



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

2/1/2012

KINDERGARTEN-

Kindergarten Activity Report-

Mrs. Swain's students have been learning about the magic of our changing seasons. With the help of some stories and learning activities the students are beginning to understand that weather changes seasonally affecting the Earth and the people, animals, and plant life that live on it. The class completed a graph entitled "What is your favorite season?" The results showed that the majority of the class enjoys winter. The class enjoyed the story "Snowmen At Night". The illustrations in the book are very detailed, bright and colorful. The children were excited to discover some of these details and share them with their classmates. As a follow up Art activity each student made their own snowman.

Multi-Age-

What's the matter? Oops! I mean... What is Matter? The Multi-Age team will be exploring the concept of matter. Our key learning points will be..."Matter exists in three states (solid, liquid, and gas), contains properties, and is used by people in their daily lives. So stop in and see the marvels of matter in our classrooms.

What's happening in Feb?

- ☉ Feb 2- Act 80 Day
- ☉ Feb 16- Act 80 Day
- ☉ Feb 20- President's Day
No School

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First Grade News

Guard your change purses! First grade is counting pennies, nickels, and dimes. Test your child's knowledge of these coins and making equivalent amounts using different coin combinations.

We continue to practice addition and subtraction facts to increase automaticity. This is essential as we begin double-digit addition.

Recently we read *Tomas Rivera* a biography by Jane Medina. This was the students' first experience with this genre. As an extension activity the students will be writing about a member of their family.

For Chinese New Year the students learned they were born in either the year of the monkey or the year of the rooster. This year is the year of the Dragon. The first grade classes celebrated with a dragon parade showing off their hand made dragons.

SECOND GRADE-

February Activity Report Grade 2

February is a month full of love and we love our second graders at WLM!! We also love watching them grow as learners. Lately students have been working hard on counting mixed change. Do you have any extra change in your pockets? Why not let your second grader count it?! Students have also been working hard learning to tell time on digital and analog clocks. In reading, students continue to learn their robust vocabulary and high frequency words. They have also been learning about setting, fiction, and nonfiction stories. At the end of January students enjoyed seeing Charlotte's Web come to life at the Clemen's Center. This loveable pig followed us back into our classrooms as we found the similarities and differences between the play and the book. What is your 2nd grader's favorite part?

Love is kind and caring. Love is a lot of things actually. Love could be hugs and kisses. Love could be your favorite food. Love could be just your family. Love is not what you think it is, it is more.

By Jaidyn

THIRD GRADE-

The third graders have been extremely busy in Reading class. They have been working on reading lots of Reading Counts books, have been writing informational passages, and were studying plot and author's purpose. In the next few weeks, the students will be reading even more books, reading and writing poetry, and learning how to compare and contrast information. Be sure to ask a third grader about his or her favorite book! Keep reading!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS-

Fourth graders are learning science through inquiry and discovery! By experimenting with electricity and magnetism in science class, students discovered that a hypothesis can be tested by designing experimental procedures on their own. Soon, these student scientists will design electromagnets using what they have learned.

FOURTH GRADE NEWS-

Fourth graders are learning science through inquiry and discovery! By experimenting with electricity and magnetism in science class, students discovered that a hypothesis can be tested by designing experimental procedures on their own. Soon, these student scientists will design eletromagnets using what they have learned.

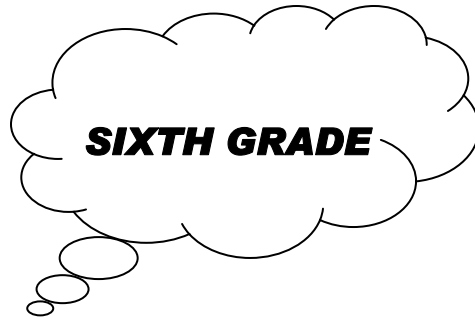


FIFTH GRADE-

As the month of January came to an end, so did the reading of several different trade books in 5th grade. Most students read in literature circles during the month and enjoyed reading *Call It Courage*, *Rules*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, or, *Kidnapped - The Abduction*. After reading *Call It Courage*, students in Mrs. Route's literature circles performed their own student created readers' theaters for the multi-age classes.

Students could be "heard" studying sound in Mrs. Route's science classroom during the month of January. Their culminating activity included constructing classroom models of the ear and writing informational paragraphs explaining the function of each part of the ear.

In preparation for the 5th grade field trip to Gettysburg in the spring, students began examining the individual states in our country and discovering what makes them unique. This study will lead to discovering the difference between the Northern and Southern states leading up to the Civil War. As the school year progresses, students will study the underground railroad, the causes of the Civil War, and the Civil War itself.



Sixth grade science students are completing their crime scene investigations. The students will present their findings in a classroom court setting. Upon completion of the CSI Unit, the students will begin a robotics unit. This unit will focus on engineering and technology. The students will build and program robots to perform tasks such as sound and light detection. Robots will also be programmed to determine color difference. The students will use math and computer skills to log and analyze their data. In reading this month the sixth grade students are using their CSI skills to determine Theme and Point of View. They are learning to look for clues in the text to determine what the theme or message the author is trying to get across. The theme we decided on for "Escaping the Great Wave" was "You may be stronger than you think." The class then worked on connecting this theme to themselves, other stories, and the world around them. To find out the narrator's point of view the students have to look for pronoun clues. Some of the sections are working on Point of View comic strips. Look for some in the next Miller Minutes!

In Math this month we will be completing our unit on Elapsed time,



Miller Elementary Physical Education February Newsletter



What's Going On

Students in grades 3-6 have spent much of the month of January practicing and reviewing basketball skills and participating in modified games. The focus was on skill development and improvement and the skills practiced were dribbling, passing, and shooting. Students in grades K-2 also had a chance to practice basketball skills and take part in some games.

LOOKING AHEAD

A jump rope unit will follow the basketball skills unit and lead us into our Jump Rope for Heart Event on the Week of February 6th.



Jump Rope for Heart (JRFH) is a national fundraising program. JRFH is a valuable program that promotes physical activity, heart healthy living, and community service to children. JRFH continues to be a valuable and beneficial program for our school. Students will learn jump rope skills and participate in heart health activities as a result of this outstanding program!

Sneaker Reminder

All students are reminded to wear sneakers to Physical Education class. Sneakers provide the necessary support for all kinds of movement activities and ensure safety for all students. In the winter months, students are encouraged and reminded to bring a pair of sneakers with them in their backpacks.

Guidance News!

The 4th grade students have been working on the character education topic of Respect. Each student was asked to chose a person that they respect and would consider to be their hero or heroine. The students wrote a paragraph about their hero or heroine and then drew a picture of that person. The final products can be seen hanging up around the school building.

Also, as a way to thank the service men and woman that serve our country each day, the 4th grade made Valentine's Day cards for the troops. One of the 4th graders cousins is a soldier over seas so the students at Warren L. Miller School sent their cards to him and his battalion. We wanted to make sure that these soldiers know how much we respect them for keeping our country and other countries safe.



MUSIC NOTES!

Happy New Year from the music room!

We are excited to welcome Miss Natalia Torres Gonzales to Miller Elementary! She is a student teacher from the Music Education program at Mansfield University, and will be teaching with Mrs. Cook until the middle of March. Welcome Miss T-G!

The new band lesson schedule for the third marking period can now be found online, as can band lesson assignments. Go to www.southerntioga.org, click on *Warren L. Miller Elementary School*, and click on the *Music* link. This lesson schedule will be in effect from February 1 until students receive their third nine weeks report cards. The lesson schedule is also posted in the school hallways by the stage door and by both the fifth and sixth grade classrooms. Lesson assignments are updated online at the time of your child's lesson. Please encourage your child to bring his/her instrument and music on lesson day and to **PRACTICE REGULARLY!** Students who practice regularly advance much more quickly and have much better success in band than those who practice only occasionally!

Fifth Grade Chorus members are in the process of auditioning to attend Chorus Fest, a one-day singing festival held every year and attended by students from more than 20 area elementary schools. Way to go, everyone who is auditioning! We will let you know in next month's newsletter which students have been chosen to represent Miller Elementary at this year's festival on April 27 in Liberty.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions:
rcook@southerntioga.org or (570) 662-2192

Musically yours,
Mrs. Rebecca Cook

Magazine Sales

Now through February 7th

Please make checks out to Miller Elementary
Prizes will be awarded February 13th
Profit remains in your child's grade
Order online or through the school

Daffodil Order

Coming soon

All orders will be due to the school by Feb.
17th

Daffodils will be delivered March 22nd &
23rd

Box Tops and Labels

How many General Mills box tops and Campbell's Soup labels did you collect during the holiday baking season? Bring them in to your teacher or put them in the Campbell collection can in the lobby of W L Miller.

The next collection date is February 10. If you cut out the 100 Bonus Points Collection sheet for Labels for Education that was recently in the newspaper but have not been able to fill it, bring it in by the 10th and I will complete it with UPC's that are submitted.

Thank you to all the students and parents who take the time to collect and bring box tops and labels to school. Thank you also to the teachers and staff at WLM for ensuring they reach the office for collection and processing. I recently took a big box of can tabs to the student council at Mansfield High School for their contribution to the Ronald McDonald House.

REMEMBER: FEBRAURY 10TH IS THE NEXT COLLECTION DATE!!

Kathy Evans 549-7321