



Line School Beacon

January 29, 2016

Upcoming Events

Crazy Hair Day 2/2/16
Early Release - 2/10/16 !2:30

Mrs. Eaton's Grade 3 Class

It's hard to believe we have reached the half way mark for the academic year! The school year is certainly flying by! Everything seems to be going right on schedule.

Literacy block is a lot of fun in the month of January. Our class is doing an author study of Bill Peet. Many of you may not have heard of him, but he was a famous cartoonist for Disney before launching a successful second career as a children's author and illustrator. He wrote over 30 books. We are fortunate to have one or two copies of each. Students read the books both independently and in small reading groups where we have great discussions about theme, vocabulary, and story plots. There are comprehension questions to go with each story as well as a follow up project to choose. Students love the stories and are highly motivated to do the projects as well. During read aloud time, I am reading Bill Peet's Autobiography to the class, and it's wonderful to hear the students voice connections they have made between his books, his

Disney work, and his personal life. January is definitely one of my favorite months for reading.

Speaking of reading, our reading incentive for nightly at home reading continues. Your child should be reading at least fifteen minutes at home every night. Please initial your child's homework notebook to let me know they have read or send in a coupon. They will keep track of it at school for a special prize at the end of each month.

Math is going extremely well. Our current unit is on measuring to the nearest quarter inch and half centimeter. We have also done a lot of work with area and perimeter. The students are doing very well with this. Our next unit is on fractions. At the conclusion of the fraction unit, I will administer the middle of the year assessment to see if there are any areas your child is still having difficulty with.

Beginning this week we start many mid-year assessments to check the progress of students. This week is NWEA for both math and reading. At some point we will be doing spelling tests, math fact tests, and the mid-year math exam. It is nothing your child can study for but attendance is always important.

We continue to learn about living things in science. Our focus has moved to life cycles and mammals and we will continue with adaptations and defenses in the next chapter.

Children are having a wonderful time playing at recess in the snow and sledding down the hill. Please make sure they come properly dressed for recess with boots, ski pants, hats, and mittens. If you could make sure their name is on their belongings too, that would be very helpful.

Thanks for all of your support with homework and reading at home. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

News From Ms. Knight's Grade 5 Class

We have been working hard in room 45, and time is flying by! We are in full swing with second trimester targets. We are almost halfway through Tuck Everlasting, by Natalie Babbitt. This is a wonderful story about a young girl, an old family, and prospect of living forever. We have been spending time discussing how dynamic characters change through the course of a story, and how one character's decision impacts the plot of the story. We have had great discussions about the pros and cons about living forever and how important the cycle of life is to the balance of nature.

We are on our second drafts of narrative writing. This unit has been so much fun, and the student writing is growing by leaps and bounds. We began our unit looking at ways we can collect stories. Do you have a scar that

brings back a specific memory? Do you have a first or last time you tried something, that you will never forget? These are two of the strategies we used when drafting our personal narratives. We focused on our leads and endings, sensory details, transition words, and mechanics of writing. We are almost finished our second drafts before publication. Students will select the draft they feel is their personal best to take to a final product. They have been working diligently with the rubric to find ways to improve their writing. I am very proud of their efforts and growth during this unit.

In math we are just finishing up our work with line plots, data collection, and making equal fractions. We are gearing up for our next big unit in geometry. We will be studying 2-d shapes and their attributes. We will learn how to plot them on a coordinate grid, and how to use the coordinates to determine the perimeter of the shape.

We have begun our geography study in social studies. We are learning about types of maps, the parts of a map, and how to use latitude and longitude to locate specific places on a map. This is an exciting unit that takes students all over the world exploring new places. With the help of Google Earth and Google Street View students are virtually transported to locations around the world.

In February 5th grade will help organize the food collection for our "Pasta" Love Around campaign. We are collecting pasta and pasta sauce to be donated to local food banks, including our own here at Line. To kick this off, there will be a free spaghetti dinner January 26th and 28th from 5:30-7:00pm here at

Line School. We hope to see you there!

Mrs. Cutter's Kindergarten Class

We have been working so hard in Kindergarten on our reading strategies. We are so excited to be reading! We have been enjoying many stories! Books we would highly recommend are...

I highly recommend reading "Hello Kitty" books, because Hello Kitty is in it!! - **Sirel**

I highly recommend reading princess books, because I really like castles!! - **Lillian**

I highly recommend reading dog books, because I like dogs! - **Johnny**

I highly recommend reading, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus", because it's funny!! - **Nicholas**

I highly recommend reading snowmen books, because I like to make snowmen!! - **Nevaeh**

I highly recommend reading construction books, because I like building things!! - **Isaiah**

I highly recommend reading "The Little Mermaid" because I like Ariel. - **Julia**

I highly recommend reading Dinosaur books, because I like looking for dinosaur bones!! - **Landen**

I highly recommend reading, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" because I think it's funny! - **Donovan**

I highly recommend reading Spiderman books, because Spiderman swings through the city!! - **Kamdyn**

I highly recommend reading books about planes, because it's cool when planes take off. - **Nathan**

I highly recommend reading books about tanks, because they are my favorite things!! - **Thomas**

I highly recommend reading

Scooby Doo books, because he solves mysteries. - **Jayden**

I highly recommend reading dog books, because I like dogs- **Marissa**

I highly recommend reading "Fairy Cake", because I like the rainbow fairies in it! - **Chloe**

I highly recommend reading, "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus" because the pigeon is silly!! - **Lily**

I highly recommend reading MineCraft books, because it shows you how to play the game MineCraft. - **John**

I highly recommend reading T-Rex books because they are strong- **Ryder**

I highly recommend reading shark books, because sharks are dangerous predators! - **Dylan**

I highly recommend reading "Otis", because he is a cool tractor!! - **Dalton**

I highly recommend reading "Little Blue Truck", because it shows the importance of being kind to everyone around you!! - **Mrs. Cutter**



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