



**Western Wayne School District**  
**EverGreen Elementary**  
 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT—November 2024



## 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. Over 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 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 todays economy. We can take this opportunity to show our children 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 that you can support and serve your community



## Words from the Principal

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**

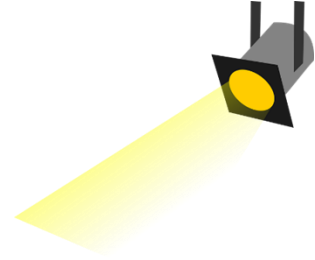
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## EG Spotlight



Name: Julie Conklin

Educational Path/College(s): The Pennsylvania State University and Marywood University

Years in Education: 15

Why I joined the educational field: I chose to join the educational field because I want to teach children to communicate clearly and enjoy learning while having fun.

Favorite):

Music genre/Singer: Classic rock

Food: Pizza

Sport(s)/team(s): Penn State Football



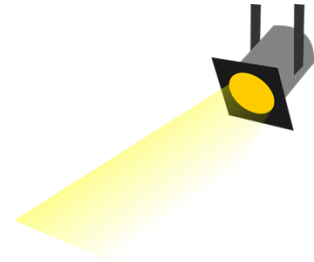
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Interesting fact: I enjoy gardening and growing vegetables in the summer.





## EG Spotlight



**Name:** Hannah Fornes

**Educational Path/College(s):** Bachelor of Science in Music Education and Masters of the Arts in Music Education from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania

**Years in Education:** 7

**Why I joined the educational field:** I love working with kids and I wanted to have the opportunity to share my love of music with them, as they are the future of the world.

**Favorite:**

Music genre/Singer: Musical Theater/Broadway

Color: Purple

Place to visit: Disney World

**Interesting fact:** When I grow up (retire), I want to be a greater and performer on Main Street at Walt Disney World in Florida! I also have a 3-year-old miniature golden doodle named Maisey!





## ES

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.

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 have been learning to make predictions as they listen to a story. We are discussing important details as we read and focusing on following the sequence of events in a story.

We are concentrating on listening for letter sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words. We are also blending 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 exploring addition problems. Continue working on recognizing numbers and counting to 100.

Have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!







## First Grade

With autumn upon us, it's hard to believe we are in the middle of the second book in the Journeys reading series. Students have been developing phonemic awareness, 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.

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

Thank you for caring about your child's education. We hope you have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving Holiday.



## Second Grade

In a reading unit called, "Nature Watch", students read both nonfiction and fiction informational stories about animals, plants, and weather. An old saying is, "Students learn to read, and then read to learn!" Nature topics inspired informational writing activities as well. Our reading series, Journeys, provides rigorous spelling, phonics, and grammar lessons to further develop writing skills.

In math students are learning different ways to add and subtract numbers. We are showing them the traditional algorithm, as well as, adding partial sums, adding using a number line, and compensation. Students will find the best way that suits them to be successful in adding and subtracting numbers.

Students learned about community helpers and citizenship in social studies. We are learning about our government, how leaders are elected, and the different levels of government. Students enjoyed learning about this process.

Our beautiful school grounds provided a colorful backdrop for learning. Happy fall!

## Third Grade

November has once again fallen upon us. As the leaves have changed all around us, change has also taken place in our classrooms. We are making great progress through our third grade curriculum and working on our PRIDE expectations of the building.

We are finishing our second unit of our Journey's reading series. The students worked hard to gain key skills and concepts taught to make themselves better readers. We are also practicing our reading fluency by timing ourselves for one minute to see how many words we can read so that we can do our best.

In our Envision math series, we are working on finishing up our topic on representing and Interpreting data. We will be on our way to some algebraic concepts using multiplication in the near future. We will also be applying the properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide. As in reading, our goal is to become fluent with our multiplication facts. Please continue to work with these facts at home.

We appreciate all of the hard work that our students do in school. Try turning nightly requirements into fun times by playing games to memorize multiplication facts and snuggling up reading a good book. We are all in this learning community together and we are doing terrific things!

## Fourth Grade

In mathematics, fourth graders applied place value understanding to fluently add and subtract multi-digit whole numbers using the standard algorithm. Next, they used the addition and subtraction algorithms to solve word problems. Then, students assessed the reasonableness of word problem answers using estimation. Within all topic algorithms, students used the inverse operations after solving to check for accuracy and understanding. Vocabulary words such as inverse operations, number names, approximately, adjacent, regrouping are part of the everyday language within the Envision Math Curriculum.

In our English Language Arts students are working diligently to obtain better fluency and reading comprehension skills. They read the texts **closely**. In reading, students used the strategies cause and effect, author's purpose, inference and summarizing to read for meaning. All students are exposed to a variety of genres like biography, nonfiction, play, and realistic fiction. Reading strategies were assessed using 'cold reads' and 'text dependent analysis'. You can assist your children by making sure they are reading for meaning, not just reading words!

Parent and teacher conferences are very helpful, and we appreciate your participation!



## Fifth Grade

We have begun a new theme in Reading entitled, "Wild Encounters". In this theme, students discover the relationship between humans and nature. If a person is touched by nature by observing it, learning about it, and coming to care for it, that person will start to see how all of creation is kin, or like one big family. Students are working on brushing up on skills such as cause and effect, understanding characters, author's purpose, main idea and details.

We have been discussing concepts such as multi-digit whole number and decimal multiplication and division during math class. Ask your fifth grader to explain these concepts to you to check their understanding. We are continuing to brush up on multiplication and division facts. Please encourage students to review at home each night.

Fifth graders have been working like busy bees in their writer's notebooks! We are thrilled with the progression of skills the students are acquiring. Students have been adding dialogue, descriptive details and trying different leads and endings to make their narrative stories come to life!



## 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's important that children spend most of their reading time with books they CAN read. Young readers need practice with 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's 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're not sure what the comments mean. The teacher may have certain expectations for your child. It's 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](http://www.ReadingRockets.org).*



### ENROLLMENT

Early Intervention	15
Pre-Kindergarten	56
Kindergarten	79
First Grade	67
Second Grade	75
Third Grade	79
Fourth Grade	66
Fifth Grade	<u>95</u>
	532
Outside Placement	<u>+ 2</u>
Total	534