



# Line School Beacon

January 8, 2016

## Upcoming Events

### Mrs. Wescott's 4th Grade

Legislative sessions are in full swing in the 4th grade classes. Our representatives and senators are hard at work discussing the bills they wrote as part of their opinion writing. Some of the bills this year include getting Nerf balls for recess, lowering taxes, and more. If you have an idea for a bill, contact one of the 4th graders to see if they will sponsor your bill!

Our Governor, Gianna Thibeault, has not vetoed any of our bills thus far, but we will work on how to figure out a 2/3 majority for an override if needed.

Vito Sabatino is doing a great job as president of the senate, with Mariah Floyd assisting as the clerk. In the House of Representatives, Donny Taylor and Kaylee Harriman-Stearns are sharing the role of clerk and speaker of the house!

As enrichment, I am setting up a few dates for students whose parents are able to provide or arrange transportation, to be pages in actual sessions of the Senate or House in Augusta. Email me at [kristenwescott@rsu57.org](mailto:kristenwescott@rsu57.org) if you are interested, if you haven't already!

Our next unit of study will be about the United States. We will explore important landmarks,

landforms, cultures, and more! May 19th has been saved for our Regional Dinner if you want to save the date now! More information will come about that in the 3rd trimester!

I hope you all have a wonderful new year!

### Calnan's Class

Our class has started off the new year working very hard. We are working on a Bill Peet unit during our literacy block time. Every day we read different Bill Peet books during our guided reading groups and make connections between the books we have read. We are working on character development and vocabulary standards while doing this unit. Students have been comparing characters and identifying their feelings and actions. We have also been finding common themes between books. Vocabulary is very fun with Bill Peet. We have done some lessons to help us figure out what words mean that we don't know; with Bill Peet there are many! The children comment every day about how fun his words are.

In math, we started a unit on measurement and geometry before Christmas break. We will continue the unit, using pan balances to help us weigh objects. The students will also work with different shapes and measure for area and perimeter. You can reinforce these skills by helping them study at home with flash

cards or math game web sites like IXL and Everyday Math.

The children are very excited about learning cursive. We have just finished all of the lower case letters and have started the upper case letters. They are doing a beautiful job making their letters. Ask them to show you what they can do.

Reading at home can help your child be more successful in the classroom and improve their reading skills. Did you know that your child can have lunch bunch with Mr. Stinson? Every month, third graders earn lunch with Mr. Stinson by reading at least 20 nights at home. By sending in a note, ticket, or initialing in their homework planner, I know that your child has read at home, and I give them credit for that day towards lunch bunch with Mr. Stinson.

Thank you to all of you who have been checking your child's homework notebook and initialing it. It means a lot to have that support from home. Any time you can read with your child or can practice math facts, it will help them to be more successful in the classroom.

Please feel free to email me anytime if you have questions or concerns about your child and/or what we are doing here in school. [debracalnan@rsu57.org](mailto:debracalnan@rsu57.org)

## **News From Mrs. Proctor's Grade 1 Class**

We've gotten the new year off to a great start here in first grade!

We are just polishing our non-fiction, "teaching" books for classroom publication. Next we'll be learning about/becoming "experts" on Martin Luther King Jr. This dovetails our writing targets with Social Studies. This will eventually lead us into our strand's study of world cultures:)

I've been reading one-on-one with students so that we can adjust guided reading groups - AGAIN!

They are growing so quickly, it's tough to keep up with some of them:.) As always, we've been using our daily poem to work on fluency, vocabulary and basic word/language skills. Of late these have included: topic, mood, and parts of speech, such as verbs, nouns, pronouns, plurals and quotation marks.

Our math skills are coming along as well. We've completed a lot of work on measurement. We celebrated by sledding on Wed.

We estimated how far we might go and then tested out our hypotheses! Great fun:.) We're now jumping into graphing data and being able to use it for discussion. Today we got to talk about what super power we would choose. (Ask your child what power was most popular:.)

We're all working hard and looking forward to a great winter, as this is a time of HUGE learning in first grade!