



RDW NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

RDW PTA NEWS

Please join us on April 27, 2017 at 7 pm in the library. We will discuss plans for our annual Discovery Day! This is a fun filled day for all students.

April 4, 2017-skating for grades PreK-2

April 5, 2017- skating for grades 3-5

UPCOMING EVENTS

MS. BOOTH

April is an exciting month in Robert D. Wilson. Ms. Booth will be helping the students and teachers prepare for the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSAs). The PSSAs will be held in April this year, on the dates listed below. All third, fourth, and fifth grade students participate in English Language Arts and Math PSSAs. Fourth grade students participate in Science PSSAs as well. Third and fourth grade will test in the morning, while fifth grade will test in the afternoon. Below is a list of our testing dates:

English Language Arts- April 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th

Math- April 24th, 25th, and 26th

Science (**fourth grade only**)- May 1st and 2nd

A detailed letter was sent home in mid-March containing detailed information about the 2017 PSSAs.

April is also the time of year that the Olweus Bullying Questionnaires are scored and analyzed. The results give Ms. Booth and the rest of the Bully Prevention Coordinating Committee pertinent information on:

- how effective the program is at RDW,
- what types of bullying are still occurring, and
- locations, or “hotspots” where bullying is occurring

The committee uses the information to specialize the program to meet the school’s needs. Since the program started in 2013, every specially targeted area has seen a decrease in reported bullying behavior. Please contact Ms. Booth if you have any questions about the Olweus Bully Prevention Program.

LEARNING SUPPORT

It’s Here!

Schools in Pennsylvania will be administering the standardized Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams. Our advice is the same for PSSAs as it is for all tests: pay attention in class, do your homework, study and when testing time arrives, relax and do your best! In addition, as on all school days, it is always best to get a good night’s sleep and start the day with a healthy breakfast. On test days, throw in a bit of extra positive reinforcement as your child leaves for school as well. Below are some helpful tips to remember during this time.

1. Relax and maintain a positive attitude.
2. Take your time. There is no time limit for these tests. Take the time to check your answers and show your work.
3. Don’t worry about what other students are doing. The tests are not the same.
4. Read the questions carefully, underline or highlight parts of the question or story in the booklet if necessary to help you remember, and understand the passages.

5. Be sure to answer every question. If you don’t know an answer, skip it and come back to it later. Make sure you are marking the correct space and don’t forget to go back and try to answer the questions you skipped.

6. Show all your work, and answer the question even if you only know part of the answer. You get points for each part you have correct. Be sure you show your work on the answer sheet--the test book is not scored.

7. Write legibly. If the person scoring your exam can’t read your answer it may be marked wrong!

8. On multiple choice questions read every option carefully and be sure you are choosing the best answer. If you aren’t sure, cross off any answers you know are not correct, in your test booklet, and try to find the correct answer from the remaining answer choices.

9. For math problems check your work and be sure you copied all numbers correctly.

10. Be sure you answer the question. If they want you to show work, show it. If they want you to explain your answer, explain it. A question may ask you to explain why you did what you did, not just what you did.

When you are done check your answers! Proofread for mistakes and be sure you answered each question completely.

This may seem like a lot of information, but for most of our children, it is a repeat of what they have been told in class. Most of these tips are basic test taking strategies that our children should employ on all tests taken throughout the year. Some are unique to the PSSA format. As always, if you have a question specific to your child, ask their teacher, counselor or administrator for clarification. Good luck! We are sure all of our students will do their personal best!





ABC's of Reading Acquisition: Promoting Literacy Skills at Home

by Lisa Priddy, M.S., CCC-SLP

Super Duper Handy Handouts #63

Parents play an important role in their children's acquisition of pre-reading skills. Parents who read to their children are introducing them to phonemic awareness, letter and sound recognition, and building vocabulary skills. The following is a list of activities designed to promote

Throughout April we will sharpen our alphabetical, numerical and rhyming skills by creating books, reviewing, practicing and using learning games that focus on the mastery of readiness principles. Our phonemic awareness and literacy activities are more involved and comprehensive. Please pay careful attention to the projects we send home. They are intended to help your young learners become proficient readers in kindergarten. As you continue to read daily to your children, focus on the illustrations and how the words of the

EARLY INTERVENTION

literacy skills in the home environment:

Activities for Birth to Three Years

- Read aloud to your child every day! Use varying pitch and intonation during storytelling, (for example, raising your pitch when using baby talk).
- Allow your child to open the book and turn the pages.
- Point to each word as you read aloud. Stress the repeated phrases and encourage your child to fill in the word(s) for the repeated phrases.

For example, "The wheels on the bus go 'round and _____.'"

- Encourage your child to draw pictures. Ask him/her questions about the drawings and have him/her make up a story to go along with the pictures.
- Take advantage of car trips by listening to stories and nursery rhyme songs.



PREKINDERGARTEN

story relate to the pictures.

Earth day will bring with it much discussion about responsibilities and taking care of the world around us. We will have an interactive hands-on lesson about how to recycle various products and teach the students why it is important to recycle.

We will be using Eric Carle's literature to create projects with his work. Most children enjoy Eric Carle's simple text, elaborate illustrations and repetitious style. Eric Carle's story the "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" will be used as our

retelling sample for a writing project.

Please encourage your children to tell you about "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"; ask which other Eric Carle stories they heard at school. This will be a great opportunity to promote discussion and language with your children.

"There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly."
By Richard Buckminster Fuller

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten students are blossoming! The children have developed many reading skills. They can pick up many books, and with patience and encouragement read many familiar sight words and decode unknown words. We encourage everyone to re-read books until it 'sounds like talking'. The smoother the reading is, the easier it will be for your child to understand the story. To further develop comprehension, talk about the story. Talk about the characters, where the story takes place and what might happen on the next page.

The writing abilities that are emerging are wonderful. A family event or an activity that was done at home makes a great writing topic. To extend comprehension of stories read, try writing about various parts of the story. Keep in mind every sentence needs a capital letter, punctuation and spaces between words. Sight words should be spelled correctly and all other words can be sounded out. Have your child stretch out the sounds of the word and then they write as many letters to match the sounds in the words as they can. You will be amazed with their accuracy. If you want to show your child the cor-

rect spelling, write underneath his or her words and explain why you used the letters you used.

We are in our fourth module in math! We are now adding numbers that total up to 10 and subtracting numbers from 10. We compose these numbers or build them using pairs of numbers. We decompose these numbers or break them apart into different pairs. Building and breaking apart numbers helps students understand the relationship between parts and wholes.

Happy Spring!

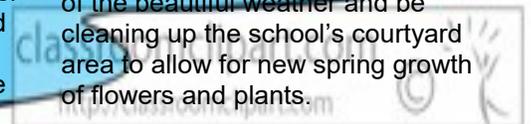
AUTISTIC SUPPORT

The month of April is finally here! With the Easter holiday coming later than usual this year, the students really appreciate the fun activities that are happening in the classroom.

We enjoy decorating Easter eggs and experimenting with color mixing in the process! We also enjoy taking the

classic Easter treat of Marshmallow Peeps and making our own edible playdough with them! This great experiment involves melting the peeps and mixing the melted marshmallow with some powdered sugar and vegetable oil.

April also takes us to the full swing of spring! We will be taking advantage of the beautiful weather and be cleaning up the school's courtyard area to allow for new spring growth of flowers and plants.



FIRST GRADE

As April arrives hopefully we have begun to see all the spring time blooms and warmer weather. The month of April for first grade has brought with it a new type of writing. The students have begun writing persuasive pieces. The students are very capable of expressing their opinion on a given topic, which is wonderful. Now we are learning to write our opinion and also be able to state reasons to support or defend our opinion to others. The students are really enjoying hearing the reasons why their friends choose to like or dislike certain things and then listening to them explain the reasons

why.

In math, we have been working on measurement and data and place value in our next modules. Students have been measuring objects using paper clips and centimeter cubes. They have been comparing the sizes of objects using centimeter blocks too. They have been learning how to collect and interpret data from a graph. Also, during this month, we have been working on place value. They have been working on how to compare numbers and we have also been using pennies and dimes to help us learn this concept.

Reading continues to be a source of pride and excitement for our first graders. The skills we have built since the beginning of the year have opened up a vast number of stories the students can read independently. Please continue to read at home nightly with your child. They are developing definite story and character favorites. Please encourage them to choose stories that they are able to read but also enjoy reading so that we can continue to enhance their reading ability.

SECOND GRADE

“Start loving Math...it gives you every reason to hope that every problem has a solution.”

As second grade moves along with the Eureka Math program, they will be adding and subtracting using number bonds to compose and decompose.

The students will relate one-more, one-less and ten-more, ten-less to addition and subtraction. They will recognize that they must add and subtract like units, and that the digit in the tens place changes

when adding and subtracting a ten, just as the digit in the ones place changes when adding or subtracting a one. Students will be asked to show their thinking when adding and subtracting multiples of tens. Finally, the students will be expected to use all their strategies to solve one and two-step word problems. Some scenarios will allow the students to choose their method while others will specify which strategy to use. The students will be able to solve problems using more than one strategy.

proficient in tackling math problems using the strategies they have learned. They are also doing well with thinking the problem through and explaining the process. We are very proud of their math successes!

Your child has become rather

THIRD GRADE

Congratulations to everyone on the wonderful Science Fair projects! We learned so many interesting things through our own work, and by viewing each other's projects. Everyone should be proud!

We are finishing our fifth reading theme, “Good Neighbors”. The skills we are focusing on include fact and opinion, main idea and details, and compare and contrast. Remember that students should be rereading selection stories the night before the test and

recording it on their reading logs.

Persuasive writing has been our focus in writing class. It was fun to hear each other's persuasive speeches. We had a lot of great ideas and reasons to convince others! Now we are using our persuasive skills to write petitions, editorials, and persuasive letters.

PSSA testing is scheduled this month. This is new for third grade students. They should feel confident that they are prepared for these tests. Students have

completed challenging work in reading, math, and writing to help them build the skills they need to be successful. Parents can help their children by giving them words of encouragement, making sure they get plenty of sleep, starting them off with a good breakfast, and packing a healthy snack. It is normal for students to feel nervous about the test, but if your child seems especially upset, please contact your child's teacher. Together we can help ease your child's worries.

APRIL IS THE MONTH WHEN THE PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL SEASON BEGINS IN THE UNITED STATES.



FOURTH GRADE

How wonderful it is to see the signs of spring around us! Our fourth grade students deserve a great big round of applause for their hard work on the PSSA's. We hope to see continued success throughout the spring.

The Science Fair was another big success! It was so nice to see the creative work of our budding scientists! Thank you parents for your efforts at home with the projects.

Parents, did you know that if your child read 20 minutes five nights a week, he/she will have read 400 minutes in a

month! That's incredible! Please continue to encourage your child to read each night for 15-30 minutes.

In math we are revisiting our Module 5 Fraction Unit. Please look for your child's current problem set coming home in their homework folder. This problem set is a great way to guide your fourth grader through their nightly homework.

Multiplication facts are an essential foundation for continued success in fourth grade math. Please encourage your child to study their multiplication facts nightly. Play flash card games together, challenge each other at dinner time with multiplication

facts, or log on to some kid friendly websites to practice, practice, practice!

Lastly, don't let "Spring Fever" keep our students from completing their nightly homework. Remind them to end the third quarter strong!

FIFTH GRADE

Fifth graders at RDW will take the PSSAs this month. Please encourage them to do their best. Effort is key!

In writing, students will practice forms of writing that we have worked on from the beginning of the year. They will do narrative, informational, and argument writing. In math, we will focus on concepts

such as volume, number patterns, and fractions, while revisiting strategies that we learned throughout the year.

We would like to thank our students for their great work in this year's Science Fair. Each year, our fifth graders remind us how creative and inspiring their projects can be.

Remember that our students will need lots of rest in order to focus on their assessments. Please encourage them to do their best!

TITLE 1

While it is the teacher's job to monitor students' progress in school, parents can do the same with their children at home. We have our page on the Western Wayne website under the Departments tab. The Department you want to look for is Title 1 Reading. Parental involvement enhances academic performance. Academic achievement increases when parents are involved in their children's education. The more intensively involved the parents are, the greater the positive impact on academic achievement. A parent's interest and encouragement in a child's education can affect the child's attitude toward school, classroom conduct, self-esteem, absenteeism, and motivation. If you notice your child is having difficulties, please contact your child's teacher. Staying in touch with your child's teacher can help

to build a good relationship between home and school, as well as to solve problems before they become too large.

Here are some examples of when a parent may want to contact his/her child's teacher:

- If you notice a change in your child's attitude toward school. Your child may have always enjoyed school, but is now reluctant to go. Contact your child's teacher to see if your child is acting the same way at school.
- If you notice that the reading material sent home for homework always seems too easy or too difficult. It's important that children spend most of their reading time with books they **CAN** read. Young readers need practice with decod-

ing words, so if a book is too easy, they miss out on this practice. On the other hand, if a book is too difficult, it's hard for a child to apply what they know to help them figure out words.

- If the teacher writes comments on your child's paper and you're not sure what the comments mean. The teacher may have certain expectations for your child. It's important to know what these expectations are so you can reinforce them at home.

This information was taken from "Reading Rockets," www.ReadingRockets.org.