

HAMLIN / LAKE ELEMENTARY

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT — December 2010



WORDS FROM MISS FALISKIE

More Ways to Help Your Child with Homework



Show your child that homework counts.

- **Remind your child when it is time for homework.** Sometimes your child may not have homework. Use this time for reading or writing.
- **Set a good example.** Your child also learns by watching you. While your child studies, you can:
 - * read a book or newspaper
 - * write a letter to a friend
 - * balance your checkbook
- **Limit TV.** Turn it off when it is time to study.

Team up with your child's teacher.

- **Talk with them early in the year.** Ask about homework rules. Know what they expect from your child.
- **Go to all parent-teacher conferences.** Ask:
 - * "What does my child do well?"
 - * "What should my child work on?"
 - * "How can I help?"
- **Keep in touch.**

Homework helps your child do well in school. And you can help!

We thank you all for all you do and look forward to fostering beginnings in the years to come.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Holiday Season.

Miss Faliskie



PRE-K NEWS

We would like to thank all of the parents who attended Parent Conferences. We enjoyed meeting with you and discussing your child's progress.



December is an eventful month for the Pre-K children. We are as busy as elves learning more letters and their sounds. By the end of December, we will have covered the letters Mm, Pp, Rr, Ss, Tt and Cc!

The children are counting down the days until Christmas and hard at work making Christmas cards and a surprise! The children are looking forward to a visit from Silver Spurs, Santa's smallest elf.



Please remember to read to your child every night and to sign their reading calendar.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season!



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KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten classrooms are full of excitement and holiday spirit this month! Holiday stories and Christmas carols can be heard in every classroom. Their precious faces light up as we count down the days until Santa arrives.

Phonemic awareness, phonics, and writing skills are being worked on daily in class. The children are reading more words and sentences. Remember to practice letter/sound charts and sight words nightly.



In math, the kindergarteners are reading and making picture graphs, reading and making tally tables, and making predictions from data. The students will be identifying geometric shapes in two and three dimensions.

Please remember to review the work that comes home in the weekly Wildcat Folder and Homework Folder, and read with your son or daughter every evening. Encourage your child to do some writing at home with a reminder to try to print the letters correctly.

With the arrival of winter, please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for cold weather. A warm jacket, hat, mittens, and boots are necessary each day for school.



We wish everyone a very Happy Holiday Season!



FIRST GRADE



We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. The students continue to work hard on telling time, shapes, addition facts, and counting mixed coins. Students need a lot of practice counting money, help them practice by counting change you have around the house. This is great practice for them. We have also begun RocketMath. Students are to be practicing their addition facts so that this will increase their fluency for RocketMath.



In reading, we have completed our reading series book Catch a Dream. Our new book is entitled Here and There. Please continue to read with your child nightly. In January, students will once again be taking DIBELS assessments. The children will be tested on Nonsense Word Fluency and Phoneme Segmentation, as well as Oral Reading Fluency. Students will be expected to read at least 20 words per minute using a grade level text.



We have been continuing to work on our handwriting. We have been reinforcing letter formation as well as neatness and spacing. Please remind your children at home the importance of neat handwriting as well as checking their homework to make sure the letters are made correctly.

We would like to take this time to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and Happy New Year!

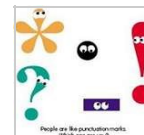


SECOND GRADE

Second graders have encountered different genres in their "Helping Hands" reading theme. They enjoyed a cumulative folktale, a photo essay, realistic fiction, and other stories that let students share how they help at home and at school. Next, the students were challenged with reading nonfiction texts about plants and trees. They interpreted information on charts, graphs, and diagrams.

Students learned to identify plural, common, and proper nouns. Rather than using the same words over and over again, students learned a variety of synonyms.

Second graders learned the meaning of digits, identified patterns, skip counted, and completed pattern tables. They practiced solving story problems and explained their strategies. Practicing math facts at home has really accelerated the students' progress in addition, thank you!



Conferences were helpful for both teachers and parents to meet students' academic and social needs. Thank you for participating. The second grade concert performance emphasized gratitude for all that the season of fall brings in our American culture. Thanks to all who worked hard to prepare and decorate for the concert.



Happy Holiday's





THIRD GRADE

The third grade team hopes you all had a great Thanksgiving, and are ready to finish another great year! also like to thank each of you for attending the remarkable music concert, and congratulate the students fantastic job they did.

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We will finish up Theme 2 of Changing Patterns of our reading series. The students will be working hard to gain key skills and concepts taught each week to make themselves a better reader. We are also practicing our reading fluency, by timing ourselves for one minute to see how many words we can read, so that we can do our best on DIBELS.

In math we have been investigating the world of time and money. We have also continued to soar through our facts in Rocket Math. Please support practicing math facts at home along with word problems.

We are "electrified" with science as we are learning all about electricity by creating static electricity and simple circuits. In Social Studies we are learning about Early Communities in America. The third graders are finding out how lives were changed forever when Native Americans built the first communities in North America thousands of years ago.



In Social Studies, we will be learning about why people moved west to build new communities and why the immigrants moved to new communities. We will also discuss how the events of the Civil War changed communities and how to interpret and make a time line.

Veteran's Day was a day to remember those who have fought for our country as well as those who continue to do so. Third graders were able to share what they were thankful for at our Thanksgiving dinner in school. We are all thankful for our families, friends, our school and all the people who touch our lives everyday. Lastly, we also ask to remember that your child completes his/her homework each night. Along with making certain your child reads 15-30 minutes nightly as well as filling in their reading calendar.

FOURTH GRADE



As December arrives, fourth grade continues to work hard and do our best. We were glad you were able to join us for parent/teacher conferences and hope by working together we can help the children achieve success in school.



We have finished up our second session in the 4 sight testing. We are hoping to see progress from our students and also see the data that shows we are moving in a positive direction in all our academic areas.

In science our classroom and lab work are focusing on nutrition we hope to take what we learn here and transfer it to healthier eating habits. In Social Studies we are learning about the first settlers to the United States and Pennsylvania. We are following that up with Colonial Pennsylvania and the beginning of our country.

In math we are taking our multiplication and division facts and using them to discover and explore algebra. Remember to encourage your child to continue studying those multiplication and division facts.

As December moves into full swing we are also moving along in our reading series. We finish up our "Side by Side" theme and move into the "Make Yourself at Home" theme. In this theme we study characters that grow and change along with their environment. In recognizing this change in nature we hope the students come to appreciate their own tremendous potential for inner growth.

Finally remember to continue the nightly reading, it is a wonderful way to spend time with your child.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday and thank you for all that you do.



FIFTH GRADE

DRUM ROLL PLEASE...Congratulations Max Burrier, our new president! Our 5th grade representatives campaigned and presented excellent speeches to the student body. Students voted and we now have a great team of council members ready to put their ideas into action.

Team Work is the overall theme-from our student council working together to our reading theme, students are reminded daily of all the things they can accomplish by working together.

In math, 5th grade is working hard on expressions, equations, and decimals. Students still need to practice their multiplication and division facts as these are the foundations for our other skills.

Lastly, as the hustle and bustle of the holidays draw near, and you're looking for that perfect gift, remember....a book makes a great gift or maybe a gift certificate to Borders so your child can pick out that certain book he/she is interested in!

Merry Christmas from the 5th Grade Team!





TITLE I



As the weather turns colder and you and your family are spending more time indoors, why not designate a "family" reading time. Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

Through reading aloud, providing print materials, and promoting positive attitudes about reading and writing, you can have a powerful impact on children's literacy and learning.

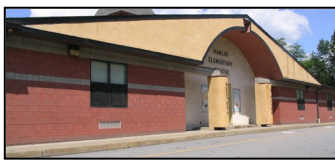
- ✦ Invite your child to read with you every day.
- ✦ When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help your child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
- ✦ Read your child's favorite book over and over again.
- ✦ Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- ✦ Discuss new words. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
- ✦ Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- ✦ Read from a variety of children's books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

For those parents whose child is more reluctant to read, try some of the five tips from reading expert Marie Carbo to help you get your child back on the right reading track.

- Make reading relaxing and low-key for a short part of the day.
 - Read aloud some funny or interesting parts of your favorite book.
 - Draw your child in with a riddle book for kids, a passage from Sports Illustrated, or a newspaper story.
 - If your child likes a movie, see if it's based on a book, then bring home the book.
 - For kids who have lost the motivation to read, use material that's intensely interesting to them. Your child may almost have to disassociate what he's doing at school with the act of reading something for fun.
- Reading well is at the heart of all learning. Children who can't read well, can't learn.



Help make a difference for your child and have a happy holiday!



HAMLIN ELEMENTARY

Early Intervention	14
Pre-Kindergarten	65
Kindergarten	84
First Grade	84
Second Grade	85
Outside	1
Total	<u>333</u>

ENROLLMENTS



LAKE ELEMENTARY

Third Grade	111
Fourth Grade	106
Fifth Grade	98
Outside	4
Total	<u>319</u>



Multicultural Holiday's Celebrated in December: Advent (Christian) , Hanukkah, (Jewish) St. Nicholas Day, (Christian) St. Lucia Day (Swedish), Las Posadas (Hispanic), Christmas Eve and Day (Christian), Boxing Day (Austrialian, Canadian, English, Irish), Kwanzaa (African American), Omisoka (Japanese), World Peace Day (December 21)and the Festival of Our Lady O Guadalupe (Mexican),