

Messages from Mittineague



News from Technology:

It is hard to believe we are already in December. Students in grade 1 have been doing a fantastic job with learning how to place their fingers on the home row keys to type. They will be learning how to create their first Google Document after the new year. Second grade students are finishing creating a Water Cycle diagram using Google Drawing. Students in third grade are using Google slides to design a presentation about the Wampanoag ~ Native Americans that were here prior to the Pilgrims arrival on the Mayflower. Grade 4 students will start exploring a state in the Northeast region. They will use Google Drawing to create a collage about their chosen state. Students in grade 5 are finishing their Google slide presentations about the Viking culture and will be using Google Slides again to create a presentation for a specific type of severe weather.

All students will be engaged in the 'HOUR of CODE' week. This is happening during the week of December 9th-15th. Students will have the opportunity to explore coding or programming activities. This has always been a top pick for the students. We hope everyone has a safe and joyous holiday.

Attendance Matters Poster Contest Winners!

Gr. 1: Wesley Gaudette
 Runner Up: Aubrey Correa
 Gr. 2: Ellain Lubwama
 Runner Up: Alex Bowie
 Gr. 3: Josey Lewis
 Runner Up: Naya Ahmed Sameen
 Gr. 4: tie
 Phoebe Hansen/Dylan Morrissey
 Gr. 5: Nora Savaria
 Runner Up: Ibrahim Sherzad

The winners will be recognized and celebrated in the coming week! Many thanks to all the great ideas and messages!!

News from Mrs. Lancour:

Due to the excitement and success of our Open House estimation stations, we have been doing monthly Estimation Jars here at Mittineague. October's jar was full of candy corn; November's was full of acorns, and December's will be filled with cotton balls. This was a student's suggestion because cotton could represent snow (which is very fitting given the snow days this week!). Students in all grades have been taking guesses based on daily clues that are designed to help build number sense and awareness. We have class and group discussions about what a "good" guess is, what tools we could use to help us keep our answers organized and accurate, and what their thought process is when they go to write a guess down. Estimation is carried over into all four operations as we encourage students to first estimate an answer to a problem so that when they find the actual answer, they can compare it to their estimate to see if it is a reasonable answer. When students get a problem such as 23×67 and get a product of 281, they need to see that this is not a reasonable answer. When they estimate and solve $20 \times 70 = 1,400$, then they see that they must have missed a step and will check their work for accuracy.

As you've heard mentioned in other classes, students are aiming to work on their individualized math program for 30-45 minutes per week. This program is specifically designed to meet each student where he/she is performing and build their foundational skills to get all students on grade level (or beyond!) We will be having a math night in January, and will make chromebooks available to parents and guardians so you can see what your child is working on, and how you can access this resource from home!

For your
Calendar

December 10
Banking

December 10
Band Rehearsal
7:30 AM

December 10
Mittineague School
Committee Presentation

December 13
Holiday Concert

December 13
Report Cards
Issued

December 17
Banking



Music Notes



from Mrs. Ari:

December is near, bringing holiday cheer! The students have been singing songs of warmth, family, snow, and joy. To keep their voices healthy and strong, students have built upon their work in the Singing School from last year.

Last year singing stepwise (ex; do,re,mi,re,do...etc) and skips (ex; do-mi-so-mi-do, etc) proved a challenge. This year students have gained confidence when reading skips and steps as they read notation and sing it at the same time; sight singing! This will advance students who play instruments in band or who partake in music programs/lessons outside of school. We will also be playing piano again this spring. All of this sight singing will give students skills to read basic piano music.

Third Graders have been practicing their recorder skills as a Music-Making Team. They work together to play in unison, with the correct dynamics (soft, medium, loud), rhythms (beats in a pattern), tempo (slow, medium, fast), and rests (silent/stop). They have learned to be active listeners and have become the most wonderful small ensembles. It brings great joy to hear the beautiful sounds they are making. They cannot wait to share!

It is a gift to look at a piece of music notation and have the skills to hear , play, &/or sing the music. Music is a great source of comfort for all throughout each year. It will give students great pleasure to share their songs with you to bring holiday comforts at this year's Holiday Show; Friday, December, 13th, 2019! We hope to see you there!

News from Mrs. Fonte:

Reading improves empathy. Becoming a different person and seeing the world from their eyes - that person's struggles and pain and joys- can teach readers different ways of experiencing the world. Reading allows us to meet someone we might never have met before...When we read, it helps us to learn about people other than ourselves. Sometimes readers need a story that lets them know they aren't alone - that they're important and valid and perfect and loved. There has been a push for more diverse books in recent years, and hopefully that trend will continue.. One of our new purchases from our school library is a book, Sulwe. The author is Lupita Nyong'o, a Kenyan actress and producer. After reading the book to one of my library classes, a little girl raised her hand and in a thrilled voice told me, "I loved that book, and she looks like me!!" I was so happy that she found that important connection, and my hope for all of my young library readers is that they are able to find that important connection for themselves in the different books and stories that we read in the library!

"There is so much beauty in this world and inside you that others are not awake to. Don't wait for anyone to tell you what is beautiful. Know that you are beautiful because you choose to be." (Quote from Sulwe)

PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 8, 2020, from 5:00-6:00**. We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

Many thanks to everyone who supported us during the wreath fundraiser!! We are very grateful for your support and generosity!

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Word of the Week thoughtful

"showing consideration for others"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Real generosity is doing something for someone who will never find out..."



Contact
Information

Email:
teacher@wsps.org

School Phone
413-263-3327

Address
26 Second Street

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