teachers and the support of our families are the most important pieces that contributes to positive gains on TCAP. In the month to come, we will be reviewing and affirming students in their knowledge through study groups, TCAP Coach practice booklets, and small group interventions to ensure firstly that our students have been taught these essential skills to the best of our and their abilities, and secondly that they can demonstrate them on an assessment of this type. We have every confidence that CGES will shine on the UMOL!

News from the Clinic...Ms. Patrice

The goals of a “well child” visit or “annual exam” in school aged children (kindergarten through adolescence) is to promote health, detect disease and counsel parents on prevention of injury and future health problems. Keeping your child up to date on immunizations is a major step in the prevention of future health problems. Many annual exam’s include vision and hearing screening as well. Identifying vision or hearing impairment early may prevent learning problems in the future. And, most well child visits are covered by health insurance plans.

Take advantage of a pediatrician’s expertise with normal childhood growth and developmental stages. Before the visit, make a list of questions to ask during the visit. Common topics of concern for parents with children in this age group include diet, physical activity, daily screen time (TV, computer, video games) recommendations, dental care, hours of sleep per night and safety habits. Updated immunizations are required for student’s entering Kindergarten and 7th grades. Is your child up to date?

Please call me with any questions,
Patrice McGuinness RN, BSN
News from the Library....Ms. Bratton

This year is quickly passing by. Student should be getting their final nine week goal from their teacher this week. These goals will be based on 7 weeks instead of 9, so that we can collect books and do inventory by the end of the year. The last day to AR test and make their reading goal will be on Friday, May 8th. Students will be working towards a bounce house/obstacle course party with cotton candy. All books need to be returned to the library by Monday, May 11th.

Students have been working hard on their reading this year. I have seen great growth in reading scores and students' growth in reading materials. It is great when students read and enjoy both fiction and non-fiction books. As you get ready for summer think of ways you can encourage your child to continue reading over the summer. I love to download books to read on my Kindle during quiet times and audio books to my phone to listen to during walks or drives. Overdrive is a wonderful App that allows you to download these books from the public library without leaving home. You can also create games reading road signs while driving, reading recipes while cooking, or to-do lists while shopping. Keeping your child reading over the summer will help keep them fresh and ready for the new school year. Feel free to e-mail me about ways to keep your child reading or resources available from the public library. Also, don't forget the wonderful summer reading programs offered from the public library over the summer.

News from Art....Ms. Davisson

College Grove is proud to announce the students' whose artwork was chosen for the WCS Fine Arts Festival at The Factory held on March 28th. This is a great honor for these students and we are happy to recognize them!

Maquita Blake
Trevor Hall
Elizabeth Wright
Ashley Stokes
Zach Izzi
Hannah Brewer

As the 2014-2015 school year comes to a close, I want to thank you for entrusting your children to all of us at College Grove, it has been a privilege and blessing working with them this year! All artwork will be coming home with your students before the last day of school.

Also, if you child is interested in taking a summer arts course, please contact me and I can inform you of some local options that are available this summer.

News from Music....Ms. Morford

Upcoming Programs!

5th Grade presents “The Grunch”... Friday, April 10th @ 7:00 PM
1st Grade presents “Prime Time Nursery Rhymes”...Thursday, April 23rd @ 6:00 PM

Thanks for all your hard work on this throughout the year! :)

Becky Morford
Music Teacher
College Grove Elementary(T/TR/F)
Allendale Elementary (M/W)
Math Clinic News

Mark Your Calendars for TCAP Success!

Parents and Students, Mrs. Schwartz, our math coach, will be holding Morning Math Clinics throughout the following days in April and May. ALL students are encouraged to come for this critical review time to practice skills that are extra difficult for the students. The concepts for each clinic will be based on classroom and TCAP practice test assessments.

Morning Math Clinic Schedule - Daily as follows from 8:05-8:30

3rd Grade Clinics (8:05-8:30 on the following Mondays and Thursdays)

Mondays and Thursdays in April 4/13, 4/16, 4/20, 4/23, 4/27, 4/30, 5/4 (7 sessions)

4th Grade Clinics (8:05-8:30 on the following Tuesdays and one Friday)

Tuesdays and one Friday 4/7, 4/10, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28 (5 sessions)

5th Grade Clinics (8:05-8:30 on the following Wednesdays and Fridays)

Wednesdays and Fridays 4/15, 4/17, 4/22, 4/24, 4/29 (5 sessions)
WE RUN THIS TOWN
SPRING HILL KIDS MARATHON
COLOR CHAOS 2015

Saturday May 2, 2015
8:30AM
Cost: $15
Grades K-5

Summit High School
2830 Twin Lakes Drive
Spring Hill, TN. 37174

Join us for a 1 mile kids race filled with crazy color powder!!

www.shkidsmarathon.com

For up-to-date information and happenings at WCS, sign up for In Focus for WCS district news at: http://www.wcs.edu/infocus/subscribe-to-infocus/.
April Dates to Remember

April 6–9 - 5th grade play practice
April 7 - Parent night at PMS for rising 5th graders
April 9 - Spring Pictures
April 9 - Talent Show at 6:00PM
April 10 - PBIS Picnic Lunch
April 10 - 5th Grade Play at Artsitorium at 7:00PM
April 23 - 1st grade music program at 6:00PM
April 24 - Progress Reports
April 24 - PBIS Freeze-Pop Friday
April 7, 14, 21, & 28 - School store open 8:05–8:35 (K-2)
April 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 - School store open 8:05–8:35 (3-5)

May Dates to Remember

May 1 - 7 - TCAP
May 8 - TCAP Celebration Cookout
May 15 - Field Day
May 19 - 5th Grade Promotion Ceremony
May 21 - Last 1/2 Day of School