

Messages from Mittineague



News from Room 3:

Happy New Year from the class of 2029! Besides the stomach bug and other ailments, we have settled in nicely after the holiday break.

Students are reading up a storm! I have begun midyear testing and will be sending home results for those students who were not on or above grade level before. Also, I have been changing books box levels again so you should be seeing some harder books coming home. We are finishing up our study of Cinderella stories from around the world. Please ask your child what are some fairytale characteristics and which story was their favorite.

We also have been learning the 50 states as a side project. There was such an interest after we learned about the seven continents and the five oceans on our earth, that the children wanted to go further and learn more. Ask your child to sing the United States song to you or better yet, go onto google classroom with them and listen to it together!

We have started our ENCORE groups on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is where we mix up the students and teach some enrichment. Our focus this term is math and science. Ask your child who their ENCORE teacher is.

In math we are wrapping up 2 digit addition and subtraction unit with regrouping. You will still see papers come home for homework practicing this to keep our skills alive. PLEASE work on facts with them! All children understand the concept of re-grouping, until they get to the fact part and then they fall apart. Regrouping is so much easier when their math facts are solid. Please let me know if you need ideas to help them practice! Practice at home can really help your child gain the confidence they need to soar with this challenging skill!

We do have a conference day coming up in February. I will reach out to families that I need to see. Please let me know if you wish to request a conference. Please be flexible with the times because there is only one half day for this. I will always meet with any parent at anytime to discuss progress, please don't hesitate to ask. Happy Winter!

News from Room 5:

2026-- Mrs. Ranstrom's Class

Can you believe we're already halfway through the school year? We have been very busy since returning from the holiday break and we have lots of hard work ahead of us as we continue to prepare for middle school.

In Math we have been working on multiplying fractions in a variety of ways, most recently finding the area of a rectangle with fractional sides. It's amazing to see the variety of different strategies the students are learning through our new math program, Ready Math. The online component, iReady, has proven to be very beneficial in helping to fill in gaps for struggling students, as well as challenge those students who need to continue to be pushed to their full potential. I'd love to show you more about your child's progress in math this year, so feel free to email me to set up a conference at any time.

In ELA we are reading a great new story called, Rules, about a girl named Catherine who is navigating her path through life with her brother David, who has autism, and a family that revolves around his disability. Ask your child to tell you what he/she thinks of the story.

We have begun ENCORE, and this year the fifth graders are getting an extra dose of hands-on science concepts to review for the upcoming Science MCAS. We began by discussing the Water Cycle and creating a "water cycle in a bag" model.

Students were assigned a Black History Project in honor of February being Black History Month. Each child chose a famous black American to study and they will present their information on the due date, February 11th. A set of guidelines and a rubric went home last week. Feel free to contact me at ranstrom@wsps.org at any time with questions or concerns. Thank you for your support as we continue to work together to create a positive school experience for your child!

For your Calendar

January 29
NO School Banking

January 29
After School Chorus

February 5
School Banking

February 5
After School Chorus

February 7
School Store

February 8
Superhero/Sidekick Dance



P.E. News:

We started off 2019 by asking our students to choose a health or fitness goal for the year. A good goal is one that is specific, measurable and likely to be successful. Even small changes we make to our diet and exercise can be helpful.

The children have been busy in the gym practicing speed walking, jogging, slide-step, and galloping. They enjoy exercising to music, especially a good tagging game. Everyone is having fun and getting better at beach volleyball.

It can be difficult trying to stay fit in cold weather Try exercising inside or wait for a nice day, bundle up and go for a nice brisk walk. Don't forget fun Winter sports. Sledding, ice skating, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing are great exercise and loads of fun.

Something to think about...

How to make Read Aloud Time Count... Even More!

* Vocabulary Comprehension.

When you talk to and read to your child every night, you are exposing them to rich vocabulary. All children learn new words through experience and meaningful context. Children's literature uses language in new and playful ways, and your child is like a sponge soaking it all up. Be sure to point out and clarify new vocabulary or words that are not frequently used in your home.

* Ask questions

Ask open-ended questions. They give you insight into how your children think and reason. For instance: If the main character in a book mentions a best friend, As a question like, "How is a best friend different from a regular friend?" Varying the types of questions is best, but most importantly listening to how your child answers the questions, gives you true insight to their understanding.

*Ask about details in the illustrations

Pausing at different moments and admiring the art in the illustrations is especially important when you are reading your to your child, whether it is an old favorite, or a new adventure, there is a wealth of information that can be discovered in the illustrations. Sometimes stopping and taking a moment to reflect on the illustrations and talking about "why" the illustrator might have chosen that scene to depict, or looking for clues hidden in the illustrations can lead to deeper understanding of the story. Learning to read and use the illustrations is a real strategy that many children ignore.

Reading to your child every night is not only a wonderful way to build their brain, but it builds the heart, too. Many times, parents stop reading aloud to their child as their child begins to read on their own. Don't. Make it a priority to share the love of literature together, no matter how old your child may be. You will never regret spending that special time together.



The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2019, from 5:00-6:00. We hope to see you there!

Happy New Year 2019!



Word of the Week principled

A person acting in accordance with morality and showing recognition of right or wrong.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Let your child be the weird kid.
Let them be the funny kid, the quiet kid, the smart kid, the athletic kid, the theater kid, the numbers kid, the teacher's pet, the chatterbox, the valedictorian, the middle of the pack, the 'barely made it' kid

Just don't let them be the mean kid.
Anonymous



Contact
Information

Email:
teacher@wsps.org

School Phone
413-263-3327

Address
26 Second Street

Website:
<http://mittineague.wsps.org/>