



# The Dragon

## Union Elementary School

*"United for Student Success"*

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### A Note from Mrs. Deaton

February is Kindergarten Registration month. If you have a child that will be five years old before August 31, you need to enroll them now. Please come to the front office between 7:30 and 3:15 to complete the paperwork. You will need two proofs of residence and the birth certificate. The kindergarten physical from the doctor can be turned in later. Questions about registration should be directed to Connie Knight, our Data Manager, at 704-296-6348. We will have a school tour at 9:00 on February 7 for rising kindergarten families. If you already have an older child at Union, a school tour probably isn't needed since you already know what our campus looks like. Additional tours will be held at noon on February 18 and 5:30 pm on February 27. We encourage all incoming kindergarten families to attend Kindergarten Orientation on Thursday, April 23 at 8:00 a.m.. At this time, you will learn about what to expect the first year your child starts school and how you can help prepare your child over the summer. Again, please enroll students (including current PreK students) for Kindergarten during the month of February. Our teaching allotments from Central Office are based on this information; waiting until the summer to enroll hurts us when it comes to planning for staffing and scheduling.

I wanted to remind you that parents of students in third –twelfth grade have access to your child's grades on a daily basis through an app on your phone. This will let you see what their average is and if they have missing assignments. To get access to the Parent Portal of PowerSchool, you will need to come to the front office with a photo ID and Connie Knight will print out your child's password. Because PowerSchool contains information about each individual child, these letters/passwords cannot be sent home in bookbags. Mrs. Knight is available to print this information for you between 7:30-3:15.

Union Elementary will hold our annual Math Olympics on Thursday, February 27 from 6:00-7:00. Please plan on attending and playing Math games with your child. It will also be an opportunity for you to learn more about the Math Curriculum. The PTO will meet in the gym at 7:00 but there will be no student performance because the Music classes would have only been in session for about one month prior to this meeting. Prior to Math Night, there will be a school tour available at 5:30 for any families that have students coming to Kindergarten next year. At 5:30, Mrs. Ellerbe and Mrs. Dilworth will also hold their Union Connections parent information session. They have held two Union Connection meetings related to self-care and dealing with grief. Upcoming sessions will be about bullying, anxiety, and test prep strategies. Any parents and community members are welcome to attend Union Connection meetings.

Finally, February and March can be long winter months for teachers. I would encourage you to pick a random day just to do something kind for a staff member at Union. Maybe take a couple minutes to write a positive note in the agenda, call your child's teacher to tell them thank you for working so hard, or just send a staff member a candy bar to show appreciation. We have the best staff at Union and I consider myself lucky to work with them.

*Jennifer Deaton, Principal*



**The faculty and staff of Union Elementary are united in our mission to educate each individual child in a safe and caring environment which will develop the student intellectually, socially, physically, and emotionally.**



### Bus Reminder

Please remember bus riders need to be at their bus stop 10 minutes before the scheduled pick up time in the mornings. Students need to be standing at the bus stop and ready to board the school bus. The drivers have to drop students off at Union, then they have another route to run for middle and high school students. I understand the cold weather in the morning makes being outside at 6:00 challenging, but the transportation department requires bus riders to be ready to get on the bus when he comes to a stop. Please have your student ready when the bus stops and help us avoid delays and possible bus referrals for delaying the bus.

Mrs. Herlihy

### Media Center

**In honor of Black History Month I thought it would be fun to suggest some of my favorite books:**

- **“Ron’s Big Mission,” by Rose Blue**
- **“Duke Ellington,” by Andrea Davis Pinkney**
- **“Ruth and the Green book,” by Calvin Ramsey**
- **“This is the Rope,” by Jacqueline Woodson**

**I hope you enjoy reading and learning about these famous Americans during Black History Month!**



### Parent Communication

#### February

Questions that Support Problem-Solving  
We are great at telling our children what to do; we have the knowledge and wisdom to impart to our growing children. Sometimes though, asking questions will build greater understanding than giving a lecture. Questions allow our children to do the problem-solving and make important decisions, while also having parental guidance to steer them in the right direction. Ask questions to help your child talk out the whole story. For example ask, “Who was there? What did they say? What happened next?” Then help them with different points of view by asking, “How do you think the other person felt? What can you do to change this into a better interaction next time?”

Idea from: <https://time.com/65324/7-powerful-tips-for-great-parent-child-communication/>

#### “Counselor’s Corner

This semester, the school counseling program will continue with classroom counseling lessons, small group counseling and individual meetings with students. In February, classroom counseling lessons will be focused on kindness, friendship, and empathy. We will recognize Random Acts of Kindness Week from February 16-22. During this week, we will focus on spreading kindness throughout the school building. Kindness BINGO cards will be available to students who would like to take part in a “Kindness Challenge.” There are many activities that you can do as a family to encourage kindness at home, such as:

- Donating toys you no longer use to a local shelter or a younger child in your neighborhood.
- Picking up litter you find outside, around your house, or in the community.
- Visiting a nursing home and read to the residents
- Making a family kindness jar or compliment jar
- Creating a homemade bird feeder to put in your yard
- Reading books about kindness and friendship as a family. Examples of books: <https://www.readbrightly.com/childrens-books-about-kindness/>