

Messages from Mittineague



Room 2 News:

It's hard to believe that we are already two thirds through the school year. As we enter the home stretch, we've been thinking a lot about what we want to accomplish before third or fourth grade. At this point students have developed solid work habits that are allowing them to make major strides on their goals.

In reading, we have continued our whole class read aloud **Island of the Aunts** by Eva Ibbotson. Through this story we are learning a lot about the fantasy genre. Students have been introduced to a host of mythical creatures from mermaids to selkies; and we are learning how an author can make something so imaginative seem real. Second graders have returned to guided reading groups, after taking a break for our Polar Bear Informational and Tomie dePaola Author Study units. Third graders have continued to do targeted work with Mrs. LaBonte on reading for specific information as they get ready for MCAS next month.

In writing we have been focused on writing that answers a prompt correctly. This is often accompanied by one or two texts to pull evidence from. The higher level skill of understanding how to approach complex questions will be developed over their time at Mittineague, through every grade.

In math we are enjoying how well aligned the second and third grade curricula are for the rest of the year. We just wrapped up or whole class lesson on geometry. We learned the characteristics of shapes and their attributes. We also worked to develop our spacial understanding with activities using the tangrams and pattern blocks. In the past week we started our short unit on time. We are learning to read analog clocks to the nearest minute and calculating elapsed time. Soon we will move on to our study of money. We have also incorporated daily word challenge problems, as this is a skill we are working on as well.

Overall we have been very busy, and we will continue to chuo ahead as we finish this busy last third of the year!

Learning Center News:

All of the students have been working hard in the learning center. Grades 1 and 2 continue to work on vowel sounds and using the rules for vowels when they are reading. Grades 3,4, and 5 have been practicing how to be active readers, when reading nonfiction texts. Students have also been reviewing their math facts and using problem solving strategies to solve multi-step word problems.

Library News:

As parents, we hope to develop many positive skills and traits in our children. Critical thinking, the ability to think deeply about a topic or a book, is an essential skill for children to develop. Critical thinking does not develop overnight. It is something that develops and builds through conversations and experiences. Parents can nurture critical thinking in their children by sharing quality books with them. Even though your child may now be able to read on their own, reading together remains just as important as it was when your child was younger. Family read-alouds provide great opportunities to tackle more challenging books together. These longer chapter books may have plots that are more complex and have more demanding vocabulary. Working through chapter books helps teach persistence. Sometimes children check books out of the school library that seem daunting, but they are showing interest in that book, and as a parent you can help support their book choice by reading with your child, having them read to you, and discussing the book together. When you read together, you are an important source of support and information to your child. Reading "critically" involves slowing down and reflecting on what you have read.

For your
Calendar

March 19
No School Banking

March 19
Chorus

March 19
Band Rehearsal

March 21
All Town Band
Concert

March 22
Mobile Dentist

March 26
School Banking



Math News:

Did you know yesterday was National Pi Day??? No, not delicious pie that we eat, "Pi", which is the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. This is something our students won't learn about for a few years, but it's a great reason to celebrate mathematics and maybe enjoy some pie, too! When we cut pies (pumpkin pies, pizza pies, etc.), we are cutting a whole into fractional parts. Our classes have been working with fractions all winter so if you enjoy any pie delicacies this weekend, your kids should be able to tell you what fraction of the pie they have eaten! National Pi Day also happens to fall on Albert Einstein's birthday!

News from our Nurse:

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

The Smile Programs....the Mobile Dentist was scheduled to come to Mittineague School on Friday, March 22, 2019. This visit has had to be cancelled. Again, the Mobile Dentist will not be returning to Mittineague for their spring visit. Thank you.

Art News:

Mittineague artists are working on staying focused on art goals and making interesting art happen!

First grade is making symmetrical butterflies, inspired by the story, The Very Hungry Caterpillar, by Eric Carle. Second grade is working on making symmetrical insect collages which feature the head, thorax, and abdomen of their insects, as well as the other interesting parts. Third grade is finishing up their radial symmetry necklaces inspired by the Massai people of Kenya and Tanzania. Fourth graders are practicing strategies for drawing the human figure in motion and at rest. Fifth graders are working on making an optical illusion drawing, using a cross contour line strategy. All of us are working on how to talk about our artwork and the work of other students and famous artists. We are practicing discussing and writing about what we do in a way that is helpful and constructive. Art is challenging and fun!

Our Spelling Bee team took second place in the WS Partnership for Education's Spelling Bee! Congratulations and many thanks to our spellers: Mis Francis, Caleb Tallis, Xavier Page, and Jaisyn Fasser and many thanks to their teacher, Mrs. Ranstrom! Well Done!



PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2019, from 5:00-6:00. We hope to see you there!

Reminder: Mittineague School is now offering a "Grab and Go" breakfast to all students. If your child comes in late to school, they are able to go down to the cafeteria, grab a bagged breakfast and take it with them to class!!



Word of the Week
pride

Proper delight or satisfaction in your own accomplishments

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Though I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed... Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders."

Henry Davis Thoreau



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