

**SIXTH GRADE NEWS**  
**January 13, 2005**  
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

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| Monday, January 16   | Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School   |
| Tuesday, January 24  | Kinard Registration Visit Traut (9:30 – 10:30)   |
| Friday, January 27   | Spelling Bee (4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> ) 12:00 Bring a Cold Lunch |
| Tuesday, February 14 | Valentine Party  |
| March 30 – April 7   | CSAP Testing Window  |

Dear Parents,

Looking ahead to CSAP testing at the end of this quarter, we'd like to share an observation from years passed. Since these scores may be used to place students in math and reading classes next year, we'd like to emphasize to the students that their focus and follow-through this year can have a **huge** impact on their future school track.

Careless mistakes account for most student errors.

- Marking the wrong answer on multiple choice questions  
("Whoops!")
- Answering a different question than the one asked  
("Great answer, but wrong question!")
- Miscalculation on math tests due to math fact errors  
("Ouch!")
- Losing half credit for problems in which an explanation was requested  
("Explain your answer!")

Notice that most of these have little to do with content or skill deficits, but involve merely attention to detail and "careful" reading of instructions. Please help us help your students by giving them multiple-step instructions that must be accomplished **before** a special event happens. ("We'll go to the movies **after** you clean your room, take out the trash, and feed the dog.") This will help our students recognize the connection between current focus and future consequences.

We hope that you enjoy your three-day weekend.

Sincerely,

The 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team