

March 2010

PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Will March come in like a lion or lamb? How will it go out? These are two questions that prekindergarten students will ponder as they observe the weather each day. We will also conduct many science experiments. We will send home some science activities for the children to do with you.

Dr. Seuss' books will help us introduce rhyming. Please reinforce rhyming at home. Make a list of rhyming words or share favorite childhood rhymes.

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day and to practice our manners, we will be having

our green healthy food party. We use this social gathering to teach the children party etiquette and to encourage them to try new and different foods. It really is a nice experience for the students. Please ask them to describe the eventful day to you.

Language for Learning is being used in our classrooms to assist in teaching language concepts. We use an assessment tool to develop lessons from the program. "*Language for Learning* teaches children the words, concepts and statements important to both oral and written language". We will be using this

program to emphasize language as a way to describe the world and as a tool for thinking and solving problems. We will send home some activities that enhance what is being taught in the classroom.

These activities are meant for review. You will find that the program emphasizes practicing speaking in sentences or complete thoughts.

Three best to have in plenty - sunshine, wisdom and generosity.
Irish Triad

KINDERGARTEN

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

- Doug Larson



Kindergarten will be full of shamrocks and green signs of spring (we hope) in March. The leprechaun is sure to visit and play some silly tricks. Ask your child about what has been happening in the classroom.

The children have been using their list of sight words and letter/sound skills to begin reading stories on their own. Keep practicing reading at home with the homework folders and stories we provide. With our reading skills developing, we are focusing our attention on comprehension. Making a mental picture of what we read helps

your child try to make sense of the words in sentences and stories. Have them describe or illustrate simple words and sentences at home.

In math, the children have celebrated the number 100 and are now counting beyond. We have been counting by 1's, 5's and 10's. The children have been using counters to do simple adding and subtracting problems. Use small household items such as buttons or cereal to do some adding or subtracting at home.

LEARNING SUPPORT

If there's a single message passed down from each generation of American parents to their children, it is a two-word line: BETTER YOURSELF. And if there's a template of self-betterment in each town, it is the local school. We have worshiped there for some time.

Ellen Goodman

For the month of March, the students continue working on the SRA Corrective Reading and the SRA Mastery program. They will work on fluency boxes using their vocabulary lists for each story and consonant blend words. This helps the students improve their reading rate and fluency. We will also work on prefixes, suffixes, compound words, and contractions. The students will continue timed reading passages for each story to chart their reading rate. Progress

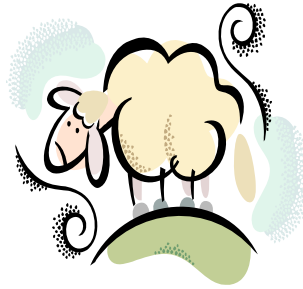
monitoring with DIBELS grade and instructional level passages continues graphing progress in the back of our books.

In spelling, we continue to work in the SRA spelling books. Students enjoy these books because of the many different activities introduced. They enjoy proof-reading, crossword puzzles, and reading for meaning activities. We continue to write sentences in the spelling notebooks. We are working on picking out the nouns, verbs, and adjectives in a sentence. This is also a handwriting activity. We stress neatness.

In writing, we will continue to work in SRA Reasoning and Writing. The students have been improving their skills on writing

short paragraphs.

In Saxon Math, we will work on division with and without remainders, order numbers least to greatest, time, fractions, symmetry, and adding and counting money. We continue to work on fact and written assessments, guided practice and homework assignments.



EARLY INTERVENTION



Drive Your Way to Better Speech and Language Skills
by Kelly Faulkenberry Ch eek, MSP, SLP
& Keri Spielvogel, MCD, CCC-SLP

Use these simple and fun ideas to turn your ride in the car into wonderful language learning opportunities.

Develop Pre-reading Skills for the "Little Guys"

Children who are learning to spell and read enjoy hunting for letters everywhere. Help them find the first letter of their names on road signs or billboards while riding in the car. Develop these pre-reading skills by finding letters to spell their whole name or other common words.

This type of activity is wonderful for helping your children learn to recognize letters. The more practice your children get with these beginning stages, the better off they will be! For those children too young for

letter-hunting, look for pictures or numbers on signs. Anything that will keep your children engaged in looking for a specific picture or figure will help with pre-reading skills.



TITLE 1

When it comes to getting high test grades, four leaf clovers and good luck have nothing to do with it. Completing homework assignments, participating in class, and studying for tests are a few things that will contribute to getting the high marks we all want. Choose your own luck by using these strategies for success and you won't have to wish for good grades. You will have earned them on your own.

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'"

~ Mary Anne Radmacher



FIRST GRADE

March has swept its way in! The children are excited to note the changes in the weather outside with their daily weather journal entries. They are anticipating the warmer weather right around the corner. However, there are still many days of cold weather fun for all of our students. Please send your child with the proper outdoor gear.

We are exploring our reading anthology, Time Together. Many new skills are introduced while others are reviewed. We have started working on long vowels. ow, oa, ee, ea, a-e and i-e will be covered this month. We will also be instructing that sometimes the y makes the long e sound.

Comprehension is of extreme importance. The children are becoming keenly aware of the sequence of events within a given story and specific details needed in answering comprehension questions. The next time you're reading a book to your child ask them:

- Who was the story about?
- Is there a problem?
- Where did the story take place?
- When did this story happen?
- Why did the character act the way that he/she/it did in the story?

Grammar is practiced daily with an emphasis on capitalization, punctuation and sentence structure.

The spelling challenge of ten words per week and bonus sentence

keeps the children eagerly engaged.

The children continue to work toward the mastery of addition and subtraction facts through our Rocket Math Program. Your effort is appreciated as we work toward individual goals. We continue to work on addition and subtraction facts in math with sums and differences to twelve. Please use the math language at home that we are using in the classroom such as: sum, difference, fact family, whole, part, greater than, less than, order, addend, minuend, pattern, same, probability, more and fewer. Thank you for all the ways you help your child succeed!

Challenge

Solve this word problem for a sticker!

I will need a picture and a number sentence.

There are 2 wheels on each bike.

How many wheels are on 10 bikes?



SECOND GRADE

It's time to think spring. We are looking forward to warmer weather.

Second grade students have been busy reading many interesting stories. If you find your child is not meeting with success when taking the tests at the end of each story, try some of these techniques to help them become better at comprehension.

- When reading stories together, have your child read a "chunk" of the story such as a paragraph or page. Then discuss what they read. Ask questions like what was the main idea of the passage, and what is happening in the story?
- Have your child write down important details as they read the story and then talk about it when (s)he finishes the story. This works well for fiction and nonfiction stories.
- Ask your teacher for a copy of the reading book to borrow for the semester. Read the story together and look for important details.
- Children sometimes struggle with inferring information, so don't forget to ask questions such as how does the character feel? They should be challenged to think beyond the easy questions like what color something was in the story.
- Enjoy reading together! We want children to love reading, not dread having to recall all the details all the time.

We are covering a lot of different concepts in math such as measurement and time. Anytime you can show how math is used in your everyday life, it makes math seem more interesting to your child. Have them tell you what time it is or count your change. Let your child measure ingredients for whatever you are cooking or the length of something in your home. Math can be fun!



THIRD GRADE

The children studied dental health in health class. Representatives from Dr. Salak's office came to present a program to the children. They enjoyed this very much.

Ms. Gillis' class will finish the science unit on magnetism and electricity. The children in all the classes will go back to the schedule of health, science, and social studies two days a week for each.

During reading the children continue on their second theme in the second anthology book. All students are working on identifying the main idea and supporting details. The children are continuing to work on their fluency. They are also busy working on their writing skills.

Math is a continuation of problem solving activities and measurement. The children continue to work on their basic math facts. The goal for all third grade students is to be proficient in addition and subtraction facts. They are also learning their multiplication facts and should show mastery by the end of the year in this area.

The third grade class would like to wish everyone a "Happy St. Patrick's Day" and a "Happy Easter".



FOURTH GRADE

March is a very busy month in fourth grade. To start, the Science fair will be on March 9th. The students have been working very hard to create some exciting projects.

It is also National Nutrition month. The students will continue to focus their learning on ways of keeping their bodies healthy. They have learned about the digestive system and the importance of reading labels on the foods they eat. They will be going to Wegman's on March 15th and 17th, to learn about the food pyramid and sample a variety of new and healthy food choices.

In math the students will be gearing up to work with numbers in probability and data analysis. We ask that they continue their practice with the multiplication and division facts.

Just a little reminder, the PSSA tests will be here very shortly. We ask that the students follow some very simple yet important steps to best prepare them for the testing days.:

- Get a good night's rest.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Go to school on time.
- Relax and stay focused.



FIFTH GRADE

Fifth grade students are completing the new FOSS unit of study focusing on Mixtures and Solutions. The students seemed to really enjoy this lab based program. Study skills are a current topic with all students as we prepare for the upcoming state assessments. These state assessments in writing, math, and reading will take place in April. School attendance is very important as we prepare for these assessments.



The scientist is not a person who gives the right answers, he's one who asks the right questions. ~Claude Lévi-Strauss, *Le Cru et le cuit*, 1964

