

RDW NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19, 2017– 6 P.M. PTA Meeting

October 24, 2017-Apple Crunch Day

October 30, 2017– Picture re-takes.

October 31, 2017-Noon Dismissal, Teacher In-Service



MS. BOOTH

Hello students, families, faculty, and staff of Robert D. Wilson School! My name is Isabella DiBileo, and I will be a new face at RDW for the 2017-2018 school year. I am currently a student at Marywood University in the School Counseling program, and I will be completing my fieldwork experience (practicum and internship) at RDW with Ms. Booth! Throughout the fall, students will see me every Tuesday; beginning in January, I will be at RDW three times per week. I am so excited to continue to develop my school counseling knowledge and skills with the students of RDW, under the supervision of Ms. Booth. I will work with the students to promote their academic, career, and social/emotional development, through individual and small group counseling, classroom guidance lessons, school-wide programming, and more. I hope that I will play a small part in the success of every student this year!

Before beginning my fieldwork at Western Wayne School District, I worked as a substitute teacher in the Scranton School District, and also completed an internship in the State College Area School District. I graduated from the Penn State College of Education in 2016- We Are! While most of my experience has been with middle school students, I cannot wait to begin working with elementary school! Although I have only been at RDW for a short time, I can already tell that it is going to be a great experience. Everyone has been so welcoming, and I know that I am going to learn so much. Please stop by Ms. Booth's room to say "Hello." I am looking forward to meeting all of my fellow Wildcats!

LEARNING SUPPORT

This school year, many students are participating in our co-taught reading and math classes. These classes give our special education students exposure to a higher level curriculum, while also providing support necessary for their success in school. Please remember to practice fluency daily, as well as math facts.

Teaching Addition Math Facts to Kids With Go Fish! This new twist on the old classic Go Fish! helps kids to learn addition by mentally working out simple math problems. Each round played practices math facts for a specific number, making it easy to stick with one set of facts for as long as needed to solidify them in the players' mind. All that's needed to play this game is a standard deck of playing cards. It is best enjoyed with 2-4 players. How to Play Go Fish! 1. Sort through the deck to remove all cards that are higher than that featured number for the math game. For example, if the goal is to learn addition facts for the number seven, the game will be played with ones (aces) through sevens. 2. Deal out five cards to each player and place the remaining cards in a draw pile. 3. Have each player look through his or her hand of cards to find any pairs that add up to the featured number and place them face up in their discard pile. For example, if learning addition facts for the number seven, appropriate pairs would be 6+1, 5+2 or 4+3. The 7 card would also be laid aside as a correct solution that doesn't require a pair. 4. The person to the left of the dealer may now ask any other player for a card that will help create the sum required. If the person asked has the card in his hand, he must give it up to the player that made the request. A player can keep asking for cards until no further matches are able to be made, at which point he is told to Go Fish! from the draw pile and the next player takes a turn trying to make a match. 5. If a player runs out of cards he can choose five more cards from the draw pile to stay in the game. 6. Continue playing until all the cards in the deck have been matched into pairs. The player with the highest number of pairs at the end of the game is the winner.

ART

Mrs. Ferraro's art classes were busy drawing self-portraits to display in the entrance of the school for Robert D. Wilson's open house on September 26, 2017. Students were learning about facial proportions as they practiced fine motor skills and drawing from observation. We hope many enjoyed our smiling faces as they visited our school. Students are also thinking about individual goals for the 2017-2018 school year for their next art project, the National PTA Reflections poster contest! This year's theme is "*Within Reach*" and the students will create posters for the contest based on their own personal goals. We are looking forward to a successful, exciting, and creative school year!

EARLY INTERVENTION

Taming and Tolerating Temper Tantrums by Becky L. Spivey, M.Ed.
<http://www.handyhandouts.com/>

A tantrum is an uncontrolled outburst or expression of anger and frustration by a young child caught up in the challenges of the moment. Is there a way to prevent tantrums? Of course not! There is no foolproof way to prevent tantrums, but there are many things parents can do to divert them, even with the youngest children – and giving in isn't one of them! Consider the following:

Be consistent. Establish and stick to daily routines (including nap time and

bedtime) so your child knows exactly what to expect and when.

Set reasonable limits and follow them consistently. Plan errands ahead of time and go when your child isn't likely to be hungry or tired. If you're expecting to have to wait in line, pack a small toy or snack to occupy your child's hands and attention.

Encourage your child to use words. Young children understand many more words than they're able to express. If your child isn't speaking yet or speaking clearly, teach him simple sign language for words such as "I want," "more," "drink," "hurt," and "tired." The easier it is for your child to com-

municate with you, the less likely you are to witness a tantrum.

Beware of the sadness trap. When you comfort your child in the middle of a tantrum, you are reinforcing the bad behavior.

Praise good behavior. Give a hug, extra attention, and always tell your child how proud you are when he or she shares toys, follows directions, etc.

Stay calm and in control. When you're in control, your child feels secure. If you lose your cool or give in to your child's demands, you're teaching your child that tantrums are very effective in getting his way – every time.

PREKINDERGARTEN

Students are adjusting to the routines of their school environment. Please discuss routines with your child, and even practice a few of your own at home. We are encouraging your student to be responsible personal belongings and classroom procedures.

By simply allowing children to help unpack their backpack with you at home, or practicing putting on their own coats, you instill some sense of confidence.

We are enjoying singing, listening to stories, sharing our ideas, and playing with new friends. We have been painting, cutting, gluing and coloring with

markers and crayons, this task helps students recognize and identify colors. Please practice these concepts and skills at home. Try playing games like hunting for colors or "I spy". Games are a great way to review at home.

Our students are very excited to start the new reading program "Big Day". We have been reading a variety of stories and working on letter recognition, starting with the letter "Aa" and moving through the alphabet.

Eureka Math for PreK consists of sorting and counting objects. Continue

this skill at home with items around your house, it is a great way to help your child practice what they learned in school.

Halloween will be upon us before we know it. At school, we will be having a Halloween carnival. PreK students do not dress up for Halloween for safety purposes, but we make sure that the carnival is full of fun for everyone!

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten would like to welcome Alyssa Buck. She is a student teacher from Marywood. Both she and the students are equally excited about learning and teaching.

A new reading series, Journey's from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, is being used to guide us in meeting our curriculum and state standards. The children practice the letters of the alphabet and work on letter sounds. Counting words in sentences, counting syllables in words, listening for and saying rhyming words

have been part of our activities. We listen and work with poems and stories daily.

In math, students have been making observations for the purpose of classification. They are also matching one count to one object. When counting students are working on understanding the number line, and the idea of one greater and one less.

Students have been 'writing' daily in Writers Workshop. Our 'writing' includes detailed pictures and labeling

pictures in order to share what we know. When we write words, we stretch out the sounds and then write the corresponding letters for the sounds heard.



FIRST GRADE

As we begin October, the students have settled into a great morning reading routine. Each morning, the students have the opportunity, to practice phonemic awareness skills such as: blending sounds to create words or segmenting words (breaking a word into individual sounds). They have fun games for practicing their weekly high frequency words. One of their favorites is an activity named, "Cheerleader Call." During the game one student stands at the front of the class with a word in their hand. The head "cheerleader" must say to the others: Give me a Y! **Everyone repeats Y!** Give me an O! **O!** Give me a U! **U!** What

does that spell? **YOU!** Ask your child about some of our fun high frequency word games. I am sure they would love to have you play along with them at home.

Students are having multiple chances throughout the morning to read decodable books. A decodable book is a book which incorporates the high frequency words we are working with daily, as well as, words your child is developing the skills to sound out independently. We have been working to incorporate some of our weekly vocabulary words into our everyday conversations. Hopefully you have been hearing some of these grown up words in conversations at home.

Finally, we have a weekly story and/or a poem which we are using to increase our reading comprehension. We have been working on retelling story events and main idea and supporting details. Please take a few minutes and ask your child about a story they read that day or maybe one of the fun high frequency word games they played. I am sure they would be delighted to share with you.

"Do the difficult things while they are easy and do the great things while they are small. A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step." by Lao Tzu

Our new reading series is entitled *Journeys*. Each week we will send home a "Week at a Glance" that will highlight our main selection, essential question, comprehension target skill and strategies, phonics, grammar, fluency, high frequency words, type of writing, vocabulary and spelling list.

We are very excited to begin our journey of reading with a unit called "Neighborhood Visit". Here are some activities that can be done at home to enhance this unit. See if you and your child can use each target vocabulary

SECOND GRADE

word in a story about a neighbor's new pet. Take a walk around your neighborhood and make a list of interesting things you find. After you walk around your neighborhood, use the list to write a story (small moment writing) about your experience.

"Math may not teach us how to ADD love or SUBTRACT hate but it gives us hope that EVERY PROBLEM has a SOLUTION."

The students have been proficiently working through the Eureka Math program. We have practiced the number bonds, "friends" of ten and the Read, Draw, Write strategy to solve word problems. Take a moment to ask your children what RDW means or name the friends of ten or show you how to do

"Happy Counting". They will be thrilled to share and it will bridge the gap of math communication with them.

Our next unit in our second grade math story involves measurement. The students will measure using first physical centimeter units, understanding in order to get accurate measurement, there must not be any gaps or overlaps between consecutive length units. The students will begin to use the centimeter rulers and meter sticks to measure various objects. After working with creating and using a ruler as a number line, students will solve addition and subtraction word problems using the ruler. Try some measuring at home with your children using centimeters, meters, inches and yards. It's a fun activity that will promote the math skills we will be doing at school.

THIRD GRADE

As we progress into the 2017-18 school year, we would like to share some of our exciting plans for third grade. To start, we are using a new reading series, Journeys. While using this series, students will be utilizing several reading strategies to understand challenging texts. They will write constructed responses using evidence from the text.

In math, the students will be mastering multiplication facts and using the RDW process to respond to math word problems. Ask your child to share how to do the RDW process when solving a problem.

In our writing program, we will be writing personal narratives, informational

books and reports, and persuasive essays. We will also learn cursive writing!

We are so excited to begin this 3rd grade venture together!



FOURTH GRADE

What a wonderful start we have had to the 2017-2018 school year! I think we would all agree that our new reading series is a beautiful addition to the Western Wayne Curriculum. We hope that you have had an opportunity to look through your child's new reading book and preview some of the exciting stories and strategies that we will explore together in fourth grade. Our first unit, "Reaching Out" embraces the idea of helping others. This is a great topic for discussion at dinner or on a family car ride. Fourth grade students need to read nightly for 15 to 30 minutes. Keep track of this in the Reading Log found in Homework Folders.

In writing, students are working on our Realistic Fiction Unit of Study.

In math we have started our first module in our new math series, Eureka Math. Please remember to visit the website www.greatminds.org for terrific tips for parents. Encourage your child to practice multiplication facts for a few minutes each night. Ideas: Learn one new fact a night. Write it repeatedly. Say it aloud repeatedly. Before you know it, you will have mastered all of the facts! Students must master their multiplication facts by the end of the second marking period.

We are engrossed in our first science unit, *Water*. Ask your child about science classes and have him or her share the science

journal with you. Review those challenging science terms! This year in social studies we will be learning all about Pennsylvania. We began with PA's land, water, climate, and resources. In health we are working on the Second Step program, which helps us to make good decisions. We are also learning about internet safety.

Ask your child to see their homework folder each night. Important notices, tests, and assignments will all be in the folder. Please sign and return tests and ask your fourth grade student to empty their folder nightly. Together, we can ensure that your child has a successful year!

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade students are getting ready for a busy and exciting month at Robert D. Wilson Elementary!

Students are enjoying our new reading program, Journeys. Our writing workshop is off to a great start too! Each day, students are

learning strategies that will help them write thoughtful and thorough narratives. In science, students are learning how simple machines help us accomplish huge tasks. They are even getting a chance to build levers and pulleys!

Please remind students to read nightly and complete their reading logs.

We would like to thank all parents and relatives who attended Open House. It was great meeting all of you and we look forward to a great year at RDW!

MRS. ROMANSKI

Autistic Support is off to an exciting start! The students are settling in to their routines and have enjoyed meeting new friends. We are looking forward to some fun fall themed projects as we engage in conversations and expand vocabulary. We encourage you to talk with your child about anything and everything. Let your child know what things are in the world around them. The more connections that are made in casual conversation, the easi-

er it is for each child to understand what new items are and how they work or how they are used.

While in the classroom, your child has a unique program based on their individual strengths and areas of needs. When students learn a new item, we then transfer this item into a "real life" learning situation. You can do this at home as well! A child can learn all about any given item. For example, if you take

your child to the apple orchard this season, explore the different types of apples and their colors. Do a taste test with the apples- are some sweet while others are tart? Cut up an apple and explore the layers-the skin, core, and seeds. Plant an apple seed and see how it sprouts. You and your child can even make applesauce with the apples. All of these are great learning opportunities for your child and a great bonding experience!

TITLE I

We are off to a wonderful start to the school year! I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend the Title I meeting during Open House. For anyone who was unable to attend, the PowerPoint presentation from the Title I meeting is available on the Title I website. In addition to the Open House PowerPoint, the Ti

tle I website includes a variety of useful information, such as upcoming Title I events, information for parents, Title I monthly newsletters, Title I Parent Policies and parent and student resources. To access the site, go to www.westernwayne.org, click on "Departments," then click

on "Title I." I look forward to working with both you and your child during this school year. Remember to read, read, and read some more!

*"Once you learn to read,
you will be forever free." —
Frederick Douglass*