

Messages from Mittineague



News from Miss McDonough:

2020 has already been a very busy year for us in room 18! We have practiced our opinion writing a lot this month, and students formed and wrote opinions about several different topics, including the following: "Would you rather eat ice cream from a cup or a cone?"; "Should students have homework?"; and "Should kids be forced to eat their vegetables?" We have been working on explaining our opinion with more than one reason and using words like "also" and "another reason" to make our writing sound more organized. All of this practice writing to explain our opinion came in handy for our author's study in reading. We wrote letters to Kevin Henkes to tell him which of his characters we like best and why.

In math, we just finished a series of lessons that focused on adding 3 numbers. Students noticed that the order of the addends does not affect the sum. This week, students will use the number 10 to help them subtract. In the coming lessons, students will use these addition and subtraction strategies to solve a variety of word problems and missing number problems.

In science we have been studying light, and we observed the ways in which shadows can change when an object or a light source moves. First graders also tested many different materials, such as tin foil, saran wrap, paper, and wood, to determine if these materials were transparent, translucent, or opaque. We even made art work using only translucent materials! We have also begun studying how sound travels in waves, and students have learned that sound is caused by vibrations. We will continue to study how sounds can be created and changed, and we will also study how people use light and sound to communicate with others.

We have snack in the mornings, so please remember to send your child to school with a healthy snack. Please remember to include a spoon or fork if your child needs one. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me on Class Tag or at cmcdonough@wsps.org. Thank you!

News from Mrs. Gerardi:

We have been very busy in Room 1! We have just completed our MCU-Author Study Unit on Kevin Henkes. We have read many of his books, charted our learning about characters, language, illustrations and events. We ended our unit with an opinion letter to Kevin Henkes about our favorite characters and why we love them!

The 100th day is upon us! We were excited to celebrate on Monday, February 10th. We read, wrote, completed math and stem challenges based on the benchmark of 100.

We are studying Light & Sound in Science. We are learning that light is energy that we can see. We have used our flashlights to shine light through objects and learned that some are transparent, translucent or opaque. We made groundhog shadows and even made light bounce. Our next unit will be on sound energy. We will be learning about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington and Chinese New Year in Social Studies.

Vacation is a great time to curl up with a good book. Over February vacation, our students will be given the opportunity to earn a free kids meal at *Texas Roadhouse*. All they need to do is read three picture books or 100 pages of a chapter book. Then fill out the bookmark with the book titles and have a parent or a teacher sign off on the reading. Bring the bookmark to Texas Roadhouse and with the purchase of an adult entree you get a free kids meal.

Our student teacher has come back to us! Miss Hart will be with us full time until May.

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Please remember that we cannot celebrate Valentine's Day with food that is sent in from home. If you are planning to send something in, please consider celebrating with non edible items such as pencils stickers, books, etc... Thank you!!

For your Calendar	February 11 Banking	February 17-21 Winter Break	February 24 School Resumes	February 25 Banking	March 4 PTO 5-6pm	March 6 Read Across America Day
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News from Mrs. Berggrun:

Third graders in Room 2 have been busily working and doing our best to stay healthy in these weeks between December and February breaks. Thank you for your part in keeping sick students home from school and reminding your learners about good hand hygiene and other healthy habits.

In reading all of our guided reading groups have recently synched up to finish their chapter books. We will be starting a whole class book, **The Chalk Box Kid** by Clyde Robert Bulla. We also completed mid year reading assessments on students that were not on grade level at the beginning of the school year. There has been SO much growth in our class this year!

In writing we are currently publishing our informational writing pieces about Hermit Crabs. Students are adding informational text features like a glossary, table of contents, and pictures with captions. Students have been so inspired by their class pet, it's been awesome watching them write all about them.

In math, our focus has been multiple step word problems. We have been working on breaking down word problems to understand what we are being asked to do. When students have been able to identify the target question, in any operation, they have been successful in solving them! We have also covered area in connection with our study of multiplication. Moving forward we will be looking at perimeter, and being able to solve problems that involve both area and perimeter.

We recently completed our science unit on forces and motion. Students learned how a force is a push or pull and how friction puts a force on an object that slows things down. We just returned our focus to social studies and are learning about the Puritans, and will be connecting this study to the foundation of the Town of West Springfield.

Overall these third graders have continued to work hard and be super busy!

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs. Penna!! She was chosen as one of the Grinspoon Teaching Excellence Award Winners for this year! This is a well deserved honor and we are all very proud of her!

PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year has been changed to **Wednesday, March 4 2020, from 5:00-6:00.**

We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

**** Ms Jennifer Ciollaro will be taking over as recording secretary as a member of the PTO Board. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering to help out!!**

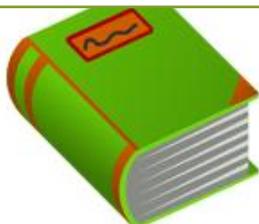
Word of the Week : tolerance

“Respecting individual differences, views and beliefs of others.”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



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