

Messages from Mittineague



Notes from Music :



Happy Spring!

Students enjoyed and completed the Piano Keyboard Unit this April. Students learned to practice the Major Scale ascending (Up) and descending (Down), creating chords (3 notes played at the same times), and playing the song "Lean on Me" by Bill Withers. Students can always continue practicing if they have a piano or keyboard by going to www.littlekidsrock.org and utilizing the piano lesson videos. Also remember, there are videos for everyone (even without an instrument) at little kids rock. Have fun!

Now students are reviewing proper singing technique, sight-singing (Do-Re-Mi), music theory, and performance skills. This is in preparation for our Spring Concert. One resource being utilized is "The Singing School" channel on YouTube. So far students have begun the "Daily Practice: Scales and Triads" Lesson. Students can also practice this and any other "Singing School" lessons at home. It can be fun to try and keep up with each level. Who in your family can master them first!? :)

School News:

Please join us, this week, May 6-10, in celebrating our teachers...

As parents, consider taking a moment to send a heartfelt message to the educators who work with your child on a daily basis. Letting someone know that they are appreciated, or that they have made a difference, goes a long way!

In addition, Friday (May 3) ,your children should have brought home a packet of some "super homework" for this week, with a specific task to do something special for their teachers every day. Just tear off each page as they do it, make sure their name is on it and bring it in. This homework is *in place* of their normal classroom homework. WE hope that your children can have fun celebrating their "school superheroes"!!

Please help your child do something special for their teacher. As always, we appreciate your support! Thank you.

Technology:

Happy Spring! They say April showers bring May Flowers. I think they mean boats with all of the rain we have had! Students continue to explore ways 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. MCAS testing continues this month and keyboarding is an essential skill needed. Good keyboarding skills plays an important role in aiding them in their success during this time.

Students in grade 1 continue to learn 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. They will be creating a Frog Life Cycle diagram using a Google Doc as their end of the year project.

Students in grade 2 continue using Google Slides to create a presentation highlighting information they have acquired about their chosen animal. This is a brand new tool for the children to use. We will be focusing on Google Slides next year in third grade.

Students in grades 3 have shifted gears and are exploring nutrition and what a healthy diet looks like for children in their age group. Again, they will be creating a Google slides presentation to explain their findings.

Grade 4 students will be gearing up to use Google Slides to highlight states in the Southeast regions of the United States. They have each chosen a state to research and will design a slide brochure for their state.

Students in grade 5 will be working with Google Sheets which is similar to an Excel spreadsheet. They will be keeping a budget for a 'mock' year. Each student will have chosen a job, a place to live, and a mode of transportation. They will use Google sheets to enter a formula to deduct taxes and their other monthly expenses. They will be able to choose a 'mock' vacation at the end of the project.

For your Calendar

May 7
Test
Science 5

May 7
Banking/Chorus

May 7
PTO
5-6

May 8
Teacher/ School Nurse
Appreciation Day

May 8
Test
Science 5

May 9
Test
Make-ups



News from Room 8:

April/May

The fourth graders have finished MCAS, and the fifth graders are only days away from completing their final MCAS assessments! ALL of the students worked hard, used the strategies we've practiced, and did their personal best! I am hopeful that the scores will reflect their reading, writing, math, and science abilities and understanding. To celebrate all of their hard work, the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes will enjoy a pizza party on Thursday, May 16th thanks to our Mittineague PTO!

Most recently, the students have been working on reading non-fiction articles and books. We have been working to determine the main idea of a text, use key ideas and details to summarize a text, identify graphic and text features to extend comprehension of a text, speak knowledgeably about a topic, make connections, and read non-fiction with a purpose in mind. In the coming weeks, the students will have an opportunity to choose a book and begin a literature circle with a small group of students.. Each member of the literature circle will be given an assigned role and assignment each week. It will be each member's responsibility to prepare for his/her given role, complete the assigned task in a timely manner, and share the work with his/her group members. The roles and assignments will switch each week in order to give each member of the group an opportunity to practice various skills.

With this in mind, I am hoping to provide reading homework assignments that connect to your child's reading in his/her literature circle in the coming weeks. I decided to make the switch because I recently provided a reading homework assignment that was out of the ordinary (reading and sharing thoughts on a reading log). The reading homework assignment asked the students to use a graphic organizer to write a summary in response to a non-fiction article we had read in class. To receive feedback from my students, I asked my students to share their feelings about this alternative reading homework assignment with me. With a vote, we determined that an equal number of students enjoyed reading and sharing thoughts on a reading log as the number of students who enjoyed writing a summary in response to the non-fiction article we had read in class. As a result, we decided as a class that it would be fair to have some nights of reading and sharing thoughts on a reading log and some nights of an alternative reading homework assignment.

As a reminder, the students write their homework and important reminders in their agenda each afternoon. As homework shifts and important field trips and events begin to flood our schedule I encourage you to check your child's agenda each night to ensure that the given homework is completed and important field trips and events are added to your calendar.. To verify that you saw your child's agenda each night, I would appreciate it if you signed your name or wrote your initials at the bottom!

I thank you for all of your continued support and communication. If you have any questions or concerns about homework, upcoming field trips or events, etc., please feel free to e-mail me at kshypula@wsps.org



The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 7, 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!!

Happy Spring!!



Word of the Week
understanding

A willingness to know how someone thinks, feels and behaves

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Life is not a **COMPETITION**, Life is about helping and inspiring others so that we can each reach our true potential."



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