



Line School Beacon

September 30, 2016

Upcoming Events

10/7/16 No School Staff Inservice

10/10/16 No School Columbus Day

10/12/16 Line School PTC Meeting 3:15 PM

10/19/16 Early Release 1:45 PM

Mrs. Calnan's 3rd Grade Class

We have been busy in Mrs. Calnan's class. The students have been working hard in math. In the unit we just wrapped up, children have been making sense of one and two-step number stories involving all four arithmetic operations. We have learned some math games to help with making math facts more automatic. We have also been practicing math facts and other math skills by using IXL and Skoolbo on the iPads. These apps allow students to practice skills both at school and at home. Any practice of math facts and other skills at home will help to improve your child's math skills.

In science we have been studying living things. All living things have 5 things in common. Ask your child if they can tell you what the 5 things are. We have also been learning about different animals and their life cycles. Each group has been reading informational books about animals during

literacy block. The students will soon pick an animal to research and make an iMovie about it, using this information. During our literacy block time we are very busy. Other than researching and learning more about animals and their life cycles, we are working on fluency and reading for meaning. During spelling time, the students have come up with lots of words that fit into the spelling pattern or rule for the day. Good job! They are great thinkers. We have also started learning to write in cursive. They are doing a beautiful job with this.

Your child should be reading at home every night. Reading can be compared to riding a bike. The more you practice, the better you will get. So read, read, read!

I am very excited about the new school year and what lies ahead. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to write me a note, call the school, or email me at debracalnan@rsu57.org.

News From PE

It's crazy to think we are already on our 4th week of school. This month has flown by. It's been so wonderful seeing all the returning faces and all of the new faces here at Line Elementary School.

In the upper grades (3-5) we have reviewed all of our rules in the

gym and are working on cooperative activities. These activities include The Human Knot, The Maze, and Across the River. In all of these activities, students are put into groups and have to problem solve and work together to accomplish a goal. We have also talked a lot about teamwork. This is one of two goals that we are really going to work on this year in Line physical education. Our next unit that we will work on is throwing. This unit will bring us to the end of October/ beginning of November.

In the younger grades (Pre-K to 2) we have reviewed our cues in the gym, for example, freeze and what the body should look like when we freeze. The 2nd graders are professionals at this. However, the new faces of Pre K and Kindergarten are just being introduced to this. We have been working on spatial awareness keeping bodies to our selves. So far so good. After we finish up spatial awareness we will move onto our throwing unit in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. There are two targets that the younger grades should meet by the time they have moved on from 2nd grade: throwing an object to a target using overhand and underhand patterns.

We have had a great start of the school year and we are looking forward to more great work to come.

Mrs. Wescott's Grade 4 Class

Welcome to a new year, with exciting new tools to use in our learning!

Have you ever used a 3D printer? Thanks to the Perloff Foundation, Line School now has one! Our class is going to be using tinkerCad to create new bubble wands for our teachers! The teachers will need them when they send students off at the end of the year! Of course, we will make one for ourselves, too! Ahh, but first we must learn about geometric shapes and patterns so we will be able to create a durable design.

During class we have been researching to answer the following questions: why can a square also be considered a rectangle? What is the difference between a rhombus and a kite? Is a square a rhombus? What is the difference between a regular and irregular polygon? Does each regular polygon have the same number of lines of symmetry as sides? We will use some of these shapes in our 3D printed designs!

The Bee Bots will be buzzing during reading! We will have to use coding to get the Bee Bot to advance to the correct synonym, antonym, homophone, homograph, etc. when learning vocabulary! During literacy groups we have been finding the character traits, setting, rising actions, climax, falling actions, and theme in literary text. This is used to help us learn to create story arches to write our narrative stories.

During social studies, we have

been focusing on economics and are preparing for our Economics Fair during parent teacher conferences. (I will let you know the date as soon as it is selected) Students will be making something to sell so they can learn about goods and services, supply and demand, saving, spending and donating! If anyone has shoe boxes (where the cover comes off from the top and is not attached) we can use them!!! Unfortunately, Willowbrook Museum is closing down so we will not be able to use our funds to take this trip. However, we are studying weathering and erosion in Science and have taken a walk around our school looking for places where weathering is affecting our playground. We may use some of the funds to fix or beautify these areas. Until next time, Mrs. Wescott's 4th Grade Learners!

News from Mrs. Proctor's 1st Grade Class

This week we welcomed fall in first grade. We talked about all the changes that occur during this season. We used this discussion to begin learning about classifying, which is one of our Complex Reasoning targets. We'll continue to work on this topic with our strand classrooms in our upcoming Landforms and Landmarks unit.

We are also busy wrapping up our unit on Monarch butterflies. The essential question of our unit was "Are butterflies important?" We've begun by studying the butterfly life cycle, and have branched out into looking at how butterflies impact our world. As we've done so the kids have been introduced to non-fiction/informational literature, it's purpose, format and elements. We've worked hard at pulling out facts from what we read and

taking notes in order to clarify our understanding. We've also taken the opportunity in this unit to review the math concepts of pattern and symmetry. This week we will end our unit with the comparison of moths and butterflies. We're reading to discover the similarities and differences and then we will get to look for these on real butterfly and moth specimens! Finally, we'll revisit our essential question now that we have learned so much. I wonder if we will have changed our minds:)

News From Mrs. Gagnon's 2nd Grade Class

All of the boys and girls have been very busy in Room 203 during the month of September. They have been learning lots and lots of new concepts in math, reading and language arts.

Everyone has been working hard on learning addition and subtraction strategies to help them with the math fact fluency. The children have brought home math fact fluency timed tests to practice at home. The children have also started to work on counting money strategies. They have learned games to help with counting coins, adding numbers, and learning how to use a one hundred chart to help with many mathematical skills.

The boys and girls in room 203 are FANTASTIC writers! They have started to use their five senses to make their narrative writing pieces full of description and everyone is enjoying sharing their stories. They have made a wonderful display of pumpkin stories on the bulletin board in our hallway.

Nouns, nouns, and more nouns



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are being explored in Room 203. The boys and girls have learned about Common Nouns, Proper Nouns and Plural Nouns. Along with some written activities to help with our understanding of nouns, the boys and girls have worked hard on the IXL-Language Arts website.

The boys and girls in Room 203 are reading fiction, nonfiction, chapter books and picture books. The boys and girls have been enjoying books from the class library, the school library and in reading groups.

It's amazing how much knowledge has been gained this month and the boys and girls in Room 203 are eager to add more interesting information to their brains over the next 8 months of school!