

Western Wayne School District
EverGreen Elementary
Principal's Report – November 2026



Thanksgiving

A Time to Reflect and Be Thankful

For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four-day weekends, football games, floats, family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. The "first Thanksgiving," however, was neither a feast nor a holiday, but a simple gathering.

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions. Ove the centuries, families added their customs to the Thanksgiving celebrations, preserving that which they held most precious.

- **To gather in unity** – It is refreshing and invigorating when people come together, in celebration of a common purpose. It is a reconciliation of differences as well as a time of healing. In sharing our victories as well as our struggles, we find strength and hope.
- **To teach the young** – In stories retold, each generation brings purpose and significance to the richness of their heritage.
- **To prepare the heart** – In gratitude, we humbly reflect upon all the gifts (family, friends, health) that saturate our lives. By "giving thanks" we choose to extend ourselves and give to others less fortunate. Out of the abundance of our hearts, we are able to offer our resources to help others.

This is a great time to take a moment to reflect and be thankful for what we have (family, friends, health, housing, and food on the table) and think about how we can help others.

There are many families experiencing hard times especially with today's economy. We can take this opportunity to show our children's acts of kindness by doing something to help other families. Donate food to local food drives, church pantries, etc.…

- Donate clothes to local organizations for families in need
- Donate your time and help out at your local soup kitchen, or senior center or any other way you can support and serve your community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do for children.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Mr. Justin Pidgeon





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The students have adjusted well to the daily routine of school and are learning so much.

We are working so hard on our academics. The progress they are making is amazing.

We look forward to meeting with all the parents at Parent Conferences.



Pre-Kindergarten

Autumn is here! The Pre-Kindergarten students have been busy learning about the fall season. They have been observing the trees and colorful leaves outside. They have been singing songs about falling leaves and have learned why leaves change color. Mr. Heath from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources even took us on a nature walk so we could observe the signs of fall.

In Math, the students have been learning how to arrange and count five objects as well as identifying the numerals one through five. They have learned how to count in a straight line, in a circle, and in an array. They are exploring the concepts of one more and one less.

The children have been working very hard beginning to learn the letters and the letter sounds. They have made unique pages for each letter they have learned about so far compiled into an Alphabet Binder. This binder is a great resource to practice letters and sounds at home.

Kindergarten

The kindergarteners have been busy with a bounty of activities this month! We have Thanksgiving in mind. The students have been learning about the very first Thanksgiving and what life was like for the Pilgrim families.

In reading, the children are learning to understand story elements such as characters, setting, and plot as they explore the essential question: What makes each of us special? Through read-aloud and discussions, they identify the problems and solutions in stories, helping them see how characters face challenges and overcome them in unique ways. These lessons help students recognize their own special qualities while building foundational reading skills.

We are concentrating on listening for letter sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words. We also blend letters together to make words such as nap, tap, and map. Remember to keep your child reading daily and fill out the reading calendar in the Daily Folder.

In math, the kindergarteners are learning to write, identify, compare, and count groups from zero to 10. Continue working on recognizing numbers and counting to 100. Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!





First Grade

Your 1st Grade Teachers wanted to use this space to provide a specific, heartfelt update on the incredible learning and growth happening right now in our classrooms. November is a wonderful time to pause and reflect on all we are thankful for, and we are so grateful for your partnership!

We are falling into our reading series. We have been working on phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills that are essential for reading success. On your part, it is extremely important to take the time to listen to your child read nightly. Please continue to review all Sight Words, as well as weekly spelling lists.

Tip for Home: Ask your child to point out the main characters and the setting when you read a book together.

First graders continue to expand their math skills daily. They continue to distinguish coins, identify shapes, write numbers to 100, interpret graphs, and memorize addition facts. We cannot stress enough, the importance of practicing addition facts to 10, and counting by 1's, 2's, 5's, 10's, and 25's.

We are so excited about our upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences! November is a fantastic time to pause, reflect on the incredible growth your child has made since September, and collaboratively plan for the rest of the year. The conferences are a wonderful chance for us to discuss your children's journey so far celebrating their successes in reading and math, and working together to set achievable, exciting goals for the months ahead. It truly takes a team to support these energetic learners, and your insights are invaluable.

November is all about gratitude, and we are integrating this theme into our classroom community. We are focusing on what it means to be a good friend and how to show kindness through our words and actions. We encourage students to express what they are thankful for, not just around the holiday, but every day.

Second Grade



Our students are working very hard in Reading this month. Students are focusing on how a story is structured, creating mental images in their brains, and author's purpose. Students really enjoyed reading different traditional tales throughout this module. In phonics students are focusing on suffixes being added to the end of root words.

In Math, second graders are working hard at adding two-digit numbers. Students are encouraged to "stack" the numbers up and down to add. They have been practicing daily and are working hard at mastering this skill.

In Science, we are continuing with our PLTW modules. Students began their science experiments with learning about properties of matter. Students focused on learning about different types of matter, conductors and insulators, and then created a project to "Save the Ice Pop from melting. Students needed to work together in a group and listen to other ideas to create a successful model.

We would like to continue to remind everyone to read each night for at least 15 minutes. Read a variety of types of stories including fiction, non-fiction, fables, and fairytales. Students benefit from all different types of stories and will be using the strategies and skills they are being taught in school. We want to wish everyone a great holiday season!

Third Grade



Continued focus and emphasis has been made in reviewing our school and grade level PRIDE expectations for classrooms, hallways, lavatories, the cafeteria, and on the playground.

We are beginning our fourth module in our new reading series entitled, "Stories on Stage." Students will be exploring and viewing a variety of texts which include features of dramas. As we learn the various elements of dramas, students will grow their vocabulary and synthesize the topic, while also learning the value of drama and key differences between stories and plays.

In our Envision math series, we are preparing to further adventure into algebraic concepts using multiplication. We will also be applying the properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide in the not-so-distant future. Fluency continues to be a priority with our multiplication facts. Please continue to provide repeated real-life practice opportunities at home. Prior to this adventure we will begin to explore rounding to the nearest 10 and 100, not to mention addition with regrouping, and subtraction with regrouping.

We concluded our science module on "Life Cycles and Survival" and have begun our exploration of "Environmental Changes."

Thank you for your continued efforts and support for your child's education. Together all things are possible!



Fourth Grade

Happy Fall! This month in Math students' have been learning a variety of Multiplication strategies, such as, Partial Products, Area Models, and Standard Algorithm. The students have been solving Multiplication problems by using the strategy that they feel confident using. It is crucial for students to continue practicing towards mastering their multiplication facts.

In Module 2, "Come to Your Senses," students have been learning how people and animals use their senses to navigate the world. They explored how the five senses—sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch—help people and animals understand what is happening around them. Students have also been practicing how to write a summary by identifying the main idea and important details. In addition, they have been learning new vocabulary words to strengthen their reading comprehension and writing skills.

In Social Studies, students learned primary and secondary sources, cause and effect, and continue to learn about the Northeast Region.

The children have been decoding multisyllable words, determining the meaning of prefixes and suffixes and how they change the meaning of the entire word.

Conferences are on November 24, 2026, from 1pm to 8pm, hope to see you there!

Fifth Grade

As we move into November, our fifth graders are diving into exciting new learning across all subject areas!

In reading we will be starting Module 3 entitled, "Natural Disasters." Our essential question is "How can learning about natural disasters make us safer?" In this module, students will listen to, read, and view a variety of texts and media that present them with information on natural disasters. As students build their vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge, they will learn about the causes of different types of natural disasters.

In science, we will be starting our Ecosystems: Flow of Matter and Energy unit. Topics will include photosynthesis, Food Webs (producers and consumers), Ecosystems (abiotic and biotic factors), and the Water Cycle.

This month's focus in social studies is on Westward Expansion, the Transcontinental Railroad, and the Panama Canal. Students will learn how these developments helped shape and connect our growing nation.

In math we will be working on multiplying decimals and will begin division. Reviewing multiplication facts at home is a great way to strengthen foundational skills and support success in math.

We wish all of our families a wonderful Thanksgiving!



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, Google Meets 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 is important that children spend most of their reading time with books they CAN read. Young readers need practice 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 is 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 are not sure what the comments mean. The teacher may have certain expectations for your child. It is 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.

Enrollment

EI	09
Pre-k	54
Kindergarten	58
1st grade	65
2nd grade	80
3rd grade	67
4th grade	80
5th grade	71
Outside Placement	06
Total	490

