



Western Wayne School District EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—February 2017



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.

**Words
from the
Principal**

Miss Faliskie

It is hard to believe we are already a little more than halfway through the year. We continue to work so hard every day trying to learn as much as we can. The students are also doing a great job treating each other with respect and kindness.

This month we will be working on a special activity in our room for Valentine's Day. The students love working on crafts and are so creative.

Please remember to continue to send your children with warm coats, hats and gloves. February is a very cold month.

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**Early Childhood
Learning Support**





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!

In math we will be continuing to challenge our students to build on their work with numbers to make sense of and count groups. Children will participate in engaging experiences that help them make critical connections with numbers. You can help your children at home by asking for help with counting during everyday experiences. While cooking say, "I need 9 strawberries. Can you count out the 9 strawberries for me?" Touch and count objects together. During playtime count blocks needed for a building. Have your children line them up and touch and count them. Sing songs that involve counting forward and back. Buy or make sets of numerals. 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.



The kindergarteners enjoyed a new reading theme called **Bug Surprises**. The students listened to **Butterfly**, a story that shows how a caterpillar becomes a beautiful butterfly. The story gave us time to reflect on the caterpillars we watched go through metamorphosis in the autumn. Another story, **Wonderful Worms**, gives very interesting and amazing facts about worms. In still another story, **Look Closer**, the students learned about various insect habitats.



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

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

Kindergarten

The third quarter is now upon us. In reading we recently began our fourth book called, **Time Together**. We have begun 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.

First
Grade





The month of February brings the second graders into a new reading theme entitled, "Imagine That!". In this theme, the children have been reading fantasy and informational stories and have been learning how creativity and imagination help people solve problems and express ideas. The students are continuing to work on improving their reading comprehension as well as their reading fluency. Remember to keep reading every night! Please continue to have your children read for 15 minutes daily.

In math, the students have been working very hard to learn about place value and counting to 1,000. The second graders are currently adding and subtracting within 200 and solving word problems to 100. We are continuing to learn 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 are aware of many of our current events by reading informational articles in our *Scholastic News*. We are having some great discussions! 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 as analyze the material through conversation.



Valentine's Day is always an exciting day where the second graders help the children in Pre-K read and open their valentine cards. The children of all ages love this day!

As always, thank you for your continued support and cooperation!

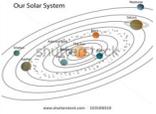
Second
Grade

As the winter season is making its way forward, so are our third graders. We continue to make progress in all our academic areas. Within the past months, students have been very busy learning all they can so that they can take that knowledge and information with them to achieve success on the upcoming PSSA's in April.



In reading, students are learning that storytelling takes many forms and serves many purposes. As they read stories and meet storytellers from around the world, they discover new ways to tell their own stories. This learning will also help students continue to grow in the area of narrative writing. Students will be able to mimic mentor author moves in their own writing.

In math, students are working through the ins and outs of polygons. They will be able to identify, describe, and classify plane figures. Then we will be completing an extensive review of our math skills that we have learned thus far.



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 complete his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes. With PSSA's coming up we feel this reinforcement at home will help them do their best.

Third
Grade

Fourth grade students are great at comprehending stories that are revisited throughout the week with guided repeated readings and discussion. Perhaps there is more listening comprehension than reading comprehension. This exercise, however, is supposed to model and provide practice with skills that students should do independently with unfamiliar passages. At the end of each reading theme students complete assessments to measure student progress in comprehending "cold reads". Students are gradually improving their comprehension. You can help by asking about what your child just read. Unfamiliar words can be discussed. Be sure to include content area reading like science and social studies homework on the reading calendar. Comprehending nonfiction is essential.

In Social Studies, students studied the events leading up to the Revolutionary War. Students continued to study energy in science. To remember the different forms just say, "MRS. G. CHEN". The letters stand for mechanical, radiant, sound, gravitational, chemical, heat, electrical, and nuclear energy! Students also discovered kinetic energy of moving objects and potential energy which is stored. Remember that energy is neither created nor destroyed, it just changes form.



In writing, students are changing their personal opinion writing into persuasive essays. The Introductions and conclusions are stronger and directed toward the reader. Evidence supporting the claim or thesis is more convincing. Conventions make essays more readable for an audience.

Math fact mastery is the key to unlock in depth math thinking. Please review multiplication and division, addition and subtraction facts regularly. Students tackled some pretty intense word problems recently. Refer to the you tube videos to help complete the Eureka Math homework.

Thank you for helping your child practice consistent homework habits.

Fourth
Grade



EverGreen Elementary– February 2017



Fifth graders have recently begun their newest unit in our writing program – Argumentative Writing! Students are arguing whether chocolate milk should or should not be served in the cafeteria at school. The overall goal of this unit is for students to be more persuasive and analytic, weigh evidence, follow lines of logic, and draw evidence-based conclusions. All students have been working extremely hard to improve their writing skills!

Writing has also been incorporated into reading class. Fifth graders are busy analyzing stories and writing responses to Text Dependent Analysis Questions. These questions focus on gathering evidence, knowledge, and insight from what was read.

As always, we are continuing to promote responsibility in our fifth graders in preparation for middle school. It is important that they are completing homework each night. The students are also required to read each night and record what they have read on their reading logs. Please make sure to sign your child’s reading log/social skills calendar at the end of each month. Along with responsibility, we expect our students to be kind to one another. We are encouraging our fifth graders to lead our school to start and sustain a chain reaction of kindness and compassion.



Kindness: Pass it on!



It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the school year! Here is a reminder of the grade level expectations for our first and second grade students:

Grade 1 Grade Level Expectations

Reading: Students will read independently with fluency and accuracy by using decoding skills and sight words. During the second half of the year the students are expected to be reading more independently.

Math: Students will demonstrate number sense and know fact families 1-18.

Science: Students will explore their environment through use of the science lab, greenhouse and other unique surroundings at EverGreen. Topics covered are Air and Weather, Living and Non-Living, and Solids and Liquids.

Social Studies: Students will use Weekly Reader to springboard into topics such as seasons, holidays, and current events.

Writing: Students are expected to write in informational, argumentative, and narrative modes. If a student goes on an approved vacation he/she will need to write an informational piece that will be graded.

Handwriting: There will also be a focus on the proper formation of manuscript letters. The students have a handwriting book as well as daily writing samples that are graded each quarter.

Spelling: Spelling words will come home on Monday and will be tested on Friday. The spelling lists consist of ten words. The first six words will focus on the phonics pattern of the week. The remaining words will consist of two review words and two vocabulary words from the previous week’s list.

Social Skills: Students will keep a monthly social skills calendar in the homework folder that will be filled out daily.

Homework: Students will have homework Monday through Thursday with the exception of reading. Students are required to read nightly for 15-30 minutes. The reading log must be signed nightly.

Grade 2 Grade Level Expectations

Reading: Students will be able to utilize various skills and strategies in order to read both fiction and non-fiction texts with fluency and comprehension.

Math: Students will be able to solve addition and subtraction facts with automaticity. Students will also use various strategies and manipulatives to develop a deep understanding of numbers.

Science: Students will complete units in physical science, ecology, and personal.

Social Studies: Students will be exposed to seasonal events and cultural traditions using various forms of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Writing: Students will practice Narrative, Opinion/Argument, and Informational writing pieces during daily Writing Workshop. At the conclusion of an educational vacation, students will complete an informational paragraph, describing one aspect of their vacation, for a grade.

Handwriting: Students will spend the first two quarters reviewing manuscript. In the third and fourth quarters, the basic strokes of cursive writing will be introduced.

Spelling: Second grade students will have 15 spelling words each week. Students will be able to apply explicitly taught phonics patterns to spell the words correctly. Some of the words are sight words which the students should be able to spell accurately.

Social Skills: All students will be responsible for documenting their daily behavior on the monthly calendar provided in their homework folder.

Homework:

Reading: 15-30 minutes nightly with an adult. In addition, students may be assigned a supplemental practice activity twice weekly.

Math: Students will complete two math assignments weekly, as well as, practice addition and subtraction facts daily.

Grading: Test grades will be averaged. Curriculum-based assessments and benchmark testing data will also be used.



ENROLLMENT

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| Early Intervention | 13 |
| Pre-Kindergarten | 65 |
| Kindergarten | 84 |
| First Grade | 75 |
| Second Grade | 80 |
| Third Grade | 66 |
| Fourth Grade | 97 |
| Fifth Grade | <u>87</u> |
| | 564 |
| Outside Placement | <u>+ 3</u> |
| Total | 567 |

