

THE RAM REPORT

DECEMBER 2017

In the Know With PTO: The Highlights

December 12 -PTO meeting 9:15

-Barnes and Noble Night 5-8pm

Holiday Shack -December 12-15

-All items cost \$2.00

-Volunteer signup coming soon

Odds & Ends:

-Keep those box tops coming in!

-Donate your wearable shoes (only 1 box left to fill!)

Open Co-Chair Positions: Contact springgardenpto@gmail.com for more information

- Ram A Thon

- Family Outreach

Shout outs:

Thanks to everyone who helped make Doughnuts with Dad, Steve Swinburne's Visit, The Book Fair, and The Holiday Shack Wrap such a success! We have the best volunteers!

Wishing you all happy holidays!

Happy New Years! Enjoy winter break!

News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten - We would like to begin by thanking all of the parents who came for a Kindergarten conference prior to the Thanksgiving holiday. We really appreciate all of your support and hard work that you do each day. We are so proud to say that your children continue to show progress in all academic and social areas.

There was a lot to be thankful for during the month of November. Our Thanksgiving Feast with our buddies was a wonderful sharing experience. The children enjoyed making Pilgrim hats and Native American headbands, eating our friendship fruit salad, and most of all spending

time together. We are looking forward to Pajama and Polar Express Day this month. We will again get to spend time with our buddies and read The Polar Express, all while spending the day in our pajamas.

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday with family and friends!

Grade 1 - Our first grade children are excited about the upcoming Winter Holidays. We are reading and writing about this beautiful time of the year and utilizing seasonal images to practice our math skills. We continue

to look forward to learning new skills and concepts in grade one.

We are working diligently to grow academically and socially. Please continue to support your child's academic growth by sharing books on a daily basis, reviewing heart words, and practicing addition facts. We are working hard to develop our leadership skills and appreciate all of your positive support in fostering respect and cooperation in each child.

As colder weather arrives, it is important to dress your child in layers in order to maintain comfort in our classrooms and out of doors. Please note that we will go outside for recess as long as there is no rain and the temperatures exceed the freezing point. First graders will continue to have a daily snack break. Please remember to send a small, healthy snack for your child each day.

If Santa needs a few stocking stuffer ideas, we would like to suggest new boxes of crayons, pencils, erasers, glue sticks and other requisite school supplies. Following an early start to the cold season, classroom teachers are also in need of tissues and antibacterial cleaning wipes.

December has us seeking your continued support in the completion of homework and encouraging positive behavior. We wish you and your families a very happy, healthy holiday season.

Grade 2 - Welcome to the holiday season! Second grade is excited to explore the different holidays and cultures that celebrate this time of year, around the world! Children are encouraged to read nightly, independently, or with a grown-up. In our WONDERS reading series, students will be finishing up animal discoveries while studying animal poems. We begin a new unit mid-December, studying the Earth's forces! In math this month, second graders will be wrapping up geometry with a study on symmetry. Then, we will be exploring the world of number strings and story problems. Keep practicing math facts at home, as this is an important skill we build on all year long. In science, we are continuing to experiment and learn about balance and motion, and air and weather. How fascinating! Second grade loves the inquiry-based approach and really thinks like scientists! We are looking forward to the holiday parties and a break before the New Year! Warmest wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season, from 2nd grade!

Grade 3 - Third grade has been working hard and is looking forward to a fun filled December! Some

upcoming events for us include the holiday concert, the holiday party, and Pajama Day. In the holiday concert, the kids will show off their flutophone talent. They have been practicing and are excited to play some tunes for the parents. This month we are working on summarizing and author's purpose in reading, and we continue to work on multiplication/division concepts in math. Please continue to practice your multiplication and division facts at home. We are so proud of how hard our third graders have been working on the First in Math Very Important Facts. Many students have already passed their addition and subtraction and some have even passed multiplication and division. Way to go third grade! Students should be reading every night at home and completing their reading logs. Parents can help by asking their child to summarize what they read and to define a few vocabulary words from the night's reading. We appreciate all of your support at home. Happy Holidays!

Grade 4 - Our 4th Grade Wax Museum was a great success! Adorned in costumes along with visual displays, students performed their biography book reports for their classmates as well as their parents. Thank you, parents, for your participation in this project. Reading a biography genre of an inspirational leader was a life lesson and a treasured memory of 4th grade.

The Winter Vocal and Instrumental Concert is Dec 18 at 2:00 for 3rd and 4th Grade parents. Students performing in the concert include: singers in Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades, the 4th & 5th grade Ram Ringers Hand Chime Choir, and the 5th Grade Spring Garden Band and String Musicians. Please remind your child to dress in concert attire on that day.

Our holiday party will be on Thursday, December 21, in the afternoon. Thank you for your continued support in 1st In Math, homework and reading with your child. "The greatest gift is the passion for reading," as quoted by Elizabeth Ardwick.

As the weather becomes colder, please remember to dress your child with a warm coat, hat and gloves for outdoor recess!

Grade 5 - Marking period one is done, Thanksgiving has passed, winter is approaching rapidly, and we are looking forward to many special events during this busy season. Here is a glimpse at what has happened recently and what is coming soon.

Miss Dowches and Miss Gregoris have been mentoring female students in the Girls on the Run after-school program. This group not only gets exercise by running, but they also share social time that bonds the members together. In November, they made cookies and held a bake sale to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Then they ran a 5K race on December 2nd. This is a meaningful and fun activity for all involved.

As for academics, division of decimals is the topic of study in Math class. First in Math is regularly used to support various concepts, while also improving basic fact knowledge. Early America is being studied in Social Studies class. Native Americans, explorers to the New World, and early settlements of Europeans are being researched. Writings and readings related to seasonal holidays are the focus in ELA. No matter how full the calendar might be at this time of year, we always remain focused on important academics!

Outside the classroom, the students are preparing for the upcoming seasonal activities. Instrument players and singers are practicing for concerts in music class. Special times will be spent with our kindergarten buddies when we read *The Polar Express* on Pajama Day. And we will all dress our best to attend *The Nutcracker*. It will be the first experience at a ballet for most of us, so we are quite excited. This is a very hectic time of year. At the same time, it is much anticipated.

All these special events will make this month fly by and 2018 will be here before you know it. Please keep an eye on the school calendar so you don't miss anything important.

Art - With the arrival of the holidays in November and December, Kindergarten has completed their Turkey Puppets and are now designing a Gingerbread house for Ginger Baby. This project is based on the book by Jan Brett. First Grade is working on winter landscapes and completing their sea turtles while Second Grade continues to work on Symmetry Butterflies. Grade Three is learning about the abstract expressionism through the work of American artist Robert Motherwell. Fourth grade is in the early stages of learning about the Middle Ages with the exception of Mrs. Wagner's class; cartooning and the development of an original cartoon character is what they are working on. Grade Five is in the middle of clay project building and glazing, with the exception of 5D, they are still working on their blue dog paintings.

On another note, I wish all the families at our school a joyous holiday season and a healthy New Year!

Instrumental Music - Second year band and string students are working hard to prepare music for the Winter Concert. There are only a few rehearsals left, so make sure your child is in attendance for the remaining rehearsals! The concert is scheduled for Monday December 18th and Tuesday December 19th. Fifth grade parents are asked to attend the concert on Tuesday December 19th at 9:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars and remind your child to bring his/her instrument for the concert days!

Beginning instrumental students are learning more notes and techniques to play their instruments. Wind instruments are practicing new notes, rhythms and tonguing to begin each sound. String instruments are starting to use the bow and percussion students have started working on the bells. Students should be practicing four or five days each week for 15-20 minutes per day. They need to review the exercises and songs at home to improve their playing ability.

Vocal Music - Please make a "NOTE" on your calendars! This year's Winter Concerts will be held on **Monday, December 18th, 2017 at 2:00 PM** for families of students in 3rd & 4th Grade and **Tuesday, December 19th, 2017 at 9:30 AM** for families of students in 5th Grade. Both concerts will be identical, and the following ensembles will be performing both days....

5th Grade Spring Garden Strings

5th Grade Spring Garden Band

4th and 5th Grade RAM Ringers

3rd, 4th and 5th Grade Singers

The Snow Date for the Winter Concert will be Wednesday, December 20th with the concert time(s) To Be Determined if we should need to postpone the concert due to weather.

Library - We welcomed author, Steve Swinburne on November 16th! Steve has written over 25 books for children (mostly non-fiction) ranging in ages from pre k-8th grade. He wowed us with his presentations. The kids who attended the author lunch, had a blast as he face timed other authors for them to chat with. Going forward, fourth and fifth grade students are continuing to learn about and research the Titanic disaster. Third grade students are practicing their library skills while learning to use the OPAC and world book. Second graders are continuing folk tales around the world and kindergartners and first graders are continuing with author studies. Remember to read, read, read over break!

Guidance –

What is MTSS?

The Elementary Multi-Tier System of Supports (MTSS) Process is designed to help teachers find appropriate assistance for students who are having academic issues affecting their school performance. The MTSS Process comes after a classroom teacher attempts to remediate the student's difficulty through implementation of classroom interventions.

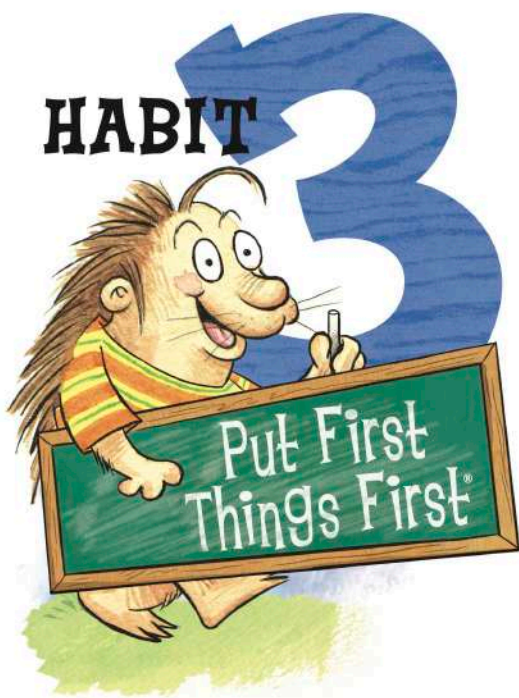
The MTSS Team is comprised of a team: principal, school counselor, reading specialist, speech and language therapist, educational psychologist, classroom teacher, parent and specialists. All members may not be present for each meeting.

During this process, information will be gathered from across school settings using a variety of sources. An action plan will be developed to identify and implement strategies and supports. As interventions are implemented, data will be collected to determine the degree of success. A successful action plan can follow a student from year to year. The process will initiate student goals in each area of concern.

After monitoring those goals for a period of time (4-6 weeks), if the MTSS action plan is not successful, it may be necessary to gain additional information. The information from the action plan is important in that process as well, but sometimes an academic evaluation might be needed to determine if an educational disability exists. This process requires permission from the parent / guardian, and would not be initiated without parental consent.

What should I do if my child needs help at school?

If your child is struggling in a particular class, first contact the teacher to set up an appointment to meet with the teacher and the student. Often, the open dialogue can lead to success for the student because they feel supported at both home and school. Strategies or interventions can be used during class and after school to help a student understand a concept or procedure. If your child is having difficulty that can't be addressed by the teacher, contact the school counselor. Your school counselor can provide assistance or refer you to other sources of support.



Habit 3 – Put First Things First

Work First, Then Play

I spend my time on things that
are most important.

This means I say no to things
I know I should not do.

I set priorities, make a schedule,
and follow my plan.

I am disciplined and organized.