



# MARCH NEWSLETTER



Western Wayne School District

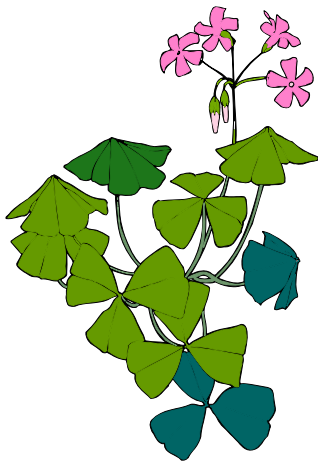


## EARLY INTERVENTION

### Imagine the Possibilities with Pretend Play! by Amber Hodgson, M.A., CCC-SLP

*Handy Handouts* (Number 27)

Children love to pretend that they are adults with different jobs and tasks to perform—they might dress up like mommy, have a tea party with empty dishes, teach a classroom full of stuffed animals, fly the couch to the moon, or explore the deep, dark closet-cave! Some of the skills children can learn from pretend play:



So many of our students love to create and make new things out of different materials. Because they love it so much, we would like to share some make-it-yourself recipes for materials that you can make both cheaply and easily. Enjoy!

#### Peanut Butter Dough:

Ingredients - 1 cup smooth peanut butter & 1 cup dried milk powder

Social-Emotional Skills, Language and Vocabulary Skills, Problem-Solving Skills, and Disciplinary Skills. Here are some ways to encourage pretend play:

- Make time for make-believe! Try not to involve your children in so many activities that there is no time for play. Creativity takes time to develop, and children can have difficulties entertaining themselves if they are not given time to use their imaginations.
- Show that play is valuable by playing with your children. Children realize that play is important if adults pay attention to them while they are playing and even engage with them in play.

Directions - Mix ingredients together in a bowl. Use the same day as made. (It's edible too!!)

#### Mashed Potato Dough:

Ingredients – 1 box instant mashed potatoes, very hot water (use caution), food coloring

Directions – Put instant mashed potatoes into a bowl. Gradually add water while stirring until the **potatoes are stiff. Add food coloring for color variation.**

- Appreciate and talk to your children about their play. We often say, "You are doing a great job working," but we may never say, "You are doing a great job playing!"
- Create an environment for play. It is important for adults to provide materials that children can explore and adapt in play, and it is also great if adults can provide a special "play place" or designated area for the pretend play and all the inspiring props.
- Adults should monitor play, so that when play appears to be "stuck" or unproductive, they can suggest new character roles, offer new props, or provide new adventures to inspire ideas, such as a trip to the park, aquarium, or museum.
- Children get ideas for their play from books, movies, field trips, and everyday life, so if your children are interested in a particular topic, such as animals, take them to the zoo, read them a book about farm animals, or watch a movie about animals—they will be filled with ideas for pretend play! You might see your children reenacting the trip or scenes from the movie with friends. This helps them to better remember the experience, and it reinforces all of their newly learned information.

## AUTISTIC SUPPORT

#### Salt Paint:

Ingredients – 1/8 cup liquid starch, food coloring, paper plates, 1/8 cup water, 1/2 cup salt, paintbrush

Directions – Mix starch, water, food coloring, and salt. Use the paint with a paintbrush. Keep stirring the mixture while you use it. (As the paint dries, it will crystallize.)

Also, we are looking for different items for upcoming art projects. Many of these items you may have around your house, and we would love if you could send them in with your student rather than throwing them away in the trash. These items are: egg cartons, cardboard tubes, bubble wrap, baby food jars, small berry baskets, coffee cans, clothespins, and scraps of felt or fabric. Thank you in advance for your donations!

## 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 be conducting science experiments. Dr. Seuss' books will help to introduce rhyming. Please reinforce rhyming with your little ones.

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 our students. Please ask them to describe the eventful day to you.



The children all had fun exchanging valentines and celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Thanks for all the help in making these two days special with your home projects. Keep an eye out for the tricky leprechaun-he always shows up at this time of the year.

The children have been working very hard using our budding reading and math skills. They are showing signs of growth and are beginning to be independent readers. Please be sure to practice reading every night. **The more your child reads the better reader they will become.** We are beginning to look at



*Language for Learning* will be 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

## KINDERGARTEN

comprehending what we read. Be sure to ask a few questions about what your child is reading before, during and after they read. The children are also using their letter/sound skills to write their own sentences and stories. Encourage your child to write on his/her own. Let them use the word list or sound out words they do not know. You can write the corrected spelling underneath but let your child write as much as possible on their own. Reading and writing skills develop together.

The children have taken their growing knowledge of numbers and have

## FIRST GRADE

As March ROARS in the students of R.D.Wilson find themselves very busy. The Science Fair, under the direction of Miss Nancy Savage, challenges the children to tickle their brains for an exciting experiment to share with their peers, as well as with the student body.

Each day is a learning experience in first grade for there are so many new concepts introduced. Currently we are working on: long and short vowels, word endings such as ed, s, and ing. We continue to practice decoding and blending, phonemic segmentation (sounds within a word), and reading fluency in preparation

for our DIBELS assessment in May.

As the children write, we will be looking for sentence sense, capitalization and punctuation. We will also be looking for the use of describing words, which adds to the creativity. We will also be looking for a clear beginning, middle, and end (sequence of events) to their topic.

Math continues to challenge our students as they learn new concepts. Students are learning time to the hour and half hour, counting mixed coins, using odd and even numbers, problem solving and mental math. The students have been working hard on Rocket Math. Practice the facts nightly to improve your

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. This language program emphasizes practicing speaking in sentences and talking with your children.



*Never iron a four-leaf clover,  
because you don't want to press  
your luck.  
-Author Unknown*

begun adding and subtracting numbers to ten. We use counters to make the process concrete for the children. Practice this at home using small items like buttons, cheerios or small toys. We are counting to 100 by 1's, 10's and 5's. Continue practicing these skills as well as identifying the numbers to 100.

child's individual goal. Flashcards or computer games for addition and subtraction would be an excellent Easter gift to assist your child in the mastery of these facts.

Students are working extremely hard so be make sure yours gets at least nine to ten hours of sleep per night. This will enable your child to do his/her best work! Thanks for all the ways you help make the learning experience a successful one!



## SECOND GRADE

Hints of spring remind us that the year is flying by. We can also see it in the growth our students are showing. As their reading skills improve, second grade students can be expected to read with greater independence. Reading to your child provides an opportunity for them to enjoy stories beyond their current reading level. Be sure your child also has daily chances to read and explore stories independently. Regular practice will solidify skills we teach in class and help establish a love of reading to last a lifetime. Record all reading activities on the reading log so we can acknowledge your child's efforts at home.

A book series your child may enjoy; *Nate the Great*, *Horrible Harry*, *Berenstein Bears*, *Cam Jansen*, *Henry and Mudge*, *Junie B. Jones*, and *Fancy Nancy*. Look for them at the store or the library.

Math lessons continue to include working with money. We soon switch to telling time to five minute intervals, stating time before and after the hour, and elapsed time. Use your digital or analog clock at home to discuss when things take place, how long before an event happens, or how long something might take. Using these

concepts and language in daily life will help make our math lessons more familiar and meaningful to your child.



As winter moves on, so does the third grade. We continue to make progress in all our academic areas. Within the month the third grade students will be very busy preparing for taking the upcoming PSSA's. In reading we have been exploring the theme "Celebrate Our World" where students have had the opportunity to read and discuss expository nonfiction/science.

In math our students are busy exploring geometry and learning how to explain our problem solving steps when solving a math question. We continue to do our "Rocket Math" daily with the goal in mind of mastering facts.

## THIRD GRADE

In science students are continuing to explore electricity. The Science Fair was a huge success. It was terrific to see so many creative projects! Way to go R.D.W students!

Finally, in health students have finished the Life Skills lessons with our guest speaker Mary Paladino. Topics covered were: Promoting Health and Personal Development. This special training program provides information and skills that will help students avoid unhealthy habits, such as smoking, drinking, or using drugs. Our students will learn how to make good decisions and will focus on the best ways of dealing with anxiety and peer pressure.

February was Dental Health month. Students learned the importance of flossing and brushing their teeth at least 2 times a day! Please encourage your child to floss and brush daily.

Thank you for all that you do. We ask that you continue to read with your child at home and encourage your third grade student to record their nightly reading independently.



We are getting excited about the prospect of spring. It has been a long winter. Please continue to send your children with the appropriate clothing for recess. Many children come without warm coats, hats, etc.

Science Fair was March 8, 2011. All fourth grade students were asked to do a project. They are being coordinated through Mrs. Wagner and her science classes. Students in the same grade could work on a project to-

## FOURTH GRADE

gether. We were all excited about seeing the many projects, posters and reports our students brought in.

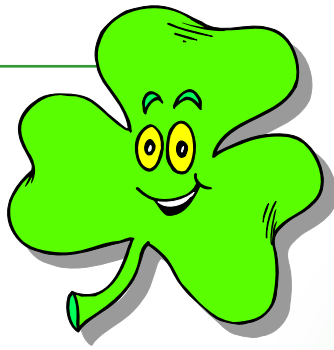
Our students are studying the American Revolution in social studies. Be sure your child studies the information for the tests. This is a great time to discuss what everyone knows about that period in our history.

Nutrition is the theme in health. The students are studying the digestive system and then will talk about healthy food choices. Encourage your children to look at their eating habits and look for ways to improve them.



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

- Doug Larson



**"The March wind roars  
Like a lion in the sky,  
And makes us shiver  
As he passes by.**

**When winds are soft,  
And the days are warm and clear,  
Just like a gentle lamb,  
Then spring is here."**  
- Author Unknown



## FIFTH GRADE

In science, students were busy preparing their science fair projects. Every student is required to participate in the science fair this year. A big "Thank You" to Dr. Yusavage for coming to our health classes to speak to us about the Central Nervous System. In social studies we will be learning that many European countries claimed the land that was first home to the Native Americans. Robert LaSalle claimed Louisiana for France. The Spanish built missions in the West. George Washington led the colonists in the French and Indian War. Eventually England became the major colonizer. The fifth grade team would like to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

## LEARNING SUPPORT

**"Children have to be educated,  
but they also have to be left to  
educate themselves."**

*Ernest Dimmet*

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

monitoring on grade level and instructional level weekly. They enjoy graphing their progress in the back of their books after each story. Each Friday we will be working on independent readers. The students will complete comprehension sheets after they read their books.

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

In Saxon Math, we will be working on division with and without remainders, double digit multiplication, square roots, exponents, expanded notation, least to greatest number, time, fractions, symmetry and adding and counting money. They continue to work on fact and written assessments, guided practice and homework assignments.

Mr. Petak and Mrs. Fortuner's class wishes everyone a wonderful St. Patrick's Day!

