

# Washington Primary School Newsletter

## October 2, 2017

Principal: Mrs. Froman-----Secretary: Mrs. Garcia  
Phone: 254-7681

### October Upcoming Events:

- 5<sup>th</sup> School Pictures
- 13<sup>th</sup> Homecoming
- 18<sup>th</sup> Creede Theater
- 19<sup>th</sup> Pumpkin Patch
- 19<sup>th</sup> School T-Shirt Orders due

### Kindergarten News:

The school year is flying by already. October brings with it a lot of changes inside and out. With colder mornings we may need jackets to keep the chill off in the mornings. Some changes inside start with reading short words and completing sentences using sight words. We cannot stress how important it is to stay current learning to read and write those sight words. They are the building blocks to both reading and writing sentences this year. We begin pairing those words with others to build sentences using subjects and verbs. We are still working on detailed pictures to illustrate those new sentences we're beginning to build.

Math brings us into "fiveness" which is the basic number sense involving numbers 0-5. That includes counting things, writing those numbers, reading those numbers, and matching quantities with numbers. We will also begin exploring the topic of comparing numbers 0-5 using proper mathematical terms such as greater than, less than or equal to. We aim at becoming number experts to help build the foundation for solid math skills.

This year holds a wealth of information to be learned. The possibilities are endless. We thank you in advance for working and talking with your child at home. Every five minutes counts toward hours of growth!  
The Kindergarten Team

### First Grade News:

Hello, parents! We are having a great year so far and are enjoying learning our classroom procedures and using our social contract. We are excited to get the chance to go to the pumpkin patch this month. The end of the quarter and Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up fast. Be looking for the conference paperwork in your child's homework folder!

We are continuing to read and spell all short vowel sounds, as well as consonant blends and digraphs (sh, th, ch, wh). Sight words are our continued focus as they help us be the most fluent readers we can be! We are thankful for your help with homework every night. It is so important and definitely shows in their class work.

We are continuing to work with addition strategies and problem solving in our math series. You will see some of the same addition concepts spiraling through for your children to practice again. We are developing some good number sense and starting to understand the relationship between addition and subtraction. Bear with us as we continue to learn this more rigorous curriculum! We are very thankful for your help and support with homework.

The first graders are working very hard writing complete sentences. Ask your child to give you a 7-up sentence. 😊 They will know what you mean!

We have been learning about living and nonliving things in science and we will continue to learn about the needs and characteristics of animals this month.

We have been working on creating a strong relationship within our classrooms and being good leaders and team members, which is one of our social studies goals.

We thank you for supporting your children and being such a vital piece in their education. We look forward to what the rest of the year will bring us.

FIRST GRADE ROCKS!

First Grade Team

## Second Grade News:

Fall is here and second grade is off to a wonderful start. In math we have just completed strategies to add and subtract. Please encourage them to use these strategies.

In reading we have been focusing on long and short vowels, reading fluently, comprehension skills, and vocabulary words. We are also working on multisyllabic words and morphology through our Orton Gillingham phonics program. Feel free to ask your kids what we do during OG time. ☺ Our reading flooring groups are up and running as well as our AR competition. Please encourage your child to come to school ready to test on AR books and homework books. We will be starting a math flooring time to help address some reteaching and enrichment needs. We are all excited to be extending our math learning with this block of time!

Please continue to work with your child on homework. Every Thursday is a spelling test. The more practice we get, the more successful our students will be. Thanks for all you do. Happy Fall!

Second Grade Team

## Reinforce the Concept of Time with Your Elementary Student

Are you building a team with your child's school? Teachers put a lot of effort into teaching students about the concept of time. And there's a lot for young students to learn. What is a second, minute, hour and day? What's a week, month and year? What are past, present and future?



The more your child understands time and how it's measured, the more responsible she can be. She can "be ready in 10 minutes" or estimate how much time it will take to do homework. A real mastery of time doesn't come until later in

the elementary years. But the more you can do now to help your child understand time, the better. Have your child:

1. Select a task to do. She could choose to jump up and down 50 times, draw a picture, complete three math problems, or eat a bowl of cereal.

2. Estimate how many minutes it will take her to complete the task.

3. Use a timer or stopwatch to track the time it takes to complete the task.

4. Check to see how close her estimate was to the actual time it took.

If your child does this—estimating and verifying time—for several tasks, her sense of time will begin to improve. Research shows that when home and school act as a strong team, students are the real winners. They learn more and do better academically and socially. "Time is what we want most ... but what we use worst." —William Penn

## Five Ways Parents Can Improve Their Children's Listening Skills

Teachers agree that the ability to listen is one of the most important skills children need in order to be successful in school. Here are five ways to help your child strengthen her listening skills:



1. Be a good model. When your child is telling you something, stop what you're doing. Give her your full attention. Some parents find it easier to sit down so that their child's eyes are at their own eye level.

2. Have family members take turns telling about their day. Then have each person draw a name and repeat something that happened to the person whose name they drew.

3. Play Simon Says. This will teach your child to listen very carefully and to follow directions exactly.

4. Practice reflective listening. When you say something, ask your child to paraphrase what you said. When your child asks a question,

repeat her question and then respond.

5. Stop and ask questions during story time. When you get to an exciting part of the book, ask, "What do you think will happen next?"