



January 2010 Newsletter

Robert D. Wilson Elementary



Early Intervention

Quality Time with Your Child Leads to Strong Language Skills

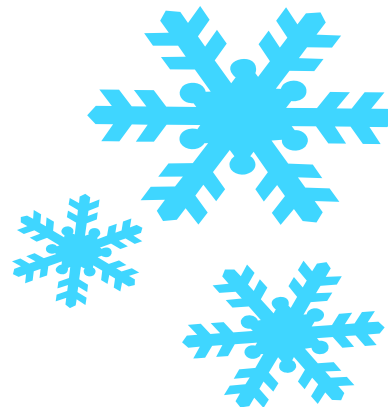
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With our busy and often hectic lives, we never seem to have enough quality time with our children. The quality time parents spend with their children positively affects their development in many ways. Setting aside fifteen minutes or more a day with each of your children helps them to develop strong language and play skills. By following these fun and simple guidelines, your children will "get on the road" to good language skills!

Step: 4: Have FUN!

Enjoy spending this time with your child. To avoid frustration, play at your child's level by talking slowly with simple, short sentences. Your children will truly enjoy having your attention focused on them. They will look forward to your "quality time" every day!



It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge.

-Mrs. Coccodrilli's room

Learning Support-Mr. Petak/Mrs. Fortuner

Winter came down to our home
one night
Quietly pirouetting in on silvery-
toed slippers of snow,
And we, we were children once
again.
~Bill Morgan, Jr.

We hope everyone had a great holiday and a restful vacation. What New Year's Resolutions did you make for 2010?

In January, the students will continue working in the SRA Corrective Reading. The students have been increasing their reading rate and fluency. They also have improved their phonics and phonemic awareness skills. Parents, keep up the good work having the students read their stories or passages to you each night.

In the Saxon Math program,

students will be working on naming fractional parts, measurement, writing dates using numbers, creating symmetrical designs, and addition facts. Their progress will be measured through written and fact assessment.

It is nice to be back and we'd like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and healthy New Year.



FIRST GRADE

We wish you a Happy New Year and hope that you had a wonderful holiday. Last month the children had a great time making ornaments for the tree and baking cookies for our video conference with Santa Claus himself! The Christmas concert was a success! Many thanks to Mrs. Courtright and her dedication to the children.

Now that we have returned we are moving full speed ahead. We will continue to work on comprehension, fluency, problem solving, and thinking skills. The students will be learning about long vowels, which say their name, blends, digraphs, and nouns.

Mastery of these skills will increase the students' ability to comprehend the text and think about what they are reading instead of trying to sound out the words.

In social studies we will be discussing Dr. Martin Luther King's life and his important message to not judge others. In science we will be focused on weather. In math we will continue with Mastering Math Facts (Rocket Math) and cover measurement, geometry, money and time. Remember, letting your child count your change is a great learning experience.

The students will also take their DIBELS assessment this month. This time we will be testing Oral Reading Fluency.



Snow is falling
It's time to play
Snow is falling
Let's make snowmen today!

THIRD GRADE

The children enjoyed the R.D. Wilson Holiday Festival and wearing their pajamas to school. The children had a fun time at their parties and exchanging gifts. Vacation was a wonderful break with everyone back and ready to start the New Year.

In reading third grade is beginning a new book. It is called On Your Mark. The children are in the theme "Celebrate Our World". The children will explore our Earth and the Universe. As they read and listen to selections about people and animal characters appreciating the world around them, they will come to view their own world through fresh eyes.

The children will be working on the skills: cause and effect, locating information, summarizing, and main idea with supporting details.

The children are working hard on problem solving strategies in math. The children are continuing to show progress with "Rocket Math". They are working in the unit dealing with time, money, and graphs. Please practice telling time with a regular clock if possible. The children are collecting, graphing, and interpreting data. Probability is a concept that the children are learning and practicing in small groups.

This month brings a change in the schedule for science, social studies, and health. Mrs. Agnello's class will be working in the new science unit on magnetism and electricity. Ms. Savage's class enjoyed the unit very much. The children especially enjoyed the motor and electromagnet investigation. Ms. Savage's and Mrs. Gillis' classes will be working on the units in health and social studies.

Will the groundhog see his shadow next month?



Our listening skills continue to grow and we hear more and more sounds within words. We practice segmenting or taking words apart and blending or putting sounds together daily.

We are having lots of fun with our writing. Our attempts at unfamiliar words are getting better and better.

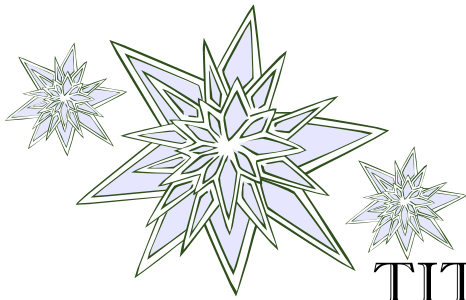
Our reading is improving as well. We are reading stories and poems each day. The children are very excited about reading pre-decodable books on their own.

Kindergarten

When copies of these books are sent home, please take time to listen to your new reader share them with you. They are proud and eager to show off their new skills.

Our math lessons include counting and recognizing numbers to 50. We have also been counting by 10's. Our newest accomplishment is being able to add two numbers together. Our sums have reached ten and we use counters to help us solve these problems. Challenge your child to try and make up addition stories.

For example: If we have two snowmen in the yard and then build three more snowmen, how many snowmen will be in the yard all together? If you would like to write one of your addition stories down and let your child illustrate it, he/she may bring it into school and we will be sure to have an extra treat to reward the effort.



TITLE I

Greetings for the New Year! May it be a healthy and happy one for your family.

With the new year will come new assignments and projects for your school child/children. Sometimes students have trouble organizing and mastering assignments and projects. Here are some hints to make the task more manageable.

1. Encourage your child to start early and make a schedule.

2. As soon as the project is assigned, be sure that your child makes a list of supplies needed to complete the project.
3. Always break larger tasks into smaller chunks.
4. Check on your child's progress regularly to see that smaller tasks are completed.
5. Never wait until the night before the due date to finish your project.

**One little snowflake
with nothing to do.
Along came another
and
Then there were two.**

**Two little snowflakes
laughing with me.
Along came another,
and
Then there were three.**

**Three little snowflakes
looking for some more.
Along came another,
and
Then there were four.**

**Four little snowflakes
dancing a jive.
Along came another,
and
Then there were five.**

**Five little snowflakes
having so much fun.
Out came the sun, and**

FOURTH GRADE

We hope everyone had a nice, restful holiday break. Just a reminder, fourth grade students should be spending time every night at home reading and practicing math facts.

New topics that we will be covering in 2010:

- Social Studies-We will be starting Chapter 5, Birthplace of Independence. In this chapter, students will learn about the French and Indian War, and what led to the American Revolution.
- Science-Students will

begin their unit on energy. They will learn about mechanical, sound, electrical, heat, and chemical energy.

- Health-Nutrition will be our focus in January. Parents, you can reinforce healthy nutrition at home by helping your child choose a healthy lunch or snack to bring to school.



People went door to door, rather like carol singers at Christmas time, but after the new year they were called "Wassailers."-
January facts from the 1400's



FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade is looking forward to a wonderful year in 2010. We will begin our study of the original thirteen colonies and related problems with England.

In reading we will begin a unit called, "Express Yourself".

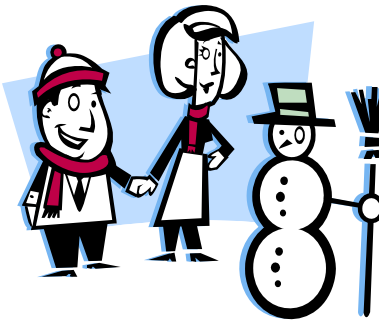
Our study in math will involve algebraic concepts including patterns. Students will also begin a series of lessons on test taking strategies.

PREKINDERGARTEN

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere. ~Chinese Proverb

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We have introduced each letter of the alphabet. We will continue reinforcing the letters and their sounds, please join us in reviewing them at home. During January we will begin to create a numeral book and introduce numerals 0 -10. Our literacy activities will include: learning and acting out nursery rhymes, listening to and discussing fairy tales and fables and identifying favorite characters in the stories. Please ask your children about the stories we are reading and have them re-enact some nursery rhymes for you at home.

Keep reading to your children. Read lots of different kinds of books. Reread their favorite books, children love repetition. Read predictable books. Your children will begin to recognize the repeated words and will like saying them with you. Ask your children what they think will happen next in the story. Talk about the stories you read. Ask about your children's favorite parts. Help your children relate the story to something in their life. These fun and simple activities will promote literacy with your children. Story time can be more than simply reading a book.



AUTISTIC SUPPORT

We all hope that you had a wonderful holiday season and that you're having a great New Year! As a start to the New Year, we will be starting to teach new social skills lessons with the students. These lessons will be taught daily, and will include all different types of social skills, from saying "Hello" to someone, to playing games with a group of our friends. We are very excited to start this program, and we look forward to watching our students use the social skills that they have learned in their lessons with their peers throughout the school day! Here is a really neat website that provides infor-

mation and ideas for different social skills activities that you can do with your children at home:

http://autism.lovetoknow.com/Social_Skills_Activities_for_Kids_with_Autism
Have a great New Year!



"Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."



SECOND GRADE

Technology upgrades come to Second Grade!

Interactive Promethean Boards were recently installed in all Second Grade classrooms at Robert D. Wilson. The large screen replaces a section of chalkboard at the front of the class and is connected to the classroom computer. Whatever can be viewed on the regular computer screen shows up on the Promethean Board, where a special pen can be used by the teacher or students to

work on the computer site, just as if we were clicking with a mouse. This is a wonderful way to involve the entire class with activities available on the web, or work with specific lessons which a teacher loads into the computer. Ask your child about ways we have used our new boards. And continue to ask as we go through the year and find new ways to use this technology in our class.

The Wayne County Community Foundation has awarded an Innovative Teaching Grant to our second grade.

It gives our students access to an exciting math website called "First in Math", where the children can work at their own pace to review and practice math skills which support our school curriculum. Children may work at school or from your home computer and the site will monitor individual progress. Watch for more specific information to be sent home soon. Be sure to check it out!