



Line School Beacon

March 18, 2016

Upcoming Events

Book Fair May 22nd - 24th
Early Release Day, Wednesday, March
23rd 12:30 PM

Book Fair Family Night March 23 -
5:30 PM- 7:30 PM

News from Ms. Lokken

During the week of April 11th-15th, our school will be participating in The Great Kindness Challenge. This week-long event is a positive, proactive bullying prevention initiative sponsored by Kids for Peace that millions of students nationwide participate in each year. The focus of the challenge is to see how many different ways we can show kindness every day. This is not a contest. There are no prizes. The rewards will be the positive feelings we experience every time we show kindness to someone or someone shows kindness to us.

Please stay tuned as we get closer to the challenge we will be having kindness-themed spirit days, classroom activities led by Bully Prevention Student Leaders and a school wide assembly to kick off the The Great Kindness Challenge Week.

We are looking forward to The Great Kindness Challenge. If you

have any questions about the The Great Kindness Challenge activities at our school, please contact Lindsey Lokken, school counselor. Thank you, The Bully Prevention Team and Ms. Lokken

Mrs. Secunde's 2nd Grade Class

Konnichiwa (こんにちは) from second grade. Our 1-5 grade level strand is super excited to start our multi-age cultural unit and as you can tell in Room 44 we'll be studying Japan! This is a six-week unit comparing the United States to other cultures such as: Germany, Australia, Norway, Japan, and Brazil. We're looking forward to a wonderful learning experience.

Our class is wrapping up our learning on informational writing and text studies. The last several months we've been writing All About Books, which is exploring topics the class is experts on; How to Books - writing how to do something, like sled; and our pen pal letters with our class in Virginia. We also wrote for the 100th day a reflection on our life at 100. Which was interesting to see where the kids thought they'd eventually live, like an Asian country or Hawaii. Some students wanted a family while others said "no way."

In reading, along with reading nonfiction books the students have been writing summaries and then typing them into Book Creator, an app that allows you to place pictures and text; plus record yourself reading your book. The students have enjoyed sharing their books with the class during our read-a-loud time. This also ties into the speaking and presenting learning target.

Most students are all a buzz to be finally working on double-digit addition and subtraction. While some students have been working on this target for some time, all students have been introduced to several strategies and diagrams to help facilitate their understanding of re-grouping numbers. We're starting on a new unit this week focusing on multi-digit in number stories, can't wait to see what awaits us!

Our class has a new pet to go along with our two hermit crabs, a fish named Bella. The class received \$10 for the Box Top initiative and decided they wanted a fish. So far the fish seems to be thriving. The kids are looking forward to spring when we watch the transformation of frog eggs into tadpoles, then into frogs.

Finally, with the start of March it's the annual Read Across America week. For the last three years my class has been matched up with a

class in Wisconsin. We Skype with another second grade class and do a Dr. Seuss activity and give some facts about Maine. It's a nice way to kick-off a month focused on the importance of reading.

. じゃあね (jaa ne) This is "see you" in Japanese. The Japanese do not say "sayounara" because this means a final goodbye. So then, until next time!

Mrs. Calnan's Class

We have been busy with math, learning so many skills. The students are really good at multiplying. We are just finishing a unit on multiplying larger numbers and doing two step word problems. Soon we will be measuring volume and working with fractions. We all like math and enjoy doing it every day, especially the teacher. Go MATH!!!!

Reading has been a lot of fun also. We finished our Bill Peet unit before February vacation. The students worked hard and enjoyed all of the interesting characters. The best part was their improvement on their fluency and comprehension from reading these books. We will soon start our fairy tale unit and will be working on many different ELA standards while looking for fairy tale ingredients.

In science we will soon be learning about the solar system. We will work on the level 1 and level 2 standards for earth science: universe. These standards encompass learning about the sun and its planets as well as the earth's rotation and revolution around the sun. There are already a lot of great questions and interest, and we haven't even started yet! It

should be a great unit with lots of enthusiasm.

The year continues to fly by. I've tried to write in planners or email as much as I can. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at 793-4100 or jot a note in your child's homework planner. You can also e-mail me at debracalnan@rsu57.org.

Greetings from the Art Room!

The Art room has been a busy place this trimester! Painting, drawing, collage work and sculpture have filled the racks and shelves.

There is nothing like the introduction of clay to create great excitement among artists in art class. There is something about manipulating that soft and squishy material that students from kindergarten to grade five just love. The malleable surface of the clay is perfect to capture textures and the first graders used the textured clay in a flat slab to create creatures. They learned how to attach two clay bodies to one another by creating "clay glue (moistened and rubbed with a finger tip). The second graders pinched and pulled from a block of soft clay and made animals and humans with arms, legs, heads, some tails all from one piece. First and second graders will paint their clay pieces for a finished project.

Third and fourth graders did hand building using coils of clay. A coil is a snake like piece that is rolled out and these can be stacked and shaped into functional pieces of clay work. Students made mugs, bowls, vases, and fountains! The coil pieces were glazed with clay glazes and fired a second time.

The glaze becomes permanent and the piece waterproof and can be used safely for food!

Fifth graders are looking forward to the clay projects awaiting them in the third trimester.

News from room 47

Seems spring has arrived and along with the clocks "springing forward" so has the learning in our classroom:)

With the information from our mid-year assessments, (NWEA, Every Day Math, Informational writing prompt and Developmental Reading Assessment) we've restructured our direct instruction groups, and set some new learning goals. We continue to introduce new learning targets, (some grade 2s:) as well as check in on the long-term retention, and reinforce teaching those targets not yet mastered.

Last week we finished our science unit on tooth health. We learned about the structure and types of teeth as well as how to care for them and what happens when we don't. We even did a great experiment with an eggshell that shows what happens to the enamel on our teeth if we don't brush! Look for an email from me including the chart of what we knew, the questions we wanted answered, and other facts we learned, as well as a pic of our experiment:)

We continue to work on our Culture Unit with our Strand partner classrooms. The students are having a great time learning about the culture of the country they chose. Topics have included: language, geography/land features, music, food, schools and



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art. The focus of this unit is comparing/contrasting other cultures with our own and discovering the importance of understanding other cultures. We've had a great time sharing/jigsawing what we've learned, so that not only have we learned about our chosen country - but others as well. Please see the Strand's website for updated photos of these classroom activities as well as the unit plan.

We have begun our new writing unit. This unit is about opinions/arguments. The kids have done a great job bringing in their collections, choosing a best/worst in show, and defending their opinion with observations and details. We've also talked about the meaning of "opinion" and agreeing to disagree about a topic respectfully. They are now getting ready to "publish" one of these works for our Author's Library in our classroom. They are all working really hard and writing for about 30 minutes a day! We're looking forward to spring and the last 1/3 of the year. There's lots of learning left to do:)

Ms. Karish Grade 5 Class

The end of the Trimester has come to a close and my class has worked extra hard to get their evidence in. They are looking forward to sharing their progress reports with their parents and

show them all the great work we've done. Seesaw a new app on our ipads has also been a great way to share their work with their parents. It's a digital portfolio of their work, with video's, pictures of their work, and even a blog we just started on the new book we are reading called, Tuck Everlasting. It's a great way for parents to see all the fun projects and evidence that we are doing here at school.

We finally finished up our Classification Unit on Animals and had a great time inviting parents and younger students to see the amazing animals they created as well as the insect flip books, and fact files on an animal they researched. We have now moved on to the next realm of Science called Physics and are learning about Simple Machines. We especially love using the virtual labs on a site called Gizmo's that is just fantastic! We just finished one on Inclined Planes having ants lifting different kinds of food up a stick. Our next virtual lab will be on Levers.

In Language Arts we are reading a digital book together called Tuck Everlasting, which was placed on ibooks. It's the wave of the future. We are doing all of our comprehension questions and work with the book either by blogging or on Showbie an electronic assignment keeper. We are working on Main idea and details, Theme, and

Characterization. We have also started our final writing unit on Opinion Essay's. The kids are loving the fact that they can come up with something they are passionate about and write an essay on this topic trying to convince me that this is what to think or believe. They Write...Write...Write... trying to convince me. :)

We just finished up our Fraction unit in Math and are now moving on to Measurement and Geometry. I think my kids will be eager to start measuring things using the metric system and the U.S. system and drawing and learning all about the different shapes.

It has been a busy trimester and we are all eager for spring, nice weather, and outside exploration.

Music Notes

This is a busy time of year for music programs all over and it is no exception here at Line Elementary. The kindergarteners put on a concert last week and what a concert. Six songs, costume changes, speaking parts, and lots of dancing. It was a lot of fun and the kids had a blast doing it. Now that that is over, they are back to regular curriculum, but the third and fourth graders are next. They are working on music from the 1950s for their concert, which will be on May 5th. That is

“Cinco de Mayo” and they are doing one song in Spanish. It is an old Mexican folk song that was made into a popular rock and roll hit in the ‘50s. I bet you can guess what it is. The fifth graders will be saying “goodbye” to Line Elementary School with a couple songs at their celebration at the end of the year. They will start learning them shortly now that they are finishing up with recorders.

Mrs. Wescott’s Grade 4 Class

I hope everyone is enjoying the spring like weather as much as we are!

The students are just finishing up their studies of Maine government! As enrichment several 4th graders were able to go to Augusta to be pages in the House of Representatives and Senate! Joshua Lafontaine and Donny Taylor were recently in the Waterboro Report, pictured with senator David Woodsome. Mariah Floyd, Ceara Fitzgerald and Delaney Ianazzo also helped as pages in the House of Representatives and were greeted by James Campbell!

If you have access to a computer on March 22 and/or March 28th you may be able to see Finn Brandt, Adean Lepage, Charlie Carroll, Samantha Colwell, Sam Parker or Isaac Boulard as pages in the Senate, by going to their live video feed! We will be watching at school!

With government done it was time to kick off our studies of the physical features of the United States. We have done this with several Mystery Hangouts. During a Mystery Hangout we connect with a class in another state. We try to guess where they are from,

before they can guess where we are from. Here is a list of the questions we asked last time-can you guess which state?

Are you in the United States? Answer: yes

Are you East of the Mississippi? Answer: yes

Are you in the Northeast region? Answer: no

Are you in the Southeast region? Answer: no

Are you in the Midwest region? Answer: yes

Do you border Canada? Answer: yes

Do you border the great lakes? Answer: yes

Are there two parts to your state? Answer: yes

Can you tell which state we did a hangout with?

As you may have guessed the reading and writing targets this trimester revolve around informational text features and text structures. The students each selected a state to study and have been researching information to write a report. This will be used to help them write a float plan and create a project of their states for or our culminating activity, The Regional Dinner/Display on May 19th. The information for the project will be handed out before April vacation!

May 18th is another important date for the 4th graders! We will use the money earned at our Economics Fair to help pay part of our field trip to Willow Brook! Later on June 1st a trip to Augusta’s capital building and the Maine State Museum has been planned. The students will be able to see where Maine’s government really meets.

With the strand (grade 1-5 group) we are studying the importance of understanding the similarities

and differences between various cultures. The students have been working on a complex reasoning target in this unit, comparing and contrasting, and will have a Cultural Display April 12th! We are also comparing measurements systems and time zones to incorporate our math targets! Did you know most of the world uses the metric system?

As you can see we are very busy in Mrs. Wescott’s 4th grade so we will have to say farewell for now! See you soon at all of our special events!

Mrs. Burgess’ Grade 4 Class

In our 4th grade classroom we have been very busy! We have been coordinating our targets in 3 different areas. We are using our targets in ELA, Informational Text Structures and Features, and several writing conventions, along with our informational writing unit to complete targets from social studies on the states in our country. The students are doing research on a state they selected and will write a report and then create a state float, which will showcase the information they have learned.

The class has received a certificate for the past two months for bringing in the most box tops in the fourth grade. We have decided to use our reward to purchase a fish for our classroom. It was exciting to set up an aquarium and watch our fish each day. We are hopeful to be the winner next month so we can add some decorations to the tank. Thanks to all parents and friends for contributing box tops, which benefits all the children in our school as well as our classroom.