



# Western Wayne School District EverGreen Elementary

Principal's Report — February 2018



## Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

### Writing Assignment Help

Writing assignments are often part of a student's homework. Here are some ways parents can help their children;

1. **Have your child "talk through"** his ideas on the topic before starting. Clear writing starts with clear thinking. Talking with a parent can help clarify thoughts.
2. **Encourage your child to make notes** before writing. An outline or a writing web are good ways to get organized.
3. **Offer plenty of praise.** Be as specific as you can. For example, you can say, "I really like the way you've described what led up to the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. **Don't over criticize.** Focus first on what your child is trying to say. It's helpful to point out errors now and then, of course. But if your children think you are always looking for what's wrong, they won't want to share their writing with you.
5. **Encourage your child to revise and rewrite.** Experts often say, "There is no such thing as good writing. There's only good *rewriting*." But, let your child do it. Don't rewrite it for them.

*Mr. Pidgeon*



## ES

It's hard to believe we are already in the third quarter! The students have been working hard this winter and making nice progress. They are quite proud of how much they've grown as learners. We will be celebrating Valentine's Day by making special projects and cards. Respect and kindness continue to be stressed daily.



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## Pre-Kindergarten

As we begin the month of February, we are amazed at the amount of growth in our Pre-Kindergarten children! The daily repetition and reinforcement of counting words in a sentence, clapping syllables in words, and rhyming has helped them develop their Phonemic Awareness Skills which will help them become good readers! They have also learned to recite and sequence the alphabet as well as learn the sounds that the letters represent. Thank you for reading and working with your children at home. They are on their way to becoming successful readers!

Be on the lookout for a patriotic numbers' booklet that students will be making this month. Use it as a fun way for your children to practice recognizing numbers. Also encourage them to point to and count items on the pages. If your children have mastered identifying numbers up to ten encourage them to work on the next set to twenty, then thirty, and so on.

Please continue your daily discussions with your children about the events that took place at the beginning, middle and end of their day! They love to share when prompted, especially when they are proud of their accomplishments!



## Kindergarten

The kindergarteners enjoyed reading about oceans and outdoor adventures. The students listened to **Atlantic**, an informational text about the Atlantic Ocean. They learned very interesting and amazing facts about the ocean. Students also listened to **Nicky and the Rainy Day** a fantasy story about how a family of rabbits spent a rainy day.

In math, the children are working on simple addition problems and comparing the weight of objects. We are continuing to count by ones and tens to 100 and are beginning to count by fives. Please practice counting with your child at home!

It's hard to believe that the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school is here already! On the 100<sup>th</sup> day, the kindergarteners have lots and lots of practice counting to 100 by ones, fives, and tens. Of course there is also a special 100<sup>th</sup> day of school story read in each classroom.

Valentine's Day is so exciting in Kindergarten! The children can't wait to open all of the valentine cards in their bags and read to find out who sent each one. Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Please remember to read with your child every night and fill out the reading log in the homework folder. Also, be sure to have your child practice reading the sight word list on the back of the homework folder.

## 1st Grade

The third quarter is now upon us. In reading, we recently began our fourth book. We continue learning about long vowels and long vowel patterns. Students are learning about silent e words as well as different vowel pairs. Please reinforce these vowels at home. Also, we continue to learn new reading strategies. Students are learning the importance of rereading for understanding, retelling a story in their own words, and identifying the beginning, middle, and end of stories. We are also continuing to work on blends, digraphs, and word families.

In math, we are continuing to focus on addition and subtraction facts to 20. Students are learning many different skills in Science and Social Studies this year. Please encourage your child to talk about what they did in Science that week. The students really seem to enjoy this subject.

Please continue to practice your child's sight words each night. This will help them become a better reader. Also, please continue to read 15 minutes every night with your child.





The second grade  
In math, the students have

## 2nd Grade

three digit numbers with and without regrouping. The second graders have been using base ten blocks, drawings, and work mats to deepen their understanding of the regrouping process. The children have been enjoying these lessons and are continuing to explore how math is an important part of the real world. Please use opportunities in everyday life to show your children how math is used. Also, please continue to have your children practice their addition and subtraction facts.

The second graders have been introduced to a new reading unit entitled, "Heroes and Helpers!". In this unit, the children will be reading fictional and informational stories that comprise of courageous characters. The children will be able to connect these stories to their own lives by sharing ways to overcome difficulties. Also, the children will be reminded to promote kindness while recognizing the importance of helping others, as demonstrated in our reading stories. The students are continuing to work on improving their reading comprehension as well as their reading fluency. Please continue to have your children read for 15 minutes daily.

The second graders are aware of many of our current events by reading informational articles in our *Scholastic News*. We are having some great discussions and are able to connect the text to other texts and to the real world. Please continue these discussions at home when the children bring home their *Scholastic News*. This is a great opportunity for the students to re-read informational text as well to develop their oral language and listening skills in a conversation and discussion.

Valentine's Day is always an exciting time for the second graders because they get to assist the Pre-K children by reading their valentine cards to them. All the students love this activity because it provides the children an opportunity to celebrate kindness and friendships throughout the school!

As this wet winter season is

## 3rd Grade

making its way forward, so are our third graders. We continue to develop all our academic areas. Within the past months, students have been very busy becoming knowledgeable in all they can so that they can take that wisdom and information with them to achieve success on the upcoming PSSA's in April.

In reading, students are leaping into unit 4 of our reading series, "Natural Wonders." This unit is filled with the wonders of nature and questions to make students think. They will be able to understand the importance of scientific research after reading the stories. This learning will also help students continue to grow in the area of opinion writing. Students will be able to mimic mentor author moves in their own writing.

In math, students are working through collecting and displaying data. They will be able generate categorical data, organize it, and then represent it in a variety of forms. Through problem solving, opportunities naturally surface for students to make observations, analyze, and answer questions such as, "How many more?" or "How many less?" We encourage you to try some real-life problem solving at home with your child.

In Science, we have started our unit on The Solar System. We will be discussing all of the planets, the sun, as well as how the sun and motion of the planets affect us. The students will be performing experiments in our Science lab to better able them to comprehend these large, abstract concepts.

In Social Studies, we will be taking a look at how the government works. We will learn the basic structure and functions of the local government. Students will also find out how Washington, D.C. came to be our nation's capital.

As a reminder, we ask that your child continues to neatly complete his/her homework each night. If there is a reading comprehension assignment, please remember to have your child respond (when necessary) using complete sentences and highlight all textual evidence. Students are also required to read 15-30 minutes, and practice multiplication facts each night. With PSSA's coming up we feel this reinforcement at home will help them do their best.

## 4th Grade

Fourth grade students were great at comprehending stories that were revisited throughout the week with guided repeated readings and discussion. This exercise was supposed to model and provide practice with skills that students should do independently with unfamiliar passages. At the end of three weeks students were assessed in comprehending "cold reads". Students are gradually improving their comprehension. You can help by discussing unfamiliar words when reading the anthology story at home. Be sure to include content area reading like science and social studies homework on the reading log, too. Comprehending nonfiction is essential.

In Social Studies, students learned Pennsylvania events leading up to the Revolutionary War.



In writing, students changed their personal opinion writing into persuasive five paragraph essays. The Introductions and conclusions were stronger and directed toward the reader. Evidence supporting the claim or thesis was more convincing. Conventions made essays more readable for an audience.

Math fact mastery is necessary for most fourth grade math concepts. Please review multiplication and division, addition and subtraction facts regularly. Students tackled long division and neatness really improved accuracy! Try turning blue lined notebook paper sideways to line up numbers in neat columns.

Thank you for helping your child practice consistent homework habits.

**5th Grade**

January was a flurry of activity and freezing temperatures! With the new year, let us all make a resolution to work harder than ever and strive to do our personal best in 2019!!

5<sup>th</sup> graders are hard at work learning new math concepts. We have become fabulous at fractions, and are on our way to being excellent at equations. Please keep practicing your multiplication and division facts at home.

Our latest reading theme focused on history. We have enjoyed reading about John Adams, Molly Pitcher, James Forten, and King George. We will be switching genres to realistic fiction soon. Remember to read 30 minutes each night and ask your parent to sign your reading calendars.

We love our FOSS science program!! The students and teachers are enjoying creating mixtures and solutions in the science lab. We have learned many new vocabulary words such as solute and solvent. It was fun to watch our salt crystals form as we evaporated a salt solution. Many more experiments to come-we can't wait!!

**Title I**

Although the cold winter weather often keeps us indoors, it also provides us with a great opportunity to spend more time reading! When reading with your child, remember that the reason we read anything is to gain meaning from it. If a child can read all the words in a story, but doesn't know what the story is about, that child hasn't gotten meaning from the text. According to the Parent Institute brochure, "Reading for Meaning," here are a few things parents can do to help children make meaning when they read:

Before Reading:

- **Scan the story** for difficult words.
- **Discuss the difficult words.** Review how to read the words and what the words mean.

**Use the title and illustrations** to discuss what the story could be about.

During Reading:

- **Have your child read silently first** before reading aloud to you.
- **Ask your child the setting of the story** so that your child knows the time and place of the story.

**Make predictions as to what will happen next** then as you read, stop and discuss if the predictions match the author's ideas.

After Reading:

- **Discuss the main ideas** of the story, such as who were the main characters? What was the problem? How did the problem get solved?
- **Discuss the events of the story in order.** What were the important things that happened in the story? What happened first, second, next, after that?

**Ask inference questions;** things that the author didn't come out and state, but that you can figure out (why did something happen?).



Early Intervention	16
Pre-Kindergarten	59
Kindergarten	73
First Grade	86
Second Grade	81
Third Grade	87
Fourth Grade	80
Fifth Grade	<u>79</u>
	561
Outside Placement	<u>+ 1</u>
Total	562