

LOWELL ELEMENTARY
NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. HEINZERLING

November is already knocking at the door! It is hard to believe how fast time flies! First of all, thank you to all the parents and guardians that were able to attend conferences to find out how their children are doing in school. If you were unable to attend conferences, please give your child(ren)'s teacher a call to either reschedule or do a virtual conference or a telephone conference. Your support as always is greatly appreciated. The first trimester ends on November 17th and teachers will be working on report cards so we can get those sent home to you. If you have questions after receiving your child's report card please talk to your child's teacher.

Remember that your students will be going outside for recess. The only times we keep students in are if the feels like temperature is below 0 or if it is raining. Students need to make sure they come prepared for the weather we are having. If your child has been sick he or she can stay inside for recess with a parent request for three days. If you feel they need to stay inside for longer than three days you will need to get a note from your doctor.

We could also use your help in ensuring your student has a clean mask to wear at the start of each week and that your student comes to school with a mask every day. Please try to make sure your child comes to school every day with a mask on.

Upcoming Dates:

November 4th- Picture Retakes (please return your original pictures)

November 13th No School- Teacher PD

November 17th End of Trimester 1

November 25-27 No School- Thanksgiving Break

December 11 No School- Teacher PD

December 22-January 1 No School- Winter Break

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

What have we been working on?!

What a great start to the year we have had! There have been some exciting things happening in Lowell's Kindergarten!

In literacy...

" We have been working on learning our letter names and letter sounds.

" We are working on fluency when reading letter sounds, sight words, and when reading books.

" Watch for sight words coming home!

In math...

" We have been creating and extending patterns.

" Counting to 30. We are working to get into the 100s club!!

" Practicing number writing.

In writing...

" Labeling our pictures by stretching words out.

" Writing true stories across pages.

In social science...

" We have been working hard on being leaders at school.

▢ I can follow school rules.

▢ I can walk hushed and tucked in the hallway.

▢ I can be a good friend.

▢ I can stay focused when working.

What Can We Work on at Home?

• Reading together—talk about the characters in the books. Don't forget to ask your child questions about what you've read to help with comprehension skills!

- Play a game where you ask your child to find something in the room that begins with a certain sound. (Example: /s/ sound (silverware, star, stove, sink...))
- Counting in everyday situations. If your child is having some crackers for a snack count them! If there are five in your family ask "How many plates are at the table? 1, 2, 3, 4, 5"

1ST GRADE NEWS

It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of October. The first grade classes are showing amazing growth in all academic areas along with learning how to navigate through Google Classroom. They are catching on really well.

In reading we have been reading amazing books to interact and learn with. We are not only learning to read the words, they are also learning how to summarize, make inferences and notice how characters are feeling by using both the words and illustrations in the books. They are really enjoying our new stories this year. Remember to study those sight words and read every night!

In math we are just finishing up a unit that focuses primarily on geometry. They have been exploring the properties of various shapes such as triangles, rhombuses, trapezoids and hexagonal shapes. They are also learning how to fill the same shape using more or less shapes to fill. The unit we are getting ready to start will focus on counting, addition and subtraction. These are all skills that would benefit with support from home at night.

In writing we have just finished our Small Moments- Personal Narratives. They wrote about a very small event that happened to them or they did and expanded it into a story by adding details and answering questions they knew the reader would have about their experience. It was wonderful hearing their stories and celebrating their successes. We are now starting informational teaching books.

It was great seeing or speaking with you all at conferences. It is great to know that we have your support at home for best learning experiences for our students. As always if you have any questions or concerns contact your child's teacher. Thanks for all you do!

The First Grade Team

HABIT OF THE MONTH

Lowell's habit of the month for November is Habit 5, Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood.

- Listen to others without interrupting.
- I raise my hand when I want to speak and I wait to be called on.
- I don't blurt out.
- I try to understand other people's views, even if they are different from my own.

NEWS FROM MR. G IN PE

3rd-5th

We just finished up fitness testing for the month in the areas of PACER test, Curl-ups, and Push-ups. I will input data into computer and print out reports for each student to hold onto for the remainder of the school year. Encourage your child to try and improve in those areas as the school year progresses on. For the rest of November and into December we will focus on the skill of overhand throwing. We want students to be able to identify their dominant hand and step with their opposite foot. We use Side on, Step, Ear, Throw (SSET) to help students remember the proper throwing motion.

Kdg-2nd

We just finished up a unit on locomotor skills such as learning how to skip, gallop, slide, jump, and hop. Encourage your son/daughter to continue working on those skills as they serve as the foundation for movement. For November we are going to start working on underhand tossing and catching. Please help your child to identify their dominant hand and stepping with their opposite foot.

Thanks, Mr. Guetzlaff-PE

2ND GRADE

Wow, the second graders have been so busy working on some amazing things! Here is what they have been up to lately:

Reading: We have been reading lots of books of personal memories from authors, several books written by author Tomie dePaola, and narrative nonfiction books. In shared reading, we are exploring books about different kinds of animals, weather, and habitats. Ask your child about animals that are smaller or bigger than others or about animals that live in the rainforest.

Writing: We are finishing up our narrative writing unit, where the second graders were writing stories about one time they did something. They have been hard at working writing strong beginnings, adding transition words, and using strong words to describe their story. Our next unit is informational writing where the second graders will be learning how to write lab reports and science books.

Math: We have been working on our geometry unit and learning how to describe and sort 2-D shapes. The second graders are discovering how to compose large 2-D shapes and use Geoblocks to make larger 3-D shapes. Towards the end of the unit, the students will explore properties of rectangles and the concept of area. We are going to continue building our addition and subtraction facts, so you can have your students practice some at home.

Thanks for all of your work with your kiddos! They are an amazing bunch to work with!

NEWS FROM THE MEDIA CENTER

Greetings from the Lowell Library Ala Cart!

Kindergarten students this month have been learning about characters in books and “reading” wordless books as well as telling the story in books they are not yet able to read. They listened to *The Tattletale* by Lynn Downey and learned that there was a Win-Win solution in the end.

First graders have been listening to many stories where there is a problem and solution. One was *STUCK* by Oliver Jeffers. Students drew pictures of all the items they remembered that Floyd threw up in the tree to get his kite unstuck.

Second grade has been listening to many books with letters in the text. Their favorite was *The Jolly Postman* by Janet Ahlberg which had a variety of postcards and letters from familiar characters included right in the book.

Third graders listened to the book *Ten Rules You Absolutely Must Not Break if You Want To Survive the School Bus* by John Grandits and then created their own rules. Some students created rules for watching movies, the playground, or eating dinner. They were very comical!

Fourth graders have listened to a variety of stories, including some memoirs. They learned about Jackie Robinson’s fear of water and swimming in *Testing the Ice: A True Story About Jackie Robinson* written by his daughter, Sharon Robinson.

Fifth graders are continuing to listen to the read aloud chapter book *Lety Out Loud* by Angela Cervantes. It is a realistic fiction story of a bilingual girl named **Lety** who volunteers at an animal shelter where she gets drawn into a competition with a boy she finds unkind. **Lety** signs up to be the animal shelter's scribe, writing biographies for cats and dogs that are up for adoption. The students and I have had some good discussions about the way the characters in the story treat each other and also help each other.

Thank you to everyone who has returned a “lost” book from last spring. Please continue to search for any library books with Lowell bar codes.

Ms. Runyan

MUSICAL UPDATES

Hello Lowell families!!

The music-mobile continues to make the rounds to all the classrooms each week to bring your students all kinds of fun socially-distanced musical experiences. I’ve loaded it up with all sorts of instruments (as many as I can fit anyway!) and the students have been doing a great job adjusting in order to make music class work outside of the music room!

Something new we've added this year is learning the ukulele in 5th grade. They have been doing an amazing job so far and I can't wait to see their continued progress!

Please feel free to continue to ask your students to perform some of the songs we do in music class at home for you!

Mrs. Beckwith

3RD GRADE NEWS

In 3rd grade, we have been hard at work!

In Reading, we are working on using our stories to prove the answers to our questions. Going back into the text and finding the evidence helps us know we have understood what we are reading and can share the information with others. Keep encouraging reading at home each night and asking questions about the story your child is reading.

In Math, we are working on adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers. This has been tough work, but something we are getting better at each day. We are learning strategies that help us to know how to break apart numbers into hundreds, tens, and ones. This lets us add and subtract more efficiently.

In Writing, we have just finished our Narrative Unit. Ask your child what they wrote about during their writing prompt! There were great memory stories written by our 3rd graders! Next, we will be starting our Informational Unit using our Chromebooks to type our published copies.

Please remember to send your child to school with a warm coat, hat, and gloves, as they will continue to go outside at least once each day. If you have questions about anything or need help with this, please reach out to your child's teacher and we will help in any way we can!

4TH GRADE NEWS

Thank you to all the parents that came to conferences in one way or another. Your support is greatly appreciated! It has been great to navigate this new school year with all of you. We could NOT do it without you.

Reading: Students have been working on thinking about the things they are reading and responding to questions and ideas group mates have about books they are enjoying

Math: We have finished a unit on data and moved into multiplication and division. There have been some highs and lows with moving to division, but students are making connections and it has been great seeing students see their own successes.

Writing: We have finished personal narrative and realistic fiction writing and will be moving into opinion writing.

Social Emotional Learning: We have really been talking about empathy with students and understanding how even in the same situation, students may have different feelings. Great conversations have come from talking about this, and students are really showing empathy with others when they see someone upset, or excited- they are checking on each other and celebrating success with each other.

Thank you again for all you do! This school year truly is off to a great start!

Ms. Earle

Miss Kremer

Mrs. Martin

5TH GRADE NEWS

The first few months of school have been off to a great start! The students are becoming great leaders and learning all about empathy. We also are learning lots of great things in our content areas.

Reading: In Reading we are working on author studies, how reading gains us knowledge, stories of freedom and starting out book clubs. Students are making huge progress during small groups and are diving in to really interesting stories! Please continue having the students read at home.

Writing: In Writing, we have just finished our Narrative Unit. The students wrote true and fictional stories, working on craft and dialogue. We are now starting our Informational Unit. They will be writing about the Westward Expansion and then will be able to write about a topic that they would like to teach others.

Math: In Math, we have started our unit on Volume. The students are learning how to find base x width x height and then be able to find the dimensions of a prism that is half or twice as big! We will soon be able to compare volumes. We will then start our addition and subtraction unit.

Content: In Social Studies we will be starting our Westward Expansion unit! The students will use what they learn to help them write about the topic during Writer's Workshop. In Science, students will be learning about

gravity and fair tests during our Whirligigs unit. The students will enjoy creating whirling toys to learn how to properly do a fair test.

ART NEWS

In art this month kindergarten has been exploring shapes and lines. First grade worked with paper to make three dimensional works of art. Second grade was exploring lines and primary colors by creating Mondrian style drawings. In third grade we have been working with warm and cool colors and exploring watercolor paint and collage. Fourth grade has been learning about how to create tints and shades of colors and learning how to do some new styles of hand lettering. Fifth grade has just finished an optical illusion project and has started to study street art and graffiti. They will be creating their own graffiti drawing using neon pastel colors.



LOWELL ELEMENTARY

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