



Cougar Call Weekly News

Newsletter 25, March 5, 2015

When you come back from spring break, we shall have two weeks of *Iowa Assessment* and *CogAT* standardized testing on Tuesday - Thursday the weeks of March 16 and March 23. We'll be giving a practice test on Monday, March 16. Please see the letter explaining more details.

Online registration is well underway! If you are reregistering a current student, you will need to go through Parents' Web on RenWeb to re-register. Please remember to pay your registration fee of \$395 (K-8) or \$250 (PK2 - PK4) in the school office. Your registration and at least one fee are due by tomorrow, Friday, March 6, to save your spot and be eligible for tuition scholarship. Our primary grades fill up quickly; please don't wait to register. I shall begin accepting new students after March 6. Additionally, a late fee of \$50 may be charged for late registration after March 6.

If you wish to apply for tuition scholarship, the 2015-2016 for the Future application for tuition scholarship, the St. James Scholarship, and the Glenewinkel Scholarship are all now online. The priority date for Hope for the Future is March 15, and the Glenewinkel is due March 18. Go to www.sjcstx.org and look under "Admissions---2015-2016 Registration." The first round of scholarship money will be distributed in April. To be eligible for tuition scholarships, your applications must be in by the 15th of the month prior to distribution. Four or five rounds of Hope for the Future and St. James tuition scholarships will be given from April to August. The earlier you apply, the more the funds are available for distribution. Please remember, in order to receive tuition scholarships 1) you must have registered for next year, and 2) your account must be current. If you have any questions, please contact the school office.

We are looking forward to the Archdiocesan track meet on March 27-28, PSIA Academic Competition on March 21, and One Act Play dinner theater and competition on April 18 and April 25 respectively. *Go, Cougars!*

Blessings!

Dr. Cindy Cummins, Principal

STANDARDIZED TESTING AND UPDATE ON MARCH OUT OF UNIFORM DAYS

Standardized testing for all students in K - 8 will be in the mornings on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays March 17 - March 26. Make up tests will be on Fridays of those weeks. Please be sure your child has a good breakfast, gets a good night's sleep, and brings number 2 pencils and a library book. Since this is a new form for the Iowa Assessments, we shall all take a short practice test on Monday, March 16. Testing will run two weeks instead of one. There will be LIMITED homework these two weeks, and we shall still have drama and track practice.

Due to standardized testing, we are changing our three out of uniform days in March (the students are too distracted when they are out of uniform). The Green OOU Day (\$1.00 for eighth grade graduation) scheduled for March 17 will be on Monday, March 23. Spirit Day, scheduled for Wed., March 18, will be on Monday, March 30. The Stewardship OOU Day for those who attended the Stewardship Masses the weekend of March 22 will be on Tuesday, March 31.

Upcoming Events

Friday, March 6

- 8:00am Mass led by Grade 6
- Stations of the Cross, 2:30pm

Sunday, March 8

- Daylight Savings Time Begins

Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13

- Spring Break

Tuesday, March 10

- Father Greg's Birthday

Friday, March 13

- Father David's Birthday
- 8:00am Mass led by Grade 5

Friday, March 20

- Quarter 3 Ends

Saturday, March 21

- PSIA Competition, 8:00am, SJS Campus

Saturday, March 21 – Sunday, March 22

- Stewardship and Second Collection at all Masses

Dear Parents,

From March 17 to March 26, your student will take the *Iowa Assessments*[™] and the *Iowa Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)*. Since this is a new form of these tests, we shall be giving a short practice test to the students on March 16 to familiarize them with the format. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about the tests so that—with your support and encouragement—your student will do his or her best on the tests.

About the *Iowa Assessments*

The *Iowa Assessments* help determine how students are performing on nationwide standards. These assessments measure achievement in several important content areas including Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. The exact tests that your student takes will depend on his or her grade level. K - 3 students may also take Word Analysis and Listening subtests.

The *Iowa Assessments* help teachers identify a student's strengths and areas that may need additional emphasis. The *Iowa Assessments* also measure student growth and progress in the content areas assessed from year to year and may provide information about college readiness for older students. The assessments produce information that enables sound decision making and provides a focus for teachers to evaluate instruction.

Each test includes sample questions to help students become familiar with the content and format of the tests. Samples help students understand what to do—how to mark answers and move from question to question.

For most tests, students in K - 3 read the questions and mark their answers by filling in a circle for each question. In K-2, most questions are read aloud, and students mark their choices in their test booklets by filling in a circle for each question. All test questions are multiple choice.

How your student can prepare for test taking—and what you can do to help

A student who is well rested and well fed and has a positive attitude about testing is best prepared for testing. You can help your student do his or her best by considering these tips:

- Make sure that your student is in school and on time on test days. Reschedule dentist appointments and other out-of-school time on nontesting days.
- Make sure your student gets a good night's sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before each day of testing.
- Healthy Snacks - parents are encouraged to send healthy snacks each day for their children to eat during scheduled exam break times. Suggestions include snacks such as fresh fruit, fruit bars, cereal or granola bars, yogurt, peanut butter crackers, raisins, and bottled water or juice.
- Have your child bring two #2 pencils with erasers and a library book to read.
- Remind your student that these tests are only **one** measure of what he or she has learned. Emphasize that you have confidence in his or her ability to do the best job possible.
- Remind your student to listen to the directions and read each question carefully during testing. Encourage your student to ask the teacher for help if he or she does not understand the directions.

Score reporting

The school will receive test scores in about May. These scores will indicate how your student performed on the tests compared with students across the nation in the same grade. More detailed information on the *Iowa Assessment* results and scoring interpretation will be sent home at the time the result reports are received.

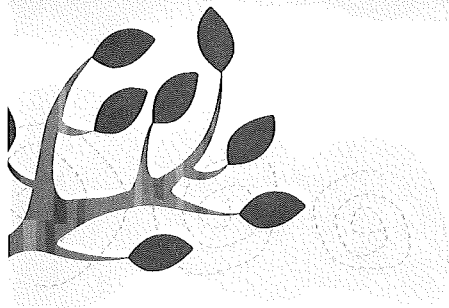
Thank you very much for encouraging and supporting your student during testing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. Cindy Cummins, Principal

Summer Reading Skills PROGRAMS



CLASSES OFFERED IN NEW BRAUNFELS

Program for 4-Year-Olds and Entering Kindergartners:

Students in this program learn beginning reading skills and develop a love of books. Your child will learn letter recognition, phonics, and sight words, and will learn to read simple words and sentences.

Program for Entering 1st Graders:

In this program students learn to read independently. Your child will learn phonics and sight words, improve comprehension, and gain the skills and confidence needed for success in first grade.

Program for Entering 2nd Graders:

In this program students become fluent independent readers. Your child will make significant gains in phonics and word-attack skills, fluency, and comprehension, and will develop confidence and a love of reading.

Program for Entering 3rd Graders:

Students in this program become strong independent readers. Your child will develop the comprehension, fluency, and long-word decoding skills needed to read longer books with ease, and will build confidence and a love of reading.

Program for Entering 4th and 5th Graders:

In this program students make substantial gains in comprehension, long-word decoding skills, fluency, and reading speed. Your child will complete homework more quickly and easily, be more successful in school, and become a strong, enthusiastic reader.

Program for Entering 6th-8th Graders:

Students in this program make substantial gains in comprehension while doubling reading speed. They also learn the best way to read textbooks, take notes, and study for tests. As a result, students complete homework more quickly and easily, get better grades, and enjoy reading more.

Program for Entering 9th-11th Graders:

Students double reading speed, make substantial gains in comprehension, and learn study skills. Excellent preparation for the SAT, ACT, and college.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER

Call 1-800-903-0162

Mon.-Fri. 7am-9pm, Sat. 7am-6pm and Sun. 9am-5pm

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASS SCHEDULE



BAYLOR
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DIVISION OF
CONSTITUENT ENGAGEMENT



Phonics

Comprehension

Vocabulary

Study Skills

Speed Reading

Love of Reading

Source Code: 30-S5-88D2

