

RDW NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

RDW PTA NEWS

May 25, 2017

At 7 pm

PTA meeting in the library

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 2, 2017 - Roller skating for grades PreK-2

May 3, 2017 - Roller skating for grades 3-5

MS. BOOTH

Emotional Intelligence- the Forgotten Skills

We're all familiar with the concept of IQ (Intelligence Quotient), but have you ever heard of EI (Emotional Intelligence)? People who live fulfilling and successful lives are more likely to have a high EI, rather than a high IQ. Here is a breakdown of the skills that contribute to EI:

- **Self-awareness:** Being able to recognize emotions we are experiencing in the moment is the first step towards being able to control or cope with those feelings. *This skill is reviewed and practiced via several guidance lessons with first and second grade students.*
- **Managing emotions:** This includes "the capacity to soothe oneself, to shake off rampant anxiety, gloom, or irritability." *This skill is reviewed with second grade students (dealing with BUG feelings) as well as third grade students (Self-Control, Dealing with Consequences, and Rock vs. Clay Problems).*
- **Motivating oneself:** Internal motivation is the driving force that leads to academic stamina and success. Being able to delay

gratification is an important talent that children must develop.

This skill is reviewed with students in first grade (Personal Best and Perseverance) as well as fifth grade (Got Grit?). This is also one of the seven habits of highly effective people: Put First Things First.

- **Recognizing emotions in others:** Empathy (being able to see others' perspectives) is an essential skill for building relationships, working on a team, and holding leadership roles. This also aligns with one of the seven habits of highly effective people: Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood.
- **Handling Relationships:** Social development is the cornerstone of the School Counseling Program at RDW. These skills are reinforced daily through teachable moments, classroom meetings, and themes integrated into curriculum. Support groups are also available to students who struggle with building meaningful relationships.

All of our students possess a strength in at least one of these five

LEARNING SUPPORT

The warm weather is finally here. As a class, we have been discussing the change in seasons and weather patterns. We will talk about the appropriate clothes to wear during warm weather at school.

The Eureka Math and SRA Reading programs are going great in our classrooms. The children are moving right along in each of their levels. They are also becoming great spellers with the help of the SRA Spelling series.

Our students are working very hard to earn a movie for "Fun Friday." They have been working on their individual goals.

Be sure to check on the proper fit of safety helmets before your child gets on their skateboard, bike or scooter.

Name _____

Add or Subtract?

5	<input type="text"/>	2 = 7
4	<input type="text"/>	5 = 9
8	<input type="text"/>	2 = 6
7	<input type="text"/>	4 = 3
2	<input type="text"/>	3 = 5

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EARLY INTERVENTION

Here are some educational activities that your children can do with plastic Easter eggs:

<http://planningplaytime.com>

Matching Colors – Select a variety of colored eggs, and separate the two sides. Place them all in a basket, bowl, or pile in front of your toddler. Have them choose matching

colored halves and snap them together. Make sure to say each color out loud as your child selects it so they learn each color by name.

Upper and Lowercase Letter Match – Take an Easter egg and split it in half. Using alphabet stickers or a permanent marker, designate one half of the egg as an uppercase letter and the other as the matching lowercase letter. Repeat for the entire alphabet or specific

letters your child needs to practice. Have your preschooler or kindergarten search through the egg halves to find and combine the matching letter sets.

Sequencing Numbers – Using stickers or a permanent marker, number your whole eggs from 1-20. Mix the eggs up in a basket or bowl. Have your child pull the eggs out one at a time and line them up in the correct order.

PREKINDERGARTEN

In May we plan to take a field trip to Wayside Park and the Waymart Fire Station. We are discussing community helpers and their role in society. This field trip will be a great culminating activity to our lessons. We also made our Moms something special for Mother's Day. We hope you love it! Our children are always so proud when they bring something home that they created for the ones they love. We also plan to take a bus ride around Waymart. Prior to the actual bus ride, we will read about, discuss and review bus safety. This is

a big event for our students because it is the beginning of our transition to kindergarten.

We are now using all the concepts we have learned and are putting them together to get ready for kindergarten. Our projects and learning activities will become more involved and the children will need to carefully listen to and follow directions to complete. We are now able to work more independently and confidently. The students have made wonderful progress this year.

Over the summer months, it is very important to reinforce what the children

have learned in Pre-K and to challenge them to use that knowledge. Please read to your child daily. Use the books you read to ask questions, retell and summarize what happened in the stories. Look for letters of the alphabet and numerals throughout the day as a way to review recognition of them. Count, sing, rhyme, play, talk and enjoy a walk with your child. Most of all, "be safe" on bicycles, near the water and on vacation.

KINDERGARTEN

The children have been growing taller and wiser.

Kindergarten children are busy practicing skills, which were introduced throughout the year. By continuing to practice, the children grow more confident in their abilities and work independently with greater ease.

We are 'Leader Readers'. Students can pick up many books, with patience and encouragement, read many familiar sight words, and decode many others. We encourage everyone to re-read books until it "sounds like talking". The smoother the reading is, the easier it will be to understand the sto-

ry. To further develop comprehension, talk about the story. Ask questions before, during, and after reading. Discuss the characters, setting and sequence of events in the story. Have fun with writing and write about various parts of the story.

AUTISTIC SUPPORT

The students in our classroom are really expanding their social skills across all areas. We are practicing independence both in and out of the classroom setting, and encouraging communication to other peers and teachers throughout the school building. To promote independence at home, encourage your child to verbally ask for a desired item rather than

providing everyday items to them. For example, if your child is eating soup for dinner, withdraw the spoon and see if your child can recognize the need for a spoon and request it. This will help expand communication and help your child to recognize the importance of communication.

In the month of May, some of our students will also be participating in the

Special Olympics. The Special Olympics is a great opportunity to highlight their many talents in a variety of areas. The kids LOVE all the activities that the games bring and enjoy conditioning for their races in the weeks prior to the games!



FIRST GRADE

First grade students were treated to a scavenger hunt by the RDW Kindness club. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank them for the hunt. The Kindness Club placed kind words throughout the building and our students had to find the words. After each of the six words were found, students had the opportunity to discuss ways they could incorporate the kind words into their daily life. The Kindness Club students did an amazing job

working with their younger peers.

This month our students enjoyed two very special days! First, they had the opportunity to go to Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center for their field trip. They participated in a program called, "Amazing Adaptations." This program allowed all students to investigate the diversity of the animal kingdom. After their interesting morning of collecting data and classifying animals, the students went and

had a fun picnic lunch with their friends.

The students are looking forward to Discovery Day. Our PTA has a wonderful day of learning planned. This year it is centered around the continents. RDW children will have the opportunity to listen to music, learn about foods, and hear about the many different cultures of the world.



*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,*

SECOND GRADE

"Education...is painful, continual and difficult work to be done in kindness, by watching, by warning,... by praise, but above all -- by example." -- John Ruski

Second grade students have had a tremendously successful school year. Our reading vocabulary and comprehension has developed proficiently, our writing has flourished and our math computation and problem solving skills have improved. Our students have acquired what they need to move on to be productive third graders. Please take some time over the summer to foster their second grade skills. Enjoy our com-

munity and what it has to offer our children. Never take for granted the time to spend with your children, once it's gone it cannot be reclaimed.

Some more math information from our Eureka Math program.....A Story of Units has several key mathematical "models" that will be used throughout our students' elementary years. The place value chart is a graphic organizer that students can use to see the coherence of place value and operations between different units. It enables students to discover the value of each digit in a given number at the concrete level,

as they represent numbers with place value disks or bundles. Use of the place value chart begins in Grade 1 as students learn about tens and ones, and continues through the use of decimals in Grade 5. The place value chart is a flexible tool.

How can you help at home? Continue to ask how many ones, tens and hundreds are in numbers that you and your children come across in daily activities. When possible, encourage your children to explain their mathematical thinking by drawing a diagram or picture that links to their addition and subtraction problems.

From its association with poppies flowering in the spring of 1915 on the battlefields of Belgium, France and Gallipoli this vivid red flower has become synonymous with great loss of life in war.

THIRD GRADE

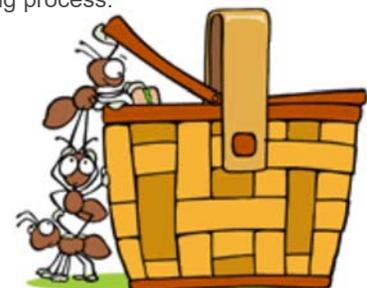
We would like to thank the third graders for all of their hard work and effort on the PSSAs this past month. Also, we would like to thank all of the parents for their continued support of the students.

working on a research report on an animal. They are learning how to research, organize, and present information. We look forward to hearing all their presentations.

The third grade will be traveling to the Lacawac Sanctuary on May 5, 2017 for a program called "Nature Detectives". In science, the students have been

Students will be writing fairy tales of their very own. We ask if you have a favorite fairy tale to share it with your child and then they can share it with us.

Their creativity will shine through in this writing process.



FOURTH GRADE

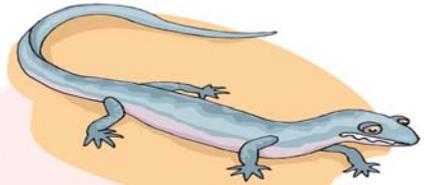
It's the last full month of the year and we can't believe it. We'd like to take the time to thank our students for their hard work on the PSSA's. We are very proud of them. We'd also like to thank the parents for helping to prepare the students and making sure the students were in school on time and ready to go!

With May comes excitement and anticipation. Students will soon be going

on their field trip to the Roebling Bridge. To prepare for the trip, students have been learning new vocabulary, songs that the canal workers use to sing, and lots of other information about canals and rivers.

Even though the year is almost over, and Spring Fever is in the air, we have a few reminders. Please remember to continue encouraging your child to read each night and record their efforts on their fluency logs. Also, please con-

tinue to set high expectations for your child when it comes to doing his/her best at school and at home. Your support and encouragement are invaluable!



FIFTH GRADE

We are very proud of our fifth grade students' efforts on PSSAs. They focused on their tests and worked extremely hard.

May and June are this group's last month as elementary school students. We hope to help make it memorable!

On May 18th, we will travel to Lake Wallenpaupack to visit the Lacawac Sanctuary & Biological Field Station for our field trip.

Visit their website (www.lacawac.org) and look for a permission slip soon!

Students will continue working on their memoirs. They have been writing about themes from their lives and the true meaning behind their personal narratives. Our next health topic is nutrition and students will work on a heat unit in science. We will complete our first year of Eureka math by the beginning of June. This has

been a challenging change in curriculum because we have asked them to look at math in a new light.

Even though we're going to have a fun month, we will continue to learn and get our fifth grade students ready to succeed at Western Wayne Middle School.



TITLE 1

Wow, time flies! The school year is winding down. You will be getting your child's last report card in a few weeks. As you know, our teachers let parents know about the progress their children are making through a quarterly report card. Understanding how teachers determine report card grades and what to do if you have a question about a grade is very important. Here are a few key understandings you can use now and in 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 "Robert D. Wilson 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.

Make sure to contact your child's teacher if you have questions about your child's report card. Teachers want their students to be successful, so let's continue building a bridge of communication between home and school going forward. Enjoy the warm months of summer, and remember to read for 15-30 minutes nightly.