

HAMLIN / LAKE ELEMENTARY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT — January 2011



WORDS FROM MISS FALISKIE



Critical thinking skills; the most important skills for success in school ... and life!

Students learn facts and figures, dates and places, spelling, math history...and much more in school today. But, as important as it is to learn basic facts, experts say the single most important skills for success in school... and life itself...are the skills of critical thinking.

Our computers, books and libraries are overflowing with an ocean of facts. The information we have available grows day by day...and we need every bit of it. But no one can ever hope to learn or remember it all.

Instead of just mastering facts, students must also learn to think clearly. They must be able to understand facts, sort them out and make sense of them. They need to know how to make good decisions based on careful analysis. These are the skills of critical thinking.

The Parent Institute, 1993.

Wishing you and your families happiness and success in this New Year!

Miss Faliskie



pre-Kindergarten

This month the Pre-K children will be traveling to the the South Poles, as we learn about Eskimos, penguins, and In Science, we are going to experiment with snow. We will some snow inside to see what it does. Then, we will put the snow in the freezer to see what happens.



North and polar bears. be bringing melted

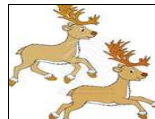


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We will also be discussing how to dress properly for the cold weather. So be sure to send us to school with coats, hats, and mittens.

Our favorite author right now is Jan Brett. Some of the books that she wrote are: THE MITTEN , THE HAT, and THE WILD CHRISTMAS REINDEER. Stop by the Community Library across the street and check out some of her books.



Our newest letters are Aa, Dd, Nn. Please practice identifying these letters and their sounds along with our “old” letters Cc, Mm, Pp, Rr, Ss, and Tt.

We will celebrate Martin Luther King’s birthday by reading a story about him. We will talk about how important it is to treat all people with kindness and respect.





Kindergarten

As we welcome the new year, the kindergarteners are busier than ever! Stories about penguins, snowmen, mittens, and snowy weather are being enjoyed this month.

Our students are also listening to stories that focus on how baby animals learn about the world from their families, and discovering how real animals play in their habitats.

The children are now developing their listening skills by identifying the beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. This listening skill helps them to find the correct letters when they are making new words and word families.

In math, we are continuing to work on making and reading graphs and practicing printing numbers. Geometry and fractions are being introduced. The children are identifying, describing, and comparing solid and plane figure shapes and objects. We are also looking for symmetry in shapes and objects, and learning to recognize whole and half.

To celebrate **Martin Luther King Day**, we will listen to his story and learn about his life and his dream for a peaceful world.

We would like to remind everyone to make sure that your child is dressed



appropriately for the cold weather.



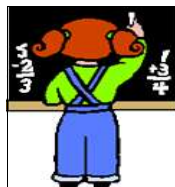
First Grade



We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday! The New Year welcomes a third hardcover reading book Here and There. We are continuing to see great progress in reading and writing. Continue to practice the sight words that are sent home nightly in their Homework Folder.

Your child was recently given the winter DIBELS assessment. DIBELS is now focusing on Oral Reading Fluency as well as Phoneme Segmentation and Nonsense Word Fluency. By May, your child is expected to be able to read at least 40 words per minute on a grade level text. Parents, please continue to take the time to read with your child nightly. This will help them achieve their Oral Reading Fluency goal.

The students are also working on place value. We also will be working on regrouping. Please continue



continuing to practice telling time to the hour and half hour. They value, addition and subtraction facts, and counting mixed coins. adding three numbers and adding two digit numbers without working on their addition facts nightly with your child.



Second Grade

The Christmas season has come and gone. We hope you all had a wonderful and safe holiday season. We are looking forward to a new year filled with continued accomplishments and growth of our second graders.

In reading, second grade has been learning about expository nonfiction stories. These stories contain facts about a specific topic. The students are learning how to locate information within the given text. They are also learning how to read a diagram that helps provide facts about the given topic. As always, reading at home with an adult will help to improve fluency and accuracy.

In math, the students are continuing to practice 2 digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. In subtraction, remember to remind your child that the bigger number goes on top! Please be sure to continue practicing rocket math at home!!

Our science program, *FOSS*, is continuing to be a hit with the students. The hands on projects and experiments are keeping us interested in what is going to happen next. The *Here's Looking at You* program is also a success, where the students are learning about themselves, families, and how to keep





Third Grade

As we begin a new calendar year, third graders are continuing to work hard in all of subject areas. In reading we have been busy moving through Theme 3 of our series in which we learning about people growing and changing through their relationships with others.

their are



Students are eagerly beginning to learn about fractions which are very useful in everyday life! Please point out to your children when you use fractions and get them involved. You can cook together or work on a project that requires measuring. We continue to work towards memorizing addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. Please support your children by encouraging them to practice nightly. Knowing their facts will be a skill they will use throughout their lives, and practice makes perfect!

We are exploring the solar system in Science class this month. Students will be learning all about our solar system and how it works. Students love getting the chance to perform hands-on activities and experiments that go along with our units!



In Social Studies we continue to learn about communities and their similarities and differences. Third Graders are becoming more critical readers who are learning to navigate through their Social Studies textbooks to find essential information.

Fourth Grade

With the holidays behind us and a new year beginning, the fourth grade is moving full steam ahead. We enjoyed the time off to rest and regroup, but we are hard at work once more.

We are in the middle of our "Make Yourself at Home" theme in reading. We are discovering new genres, as well as familiar ones, from realistic fiction to fantasy and non-fiction.

In Math we continue to work our way through multiplication and division. Students are learning their facts and putting them to use in the classroom. We ask that you continue to work with them at home, ensuring their success in the classroom.

In Social Studies the student are continuing to learn all about Pennsylvania. We finished up learning about Native Americans and we are now exploring our early explorers!



In Science we are working with water both in the classroom and in the science lab. The students are enjoying all the hands on experiments that go with this unit.

As we bundle up for the cold months ahead of us, don't forget to have your child continue their nightly reading. Reading is an excellent way to pass those cold and blustery nights.



Fifth Grade

Fifth grade is in the midst of the reading theme, A Changing Planet. We started our theme by reading about, "Everglades". While reading this story we were studying the various prefixes and suffixes that can be found with root words. We also discussed the importance of self-questioning ourselves when it comes to changing our environment. From the Florida Everglades we moved on to Yellowstone National Park. Our story was called, "Summer of Fire" In this story we discovered that text structure helps the reader to create mental images while reading non-fiction information. From Yellowstone National Park we journeyed to the oceans that surround our continents. Using the strategies of finding the main idea and supporting details helped us to realize that the ocean's water level is affected by the gravitational pull of the moon. We left the oceans to orbit around Earth while reading, "Seeing Earth from Space." In this photographic essay reading we discovered that synthesizing or putting together various pieces of information while reading is an important aspect of our reading strategies. Our last story in this theme takes us from non-fiction to a fictional story, "The Case of the Flying Saucer People." Since Einstein is helping his mother solve a problem it is important that we remember to look for the main idea and supporting details in the story as we read it.

In Social Studies we are learning about the early settlements of Jamestown and Plymouth. This will lead us into the beginning of the United States. We will travel between the 13 colonies to discover why the Patriots decided to break-away from the King of England. This was a very exciting time in our history, as Ben Franklin will tell you! Our Social Studies students have been invited to join The Great Mail Race.. Since we learn about history and geography in Social Studies we thought it would be fun to join in. Not only do we learn about geography and history we also practice letter writing skills while participating in The Great Mail Race. Each student is assigned a state, in that state the student choses a city or town, and then decides on an elementary school in that town or city. The students then write a letter to the school in their assigned state. As we receive the letters back from the other states we will keep track on the map of the United States. Not only will we be learning about geography and history, we will be making new friends throughout the United States!





Title I

We hope that you had a joyous, restful holiday season! Later this month, the DIBELS assessment will be administered to all students in grades Kindergarten-Five. On Tuesday, January 25th, students at the Lake School will be tested. On Wednesday, January 26th, and Thursday, January 27th, students at the Hamlin School will be tested.

As the cold days of winter arrive, we will be spending significant time indoors. This is a great opportunity to read with your children. In addition, the Keystone State Reading Association has recommended some websites that promote reading in a fun way. Here are a few websites for children:

- www.bookadventure.com
- www.gamequarium.com
- www.timeforkids.com



Here are some websites for parents:

- www.abcteach.com
- www.eduhound.com
- www.familyeducation.com



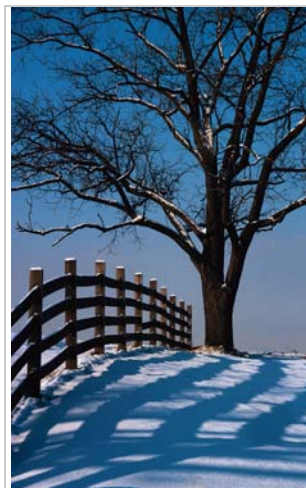
HAPPY READING!



HAMLIN ELEMENTARY

Early Intervention	14
Pre-Kindergarten	62
Kindergarten	82
First Grade	84
Second Grade	85
Outside	1
Total	328

ENROLLMENTS



LAKE ELEMENTARY

Third Grade	111
Fourth Grade	104
Fifth Grade	101
Outside	4
Total	317

