

HAPPY  
GROUNDHOG DAY



Western Wayne School District  
**EverGreen Elementary**

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—February 2026



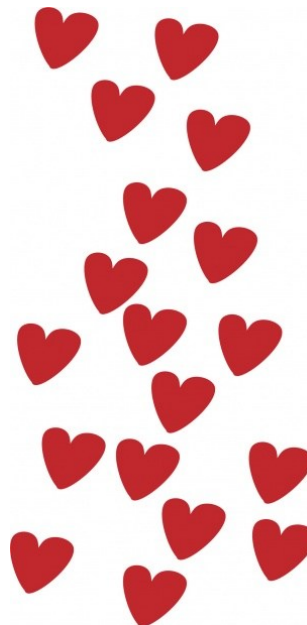
Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Writing Assignment Help

Writing assignments are often part of a student's homework. Here are some ways parents can help their children;

1. **Have your child "talk through"** his ideas on the topic before starting. Clear writing starts with clear thinking. Talking with a parent can help clarify thoughts.
2. **Encourage your child to make notes** before writing. An outline or a writing web are good ways to get organized.
3. **Offer plenty of praise.** Be as specific as you can. For example, you can say, "I really like the way you've described what led up to the \_\_\_\_\_."
4. **Don't over criticize.** Focus first on what your child is trying to say. It's helpful to point out errors now and then, of course. But if your children think you are always looking for what's wrong, they won't want to share their writing with you.
5. **Encourage your child to revise and rewrite.** Experts often say, "There is no such thing as good writing. There's only good *rewriting*." But, let your child do it. Don't rewrite it for them.

*Mr. Pidgeon*



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## ES

It is hard to believe we are already a little more than halfway through the year. We continue to work so hard every day trying to learn as much as we can. It is truly amazing to see the progress all the children have been making. This month the children will be celebrating Valentine's Day.



### Pre-Kindergarten

In Language Arts, the Pre-Kindergarten students are listening to stories about imagination and creativity. They are learning how tools are used to examine, create, and build. They are recognizing that different types of materials can be used to construct things and are learning to appreciate the art that other people create. They will have the opportunity to continue this theme of creativity as they construct a variety of structures in our STEAM center.

In math, the students are exploring the concepts of length, weight, and capacity. They are learning to compare two or more objects. They are identifying the positions first and last. They are also learning to form the numerals zero through five.

This month the students will act as mail carriers as they deliver Valentines to their classmates. They decorated Valentine bags and labeled them with their first names. They will match the names on the Valentines they bring into school to deliver them to the correct classmate.



### Kindergarten

In reading, the kindergarteners enjoyed learning and reading about why it's important to try hard. The students listened to a variety of genres such as fiction, nonfiction, folktales, and plays. They learned that working hard includes trying new things, working together, having perseverance, and setting goals for themselves.

In math, the children are working on simple addition and subtraction problems. We are continuing to count by ones and tens to 100 and are beginning to count by fives. Please practice counting with your child at home!

It's hard to believe that the 100th day of school is here already! On the 100th day, the kindergarteners have lots and lots of practice counting to 100 by ones, fives, and tens. Of course, there is also a special 100th day of school story read in each classroom.

Valentine's Day is so exciting in kindergarten! The children can't wait to open all the Valentine cards in their bags and read to find out who sent each one. Happy Valentine's Day to all!

Please remember to read with your child every night. Also, be sure to have your child practice reading the irregular word list in the Daily Folder.

## 1st Grade

We are officially moving into the third quarter of the school year! This is often the time when we see a "growth spurt" in academic confidence. Our first graders are transitioning from decoding simple words to understanding the nuances of the English language. Your support at home during this pivotal term is invaluable. To move beyond just "sounding out" words, students are practicing deep comprehension strategies: Rereading for understanding, retelling, and story structure: Identifying the Beginning, Middle, and End of a narrative to understand plot progression.

Please continue to practice your child's sight words every evening. Mastery of these "high frequency" words is the fastest way to improve reading speed and confidence. Also, please continue to read 15 minutes every night with your child. Nothing replaces the power of time spent in a book!



## 2nd Grade

In our reading module Everyone Has a Story, children will read and listen to stories about important people. These stories will help children recognize that people's lives are shaped and molded by their experiences. Children will learn that every person has a story and it may be a very fascinating one.

In grammar we have been working places commas in the correct areas. Students are focusing on commas in dates, commas in parts of a letter, commas in a series of nouns, commas in a series of verbs, and using adjectives and adverbs.

Second graders are developing and understanding of measurement. They are learning how to measure using centimeters and inches. Students loved measuring different kinds of objects that they use in their everyday lives. Continue to practice your addition and subtraction facts. Also, remember to keep counting coins, as this is an important skill for third grade.

On Valentine's Day we got to read Valentines from our Second-Grade friends. It is so much fun seeing how kind and wonderful all the children are. They really enjoyed this activity.

Our second graders have grown so much but still have a long way to go. Please continue to have your child read aloud for at least fifteen minutes each night. This will ensure that they are making gains in their fluency and automaticity. We are seeing growth each day and want to see this continue throughout the year.



## 3rd Grade

Just a reminder, "No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn," Hal Borland.

Students are beginning Module 7 in our new reading series entitled, "Make a Difference." Throughout this module students will explore the various ways an individual or group of people can make a difference in their community. We continue to focus on narrative nonfiction and historical fiction as we revisit skills such as author's purpose, text structure, and text and graphic features to better understand unfamiliar texts while we build knowledge about community across genres.

In math, students continue to learn various concepts of fractions. Next, on our agenda we will dive into telling time on an analog clock, including telling elapsed time. We need your help. We encourage you to provide as many real-life, hands-on learning opportunities to see fractions and telling time in action. Help us bridge that home – school connection.

We have begun our journey into our Social Studies lessons for the next two quarters. We have started by discovering that a community is a place where people live, work, and have fun together. Our country is made up of many different kinds of communities. While all communities have many things in common, each one is special in its own unique way.

As a reminder, we ask that your child continues to neatly complete his/her homework each night. If there is a reading comprehension assignment, please remember to have your child respond (when necessary) using complete sentences and highlight / number all textual evidence. Always show all mathematical thinking. Continue to practice multiplication facts daily for fluency and accuracy. Together all things are possible!

## 4th Grade

February's freezing temperatures can't get us down!! We are warm inside and reading great literature! We have met some awesome heroes in our "Heroes" unit. Perseus saved Andromeda and Danae in our Greek Mythological story.

We also read about the heroic and courageous job done by "Smokejumpers" saving our forests from fire. We are currently reading about another hero, Mario Molina, a scientist who has won many awards for his research on global warming!

In math class, 4th graders are becoming fabulous at fractions!! We have learned how to make equivalent fractions and how to add and subtract fractions. Great job!



## 5th Grade

**Math:** Students will finish learning how to multiply fractions. Our next topic will be understanding how to divide fractions. We will focus on applying conceptual understanding of whole-number division to divide unit fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by unit fractions.

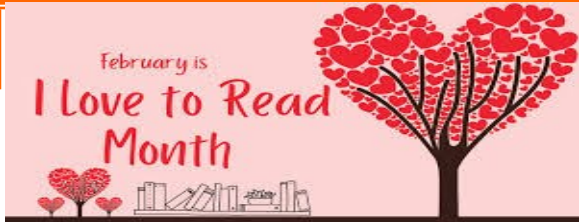
**Reading:** In Reading we are beginning Module 5 entitled, "Project Earth." In this module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media about conservation methods people use, from saving endangered species to growing gardens on rooftops, to protect Earth. As students build vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn that there are many ways to protect the future of our planet.

**Science:** Earth's Water and Interconnected Systems will be the focus of our lessons throughout the middle of February and into March. Students will explore topics such as the water cycle, differences among fresh, salt, and brackish water, and analyze how our behaviors can negatively and positively impact our water sources. The unit will conclude with students designing a mini terrarium.

**Social Studies:** We will begin to study WW1 in social studies! Fifth graders are also busy analyzing informational passages and writing responses to Text Dependent Analysis Questions. These questions focus on gathering evidence, knowledge, and insight from what was read.

As always, we are continuing to promote responsibility in our fifth graders in preparation for middle school. It is important that they are completing their classwork and studying for tests. Along with responsibility, we expect our students to be kind to one another. We are encouraging our fifth graders to act as role models to our younger students by showing kindness and compassion to others.

Title 1



With the winter aimsweb Literacy Benchmark Assessment behind us, we thought this would be a good time to remind everyone of our Title I Local Assessments. Local Assessments are tests that are given to every student in that particular grade three times per year, once in the fall, winter and spring. These assessments help us to chart the growth of the Title I students over time, as well as to compare them to their peers.

Kindergarten Local Assessments consist of the aimsweb Letter Naming Fluency subtest, the aimsweb Phoneme Segmentation subtest and the Heggerty: Phonological Awareness Screener. We use the Letter Naming Fluency subtest to assess the student’s ability to accurately and fluently identify letters. The Phoneme Segmentation subtest assesses the student’s ability to separate spoken words into individual sounds. This directly supports later decoding, spelling, and reading fluency development. Finally, the Heggerty: Phonological Awareness Screener assesses the student’s foundational sounds skill knowledge.

First grade Local Assessments consist of the aimsweb Nonsense Word Fluency subtest, the aimsweb Oral Reading Fluency subtest and selected weekly reading tests. We use the Nonsense

Word Fluency subtest to assess a student’s ability to decode or sound out unknown words. The Oral Reading Fluency subtest measures the number of words a student reads correctly in one minute on a first-grade level passage. Finally, the weekly reading tests are a way to measure a student’s ability to comprehend a grade-level story.

Second Grade Local Assessments also make use of the aimsweb Oral Reading Fluency subtest. To measure students’ phonics skills, we use the Elementary Spelling Inventory. This is a spelling test of 25 words with various phonic elements. To measure student growth in comprehension, we look at each student’s score on the aimsweb Reading Comprehension subtest. For this subtest, a student must independently read various grade-level passages, and answer questions about the passages.

If you have any questions about the Title I Local Assessments, please feel free to contact Mrs. Daniels or Mrs. Palmer, the Title I teachers. Thank you for all you do to help your child with their reading!



Early Intervention	12
Pre-Kindergarten	49
Kindergarten	65
First Grade	88
Second Grade	70
Third Grade	79
Fourth Grade	76
Fifth Grade	<u>67</u>
	506
Outside Placement	<u>+ 2</u>
Total	508

