

Washington Primary Newsletter

Principal – Ellen Froman

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December 2017

Upcoming Events:

- 4th Storytellers perform for Jefferson Choir
- 12th Storytellers perform for PHCC and Cottonwood Ridge
- 12th Storytellers perform RFJSHS
- 13th Storytellers perform for Lions
- 21th Storytellers perform for WPS and parents
- 21st Winter Parties
- 21st End of Quarter/Semester
- 25th-Jan. 5th Winter Break
- Jan 8th School Resumes

Kindergarten News:

The winter holidays are quickly approaching and so is the end of second quarter activities and testing. We are excited to see an increase in academic growth and everyday responsibilities.

In reading we are checking that sight words can be read instantly and written correctly. Sounding and blending skills, as well as reading small words fluently are part of our daily reading routine. Once the word fluency increases, you will begin to watch your child read and decode sentences with more confidence. We are also checking for comprehension after the students read their short stories or from a book that has been read to them. This is a good skill to practice at home as well. Some questions we ask are about characters, setting, what happened and why they enjoyed the story.

Math is all about number sense! Not only are students counting, identifying, and matching quantities with numbers 1-10, they are learning to add two smaller numbers to equal a larger number, we call this target

number combinations. We are also introducing graphs to learn how to compare groups that are greater than, less than or equal.

You will also be witnessing your child beginning to write a complete sentence! Soon we will be identifying the subject, verb and prepositional phrase in their sentences by color coding each part of the sentence. It's so fun and exciting to see this developmental process transpire by learning that spoken words can be written!

We are pleased with all that the children have learned since school started. We ask that you continue to maintain these important skills over the winter vacation.

On December 21th, we will celebrate the end of the quarter with a winter party. Your teacher will send more information concerning this day later in the month. Enjoy our holiday break! Lots of love from your Kindergarten Teachers!

The Kindergarten Team



1st Grade News:

The year is zooming by! First grade is working hard on their reading targets. We are starting to read and spell words with long vowels. Teachers have noticed students doing well with this change in sounds. Our word wall continues to grow with sight words, also!

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Spelling scores and sentence scores have gotten better. Kids must have a nice homework routine! Thanks for that!

Math is all about number sense! We have finished up the quarter by learning subtraction strategies, focusing on that all important part, part whole concept. We continue to work on those addition and subtraction strategies. We will build on that by mastering equations! Exciting!

Writing in first grade is built on that describing, camera planner. The kids are using adjectives, clauses, and similes when they write. Love it! Soon, we will learn to write paragraphs.

In social studies we will compare and contrast different cultures and traditions. Science targets the types of matter; solids, liquids, and gases. December involves another round of end of quarter testing. Please continue that bedtime routine and good attendance. Stay healthy first graders! First Grade Rocks!
First Grade Team

2nd Grade News:

We are all so excited that the school year is rolling around and we are almost to the half way mark of the school year. We will be celebrating our hard work and impressive accomplishments with a holiday party the week before winter break. When it gets closer to our party, each student will bring home a sign-up sheet with what to bring for this. We will also be having a few parent volunteers helping us in each 2nd grade classroom. Let your child's teacher know if you're interested in helping and we will get back to you with details!

We want to thank you for your support and participation in your child's homework

every night. Homework every night should include a book to read, vocabulary to study, a math worksheet, and spelling words. On their list of spelling words we want to remind you to challenge your child and practice the challenge words. They are just for extra credit, so it doesn't hurt to try them! Homework in 2nd grade should not last longer than 30 minutes.

In math, we will be working on subtraction strategies for two-digit subtraction with regrouping. We will continue to connect addition and subtraction and stretch our thinking skills with word problems. Our writing curriculum takes us into poetry and more personal narratives this month. We are working on creativity and showing with our words, rather than telling.

Our tummies are getting hungry so please send more snacks to your child's classroom if you can. And the cold & flu season is upon us so in order to keep our kids healthier we would like to also ask for Germ-X and Clorox wipes. Thank you.

The Second Grade Team

REMINDER:

Please dress your child for cold weather as we are not always indoors. Layers are best, so if they do get warm indoors, but then have the right amount of clothing to go outside. Thank You!

Tardies—Early Pick up

Parents and Guardians this is just a reminder that if your child is late or picked up early; three times of this will result in being counted for 1 day of an unexcused absence. We know that from time to time things happen and your child will be late or you have to pick them up early for

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appointments, please let Louise know why they are late or why you are picking them up so that we can mark it.

Up Coming Break:

Winter break is the chance for students and parents to relax and recharge outside of the classroom or work – in theory. By mid-break, children may become bored and parents agitated in equal measure. Winter break should incorporate some relaxation, but rest and relaxation and learning are not mutually exclusive. This is the perfect time for students to engage their brains in ways the classroom may not always allow for.

Here are a few ways parents can help keep their children entertained and learning over winter break while staving off boredom.

1. Give the right kind of gifts. When the holidays come around, your child will likely be focused on gifts. When you're out shopping, think ahead and seek out items that can encourage your children to use their brains. While some toys urge students to engage in imaginative play, others work toward a more formal kind of lesson. Depending on your child's age, you'll be able to find science experiment kits, crafts, robots, engaging books and education-based games, such as trivia or memory games. These are all fun activities that can aid in learning. Make your child's downtime productive by seeking out gifts that can encourage learning, curiosity and imaginative play.
2. Plan a few field trips. Few school days are as beloved as those that offer a field trip. However, there's no reason to limit field trips to school days. Look around your area for creative learning opportunities. You may choose something with an obvious educational

aspect – a discovery center or museum, for example – or you might get creative with lessons and teachable moments. Perhaps you venture to a park where you identify plants and press leaves, or you visit a planetarium or observatory to explore the night sky.

Whatever you decide to do, it's sure to be more of a hit than vegging in front of the TV.

3. Set aside family time for learning. The best way to encourage learning is by making it fun. One way to accomplish this is to set aside time over winter break to learn together as a family. This can manifest in a number of different ways (including the aforementioned field trips): You may sit as a family and watch a documentary or read for an hour before bed. Maybe you all read the same book and turn it into a family book club. Or, perhaps the family watches your child's favorite book-based movie, and compare the events of the book with the events in the movie. This way, your children remain engaged in their education, without it seeming like a required task.

4. Get some holiday baking out of the way. Anything can be a learning activity if you approach it correctly! The holidays are often synonymous with baked goods, which provide an excellent opportunity for honing math skills. Measuring, halving or doubling recipes, and distributing the resulting product among family members can help students who are learning fractions and ratios better understand the concepts while satisfying their sweet tooth. Make baking an active learning experience by asking questions during the process. "If we are doubling this recipe, how many cups of butter will we need?" "We only want to make 12 cookies, and this recipe is for 60. What is the amount of flour we actually need?" By asking questions like these,

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a creative activity such as baking can be easily translated into an educational lesson.

5. Emphasize an attitude of gratitude. Chances are, your child received a number of gifts from friends and family. While you may not practice the art of the handwritten "thank you" often, winter break is a perfect opportunity to bring it back. Ask your student to write thoughtful thank-you notes to everyone who gave him or her a gift. This not only instills the importance of gratitude, but it's an extra opportunity for children to practice writing and penmanship. These are important life skills for younger children to develop.

http://www.omaha.com/momaha/ways-to-keep-your-child-learning-during-winter-break/article_f100dca8-a29a-11e5-9308-173197187e7b.html

<http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/my-money/2014/11/24/5-ways-to-keep-kids-busy-during-holiday-breaks>)

