



Western Wayne School District
EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—May, 2017



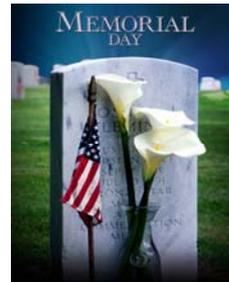
Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Teenagers might be quite interested in the meaning of Memorial Day, and are capable of understanding the sacrifices military people make for our country. Younger children, however, might be frightened if they are told too much information too soon about war and death.

You know your children best, so it is best for you to decide how much detail you provide. For some children, it might be wise to explain Memorial Day simply as a time to say "Thank You" to the people who keep our country safe.

Even if they don't fully understand the holiday, children of all ages can commemorate the day. Here are some ideas for involving them:

- ◆ Decorate the graves of loved ones with flowers and flags
- ◆ Display the U.S. Flag outside your house
- ◆ Participate in community events that honor the holiday
- ◆ Visit your local veterans hospital or Veterans of Foreign War post
- ◆ Read a book about Memorial Day with your children
- ◆ Make a patriotic dessert after dinner
- ◆ Make a patriotic craft with your children
- ◆ Wear Red, White and Blue
- ◆ If you are going to attend a Memorial Day Parade, teach your children to stand and place their hands over their hearts when the flag goes by and stand and clap when veterans march past.



I would like to also wish all of the mothers, a very Happy Mother's Day

Mr. Justin Pidgeon



Early Childhood Learning Support

Can you believe we are in the last full month of school? Where has the time gone?

I am so proud of all your children. They have worked so hard all year. They have made so much progress.

I have some exciting news! Two of my students will be participating in the Special Olympics at Delaware Valley on May 10th. We always have such a wonderful time!



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Pre-Kindergarten

April has flown by! This past month we learned all about springtime, recycling and gardening. We planted flowers which have sprouted and are growing nicely on our windowsills! Ask your child about the sequence of planting. First we made a hole. Second we put in the seeds. Third we covered the seeds. Last we watered the soil and placed the pots in the sunlight for warmth!



As we begin the month of May we are hoping for beautiful spring days! We will continue to be busy taking care of and observing our plants. We will also continue to discuss and practice ways to take care of our environment. Our thoughtful committed students have learned that they can make a difference in their world!

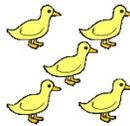
Pre-Kindergarten students will be learning how to take care of themselves as well, as they discover ways to stay fit including healthy eating habits and exercise. Habits learned by our young children will hopefully be carried with them through adulthood where they will make better choices for themselves.

Please continue to work with your child on identifying numbers, shapes, the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they represent. Thank you for your continued support as you work with your children and encourage them to do their personal best!

Kindergarten

Our kindergarten is buzzing with excitement this month! The students have shown so much progress in their reading and math skills, and they are as busy as bees when it comes to work time.

Exploring Our Surroundings is children have enjoyed listening to and Papparone and Come Along Daisy! by



our reading theme this month. Two of the stories the singing along with are Five Little Ducks by Pamela Jane Simmons.

The new sight words from the reading theme are **one** and **little**. The kindergartens are now reading and writing simple words using the vowel **u** (as in bus, tub, cut, run, and rug). They are now making new words by substituting the beginning, middle, or ending sounds.

In math, we will be continuing to work on addition and subtraction facts. Please practice these skills at home.

Now that the weather is getting warmer and your children are spending more time outdoors, we want to remind you to set aside time each evening to read for at least 15 minutes.



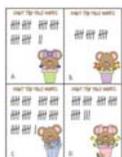
1st Grade

As the end of the school year approaches, there are many things that are going on in first grade. We are continuing to read our reading series book, Going Places. In this book we will learn new vocabulary, as well as new sight words. Please continue to work on your child's sight words every night. This is very important to their reading success. Also, we are getting ready for DIBELS testing. First grade students are expected to read at least 96 sounds and 30 nonsense words, and read 69 words per minute with 98% accuracy. We are continuing to work on these skills each and every day.

In math, we are continuing to practice counting money, tally marks, place to the hour and half hour, and adding two digit numbers. Please keep these skills with your child at home.



value, time reviewing



Thanks for keeping up with the nightly reading. It really does make difference!



Welcome Spring!

2nd Grade

Spring is finally here and we couldn't be happier!

Second grade teachers would like to congratulate the students for doing their personal best during the Terra Nova tests and for all who prepared the students by providing a positive learning environment and encouraging to do their best! Great job second graders!

In reading, we are working in a theme called "Travel Time". Throughout this theme, students are reading both fiction and nonfiction stories about different ways to travel, locating and reading information on a map and making inferences. Remember, a good strategy when reading a nonfiction story is to use the text when discussing information, memorizing is not always the best tool.

In math, students are continuing to build fluency in two-digit addition and subtraction within 100 and applying that fluency to one-and two-step word problems varying types within 100. Students are applying this knowledge by also using manipulatives and math drawings to make sense of problems in which they compose or decompose. Please continue to practice math facts with your child to improve their automaticity and fluency. We continue to practice here at school as well!

Second grade students are continuing to practice cursive handwriting by learning four types of strokes: slant, undercurve, downcurve, and overcurve. The basic strokes are the most important aspect of learning handwriting. Students are learning that good posture is key when writing. The five points are: both feet on the floor, elbows off the edge of the desk, sit back in chair, shoulders slightly forward and proper desk height.



Second grade students

also enjoyed a visit from the "tooth fairy" and learned a lot about healthy hygiene and keeping our teeth clean. Thank you tooth fairy!

3rd Grade



We are extremely proud of our third graders for working extraordinarily hard on the English Language Arts and Mathematics PSSAs. Congratulations to all the students for their enormous efforts throughout the school year! We would also like to thank the families of these amazing students for helping them to prepare by making sure they were at school on time and ready to go!

In Social Studies, our third graders are learning about people and culture. Many communities in our country include people from many different cultures. The stories they tell and the art that they make help shape our country's unique culture.

In Science, we are finishing up our unit on the Solar System. Next, the students will be introduced to sun protection. Students will examine their own skin as they learn about its three layers: epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis. They will also learn about UV rays and their effect on the skin. Through experiments students will study the signs of skin cancer. Students will gain a better understanding of sunscreen and the meaning of Sun Protection Factor (SPF).

As always, our students continue to concentrate on fluency practice. Please make sure your child is reading 15 to 30 minutes daily to ensure they are making gains. Reading a story out loud with your child is a great way to spend quality time. You could also make it a timed game to see who could read the most words in a minute. The End of the Year benchmark for your child is to read at least 123 words correct per minute with a 98% accuracy.



4th Grade



The fourth grade students enjoyed a pep rally to get motivated to do their personal best work on the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). Fourth grade students worked very hard in three areas of testing. They are English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Science. They look forward to seeing all the academic growth they have made in the 2016-17 school year.

In reading, students had fun with figurative language. They experimented with simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, alliteration, hyperbole, and idiom. They also read nonfiction, a tall tale, and realistic fiction in the theme called, "New Lands". There was a cross-curricular application of science and social studies in the theme as well.

Fractions, decimals, and linear, capacity, and time conversions dominated students' math thinking. Eureka Math homework help is on You Tube, check it out!

The students extended their essay writing to include the author's point of view about characters in stories. Students are using a technique called close reading to comprehend the meaning the author intended.

Science is very important in fourth grade, evidenced by the science fair participation. Furthermore, students will embark on their second, science-related, field trip in the spring. Details will follow. Happy spring!





5th Grade

The fifth graders are enjoying the beautiful spring weather, and anticipating all of the fun end-of-year activities to come. We are beginning our final reading theme called “School Rules”. In this theme, students see many ways members of a community are connected. As students read selections about school experiences, they will realize that students in school communities learn not only information from texts, but also practical lessons about life.

Our final Science unit focuses on the dangers of drug and alcohol use. The students will learn about the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse through videos, reading, and role playing situations.

In math, we still have lots to learn before the students get ready to move on to sixth grade. In May we will be covering such topics as ratios, percent, mean, median, mode, and range. We will be calculating elapsed time, and determining the perimeter of regular and irregular figures.

In May we will be celebrating Author’s Day! Students are very excited to share the great writing they have done throughout the year in fifth grade. They are very proud of all of their hard work, and have come a long way as writers. Some of the pieces they will share are narratives, informational, opinion/argument, and memoirs. Prepare to be impressed!!



Title I

The end of the school year is approaching quickly! For the final time this year, your child will bring home his or her report card. As you know, the report card is one of the main ways teachers let parents know about the progress children are making. It’s important to understand how teachers determine report card grades and what to do if you have a question about a grade. Here are a few tips that you can use for this year and for the future:

Every grade level has expectations for each subject. Knowing what those expectations are helps you to understand the basis of the report card grades as well as to reinforce those expectations at home. To find out the grade level expectations for your child, go to the Western Wayne website (www.westernwayne.org). Click on “EverGreen Elementary,” then click on “Grade Level Expectations,” then click on your child’s grade level.

On the report card, student grades are divided into 4 categories: Advanced, Proficient, Basic and Below Basic. There is a range of scores associated with each category. “Advanced” means a child’s average is between 95%-100% in that subject. “Proficient” means a child’s average is between 85%-94%. “Basic” means a child’s average is between 70%-84%, while “Below Basic” means a child’s average is below 70%.

Each grade level has different assessments that are used to measure progress and determine report card grades. Grades for some subject areas are test score averages, while other grades may not be based on test scores, but on some type of activity, project or assessment. For all report card grades, teachers have set criteria to determine if a student’s performance is in the advanced, proficient, basic or below basic range.

The best thing to do if you have a question about your child’s report card is to contact your child’s teacher. Teachers want their students to succeed, so the more communication teachers and parents have, the more it will benefit the children. Enjoy the summer and always keep learning!



ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	17
Pre-Kindergarten	68
Kindergarten	82
First Grade	75
Second Grade	87
Third Grade	67
Fourth Grade	98
Fifth Grade	<u>88</u>
	582
Outside Placement	<u>+ 3</u>
Total	585