

Messages from Mittineague



Math News:

We are halfway through the school year and will be gathering some mid-year data to be sure we are on track with our grade-level instruction. Our students are working so hard and we are excited to see their progress.

Some of the best ways to build fluency is through games. We play a lot of card games with our math groups at school. Many of these games can be played with a standard deck of cards. The game of Memory can be played with 2 sets of each number, flipped upside down. Take turns turning over 2 cards and see if they match! Another game is to take the face cards and the 10s out of a regular deck of cards. Now you can play Go Fish to 10. Instead of asking for a match, you ask for the number that goes with your card to make 10. For example, if I have a 4, I would ask for a 6. If I have an 8, I would ask for a 2. To build multiplication facts, again take the face cards out. Deal the deck out between two players. Turn over your top card and multiply the numbers facing up. Whoever says the product first gets to keep those 2 cards.

News from the Learning Center:

We've been busy in the learning center. The first and second graders have been busy learning the short and long vowel sounds as well as continuing to work on learning their sight words. They have enjoyed practicing these things with some new games that Ms. Reid has found. The third and fourth graders have started work on sequencing the events of a story. The fifth graders are working on finding evidence in text to support their answers, after reading non-fiction texts. The math groups in third and fifth grade are using math games to reinforce their multiplication facts and their knowledge of equivalent fractions.

News from Room 5:

Grade 4 has been hard at work and we are making tremendous progress! Most of the students making solid progress towards their yearly goal are the ones who are using the i-Ready program at home. This home practice has helped the students gain confidence in their math ability. Our class is gaining confidence in their ability to solve math problems using technology.

In math, we continue to work on fractions and are now moving into the connection between fractions and decimals. My newsletter question for you to try with your child is to ask them question... which of the following show the same product as $3 \times \frac{5}{8}$

- $5 \times \frac{3}{8}$
- $5/8 + 5/8 + \frac{5}{8}$
- $5/8 \times 5/8 \times \frac{5}{8}$
- $15 \times 1/8$

In Reading, we have started reading biographies which is a new genre for us. Ask your child who the famous person is that they are reading about and ask them to share some of the information about their lives with you.

We are moving away from learning to read and really emphasizing reading to learn. We are taking notes as we read to keep information straight and be able to use that information when we develop written responses that cite evidence from a text.

In writing, we have published our opinion pieces and the students did a tremendous job persuading me to let them have a pajama day which they really seemed to enjoy.

Our social studies unit is the regions of the United States and we have completed the Northeast region and are now moving into the Southeast region.

Just a reminder, a homework assignment goes home with your child on the first day of the school week. I break down the assignments throughout the week to give them a planner of how to use their time wisely. The work is due on Friday. Please help your child remember to complete the work and return it on Fridays. Math homework that is given out is due back the next day.

We have also started our Encore program and students are focusing on math enrichment or intervention. The goal is strengthening their math concepts and giving them challenging math that increases rigor and stamina. The goal for others is filling in some of the gaps in their math understanding.

For your
Calendar

February 5
School Banking

February 5
After School
Chorus

February 7
School Store

February 8
Superhero/Sidekick
Dance

February 11
PTO Meeting

February 12
School Banking



News from Room 2:

It's hard to believe that we are more than half way through the school year. Your learners have already made great strides towards being ready for the upcoming challenges of MCAS (third grade only) and next year as third and fourth graders. Recently we have been pushing more inclusion with the other second and third grade classrooms so that students can fully integrate with their grade level peers.

In ELA we have been looking at parts of speech, and we're assembling a book that will help us remember how to classify nouns, verbs, adjectives and pronouns. This is important as we continue working to be sure that we consistently write complete sentences (that include a noun and a verb), and as we stretch our writing with stronger adjectives and verbs. In writing we are wrapping up our unit on Opinion Writing. We have learned how to use a few different graphic organizers for planning our writing. Most recently we have been working on a final piece and using a rubric to be sure that we are including an introduction, reasons with explanations, transition words, and a conclusion. For our final pieces we are having fun answer "Would You Rather?" prompts. Some of the questions students have come up with are, "Would you rather unicorns or dragons be real?" or "Would you rather have no fingers or no toes?" We are having a blast coming up with justifications for our opinions!

In reading, third grade has been working with Mrs. LaBonte in a small group daily as they get ready for MCAS. They are reading and responding on the computer, as they become more fluent with typing. This is important as they will take the state mandated test on the chromebooks. The second graders are almost finished with our reading unit and author study on Tomie dePaola. We have read many books by this author/illustrator. The second graders have really enjoyed these character driven stories and noticing how they are often autobiographical.

In math we have continued to work with second and third grade in separate groups with the help of Mrs. Lancour. Second graders are actually ahead of their scope and sequence as dictated by the district! This is great because it means we can go back and revisit topics that some students were not completely solid on. We are also taking some time to push thinking and introduce some third grade topics (like fractions). The third grade group is currently learning about fractions. We have noticed what constitutes a fraction (equal parts of a whole), how to name fractions, and most recently we've been working on how to compare fractions. We have had a lot of fun getting hands on with fractions- using fraction bars, magnets, foldables, and cutting fractions out. Our next unit will bring second and third graders together as we study geometry.

In science we have been lucky to once again have the opportunity to break up by grade level. Every afternoon third graders (accompanied by Mrs. Fonte for extra support) are going to Mrs. Bartolucci's classroom where they are learning about forces of motion. The second graders are learning about animal and plant dependencies in our homeroom. On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, as part of our EnCore block, second graders between our class and Mrs. Canon's class are mixing together to learn about changes to the surface of the earth.

We have been incredibly busy, and your students are rising to the challenge!

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



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
tolerance

Respecting individual differences,
views, and beliefs of others

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Kind words can be short and easy
to speak, but their echoes are
truly endless.

Mother Teresa

Please help your child to fill up
their Kindness Counts
Calendar! This is a district
wide initiative to promote
kindness and positive
interactions.



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