

JANUARY PAWPRINTS

***“KINDNESS
AND
ACCEPTANCE”***



Principal's Message

January, 2018

Happy New Year!! I hope that 2018 brings you and your family happiness, health and peace throughout the year! The staff and students have returned to school refreshed after a well-deserved break and ready to continue our work toward continuous academic excellence! As always we thank you for your support at home.

Our Student Leadership Team has been very active throughout the first half of the school year. Thank you for your continued support whether that is sending in clothing, food, or animal supplies. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is much appreciated by us but most importantly those who are receiving these very important and basic items.

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your child's entire school career. Show them that school comes first by trying to keep the days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, to the greatest extent possible, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks. If you drop your child(ren) off in the morning please be sure to do so between 8:25 and 8:45 and please keep the safety of all our students in mind while dropping off.

It is hard to believe but we are already gearing up for Kindergarten Registration! Please let friends, families and neighbors who have Kindergarten aged children know that starting in February SWPS will begin the registration process!

We are on a full day Wednesday stretch! We will have full day Wednesdays through March 14th.

Beginning on March 21st we will transition back to early dismissal Wednesdays. Spring parent/teacher conferences will occur on Wednesday, March 21st, 28th, April 4th.

Remember Winter Break runs from February 15th through February 19th

Fondly,
Michelle Dixon, Principal



Hello, Kindergarten Families!

What is a citizen?

Who are the helpful citizens in our community?
Kindergartners are learning how to be a good citizen in our classrooms and in our school.

How can we become role models in our community?

What is nonfiction?

Our Humanities unit is all about finding details in text.

We are discovering that books can be used to get information about a specific topic. We can also write books that give other people useful information. I

can use a combination of drawing or writing to give information about a topic like how to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

It is all about the steps in order.

Shapes are all around us.

We are exploring 2D & 3D shapes in math with many fun tools.

Hunt around your house, what shapes do you spy?



Notes from First Grade

Help your child become
a better **READER**
Questions to ask your child while reading
nonfiction text.

- What is the main idea of the text?
- Can you tell me something you already know about this topic?
- What did you learn from reading the text?
- Are there any words that you do not know what they mean?
- What are some new words that you learned?
- Do you have any questions after reading this?
- Were there any features (diagrams, charts, pictures) that were important?
- Where could you find out more information about this topic?
- What questions would you ask the author about this topic?
- What would be a good title for this text?
- Can you think of another book that you have read about this topic? How was it similar? How was it different?
- Did you like the text? Why or why not?

Second Grade News

This month, second grade has begun our very first NGSS aligned science unit called Properties of Matter. Students are exploring states of matter and applying our learning to our anchoring phenomenon: Oobleck! Through our investigations, students are trying to determine whether Oobleck is a solid or a liquid or something else entirely!

In math, students continued to explore the base-10 system. We are working on expanding our understanding to the thousands place. We have also are solving change unknown problems to 100 and hosting a school wide can drive for the 100th day of school to apply our new learning.

In language arts, students have transitioned from our third unit focusing on nonfiction reading and writing to a poetry mini-unit and a more extensive unit about fables and fiction. Students learned about poetic devices that supply rhythm and meaning to a text. We have also formally begun our study of vowel teams. We're off to a great start in the New Year!



Third Grade Mathematicians

Milliliters, liters, kilograms, oh my! Third grade students recently finished a brief study on metric weight and capacity. They practiced pouring all 1000 milliliters to make a liter bottle, and created bags that weighed a kilogram. Currently, students are beginning a study on fractions. $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of vanilla... baking at home is a wonderful way to reinforce using fractions in an everyday application. What happens if you lose your 1 cup measuring tool? What other tools could you use to make a cup of flour? How many times would $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cup need to be used to make a whole cup? These are real world problems that can help students to see fractions in action!



Fourth Grade Studies the 13 Colonies

This month we started our first integrated Language Arts and Social Studies Unit. We read many nonfiction texts about the 13 British Colonies, and what colonial life was like during that time period. As we read, we identified the main idea of texts, and made inferences about what life was like back then.

We also compared the different regions of the colonies. They really enjoyed trying to infer what might have happened to the missing Roanoke settlers. In writing, we have been focusing on expository writing. The students researched a colonial trade like a blacksmith, and wrote an expository paragraph about their trade. They also had to make sure they knew where all 13 colonies were located on a map!

5th Grade

Fifth Grade News

By: Brooke Stapleton and Aarush Kalia

Welcome to the 5th grade in our elementary school, Philip R. Smith!

In Math we are learning about multiplying and dividing fractions. We are learning the different ways to solve these problems using picture representations along with algorithms. Soon we will be having our End of the Unit assessment for this unit.

In Humanities, Social Studies and Language Arts combined, we have been learning about Human Rights and the laws to protect them. We have read some books in groups about how human rights are violated and protected. Soon we will write an essay about these rights and the violations which we read and discussed in class.

When there has been enough snow, Mrs. Beeler has taken us snowshoeing! We have walked on the Avery Trail and through the schoolyard. It is very enjoyable being in the snow and learning something new!

In Art, we just finished a project. We drew family portraits using colored pencils. This taught us how important family is!

Perseverance

By: Julie Ratajczak

Math Coach/Intervention Teacher

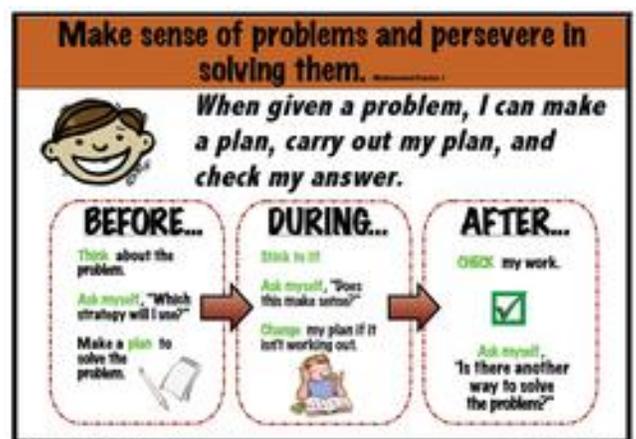
We have adopted the Common Core State Standards, like most of the states, and along with the grade level standards in math we have a set of Mathematical Practices. These 8 practices help students learn the math content and how they can use math they learn in the real world. They are important skills for problem solving and making sense of things. These Mathematical Practices are incorporated into lessons from Kindergarten through high school, appropriate for the grade level.

I'm going to highlight the first Mathematical Practice, and an important life skill is:

Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

There are a number of ways students can show this practice. Students should not give up if a problem is unusual or hard! They should think back to other times when they have done similar problems, or what strategies would help them. Check their answer to see if it makes sense and try solving the problem a second way to make sure it is correct!

As a parent you can guide your child by asking them to thinking back to what they have learned before. Supporting them to draw a picture or act it out or look online to help make sense. Most importantly encourage them to not give up!





MUSINGS from the Visual Arts Classroom

By: Lynsey Desmond

PRS student artists have all completed a Community Service Learning Project with Mrs. Desmond to help raise funds for our PTO. Utilizing a tight deadline to complete this project students designed their family portrait using drawing pencils and color pencils. Parent volunteer Julie Dixon/PTO coordinated all of the papers and folders for each class thru "Art To Remember", a company similar to the one that was used last year called "Square Art". At some point up ahead families will be receiving a packet from "Art to Remember" and parents can order items with their child's art work on it, supporting our PTO at the same time.

All student artists are back to work on their regular visual arts curriculum lessons:

Grade K - learning to paint, using wet on wet techniques, dry brush, and then learning how to cut precisely.

Grade 1 - building a snowman collage, then a skyscraper collage using geometric shapes

Grade 2 - rendering an image showing how they would help the world when they are all grown up

Grade 3 - weaving in the Navajo tradition

Grade 4 - building a relief, paper sculpture

Grade 5 - rendering an image showing how people have adversely impacted our environment



Important Dates

Feb. 6 - Math Morning Grades 3-5 -7:45-8:30

Feb. 15 - 19 February Recess - No School

Feb. 23 - PTO Movie Night

March 20 - Professional Development Day

No school for Students

March 21 - Early Release Wednesday

Parent Teacher Conferences

March 27 - Family Culture Sharing Night

March 28 - Early Release Wednesday

Parent Teacher Conferences

March 30 - Good Friday - No School

April 4 - Early Release Wednesday

Parent Teacher Conferences

April 9-13 - April Vacation

Principal	Michelle Dixon
Secretary	Lisa Lovett
Clerk	Carol Scheuing
Nurse	Colleen Heneghan
Main Number	648-5025

Visit our Website:

www.southwindsorschools.org/prs