

WHITEHOUSE NEWS

March 2017



HOME OF THE WHITEHOUSE CUBS

WHITEHOUSE NEWS

FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .

Thank you to all who participated in our WHS Annual Family Photo Contest.

Congratulations to our contest winners!

The Results are in...

Enjoy the following pictures and continue to make time for family fun!

Farthest Location

Nora Kemecsei & family



Most Educational

Robert Rosell



Most Exciting

Madelyn Bruner



Best Pose with A Celebrity

Nicholas Doyle



Honorable Mentions

Joseph Cirianni & Family



Nadia Ryan & Family



Parker Sanocki & Baby Jaxson



Nurse's News



March is Nutrition Month!!!

Families can help their children improve health and nutrition in several ways.

- First and foremost, be a positive role model.
- Eat at least one meal together as a family. The meal doesn't have to be dinner.
- Limit sedentary video game time. In the colder months when this can be challenging, opt for active electronic games, if weather doesn't permit outside play.
- Set simple and specific goals and limits, for example; challenge your family to have at least one green vegetable a day and/or cut back on whole fruit juice consumption by cutting in half with water.
- Make a game of reading food labels, this practices reading and incorporates everyday math skills. Don't reward children with food instead try extra family fun or prolonged outdoor play times.
- Lastly, insist on healthy food choices at school.

Students at Whitehouse School who are spotted during March having a nutritious and delicious food item at lunch will receive a healthy eating sticker!!

Some helpful websites for ideas and information:

<http://www.eatright.org/>

<http://www.eatright.org/Public/list.aspx?TaxID=6442452090>

http://kidshealth.org/parent/nutrition_center/http://www.choosemyplate.gov/

Maureen Sjonell MSN, RN, CSN-NJ

Counselor's Corner



WEEK OF RESPECT II

We celebrated the Week of Respect back in October, but plan on continuing with a Week of Respect II this month. March 13rd through March 17th, will be dedicated to being respectful to our classmates, teachers, families, and friends. We will talk about being respectful not only in school to our teachers but on the bus with our bus drivers.

Wednesday, March 15th we will have Sneaker Day. We are asking everyone to wear sneakers to school to show that we run our own life, make good choices, and stomp out bad ones.

On Thursday March 16th we will have Pajama Day. Everyone will wear pajamas to show that we don't give up on our "dreams" and we respect ourselves and our friends. Announcements will be made in the morning to remind the students about being respectful at school, home, and in the community. It will be a fun week of respect.....

~Deb DeBaro



Speech and Language

Here are some tips on speech/language and hearing wellness:

- Talk naturally to your child; simplify your sentences and words but do not use baby talk.
- Listen carefully and expand your child's language by using well-formed, slightly longer sentences.
- Help your child answer questions appropriately by asking who, what, when, where, why and how.
- Encourage your child to express his feelings, ideas, dreams, wishes and fears.
- Don't misuse your voice by shouting or using a pitch level that is too high or too low.
- Avoid extended periods of exposure to loud noise.
- Keep the volume down on CD's, radios and stereo systems.
- If you have any questions regarding your child speech and/or language, contact a speech/language specialist.
- If you suspect a hearing problem, contact an audiologist.

~Marie Potenta



Spring is right around the corner and the kindergarten children's skills in literacy are in full bloom. Their confidence has developed and they are writing words and sentences in their daily writing. As the year continues, the children will fine tune their skills with spacing and using as many lowercase letters as they can.

Phonemic awareness skill development will continue to flourish with their newly learned skills in phonics. They are excitedly reading decodable books with short vowel blending of three letter words and the sight words that they are learning. In addition, they are beginning to blend two letters together such as "dr" or "sn" to figure out those tricky words like drive and snowman. In the sharing literature activities, the children will be working on reading comprehension, concepts of print, story sequencing, characters, and retelling. The children will continue to bloom with their new literacy skill development over the next couple of months.

After completing the wood portion of our science unit on Wood and Paper, the children will see that the upcoming paper investigations will be just as exciting and informative. Looking ahead to April, the boys and girls will be celebrating Earth Day with a paper recycling activity where they will actually make their own paper. Then, it will be on to our new science unit on Animals with lots of interesting creatures entering our classrooms!

Kindergarteners have been skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's, and creating number stories. The children will continue to review and build on their understanding of addition and subtraction stories. Visualizing teen numbers as a ten and extra ones and continuing partner work for partners 2 thru 6 will be a focus for the boys and girls this month. Yes, we will be busy little bees this spring!



First Grade

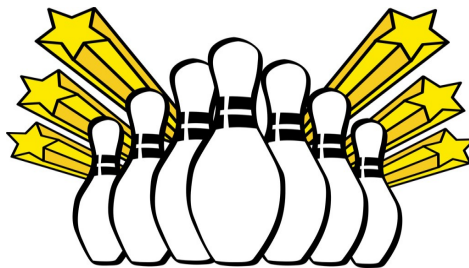


February found our first grade authors writing up a storm as they continued to strengthen their writing skills. Some of our first graders were hard at work learning how to write nonfiction texts as they authored their own All About Books that ranged from topics such as cats, dogs, trains, horses, skiing, American Symbols, and gymnastics. The month of March finds our first grade writers diving into a series of realistic fiction stories as they will be creating fictional characters, settings, problems, and story solutions.

What strong, voracious readers our first graders have become! February found many of our readers immersed in nonfiction texts as they learned what makes nonfiction reading special and unique. They closely investigated the different ways that real authors present fact and information in both fun and serious ways. They noticed and learned why nonfiction books include different kinds of information, such as an index, glossary, labels, table of contents, and more. We will be starting off the month of March by celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd and sharing in the fun of reading his many delightful books. In March, our first graders will be focusing on further developing their word solving strategies and comprehension skills while studying story elements. In addition, the students will be studying characters in books. They will learn how to get to know the characters really well. By doing so, they will learn that they don't just follow the character and sound like the character, they will become the character! Also, our first grade readers will notice how a character's feelings change across the story.

In math, we are now working in Unit 5 of our Math Expressions curriculum. This unit of study will find our first graders building upon the skills that they have developed in the first half of the school year. They will be working on counting, reading, and writing numerals to one hundred twenty as they learn and use strategies to add and subtract within twenty and understand place value for 2-digit numbers. Our students will be working on addition within 20 to solve story problems and problems with three addends. Within 100, they will be adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and will be learning to find 10 more or 10 less than a given 2-digit number.

We are now finishing up our science unit, Balls and Ramps. We had a tremendously enjoyable trip to the Oakwood Lanes Bowling Alley and even saw some of our students score some amazing numbers. A fun day was had by all! Thank you to our first grade parent volunteers who joined us on our trip.





Second Grade

Our second grade classrooms are blooming with all sorts of exciting activities and learning experiences! In Reader's Workshop, our studies have been focusing on folk tales, fables and fairy tales. We learned about the different elements of each genre and have compared characters, settings, morals of the stories, and problems and solutions faced by the main characters. Individual groups have had the opportunity to perform Reader's Theater scripts, and we have had so much fun bringing out the actor/actress in each child! In our final reading unit for the year, we will revisit nonfiction and readers will be working to describe the connection between a series of scientific ideas and participate in shared research.

In Writer's Workshop, we are completing our Edge of Your Seat unit, which is very enjoyable for our young authors. The unit allowed us to expand upon our earlier unit of "small moment" writing and students were taught how to include elements of tension or suspense in their stories and focus on feelings and emotions. Our next unit will immerse us in poetry. We will be studying a wide variety of poets and poems, paying close attention to the differences between poems and stories. The focus of the unit is to engage students in analytic reading of short texts so that they can apply what they read to their own writing. Identifying repetition of sounds and patterns, figurative language, mood, and line breaks will be studied.

Scientists have been working with the Master Gardeners studying soil and discussing how it helps plants grow. We will be spending some time working in the garden as the weather warms up. Springtime is always fun in second grade!

Our math unit teaches students about double- and triple-digit subtraction. We are working again to solve different types of word problems - with larger numbers this time! Keep practicing with [Reflexmath.com](https://www.reflexmath.com) and [IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com). We will be moving on to graphs and telling time next month.

We are so proud of our hard-working second grade students!



Third Grade

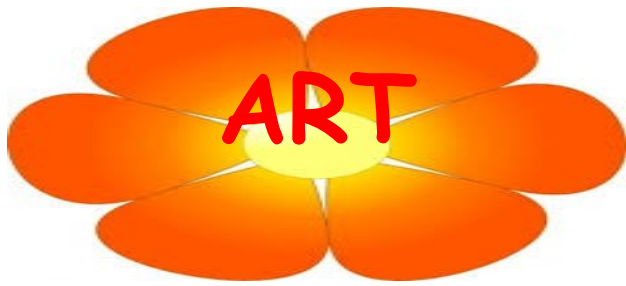
Third graders have been enjoying this snowy weather, but I think we are all ready for Spring at this point! We hope it comes soon as our new science unit - Sun, Moon and Stars, is set to start in a few weeks and provides us with several outdoor inquiry investigations. Students will begin their celestial journey as they investigate first the sun, then the moon and finally the stars. Third graders will be using tools to collect and analyze data as they develop logical conclusions about the apparent movements of objects in the sky.

Writer's Workshop continues as students showcase their expertise during our informational writing unit of study. Our third grade writers are becoming more confident in their ability to inform others about a topic of their choosing. As they write, students will incorporate non-fiction text features as studied in class. Teachers continue to focus on the importance of revision as a critical stage in the writing process. This helps students make decisions about organization and word choice. With each unit of study, our writers are developing their ability to edit their own work by adding punctuation or fix spelling errors that they identify independently.

Our current theme in reading revolves around non-fiction text. Students will be reading various examples of non-fiction text, including magazine articles, content area books, biographies/autobiographies, and more! Teachers are focusing on the text structure of non-fiction pieces, and students are learning to compare and contrast this with familiar fiction novels. Students are working to locate and provide evidence from the text in both written and oral responses. They are also learning to infer meanings of unfamiliar words by using clues in the text and prior knowledge.

In math classes, the **whole** third grade is excited to begin learning all the interesting **parts** about our unit on **fractions**. The teachers are **equally** enthused! Also, as we mentioned in previous newsletters, multiplication and division facts should be reviewed nightly. Students have made tremendous progress so far! Remember to encourage practice using the websites for IXL and Reflex Math!





The school year feels like it's just flying by! All grade levels are creating some amazing-looking art for our interdisciplinary unit, Winnie-the-Pooh. Each grade level drew a graphic representation of Tigger (kindergarten), Piglet (first grade), Winnie-the-Pooh (second grade), and Eeyore (third grade).

Our kindergarteners did an awesome job creating shooting stars in an Eric Carle style, which we will be using as decorations for the spring concert. Their Textured Turtles came out beautiful also. Ask them to tell you about the different materials they used to create this project. Next, we will be exercising our fine motor skills by practicing camouflaging a gecko.

First graders just finished their cardinals in the snow...thank goodness they did, since I don't think we're getting much snow any longer! We are currently learning about tints and shades by creating ice cream cones in their favorite "flavor". Once we complete them, we will be starting a new unit on movement, while studying Edgar Degas' ballerinas.

The second grade "Complimentary Zebras" are looking mighty bright, as we are painting them in "complementary" colors. I can't wait to get them hung in the hallways so we can see how the zebras are "complimenting" each other! The kids are having fun while learning about homophones! Next, we will be creating hedgehogs using a scratch technique.

Our 3rd graders have finished their technique sheets and are ready to start painting their rainforest birds. Ask them about some of the really cool watercolor painting techniques they can use...I'm sure they would love to share with you! If their drawings are any indication of how their paintings will turn out, then be prepared to be amazed...they look fantastic already!

Thank you for sharing your children with me,
Mrs. Dana Pierro
Ms. Mary Coyle

Computers



Kindergartners continue to make amazing progress in the computer lab. Students were introduced to our new robotic friends, The Bee Bots. Students learned simple programming skills to navigate the Bee Bots to letters in the alphabet. The Bee Bots allow students to learn sequential programming by pressing forward/reverse/left/right buttons in order to make the Bee-Bots go from one place to another.

First graders learned how to use *Microsoft Power Point* to create a slide show about their favorite animals. Please visit the computer lab website to view each class's video. Stayed tuned for our Winnie-The-Pooh Videos. Each class will be creating a drawing in a program called *Wixie* of their favorite Pooh character.

Second graders are continuing to use *Google Classroom* for all of their in class projects. Students have been using their science background on States of Matter to create a *Google Slideshow*. Each class will celebrate our schoolwide thematic unit on Winnie-the-Pooh by creating a google slide for their animal research project.

Third grade students have applied their foundation in computer skills to larger projects. All third grade projects are completed through *Google Classroom*. Students finished research on rocks and minerals using a *Web Quest* as a tool. Students became geologists in the new year and presented their findings using *Google slideshow* as a tool.

Every third grade class spends 10-15 minutes on *Typing Club* to enhance their keyboarding skills. The great news is *Typing Club* is accessible from home. Since keyboarding is an essential skill, students may choose to practice at home. Please visit this website.
<https://readington.typingclub.com/>

Mrs. Wendy Reardon (Tues., Weds. & Friday Classes)
wreardon@readington.k12.nj.us

Mrs. Tiffany Barca (Monday classes)
tbarca@readington.k12.nj.us





Although Winter is upon us, Spring is headed our way and so the children are starting to prepare for their concerts! In keeping with our school-wide focus on being Cubs of Character, students in Grades 1-3 will perform songs that demonstrate how we strive to be "bucket fillers" each and every day, at home and school. Kindergarten students will celebrate their first year at Whitehouse School with a special "Proud Day" concert, and will show you just how proud they are of their learning and growth this year.

All concerts will be held on **Thursday, May 18th** and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please mark your calendars!

Kindergarten @ 2:15 PM
Grade 1 @ 9:00 AM
Grade 2 @ 1:15 PM
Grade 3 @ 10:20 AM

Information about the concerts, including materials your child can use to practice his/her songs at home, is updated regularly on our WHS Music website - <http://www.readington.k12.nj.us/domain/258>. Please note that there will be special attire for this concerts (more information will be coming out about this but for now it remains "top secret")! Please reach out to your child's music teacher if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Laurie Levesque (Wednesday and Thursday classes)
llevsque@readington.k12.nj.us

Mrs. Elissa Bowen (Tuesday and Friday classes)
ebowen@readington.k12.nj.us



Never a dull moment in Physical Education...

MOVE, MOVE, MOVE, that's what we continue to do in Physical Education. During the month of January, students played Pillow Polo Hockey. The high excitement game features plenty of scoring and goal defense. Each student had the opportunity to play the action packed position as the goalie.

During the month of February, students played a variety of cooperative games and challenges, such as Pirate's Gold and Save our Ship. Our classes have also enjoyed playing, Snowball Pin Dodge and Snowball Pin Guard, a twist on our traditional Pin Guard in which we add a "Snowman" to both sides and students can earn back pins they have lost by targeting and knocking over their opponent's Snowman.

The students have also been busy working together participating in Speed Stacking Relays. Students had the opportunity to use both traditional Speed Stack cups and JUMBO cups and were asked to build patterns such as a 2-1, 3-2-1, and a 1-10-1. We also did a partner challenge using the same patterns listed above. Speed stacking is an exciting individual and team sport where the students stack and unstack 12 specially designed high tech cups. When the students are stacking they are using both sides of their bodies and brain to develop skills necessary to dribble, throw, catch, play a musical instrument, type on a computer and more!

Students can look forward to Pinky's return, Rescue the Dinosaur and the Penguin Activity. These are two activities the students really love which help to promote team spirit and cooperation.

~ Mrs. Kozal & Mr. Lillia



During this winter, your children have made great progress with their Spanish. They have increased their vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and knowledge in Spanish by engaging in written and oral exercises and activities such as reading, conversations, interactive games, songs and special projects.

Kindergarteners love learning Spanish. They have been practicing questions about their name, age and how they are doing. Kindergarten has had an awesome time singing Spanish songs, counting up to twenty, identifying the colors and participating in a variety of activities and games.

First grade has been reviewing vocabulary and questions. We have also been focused on clothing, which they have connected with colors, body parts and weather. First graders have had a wonderful time working on some projects like “Muñeco de Nieve” where the students create a snowman and label the snowman’s clothing. Likewise, the students have enjoyed working on the “Paper Doll Project” in which students have picked, decorated and labeled clothes for their paper doll.

Second grade has been working on the meal times, food and drinks. Second graders have demonstrated their Spanish abilities by describing whether or not they like any food or drink. This unit has allowed the students to practice the verbs “to have,” “to like,” “to eat” and “to drink” in Spanish and to practice using the first and second person when asking or responding. Additionally, second graders have become familiar with the different meal times and foods that the Spanish speaking countries have. They are able to explain the similarities and differences when comparing the U.S. to some of the Spanish speaking countries’ meal times and food.

Third graders have mastered spelling words in Spanish and saying and writing the date of yesterday, today and tomorrow. They have been building up vocabulary and conversation skills by working in pairs to practice new and learned questions. Third graders have been focusing on classroom objects, school supplies and subjects, which they use this vocabulary on a daily basis. Currently, we are learning the time, which ultimately will connect it with the subjects to create schedules and practice these vocabularies.

To increase students’ retention of the lessons learned and to continue to foster their excitement about Spanish, I suggest practicing the vocabulary at home. You can find the theme vocabularies and websites in the Whitehouse School’s world language website.

Saludos,
Señora de los Santos



WHS LOVES TO READ!!!

As you read this newsletter, Whitehouse School will have read THOUSANDS of minutes during the month of February. By now, we cannot wait to find out who are the winners of the **Fabulous February Reading Incentive Program** when it is announced in March!

We appreciate all of our WHS moms and dads who read to their children and entered the minutes onto the website. Thank you for working with us to instill a love of reading in your children.

To celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd, Whitehouse School will be inviting parents to come in for a **DEAR** experience. Everyone in the school will **Drop Everything And Read** at the same time!

Along with the winners of the Reading Incentive Program, nominees for the **Hunterdon County Librarians Association's Enthusiastic Reader Award 2017** should be recognized. These students have exhibited an enthusiasm for reading and sharing books. They are as follows:

Dena Abdulwahab
Evan Alfaro
Benjamin Brinkofski
Allison Ciarelli
Sara Ciarelli
Xia Cobb
Violet Cortright
Olivia Davis
Anthony DeAngelo
Nicholas DePinto
Bronwyn Downey
Bradán Gawlowski
Diego Gonzales
Angela Grillo

Giordana Grillo
Natalia Hekiert
Veronica Hekiert
Michael Hills
Robert Hindle
Ryan Hirschorn
Katherine John
Chase Keebler
Aviva Khusid
Raychel Khusid
Joanna McDonald
Michael Moran
Shiloh North
Samuel Nyez

Clara Peters
Sean Ritter
Jacob Ross
Sophia Sartin
Aman Shah
Annabelle Shaw
Sean Souvenir
Laci Sova
Gracelyn Spicer
Shea Swan
Adelaide Trego
Abigail Washuta
Bryan Yacullo

Mrs. Zanardi, WHS Librarian