

October



2011

Robert D. Wilson Elementary School

Learning Support

We hope everyone had a great summer vacation. We continue to work in the SRA reading program. The students are working in SRA Word Attack Skills, Decoding Strategies, and in the Reading Mastery Plus Program. Our goal is to improve skills in: phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. We will be using the Gray Oral Reading Test and DIBELS to monitor the student progress. Parent support at home is important so that students increase their reading rate, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

The students are also working in the SRA spelling program. The students will be learning various pronunciation, meaning, proofreading and writing strategies. Their weekly tests will con-

sist of challenge words, core words, and review words.

In mathematics, the students will work in the Saxon Math Program. They will need to continue to get support at home on completing their Saxon Math homework assignments. They will also need to continue getting support on their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. The students will be taking written and fact assessments after every five lessons. They will also take standardized tests after various lessons. They will be completing math probes bi-monthly in order to master their IEP objectives.

We will be starting a new writing program. Our goal is for students to write complete sentences using correct capitalization and punctuation.

We'll also be working on nouns, pronouns, and subject verb agreement. They will be working in SRA Reasoning and Writing workbook.

Daylight savings time is at the end of October. We will be reinforcing time skills. Columbus Day is also in October. We will be working on a writing/art activity about Christopher Columbus. Halloween is a favorite event which the children enjoy in the month of October.

Your support in enhancing your child's education is deeply appreciated.



PREKINDERGARTEN



"The ordinary acts we practice everyday at home are more important to the soul than their simplicity might suspect" by Thomas Moore

Our students are adjusting to the routines of their school environment. Please discuss school routines with your children daily. We are encouraging your children to be responsible for their belongings and classroom procedures. Simply allowing your children to help unpack their backpack with you at home or practicing putting on their coats will instill some sense of confidence in your little ones.

We are also enjoying: singing, listening to stories, sharing our ideas and playing with new friends. We have also been painting, cutting, gluing and coloring with markers and crayons. The students have been recognizing and identifying colors and shapes. Please practice these skills and concepts at home with your children. Try playing games like hunting for shapes and colors in your environment or "I spy" with colors and shapes. Games are a great way to review with your children.

Our students have been creating their own version of Bill Martin Jr. and Eric Carle's book Brown Bear Brown Bear, What Do You See? They are very excited about sharing it with everyone at home. During October we will be working on Fire Prevention, our "All About Me" books and Halloween & harvest projects. We will also be having a Halloween carnival. Our children do not dress up for Halloween for safety reasons, but we will make sure that the carnival is fun for everyone.



KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has been working very hard to establish a daily routine. Everyone is becoming more comfortable with our school and classrooms. For the month of September we practiced saying the alphabet and trying to identify as many letters as we could. We will continue this in October and begin to focus on specific letters and sounds to help us begin our journey into reading. In math we have been counting and recognizing numbers up to ten. We will now add the teen numbers up to twenty. We have also been using shapes and colors to make and extend patterns. Encourage your child to use and show off these emerging skills at home. In October, the children will begin our Kindergarten Homework Program. Please keep an eye out for their new "Homework Folders"!!

SECOND GRADE

Second grade has "fallen" right back into a new school year with a very successful start. We recently began our first theme in reading, entitled "Being Me." This theme stresses the importance of being yourself. This is an important lesson at any age!

We are excited to introduce second grade students to our math program from Harcourt School Publishers. In the first unit we have begun investigating strategies for addition and subtraction facts. Key math vocabulary this month includes: fact family, doubles, doubles plus one, sum and difference.

THIRD GRADE

THIRD GRADE WILL BE WONDERFUL!!

Really????

Well, sometimes we wonder when we go to a new class, a new teacher, a new room, new classmates..."Will I be o.k.?"

The answer is YES!

The 3rd grade teachers have a few tips that can help:

Get plenty of rest and sleep. This will

help you be at your best each day.

Be sure to eat breakfast! You need good foods to help you think and stay tuned in to third-grade lessons!

Keep yourself organized. You are the third-grader. Work at being responsible.

FIRST GRADE

September has been an exciting month for our new first grade students. The children have done a beautiful job over the summer practicing their letters, sounds and first grade sight word list. We began the month learning new routines as we familiarize our new students with the first grade curriculum. In math we are working on the recognition and printing of numerals as well as skip counting, graphing and patterns. In reading we continue with the 90 minute reading block that begins in the morning after breakfast. Our focus is comprehension, learning new vocabulary and eventually reading with expression. We will also be using questions that will encourage your child to think and discover the deeper meaning and discuss their answers. Reading a story more than once is a great way to practice becoming a more fluent reader. We also have started our journal entries. This is a time for the children to express their thoughts on paper. Grammar and spelling is not the focus but neatness counts. Sometimes students get stuck on the spelling of a word which interrupts their thought process and their writing does not flow.

Finally, homework will be given Monday through Thursday each week. The purpose of homework in first grade is to practice a skill that has been taught that day or during the week in which the homework was assigned. A reading log was also sent home in order to track nightly readings. Students need to read and/or be read to nightly in order to become great readers. Also, it teaches the students to be responsible and set up a routine that will continue throughout their educational careers. Completing homework, early bed times and a good breakfast in the morning are all important factors that will help your child be the best student he/she can be. The home-school connection is essential in making a positive impact on your child's education. They are counting on us to help them have an exciting and productive school year!

Finally, just a few reminders...

- Establish a routine to read **with** your child, remembering to document it on their reading log with an **adult** signature.
- Homework is practice in being a responsible student. Please always encourage your child to put forth their **personal best efforts!**

Thank you for entrusting your children to us. We look forward to being their companions in learning this school year!

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FOURTH GRADE

We have been busy in fourth grade. In our first reading theme, “You Can Do It”, we have been meeting characters who learn more about themselves and others by taking challenges creatively. Reminder: All students need to read nightly for 15 to 30 minutes. Keep track of this in the reading log found in Homework Folders. Our writing focus has been on using the 4-Square organizer to prepare to write five paragraph essays. Students are working on transitioning from paragraph to paragraph as well as adding details to written work.

In math we have already completed our first chapter on place value and are busy with chapter two. In this chapter we are adding and subtracting whole numbers with a focus on problem solving. Estimating and rounding are also covered

in this chapter. Encourage your child to practice multiplication facts for a few minutes each night. Ideas: Learn one new fact a night. Write it repeatedly. Say it aloud repeatedly. Before you know it, you will have mastered all of the facts! All students must master their multiplication facts by the end of the second marking period.

We are engrossed in our first science unit, Water. Ask your child about science classes and have him or her share the science journal with you. Review those challenging science terms! We are also finishing up our Second Step social skills program. Students learned about solving problems with peers, taking responsibility for actions, and some techniques to control anger. This year in social studies we will be learning all about

Pennsylvania. We began with land, water, climate, and resources. At the end of chapter one, look for a study guide to help prepare for our first test.

Look for your child’s homework folder in his or her backpack every night. Check it over to make sure that your child is filling out his or her Homework Assignment Booklet and completing homework assignments. Together, we can ensure that your child has a successful year!



FIFTH GRADE



TITLE 1

Welcome Back! As always fifth grade students need to be studying their math facts, these are tested daily. In science the children are working on Machines and Force with an introduction to Leonardo DaVinci. In social studies the children are learning about early trade routes and the beginning of sea exploration. In health the children are working on Second Step which is an extension of the social skills they learned in fourth grade. We thank you for visiting us at our Open House!!!

The year has begun with Mrs. Parini and Mrs. Decker meeting with the parents of the Title 1 students to sign compacts and answer questions concerning the program. DIBELS testing was conducted on September 14-15. The students are now hard at work developing their reading skills.

The new school year offers each student an opportunity to be productive and successful. There are many factors that affect the success of students. A student’s ability to read is one crucial factor. Daily practice of at least 15 minutes a day will strengthen their reading skills and help develop life-long readers. Parental attitudes and attention to their children’s reading practices also make a big difference in their reading success.

How can parents help at home? Reading aloud to your child, having them read aloud to you, or alternating these activities can be a great literacy activity to enjoy with children of all ages. Talk about what has been read and ask questions to help your child become a critical reader. Even discuss your opinions of the selections read. Not everyone will always like everything they read!

Active Parenting Promotes Successful Child Development

by Amber Swearingen, MOT, OTR/L
Handy Dandy Handouts, Number 124

Active parenting involves the direct teaching of essential, age-appropriate skills to a child and greatly enhances the process of learning. Active parenting happens as you recognize teachable moments within your everyday activities and create meaningful experiences for your child. Teachable mo-

ments occur within your daily routines and family rituals. When parents incorporate consistency, structure, and positive feedback into these lessons, they build a motivated and confident child.

Suggestions for Active Parenting:

- **Limit TV time.** Engage your child in activities that incorporate movement, communication, problem-solving, and hands-on experiences.
- **Read with your child.** Help develop reading comprehension skills by taking time each day



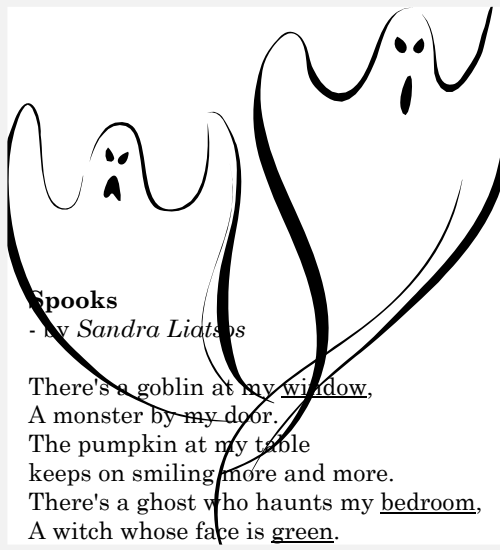
to read with your child. Discuss the pictures, characters, settings, plots, and main ideas within the story..

- **Encourage dramatic play.** Use events in the story for role playing. Acting out situations, reactions, and emotions of the characters is fun for a child and increases the child’s comprehension of the story.



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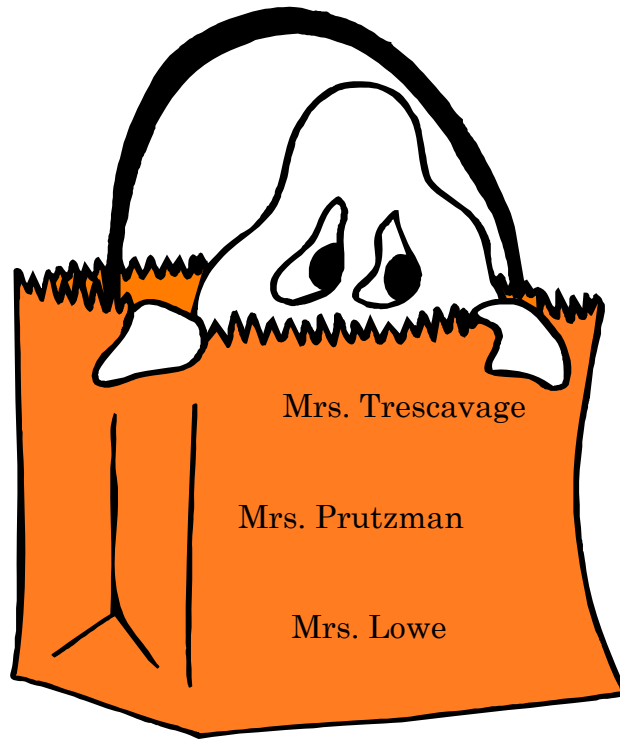
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Spooks

- by Sandra Liatsos

There's a goblin at my window,
A monster by my door.
The pumpkin at my table
keeps on smiling more and more.
There's a ghost who haunts my bedroom,
A witch whose face is green.
They used to be my family,
Till they dressed for Halloween.



Making Friends - 1. The quickest way to make a friend is to smile. When you smile, people think you are friendly and easy to talk to. It may not be easy at first to smile. But, you can practice in the mirror. When you look at yourself, think if you'd rather talk to your smiling face or your usual face that may look scared or angry. Remember that other people have feelings too and most people will stay away from a scared or angry looking face. 2. One easy way to start a conversation with someone is to say something nice about them. For example, you could comment on a great answer to a teacher's question, good catch at the ball field, pretty shirt, etc...Think about how great you feel when someone says something nice to you. Doesn't it make you want to keep talking to that person? 3. Ask your new friends questions about themselves. Who's their favorite singer, where do they live, who's their teacher, what do they do after school are all good questions to start a conversation.

