

Messages from Mittineague



News from Miss McDonough:

Happy New Year! Our first graders came back from the break ready to jump right back into things! Before the vacation, we finished writing stories about small moments in our lives. We read many small moment stories to help us write our own, and some of our favorites were *Jabari Jumps* by Gaia Cornwall, *The Roller Coaster* by Marla Frazee, and *Bippity Bop Barbershop* by Natasha Tarpley. Now we are writing opinion pieces, and are working on supporting and explaining our opinions with multiple reasons.

In reading, we are beginning an author study about Kevin Henkes. So far, we have read *Chrysanthemum* and *Wemberly Worries*. We will read and compare many other stories by Kevin Henkes, and we will discuss how this author makes reading enjoyable.

In math, we have been practicing our fact fluency every day! In December, we worked on solving addition and subtraction word problems within 10. We also discussed the meaning of the word "equal" and how different number partners can have an equal sum (such as $8+2$ and $3+7$). We also studied what it means for an equation to be "true" or "false". In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on how to use the number 10 to help us add and subtract more efficiently.

In our last science unit, we studied the Sun and the moon and their patterns in space. We will use this knowledge to guide our learning in our next unit, where we will study light and sound. We will begin by focusing on light. We will do many experiments to determine what can create light, how it can be changed or altered, and to investigate different ways we use light to help us in our daily lives.

A quick reminder that we have snack time every morning, so please remember to send in a healthy snack for your child. The new decade, 2020 is already off to an amazing start! Thank you for all of your help so far this year. As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions, concerns, etc.

News from Miss Shypula:

Happy New Year!! The students in room 8 are excited to begin a new decade! As a class, we have been discussing the importance of setting, striving, and achieving personal and academic goals for the new year. Specifically, we have been working on setting S.M.A.R.T. goals, (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and timely). Through goal setting, the students have been grappling with the term "yet," recognizing their strengths (what they can do) and weaknesses (what they cannot do, yet). In using the word "yet," we open the doors to endless possibilities and recognize that with a positive attitude, hard work, and perseverance, we can achieve the goals we set for ourselves.

We are looking forward to digging into new math, reading, writing, science and social studies topics. In the coming weeks, students will begin reading and writing informational texts. We will tie our informational reading and writing to our science and social studies topics. In math, the students will begin representing, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing fractions.

Don't forget about the fun-filled events planned during the month of January. On Thursday, January 23rd, Mittineague will be hosting math and literacy night from 6:00-7:30 PM. I am hoping to see many of my students' families that evening! In addition, the students in fourth and fifth grade will be attending a U.MASS women's basketball game on Wednesday, January 29th. I am looking forward to spending an afternoon at U.MASS Amherst's college campus!

For your
Calendar

January 7
Banking

January 8
PTO

January 14
Banking

January 20
No School

January 21
Banking

January 23
Math/Literacy
Night



News from Mrs. Fonte, our librarian:

Elementary school is one of the first stages of education. Here is where children form some of their first values, and where they are introduced to basic knowledge that they will use for the rest of their lives. Because most children learn to read and write at this stage, it is very important for every school to have an elementary school library. This is so that children can be encouraged from an early age to read and study, and to realize that knowledge is valuable. The habit of reading, and the pleasure of reading a good book should be discovered early on. Without the added incentive of scheduled library classes, lots of children never get the reading "bug" and, later on, when they are forced to read books they don't enjoy them. School libraries erase social differences...all children have equal access to books and information that are at their interest level and level of education. Not all children have the means to get to the public library, and the school library is a wonderful and valuable resource!

Character Awards:

The following students were recognized for consistently demonstrating the following traits:

Polite, patience, fairness, thankful, joyful, thoughtful, courteous

Grade One:	Alisa Bak Shaina Cote Lachlan Moriarty Kaiden Smith Joel Torres
Grade Two:	Nathan Labucki Enesa Mirena Nolan Moriarty Derek Rutkowski
Grade Three:	Amaris Adorno Cameron Davis Hubbard Liliana Gaudette Landon Lanoue Peyton Valentine
Grade Four:	Janessa Rodriguez Charlotte Smith
Grade Five:	Eliza Bak Nora Savaria Amberly Schwarzenbach

PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 4, 2020, from 5:00-6:00.** We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

Happy New Year to all!

Welcome to a new decade!

Exciting Literacy News from Mrs. La Bonte:

Family Night is coming up! On January 23rd, we will be hosting a Family Math and Literacy Night from 6:00 to 7:30. We will be reading stories and estimating-using all of our math strategies. There will be raffle prizes just for coming and free books for everyone!!! Please save the date and come have some fun with your families.

Word of the Week cooperation

“Working together for a common purpose”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

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

