

Mark Twain Elementary School

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Time is passing so quickly...we move from the season of thankfulness to the season of gift giving. I want to compliment each of you on the outstanding performance your children did for our **100th Birthday Celebration for Oklahoma**. The entire day was awesome. So many special talents and gifts were revealed.

I also wish to thank you for the All American fundraiser efforts this year for PTO. Our profit from the **fundraiser was \$3,284.02**. Soon you will come to performances with new chairs for the gym/auditorium. Won't that be wonderful?

I appreciate the many moms and dads who help our school on Wednesday mornings and Friday mornings for helping our teachers and PTO Sales, respectively. We are having a great year with **volunteer hours stacking up**.

This **Saturday, Dec. 1, 2007** we will have a Title I Family Event and walk in the Downtown Christmas Parade. This year's parade theme is "Gingerbread Dough." We ask that all parents/guardians walk with their children in the parade. We will have a video and hot chocolate before the parade at the First Christian Church. Use the 10th Street door...a Mark Twain sign will mark the correct entrance. (Please enter through that door only.) The parade will begin from 12th street at 4:00 PM. It's going to be a great afternoon!

I am including a copy of our ***No Child Left Behind Act Annual Report Card for 2006-2007***. This card shares the performance our district and our school. Mark Twain continues to improve in many, many ways. For the second year in a row, Mark Twain is the 3rd highest scoring school in Duncan. Last year it was Horace Mann, Plato, Mark Twain; this year it is Plato, Horace Mann, Mark Twain. I'm challenging our students, teachers, and parents to take it to the next step...let's move from good to great.

My applause to all parents who are helping their children be at school every day, not late, not leaving early...we had 73 students with perfect attendance first nine weeks...that's awesome! Attendance is a part of our district and school report card as you will see...it's also a state law that all children be in school every day. Here at Mark Twain we are responsible for teaching your child, but we worry about that responsibility when your children miss a day or minutes of

learning. Research shows that children who are in school most of the time do better on state tests.

Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade state test results in reading and math are shared on the school portion of the report card. These tests are used to measure student achievement to tell schools which skills students need to improve. Our teachers have examined these results and have changed their approaches and designed lessons to raise your child's academic performance. Results from these tests evaluate our school's performance, too.

We need your help, of course! I've included a list of things parents/guardians can do to help raise test scores. It will take all of us working together to move from third place to where we want our students and our school to be. The Scholastic Book Fair proceeds indicate a huge amount of reading taking place.

Thanks again for your financial support, your presence at the Oklahoma 100th Birthday Celebration, the upcoming parade, and all of the many ways you help us get better and better. If you have questions or concerns about our report card...just call or come by.

Respectfully as we move from good to great,

Dr. Jo Ann Pierce, Principal

“To believe yourself to be brave is to be brave; it is the only essential thing.” Mark Twain

The mission of Mark Twain Elementary School is to provide opportunities for students to reach their fullest potential through the combined efforts of parents, teachers, and the community. (Adopted January 2002)