



Western Wayne School District
EverGreen Elementary
 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—January 2025



Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal
 Happy New Year!

It's no surprise that Reading is the first of the three R's...

Reading is the foundation for success in school—and in life. The ability to read and write is necessary to master every subject and to communicate what is learned. Even more importantly, children who enjoy reading will continue to learn throughout their lives. Reading is one of the most inexpensive and readily available forms of education and entertainment.

You have an important role to play in helping your child become a better reader. You know your child better than anyone else does, so you can help he/she choose books that meet their own special interests. You also want your child to succeed, so offer encouragement and support as you build their love of reading.

Here are a few parent-tested ideas you may want to use to reinforce your child's reading skills at home:

1. **Encourage your child to spend time reading every day.**
 Reading is a skill and it gets better with practice.
2. **Use tried-and-true teacher tips:**
 Stop before the end of the story. Ask your child to predict what she thinks may happen next.
 Ask your child how she might have changed the story.
3. **Invite a "guest reader" to read to your child.**
 You don't have to be the only one to read to and with your child.
 Encourage siblings to read to each other.
 Older kids will love showing off their reading skills to a younger child.
4. **Make sure a book is on your child's reading level.**
 Some educators suggest using the following "rule of thumb":
 Have your child read a page of the book aloud. Have her hold up one finger for each word she does not know. If she holds up four fingers and a thumb before the end of the page, the book is probably too hard for her to read alone.



But it might be a great book to read aloud.

Mr. Pidgeon

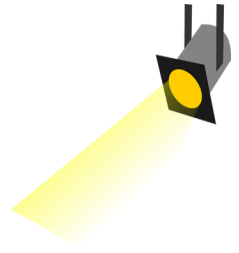
References:
 The Parent Institute

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EG Spotlight



Name: Susan Kotchessa

Educational Path/College(s): East Stroudsburg University

Years in Education: 25

Why I joined the educational field: I enjoyed when I was correcting papers for my First Grade teacher, Miss Golden (Mrs. Parry) I would go on to work on the same Kindergarten Team as Mrs. Parry later in my career.

Favorite:

Food- pierogies

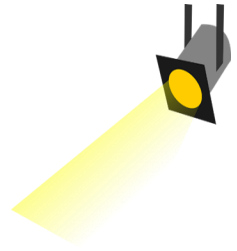
Color-purple

Place to visit - Lancaster





EG Spotlight



Name: Kristin Williams

Educational Path/College(s): Graduate Western Wayne High School,
College Misericordia, BS Health Science and MS Occupational Therapy

Misericordia University: Occupational Therapy Doctorate

Years in Education: 21 years!

Why I joined the educational field: When in high school I was a part of the PYEA (Pennsylvania Youth Education Association) and we would take field trips on half days to either Hamlin Elementary or RDW Elementary. My fondest memories during that time were visiting the classrooms, meeting the kids and meeting the teachers. From then on, I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. When I was looking at a career choice I was guided to go into healthcare. I investigated occupational therapy and thought that would be a fun career choice because I can work with kids and adults across the continuity of care. Several years after I graduated, I was working in home health and crossed paths with one of my old administrators from high school. She suggested I apply for the school-based job here at Western Wayne! I have been here ever since, and I feel so blessed that I get to be an OT in the school. It really is the best of both worlds for me.

Favorite:

Food Buffalo Wings! I love going to Kelly's in Scranton with my husband and kids. Its our favorite place to get wings!

Color Green

Sport(s)/team(s) Our family loves baseball and we really enjoy going to Railriders games.

Interesting fact: I have 3 horses, 3 dogs, 4 cats, 5 chickens and 5 kids! We are a busy household!



ES

The second quarter will be ending in a few weeks. This school year is flying by! The children continue to work so hard on their academics. It is so nice to see all the progress they are making. They are all such a pleasure to work with.

Please remember to send in warm coats, hats, gloves and boots for your children because we will be going outside for wellness as much as possible.

We hope your holiday break was peaceful and restful!



Pre-Kindergarten

The Pre-Kindergarten students are continuing to learn the letters of the alphabet and the sound each letter makes. They are using a variety of independent learning activities at the literacy center to reinforce what they are learning during whole group lessons. The students are also strengthening their phonemic awareness skills. They are rhyming, isolating the first and last sounds in words, blending, segmenting, and adding and deleting beginning sounds.

In math, the students are exploring the numbers nine, ten, and zero. They are arranging and counting objects in a variety of configurations. They are also learning to identify the numerals and are making groups of objects to match each one.

This month the students will use the handwriting strokes they have learned to begin printing their first names, remembering to use an uppercase letter for the first letter only, and lowercase letters for the rest. They are learning to hold their pencils using the correct grip.

Kindergarten

As we welcome the new year, the kindergarteners are busier than ever! Stories about penguins, snowmen, mittens, and snowy weather are being enjoyed this month.

Our students are also reading stories while focusing on fluency. Ask your child to read to you using expression. The more they read the easier it will get.

The children are now developing their listening skills by identifying the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. This listening skill helps them to find the correct letters when they are making new words and word families.

In math, we are continuing to work on counting and printing numbers. Students have been working hard on adding sums to five. The children are exploring subtraction. We are also using patterns to develop fluency in subtraction.

To celebrate Martin Luther King Day, we will listen to his story and learn about his life and his dream for a peaceful world.

We would like to remind everyone to make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for the cold weather.

1st Grade

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday! We are continuing to see great progress in reading and writing. We are expanding our vocabulary and comprehension skills. Students will start to learn long vowel patterns with words and will continue to build on these skills for the rest of the year. Please continue to practice the sight words that are sent home nightly in their Homework Folder. Each quarter the list of words required will increase and we want students to have a strong foundation of these words.

The students are continuing to practice telling time to the hours. They are also working on place value, addition, and subtraction facts, and counting mixed coins. We also will be working on adding three numbers and adding two-digit numbers without regrouping. Please continue working on their addition facts nightly with your child.

2nd Grade

Second graders have been enjoying stories from their reading theme entitled "Tell Me About It!" This theme explores what it means to always be willing to learn something new. We have been reading both fiction and nonfiction texts about animal and human interactions, music, different kinds of schools, special ways to communicate, and personal safety.

Writing has become a daily routine for second grade students through "Writing Workshop". The students have completed "small moments" (narrative stories) and are currently learning how to write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section. They are learning how to write a science lab report and how to stories as well.

In Math, second grade students are working through the different modules and are currently working in Module 4, which is teaching them about how to add two and three digit numbers. Students are working very hard on this and if you can practice this at home that would be great.

Handwriting is a skill used every day, by every student, in every subject. The goal is for every child to write with fluency in a legible manner. Second graders have been learning to use proper strokes, such as, left to right, top to bottom, backward circle, forward circle, slant right and slant left.

Thank you for all you do at home to help with your child's success in learning!

3rd Grade

Happy New Year and welcome back! We are so delighted to have everyone back after the holiday break. We hope that all had an enjoyable holiday and are ready to start another fantastic year!

As we get back into our regular school routine, students will be finishing our third unit, Lesson Learned, of our Journey's reading series. Students will have learned that instead of concentrating on past 'mistakes', they should focus on good things that come about because of past events. By reading about this topic, students will have gained an understanding that people can learn important new lessons from past experiences. Students are also practicing their reading fluency by completing timed readings aloud. This will enable them to see how many words they can read accurately in one minute. We are working on putting our best foot forward when preparing for our winter benchmark so that we can meet our fluency goal.

In math, we have made our way into learning about some of the concepts of geometry. Students will analyze different rectangles and reason about their area. They will also apply the distributive property as a strategy to find the total area of a large rectangle by adding two products.

Our Project Lead the Way science curriculum has been phenomenal! It is bringing us to weather for the remainder of the 2nd quarter and then we will be switching to Social Studies for the 3rd and 4th quarters. Our third graders have been investigating Weather: factors and hazards. In this module, students explore, collect, and classify data related to three factors that affect weather: precipitation, temperature, and wind. They contrast different types of weather hazards, including those in their region. They design a solution that reduces the impact of a flood.

A big goal for our third graders is to become fluent with our multiplication facts. It is very important to study multiplication facts at home. Make it fun with games or flash card races. Don't forget to make use of Moby Max and other learning resources that have been sent home. Lastly, we ask that you check that your child neatly completes his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes nightly.

We would also like to thank all of our families for attending the wonderful holiday music concert put on by our adorable third graders under the guidance of Miss Fornes. Please praise them because they worked hard to do an astonishing job! There is nothing like these special events to create some enjoyable memories for you and your child to reminisce about in years to come.

4th Grade

Nonfiction stories in the reading theme, “Inside Nature,” was an interesting topic for the fourth graders. In this theme, students learned about and applied text features to fables and poetry. They used many graphic organizers to compare/contrast and sequence events within these selections. We ask parents to continue monitoring their child’s sentence structure during homework, especially related to capitalization and punctuation. Students focused on test-taking strategies during benchmark assessments.

Mastery in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division remained to be a focus in mathematics. Additionally, we ask parents to continue skill practice at home for students to be most successful in mathematical thinking. Making homemade flashcards is a great activity for at-home practice, as well as any of the extra resources that have been sent home. Throughout Topic 5 in Envision Math, we focused on using multiple strategies and properties to multiply and divide with 2 digit numbers. The use of rounding, compatible numbers, area models, arrays, and partial products assisted students in preserving and making sense of multiplication/division solutions with 2-digit numbers.

Thank you for your continued home support of your child’s education. As always, don’t hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher with any questions or extra resources you may need!

We wish you a happy and healthy 2025!



5th Grade

Happy New Year! We had a blast in 5th grade ending the 2024 portion of our school year. In writing, we are working on our Opinion Writing Unit. Our students are learning about the importance of researching both sides of a topic before developing an opinion on an issue. We are also learning how influential the words of experts can be when bolstering an argument. It is exciting to see how the students are beginning to apply opinion/argument skills learned throughout our unit to their finished product. We encourage you to ask your student what they decided to write about!

To celebrate the holiday season our students participated in a school-wide sing along and were able to watch a holiday movie in the classroom while enjoying a snack. They also were given a thoughtful gift from our very own EverGreen PTA. Thank you to our PTA for always going above and beyond for our students and teachers!

We are looking forward to setting new goals as we kick off 2025. Please continue to have your child read for 30 minutes each night and practice their multiplication and division facts for mastery. Daily reinforcement of these foundational skills will help your 5th grader as we dive further into the complexities of text-dependent analysis responses and multi-step problems in math.

As always, thank you for all you do on the home-front to make your child successful in school.



Title 1

The Common Core State Standards are the national standards that tell teachers what students are expected to learn in math and language arts. These standards outline expectations that are far different from the expectations of school years ago. Below is a general explanation of the big ideas in the English language arts standards and what parents can do to support these standards at home.

Key Ideas and Details:

The big idea wants your child to read many different kinds of stories carefully. While reading, our child will be working on understanding what is happening in the story, retelling key or important events or things and determining what details are important to the story.

To help with this standard at home, be sure to talk about important parts of the story after reading. For example, what happened in the beginning middle, and end? Also, after reading encourage your child to summarize or retell the story in his/her own words. If you are reading an informational story, ask questions about the information given.

Craft and Structure:

The standards under this big idea focuses on the author’s word choices and why the author chose to use those specific words. These standards also look at how the set-up of varying types of stories like storybooks, poems, plays, and informational stories differ.

To help with this standard at home call attention to the interesting words and phrases the author uses for emphasis. For example, using the word “enormous” instead of “big”. Also point our the phrases the author uses such as “sick as a dog” or “as fast as the wind.” This is also a great time to talk about vocabulary and interesting words. Be sure to point out different features like headings and real photographs in informational stories.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

These standards focus on the students’ ability to compare and contrast detail from stories. In informational texts, students will need to describe important or key ideas using details from the text and tell how two texts on the same topic differ.

At home, talk about how the story illustrations or pictures help the reader better understand the story. Also, try to read different books on the same topic and talk about how the books were alike and different.

Range or Reading and Level of Text Complexity:

To meet these standards teachers will introduce a variety of different books to the children such as poetry, fiction, informational and more. These books will stretch across varying degrees of difficulty to support and extend the students’ reading abilities. The ultimate goal is the students’ understanding of all these different texts.

The best way to help with this is to develop your child’s reading stamina. That means being able to read for longer and longer periods of time. This will also teach your child to persevere or “stick with it.”

Remember if you have any questions regarding these standards please feel free to contact your child’s Title 1 teacher.
Happy Reading !!

(The above information was adapted from Growing Readers by ReadingRockets.org)



ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	15
Pre-Kindergarten	56
Kindergarten	79
First Grade	67
Second Grade	76
Third Grade	77
Fourth Grade	66
Fifth Grade	<u>96</u>
	532
Outside Placement	<u>+ 2</u>
Total	534