

Messages from Mittineague



News from Mrs. Ranstrom: Class of 2027

I can't believe it's already November! The first few months have been flying by and we have been enjoying every moment! The students in room 5 are settling in to a nice routine and have been working hard to be good role models for Mittineague School.

In reading we have been working on responding to our reading and learning the different roles of literature circles. As a class we just began reading Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor. It is the story of an African American family living in Mississippi in the year 1933. Ask your child to tell you about what is happening in the story.

In writing we just finished a unit on poetry. Students worked on writing poems that rhyme, and using figurative language such as similes and metaphors in their poems. Each child published a poem about our field trip to Camp Wilder.

In Science we have been talking about plants and how plants grow. We have researched what fruits and vegetables grow well in a tower garden and we are hoping to do our first grow in the coming weeks (we are just waiting for our supplies to arrive!).

I have enjoyed meeting with many of you at conferences this past week. If you did not have a conference scheduled, I'm happy to meet at a time that is convenient for you, before or after school most days. Please make sure you sign up for ClassTag if you are not already. 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!

Notes from Mrs. Ari:

I cannot believe that November is here! All grades will begin to work on their pieces for the Holidays! In music class 1st graders will be preparing Thanksgiving songs and movements for the Annual Lee Lang Luncheon here at Mittineague Elementary, Friday November 22nd. All grades will begin learning their songs for the Holiday Show in December. To rehearse and learn their pieces, students will be studying various warm-ups, rhythms, movements, solfege, chords, and scales. If you would like to work on any of these from home you can go to Youtube and search for "The Singing School". Here you can try out the various lessons and practice videos individually or together as a family. Have fun!

Math News from Mrs. Lancour:

Along with our new math program, the school now has online access to individualized instruction. You may have heard your classroom teachers talking about iReady data. This program allows students to take a diagnostic assessment, identify areas of strength, and areas of need. Then it individualizes lessons and activities to help boost up those skills to grade level! It's a great tool to have and we can monitor how each of your children are doing with this program. It monitors how much time they spend on task, how they do in the lessons, and where they may need some intervention or some teacher-guided help.

This week is conferences, and inevitably I will be involved in many where parents talk about math homework and instruction. All of the comments are right - this is NOT how we learned math when we were growing up! We live in a different world now where we need more critical thinking skills and more logical reasoning, and we are training young brains to be prepared! I tell the kids all the time that when athletes want to get stronger, they lift weights. Well, the brain is a muscle too, and for our brains to grow and get stronger, we need to do more complex tasks and thinking. We are creating mathematicians over here!!!

For your
Calendar

November 5
No School

November 5
PTO Bake Sale

November 11
No School

November 12
50th Day of School

November 12
Banking

November 22
Lee Lang Luncheon



News from Mr. Chasse:

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school—regardless of the reason - it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Research shows:

- Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade.
- By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school.
- By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test scores.

Absences can add up quickly. A child is chronically absent if he or she misses just two days every month!! Clearly going to school regularly matters! We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- Make sure your children keep a regular bedtime and establish a morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick
- Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.
- Talk to teachers and counselors for advice if your children feel anxious about going to school.
- Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.

Let us know how we can best support you and your children so that they can show up for school on time every day. We want your child to be successful in school! If you have any questions or need more information please contact your child's school.

Source: [https://www.attendanceworks.org/!](https://www.attendanceworks.org/)

PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6, 2019, from 5:00-6:00. We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

Please complete the online registration for your child(ren) (ASAP).

Instructions for this process, the Returning Student Online Verification Form through the PowerSchool ParentPortal can be found on the WSPS website.

This information needs to be entered for all students.

Thank you

Word of the Week citizenship

"Demonstrating your rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the United States of America"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Citizenship is the chance to make a difference to the place where you belong..."

Charles Handy



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