

MS. CARDAMONE

Our students have been working hard to continue improving their skills in reading, mathematics, spelling, and handwriting. The students have become self-reflective in their work and strive to improve their scores with each activity and assessment. Our students enjoy tracking their own learning in Rocket Math and sight words. They become so excited when they increase their goals.

With the colder weather, please ensure that your child is prepared for outdoor recess. If there is something you need, please let me know.

MRS. RICKARD

With the colder temperatures outside, it's essential that our students come to school prepared to keep warm during recess. Please ensure that your child wears appropriate cold weather gear, including warm coats, gloves, hats, and scarves. Students must have snow pants and boots to play in the snow, they are allowed to keep these items in the classroom overnight if you wish. We will send home snow gear over the weekend to be washed. Layers are also a good idea to help them stay comfortable throughout the day. We want our students to enjoy their time outside while staying safe and cozy!

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and we are excited to celebrate love and kindness with our students. We will have a little Valentine's Day celebration in the classroom, more information will be sent home.

MRS. ROMANSKI

Our circle time activities have been a tremendous success! With guidance, students are practicing motor imitation skills while exploring various movements. Students practice calendar activities including naming days of the week and months of the year. They represent numbers using tens and one units as well as practicing various activities related to letters, numbers, and weather. Students are encouraged to sing along to seasonal and content related songs whenever possible! Throughout these activities students practice sitting and waiting their turn to encourage patience. They are expected to raise their hand to participate and each one LOVES having a turn completing a Promethean Board activity in front of the class. Children participate in many ways that are individualized to their unique strengths and needs. For the month of February I have included a fun at home Valentine craft to help practice various fine motor and imitation skills.

Whimsical Lovebugs:

Materials needed:

- colored construction paper
- markers
- glue
- pipe cleaners
- scissors
- small pom-poms
- craft sticks

Instructions:

Create the Lovebug Body:

Help your child cut out a heart shape from colored construction paper, serving as the Lovebug's body.

Add Antennae:

Fold a pipe cleaner in half and twist it onto the top of the heart to create the Lovebug's antennae. *This step encourages bilateral coordination and fine motor skills.*

Attach Craft Stick:

Glue a craft stick to the bottom of the

heart, forming the Lovebug's handle. *This facilitates a pincer grip and hand-eye coordination.*

Decorate with Pom-Poms:

Encourage your child to dip pom-poms into glue and place them on the heart to decorate their Lovebug. *This action reinforces fine motor control and coordination.*

Personalize with Markers:

Have your child use markers to draw facial features, wings, and any other creative details on their Lovebug.

Engage in Interactive Play:

Use the Lovebug craft as a puppet or engage in pretend play with your child. *This interactive aspect encourages imitation and social engagement.*

Express Valentine Wishes:

Have your child create a small Valentine's Day message to attach to their Lovebug and share it with friends, family, or teachers.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Mrs. Boguski, Mrs. Coccodrilli, Mrs. Fortuner

During the month of February, the learning support students are continuing to work within the Success Maker Math Program and Fast ForWord Reading Program. The students are continuing to be progress monitored according to their individual IEP goals using a program called AimsWeb Plus.



EARLY INTERVENTION

Verbal Behavior Strategies for Home

This month, we would like to share some useful Verbal Behavior strategies that you can implement at home to support your child's communication development. Verbal Behavior focuses on teaching communication through the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). By incorporating these strategies into your daily routines, you can help your child strengthen their speech and language skills. Your support at home plays a vital role in their success, and we appreciate all that you do.

1. Expanding Utterances - When your child communicates, try expanding their sentences by adding one or two words to what they have said. For example, if your child says "ball," you can respond by saying, "Yes, red ball."
2. Building Vocabulary - Provide opportunities for your child to expand their vocabulary by naming objects, actions, and emotions. Use clear and simple language, and encourage your child to repeat after you.
3. Modeling Language - When speaking to your child, use clear and grammatically correct sentences. Speak slowly and emphasize the key words. This will help your child learn by imitation.
4. Visual Supports - Visual aids can be very helpful in supporting communication. Use pictures, visual schedules, and social stories to reinforce language concepts and expectations.
5. Reinforcement - Provide positive reinforcement when your child uses language appropriately. Praise and rewards can encourage them to continue practicing their communication skills.

We understand that every child is unique, and these strategies may need to be adjusted to fit your child's individual needs. Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like further guidance or support in implementing these strategies at home.

PREKINDERGARTEN

Pre-k is finishing up their first trip through the alphabet and we are ready to start again, this time focusing on letter sounds. We'll have fun investigating words and the letters that make up not just the initial sound, but also the middle and end. As students begin to make the connections between letters and the sounds they make, it opens up a new world of possibilities. Being on the verge of reading can be very exciting for some students, they will begin to look at the words in their environment.

In math, pre-k is learning concepts related to counting. We are adding one more to find a new number and matching it to the physical representation of the number. We are using towers of blocks to find "hidden numbers" inside of our big towers. This all prepares our students for learning addition and subtraction next year!

The seasons have given us an opportunity to explore the changes in our world. Students have studied hibernating animals, how the temperature changes and what causes snow or rain during the seasons. We walked outside and looked for signs of winter. Students loved picking up snow and making it melt in their hands!

KINDERGARTEN

The students have been very busy in math learning the concept of addition. They have been practicing addition while using counters, cubes, and drawing pictures to match addition problems. You can practice adding at home by using manipulatives. Extra practice will help them become fluent with their math facts.

It's hard to believe that the 100th day of school is here already! On the 100th day, the kindergarteners have lots and lots of practice counting to 100. We have lots of fun activities planned for that day. Valentine's Day is also another exciting day in kindergarten! The children can't wait to open all of the valentine cards in their bags and read to find out who sent each one. Happy Valentine's Day to all!



FIRST GRADE

How does light move? How does sound move? Does a cup phone really work? These are just a few of the fun facts first grade students have been discovering during their most recent science unit. They have been engaged in this study to focus their thoughts on how to solve an overall problem. The problem they solved had to do with creating a light and/or sound source to assist them if they were lost in the woods. They were provided with an array of materials and as a team work to solve the problem. Upon completion of the "Light and Sound" unit, the students will be heading to outer space to gain an understanding of the sun, moon, and the stars.

Math skills have been growing. Students are learning about number patterns. They are discovering how these number patterns can assist them when it comes to counting on and back by ones and tens up to 120!

Reading skills are growing by leaps and bounds at this point in the year! We have continued to add critical reading skills recently. We have begun learning about compound words and vowel teams. The addition of compound words and vowel teams allows the students to enjoy independently reading a wider range of books. The students are also beginning to have definite book series that they enjoy reading. While some love reading stories about Charlie the ranch dog, others prefer non-fiction selections about their favorite animals. Whatever your favorite, keep reading first grade!!

SECOND GRADE

"The best thing about the future is that it comes one day at a time." – Abraham Lincoln

The children have been delving into nonfiction or informational texts at school. Please foster nonfiction reading by encouraging your children to choose those types of books, magazines, or texts at home. The children are especially fascinated about learning about all types of animals and their habitats. When discussing the literature that your children are reading at home, please ask them to try to point out the main idea and give some details. We work a lot on this at school so this will support what we are doing with your children.

In math, the students are diligently working on double digit addition with regrouping and will venture into subtraction with decomposition. Please continue to emphasize practicing math facts. When a student is proficient with his/her math facts the double-digit addition and subtraction will be a strategy that they can conquer with minimal stress.

In science we have immersed ourselves in our Project Lead the Way curriculum. Our students completed their first module which was Properties of Matter. They explored being engineers as problem solvers. They used the design process to ask questions, make observations and gather information. They discussed and examined properties of matter such as color and texture. They observed and described changes of states of matter as a result of temperature change focusing on solids, liquids and gases. As a conclusion, they explored the problem of keeping an ice pop cold and designed their own coolers. Our next module is Form and Function. Make sure to ask your young scientists about what they are delving into each day.

Lastly, please remember that we go outside for recess each day and it is very important that the children are dressed appropriately for the outdoor elements. It's easy to forget how quickly the weather may change throughout the course of a day. Please have your children keep extra warm clothing in their backpacks.



THIRD GRADE

Third grade, we cannot be more pleased with the hard work and efforts that everyone is showing. You have accomplished so much, and we are proud of you!

Students have just wrapped up the unit Variation of Traits in science. Students have learned about traits and the ways traits are passed from generation to generation. They are creating a fictitious creature that can survive in a specific environment and sharing the unique traits that creature would need to survive. We loved the discussions of traits both acquired and inherited.

It is the start of the third quarter and students should be proficient at solving the multiplication facts. Please practice any that your son or daughter may struggle with daily. Playing a game with dice or a fast flashcard game is always fun too! Also, we have several activities in the Google classroom that can be used for practice. They are really working hard to become masters!

Reading is such an important part of our daily lives. It allows us the ability to learn, explore, and have fun. We ask that your child continues to read nightly. If you are struggling to find a book that he or she enjoys or need one on his or her reading level, please ask us and we can get one that is just right. We want your child to love reading and get excited about it.

FOURTH GRADE

Yay 4th grade!! One of our big fourth grade challenges is to learn to write longer essays proficiently. We are learning specific skills and are working to become excellent writers. We are learning to defend our thesis statement with reasons and evidence-based details. We are continuing our work with analyzing and annotating texts and are learning to read and study texts across the genres. We are using text and graphic features and text structures to help with understanding. We are also learning how to “dig” into texts to find deeper thoughts and information about the characters.

However, **our multiplication and division continue to need work.** One great idea is to get all of **the senses** involved when practicing the facts. **Say them** (repetition is critical), **sing them** (simple songs can be used to teach the less familiar sequences, for example, sing the 3’s to “Are You Sleeping” - Example: 3,6,9,12, 3,6,9,12, Learn my facts, Learn my facts! We are learning math facts, really important math facts. Count by threes. Mul-ti-ply), **hear them** (searching YouTube), **write them** (choose 5 or 6 from your practice paper to write 5 or 10 times each), **touch them** (and count, sort, group, and multiply or divide). There are many online resources available for practice. **Flash cards** can also be an easy practice tool. Knowing these basic facts will help us as we enter any module, topic, or chapter.

Let’s be sure that we are doing our **personal best each day** and taking time to study and reflect on our lessons.

FIFTH GRADE

Our fifth graders have an exciting month ahead at Robert D. Wilson.

In science, our students will explore the newest PLTW unit, which will focus on **Matter**.

Our students will also begin working with fractions in math class. It’s a good opportunity to teach at home, pointing out how you use fractions in daily life.

WIN (What I Need) groups will continue to brush up on our weakest areas in math and ELA.

Please remind our students to complete nightly homework assignments and be prepared to learn each day.



TITLE 1

The student's love for reading is evident. They continue to show pride in their growth. Without a doubt, reading with your child will equal literacy success. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping your child develop into a good reader. Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading, you can have a powerful impact on your child's literacy and learning. I would like to give you some simple strategies on how you can create strong readers.



- Invite your child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book, where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
- Read your child's favorite book repeatedly.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite your child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?" Stop and ask about the pictures, and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, songbooks, poems, and information books.

Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children, who cannot read well, will have difficulty learning. Remember to read, read, and read! Thank you for going above and beyond to help your child become a stronger reader.

This month encourage your child to create and read their very own valentines to share with the people they care about. Use this template and the sayings below to create conversation hearts. Have fun!



<https://susanyounghoffman.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/heart-cut-outs1.pdf>

<https://susanyounghoffman.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/conversation-hearts.pdf>

MRS. GERMANI

PBIS: Decoding the Clip Chart

RDW implements Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), which is a proactive and evidence-based program designed to create a positive school environment. It teaches and reinforces behavioral expectations while targeting interventions for specific needs and individualized support when necessary. You may have heard your child mention the "clip chart" or having their clip moved to a different color. Each classroom has a clip chart in the back of the room with a clothespin for each student. Below is a summary of what each color means:

Blue- students move their clip up to blue when they do something extraordinary. They earn \$2 cat cash if they end the day on blue.

Green- all students start on green at the beginning of the day. Ending the day on green means the student did not need any behavioral reminders that day.

Yellow- students may be asked to move their clip to yellow when they need reminders to follow expectations.

Orange- if a student is on yellow and continues to require behavioral reminders, they move down to orange and complete a Think-and-Discuss form with their teacher.

Red- if a student continues to ignore expectations, they may be asked to clip down to red. Additionally, students who engage in a major behavior (ex: hitting a peer at recess) will move automatically to red.

White- students who are on red and continue to misbehave will move to white. This is quite rare. Students who find themselves here will meet with the principal before the end of the day to discuss behaviors.

Parents are contacted anytime a child ends the day on red or white. Parents may also be contacted when a student shows a pattern of orange/yellow days.

Art Class



Stencil Snowflakes & Bleeding Tissue Paper

Kindergarteners used stencils and permanent markers to draw snowflakes across their papers. Students talked about warm and cool colors and learned that colors can convey emotions. Students then used cool colored tissue paper squares with water to create a unique background! First they laid their tissue paper squares down in a pattern across their paper then they brushed water across each square to make the color bleed onto their background. They are beautiful!

Pro tip: In Art “to bleed” means when a color seeps into an adjacent area

