

HAMLIN / LAKE ELEMENTARY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT — April 2011



WORDS FROM MISS FALISKIE

Critical Thinking Skills #3

Comparing

Once we have things sorted into appropriate classifications, the next important skill is comparing them. In everyday life, we are constantly making comparisons.

Talk with your child as you compare, for example, what to have for dinner. You might say, "We could have chicken or hamburger tonight. The chicken will take longer to bake, but then we'll probably have some left over for tomorrow's lunch. The hamburger would be quicker to prepare, but we had beef last night."

As your child sees you think through the comparison process, she'll learn to make comparisons.

Here's a game to help children sharpen their critical thinking skills:

Look through old magazines for different pictures of things that are similar. For example, you might find several different pictures of trucks, babies, dogs or cars. Glue each picture to a separate piece of paper.

First ask your child to put similar pictures together (classifying them). Then ask your child to tell you why he grouped the pictures as he did. Does he see how things in the group are the same and different? Now he's comparing and contrasting them.

Comparing has many uses in school:

For further practice in helping your child make comparisons, ask her to talk to you comparing these things.

- LANGUAGE ARTS
 - ⇒ A comic book to a child's new magazine.
 - ⇒ Two television programs
 - ⇒ Two books
 - ⇒ Two authors
- SCIENCE
 - ⇒ Two leaves and a flower
 - ⇒ Reptiles and mammals
 - ⇒ The respiratory system and the digestive system
- MATH
 - ⇒ A ruler and a measuring cup.
 - ⇒ A clock and a yardstick.
 - ⇒ Shapes—a ball to a lemon, hexagons and diamonds.
 - ⇒ Weights—a pound of stones and pound of rubber bands.
- SOCIAL STUDIES
 - ⇒ Two kinds of food
 - ⇒ Two holidays
 - ⇒ Two cities, two states, two countries, two rivers.

Think Spring, Miss Faliskie

pre-Kindergarten

It's April and spring is finally here! Our Pre-K children are sad to see the snow melt away, but happy to play outside in sunny weather! This month, we will learn a few new letters of the alphabet and we'll celebrate Easter with a visit from a furry friend!



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On April 1st, we celebrated April Fool's Day with funny jokes! Then, we learned a new letter – O! Some of our new words included *octopus*, *ocean*, and *owl*. We have also started reading some great new books about spring time.

The Pre-K children are looking forward to a very special holiday in late April. That would be Easter!!!

We'll get a few days off from school and the Easter Bunny will make a surprise visit! Hopefully he brings us delicious chocolate eggs!



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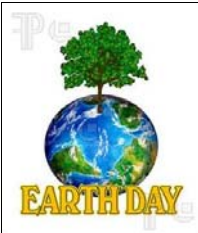
Kindergarten

April is bringing a shower of activity to kindergarten! We are happy to have the wonderful signs of spring around us. Our halls are decorated with beautiful sunshine, rainbows, and kites, all of which were created by the students in art class.

In our math lessons this month, the students will be exploring and comparing the length and weight of objects, and ordering objects by length and size. We are continuing to count by 1's, 5's, and 10's to one hundred.

The kindergarteners are blossoming into "Good Readers". Their reading skills are improving each day! The children are segmenting and blending letter sounds in words, and they are learning to identify the vowel sounds in CVC (consonant, vowel, consonant) words.

The stories in our reading theme this month are all about "Neighborhood Helpers". Each story will help us learn about jobs that people do and how people can work together. The sight words in these lessons are **for** and **me**.



For Earth Day, we plan to renew our respect for our planet by listening to stories and discussing ways we can take care of the Earth.

Please remember to read with your child each day and practice the sight word list in the back of his/her folder.

First Grade

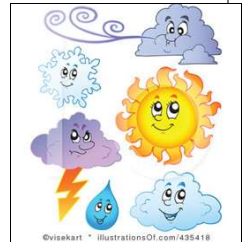
First graders are getting excited about Science. Students finished up the unit on Liquids and Solids. They have learned about Living Things, and will move onto Air and Weather soon. In the Air and Weather unit, students will learn about temperature, explore air and wind, make a parachute, and balloons.

We are beginning our last reading series book, Going Places. In this unit, we will be working on long vowel patterns. We also are continuing to review all of our short vowels, blends, digraphs, and vowel rules. Please continue to work on your sight words nightly, this really helps your child become a better reader. Thanks for keeping up with the nightly reading; it really does make a difference.

First grade students child is getting enough week. It is very the year approaches,



will also be taking the Terra Nova tests. Please make sure your rest, eating a great breakfast, and is getting to school on time this important that all children do their best on this test. As the end of students are looking forward to Field Day.



Second Grade

Second graders read both fiction and nonfiction stories in their theme called Neighborhood News. In their lessons students identified the many jobs performed in different communities. Synonyms and antonyms enriched students' vocabularies. Suffixes, added to base words, gave students opportunities to read and spell multi syllabic words. Please remind your students to pay close attention to the endings of words to increase accuracy.

Students completed two chapters counting and using money. They are practicing measuring the distance around objects, and adding the amount to figure out the perimeter. Students who practice math facts nightly are soaring through Rocket math. Keep up the memorization practice until answers are instant.

Terra Nova tests are important. Please encourage students to listen to all directions and do their personal best. Most of all, eat right, limit screen time and get enough sleep.

We are looking forward to Earth Day. shade, and provide clean air to breathe.



We can plant trees to stop soil erosion, create

Happy Earth Day!





Third Grade

Spring is here, and we are re-charged for our last few months!

Currently in our reading series we are exploring different ways in which people can be good neighbors, and ways in which neighbors can help each other. This is always a great topic that allows students to share the personal experiences they have had with good neighbors. Share a story with your child about a time when neighbors were generous or helpful to your family.



In Math we expect our third graders to have mastered their addition and subtraction facts. Most students are now working hard on their multiplication and division facts. Once children have mastered basic facts they find it much easier to solve more challenging work.

Third graders are continuing to develop their problem solving skills. They are asked to not only show their work, but also explain using words how they solved the problem. You can help your children by asking them to verbalize or write down the steps they took to complete one of their homework problems.

Lastly please continue to make reading a priority. Our goal for our third graders is for them to read at least 110 words correctly in one minute by May. When students are fluent readers it allows them to concentrate on understanding what they are reading instead of focusing on decoding or figuring out unknown words. You can help your children reach this goal by listening to them read every day for at least fifteen minutes.



Fourth Grade

The end of the year is quickly approaching and our fourth graders are continuing to move forward and make excellent progress. With PSSA testing behind us, we would like to thank all students and parents for their help in making the testing go smoothly.

We have a lot more activities and events headed our way as the school year winds down so we cannot relax just yet.

Our social skills carnival is approaching quickly and the students are always looking forward to that special reward. Just a few reminders to our students, be sure to do your homework and practice your social skill rules. This will allow you to receive more tickets for the carnival. Another special event that we have coming up is our class trip to Roebing Aqueduct. The Roebing park rangers will be visiting our classrooms to give an overview of our trip and give us the

history of the Pennsylvania Canal Systems. This will prepare us for our class trip next month. It also brings our Pennsylvania history alive.



Remember just reading or practicing work and show



because the end of the year in approaching doesn't mean it's time to stop the nightly practicing math facts. We have worked so hard this year let us keep up the good that we are ready for fifth grade.

Fifth Grade

Relief is in the air as we have just finished the PSSAs! Our students worked very hard to prepare, and should be very proud of themselves. Although the testing is behind us, please continue to encourage your child to stay focused as we have many more skills to teach to prepare them for the middle school.



Students are anxiously awaiting the response from their R.D. Wilson pen pals. Student Council requested pen pals, and their wish was granted. As soon as they learned letter writing and how to address an envelope, their pen pal's name was revealed. Who knows? Maybe some lifelong friendships will be formed through this short distance correspondence!

Lastly, as Spring Fever is in the air, and sports and other outdoor activities take up our spare time, please



make academics the top priority.





Title I

Spring is finally upon us!



All of our students in grades 3-5 worked the PSSA testing this past March. In April, 1 and 2 will be taking the Terra Nova standardized tests.



very hard during students in grades

Parents, please encourage your children to do their best work and listen attentively during the testing. Getting proper rest and eating a good breakfast will also help your child to do his



or her best on the tests.

Title I parents, please remember that the Title I Awards Night will be on Friday, April 15, from 5:30-7:00 at the Western Wayne High School. For more information on this event, please contact your child's Title I teacher. This is a great way to celebrate your child's hard work and participation in the Title I Program!



Happy Reading!!!!!!!



ENROLLMENTS



HAMLIN ELEMENTARY

Early Intervention	13
Pre-Kindergarten	60
Kindergarten	80
First Grade	84
Second Grade	85
Outside	1
Total	323



LAKE ELEMENTARY

Third Grade	109
Fourth Grade	103
Fifth Grade	104
Outside	3
Total	319

