

LEARNING SUPPORT Mrs. Boguski, Mrs. Coccodrilli, Mrs. Fortuner

Robert D. Wilson will be administering the standardized Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) exams at the end of April and beginning of May 2024. Our advice is the same for PSSAs as it is for all tests: pay attention in class, do your homework, study and when testing time arrives, relax and do your best! In addition, as on all school days, it is always best to get a good night's sleep and start the day with a healthy breakfast. On test days, throw in a bit of extra positive reinforcement as your child leaves for school as well. Below are some helpful tips to remember during this time.

1. Relax and maintain a positive attitude.
2. Take your time. There is no time limit for these tests. Take the time to check your answers and show your work.
3. Don't worry about what other students are doing. The tests are not all the same.
4. Read the questions carefully, underline or highlight parts of the question or story in the booklet if necessary to help you remember and understand the passages.
5. Be sure to answer every question. If you don't know an answer, skip it and come back to it later. Make sure you are marking the correct space and don't forget to go back and try to answer the questions you skipped.
6. Show all your work. And answer the question even if you only know part of the answer. You get points for each part you have correct. Be sure you show your work on the answer sheet - the test book is not scored.
7. Write legibly. If the person scoring your exam can't read your answer it may be marked wrong!
8. On multiple choice questions read every option carefully and be sure you are choosing the best answer. If you aren't sure, cross off any answers you know are not correct in your test booklet and try to find the correct answer from those remaining.
9. For math problems check your work and be sure you copied all numbers correctly.
10. Be sure you answer the question. If they want you to show work, show it. If they want you to explain your answer, explain it. A question may ask you to explain why you did what you did, not just what you did.

When you are done, check your answers! Proofread for mistakes and be sure you answered each question completely. This may seem like a lot of information, but for most of our children, it is a repeat of what they have been told in class. Most of these tips are basic test taking strategies that our children should employ on all tests they take throughout the year. Some are unique to the PSSA format. As always, if you have a question specific to your child, ask their teacher, counselor or administrator for clarification. Good luck! We are sure all of our children will do their personal best!

MRS. ROMANSKI

Spring is finally here, bringing with it warmer weather and blooming flowers. It's the perfect time to get outdoors and enjoy some sunshine with your family. For children with autism, outdoor activities can be a wonderful way to engage their senses and encourage social interaction. Today, we have a special spring-themed activity designed specifically for students with autism, incorporating verbal behavior approaches for effective communication.

Nature Scavenger Hunt:

A nature scavenger hunt is a fantastic way to explore the outdoors while promoting language development and social skills. Here's how to set it up:

Choose a Location: Pick a nearby park, nature reserve, or even your own backyard. Make sure it's a safe and accessible environment for your child.

Create a List: Develop a list of items

for your child to find during the scavenger hunt. Include a variety of natural objects such as flowers, leaves, rocks, insects, and animal tracks.

The list can be words, pictures, or examples of the objects for students to find-adjust based on your child's level. Create visual aids such as pictures or simple written descriptions of the items on the list. This will help your child understand what they're looking for and communicate their findings.

Implement Verbal Behavior

Approaches:

Mand Training: Encourage your child to request items on the list using verbal prompts or picture exchange communication system. For example, if they find a flower, prompt them to say or point to "flower" to request reinforcement.

Tact Training: Help your child label the items they find by modeling appropriate vocabulary. Point to a flow-

er and say "flower" to teach them the word or sign associated with the object.

Echoic Training: Prompt your child to repeat the names of the items they find after you say them. This will help reinforce their verbal skills and increase their vocabulary.

Provide Reinforcement: Offer praise, hugs, or small rewards for each item found. Positive reinforcement will motivate your child to continue participating in the activity.

Encourage Social Interaction: If possible, invite other family members or friends to join the scavenger hunt. Encourage your child to interact with others by sharing their discoveries and asking questions.

Enjoy the Experience: Remember to focus on having fun and enjoying the time spent outdoors with your child. Be patient and supportive, and celebrate their accomplishments along the way.

MS. CARDAMONE

Springtime is fast approaching. As temperatures change, please ensure that your child wears the appropriate attire for outdoor recess. We will be hatching baby chicks in our classroom again and our class is very excited! Our students continue to work on their individual skills. Please practice student skills at home to support student growth and motivation.

MRS. RICKARD

Spring is here (almost)! With fluctuating temperatures, please remember to keep sending at least a light jacket with your child each day. Also, spring has many damp days so an extra change of clothes wouldn't hurt to keep in your child's backpack or cubby in case they get wet at recess.

EARLY INTERVENTION

The Importance of Listener Responding Skills

Listener responding skills, also called LR, focus on a child's ability to listen and take action. This may be as simple as pointing to an apple on the counter when the speaker says "apple" or picking out a child's own socks from a basket of clean laundry. LR skills focus on a child's ability to follow directions.

- Some children may struggle with listener responding skills. For these children it's important to begin practicing listener responding skills at home to build a strong foundation of language skills.

Increasing Interaction

Humans are social creatures, and one of the best ways to develop communication skills is to be surrounded by people who are communicating. Being around others is so important for the developing brain. A few ideas include

Gymboree, parent meet-up groups, and walking clubs.

Practice Listener Responding At Home

Practicing LR at home or in the outer world is an easy way to strengthen communication and build bonds with your child. Here are some great ways to build listener responding skills together:

Give Simple Directions

Whether your child is helping you bake their favorite treat or plant seedlings in the garden, giving simple directions to tasks builds receptive identification and allows you to see gaps in their understanding.

Talk While You Shop

Go shopping in your own kitchen. By pretending to shop in your own kitchen, you can practice listener responding skills and life skills as your child learns to identify different ingredients for recipes.

Play Games

Games are easy ways to practice listener responding, communication, and teamwork.

Reading

Reading together fosters all aspects of language learning. By reading aloud and asking your child to point the pictures and words in a book you can foster a love for storytelling and language while practicing listener responding skills.

Developing listener responding skills doesn't need to be a chore. With simple games, play, and daily practice you and your child can strengthen your relationship while growing their language skills.

<https://abatools.com/autism-blog/what-is-listener-responding/>

PREKINDERGARTEN

Throughout April we will sharpen our alphabetical, numerical and rhyming skills by creating books, reviewing, practicing and using learning games that focus on the mastery of these readiness principles. Our phonemic awareness and literacy activities are becoming more involved and comprehensive. Our activities are intended to help your young learners become proficient readers in kindergarten. As you continue to read daily to your child, focus on the illustrations and how the words of the story relate to the pictures.

Earth Day will bring with it much discussion about responsibility and taking care of the world around us. We will identify and sort garbage and recycling materials and talk about ways we can be conservators of our environment.

April also means observing and defining the crazy weather patterns we see. We will send home a weather chart to help your child track the weather they see at home. The breezy weather of April is a perfect time to extend that experience in the classroom with your family by taking some time to launch a kite with your student. You can experiment with the best practices in getting the kite in the air and keeping it afloat!





KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has been very busy in the classrooms. The students have been working on blending sounds together to read words. They are getting very good at tapping the sounds out and then blending them together. This is a very important skill that they can easily practice at home. We also have been working hard on the kindergarten sight words. We see these sight words in our stories and workbook pages. It is important that they are working on these at home. The students are becoming nice little readers.

We love our science time also. We have been working on pushes and pulls. The students had fun walking around the school looking for different pushes and pulls. They also showed their creative side by building a model that would push or pull rocks.

The students are also doing great in math. We have been composing and decomposing numbers. They have been using story problems and number sentences to show different ways to make numbers up to ten.

FIRST GRADE

We have been working on a great topic in science just in time for spring. We are learning about plants and animals and their offspring. We have been discussing the ways in which plants and animal offspring are like or different than their parents. We played fun memory games where we matched the parents to their babies. We have also been discovering how animals use different senses as forms of communication. Finally, we learned the importance of certain structures in plants and animals to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs. As the weather continues to get warm allow your child to share what they have been learning. Take a walk outside with your child. Discuss with them the changes going on around them. Take time to explore new seedlings and saplings outside. Have your child explain to you the function of certain seedling or sapling parts. Investigate any offspring they may be fortunate to see while out walking. Discuss with them how the offspring will be like or different than their parents. Have fun enjoying and exploring nature!!

After exploring together outside then maybe you could come inside and find a book to read or have them write one about the amazing things found in nature. This allows your child to see how reading and writing connect to the world around them. Your child is now capable of reading a wide assortment of short and long vowels, vowel teams, r-controlled vowels, and even vowel diphthongs. This makes the number of books they can read even greater and more fun. Let us make springtime a time for our skills to continue to grow just like the plants and animals around us!

SECOND GRADE

"We find no real satisfaction or happiness in life without obstacles to conquer and goals to achieve." – Maxwell Malts

Our second grade students are experiencing math success!!!! Our recent math activities have provided our students with many opportunities to apply their math skills to everyday situations. When we practice skip counting, use addition and subtraction with various strategies and problem solving the purpose is always to have the children become proficient so they can apply these skills to their thinking processes. When counting money we use skip counting. Using money for saving and purchasing involves adding or subtracting, and knowing which skill to apply. Telling time requires counting by fives and understanding the concepts of before, after, half and quarter. Look for ways to incorporate math skills in your everyday activities.

Our second graders are also looking forward to cleaning up the school courtyard and planting some flowers and vegetables to observe and nurture. This experience lends itself to many learning opportunities in science, math, reading and writing. It also allows the children to learn to appreciate the value of hard work. If you stop by the school check out the "fruits" of the second graders' labor. The courtyard always looks beautiful after they do the spring cleaning. The whole school gets to benefit from the second graders' efforts. Please take some time to ask your children about this hands-on learning experience.

We look forward to spring weather, but please remember to dress appropriately for recess. Sometimes the spring weather changes quickly throughout the day. As the weather gets nicer, take a walk outside and write about what you did or saw. Include at least five complete sentences that describe the walk. Have your child bring it in to their teacher to receive \$5.00 Cat Cash.

HAPPY SPRING!

THIRD GRADE

Third grade is excited to be working on our new science unit "Environmental Changes." The students are learning about several types of causes of these changes and what we can do to help protect our different environments. They have explored different habitats and how several are affected by these global changes.

In ELA students are working on creating written responses to text using evidence from the text. They are using transition phrases and creating complex sentences. They are reading both fiction and nonfiction passages. From these passages they are learning about the theme, author's point of view, and how to create summaries using main ideas and supporting details.

We are wrapping up our fraction units and are now learning about units of measurement such as time and weight. However, we ask that students continue to practice their multiplication facts, counting money, fractions, and time. We had an amazing time learning about fractions and everyday usage of them.

PSSA testing is scheduled for this month. This is new for our third graders. They should feel confident that they are prepared for these tests. Students have completed challenging work in reading, math, and writing to help them build the skills they need to be successful. Parents can help their children by giving them words of encouragement, making sure they get plenty of sleep, starting them off with a good breakfast, and packing a healthy snack. It is normal for students to feel nervous about the test, but if your child seems especially upset, please contact your child's teacher. Together we can help ease your child's worries. We have confidence in all.

FOURTH GRADE

As we continue our efforts in "Reading for Meaning," we have some **do's** and **don'ts** that will help your child understand and retain what he/she reads:

- 1) **DO** preview the story – thinking about the genre of the story and looking for new words.
- 2) **DO** look for ways to relate the story to other stories and similar life experiences.
- 3) **DO** discuss the main ideas, the facts, and the logical sequence of the story events. Ask: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?
- 4) **DON'T** make reading time a punishment. Reading should be a pleasurable experience.
- 5) **DON'T** ask all the questions. Let your child come up with his/her own questions and answers about the story/passage that was read. What are they wondering? What further reading or research could be done to extend further learning?
- 6) **DON'T** rush answers. Give your child time to think and relate the story to life experiences.

About READING practice: **This reading time is crucial in developing reading fluency** (speed, comprehension, accuracy, and expression). We all know that the more you practice, the better you get! Reminder: Final AIMS Web testing will be coming again in May!

read, Read, READ! Success in school depends, in a large part, on a student's ability to read and understand what they have read. Students need to be able to read **in every subject**. Students should be reading a variety of books, including folktales, poetry, biographies, fiction, and other informational texts. Read to get information, read for fun, read to someone in your family...just read!! :o)

Students should be working daily to master their multiplication math facts. We are using these facts in some way, in every math lesson, every day!

Our PLTW Science lessons have us thinking about the many ways humans impact our environment. We are reminding ourselves that we should reuse, reduce, and recycle as often as possible!

FIFTH GRADE

Happy Spring! Fifth grade will begin reviewing for the PSSAs this month to be better prepared for testing. Practicing multiplication facts and reading at home will help them be in top shape for the tests!

In math this month, we will continue to work with fractions, as well as concepts like volume and measurement. We will also revisit strategies that we learned throughout the year. In social studies, students will pick up where they left off in American history. They will soon be learning about both World Wars!

Please remind our fifth graders to read and complete their homework nightly!

TITLE 1

Spring has arrived! We are looking forward to our annual Title 1 Awards Night. This a wonderful event to honor your child's hard work throughout the year. Thank you for all that you have done to help your child grow as a reader. Remember that after this very special night, Title 1 is not over. I will let you know when we are approaching the end.

The Title I Team would like you to know that our technology team recently posted six short videos about how you can help your child with reading at home. The videos can be found on the home page of the Western Wayne website (ww3.westernwayne.org). Each video is approximately two minutes long, and they each offer some practical, ready-to-use tips to encourage your child to read. Check them out today! We hope you enjoy them!

Here are some facts that are both interesting and informative. Read as often as you can!

- Reading for 6 minutes reduces stress by 68%.
- Children who read 1,000,000 words a year are in the top 2% of reading achievement.
- Children who read for 20 minutes a day will read 1,800,000 words per year.
- When children have a home library, as little as 20 books, they achieve three more years of schooling than children who don't have books at home.
- Children learn 4,000 to 12,000 words per year through reading.
- If you read just one book a day to your child, they will have been read 1,825 books by their 5th birthday.

Every Day Counts. Every Book Counts.



MRS. GERMANI

The Three Domains of School Counseling Programs

School counseling has changed so much in the past 20 years. Today's school counselors focus on preventative programming for all children with the belief that every student deserves the benefit of school counseling services. Emphasis is placed on the development of the *whole* child through these three domains:

Academic: Schools are first and foremost a place of learning, and school counselors take a part in helping students achieve academic success. At R.D. Wilson, students are supported through guidance lessons (ex: Personal Best, Super Focus Powers, Tackling Big Projects, Growth Mindset), support groups (ex: Zipper Club for organization), and individual plans/goal setting.

Career: At R.D. Wilson, students receive career guidance lessons at every grade level. They also enjoy listening to their teacher's career journeys which are shared each year during National School Counseling Week. Guest speakers are scheduled throughout the year to talk to students about career opportunities and post-secondary options.

Social/Emotional: This is the domain most unique to school counseling. Students begin learning about feelings at a very young age (kindergarten) and continue to expand their learning through lessons at every grade level. By fifth grade, students are learning how to manage their minds/emotions through positive thinking, coping skills, and the self-coaching model. Individual and group counseling topics most often target social/emotional learning.

Art Class



The fourth graders have studied Georgia O'Keeffe this spring! Students learned about O'Keeffe's early life and career, and her subsequent move to the landscapes of the American Southwest, that inspired the second half of her career. Students learned about the term "abstraction" and discussed that abstraction can be considered a spectrum, from abstract expressionism to photorealism. Students chose photographs of flowers, then drew their own "zoomed in" version of that flower including as much or as little abstraction as they choose. Students then traced their pencil lines in black glue, then finally added color by blending chalk pastels to create a stunning depth of color. The fourth graders did an amazing job on this project!!

Artwork inspired by: *Georgia O'Keeffe*

