



# Western Union Elementary Schools Special's Newsletter

WE ARE THE WORLD MURAL DONATED BY 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS OF 2016

Fall Newsletter

## Technology 3-5 by Cindy Tison

Western Union Elementary School recognizes that technology is an important tool for today's student. For this reason, computer classes are provided for all students K-5.

**Grades 3-5** have chrome books in their classes which encourages student to work more efficiently and also accept the responsibility of taking care of their individual computer.

In **Grade 3** students are introduced to higher level skills. Their passwords change to a more complex combination of letters, numbers and symbols. Students also are introduced to Google Drive and Google Classroom for the first time.

In the computer lab students are working on their first Google Classroom assignment which is in Google Slides. Each student will create a presentation with their thoughts and ideas of what they would do if they were President.

**Fourth Grade** students will be traveling the world. Using PowerPoint they will draw a "Flat Stanley" version of themselves. This image will then be superimposed over pictures of the places they would like to visit with a brief explanation of that location.

**Fifth Grade** is creating a Slide Presentation on a State and Capital. They will combine research, writing and geography skills in one project.

## Technology K-2

By Holly Young

The **Computer Lab** has started off with a bang this year and everything is going extremely well! This first semester the students in K-2 are learning/reviewing the Rules and Procedures for the Lab, as well as required WUES drills, i.e., Code 500 Lockdown Drill, Fire Drill, and Tornado Drill. Student safety is our #1 priority at WUES! ☺

Your Kinders have been learning the components of a computer; the keyboard, mouse, monitor and processor. We're honing in on their mousing skills, as many have difficulty with pointing and clicking, but practice makes perfect! They are being very patient, even though they're beyond anxious and excited to get to play games! (What they don't realize is they're all **educational** games, so sometimes ignorance is bliss!) They love it all! I'm so proud of my Kindergartners this year, they're an outstanding group! ☺

The first few weeks the 1<sup>st</sup> graders have been learning the arduous task of "Logging In" to the computers again. Many forget over the summer, so this is just a gentle reminding ritual. ☺ Upon login, they're learning how to access the internet via Google Chrome, access school-approved websites, such as Starfall, ABCya and PBSkids. They love ALL of these sites and you may access them at home if you any device with the internet.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders jumped right into Loggin In with little effort or reminders, YAY! Now we're finding the websites mentioned above and learning the meaning of "Bookmark" and bookmarking the sites permissible. I've taught them that it's just like bookmarking your page in a book you're reading, but on the computer with the click of a button! Easy peasy!

## Music Notes

by Cathy Reese

The Music classes got started on the right “note” this year! The students are learning the Warm-Up Song, which will be sung at the beginning of each class. The song helps the students to warm up their voices for singing, while the lyrics give reminders about showing positive SOAR behaviors.

The students will learn about a new music composer each month through our “Composer of the Month” lessons. A composer is a person who writes or creates music. The “Composer of the Month” for September is Ludwig van Beethoven. The classes were amazed that he continued to compose music after he became deaf.

One of the fun facts we learned about Beethoven is that one of his favorite foods was macaroni and cheese!

## MUSIC MATTERS!



It is going to be a great year for the Music program at WUES!

Mrs. Reese is working on scheduling Eagle Chorus rehearsals for 4th and 5th graders and also the December Music Performance and Art Show for 3rd graders.

**Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

**First rehearsal for Eagle Chorus is October 10,  
from 2:00 – 3:15**

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## Physical Education

by Ethan Ford



This year in PE we will be covering many different skills.

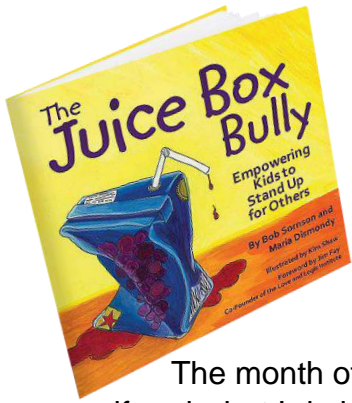
My goal is to expose students to many different activities that keep them active. Hopefully they will be able to do that activity somewhere outside of school.

Grades K-2 students will focus more on the skills of different sports and activities, while grades 3-5 students will combine skills with game tactics.

I am excited about the new year and look forward to seeing everyone in class each week.

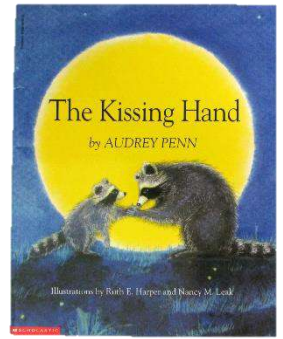
Don't forget to wear your tennis shoes.





## Notes from the Counselor

by Jane McGarty



The month of August and the first few weeks of September have been about introducing myself and what I do in my job as a school counselor. In K-3 Mr. Potato Head helped me talk about what I do in my job. We also shared The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn to discuss feelings we might have when first starting back to school. Fourth and Fifth graders played the camp counselor game to talk about the various jobs a school counselor does.

During the remainder of September, k-3 students will be talking about feelings. I will be sharing the story, I Feel Silly and Other Moods That Make My Day, by Jamie Lee Curtis and a fishing for feelings game.

Fourth and fifth graders will be listening to The Juice Box Bully by Bob Sornson and Maria Dismondy. This book stresses the importance of empowering children to stand up for others.

Our first Terrific Kids ceremony will be held on October 11<sup>th</sup>. The character trait is empathy.

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## Art Class

by Caroline Turner



We are preparing up for an exciting and artful year! Third through fifth graders are keeping an art journal for the school year. Each week we write and sketch in our art journals. Students are learning new art terms, skills and ways to think creatively.

First and second graders are working on creating a rough draft before starting on their final draft of artwork. Students are being familiarized with the art process by starting with a practice draft.

Kindergarten is working on getting acclimated in the art room. Students played "Guess what is in the art bag?" This involves identifying various art supplies that we will use in art this year.

Lastly, we have kicked off our *Art to Remember* fundraiser in art class. Students are creating artwork that families can purchase printed on coffee mugs, potholders, key chains and more!!! Proceeds will go to the art department to buy special supplies like clay and glazes. Stay tuned for more information in October!