

Happy Halloween



# Western Wayne School District EverGreen Elementary

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—October 2024

Happy Fall



## Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Building Homework Skills

Ways Parents Can Help

- ◇ **Help your child develop daily study goals** based on homework assignments. A few small goals that your child can attain one by one work better than one large one. This gives children a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction.
- ◇ **Be available.** Younger children need the most help. But all children need to know you are there if they need you. Be on hand to simplify directions or answer questions.
- ◇ **Don't be too helpful.** Remember, it's not your homework. So don't do it for your child. Just advise and give your support.
- ◇ **Foster an "I can do" attitude.** Praise your child for effort when you spot something done well. Say things like: "Somehow learning new words is a snap for you," "I like the way you organized that paper," "Multiplication is easy for you, isn't it?" "Lately, you're finishing everything on time!"

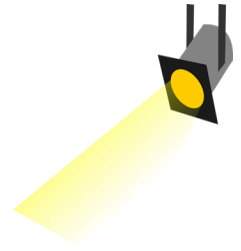
**Mr. Pidgeon**



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## EG Spotlight



**Name: Grace Claus    Grade 3**

Educational Path/College(s): I went to Kean University for Undergraduate School and Wilkes University for Graduate School, and then became a National Board Certified Teacher.

**Years in Education:**

I have been in Education since I was 4 years old, going from grammar school, to high school, to college, to teaching!

**Why I joined the educational field:**

I always knew I wanted to be a teacher. When I was a kid, I loved to play school with my friends. When you are a teacher it is amazing to see how much your students learn throughout the year!

**Favorite:**

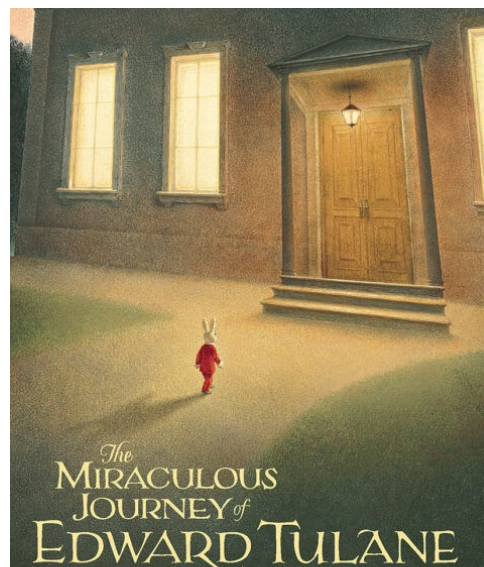
Color – Blues and Greens... the colors of and grass and trees and lakes and oceans and sky!

Book – The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane. It is the story of a China rabbit who meets many people over the course of his adventures and learns a valuable lesson along the way. The book is full of surprises, which makes you want to read on to find out what happens!

Place to visit – Maine... I love to go to the ocean and watch the waves splash on the rocky coast and go to the beach and search for treasures like interesting rocks or unique sea glass.

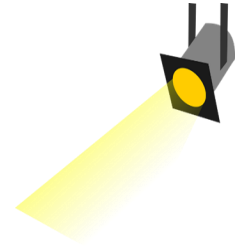
**Interesting fact:**

I am related to S. Claus.





## EG Spotlight



**Name:** Ashley Paciotti

**Years working at Western Wayne:** This is my second year at EverGreen.

**What I enjoy about EverGreen Elementary:**

What I enjoy most about working at EverGreen Elementary School is the opportunity to support students in their learning journey while contributing to a positive school community. I love being part of a team that values education, creativity, and collaboration, and I find it rewarding to see students grow and succeed.

**Favorite:**

Music genre/Singer- Stevie Nicks

Color- Pink

Book- Where the Sidewalk Ends

**Interesting fact about yourself:**

An interesting fact about me is that I went skydiving, and the rush of adrenaline gave me a new perspective on overcoming fear. It's an experience that has stuck with me and inspires me to approach life's challenges with the same sense of adventure.



## ES

What a great start to the year! The students in Mrs. Hughes's and Mrs. Bellush's classes got right back into the swing of things!

We have so many new and exciting learning activities planned. The students have been doing well so far. We cannot wait to see how much our students learn this academic year!



## Pre-Kindergarten

We are so happy to welcome a new group of Western Wayne Wildcats to the pride! The children have settled in nicely and are adjusting to the daily routines. They are learning how to make friends, use manners, and take turns. They are also becoming more independent with tasks such as unpacking/packing backpacks, putting on jackets, buttoning, snapping, and opening containers during meals and snacks.

The students have been listening to stories about starting school. They are becoming great active listeners! They are singing and saying the alphabet. They are also learning to identify their first names and learn the letters that make up their names.

In math, the children are sorting objects and finding attributes that make them the same and different, identifying objects that are used together, and learning about one-to-one correspondence as we count items.

The students are enjoying learning about the variety of learning centers in our classroom. They are taking turns visiting the literacy, math, science, dramatic play, fine motor, library, building, and creativity centers.

Center time is our favorite time of the day!



## Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners were off to a great start at the beginning of this new school year! They have adjusted well to the daily routine of all-day kindergarten and are learning the importance of being respectful and truthful, and how to work and play safely. Active listening and personal best effort are encouraged daily.

In Math we are counting, ordering numbers, and learning to print numerals 0-5. Please continue to practice these skills at home.

The children are excited to expand their reading skills by identifying beginning sounds, rhyming words, and reading sight words. Please reinforce the sight words by looking for them in books you read with your child at home.

Encourage your child to practice printing letters correctly at home. All strokes should be made from top to bottom and left to right. Have your child practice printing his/her name by forming the letters correctly. Remember, ONLY the first letter of a proper name is uppercase.

Thank you for your continued support!

## 1st Grade

We have been working on vowels short a and short i. We will continue to reinforce these vowels as well as learn the “sh” and “ch” sound. Please continue to practice these skills with your children at home; this is very important for them. In reading we are also working on our Sight Words. We practice them daily and please remember to practice them at night. This will help improve your child’s fluency and accuracy while reading.

In math we have been working on counting by 1’s, 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s. We also have started addition concepts. We are teaching our children how to add by counting on, using blocks, or using a number line. Please reinforce these concepts at home with practicing their addition facts with them. We will continue learning addition facts throughout the year.

We wanted to say “Thank You” to the EverGreen PTA for the “Bus Safety Program” and the Local Fire and Rescue Companies for encouraging fire safety at home and in school. We feel this is a great program for children and that they learn a lot.

We are looking forward to seeing you all again at conferences in November!

## 2nd Grade

Welcome Second Grade Families! The children are adjusting to second grade here, and are doing a great job. It is great to see friends both old and new!

Our English Language Arts program is called *Journeys*. The second graders have rigorous weekly spelling, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, grammar, and reading comprehension lessons. This program empowers the students to build their critical-thinking skills and their ability to analyze complex text. As the year progresses, various skills and strategies will be modeled and practiced in various genres. Please have your child read for 20 minutes daily to reinforce the skills that are taught during the school day.

In Math, the children focused developing an understanding of addition and subtraction strategies. The children participated interactive math activities to help the students develop their math fluency. Please help practice addition and subtraction facts nightly. Thank you!

We have been learning and practicing school-wide behavioral expectations that fit the acronym P.R.I.D.E. (P stands for pride, R stands for respect, I stands for integrity, D stands for dedicated, and E stands for extraordinary!)  
Our slogan is, “Don’t hide that Wildcat pride!”

## 3rd Grade

The third graders continue to stroll into Evergreen Elementary with great enthusiasm when starting their school day as the autumn season rolls in.

We are thrilled to explore our reading series. In our 2<sup>nd</sup> reading unit “Look and Listen” students explore ways that people give and receive messages in different ways. The message of the second reading unit is that communication is key. People communicate in different ways: different languages, different words, a sign, our expressions, even sounds.

In math, your child is using fact families to learn division facts. A fact family has one or two multiplication facts and one or two division facts that use the same three numbers. Our third grade students are working hard each day using our Envision Math program. Please be sure to visit the family connections section to help with strategies to reinforce your child’s learning process and for additional support services.

Our third grade authors are working on personal narrative writing. This is a great way for students to express themselves in detail through writing. They are also creating a piece of writing to submit to the PTA Reflections contest. The students have a chance to place amongst their peers and get a medal in the spring. This is always an exciting event.

The students have also been spending some of their time learning the cursive handwriting strokes and working on their lowercase letters. Please encourage your child to practice at home.

In Science, Our Project Lead the Way program has got our students super thrilled! They love the different activities and discussions. Our focus has been on animal life cycles and then we will be plunging into environmental changes.

We continue to ask that you please make sure your child is reading 15-30 minutes and practicing their multiplication facts. These skills are crucial to the success of students. The third grade team thanks you in advance for all of your support.

We can’t hide our Wildcat Pride!



## 4th Grade

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After a well-deserved summer break, the fourth-grade teachers are delighted to welcome their newest classes back to Evergreen Elementary. Students have been especially eager and ready to begin this next chapter. As a reminder, please have your child pack a snack for school, each day. A fun idea is to allow your child to do this every evening or morning before the start of the school day. This will help your child with responsibility and fuel their day for success. In advance, we thank parents for your assistance with this task!

Throughout Unit 1, students read text including: realistic fiction, biographies, and informational text. Students are reminded of sentence structure and common grammar errors (Capitalization and Punctuation) They were exposed to narrative and descriptive writing. Syllable work will continue throughout the year, and continually expand. Our Envision Mathematics curriculum is vibrantly pictured with real-life mathematical problems and solutions. Topics 1 and 2 focused on understanding place value and addition and subtraction with multi-digit whole numbers. Please have your child continually work on multiplication facts as frequently as possible. Fast facts of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are so important in our everyday lives!

In the Sciences, students had rich instruction and discussion on the various types of landforms and geographical locations. Students had the opportunity to research continents and use their knowledge of landforms to create presentations.

In closing, we can't thank you for all your support for your child's education. We are pleased to have your children in our classes and to have the ability to shape their minds every day! Don't hesitate to reach out at any point with questions or concerns.

The Wildcat Way- Success, Nothing Less!

## 5th Grade

Welcome back to a great new school year! Your child's final year of elementary school! The fifth-grade teachers have high expectations for our students this year, and we know they will work hard to reach our goals.

In math, we are working on place value with whole numbers and decimals, and soon we will move to addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals. For both skills, the students need to have mastered their multiplication facts. We are reviewing facts here at school, and students should practice at home nightly.

In science, we have started our first PLTW module, Matter: Properties and Reactions. In this module, students learn about the three states of matter and the properties that make them unique. Students deepen their understanding of matter as they explore the law of conservation of mass. Then they investigate new substances as they examine what happens when substances are mixed together. Students apply this knowledge as they explore mechanical properties and their application to engineering. Students use the design process to design a testing procedure that demonstrates whether a material has the required mechanical properties.

Writing will be a focus all year long! The fifth graders have gotten off to a great start with narrative writing. Each day students are presented with a mini lesson to learn a writing technique then students try to use that new technique in that day's writing. We have seen wonderful, creative writing so far!

Let's make this the best school year yet!

## Title I

Welcome back – we hope everyone had a great start to the school year! Mrs. Daniels and Mrs. Malec are the Title I teachers at the EverGreen School. In addition, we welcome a new addition to our Title I Team-Nicole Rodriguez. Nicole will be the Title I paraprofessional for the 2024-2025 school year.

The Title I Program services students in grades 1-2 who are eligible for additional reading support. If your child qualifies for Title I services, you will be notified by the Title I teachers. For more information about the Title I Reading Program, please check out the Title I website. The website includes a variety of useful information, such as upcoming Title I events, information for parents, Title I monthly newsletters, Title I Parent Policies and parent and student resources.

To access the site, go to [ww3.westernwayne.org](http://ww3.westernwayne.org), click on “Departments,” then click on “Title I.” We look forward to working with parents and students! Happy Reading!



### ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	14
Pre-Kindergarten	56
Kindergarten	80
First Grade	67
Second Grade	75
Third Grade	77
Fourth Grade	66
Fifth Grade	<u>97</u>
	532
Outside Placement	<u>+ 1</u>
Total	533