



# Western Wayne School District Principal's Report

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—March 2024



## Words From Mr. Pidgeon, Principal

Do you want to spend time with your children, build their reading skills, and help them to love books? You can do all these and more when you read aloud to them. Here are a few suggestions.

### Read regularly:

Part of your child's nightly homework is to read. Try to read to your child or have them read to you every day.

- ⇒ You might aim for 10-15 minutes of bedtime reading for a peaceful end to the day.
- ⇒ Bring along a book, and read to them during a sibling's sports practice.
- ⇒ Curl up together with a book when you get home from work.



### Let them participate:

Ask your child to turn the pages while you read. Also, let them finish sentences that rhyme or fill in words that they know. Go slowly so they have time to understand the story and look at the illustrations. They will enjoy read-aloud time more if they play an active role.

### Be playful:

You can use different voices for different characters (a high, squeaky voice for a mouse or a deep voice for a horse). Your child will love it when you read aloud with them because it's your time together.

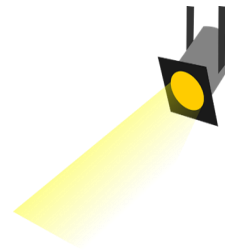
*Mr. Pidgeon*



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## EG Spotlight



**Name:** Tamara Dobrzyn, MS CCC-SLP/L

**Educational Path/College(s):** Speech-Language Pathology with minor in Education

**Years in Education:** 25 years

**Why I joined the educational field:** I have always enjoyed working with children. My plan when I graduated was to work with children with autism. When I first graduated from college, I worked in a pre-school and I loved it. But, I had to go back to school to get my Master's degree. I went back to school for my Master's degree after 2 years in a pre-school. When I graduated with my Master's degree, I started working with adults in nursing homes. I missed working with children. 10 years later, I started working in schools again. I started at Delaware Valley and then came to Western Wayne School District.

**Favorite:**

Music genre/Singer – Elton John

Ice Cream – mint chocolate chip

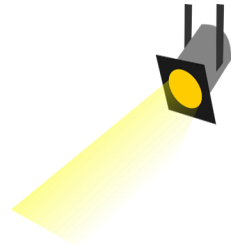
Place to visit – any place I can take my camera to take photos.

**Interesting fact:** I love photography! I have been taking photos as long as I can remember. My favorite subjects are flowers, birds, bugs, and wildlife. I am retiring this year and my plan is to travel and take as many photos as possible!





## EG Spotlight



My name is Christine Chesney and I have worked at Western Wayne for 8 years.

What I enjoy about EverGreen Elementary:

Not only do I love working with the children and helping them reach their goals, but the staff at EverGreen are truly amazing! I look forward to coming to work each day!

My favorite:

Music- all types, especially music you can dance to.

Food- Hibachi

Color- Hunter Green

Interesting fact: I like to decorate my home with artwork that I've done at paint nights.



## ES

We have all been working so hard in preparation for the PSSAs next month. We are ready!



The end of the third quarter should be the end of this month. Hard to believe the end of the school year is near!

## Pre-Kindergarten

This month in Language Arts, the Pre-Kindergarten students will be learning about growing up healthy. They will listen to stories about using their five senses, taking care of themselves, eating well, and staying safe. They will also enjoy the unique style of Dr. Seuss as they listen to his imaginative stories and learn about rhyme. They are continuing to learn about the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they represent.

In math, the students will begin to learn about the concepts of addition and subtraction. They will use real objects and drawings to solve simple story problems.

The students will continue to practice printing their first names. They have improved at this skill as they have worked diligently to hold their pencils correctly, print from top to bottom, and left to right as they form the letters. They will be learning how to form the numerals zero through five as well.

As we look forward to spring, the students will be learning about the life cycle of plants. They will plant marigold seeds and watch their development on our sunny windowsills. They will watch for sprouts, stems, seed leaves, marigold leaves, buds, and flowers.



## Kindergarten

Winter sure has been wild! However, spring is right around the corner. Our kindergarteners are working with lions, lambs, raindrops, umbrellas, rainbows, and kites to help strengthen their reading, phonics, and math skills.

March brings Kindergarten a new reading theme. The stories in this theme will teach the children how to grow plants and how to get food from plants.

In math, the students continue to work on sharpening their skills. St. Patrick's Day brings shamrocks, leprechauns, and pots of gold to help our kindergarteners practice addition and subtraction and counting by fives and tens along with other math skills.

Please continue to practice sight words with your child every night. Don't forget to read every evening and sign your child's reading log. Your support and encouragement are so important for your child's success in school!

Spring, is almost here but, remember to dress your child appropriately. Hats, gloves, warm coats, snow pants, and boots are still needed for "Wellness".



## 1st Grade



With the spring weather fast approaching, first graders are looking forward to many new and exciting things happening. In reading, we are finishing up the 5<sup>th</sup> book in the reading series. We have been learning about long vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel teams. Please continue to practice these skills with your child at home. Sight words are also very important to your child being a successful reader. We also are continuing to have the students practice their Oral Reading Fluency. Please continue practicing at home.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction facts. We are also continuing to learn about measurement, geometry, and time.

Please continue to read with your child for at least 15 minutes each night.

## 2nd Grade

In our reading theme entitled Heroes and Helpers, we are learning about courage, and when we have courage, we believe that we can be brave and face something even if we are afraid. How helping others make you feel good. Why it is important to keep trying even if something is difficult to do. Why reading and writing are important, AND...what makes someone a hero.

In grammar we have been building on our knowledge of nouns and their different uses in writing. We have looked at how we can use pronouns such as, I, he, she, it and they in the place of proper nouns. We have also been introduced the verb be.

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 they use in their every day lives. Continue to practice your addition and subtraction facts. Also, remember to keep counting coins, as this is an important skill for 3rd grade.

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 15 minutes each night. This will ensure 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

We have been persistently working on all of our social and academic responsibilities that we did not even stop to notice how quickly our school year has been flying by. Our third graders have persevered through all subjects and are generating such astonishing work. We are so proud of our extraordinary students.

We have begun our next reading unit titled "Going Places." Students are discovering that people as well as things are going places and making changes. We are taking a close look at the interactions that take place when journeys are made. In class, we are talking about how people and animals can prepare for long trips.

In math, students are working through solving a variety of real-life word problems involving area and perimeter using all four mathematic operations. They will be able to reason about composing and decomposing polygons using tangrams. Then we will be completing an extensive review of our math skills that we have learned thus far.

Our journey through our new Project Lead the Way science program has been phenomenal! 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 weather and climate, relying on the three factors in their descriptions. Students explore different types of weather hazards, including those in their region. They design a solution that reduces the impact of a flood.

As a reminder, we ask that your child continues to complete his/her homework each night, along with reading 15-30 minutes. Please review all math and reading packets that are sent home with your child to help reiterate what they have learned throughout the year and have practiced during the school day.

As always, thank you for what you do at home.

## 4th Grade

Fourth graders began a new reading unit called, Unbreakable Spirit. In this theme, they identified character traits in historical fiction, experienced memorable characters in myths and folk tales, and drew conclusions in sequential informational texts. Throughout the unit, we also focused on text dependent analysis, which will also be seen on PSSA's.

In science, students drove instruction based on the different and sometimes unique structures of a plant, animal, or human system. Students learned about how organisms live and thrive in their own environments. The scientific inquiry process was used to investigate the function and structures of those systems. Students explored how structures allow for function in the various systems. Finally, students created their own engineering/design process to create a prosthetic for an injured animal based on the specific injury.

In mathematics, students focused on understanding addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators and mixed numbers. Fact mastery is key to success. If you should need any resources to assist your child at home, please contact your child's teacher.

As always, thank you for your continued support to your child's education. Congratulations to the many students who have completed addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division fact mastery already!



## 5th Grade

We welcome March, and hope to leave the cold weather behind us and look forward to milder temperatures and signs of spring!

5<sup>th</sup> graders have spent the winter months becoming fabulous at fractions! We can now successfully add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers. With a lot of hard work and tons of practice, we accomplished our goal of tackling fractions and have done fabulously!

In ELA, we just completed Unit 4 called "The Power of Storytelling". The unique and interesting characters we met along the way sparked our imaginations and led to some fun and creative projects. We sharpened our reading skills by examining story structure elements such as character study, plot, and author's purpose.

Our science units have been so exciting this quarter! We have been studying The Flow of Matter and Energy by studying Ecosystems of the world. We even designed our own balanced Ecosystems!

Informational writing was the focus this quarter, and each student chose an animal or a famous historical figure as the focus of their biography project. Students spent time researching their chosen subject, note taking, organizing their ideas, and finally writing an informational/biographical essay to present to their classmates.

It was a lot of fun and so informative to learn all about unique animals and some of the men and women who had a part in shaping our world.

## Title 1

As we progress through the school year, children's motivation for school and homework sometimes dwindles. Here are a few tips that can sustain children's motivation levels:

1. Show children how to set goals. Keep the goals small, reasonable, and attainable. Possible goals can be reading a book or learning math facts. Once the goal is attained, celebrate it. This will motivate children to keep trying.
2. Talk about schoolwork everyday, but be specific. Instead of saying, "What did you do at school today?" ask, "What are you working on in math?"
3. Show your child how to break bigger tasks into smaller ones. For example, if your child comes home feeling overwhelmed because s/he has homework in 3 or 4 subjects you can say something like, "Let's start with reading, because that will take the longest. Then after supper, we can work on math and spelling." This makes the task seem possible to accomplish.
4. Teach your child to be positive about work that has to be done. Instead of saying, "I can't do this," teach your child to say, "Let me try this."
5. Give your child the gift of your time. Although our lives are very busy, spending positive time with your child is a great motivator. Sometimes children act out in order to get attention; giving attention for positive behavior will be far more effective than giving attention only for negative behavior.

\*These tips are taken from the brochure "Parents Can Motivate Children...and Help Them Do Better in School," published by The Parent Institute.



### ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	16
Pre-Kindergarten	67
Kindergarten	70
First Grade	77
Second Grade	82
Third Grade	67
Fourth Grade	96
Fifth Grade	<u>83</u>
	558
Outside Placement	<u>+ 0</u>
Total	558