

Wiggin Street News

February, 2017

Upcoming Events

February 14 Valentine's Day Parties
Feb. 20 President's Day No School
Feb. 21 6:30 pm 5th Grade Camp Meeting will be at Middle School Library
Feb. 21 Friends of Wiggin Street Meeting
Feb. 22, 23 and March 1 Ohio English Language Proficiency Test
March 1 District Wide Gifted Seminar for grades 3,4,5
March 6-8 2nd Grade CoGat and IOWA

I choose tap water, for a sparkling smile!

February is Dental Health Month. Our third grade students will have the opportunity to participate in dental health screenings based on parent permission. Dentists will give a brief talk to our third grade students about dental hygiene and good tooth care. They often share interesting props so students are familiar with dental tools before going to an office visit. Students will then have the opportunity for a free dental exam checking for decay, proper development, and hygiene problems. Permission forms will be coming home soon!

The theme for dental health month focuses on tap water. Our first graders wanted you to know:

Tap water is good for your teeth because it has fluoride in it. Fluoride comes from minerals. Fluoride keeps your teeth enamel strong. so that's why it's important to drink tap water!
by Mrs. Kramp's class



Many of us use well water. All water contains some fluoride, but it is important to get your water tested for fluoride to see if it meets dental health guidelines. This allows you to know if you need to add a fluoride supplement to your child's dental hygiene routine. You can contact the health department to find out how to have your water analyzed, or speak with your dentist to learn more.

SCHOOL MENUS

- View helpful nutrition info
- Download our FREE mobile app!
- Print your menus

GET YOUR SCHOOL'S MENU

Second Grade Testing

Students in second grade will participate in CoGat and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills on March 6-8. The students will take both a reading and a math test. The testing will take place in the morning. It is important that your child is well rested, has a nutritious breakfast, and is healthy to do their best on this assessment of their reading and math skills. Please try not to schedule appointments during this time and make every effort to have your student to school on time for these dates.



School Menus

MVCSD has a new way of helping you access school menu information. Simply go to this address <http://mvcsd.nutrislice.com/>. You will be able to see and print out daily menus, photos of different food items, and nutritional information about food choices.

Happy Campers

Mount Vernon City School District fifth grade students will be going to Heartland Camp again this year. The dates for camp are May 8-10, 2017.

An informational meeting will be held for parents in the library of Mount Vernon Middle School at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, February 21. This is an important meeting for you to attend as the Camp Heartland staff will introduce you to their faculty, discuss what your child will be doing at camp, and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you to the Ariel Foundation for graciously covering half of the cost of the camp for all of our fifth grade students. Parents can send cash or a check for the remaining \$75 made out to Friends of Wiggin Street by Friday, March 3. More details will be sent home with students.

With winter weather quickly approaching, you will want to be sure to get the latest updates and school information. The Knox County Commissioners have made this very easy for you. They have implemented a system called "Knox County Alerts." To sign up for the alerts simply go to www.mvczd.us and click the orange communications button. You will see the Knox County symbol shown here. When you click that symbol you will link to the page which will allow you to sign up for the alerts you would like to receive. Be sure to choose Mount Vernon City Schools and Wiggin Street Elementary.



School Store Success

Our Friends of Wiggin Street school store fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you all in the community for your generosity. This event raised over \$4,000 in gift cards from Caring Classrooms. Classroom teachers have been able to purchase supplies for their classrooms due to the gift card donations

Chromebooks

Mrs. Clippinger worked hard in her role with Friends of Wiggin Street to write a grant to Energy Co-Op which has allowed us to purchase 17 new Chromebooks and a Chromebook cart. In addition, FOWS has generously donated 25 new Chromebooks for our school! We are so grateful for these new learning tools!

Jump Rope for Heart

We are excited to announce Wiggin Street Elementary is kicking off our Jump Rope for Heart Program in February. We will be raising funds for the American Heart Association. Family and friends can support your child's Jump Rope for Heart efforts by making contributions. More information will be coming home in a flyer from Mr. Nieman, our PE teacher. It will explain how your child can raise money for a great cause and earn prizes too!

Attendance Policy

Please note that the district attendance policy is clearly spelled out in the student handbook. If your child is absent or tardy from school for many days without a doctor's excuse, you may receive a letter in the mail. At five days you will get a note reminding you of the attendance policy. You will get another note if your child is missing for ten days. If your child continues to be absent or tardy and unexcused by a physician, you may be required to attend a Knox County parent meeting on truancy. Please be sure you are turning in those doctor's notes promptly to avoid receiving an attendance letter.



Testing Dates Are Set for Grades 3, 4, 5

THIRD GRADE will take the English Language Arts test on March 28, 29 and their Math test on April 27, 28. Both tests will take place from 9:30-11 a.m.

FOURTH GRADE will take the English Language Arts Test on March 23, 24 from 9:30-11:00. Their Math test will take place on April 27, 28 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. The Social Studies portion of the test will be on May 2. Mrs. Sabo's class will test from 9-10:30 and Mrs. Loveland's class will test from 10:30-12.

FIFTH GRADE will take the English Language Arts test on March 21, 22 from 9:30-11. They will take their Math test on May 2, 3 from 1:00-2:30. The Science portion will be on April 25, 26. Mrs. Croswell's students will test from 9-10:30. Mrs. Grandstaff's class will test from 10:30-12.

Please help us with testing by having great attendance on your child's testing dates. It is important to try not to schedule appointments or vacations during this time.



A Focus on Diversity



From time to time, we get questions about how we introduce our students to the variety of people and cultures that make our country such a diverse and amazing place. Recently, we were asked how we would be celebrating Black History Month. I wanted to share with you the various activities that go on during this month and throughout the school year to celebrate the many ways our diversity adds to the strength of our nation. We are certainly proud to say that our celebration of diversity extends to the entire school year and is not limited to one month or season.

In both music and art, students focus on the works of famous artists who have made significant contributions to our nation's culture. For example, in music students are exposed to jazz, blues, spiritual, gospel music. They discuss the ways each of these musical genres contributes to music today. Students explore art from around the world and are introduced to the work of El Ananusi, Romare Bearden, Faith Ringgold, and Jacob Lawrence just to name a few. These experiences go on year round.

In the library, third and fourth grade students focus on the history of the Civil Rights movement and explore the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Books that emphasize this rich history are selected and displayed as special interest books during the month. This learning even extends to morning announcements where students are introduced to famous African-Americans and asked to use research skills to learn more and share with the school.

In third grade, students are not only focusing on the Snowden family, one of the first African-American families in the area, but they are also learning about Ellamae Simmons, the first African-American doctor to specialize in allergies and immunology who is also from the Mount Vernon area. Third graders extended their learning about diversity by celebrating the holiday season with contributions to the Malala Fund learning about the importance of education to all people, but especially focusing on the impact education of young women is having on countries around the world.

Our social studies curriculum allows us to purchase magazines such as Scholastic News which has a focus on current events and is used at a variety of grade levels. First grade and fifth grade students are learning about famous African-Americans by sharing their stories in these magazines. They are learning about Ruby Bridges in first grade and the children can relate to her story as they consider what it would be like to be alone in first grade. Our fifth graders are focusing on both Martin Luther King, Jr., but also study about famous scientists who come from a variety of backgrounds in read alouds as they move through the science standards.

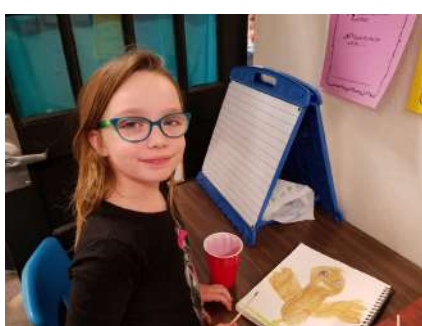
Culture and heritage also play a role in the Kindergarten standards. When the Kindergarten students design and build their city they learn about the various traditions of each family to create an inclusive city environment.

These examples serve as just a sampling of the learning about cultural diversity taking place at our school. At Wiggin Street Elementary, we value the culture, traditions, and diversity of our school families in order to create an inclusive environment for all.

On Feb. 1, Wiggin Street School participated in the Global Day of Play. Teachers have read research on the benefits of play for students' learning. *Study after study has affirmed the importance of play in children's physical and mental health. It helps boost language development, problem solving, risk management and independent learning skills. Play is linked to improvements in academic skills, classroom behavior, healthy emotional attitudes and better adjustment to school life.*

Based on this research, teachers helped students play for a day. The building was filled with imaginative creations including buildings, art works, and a variety of tents. Students used their imaginations to create their own board games and cards, play games, or use musical instruments to create sounds. In the upper grades, teachers combined play with the learning of science as students were given free choice materials to explore STEM concepts. The fifth grade was engrossed in using mirrors and laser pointers to redirect light. They created mazes and tunnels and bounced light off of ceilings in a really exciting study of why light behaves the way it does. In fourth grade, students created structures to see which one could hold the most weight, and second graders created their own slingshots to send puff balls across distances and used yard sticks to see how far they traveled. Third graders worked to develop paper airplanes. They made predictions about design and then tested their results creating planes that could go the farthest or straightest or fastest.

More than 250,000 children around the world participated in this event. The building was filled with laughter and learning through play!



Thank you to our volunteers for making our day a success!



FUN FEST NEWS

Planning for the Wiggin Street Fun Festival is well underway! The Fun Festival will take place on March 31. Friends of Wiggin Street is looking for individuals to volunteer for this event. We are in need of people to bake goods, help solicit donations for raffles and silent auctions or to donate themselves. We need people to help run games. This event is very special and great fun for our families, but it does rely on the giving of time and donations from our community for us to achieve success. If you would like to become involved in the Fun Festival, you can attend the next meeting on Feb. 21 at 6:00 p.m. or look for the volunteer sign up sheet that will be coming through email soon. We need you to make this event a success!

Kindergarten registration will take place on May 12 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This event is for children who will enroll in Kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year. A Kindergarten search form will be attached to this newsletter. Please feel free to share it with friends or family who may not yet be on our mailing list.



On January 27, students in Kindergarten and first grade celebrated the 100th day of school! Can you believe that we are more than half way through the school year!!!

