

January News

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarteners are really starting the new year off in a great way. As readers, they are blending letters and sounds and beginning small group reading instruction at just right levels. Within word study they have learned 2 vowels and 12 letters- more than halfway there! As writers, they are adding meaning to their writing through pictures, labels, setting, talking, sentences, and even partner sentences. In math, we are composing and decomposing numbers in a variety of ways too! In social studies, we are really cherishing our rich discussions about families and what makes them special. In Science, we will soon be learning about forces with a focus on push and pull! It has been fun getting back into the groove!

FIRST GRADE

First graders have jumped into the new year excited to learn. They have been writing opinions using supporting details and transition words. We are getting ready to begin writing book reviews. In Reading, we have been gathering information from what we have read to make inferences. We will also be learning how to discuss our reading in partnerships using evidence from the text to support our thinking. In Math, we will be learning strategies to add and subtract within 20. There will be many hands on activities and games to practice. We will also continue to have number talks in the classroom. During a number talk a problem is shown and the students have the opportunity to share and defend their answers.

In social studies, we will begin to study communities. We will be using block play in our study and research specific buildings and workers needed in a community.

SECOND GRADE

Second grade has begun the new year with new units of study! As readers and writers, we will be learning about informational texts. We will be choosing a topic of interest to research, take notes on, and prepare a poster to present the various information learned. We are working on telling time in math, and will close out the month with measurement. As scientists, we are continuing our work as engineers who are up for the task of designing a bridge that can withstand both weight and water. Ask me about the materials my group has chosen to build our bridge out of and why we chose the materials that we did!

THIRD GRADE

We wrapped up 2019 in the giving spirit. Students decorated book marks and donated books which were given to Valley Hospital's children's ward.

Our hope is that our contribution will brighten a child's hospital stay.

In 2020, third graders returned from the long break happy and healthy.

Writers are now publishing their informational research writing piece. We will celebrate the completion of that writing this week.

In math, students have been learning different strategies to multiply and divide. We will be implementing a new math homework menu to provide students with additional practice opportunities.

Our students will share a little more about Genius Hour and Community Service at this meeting,

The Third Grade Teachers

FOURTH GRADE

Grade 4 readers have chosen a research topic and are learning to take concise organized notes on the important information. Soon they will create a project to help them teach their classmates. As writers we have worked hard and are excited to be publishing and celebrating our personal essays! Also, during word study lessons, we have started studying Greek and Latin roots which will really extend our vocabulary. Our fourth grade mathematicians have begun studying fractions. We have started with comparing like and unlike fractions. Next, we will move into improper fractions and mixed numbers. In science, we are wrapping up our Earth Science unit by researching Fast Land Changes. Students are researching and creating Google Presentations to extend their learning on various fast land changes. We are fascinated by the current wildfires in Australia and recent earthquake in Puerto Rico. Our next social studies unit of study, The Power of the People, will give us an opportunity to understand why and how our government works.

FIFTH GRADE

The fifth-graders are beginning an informational reading and writing unit. The culminating project is a research piece on a choice topic. Math - Students are working on fractions. This week we worked on expressing fractions, division expressions and mixed numbers as decimals. We will continue working on adding and subtracting mixed numbers. Students have been modeling their learning with fraction bars. Next week, students will work on a math mission "What's the Secret Code?" that will help them build their number sense as they practice calculating. Students will use given clues to find a code number. Social Studies - Students started the Colonization and Settlement unit. Last week we worked on why people left their homelands during Colonial times with a situation card walk-around. We then discussed what a society needs to be successful. We explored and discussed the theories as to what happened to the lost colony - Roanoke. We also studied the Jamestown settlement. Next week, students will demonstrate their understanding of how new societies develop by inventing their own fictional society and creating a flyer advertising it to prospective citizens.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"Students in P.E. are starting off the new year with some exciting activities including our 4th and 5th grade students participating in Scooter Football. They are now well under way with their season. Additionally, ALL students and their families are invited to the upcoming "Family Fitness Night" on Tuesday, January 28th at Eisenhower Middle School from 7:00 - 8:30pm, Be sure to wear sneakers!"

MEDIA

In Media, students are reading and analyzing new picture books and voting for the one they think will win the 2020 Caldecott Award.