

Messages from Mittineague



Early Dismissal (11:00) Wednesday 11/21
No School Thursday/Friday
Thanksgiving Break

Notes from the Learning Center:

We have been busy in the Learning Center. Students have been working on reading, writing, and freshening up our math skills. Ms. Reid, Mrs. Dean, and Mrs. Paier have been using their super power of helping students in all of the classrooms to successful. "The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows." Sidney Harris

Notes from the Math Room:

Our mathematicians continue to impress me! In both grades 2 and 4 we are working on showing multiple ways to solve a problem. To add multi-digit numbers, we are using place value blocks, open number lines, expanded form, and twenty frames! They don't know it yet, but we're going to show them even more ways next week! In fourth grade, we are learning to show multiplication problems with arrays, area models, expanded algorithm, and the standard algorithm. We are getting ready to multiply 3- and 4-digit numbers!!! The purpose of teaching all of these methods is to help learners find the way that works for them. Which way is the most comfortable? Which way makes sense? We all have different brains and see numbers, patterns, and solve problems differently, so my goal is to make sure each student has his or her method.

First grade groups are solidifying adding and subtracting to 5 fluently - that means without fingers or counting, just knowing the facts automatically. Next we will move on to 10! These benchmarks are important and will help as we solve more complex problems. If you're cooking over the holiday, don't forget to have some math talks with you kids as you figure out serving sizes, using measuring cups with fractions, and count out place settings!!

Happy Thanksgiving!

**We are all so very thankful
for all of you!**

News from Room 6:

Grade 4 has been busy reading, writing, and learning new math strategies. Your child's first science project has started. Please keep your child on track with their planning and researching. Weathering and erosion is our topic focus. In math, keep your children practicing their multiplication facts. Ask them how they solve a multi step problem. Here is an example...

- *Cadence ordered a \$4 sandwich , a \$2 drink, and a \$3 smoothie for lunch. She has \$10. How do you know if she has enough money for lunch...*
- *Explain how you found out*

Send me an email with your child's response and I will give them a no homework pass!

We are currently publishing their personal narratives and we will send them home soon for you to read together. Our new writing unit is focusing on fictional narrative. This is where your child can be creative and let their writing voice come through.

The snow and inclement weather has made drop off and pick up more precarious.

Please be careful when parking as it is dangerous for the students as they leave school!

There is NO Parking in the school lot at dismissal time. Thank you!

For your Calendar

November 20
Lee Lang Luncheon

November 20
School Banking

November 21
Early Dismissal
11:00

November 22-23
No School

November 27
School Banking

November 27
Band Rehearsal 7:30
AM



News from Room 2:

Second and Third graders have been doing scholarly work across subject areas. The group has grown and matured tremendously since the start of the school year. This month we have been focused on gratitude in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. We've spent time to reflect on the people in our lives that help us be our best selves. Students have acknowledged their parents, siblings, friends, coaches, and teachers as some of the people they appreciate.

In math Mrs. Lancour and myself have continued separating the class into grade level groups. Third grade mathematicians have been learning all about multiplication. We've learned the properties that explain how multiplication works, ways to show and solve multiplication problems, and efficient strategies for 2s, 5s, 9s, 10s, and 11s facts. Second grade learners have been learning about place value and adding. They have explored the hundreds chart to notice patterns in numbers. Second graders have also explored different ways of showing addition using number-lines, ten frames, and place value blocks.

In writing we have been working to finish and publish our personal narratives. In this unit we have developed an understanding of how to write a story in order, and with five parts. When we get back from Thanksgiving break we will start our unit on fictional narratives. In this unit we will focus on writing pieces that use compelling language and details to excite our readers.

In reading our guided reading groups have continued to work together with a lot of success. Reading groups have been focused on accurately reading and comprehending both fiction and non-fiction texts. We also recently finished reading the story **James and the Giant Peach** by Roald Dahl. After finishing this book, we watched the movie of the book. Students did a fabulous job of noticing the choices that both the author of the book and the director of the film had made, and why. After watching the film, students wrote informational essays comparing the movie with the book. Many students preferred the film because the director was able to breathe even more life and humor into the characters.

In social studies, we have been learning about the Pilgrims and Native Americans. We are reading the book, **The Courage of Sarah Noble**, which tells the story of a pilgrim girl who ends up living with Indians in Connecticut. We will also be studying the book **Guests** which takes a Native American perspective. We have used these texts to understand two sides of the story of Thanksgiving, and the cultures that came together.

We also started a new homework routine. Students now have more choice over their ELA homework. The expectation for math homework has also changed. Students will be taking home math homework each night, instead of getting the packet at the beginning of the week. This should allow me flexibility to better differentiate the homework based on students' understanding of the day's lesson.

As always if you have any questions or concerns, please send me an email- berggrun@wsps.org



The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2018, from 5:00-6:00. We hope to see you there!

**Please support
Mittineague School and
the PTO on the
December raffle!
Fabulous prizes... Names
drawn by the students
each morning! Thank you!**



**Word of the Week
fairness (n)**

Being honest and just.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Be Kind
be thoughtful
be genuine,
but most of all...
BE THANKFUL"



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