



Western Wayne School District
EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—April 2017



Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

From www.examiner.com

Most local parents of elementary school aged children know that the PSSA's (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment tests) are quickly approaching. This can be a nerve racking time for both children and adults. Parents may not know how to help their child prepare, while kids may become anxious as test taking time nears.

Some ways that parents can calm their own fears include:

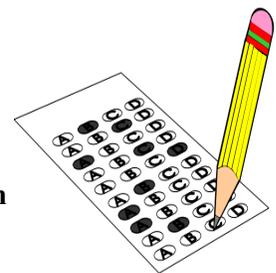
- ⇒ Understand what the PSSA's are: Visit the **Pennsylvania Department of Education** website for an overview, read informational articles on the PSSA or talk to your child's teacher.
- ⇒ Understand what the PSSA's are not: Make sure that the information that you are given is correct. Don't base your understanding on what others have told you. Even parents of other children in your child's class may be misinformed. Always ask your child's teacher if you are in doubt.
- ⇒ Talk to your child: He might not be as scared or anxious as you think he is. Try not to project your test taking anxiety onto him.

Ways that parents can help their child to prepare for the PSSA's include:

- ⇒ Make sure that your child gets a good night sleep.
- ⇒ Create a relaxed home environment.
- ⇒ Serve your child a healthy breakfast. Proper nutrition will greatly help your child's concentration. Don't let him skip breakfast.
- ⇒ Show him that you are already proud of his work as a student. Tell him how smart you know he is. This will help to build his confidence.

More information will be coming home with your child as the PSSA's get nearer.

Mr. Justin Pidgeon



Early Childhood Learning Support

Well Spring is in the air. The birds will be chirping and all the beautiful flowers will be growing once again.

The students continue to work hard. They are learning so much and having fun doing it. It is amazing to see how much progress they have made over the course of the year.

I am very proud of all the children!



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Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-Kindergarten Students had a fantastic month in March of whimsical reading activities as they enjoyed Dr. Seuss' unique rhyming and imaginative characters! He was a master of words, real and imagined. We learned from this exceptional author that letters and words are here, there, and everywhere! When you're driving with your child along a familiar route, read the signs aloud. Name the letters. Talk about the sounds. Make your next trip to the grocery store an interactive one—read the names of food items aloud with your child. Make up new ones, encourage rhyming, and have fun with words!

Make math entertaining as you make a game out of finding numbers while driving or use position and location words to play "I Spy" with your child. Choose a specific object in the room and provide clues such as, "I spy something above the bed," "I spy something below the chair," or "I spy something in front of the basketball."

As we begin the month of April we are very proud of the independence that our Pre-K Students have gained! Please continue to encourage this independence at home as you go about your daily routines.



Now that spring has arrived, we will be thinking about our environment and learning how to care for it. We have a beautiful "green" school that will aide in our learning and help us realize we are all responsible for taking care of the world around us.

Thank you for your continued support as you work with your children and encourage them to do their personal best!

Kindergarten



April is bringing a shower of activity to kindergarten! We are happy to have the wonderful signs of spring around us. Our classrooms are decorated with beautiful sunshine, rainbows, and kites, all of which were created by the students in art class.



In our math lessons this month, the students will be exploring and comparing the length and weight of objects, and ordering objects by length and size. We are continuing to count by 1's, 5's, and 10's to one hundred.

The kindergarteners are blossoming into "Good Readers". Their reading skills are improving each day! The children are segmenting and blending letter sounds in words, and they are learning to identify the vowel sounds in CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

The stories in our reading theme this month are all about "Neighborhood Helpers". Each story will help us learn about jobs that people do and how people can work together. The sight words in these lessons are **for** and **me**.

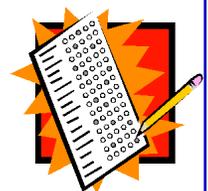
For Earth Day, we plan to renew our respect for our planet by listening to stories and discussing ways we can take care of the Earth.

Please remember to read with your child each day and practice the sight word list in the back of his/her folder.

1st Grade

First
Grade

We are beginning our last reading series book, Going Places. In this unit, we will be working on long vowel patterns. We also are continuing to review all of our short vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel rules. Please continue to work on your sight words nightly, this really helps your child become a better reader. Thanks for keeping up with the nightly reading; it really does make a difference. First grade students will also be taking the Terra Nova tests. Please make sure your child is getting enough rest, eating a great breakfast, and is getting to school on time this week. It is very important that all children do their best on this test.



2nd Grade

Second graders read both fiction and nonfiction stories and finished up the theme called, "Imagine That." In the next theme called, "Neighborhood News," students identified the many jobs performed in different communities. Synonyms and antonyms enriched students' vocabularies. Suffixes and prefixes added to base words gave students opportunities to read and spell multisyllabic words. Please remind your students to pay close attention to the ending of words to increase accuracy in reading.

Students planned, wrote, illustrated, and edited teaching books about topics they knew about. They used a table of contents, diagrams with labels, captions, and fact boxes. Students used domain specific words and explained their meaning in twin sentences. Next, students learned how to write an opinion piece, communicating through letter correspondence. Second graders had some great insights.

Students in math are excited to develop their place value strategies to fluently add and subtract numbers to 100. They are continuing to solve one and two step word problems. They are excited to learn how to add and subtract multi-digit numbers within 200. Students are continuing to practice their fluency each week. Please continue practicing math facts with your child to improve their automaticity and fluency.

Students enjoyed sharing their love for Dr. Seuss books on our parent day. It was a joy having visitors in our classroom. We hope that you enjoyed spending time with your child on this special day.

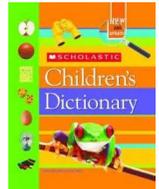
Terra Nova tests are important. Please encourage students to listen to all directions and do their personal best. Most of all, limit screen time, and get enough sleep. We ask that students get to school on time due to our test beginning promptly at 8:00 a.m. We thank you in advance for everything you do for your child during the testing days.

We are looking forward to Earth Day. We can plant a tree to stop soil erosion, create shade, and provide clean air to breathe. Happy Earth Day.

3rd Grade

Spring has finally making its way and our third graders are working vigorously as the PSSAs are upon us. Please give them a pat on the back and tell them to simply do their best.

We would like to send a big thank you out to the Wayne County Community Foundation for generously donating dictionaries to all of our third graders. One of the Board of Directors from the Wayne County Community Foundation, Mr. Mark James, presented the dictionaries and the students couldn't have been more grateful. They are fascinated with the text features and illustrations of the beautiful dictionaries.



In Reading, we continue to make our way through 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 on their multiplication facts as well as learning division. Once a child has mastered the times tables, they begin to gain that foundation in the mathematics field. This is going to benefit them throughout middle school and into high school as well. Please help your child learn their multiplication facts each night.

As always, we continue to concentrate on fluency practice. Please make sure your child is reading 15 to 30 minutes daily to ensure they are making gains. The End of the Year benchmark for your child is to read at least 123 words correct per minute with 98% accuracy.

Your continued support at home does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all you are doing.

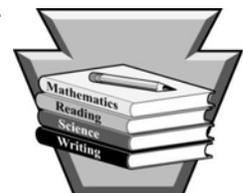
4th Grade

Fourth graders read about characters that traveled to new lands. The characters came to view exploration and discovery with open minds and courageous hearts. Students journeyed with characters in historical and realistic fiction, expository nonfiction, informational narrative, and a tall tale. Fourth graders were challenged to read and understand as the authors intended.

The correct spelling of contractions and homophones took up students' center time. Ask your student if they know the correct usage of your and you're, there, their, and they're, and the difference between where and wear! Students also spelled open syllable words with a long vowel in the first syllable, and closed syllable words with a short vowel in the first syllable. For example, ba/con has an open syllable, and pic/nic has a closed syllable. Keep studying spelling lists by dividing words into syllable parts. Dictionaries, online or in print are great resources for fourth graders!

Fourth grade math students learned to add, subtract, and understand fractions on a number line. Families can view Eureka Math lessons on YouTube. Multiplication facts must be memorized in order to easily reduce fractions to lowest terms and find equivalences.

April is PSSA testing month. PSSA Science testing reaches into May this year. Testing challenges students to persist on tasks. A regular bed time and limited screen time are helpful for students to do their personal best!





5th Grade

Our 5th grade students have been working hard in both reading, writing, and math to prepare for the upcoming testing that will take place in April.

In reading we are working through the theme “School Rules”. Within this theme, students see many ways members of a community are connected. As our students have read and listened to selections about school experiences, they have realized that students in school communities learn not only information from texts, but also practical lessons about life.

In our writing block, we have recently finished our unit on opinion/argument essays. Our students have learned how important it is to research both sides of an argument before forming solid opinions on a topic. This unit taught our student skills and strategies on how to cite evidence in their arguments, not based on personal experiences, but based on informational texts and videos they encountered throughout the research process. As we move forward, the next unit we will be covering is entitled, “Memoirs”. Writing memoirs will encompass both their knowledge of narrative and opinion/argument writing. Students will be prompted to write about “small moments” in their life that carry a specific theme or life lesson.

In math, we are working through Module 4 and also are moving onto important topics in both geometry and measurement that must be covered as we head toward the finish line of PSSA preparation. We cannot stress enough how important automatic knowledge of math facts is to acquiring deep understanding of the skills and strategies being presented throughout the common core standards. Please continue to have your child practice their multiplication and division facts each night for mastery.

As we prepare for testing this month, there are several things you can do for your child to make sure they are prepared each day. Prompt, daily attendance will help ensure your child arrives to school ready to begin testing. Making sure your child has gotten a good night’s rest and eaten a good breakfast is also immensely helpful to their having a successful testing week. We look forward to this week being a positive experience for your child to show all they have gleaned academically over the year. Thank you for all you do!!



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Title I

Just as teachers monitor their students’ progress in school, parents can do the same with their children at home. With the availability of e-mail and school websites, it is easy for teachers and parents to communicate. 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 decoding 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.

Monitoring your child’s progress at home is helpful for many reasons. Your child realizes that what is learned at school is reinforced at home. It also helps you, the parent, to pick up on any difficulties your child may be having. 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.

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



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ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	16
Pre-Kindergarten	67
Kindergarten	84
First Grade	75
Second Grade	85
Third Grade	66
Fourth Grade	98
Fifth Grade	<u>88</u>
	575
Outside Placement	<u>+ 4</u>
Total	579