



LITTLEVILLE ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2019



News from the Principal Mrs. Coburn

Here at Littleville we are already busy preparing for next year! 2019-2020 classroom teachers will be posted on your child's end of the year report card. A lot of thought goes into creating successful classrooms. The placement team considers all students' strengths and needs with regard to academics, learning style needs, behavioral dynamics, peer relationships and any services received. Your child's current teacher and other support staff have a lot of knowledge regarding how your child learns best.

A huge thank you to all of the families that signed-up and participated in the Big Y Education Express program. These programs do matter to us and we use the points throughout the year to purchase items such as, colored copier paper, cardstock for ELA and math centers, and art supplies. Thank you for supporting us!

Another successful school year is coming to an end and I would like to take a moment to thank all of our fabulous staff, volunteers, and the Littleville PTO for their positive contributions. Although a small group, the PTO is mighty in what they are able to do for our staff and students throughout the school year.

We wish all of our students and families a fun, safe and eventful summer and look forward to seeing you next year!

News from kindergarten Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Boylan

Here we are with only 1 month left of Kindergarten! Well, it all makes so much sense because we are mostly ready to be first graders! It's so amazing how much we have grown just since the holidays! We are all readers of one level or another! We are all writers! And our pants are above the ankles instead of below!

We can read and write many high-frequency words and use them in our reading and in writing sentences. We can read stories and chat about the characters, setting, whether or not it's real or make-believe, and check to see if we understand what we are reading. We can write simple sentences about one topic to tell a story.

Kindergarten continued...

We know that we begin a sentence with an uppercase letter and that we should leave spaces in between words so that others and we can read it. We know that we can put a period or question mark at the end of the sentence when our voice stops.

We know enough about numbers that we can add groups together and we can take away, too! We know some pretty cool things about shapes, geometry, patterns, sorting, measuring and such! We know that living things have life cycles and that life begins and ends in different ways. We got to experience the life cycle of a chicken by watching our eggs hatch little chicks! We are also learning about plants and what they need to grow and continue the life cycle! We are learning how to observe things by using our senses and recording what we see, hear, smell, and feel.

We have probably learned the most about each other and how to get along. We have learned to be friends with all of our classmates and that it's great to have some older reading buddies to read with and wave to in the hallways!

We have learned to follow directions (mostly!) and that sometimes it's really important to be able to work independently to finish our work. We have learned that school can sometimes be hard and sometimes it can be easy. We have also learned that school can be tons of fun! We would like to thank all of our parent volunteers who helped us get through our library times, class projects, and our upcoming field trip to the Amelia Park Children's Museum and Stanley Park.

We would like to extend a HUGE thank you to our school's paraprofessionals, Mrs. Lewis, Miss Cindy, Miss Joyce, and especially Miss Bonnie, for helping us throughout our Kindergarten school year! Your work with our students is invaluable and we appreciate ALL that you do for the students and for us.

All in all, we have had a pretty awesome first formal year of learning in our Kindergarten classes!

To our Kindergarten Families: Thank you for your support throughout our Kindergarten year!



News from the first grade
Ms. Moriarty, Ms. Schultz and Mrs. Bak

It is that time of year again that summer is quickly approaching, along with exciting events, such as Field Day. We have had fun learning and laughing with one another, especially on our field trip to Arcadia. We look forward to what the end of the school year is going to bring us.

In reading, we have been learning about vowel teams such as ea, ee, ou/ow, and oi/oy. Also, we have been focusing on reading folktales in our classrooms. Fairy tales and tall tales are examples of folktales. When we are reading, we have been paying close attention to what makes books fairy tales or tall tales.

In science, we learned about **plants**. We have investigated about what plants need to grow and survive, and how seeds are dispersed. Our last unit will be on sun, moon and stars.

In math, we are learning Geometry and about **two-dimensional** (circle, triangle, square, rectangle, hexagon, trapezoid, and rhombus) **and three-dimensional shapes** (rectangular prism, cone, cube, cylinder, sphere). We will focus on fractions, specifically halves and fourths of 2D shapes. We still need to learn about measurement, time and money.

In writing, we recently finished our poetry unit by inviting families and friends to the annual First Grade Poet's Tea. We are now writing **realistic fiction books**.

News from the second grade
Mrs. Dalton and Mrs. Hyjek

On June 4, we will embark on our field trip adventure to Historic Deerfield and the Butterfly Museum. Only those adults that have filled the CORI security forms, will be able to join us at the field trip locations.

In math, students are reading data, creating graphs and investigating shapes. Summer review of building addition and subtraction fact fluency as well as double-digit addition and subtraction would be wonderful. Reviewing concepts at home is always encouraged. If you want to get ahead,

Second Grade Continued...

students can start learning their multiplication facts for third grade.

In reading, students continue working in groups and discussing their individual leveled stories. Students have been learning many spelling and phonics skills this year. Most recently, children learned what a schwa sound is (see if they can tell you...) In writing, we culminated our poetry unit with a published book to come home soon! Next, we are excited to research animals and complete a nonfiction report booklet. 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. Reading chapter books over the summer would be great practice for the demands of third grade.

In STEM classes, students learned that a triangle is the strongest shape by creating a truss and then seeing how many pennies it could hold. We have also been focusing on landforms and learning about erosion.

Thank you for all of your support throughout the Second Grade year. Please avoid what's referred to as "The Summer Slide" by reading, reading, reading during the summer vacation. We wish everyone a safe, fun filled summer with lots of family time.

UPCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS:

MAY

29: 5th grade visits middle school during school hours

29: 3rd grade field trip to Plimoth (extended day)

31: 4th grade field trip

JUNE

4: kindergarten and 2nd grade field trip

6: STEM Fair

7: Field Day 9-12

10: field day rain date

10: 5th grade assembly 2:00 in the GPAC

11: half day of school dismissal for grades K-5 is at 11:40

12: half day of school dismissal for grades K-5 is at 11:40 – **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**



**News from the third grade
Mrs. McCaul and Mrs. Fisk**

Our third grade year is winding to an end. It has been a year full of growth, learning, and fun.

We are excited to be taking our field trip to Plimoth Plantation at the end of May. This will give us the opportunity to experience history first hand. It is always a rewarding trip with students excited about learning Massachusetts's history. We will send more information home when we have all the details finalized.

Students are moving toward 4th grade expectations, so there are some things you can do to help them be ready. It would be beneficial if they continue working on mastering their multiplication through the 10s table. Try to find opportunities where students can apply real math to everyday experiences.

Students should also continue reading chapter books through the summer. Please help your child maintain a consistent reading schedule. This is very important so their reading skills continue to get stronger in preparation for the reading they will need to do in fourth grade.

Our writing program stresses writing stamina so look for opportunities to encourage your child to write. Some examples are post cards, letters to family, journals, and even fiction writing. Writing about what they did over the summer will help them next year when their fourth grade teachers ask them to use their summer experiences in their writing. So the next time they say they have nothing to do, ask them to write you a story or maybe even perform their story. They love turning their writing into "real" books with fancy covers, illustrations, and author's notes.

Technology will continue to be an important part of their learning. Remind your child to continue practicing keyboarding skills to help them become more fluent with proper hand placement and letter location. Students are learning how to edit and publish their writing in word processing programs.

It has been a rewarding year working with your child. Have an enjoyable and relaxing summer.



**News from the fourth grade
Ms. Ames, Mrs. Hamaoui, and Ms. Murray**

The fourth grade classes have been very busy this spring. The English Language Arts and Math MCAS have just finished up, and all of the students worked so hard! Great job, fourth graders!

In Writing Workshop we just finished exploring and writing poetry to celebrate Poetry Month in April. Now we are working on researching endangered animals and writing informational books. During reading, we have been working on learning different comprehension skills that help us to become better readers.

During Math we have been studying fractions and decimals. Please remember to have your child continue to study multiplication facts at home every night. Knowing your multiplication facts helps your child to be more successful in math.

In Science we have begun our new unit on plant and animal structures. Students have been learning about the internal and external structures of plants and animals that help them survive. In Social Studies we finished traveling around the country, studying the different regions of the United States. Now we are learning about Ancient Societies of North America and Explorers of North America.

Our fourth grade field trip will take place on Friday, May 31, 2019. We are traveling to the New England Air Museum where we will participate in a program called "Flight, Forces, and Motion" and have a guided tour.

Thank you for all of your help and support this year! We hope everyone has a great end of the year, and a fun-filled summer. Please remember to have your child study his/her math facts, especially multiplication and division. Playing games and using flashcards are fabulous ways to review math facts, and have fun! Also, remember to read over the summer.

**Check out our local library websites for fun activities
that happen over the summer:**

Huntington:

<https://thehuntingtonpubliclibrary.wordpress.com/>

Montgomery: <http://www.montgomeryma.gov/library/>

Westfield: <http://www.westath.org/>

Northampton: <https://forbeslibrary.org/>

Easthampton: <https://ewmlibrary.org/>

**News from the fifth grade
Mr. Rotenberg and Mrs. Millin**

The month of May marks the end of MCAS. 5th graders were responsible for three MCAS tests this year and they took this challenge head on. While testing is over, there is still plenty to learn as we get ready for sixth grade, as well as some fun end of the year activities.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we have been learning about what led to the American Revolution and will continue to learn about the founding of our country. We have been looking not just at what happened but why these things happened and the different points of view that are involved. Students have been choosing sides, role playing, protesting, taking on different points of view, defending their point of view, and deciding who is "right".

Science

So far this year we have mainly been studying the Earth in science class. However, for our final unit we will be leaving the planet to study space, the solar system, our galaxy, and the universe at large. We will focus our learning on Stars, what they are made of, and why some seem brighter than others in the night sky.

The students are also working hard on their science (STEM) fair projects. They have come up with a lot of interesting things to study such engineering a catapult, designing a walking alarm clock, and measuring the effect of Mentos on different brands of cola. Come see all the fascinating science experiments and engineering projects on June 6th.

Getting Ready for Sixth Grade!

Speaking of getting ready for sixth grade, the students will have an orientation day next door at the Middle School on Wednesday, May 29. We will be going next door to meet the teachers, talk to some current 6th grade students, and experience a middle school lunch. Make sure to talk to your future middle school student about transitioning to a new school next year. When they visit the middle school they can bring any questions that may have come up and share their answers with you when they get home.

Other News

Our fifth grade assembly will be held on Monday, June 10th. We will let you know as we get closer to the assembly what, if any, special attire they will need to bring with them for that day. We hope to see you there!

**News from the Nurses
Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Brownlee**

Hello from your Littleville school nurses, Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Brownlee! The wet weather should be on the way out and soon there will be sunshine, warm breezes and BUGS! Watch out for those pesky ticks and mosquitoes. We have a few reminders for you for the rest of this school year and in the future. If your child needs any medications, (including over the counter medications/lotions/pain relievers etc.), **we require an order from their health care provider**, a parental consent form and an adult must deliver the medication. The full policy can be found in the school handbook, and online at the Littleville Elementary homepage (<http://www.grsd.org/4/home>). 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, so we can keep our records up-to-date. One last thing, the health office is in need of donations of pants in sizes 3T to 12. We can be reached at (413) 685-1318 for questions, comments or concerns. Have a fun and safe summer!



**News from reading:
Mrs. Petzold and Mrs. Gingras**

Our two year Pawsome Reading Challenge will come to an end this year. We hope the students liked this challenge as much as we did. We still have one more assembly in the works to culminate this challenge and it will happen some time in June. Next year, we will go back to our format where we host a literacy night and Bingo for Books. We are trying to figure out a way where we can still give books out to the students for their home libraries throughout the year. More info will go home in the fall. Our Buy 1 Get 1 Book Fair was a huge success and put many books in our students' hands.

Summer Reading and Fluency:

Tips for Parents from Reading Rockets
You can help them read more quickly and accurately. Schools call this reading fluency. Your kids will call it fun!

When kids can read fluently, it's easier for them to understand what they're reading. And they read aloud easily and with expression. Needless to say, this makes reading a lot more enjoyable. Less fluent readers read more slowly and word by word. Their attention is focused on sounding out each word; so, they pay less attention to understanding what they've read. Their comprehension and their motivation can suffer. Of course, beginning readers aren't fluent yet, but by the end of first grade, kids should be reading books at their grade level with ease and expression. The summer months provide a great opportunity for you to help your child continue to develop reading fluency.

Here are four things parents and caregivers can do to help:

Choose the right books

Help your child choose books that he can comfortably read. The "five-finger test" is a useful guideline for beginning readers. As your child reads, count the number of words he cannot read per page. In general, there should be five words or fewer that give him trouble on each page. If a book contains several pages on which you count more than five words that he can't read, consider reading that book to your child until he develops more reading skill.

Listen every day

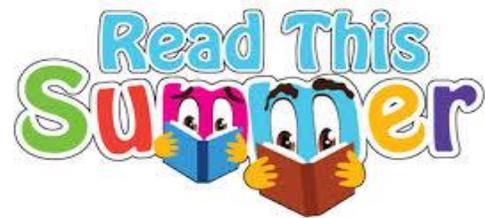
Listen to your child read every day. Be patient — new readers often read slowly! Offer help when your child gets stuck, and always give lots of praise and encouragement.

Read it again, Sam

Encourage your child to reread favorite books, and make it fun! Repeated readings improve children's fluency and comprehension. They also provide opportunities to practice reading with expression. Children will enjoy giving the wolf a scary growl or using a squeaky little voice for a mouse.

Read to your kids every day

Model your own fluent reading as you read and reread books with your child. Even though your child may be able to read on her own, continue to find time each day to read books to her that are just beyond her reading level. She will enjoy listening to more advanced stories, and she will hear a great example of fluent



Some Fun Books to Check Out:

[The Giving Tree](#) by: Shel Silverstein

[Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day](#) by: Judith Viorst

[A Bad Case of Stripes](#) by: David Shannon

[Ode to Icky](#) by: Maranda Russell

[A Fairy Different Life](#) by: Goob

[James and the Giant Peach](#) by: Roald Dahl

[Chemistry: The Atom and Elements](#)
by: April Chloe Terrazas