

HAMLIN / LAKE ELEMENTARY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



2010

WORDS FROM MISS FALISKIE

Ask questions to build your child's thinking skills.

Teaching your child to think in new ways doesn't have to be serious stuff. You can make it fun with silly, outlandish and logical questions.

This approach is in line with research, which recommends two-way discussions with your preschooler to promote higher-level thinking. As your child verbalizes his thought, he becomes a better thinker. And good thinking skills will carry over to school.



Ask your child:

What do you think would happen if...fish could fly? The sun shone at night? Our dog could talk?



What would you do if...you found a dollar in the refrigerator? Your hair turned blue overnight? I turned into a cat?

How many ways could you...stay warm? Move across the yard or playground? Make a new friend?

Why do you think...the dog was barking? That trains are noisy? That clouds are white?

Miss Faliskie

PRE-K

May flowers will be blooming in Pre-K. Pre-K will be very busy this month. We will be finishing up our learning all the letters of the alphabet. Our last few letters are Jj, Yy, Qq, and Uu this month. We will also be busy learning about the forest, backyard birds and animals in the pond. Pre-K would like to thank all the



volunteers and the PTA for everything they will be doing for Discovery Day. We will really enjoy ourselves!!



Mother's Day is just around the corner and we will be making a wonderful surprise to give to our mothers. We will also be doing Field Day and playing some games outside, for example, relay races, and the parachute. It will be a great way to get some exercise.



Remember, keep practicing your letters and letter sounds all summer! Read to your child at least 15 minutes every day.

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KINDERGARTEN

Our kindergarten is buzzing with excitement this month! The students have shown so much progress in their reading and math skills, and they are as busy as bees when it comes to work time.

Flowers, bees, ducks, frogs, fish, and other signs of spring are apparent in our discussion, songs, stories, and learning games.

“Exploring Our Surroundings” is our reading theme in May. Five Little Ducks, by Pamela Pararone,

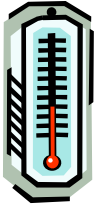


and Come Along Daisy, by Jane Simmons, are two of the stories that the children have enjoyed listening to and singing along with.

The new reading sight words are: **one** and **little**. The kindergarteners are now reading and writing simple words using the vowel **u** (as in **bus, tub, fun, cut, and rug**). They are also making new words by substituting different letters at the beginning of a CVC word, at the end, and by changing the middle vowel in a CVC word.

In math, the students will be

exploring temperature and learning about a thermometer.



Learning to tell time on the hour and half hour will be introduced. The children will be learning to tell time on analog and digital clocks.

Now that the weather is getting warmer and you children are spending more time outdoors, we want to remind you to please set time aside each evening for reading.



FIRST GRADE

As the end of the school year is approaching, there are many things that are going on in first grade. First, we are starting our final book in our reading series titled, “Going Places.” In this book we will be continuing to learn new vocabulary as well as new sight words. Please continue to work on your child’s sight words every night. This is very important to their reading success. Also, we are getting ready for DIBELS testing. First grade students are expected to segment at least 35 sounds in a minute, read

at least 15 nonsense words, and read 40 words per minute. We are continuing to work on these skills each and every day.

In Math, we are continuing to practice counting money, tally marks, place value, time to the hour and half hour, and adding two digit numbers. Please keep reviewing these skills with your child at home.



Thanks for keeping up with nightly reading. It really does make a difference!

As the end of the year approaches, students are looking forward to Discovery Day, and Field Day. Thanks to all the parents, staff and PTA for everything that they are doing for these special days. Everyone appreciates it tremendously.



SECOND GRADE



Despite spring fever, academics prevail in second grade. Students have increased comprehension by learning how to identify fantasy and reality, locate information in a non-fiction text, and use homophones. Students decode irregular vowel patterns, and read words with prefixes. They also identify past and present tense verbs.

Students enjoy measuring the distance around things, perimeter. They are challenged to add and subtract three digit numbers with regrouping. Thank you for practicing math facts at home. It really shows in your student’s accuracy.

Let’s not forget about daily reading. Students should be reading 90 or more words correctly per minute to be considered fluent for the end of second grade.

The Pennsylvania science/ecology standards are addressed well in our REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE Discovery Day. Thank you to all those who volunteer!



THIRD GRADE

We are so proud of our third grade students. They have grown so much over the past nine months.

In the last reading theme **Celebrate Our World**, students explored our



Earth and Universe. As they read about people and animal characters appreciating the world around them, they came to view the world through fresh eyes.

Students are using models to explore the meaning of division and relating it to repeated subtraction and multiplication. They are also reading, writing and using models for fractional parts of a whole or group, modeling and writing equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fraction, adding and dividing like fractions.

Even though the year is almost over, we have a few reminders. The importance of nightly reading and math fact practice cannot be stressed too many time. Third graders are

expected to have their facts through multiplication memorized by the end of the year. A few minutes a night is all it takes.



As the year comes to an end we would like to thank you again for setting high expectations for your child when it comes to doing his or her personal best. Your support and continued encouragement is invaluable.

FOURTH GRADE

Now that May has arrived it is hard to believe this is our last full month of school. We can all breath a sigh of relief now that PSSA's are over. We all worked very hard and did a great job: however we still have a lot to do.

In math, fourth grade is working on geometry, tie and money. We ask that you work with your child, whenever possible to count money. A good way to help your child is to let them count the change you might receive back in the store or add up items that are on sale in the grocery ads. We are also continuing with our multiplication and division facts, and

asks that you make sure they continue to study those math facts.

In Social Studies we are looking forward to our field trip to The Roebling Bridge in Lackawaxen. We have been preparing for this trip to Upper Delaware and Recreational Rive, by learning all about the Railroad and Canals that were built in this area.

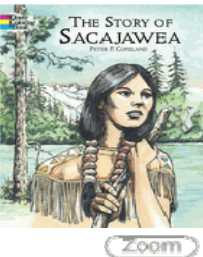


In Science we are studying the effects of alcohol and tobacco use. We hope what we learn in class will help us make the right choice in years to come.

Finally we have entered our last theme in reading and it is New Lands. In this theme, students read about characters who travel to new lands. The characters come to view exploration and discovery as lifelong process, always beginning with an open mind and a courageous heart. We hope they do the same along the roads they travel

FIFTH GRADE

April has been a shower of activity for the fifth grade. In our reading theme, "American Adventures", we read about how many famous Americans helped to shape our country. Did you know that Ben Franklin began the first hospital, library, and volunteer fire department? Have you thought about the incredible



westward journey taken by Lewis & Clark and their guide, Sacagawea? These are just a few adventurous and inventive Americans we learned about.

In Math class we continue to work on problem solving strategies. The students are becoming very skilled at showing and explaining their work. They enjoyed making drawings, charts, and graphs to go along with their computations. Then they explain their work using appropriate mathematical terms.



skilled at showing and explaining their work. They enjoyed making drawings, charts, and



personal best to demonstrate all that they have learned in reading, math and writing throughout the last 6 years of their wonderful lives in elementary school. As we "spring" into a successful fourth quarter, we would like to thank all grownups for the support and encouragement that you have given children throughout the year. Together we can help our students be the be the best they can be.



TITLE I

Thank you to all those families who came out to the Title I Awards Night. It was such a great way to celebrate the students' hard work throughout the year. Some of you may not know, but the Title I Awards Night was originally a parent's idea. If you would like to suggest ways to improve our Title I program or if you have some great ideas to get everyone together please join our Parents Advisory Council. We will be meeting at the various schools during the week of May 17th. If you are interested please contact your child's Title I teacher for more information.



Don't forget that May brings DIBELS testing. Be sure to read, read, read! To help your child "blossom" into readers the Keystone State Reading Association (KSRA) offers the following suggestions to help with book selections. Many families are looking for a quick method to determine a book's appropriateness for their child's independent reading level. Comprehension checks and ways to enhance oral reading are also key areas of interest. May you find these suggestions useful as you discover the wonderful world of books with your family! Happy Reading!!

- Select books that appeal to your child's interest level.
- Use the five-finger test to help your child select books appropriate for his/her level. Encourage your child to choose a book that looks interesting, open it to any page and read. Each time your child comes to an unknown word, a finger is raised. Five unknown words on a page indicate that the book is probably too difficult for independent reading. Save the book to

to use at a later time or include it as a read aloud selection

- Read books aloud to your child on a regular basis. Don't overlook chapter books! Primary grade children enjoy them as much as intermediate grade children.
 - Provide opportunities for shared reading. In a shared reading, you take turns reading aloud with your child.
 - Invite your child to read a favorite book to a younger sibling or friend.
 - Use repeated readings with your son or daughter. Allow your child to practice the story as many times as needed for the development of fluency with oral reading.
 - Record your child reading a favorite selection. Mail the tape to a distant relative or friend. The recorded story could also become a wonderful addition to a childhood memory box.
 - Use echo reading. Read a short passage from a favorite selection and ask your child to reread it matching your fluency and expression.
 - Read paragraphs alternately with your child. Provide guide questions for the paragraphs read aloud. Allow your child to ask questions also.
- Help your child summarize a story using these five questions:
 Who or what is the story about?
 When or where does the story take place?
 What happens first?
 What happens next?
 How does the story end?
- Invite your child to draw a picture illustrating a favorite scene or character from a story. Encourage your child to write a descriptive paragraph about it. Ask your child to read it to you.

ENROLLMENTS

HAMLIN ELEMENTARY

Early Intervention	16
Pre-Kindergarten	62
Kindergarten	84
First Grade	82
Second Grade	108
Outside Placement	4
Total	356

LAKE ELEMENTARY

Third Grade	100
Fourth Grade	99
Fifth Grade	86
Outside Placement	6
Total	291