

# Elementary Guidance Goings On

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We're learning about ourselves and others through multimedia, games, group discussions, community service & art.

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Dear Parents & Grandparents,

It's hard to believe a semester has passed and we're already celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school! It has been an honor to serve as the elementary counselor for Model Lab Elementary School. My goal is to advance the wonderful guidance program built by recently retired counselor, Ellen Rini. I want to work in partnership with you and, to that end, will be sending newsletters like this one home more frequently. This year, we have adopted the Mutt-i-grees program as our core guidance curriculum, and I'll also be supplement it with lessons on topics ranging from bullying to career exploration. Please don't hesitate to email or call me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you have!

Kind regards,

Dr. Hale

## What is Mutt-i-grees, and how can I learn more?

I've received some questions about our core guidance curriculum. The Mutt-i-grees website also includes an introductory video (<http://education.muttigrees.org/who-we-are>). The following information comes directly from the Mutt-i-grees website:

The Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is an innovative PreK-Grade 12 program that builds on children's affinity for animals and highlights the unique characteristics and desirability of Mutt-i-grees®, or shelter pets. The Curriculum teaches social and emotional skills and is unique in its bridging of humane education and the emerging field of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). Developed by the



## Upcoming Guidance Lesson Topics

- Mutt-i-grees lessons
- Career Exploration
- Student Voice survey and self-advocacy (grades 3-5)
- Conflict Resolution

## Mrs. Williams' 1<sup>st</sup> Grade making their own Mutts!



NSAL's Pet Savers Foundation in collaboration with Yale University School of the 21st Century and funded by the Cesar Millan Foundation, the goal of the Mutt-i-grees® Curriculum is to enable children to grow up to be calm, confident, and caring. It has been implemented in thousands of schools across the country and Canada.

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## Student-Led Service Projects

I was approached by fourth graders, Bailey Combs and Danny Smith, because they wanted to raise money to help animals. This desire fit perfectly with the aims of our Mutt-i-grees curriculum! During one of our guidance lessons, Mrs. Spata's class decorated money jars to place in each room. Money was collected for two weeks as classrooms competed against one another. Ms. Shepherd's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class raised the most money. Our students have big hearts. It's amazing what they can accomplish when they unite for a common cause.



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**Also, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any concerns you may have, as I am always available for parent consultation and/or to keep an eye on or check-in with your child. ~Dr. Hale**

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## Parent Mental Health Resources

### Parsons Play Counseling & Play Therapy Center

[www.parsonscounseling.com](http://www.parsonscounseling.com)

If there is enough interest, this practice is looking to begin seeing students here at Model.

Referral Line: 859-866-7862

\*Accepts Medicaid and Private Insurance

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### Mustard Tree Counseling

<http://www.mustardtreecounseling.com/>

Phone: 859-893-3932

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### Sycamore Counseling

Phone: 859-582-4283

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### EKU Psychology Clinic

<http://psychology.eku.edu/psychology-clinic>

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### Mind Psi Psychological Services

Phone: 859-624-2454

