



BACK TO SCHOOL!



Littleville
Elementary School

10/4/2019

News from the principal

Mrs. Coburn

WHAT IS GOING ON WITH ALL THESE TICKETS?!?!?!?

We are a PBIS district!! PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports. PBIS is a schoolwide approach to discipline. With PBIS students are explicitly taught the expectations for all areas of the school not just the classroom. By using this model students learn what type of behavior is and is not appropriate in each specific area of the building. PBIS focuses on the positive by recognizing students for good behavior and decision-making. Every member of our staff is involved in this system of recognizing students. Currently, we are using tickets to reward students and all the tickets earned are entered into a raffle each Friday. Several times through-out the year we will be having events and activities that students will be saving their tickets to participate in. We also have Humphrey the Hamster that gets to reside with the cleanest classroom each week. Ask your child what they have been recognized for!

News from the nurses

Mrs. Brownlee and Ms. Thompson

Hello from your Littleville school nurses, Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Brownlee! We hope that everyone is getting off to a great start this fall. The weather looks like it's starting to cooperate and that means cooler, brisker air is coming our way. Very soon it will be time for pumpkins, hot chocolate, jumping in leaves and cozy nights inside. It also means colds, the flu and many other illnesses will show up too. We would like to remind everyone to practice good hand washing, and to cover coughs and sneezes using elbows/tissues. Also, we would like to go over when children should stay home. If your child has a fever of 100 degrees or higher, please keep them home. They must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications to return to school. If your child is vomiting, please keep them home, ideally until they have not vomited for 24 hours. If your child is on antibiotics for a spreadable illness, such as strep throat, please keep them home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. We can be reached at (413) 685-1318 anytime between 8:30 and 3:30 during the school week for questions, comments or concerns. As always, our goal is to keep everyone healthy, safe, in school and ready to learn. Take care and happy fall!

News from Kindergarten

Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Boylan

Happy Fall to all of our Kindergarten families as well as to the rest of our Littleville families.

We have been so busy learning the daily routines of our classroom! We are getting pretty savvy at putting away our belongings in our cubbies, following directions, traveling the hallways of our school, sitting, listening, learning, cooperating, sharing, making friends, and so many more things!

We have begun our ELA and Math curriculums. We have begun a unit on Realistic Fiction with many stories about the beginning of Kindergarten. We are simultaneously working with a Phonics curriculum called Project Read. We are jumping into beginning sounds, using those sounds to build words, rhyming, talking about stories read aloud, and learning how to tell our own stories. We are doing activities to begin our work on handwriting skills. We will begin encouraging our kindergarten students to start writing their names with only the first letter as uppercase, with all of the rest being lower case letters, however our new handwriting curriculum does focus on forming the capital letters first. We plan to move quickly through the uppercase letters so we can get to the important lowercase letters.

In Math we have been counting everything! We are counting with the calendar, counting the school days, counting our classmates, our fruit snacks, and so much more! We are finishing a unit on 2-dimensional shapes and learning how to navigate our Math workbooks, and hands-on Math Centers.

All of our curricula are related to Common Core Standards.

Each kindergarten class will explore Science and Social Studies concepts in their own way and each class has their own unique ways to review skills, keep behavior under control, and relax into a cooperative and comfortable learning place for your child.

We are fast becoming proficient learners, listeners, observers, cooperators, friends, leaders, followers, lunch eaters, cutters, writers, singers, artists, and happy students! Before long, you won't even recognize us!

Happy Fall from the Kindergarten Team!
Keep the tone simple and positive. Occasionally you might need to remind parents about classroom rules.

News from first grade

Ms. Schultz and Ms. Moriarty

Greetings from Grade 1!

The beginning of the school year has been very busy and exciting for our first graders. We have been working to build our classroom communities by getting to know one another during our Community Circle time before Morning Meeting. We have been practicing our four school rules, which are **Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind, and Be Safe.**

Your first graders have been learning about sound and spelling patterns by participating in a variety of fun, hands-on activities. We have introduced three short vowels so far: **short a, i, and o.** Your first graders have been responsible for both reading and spelling words containing short a, i, and o. Also, they have been practicing reading and spelling kindergarten sight words, which are words that do not follow patterns. Your first graders become so proud of themselves when reading and spelling words!

Your first graders have been introduced to Daily 5 centers this year. The five centers that they have been practicing are the following: **Read to Self, Read to Someone, Word Work, Work on Writing, and Listen to Reading.** They use Raz-Kids on the Chromebooks during the Listen to Reading center. We will be sending Raz-Kids logins/passwords home very soon, so that your first graders can use the reading program at home for reading homework!

We launched the Lucy Calkins' writing workshop at the beginning of the year. Your first graders have been practicing writing small moment stories, which are stories that happened in their own lives. They are practicing planning their stories across three pages by thinking, saying, sketching, and writing on each page. They will be working to add good beginnings and endings; and a variety of details to make their small moment stories even more exciting (i.e. dialogue, etc.).

We just finished learning about addition for chapter 1 of the GO Math! program. We are now learning about subtraction by using math manipulatives (counters and connecting cubes), and drawing pictures as strate We began science with learning about the seasons. We are now learning about the sun and shadows. We explored the idea of how a statue's shadow can change according to the position of the sun in the sky by creating shadows with flashlights. We will be completing

We look forward to all the learning and fun with your first graders! Please contact us if you have any questions!



News from second grade

Mrs. Dalton, Mrs. McCaul and Mrs. Hyjek

Welcome back! It was so much fun getting to know the students through the Me in a Bag activity. We have a wonderful student population with many different interests. Students have been busy making friends, learning classroom routines, and the expectations for second grade.

In math, we have been focusing on number concepts / place value in two digit numbers and will soon be moving into three digit numbers. The students practiced showing numbers in multiple ways (pictures, expanded form and words form). 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, students have been reviewing and summarizing the parts of a story (characters, setting, problem and solution). We are currently creating our own fantasy stories. Students are practicing learning centers such as Read to Self, Read to Someone, Word Work and Work on Writing. They are building work stamina and independence within the centers. *Students are expected to read for 20 minutes each school night and record it on the Reading Log provided each Monday. The Reading Logs should have parent/guardian initials and returned to class on Friday.*

Second grade participates in the S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program with Ms. Lee once every three weeks. Our first challenge was to create an anatomically correct insect, and work cooperatively with a partner. Mission accomplished! Hopefully, the playdough creations crawled home in one piece.

Second Grade Continued....

In second grade, we alternate between Science and Social Studies Units. Currently in science, our topic is animal characteristics and diversity. The classes are enjoying being keen observers and have a lot of background knowledge to add to our lessons.

One of the second grade classrooms "won" our school hamster Humphrey to have in their classroom for the week of September 23rd. Ask your child if it was their class and how to win Humphrey for the week.

Lastly, thank you for sending in requested school supplies. Your child's extra supplies have been stored in the classroom for his or her future use. We have a very eager group and are looking forward to a great year!

Thank-you for all of your support from home.

News from third grade

Ms. Fisk and Mrs. Bak

The Third Grade Team has had a great start. Everyone is settling in nicely to their new routines. The children have a very full day with a lot of wonderful things going on.

Our Chromebooks have arrived and we have been using them in the classrooms. We are very excited to have them.

Reading classes will be using the Houghton Mifflin Anthology as well as chapter books at individual reading levels.

We are using the Lucy Calkins writing program. Our first unit of study is a personal narrative. Parents can help their child in this area by helping their child find the "small moments" in their lives that they may be able to use as an idea for writing.

We will be using the GoMath program for instruction in Math again this year.

The first Science unit is forces in motion. We have been doing some exciting explorations with pushes and pulls. Ask your child about our "hopper poppers" and bridge building.

A reminder* please send a note in with your child in the morning if their transportation is changing for the afternoon. Make sure the note has the child's full name, date and teacher. Gateway does not allow guest riders, so your child is only allowed to take the bus they have been assigned. We appreciate having a note sent in with your child but if you need to call the office to make the changes, please call by 2:00.**

Thank you for your understanding.

3rd grade Notes and Reminders-

- We have a working snack during our ELA block so snacks should be small, dry, and quick.
- Homework folders must return to school everyday. The children have colored pages in their folders with work marked for every night. These sheets must be done by Friday each week, according to the color listed on the calendar in their folder.
- Homework also consists of another paper that goes with the content we are teaching. They will have an extra Math homework paper on Monday and Wednesday, and a Spelling paper on Tuesday and Thursday.
- All students need a pair of earphones for their personal use with their Chromebooks. These can be picked up very inexpensively at the Dollar Store or Wal-Mart. Please do not purchase the earbuds that go into the ears. They tend to be uncomfortable. If you have already sent in earphones, thank you.

News from fourth grade

Ms. Bates and Mrs. Hamaoui

After a month of getting to know each other, students are making friends, learning the classroom routines and having fun!

Math classes have been focusing on place value, rounding, and addition and subtraction of large numbers using our GO MATH program. Reviewing concepts at home is always encouraged. Multiplication facts should be studied for homework each school night.

Students have been working hard in Writer's Workshop on writing paragraphs and will soon move onto writing personal narratives. They have some great stories to share! Chapter books, short text pieces, and the fourth grade anthology will be used within our reading classes.

The fourth grade classes will be "traveling" throughout the United States in Social Studies this year. We will be learning about the Northeast and Southeast Regions this term. Again this year, science class will be enhanced with the S.T.E.M. program for grades 3-5. Students enjoy a special class once a week revolving around Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Currently, we are studying Energy and Waves.

Way to go 4th graders!

News from fifth grade

Ms. Murray, Mrs. Millin and Mr. Rotenberg

It's hard to believe that it is already October. The Fifth grade has been working hard to be positive role models for the younger children in the school. As the elder students, it is our responsibility to set the tone in the hallways, the cafeteria, the library, and other public places within and outside the building. So far we have been successful and we are all looking forward to a great year.

In Science, we will focus on four main themes; ecosystems, Earth's systems, Matter, and space. We begin by studying matter and its properties. What is matter? How can we describe it? How does it change? In mid-October, the 5th grade will spend an entire week focusing solely on a STEM challenge. They will still be reading, writing, and doing math but it will all be connected to an ecological mystery. We are very excited for our first annual STEM week.

In Social Studies this year our studies will take us through early American History. We have started with a brief background on Spanish, French and Dutch colonization of the Americas and then will focus more on the 13 English colonies for the first part of the year. During our studies we will be practicing nonfiction reading skills as well as learning how to ask questions and look for answers. We have also begun to learn how to read primary sources and how to evaluate the reliability of our sources. All of this will help us to not only become good students but to become good citizens.

In our Reading classes we are beginning the year by focusing on comprehension strategies. Students often do a great job of reading the words of a book or article but don't always focus on the content of what they are reading. We spent the first few weeks of school slowing down our reading and paying attention to our inner conversation, the thoughts, questions, and connections that run through the heads of all good readers. By encouraging our students to interact with the text in this way they will begin to better understand what they are reading.

Upcoming Dates:

October 11: 4th grade assembly presented by the 4th grade 2:20 in the GPAC

October 14: No School

October 22: HALF DAY of school, dismissal time is at 11:40 for grades K-5

October 31: Wild hat and hair day

In Math most of what we start the year with reviews and builds on skills that they learned in fourth grade. We started the year with place value and the multiplication of large numbers and are now moving onto division and problem solving. It is very important that our students know their multiplication tables. These will help them with the steps for multi-digit multiplication and long division as well as many other topics that will be covered this year. Have your students practice writing their multiplication tables, using flashcards that they can make or buy, or find online games that they can play to help them study. Moby Max is an online program we use at school that they can access at home to work on their multiplication facts and other math concepts.

In writing, we have been focusing on creating strong and detailed paragraphs, specifically studying point of view, subjects, predicates, run-on sentences and fragments. We have also started to draft our own personal narratives. We have some great stories to share! We will soon begin studying various spelling patterns and applying them to our written pieces.

We are off to a great start and look forward to a fabulous school year! If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact us through our school email.

News from Speech

Mrs. Archambault

It has been a wonderful and busy start of the school year for our communication kids. This year, I work with students on all grade levels. All the students seem to be adjusting well. We have gotten baseline data and screenings done for most of the kids at this point. We are well on our way to getting all three year assessments completed as well. Fall vocabulary is targeted for the younger grades and more curriculum related vocabulary will be worked on with the older children, pulling out concepts (in, on, under, in front of, behind, first, last, etc....) as deemed necessary. We work closely with classroom teachers in our reading and writing program developing cohesive ideas as well as pulling out idioms and other figurative language that can be confusing for all students. Understanding and using the appropriate social/pragmatic language is always a fun challenge. This year we have developed a nice team approach with our autism consultant and school adjustment counselors.

Hope all of our families have gotten off to a smooth start to the school year!