News from the Principal
Mrs. Coburn

Welcome back to school! The faculty and staff join me in saying that we are happy to have you as part of the Littleville family. It was great to see so many of you at Open House night and the students were clearly excited to show off their new classrooms.

Throughout the year, if you have any questions, please call the school office. We feel that open and clear communication between school and home is important to the success of our educational program.

We are happy to announce that due to the popularity of the our STEM program, this year we will be expanding it to the K-2 classrooms on a monthly basis. Our kindergarten, first and second graders will now have the opportunity to experience hands on learning that enhances the classroom curriculum.

Our PreK/Kindergarten playground at Littleville is looking fabulous thanks to all the hard work of custodians, Bret Hartley and Ed Quinn. We also have a new full-day PreK program located in the HS/MS complex that has their own brand new playground and is off to a wonderful start to the year. This program is the result of a joint effort between administration and the towns, and we are very excited to be offering more opportunities for our community.

News from the Nurse
Ms. Thompson and Mrs. Brownlee

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, and in school ready to learn. Take care and happy fall!
Kindergarten News
Mrs. Smith & 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 new Phonics curriculum this year 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 beginning 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!

First Grade News
Mrs. Bak, Ms. Moriarty & Ms. Schultz

First Grade has been busy learning new classroom schedules and routines. Several days were spent developing class rules and forming a new community. Each day we begin with a morning meeting that incorporates community building, oral language story telling, ELA and math concepts. We are working again this year on our school-wide character development program. We have 4 school-wide rules we are incorporating: be safe, be kind, be responsible and be respectful.

We are using a new phonics program this year. It is called Project Read. We will be incorporating phonics in more multisensory ways. We have introduced short a, shore o, and short i words so far. Learning targets have focused on being able to read and write words with short a/o/i, isolated and in context. We have also been reviewing high-frequency words or sight words learned last year. We have begun introducing our center time called Daily 5. During Daily 5 students are rotating through centers that practice a variety of skills. The 5 centers are: read to self, work on writing, read with someone, word work and listening to reading. All centers are independent and a chance to improve our reading and writing.

We use the Lucy Calkins' Writing Workshop model for writing. We spent some time storytelling before we launched writing workshop. During this time, students are working on the writing process for writing personal narrative stories, or about something that happened to them one time. The goal is to write and sequence a personal narrative across three pages, including details.

During math we have been focusing on understanding addition. We finished chapter 1 in our math program “Go Math” and are moving right into Chapter 2, understanding subtraction. We have learned new math
vocabulary words and how to represent math story problems with a number sentence.

We began Science with learning about the seasons. We have also been watching videos from our new subscription of Mystery Science. Each week students write to Doug, things they are curious about and we watch the science videos in class.

Each student has access to the online reading program RAZ kids. This is a chance to practice reading at home. If you did not receive your login/password please let us know. We will be using them more frequently in class once we have practice on our new Chromebooks.

**Second Grade News**

*Mrs. Dalton 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 realistic fiction pieces. 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. *Reading homework will begin this October.* 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 Challenge Calendar.

This year second grade is participating in S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program with Ms. Lee once every few weeks. Our first challenge was to create an anatomically correct insect, and work cooperatively with a partner. Mission accomplished! Watch for their playdough creations coming home soon if they haven't crawled home yet.

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.

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.

**Third Grade News**

*Mrs. Fisk & Mrs. McCaul*

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 are 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".

Notes and Reminders-
1. We have a working snack during our Math block so snacks should be small, dry, and quick.
2. 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. The Pawsome Reading Challenge calendar is copied on the back of the homework calendar so minutes read can be recorded. 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.
3. 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 Walmart. 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.

Fourth Grade News
Mrs. Hamaoui, Ms. Ames & Ms. Murray

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 and will be moving onto Sound Energy soon!

Go to www.grsd.org and click on Littleville, this is a great way to keep up-to-date on upcoming events.

Fifth Grade News
Mr. Rotenberg & Mrs. Millin

It’s hard to believe that is 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 ecosystems and the countless interactions that occur within. We will also be concentrating on human impacts to the environment both large and
small. We will also be practicing and learning reading strategies to allow us to become lifelong learners and competent consumers of information in this complex world.

In Social Studies we will be learning about the events that lead up to the colonization of North and South America. To get started we are learning a little about three large civilizations that existed before Europeans arrived here, the Aztec, Inca, and Maya. Students are learning about their cultures by comparing and contrasting the three civilizations and comparing them to ourselves and our own social structures. From there we will move onto Vikings and Explorers. While we do this we will be practicing nonfiction reading skills such as summarizing and identifying main ideas.

In our Reading classes we have been studying genre and literary elements of stories such as conflict, turning point, and resolution. Recognizing the underlying structure of literature is an important skill as students get ready for the transition to middle school and beyond.

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 number 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.

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.

Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Ahearn

We have been busy checking on our students as they adjust to new teachers, new classrooms and new friends. We have been adjusting desks in the classrooms to assure that students are optimally seated with chairs and desks that fit their body. OT also does weekly groups in kindergarten and first grade along with their classroom teacher supporting fine motor skills and handwriting. PT does gross motor skills weekly in preschool. Getting into the classrooms early offers us the opportunity to identify areas we need to support for students to be successful in their classrooms.

This year, we will continue working on teaching students self-regulation skills for children to use in their classrooms. We want children to know that they are responsible for their own self-regulation and we want to give them strategies to use if they are starting to feel a little sluggish or too excited to listen and attend in class. Some of the programs we use include Brain Gym, Mindfulness, and Integrated Listening systems.

Brain gym is a quick and effective way of addressing self regulation and facilitates whole brain learning. It is quick and fun for the kids and easy for teachers to incorporate in the classroom. The children also benefit from mindfulness where they are asked to sit quietly and push all thoughts from their heads for just a minute or two. It is very impressive how well even kindergarten children do with this.

School is well underway and it’s important that our students remain active. Studies show that activity outside of school leads to better focus and learning in the classroom. Inactivity leads to increased attentional difficulties, decreased strength and motor skills. We encourage you to try and keep your children active with return to school. There are some good movement videos that you can find on Youtube and Brain Breaks videos are lots of fun. Try to get the kids outside when possible.

If your child needs to change transportation for the day, please send in a note in the morning with your student. Please make sure to include your child’s full name, date and homeroom teacher.
for help raking leaves, going for nature hikes in the woods, or any sport or activity that you enjoy as a family. It’s going to be a great school year!

**News from Speech**  
**Lynn Archambault, MS, CCC-SLP**

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. Fall vocabulary is targeted for the younger grades and more curriculum related vocabulary will be worked on with the older children, pulling out concepts as deemed necessary. We work closely with classroom teachers in our reading and writing program developing cohesive ideas. For those children with some social challenges 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!

**News from Music**  
**Mrs. Mosher**

This year has had a great start! We have already played drums, boomwhackers, rhythm sticks and other percussion. We’ve made rhythm pizzas, had fun singing solfege, and labeled parts of songs as we sang. We have a busy year ahead with concerts for most grades. Please note when your student’s musical is below and write it on your calendar. The students and I look forward to having fun and working hard in art and music class to prepare amazing things for our audience. We need your support in bringing them to their shows so they can show you how hard they work in specials. Keep singing at home and encouraging them to try to sing what we learned in class, even if they only remember a little bit of a song. Tell them, “Sing - The World Needs Your Music!” No matter how much I teach and correct pitches and rhythms, I try my best to gift my love of music and want your child to remember this quote, “I want to sing like the birds sing, not worrying about who hears or what they think.” - Rumi

**UPCOMING MUSIC DATES:**

- **Dec. 11th** Tues 6:30pm - 5th grade Band Winter Concert
- **Jan. 24th** Thurs. 6:00pm -3rd/4th grade (+5th gd actors) Art and Music Show
- **March 8th** Fri. 6:30pm - 5th grade Band Cabin Fever Concert and Spaghetti Dinner
- **May 16th** Thurs. 6:00pm -1st/2nd grade Art and Music Show
- **June 11th** Tues. 6:30pm - 5th grade Band Spring Concert

**Reminders:**

If you forget to send in a note about your child’s transportation needs, or you have had a change of plans, please make sure to call the office BEFORE 2:00. This allows the information to be relayed to the appropriate people and avoids the end of the day dismissal time. The office phone is not answered from 3-3:30 so the office staff can concentrate on the dismissal period.

If your child is going to be absent, please call the attendance line at 685-1300 press #3. Please DO NOT leave any other messages on this line.