

Spring



Western Wayne School District  
**EverGreen Elementary**  
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—March 2017



Words From Miss Faliskie, Principal



As we begin the second half of the school year, I want to thank you for supporting us in providing your children with the best education we have to offer by sending your children to school daily. With the high standards that we have, it really is imperative that your children are in school on a daily basis.

To assist you and your children, doctor's appointments should be scheduled after school hours. If an appointment is necessary, your child should be in school for whatever time is possible. Excuses are necessary up to ten days; with medical excuses required for all absences after 10 days. After 4 unlawful absences, a truancy complaint is filed with the magistrate. Student Attendance Improvement Plans (SAIP) are necessary after 10 days of absences. This is to collaborate with you ways to improve attendance by supporting you and your children with the school setting.

Again, we are looking forward to providing your children with the best education we have to offer and this is provided with your children's daily presence. If you have any questions or concerns, you are encouraged to contact the teacher, counselors, or social worker within the school



Sincerely,  
*Miss Faliskie*



Early Childhood Learning Support

It is hard to believe we will be welcoming Spring this month. Easter is early this year too. We will be celebrating this month!



All the students have been working so hard and continue to learn so much. I am so proud of all of them. They have come so far since the start of the school year. They are all such a pleasure to work with.



**Inside this issue:**

Miss Faliskie.....	1
ECLS.....	1
Pre-K.....	2
Kindergarten.....	2
First Grade.....	2
Second Grade.....	3
Third	3
Fourth	3
Fifth Grade.....	4
Title I.....	4
Enrollment.....	4



## Pre-Kindergarten

Will March come in like a lion or lamb? How will it go out? These are two questions that Pre-Kindergarten students will ponder as they observe the weather each day. We will also be conducting science experiments, exploring place value, making tallies, recognizing numerals, and counting on our fingers the Math Way (from left to right). Students will also strengthen their understanding of 1 more and discover ways to deconstruct numbers (10 cubes can be broken up into 8 cubes and 2 cubes).

Letter and numeral identification will be important skills for Kindergarten. Please continue to work with your child on these skills. Try to make practice a fun hands-on time! Use items like clay and playdough to form letters and numbers.

We will be reading several silly Dr. Seuss books that will help to reinforce rhyming. (*Words that sound the same at the middle and end of the word*) Please strengthen rhyming with your children's books incorporate rhyming. Reading, reciting and singing way to help a child get ready to read such as Little Miss Muffet, and Jill. When a child chants a rhyme repeatedly, he develops the ability to hear the distinct sounds that make up words, discern broaden his vocabulary. Try to find opportunities to sing and read acting out some nursery rhymes. It is a fun way to review the



little one at home. Many children's nursery rhymes are an excellent Old Mother Hubbard, and Jack key pre-reading skills such as sound and word patterns and rhymes with your child. Try rhymes!



## Kindergarten

Winter sure has been wild! However, spring is right around the corner. Our kindergarteners are working with lions, lambs, raindrops, umbrellas, rainbows, and kites to help strengthen their reading, phonics, and math skills.

March brings Kindergarten a new reading theme called "Around the Town". This theme is all about different places in a community, and how people join together to help protect one another.

We have three fun stories in this theme. **Shapes**, by Dayle Ann Dobbs, is a review on identifying geometrical shapes. **Bennies Pennies**, by Pat Brisson, helps us make predictions as we read a story. The story titled, **Hello, Goodbye**, by Barbara Shook Hazen, makes us aware of a character's feelings.

In math, the students continue to work on identifying and counting coins. St. Patrick's Day brings shamrocks, leprechauns, and pots of gold to help our kindergarteners practice addition, and counting by fives and tens along with other math skills.

Please continue to practice sight words with your child every night. Don't forget to read every evening and sign your child's reading log. Your support and encouragement are so important for your child's success in school!

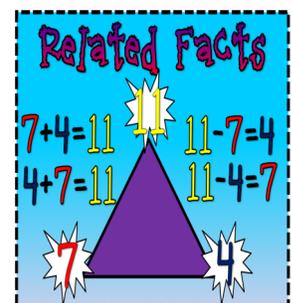
Spring, is almost here but, remember to dress your child appropriately. Hats, gloves, warm coats, snow pants, and boots are still needed for "Wellness".

## 1st Grade

With the spring weather fast approaching, first graders are looking forward to many new and exciting things happening. In reading, we are finishing up our 4<sup>th</sup> book, Time Together. We have been learning about long vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel teams. Please continue to practice these skills with your child at home. Sight words are also very important to your child being a successful reader. We also are continuing to have the students practice their Oral Reading Fluency. Students practice reading a passage and are timed for one minute. The students are checked to see how many words they can read in that time. Students are expected to be able to read 69 words per minute with 98% accuracy by May. Please continue practicing at home.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction facts. We are also continuing to learn about measurement, geometry, and time. Students are preparing for standardized tests they will take in April called "Terra Nova." It is important that your child be in school on time for these days.

Please continue to read with your child for at least 15 minutes each night.





## 2nd Grade

In our reading theme entitled *Imagine That*, the second grade children are learning how imagination and creativity help people solve problems and express ideas. We have learned that if you have an active imagination, surprises are everywhere!

In grammar we have been building on our knowledge of nouns and their different uses in writing. We have looked at how we can use pronouns such as: I, he, she, it and they in the place of proper nouns. We have also been introduced to words that describe a noun's color, size and shape.

Second graders are building their math fluency in two-digit addition and subtraction within 100 and applying that fluency to one and two step word problems within 100. They are also developing and understanding of addition and subtraction of multi-digit numbers within 200. Please continue to have your second grader practice their math facts each night, as this is such a vital component to being able to add two or three digit numbers. We are aiming for automaticity. If you notice your child is counting on their fingers to solve a math fact, try to help them study the facts they are struggling with in isolation.

Our second graders have grown so much, but still have a long way to go. Please continue to have your child read aloud for at least fifteen minutes each night. This will ensure that they are making gains in their oral reading fluency as we aim towards the spring benchmark of 111 word count per minute. Once again, thank you for all you do to make your child a success!

## 3rd Grade

We have been working so hard in third grade that we didn't even stop to notice how quickly our school year has been flying by. Our third graders have persevered through all subjects and are producing such great work.

We have begun our reading theme entitled "Good Neighbors." Students are discovering that people in communities rely on one another for goods and services as well as support. We are taking a close look at the interactions that make communities survive and thrive. In class, we are talking about how our community functions and how we can relate to the characters in the stories that we are reading.

In math, students are working through solving a variety of word problems involving area and perimeter using all four operations. They will be able to reason about composing and decomposing polygons using tangrams. Then we will be completing an extensive review of our math skills that we have learned thus far.

Our Science investigations are now focused on experimenting with water. We are examining the three forms of water. We are also exploring the properties of objects and whether they sink or float when placed in water. The students love acting as scientists performing experiments in our science lab.

As a reminder, we ask that your child continues to complete his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes. Please review all math and reading packets that are sent home with your child to help reiterate what they have learned throughout the year and have practiced during the school day. As always, thank you for what you do at home.

## 4th Grade

Fourth graders began a new reading theme called, Community Ties. In this theme they gained a better understanding of the interactions that bind and strengthen a healthy society all while reading an autobiography, expository nonfiction, and poetry. Students identified text structure, author's purpose, main idea, and sequence. The selections in this theme had a cross curricular application to social studies. The writing workshop dovetailed nicely with social studies, too. Students researched, planned and organized, drafted and published informational teaching books about a historical topic like Pennsylvania's role in the birth of a nation. This facilitated their writing historical, informative essays.

Fourth grade students conducted investigations about the properties of hot, cold, and frozen water, and water vapor. They formed hypotheses, made observations, recorded data, and wrote summaries and conclusions.

Fourth grade math students focused their attention on understanding angle measurement, fractions and mixed numbers. They utilized all their past, memorized math facts to manipulate fractions. Students who do not have math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) memorized were at a disadvantage. Perhaps your student understood the concept but made computation errors. Now is the time to really study the math facts before they fall too far behind. Thanks for your help. A little practice every day goes a long, long way! Congratulations to the many students who have completed both multiplication and division fact mastery already!





## 5th Grade

Spring is around the corner and 5<sup>th</sup> graders couldn't be happier! There is so much to look forward to this time of year.

Fifth grade is in the midst of the reading theme, "School Rules". Selections in this theme include an excerpt from a story about 2 students running for class president, a boy who finds a new name for the word 'pen', and a science fiction story about the future. The science fiction story is about 2 students who find a "book", words printed on paper. Now a days with our Kindles and I Pods this story may soon become nonfiction, instead of science fiction!



PSSA tests will be administered in April. Our fifth grade students are willing to do their best to demonstrate all that they have learned in reading, math and writing throughout their time at EverGreen Elementary.

We are ready to spring into a successful fourth quarter. We thank all parents for the support and encouragement that you have given your children throughout the year. Together we can help our fifth graders "blossom" to be the best that they can be.



## Title I

With the winter DIBELS benchmark behind us, we thought this would be a good time to remind everyone of our Title I local assessments. Local assessments are tests that are given to every student in that particular grade three times per year, once in the fall, winter and spring. These assessments help us to chart the growth of the Title I students over time and also compare them to their peers.

First Grade local assessments consist of the DIBELS Nonsense Word Fluency subtest, the DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency subtest, and a cloze procedure. We use the Nonsense Word Fluency subtest to help us determine the student's ability to decode or sound out unknown words. The Oral Reading Fluency subtest measures the student's number of words read correctly in one minute on a first grade leveled passage. Finally, the cloze procedure is a comprehension assessment. These are based on a story the students have read in their classroom anthology. The test consists of sentences from the story with blank spaces. Students have to pick the correct response for the blank space among three answer choices.

Second grade local assessments are similar in that we use the DIBELS Oral Reading Fluency subtest and a cloze procedure. However, to measure the students' phonics abilities, we use the Elementary Spelling Inventory. This is a spelling test of twenty-five words with various phonics elements.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's Title I teacher. Happy Reading!



## ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	15
Pre-Kindergarten	65
Kindergarten	85
First Grade	75
Second Grade	82
Third Grade	65
Fourth Grade	95
Fifth Grade	<u>86</u>
	568
Outside Placement	<u>+ 4</u>
Total	572