

Messages from Mittineague



News from Mrs. Berggrun:

Third graders in Room 2 have been busy, busy, busy! They have truly embraced their roles as upper graders at Mittineague School. They now have class jobs, and responsibilities such as distributing mail and recording attendance they've really kept our classroom routines running smoothly!

In math, I have been so impressed by how third grade mathematicians are picking up multiplication and division. They have a multitude of strategies for solving difficult equations. I think I am most impressed by their ability to skip count by multiples, even 4s, 6s, or 7s! They are really soaring with these fast facts, and it is amazing to watch.

In reading many of the guided reading groups have leveled up. I am seeing a trend of growth throughout the class! Students are reading more fluently and expressively. We have built these skills with some reader's theaters as well. We are about halfway through our read aloud book, **The Dreamer** by Pam Munoz Ryan. The class has been really connecting with the main character, and look forward to their 15 minutes of listening each day.

In writing we have just concluded our unit on fictional narratives. Students learned how to write stories in five parts- exposition, rising action, falling action, and resolution. Third graders planned and wrote really interesting and creative stories. We are looking forward to informational writing when we get back from the holiday break.

Overall we have had a lot of growth and success as we rounded out 2019. We are looking forward to new learning opportunities in 2020, and I wish you all a very happy new year!

News from Mrs. Canon:

Happy Holiday Season! The children did a wonderful job at the Winter Concert on Friday. We have had a fun December learning about how winter holidays are celebrated around the world. Your child will be bringing home a suitcase filled with information about the holidays. Please ask them to share some of the things about what they learned with you.

We have been writing and reading nonfiction books. Children have been finding nonfiction text features; pictures, glossary, index, captions, diagrams, timelines, maps. We have then been taking what we know, what we are experts on, and writing our own nonfiction books. Children have to include nonfiction text features in their books.

Math has been challenging. We are learning how to add and subtract two digit numbers with and without regrouping. Children have been learning many strategies: open number lines, rods and cubes, grouping tens and one, and the "mom and dad" way. Please review these skills with your child over vacation.

After vacation children will be having math homework every night along with the reading and spelling words to review. Be on the lookout for those packets after vacation. Children have 12 days off for vacation. Please enjoy this time with them. If they get "bored" have them read or go on Clever and work on any of the apps that are available for them. Board games and puzzles are also a great thing to do over vacation.

Also, we are still having trouble with coats, sweatshirts, water bottles, hats, gloves etc not having names on them. Please label everything!

For your Calendar	December 23-31 Holiday break	January 1 No School	January 2 School Resumes	January 7 Banking	January 8 PTO	January 14 Banking
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News from Mr. Chasse, our counselor:

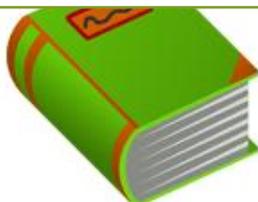
Parenting Tips: It Takes a Village!

Talking about School Refusal

Does your child struggle with coming to school in the morning? You may be experiencing what the experts call school refusal. School refusal can range from making excuses such as "My stomach hurts" to flat out defiance of coming to school. For some kiddos, this can be due to anxiety about school related to peer interactions, fear of failure, or a combination of a few things. Although this behavior can be challenging, it can get better! Here are a few tips for if you are experiencing school refusal behaviors from your child:

1. Check for physical causes: make sure it is not a real symptom by confirming with a physician.
2. Keep to a regular sleep/ wake schedule: Children need their rest, and if you notice a pattern of your child constantly waking up "grumpy", not getting enough rest could be the culprit.
3. Talk about it with your child: talk about what is going on before school with the intention of a clear plan to return to school.
4. Don't lecture: Sometimes as parents, we unintentionally get pulled into lengthy debates with our children. This is not helpful and only reinforces the negative behavior. Keep it brief.
5. Do not make it appealing to stay home: If a child stays home due to refusal, be mindful that TV, ipads, computers, and extra sympathy make it more appealing.
6. Set up a conference: If you notice that there are a pattern of behaviors and you are at a loss for what to do, set up a meeting with your child's teacher or school counselor to discuss a plan.
7. Be supportive: It is vital to relay an attitude of "You can do this" and "I am here to support you" throughout this process.

Tips found here and more information on school refusal can be found online at the Raising Children Network, Psychology Today, and Empowering Parents websites (keyword: School Refusal).



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!



Wishing You A
Happy Holiday

Word of the Week courteousness

"Polite, well mannered behavior towards others"

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

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

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