

Littleville Newsletter



News from the Principal...

Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on Groundhog's Day this year, so hopefully spring is on its way as our students continue learning and growing here at Littleville! Our popular spring mini-course offerings are starting to come together. Sign-ups will be sent home after February vacation and I encourage you to act fast because mini-courses fill-up fast.

Be on the lookout for information coming home about kindergarten and preschool registration and screening. If you have a child turning 5 years old by September 1st, 2019 please notify the school, so that we can register your child for kindergarten screening on May 6th. If you have a child ages 3-4 please contact our Pupil Services office at 685-1017 to sign-up for preschool screening and learn more about our preschool lottery.

For families of students in grades 3-5, please be aware that MCAS testing will take place on April 9-10 for ELA and May 7-8 for Math. Our fifth graders will also be taking the Science MCAS on May 14-15.

As always, we look forward to continuing to work together as a team to provide your child with a successful and fulfilling educational experience.

Sincerely, Mrs. Coburn, Principal

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS:

FEB. 18-22: NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK

MARCH 1: 2ND GRADE ASSEMBLY IN THE GPAC 2:15

MARCH 12: 2-HOUR EARLY RELEASE
DISMISSAL TIME FOR GRADES K-5 IS AT 1:20

YOU CAN KEEP UP-TO-DATE ON
UPCOMING EVENTS BY GOING TO
WWW.GRSD.ORG AND CLICKING ON
LITTLEVILLE FROM THE DROP DOWN

FIELD TRIPS WILL BE HAPPENING SOON.

IF YOU WANT TO CHAPERONE YOU MUST HAVE A RECENT CORI ON FILE. **IT'S EASY TO DO:**

1. SEND IN A NOTE WITH YOUR STUDENT REQUESTING A CORI FORM;
2. COMPLETE THE FORM (BOTH SIDES) AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL **WITH A COPY OF YOUR LICENSE.** THAT'S IT!! THE DISTRICT PROCESSES IT AND YOU WILL BE ALL SET TO CHAPERONE. CORIS ARE GOOD FOR 3 YEARS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT IF YOURS IS CURRENT, YOU MUST CONTACT STACY STEWART IN CENTRAL OFFICE AT 685-1011.

Hello from Kindergarten! We are so busy this winter!

Our ELA curriculum is teaching us all about the alphabet, matching letters to their sounds and hearing sounds in words. We are learning high frequency words/sight words, orally forming sentences, and we are even beginning to write sentences now!

Speaking of writing, we are fast becoming storytellers and writers as we learn to tell stories through our drawings and our writing. We are learning all about putting spaces between words and using uppercase letters to begin sentences, with a punctuation mark at the end so that our readers can read our work!

We are diving deeper into our read-aloud stories by comparing stories, noticing special things that authors and illustrators do to make their stories interesting, and learning about different genres of books like fiction, non-fiction, folktales, etc.

We are excited that we received our first report card and are taking part in Benchmark testing to see what reading level we are working at. This assessment will help our teachers to organize appropriate reading instruction and intervention for all of our students.

While students are learning to work independently, teachers are providing reading instruction in ability-matched groups. This is a very exciting time in Kindergarten as children discover the magic of reading!

We are also excited to be receiving the support of our literacy specialists through the LLI program our Kindergarten classrooms to make sure we are all getting a strong foundation for reading.

In Math, we are exploring addition and subtraction, continuing our in-depth work in number sense and operations through our Go Math program. We are following the National Common Core Standards, which allow us to provide a deeper exploration of numbers with our Kindergarteners.

We are very fortunate and quite “tech-savvy” in the use of Chromebooks and Smartboards. Our Kindergarten students are very quick to learn to use these amazing learning tools! Not only do we practice math concepts, and handwriting, we are also able to log into Raz-Kids on our Chromebooks to access leveled reading materials.



First Grade News

Happy New Year! We are off to a great start to 2019 despite all the delays and early releases.

Each week we work on a phonics/sound focus that will help students decode words they are reading. We spent the first half of the year reading words with short vowels and different consonants at the beginning and ends of words. We are now working on long vowel sounds.

In math, we will learn about counting and modeling numbers. We will work on building tens and ones for two-digit numbers. Also, we will have so much fun exploring the 120 chart (i.e. playing games, finding patterns, etc.).

In writing, we have been writing All About Books, which is non-fiction writing. We are taking the roles as teachers to teach others about our “expert” topics. Please ask your first graders about this type of writing.

In Science, we will be learning about sound and light.

We were awarded a grant to bring a naturalist to our First Grade Classrooms to teach us about habitats and the change of seasons. Ms. Beltran will come to us about ten times from now until May.

Winter is in full swing and our first graders enjoy playing outside for recess. Please send them to school prepared to play outside with their winter jackets, boots, snow pants, hats and gloves/mittens.

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?



Grade Two – Mrs. Hyjek, Mrs. Harper and Mrs. Dalton:

Winter Newsletter 2019

With 100 days under our belt, second grade is rolling right along! It was exciting to see the creative 100 Day Projects. Grades K-2 “paraded” throughout the classrooms for everyone to see each others masterpieces displaying many personalities.

In math, students are entering the exciting world of adding and subtracting with three digits. Common Core requires us to teach various strategies to encourage deeper thinking of math calculations and problem solving. This improves our students abilities to explain their logic and solve problems. It also lays a good foundation for higher level math in future years. Reviewing concepts at home is always encouraged. Watch for math practice sheets reviewing skills taught - Math homework is Tuesday and Thursday night. Please return homework the following day.

In reading and writing, we recently assessed the whole class to monitor progress and will be creating small groups based on individual reading levels. Children also learned about Author’s Purpose... it’s as easy as P.I.E. (persuade, inform, and entertain). It is important for children to be practicing their reading skills daily at home so that they become fluent readers and truly comprehend what they are reading. As required homework, students are expected to read for a total of 80 minutes per week, logging minutes read with the title of the book on the Pawsome Reading Challenge Calendar each month. We would like our grade to win the whole school challenge by having 100% participation.

S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) has been quite exciting this year. The students look forward to the hands on activities while participating in scientific discussions with Ms. Lee every few weeks. Recent S.T.E.M. projects include crystal spiders, Thanksgiving tables and sleds.

In social studies, we are learning about the continents and oceans as we prepare for our second grade assembly on March 1st. Please join us in the Performing Arts Center as we tour the globe!

According to Punxsutawney Phil, Spring will be here before we know it. Thank you for all of your support from home.



Save the date for our Second Grade assembly on March 1st in the GPAC at 2:15!

News From Grade 3

The third grade classes have been very busy this winter. Here are a few updates on what we have been doing, and what's in store for February and March.

We have just finished our Winter Benchmark testing. The children were tested in reading and math.

The English/Language Arts and Math MCAS will be in the Spring. Students will be practicing test-taking skills with previous PARCC and MCAS tests in reading, writing, and math.

In Writing Workshop, students just finished creating an informational report about an animal. We are now practicing responding to single and multiple texts.

In math, it's all about multiplication. Students need to memorize their multiplication facts in order to be successful. Students can access their Freckle or Think Central accounts from home if you have a computer. Homemade or store bought flashcards are also effective in helping students memorize their facts. Our next Chapter in the math book will be on division. Please encourage your child to continue practicing their multiplication facts as it will be very helpful with the division. We also used multiplication to find the area and perimeter of shapes.

In science class, students have been enjoying using Mystery Science. We are currently working on a series of mysteries titled Animals Through Time. In social studies class, students have been learning about the Native Americans and Pilgrims. Our Plimoth Plantation field trip will happen this spring. Keep an eye out for notices regarding the trip. Please remember anyone who plans to chaperone MUST have a CORI check on file with Gateway Regional and a volunteer handbook filled out for Littleville Elementary. Please plan ahead as it takes time for the CORI requests to process.

A few reminders:

*Cold season is upon us. Please remind your child to keep their hands clean and away from their face. This will help prevent the spread of germs.

*Students have working snack time in the morning. Dry, easily consumable snacks that can be eaten in 5-10 minutes are best.

* We have outside recess everyday as long as the temps are suitable. Please make sure your child comes dressed appropriately to play outside. Also, please be sure to send a change of shoes as the winter boots are too warm to wear all day inside.

*At home if your child has any computer time, please have them practice keyboarding



Grade Four – Mrs. Hamaoui, Ms. Ames and Ms. Murray

Winter Newsletter 2019

Fourth grade students have been working hard and doing a lot of learning! We will continue our hard work as we begin 2019.

In math, we recently wrapped up a unit on long division and multistep word problems and have moved on to learning about factors and multiples. Students should still be studying multiplication facts at home on a nightly basis for 10 minutes. Math is going to get more challenging if students do not have these facts memorized. **The Math MCAS will be given on May 7th and 8th.**

Students have also been learning many new concepts in science. We have begun learning about the earth and different processes that shape it. We will be talking about weathering, erosion and how they help to create specific landforms. During Social Studies we have been “traveling” throughout the North Central and Southwest Regions.

Students have been improving skills during reading groups and by practicing different comprehension strategies. During writing, students have been developing opinion essays. Fourth grade will take the **ELA MCAS on April 9th and 10th.** Please continue to have your child read for 30 minutes a night and fill out the Pawsome Reading Calendar. This calendar counts for the school-wide challenge and reading homework.

Our students go outside for recess if the temperature is 16 degrees or higher. Please send your child with appropriate outdoor clothing. Since we DO live in New England and the weather fluctuates, it is recommended that you send your child in with a change of clothes/shoes to keep in their locker as well.



Fifth Grade News

It is hard to believe but our school year is already half way over which means your fifth grade students are already halfway to middle school. We still have a lot to cover in order to get us ready for this big next step. Here's a little information about what we have been working on in class lately.

Language Arts: One of our projects in writing is to write an essay about problems and solutions. The students will be writing for a larger audience as their essays will be entered in a Scholastic writing contest. For the contest they need to identify a world problem and focus on a specific piece of it that they could create a solution for. In reading we have been pairing fiction and nonfiction text looking at text structures and how authors integrate nonfictional information into their fictional writing. We will also be looking at how that nonfictional information can help us make inferences about meaning and to make predictions. Then we will be using those skill to practice some open response questions. Believe it or not our ELA MCAS will be here before we know it.

Social Studies: In Social Studies we have been learning about the colonies that the Europeans made in the New World as well as the reasons for doing so. We are starting to focus in on English colonies, their growth and conflicts leading to the American Revolution. At this point in the year Social Studies will focus on the growth of what will become the United States.

During these studies we will be practicing the skills of using details to make a point, how to use information to support a specific argument, and how to defend a position.

Science: We are finishing up a large unit of the Earth's systems with a focus on the atmosphere and geosphere. We have already studied the the biosphere (all life on Earth) and the hydrosphere (all the water on Earth) and we will continue to study ways in which all these systems interact. When we come back from February break we will begin a brand new unit on matter and its properties. Students will learn that everything on Earth is made of matter and that all matter is composed of microscopic particles that behave differently when exposed to heat and pressure. We will focus especially on describing matter objectively (without opinion) as opposed to subjectively.

Math: The next few months of math will focus on operations involving fractions This will be a particularly busy time as we will be moving quickly to cover their topics such as graphing, data analysis, and measurement skills that are useful in the real world. **We are still noticing that some students do not know their math facts (times tables). Although we will continue to work hard to support these students, please consider working on these facts at home. Knowing their multiplication facts will be important when working with fractions the next couple months and will make the work so much easier.

Not all skills that students need to acquire to be successful this year are academic. Students need to learn the important life skills of respect, responsibility and integrity. They need to take extra initiative to finish their work on time and what they are not able to complete in class they will have to take home to finish in order to meet deadlines. All of these are important life skills as well as skills that will help them in Middle and High School.

NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL NURSES

Hello from your Littleville School nurses, Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Brownlee! The weather certainly has been interesting and hopefully spring will be here very soon! It seems we have gotten through most of the winter with only a small amount of illnesses. Even so we want to remind everyone to practice good hand washing, and to cover coughs and sneezes using elbows/tissues. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, is vomiting, or just started antibiotics for a spreadable illness, please keep them home. Students must be fever free without medication for 24 hours, and not vomiting for 24 hours, and any antibiotic prescribed must be taken for 24 hours before returning to school. Please send in any updated health information, as well as contact information that may have changed, when available so we can keep our records up-to-date. We can be reached at (413) 685-1318 for questions, comments or concerns. As always, our goal is to keep everyone healthy, safe, in school and ready to learn. FYI, February is heart health month. Visit the American Heart Association at www.heart.org for information on keeping your family's hearts healthy and happy!

