

**September 19, 2023**

**Teacher Updates for the Board**

**Ms. Gibson**

Good afternoon Board Members,

Our morning meetings are looking at the character trait of Forgiveness as well as working on our spelling sight words and word families and looking at math concepts of doubling and halves for second grade. The ELA centers are choral reading from the reading A-Z program with Ms. Heather reading (Level K) Chickens in my backyard (Level K), Bats Day and Night (Level D) and Apple Tree (Level C). In the writing center we are reading and copying sentences using the sight words and word families. Students are on chromebooks doing vocabulary a-z activities related to their reading book and six words from that book.

In the Wit & Wisdom curriculum we are at the module called Powerful Forces about the wind. We have read Feel The Wind. This book teaches us about the force of the wind.

We are on Unit 1 in the Math Bridges Curriculum. First Grade students are working on writing numbers, using the number rack and identifying numbers on the ten frame. Second Grade students are working on doubling and halving numbers, using the number rack, adding and subtracting up to and including twenty.

In science we are looking at Unit 1 Animal Super Animals and how moths can camouflage.

Art occurs every Thursday. We have made chalk pastel leaves and q-tip painting trees!! It was fun!!

**Ms. Natalie**

Back to School Night attendance was very successful for grades 3 and 4. Students were happy to show their grownups around their classroom and learning world.

Our 3rd graders have forgotten some of their foundations over summer, and we are revisiting some 2nd grade skills. Ms. Krebs generously took my 4th graders for a week so I could stage "Grade 2 Math Bootcamp," while the 4th graders revisited long division. This worked well for everyone, as Ms. Krebs reported the 4th graders kept up successfully and offered no distractions.

We are working on the first round of penpal letters to our German penpals.

The daffodil bulb fundraiser is taking on a life of its own. The kids did a great job preparing the outer wrappers and affixing them to the bulb packages.

**Ms. Krebs**

Hi everyone,

We have started off this year great! We are continuing our learning journey on respect, and how to not talk over others who are currently talking. We are also learning the importance of raising our hand, and how if everyone blurts we can't focus. I am very proud of the classes' progress so far!

This week brings us an interactive history lesson that is gamified. The game that we are playing is as a young Native American boy who lives during the time period of westward expansion. The students play the game by reading and listening to information, and make decisions based on what they learn. The game is then modified based on their decisions. As a whole this does not take a lot of time, and we will go back to Studies Weekly next month.

In ELA, we will be reading a book "Thunder Rolling in the Mountains" which details a young Native American girl on how she deals with westward expansion, so the book and the game tie in together. The students are working in groups reading and creating a presentation on aspects of Native American culture, and then they will present to the class.

In math we have started learning about exponents, and the importance of exponents. Last week the students delved deep into long division, and worked really hard to master that topic.

I am really excited for this year and to see where this year takes us.

### **Mr. Lang**

Our Junior High class had a very productive week and I am happy with the growth that we showed, as a whole. We are learning to collaborate and accept support from each other.

Students receive weekly reports on Fridays, which allows families to see how their student performed that week. These snapshots support more frequent feedback and addressing needs early.

This week, we are continuing our dive into our main curriculum. In Humanities, we will read the next five chapters of our class novel, Chains, while we also learn about Pre-Colonial America. The historical fiction novel takes us through the American Revolution and gives opportunities to gain multiple perspectives of history, while we dive through the founding of our country. In Mathematics, we are going to be diving into the first chapter of our Big Ideas textbooks and continue to use PeerTeach, which is our awesome new learning platform that promotes peer to peer collaboration and reinforces our skills. Lastly, in Science, we will continue to learn about engineering and resources, while tying into our Electives course of solving a community problem.

In other subject matter, we will be working on some additional skills and knowledge. In PE, we will be continuing to learn about American Football and practicing some basic skills of throwing, catching, and even tackling (on pads and with a tackling dummy, not on each other). Life Skills will continue to focus on our community project, Electives will allow us to work on our community projects, trying to solve an issue that faces our community. As always, we begin our day with a choice of mindfulness and movement activities.

Mock Trial sign ups have begun and we will have our first meeting during the week of September 25th. Lastly, congratulations to all of our students who ran for Student Council office and to those that won. They all did a great job with their campaigns.

I encourage anyone to reach out with any questions or concerns. This class continues to show a lot of motivation to grow and I'm excited to help foster that.