



Western Wayne School District
Principal's Report
 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—March 2025



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

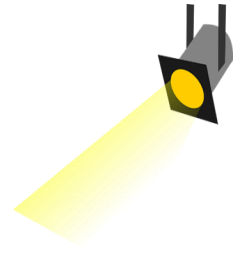


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EG Spotlight



Name: Kristin Johnson, School Psychologist

Educational Path/College(s): Iowa State University, University of Nebraska

Years in Education: 30 years

Why I joined the educational field: I love working with children, especially those with special needs. I enjoy the problem-solving nature of special education.

Favorite:

Ice Cream: Chocolate Chip

Sport/Team: Iowa State Cyclones

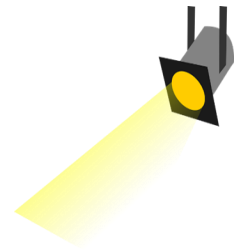
Place to Visit: I enjoy hiking in the mountains

Interesting fact: I've belonged to the same book club for 22 years!





EG Spotlight



Name: Carmela Kelly

Years working at Western Wayne: 11 Years

What I enjoy about EverGreen Elementary: I enjoy Evergreen Elementary for the colleagues/friends, they make the day-to-day craziness so much more pleasant with their kindness and with much laughter. I love the fact that we all have such an amazing impact on these students lives.

Favorite:

Music genre/Singer I love all types of music, but my heart is with Rock n Roll.

Color I love blue.

Place to visit Beach towns are my favorite, very laid back and relaxing.

Interesting fact about yourself: I love spending time with my family and friends, doing nothing to going on different adventures, they are my rock.



ES

What a year it has been so far! We have all been working so hard in preparation for the PSSA's next month. WE ARE READY!



The end of the third quarter should be the end of this month.

Wow, this year is flying by!!!!

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 five 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, glove, 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 5th 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. What 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 to 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 that 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.

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 15 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

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 learning thus far.

In Social Studies, we will continue our study of different communities and their histories. The children will be reading about early communities. They will learn about how our country didn't start out as independent and how our country was formed. Our students love comparing and contrasting how things long ago to how they are now.

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 types of waves. Waves were used to predict results and solve problems, such as detecting earthquakes or improving medical imaging. Light's properties allow people to see by reflecting off objects and being processed by the eyes. Patterns helped students understand the world by revealing trends and making predictions. A step-by-step process improved solutions by testing and refining ideas for better results. Students used simulations to assist in their predictions and observations.

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!

5th 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 as 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 for only negative behavior.

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



ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	16
Pre-Kindergarten	56
Kindergarten	80
First Grade	68
Second Grade	77
Third Grade	78
Fourth Grade	67
Fifth Grade	<u>97</u>
	539
Outside Placement	<u>+ 2</u>
Total	541