

LEARNING SUPPORT

Mrs. Boguski, Mrs. Coccodrilli, Mrs. Fortuner

The learning support students in grades three, four and five are participating in the PSSA and PASA testing. They have been working hard all school year in both math and ELA classes. It is important to have a good breakfast and a good sleep. This will help each student during the testing period. There is a delicious breakfast provided at school daily that students can take advantage of. Good luck to all!

Students are looking forward to the field trips that each grade has planned. Please make sure that all of the proper paperwork is completed and returned. Summer will be here before we know it.



MRS. ROMANSKI

A powerful method that we use in the classroom is Natural Environment Teaching (NET). This approach harnesses the inherent curiosity and engagement of your child in their everyday environment to facilitate learning and skill development.

What is Natural Environment Teaching (NET)?

Natural Environment Teaching (NET) is a teaching approach that takes advantage of the child's natural environment, encouraging learning through everyday activities and situations. It's particularly beneficial for children with autism as it focuses on their interests and motivations, making learning more engaging and meaningful.

How it works:

*Instead of structured lessons, NET allows the child's interests and preferences to guide the learning process. This means incorporating activities and lessons into everyday routines and environments.

*NET capitalizes on teachable moments that arise naturally during activities. For example, if your child shows interest in a particular toy, you might use that opportunity to work on language skills by labeling the toy or practicing turn-taking.

*By teaching in natural environments, skills are more likely to generalize across different settings and situations. This means that your child is more likely to use the skills they learn in therapy or at school in everyday life.

* Because NET builds on your child's interests and motivations, your child is more likely to be engaged and motivated to participate in learning activities.

MS. CARDAMONE

We are raising baby chicks in our classroom. We have been incubating them since April and look forward to their arrival in May! The students will learn proper hygiene and how to care for the chicks. Our students have also been working hard on their individual goals, they have made great progress in Rocket Math, AimsWeb, sight words, and much more.

With the warmer weather, please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. As always, if there is anything you need, please let me know.

MRS. RICKARD

We've made it to the home stretch! The end of the school year brings a TON of excitement and special days. Attendance is crucial through the end of the year as to not miss any of the fun. Please make sure to send a light jacket or sweatshirt each day, depending on the weather. We don't want to be chilly at recess.



EARLY INTERVENTION

Teaching Object Imitation to Children with Autism

MARY BARBERA

<https://marybarbera.com/teaching-object-imitation-children-autism/>

All children learn language, social skills, and play skills through imitation. Kids with autism and toddlers with signs of autism or other delays tend to be very delayed with imitation. So today we are talking all about how to teach imitation using objects.

Object Imitation

One thing you need to do in situations like this is to get object imitation straight. To improve imitation in children, we want to collect identical items of things. For instance, two little drumsticks, two plastic spoons, two plastic cups, two green napkins. You're not going to present all of these things at the same time. The real goal isn't to target that a child will put the red block in the cup, but that they copy an ac-

tion. To prevent rote responding you want to have each set of items do two different things. So I would keep all of these things together in a bag. Then I would sit catty corner from the child and give one set of objects to the child and one set of objects for me. For instance, one block and one cup. To get object imitation going, you say, "do this" and then you move an object. Put the block in the cup.

The big thing is in the beginning, you have a set and they have an identical set.

You can also have more functional toys, like a farm or a dollhouse. Make the doll go up the steps and they have an identical doll to make it go up the steps. This should be a fun program and should not involve crying or upset.

Beyond Object Imitation

So once you get the child willingly, happily doing object imitation, then you start with gross motor imitation.

Don't work on one thing at a time. Each of these should have three to five targets you're working on at a time. So I like to start with motions that also involve noise, like clapping. You could say, "do this" and touch your head.

The other important thing, when you are trying to teach imitation skills is you say, "do this" and then you move. **Do this** is kind of a signal for like, "oh, I have to copy exactly."

It starts out with object imitation. Then you go to gross motor imitation along with nonverbal imitation and behavioral imitation. Then once you get a number of gross motor skills together, you could start fine motor.

All kids learn through imitation. That's the way they learn language, social skills, play skills, and pretty much everything. So we have to make sure that we're working on imitation, starting with object limitation.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our pre-kindergartners are getting ready for kindergarten! We are stringing together syllables and sounds to produce words and practicing rhyming. In science, we're learning what characteristics insects have and how they are important to our ecosystems. Then we're using those buggo bugs to widen our math skills. We'll measure with inchworms, demonstrate symmetry with butterflies and create and extend patterns with caterpillars.

May also has our students practicing for the big transition to kindergarten. We will be taking a bus ride to learn how to safely ride next year and practicing how to safely move through the big kid playground! Students are also busy showing us the skills they've been practicing. Please keep reviewing the sound chart and target material we've sent home. Assessments for report cards are beginning.

There is so much to learn, so little time, but so much sunshine to soak up!



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarteners have been growing taller and wiser!

Students can pick up many books and with patience and encouragement read many familiar sight words and decode many others. We encourage everyone to re-read books until it “sounds like talking”. The smoother the reading is, the easier it will be to understand the story. To develop comprehension further, talk about the story, ask questions before, during, and after reading. Discuss the characters, setting and sequence of events in the story. Have fun with writing and write about various parts of the story. Please continue to practice sight words.

Math is challenging students with composing and decomposing numbers up to 20. We use objects, drawings, 10 frames and equations to record our work. We continue our work with counting to 100. We start our count from various numbers, and we are good at finding patterns on the 100 charts.

In science, we are learning about structure and function. We are using fairytales to help us. We built our own beanstalks like Jack's. We build houses that would hold up to the big bad wolf. And, we created new kinds of painting tools that have various functions.

The more our kiddos practice all the skills learned, the more they grow confident in their abilities and work independently with greater ease.



FIRST GRADE

May will be an amazing month for the first-grade students! This month the students will go on a field trip to the Electric City Aquarium. They will be able to apply what they have been learning about this year in science to the numerous exhibits they will see. The land and sea animals will be seen in an environment that is like their native environments. They will get to see first-hand some of the adaptation's animals used to survive. The students will be able to watch and hear the animals communicating with each other. They will have the opportunity to get to touch and see up close some of the various animal body parts we learned about and discuss how those body parts are useful to the animals. We would like to say a big **“THANK YOU!”** to the PTA for this amazing experience.

The students will use their ever-developing reading skills on the field trip too! They will have so much fun reading the signs and information around the various displays. They are so excited to share their love of reading with you. As you are driving along or walking through a store encourage them to read signs to you or a label to you. We do this in the classroom all the time and they get so excited. They become so engaged when you ask them to read the ingredients and see if they can find grain, milk, or even the fruit or vegetables. Let them read a menu or the sign at a fast-food restaurant. Help them to understand that reading is fun, and it is always all around us!

SECOND GRADE

In reading, students enjoy learning about courage, being brave and facing situations even if we are afraid. In unit five, the theme is Changes, Changes, Everywhere. Students discuss the changes we see each day within our community, nature, weather, and themselves. The students are learning about different animal habitats and how the animals adapt to their surroundings, how a seed grows into a plant and the changes it goes through.

In math, second graders rocked counting money and telling time to 5-minute intervals! Next, enVision took us on another journey with place value. In topic nine your student's understanding of place value was extended to 1,000. This understanding serves as a foundation for adding and subtracting within 1,000. In topic 10, students will learn about models and strategies to add numbers within 1,000. They will model addition with place-value blocks and represent addition on an open number line. They will also learn how to model addition problems with drawing of blocks and use the partial sums strategy to add.

In social studies, students completed the unit on needs, wants, goods, and services. They have dived into American Symbols and are enjoying all the facts from the non-fiction passages they are reading about each symbol.

Second grade students and teachers would like to say thank you to everyone that made it possible for our class trip to the Lackawanna County Electric City Trolley. We will have a wonderful time exploring an old-fashioned means of transportation.

As always, thank you for ALL you do to help your student succeed! Keep up the GREAT work second graders!

THIRD GRADE

We are so proud of our students' growth over the past few months. Students finished up taking the PSSA in both ELA and math. They persevered through and showed what they know.

Students have had the chance to write an informational writing about a habitat that most interested them. They researched the climate, plants, and animals of the habitat. The students loved creating their writings and adding some amazing text features.

This month the students are traveling to the Scranton Cultural Center to see Seussical the Musical. We look forward to seeing local students showing their talents on stage.

Also, students will be learning about businesses in social studies class. This unit focuses on how companies create and decide on different aspects of their business. Students will be working in small groups to create their own businesses and see if they can earn a profit. It is a great beginning to learning about the economy and peoples' wants and needs.

Multiplication facts are a foundational skill that our students will need for a lifetime. We ask that when students are home to keep practicing these skills and apply whenever possible. We are working on geometry in math. Students are learning how to find the area and perimeter of basic shapes. It may be fun to have them find the area and perimeter of rooms around the house.

We ask that all students continue to work hard through these last few weeks of school. It is a great time to get out and explore. Enjoy spring and spending time with your family.

FOURTH GRADE

Reading, and Writing, and Arithmetic! We have heard that before!

Even though so many things change in our academic studies, these three subjects are still **a major focus** for students.

In **ELA**, our recent fourth grade reading passages involve stories about the unbreakable spirits of the characters in the stories. These stories and characters can be great conversation pieces at the dinner table or for a long car ride. Ask your child to tell you about their stories!

Writing has become such a part of all of our studies. We write at length in all academic subjects. Our students are mastering the TDA (Text Dependent Analysis). They are learning to write more lengthy pieces, they are using more vivid verbs, they are pulling out evidence from the story or passage, and they are able to support their answers with text talk and details from the story or passage they have read.

In **math** class, fourth graders are working to advance their skills in fractions and decimals, multiplication, measurement, and geometry. It is important to learn these new skills. And even as the year winds down and Spring Fever is in the air, please keep your child practicing the basic math facts. Mastery of these multiplication facts will be such a help to them as they finish this fourth grade school year and as they become fifth grade students.

The **social sciences** are also a huge part of our learning. We enjoyed diving into the PLTW Science program and are now back to studying our World in Social Studies. The current topic is Our Nation's Economy and the different regions of the United States.

We do want to thank our fourth grade parents for the work that you have done to help support and prepare your children for the PSSA assessments. We know that your support and encouragement throughout the weeks and months have made a world of difference.

FIFTH GRADE

It's May and our fifth graders are down to their last full month as elementary school students. In math, our students will learn about measurement and data, as well as volume and area. In Social Studies, they will learn about World War II and the Cold War eras. We will make a trip to the Railriders baseball game on May 20th as well as a quick ride to the middle school to get a sneak-peak at what life in sixth grade will be like.

Approaching their last weeks at Robert D. Wilson Elementary, we would like to give credit to our fifth graders for working hard throughout the year. They did a great job, and we are excited to see their success in future grades. Good luck to them in Western Wayne Middle School!

TITLE 1

It's May! The countdown to summer has begun. I hope you are as excited as I am about the warmer weather.

Title 1 Award's Night was a giant success! Thank you for everything you do every day to help your child grow as a reader. The students were extremely proud of themselves, as they should be.

It's time to start thinking about summer reading possibilities. Castles, giants and talking animals, oh my! Fairy tales invite your child into magical worlds, and they're filled with opportunities to strengthen your child's reading comprehension. Enjoy these activities together:

- Design a house. What kind of house would be best for the three bears? Read the fairy tale, "The Three Little Bears" to your child and let them design a home for the characters using recyclables and craft supplies. What was the problem in the story? What design features could solve it? For example, the bears had an uninvited visitor (Goldilocks), so your child might make a home security system using string and a bell.
- Create a map after reading a fairy tale, suggest that your child draw a giant map of its setting on the sidewalk or driveway. They could draw the Gingerbread Man's path through the countryside or map of Hansel and Gretel's route through the forest. Invite them to walk through the map, retelling the story as he/she goes.
- Look at a variety of versions of the same fairytale. Your child can access them at their school library or at any local community library. Read and compare them together. Read the stories with your child and talk about how they're similar and different. Maybe they take place in different countries, or an author retold a story from the villain's point of view.

The fun is endless! Keep reading RDW friends! We are better together! Enjoy the sunshine!



MRS. GERMANI

Our fifth grade students are in the last quarter of their R.D. Wilson experience. Their next chapter begins at Western Wayne Middle School, and we have the privilege of guiding them through this transition. This month, the fifth graders will conclude their classroom guidance lessons with a three-part series entitled *The Road to Middle School*. First, students will participate in *Unlocking the Secret to Middle School*, learning about organization and lockers (they will even practice opening combination locks!). Next, students will take a virtual "tour" of the middle school through a slide show entitled: *Navigating the Middle School*. Finally, students will enjoy a panel discussion from current sixth grade students, in an assembly: *Middle School Myth Busting*.

Along with all of these preparations, fifth grade students will visit the Middle School on the afternoon of Monday, May 20th to get a tour and meet some of the staff.

We have seen each student grow from the very beginning, and we could not be prouder of the young adolescents they have become. We have been so fortunate to have had the chance to work with so many wonderful students, and we look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the Middle School and beyond.

Art Class



The second grade students did watercolor paintings of cactus and succulents inside Southwest Native American inspired pots. Students learned about some of the Native American tribes of the American Southwest, such as the Hopi and the Zuni and how they lived. Students talked about the key role that pottery played in Native American life. Students also studied classic Hopi design motifs in order to emulate their patterns and colors when decorating their own pots. Then, they filled their pots with beautiful succulents and cacti, which can also be found in the American Southwest. Students then used colored mosaic tiles to create patterned geometric borders. Nice work, second grade!



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VIBES

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