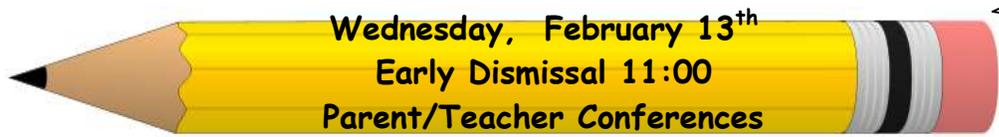


Messages from Mittineague



Wednesday, February 13th
Early Dismissal 11:00
Parent/Teacher Conferences

Technology News:

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a well deserved vacation. Students have been very busy learning about all of the different types of documents that they can use to create documents to show their process with learning the skills needed to create documents, drawing, and presentation in Google Drive. We want to stress again the importance of the students continuing to practice their keyboarding. Spring testing is right around the corner for students in grades 3-5. Good keyboarding skills plays an important role in aiding them in their success during this time.

Students in grade 1 have begun learning the skills needed to create a Google Doc. They will continue to navigate the toolbar to alter their font style, size, and color. They have also spent some time exploring website that contain activities to help them master their addition and subtraction facts.

Students in grade 2 have been learning about animals and their habitats in their classrooms and will be using Google Slides to create a presentation highlighting information they have acquired about their chosen animal. Students in grades 3 and 5 have been gathering information about hazardous and severe weather. They will also be using Google Slides to share what they learned about a particular weather type.

Grade 4 students will be gearing up to use Google Drawing and Google Slides to highlight states in the Northeast and Southeast regions of the United States.

Mother Nature certainly teased us this past week with warmer temperatures and Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow so maybe we will have an early Spring.

We hope you all enjoy the upcoming February break.
Mrs. Florek and Mr. Preye

News from Room 8:

It's hard to believe that the 100th day of school has come and gone! As we move through the month of February, the students in room 8 have continued to work on setting and achieving academic and personal goals.

In reading and writing, the students have been focusing on poetry.. Specifically, the students have been working on analyzing poetry through close reading, jotting thoughts, identifying literary devices, and engaging in meaningful conversations that encourage thinking beyond the text. Along with analyzing poetry, the students have also spent time composing written responses to compare/contrast poems we've read to other poems, articles, or stories. In the coming weeks, the students will work to write and share their own poetry!

In math, the students recently completed their mid-year fast facts test and math assessment. Overall, the students showed growth and improvement in their ability to add, subtract, multiply, and divide given fast facts within 5 minutes. The students showed some weakness in their ability to read, understand, and using reasoning to solve word problems. In the coming weeks, the students will continue to sharpen their fast facts fluency and practice using thinking and reasoning skills to read, understand, solve, and check work problems involving fractions.

You can get involved in their child's learning through practicing fast facts at home or initiating a conversation during homework completion. To push your child's thinking and reasoning, you may ask your child to 1) explain the steps he/she took to solve a given problem, 2) explain how the problem could be solved in a different way, or 3) explain how he/she knows the answer makes sense and is correct. As a reminder, I also encourage your child to try his/her best to complete the given math, reading, and spelling homework each night.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me at kshypula@wsps.org. THANK YOU for supporting your child's learning!

For your February 11
Calendar PTO Meeting

February 12
School Banking

February 12
After School
Chorus

February 13
Early Dismissal
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

February 14
Valentine's

February 18-22
Winter Break



News from Our Counselor:

The Incredible 5-Point Scale

The Incredible 5-Point Scale can provide support at school, home, work or in the community. It can be used to address disruptive behaviors, feelings, voice volume, body awareness, leisure skills, peer interactions, and many other social issues. For individuals who are unable to recognize numbers, the Incredible 5-Point Scale can be created with colors and pictures representing the different ratings on the scale. For others, the numbers one through five can be used. While the number "5" can represent the most positive behavior or situation, it can also signify when the individual has the least amount of control of his/her behavior. Regardless of the design, the scale provides a visual breakdown of a problem behavior, the look and/or feel of the behavior, and appropriate responses or ways to cope at each level.

The Incredible 5-Point Scale can be applied prior to, during, or after an event or situation. As a proactive behavioral support, it can be employed prior to an event to remind an individual of behavior that is and is not acceptable for the event. During a situation, the support can provide a visual reminder of the individual's behavior at that specific point in time. Finally, after a situation, it can serve as an evaluation tool.

This intervention is not just for those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). It can be used for individuals with and without disabilities. Beyond ASD the Incredible 5-Point Scale has proven effective with individuals with diagnoses other than ASD, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, and Tourette Syndrome.

If anyone is interested in utilizing a copy of the 5-Point Scale, there are plenty of examples online that can be found by doing a simple Google Search of "The Incredible 5-Point Scale examples". I have created 5-Point Scales for the areas of feelings, effort, voice volume, difficulty, kind words, and size of problems that I would be happy to share if anyone is interested. Here is an example of a 5-Point Scale that focuses on feelings which is being implemented at Mittineague School. (sidebar)

Notes from Music:

If you are looking to understand basics about classical music, listen to wonderful classical pieces, or learn about how music affects us, there is a great Youtube channel called ABC Classic, "Life's Better With Music".

Under "Videos" there is a section called "How Music Works". Two short clips that might be of interest are the videos "What Happens to your Brain when you sing", and also "How does music help kids learn". They touch upon Music's ability to help activate the brain and various skills. For example, music helps with language skills, lowering stress levels, and lifting our mood.

It is a wonderful reminder to take time with family and/or friends and dedicate it to listening or playing music together. Instead of watching a movie together this weekend, get the popcorn ready and make a song!

Best & Thanks Always,
Mrs. Ari



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!

5	Out of Control	
4	Angry, Mad, Upset	
3	Nervous, Frustrated	
2	OK, Sad	
1	Happy, Excited	

Word of the Week generosity

Willing to give and share:
unselfish

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"A warm smile is the universal sign of kindness."

William A Ward

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



Contact
Information

Email:
teacher@wsps.org

School Phone
413-263-3327

Address
26 Second Street

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