FEBRUARY 2020

MARCH 2020

Wed. Feb. 5 – EARLY DISMISSAL  2:00pm

Week of Feb. 10th-14th - BOOK FAIR

Thurs. Feb. 13 – NO PRE-K Classes (Screening day)

Friday, Feb. 14-The 50th Annual Chili Supper
hosted by
The Eighth Grade Class. All proceeds go
towards the Springfield Trip & Graduation

Mon. Feb. 17 - NO SCHOOL-Presidents’ Day

Tues. Feb. 18 – School Board Meeting 6:30pm

Fri. Feb. 28 – EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30am

Wed. Mar. 4 – EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00pm

Week of Mar. 16 - 20 SPRING BREAK

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL MON. MAR. 23

Mon. Mar. 23 – School Board Meeting 6:30PM
### February & March Newsletter – Table of Contents

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Mrs. Stephanie Jones, Mrs. Emily McDanel, Mrs. Gretchen Conley, Mrs. Brandi Sauerhage, Mrs. Amy Minor, Mrs. Sara Wilson, Mrs. Tammy Cripps, Mr. Jeff Fauver, Mrs. April Harmon, Mrs. Mary Hart, Mrs. Emily Milligan, and Mrs. Julie Wielt

Mrs. Mandy Watkins, Mrs. Rhonda Carlton, Mrs. Dawn Scarborough, Mrs. Becky Jones, Mr. Jeff Fauver, Mrs. Michelle Hampton, Mrs. Mary Hart, Mrs. Emily Milligan
CALENDAR OF EVENTS-February & March

February
3  Volleyball game @ Adams 5:30 c-game
4  Volleyball game @ Tamaroa 5:30 start NO C-Game
5  EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00pm
6  Volleyball game @ Christopher 5:30 c-game
10-13 6th Grade Basketball Tourney @ Christopher TBA
10-13 7th Grade Basketball Tourney @ Akin TBA
10-14  Scholastic Book Fair Week
11  Volleyball game HOME vs. Massac County 5:30 c-game
12  Volleyball game @ OBR c-game 5:30
13  Volleyball game @ Pinckneyville 204 5:00 c-game
13  NO PRE-K Classes (Pre-K Screening day at Whittington Church)
14  50th Annual CHILI SUPPER 4:00-8:00
15  Volleyball 7th Grade Tourney @ Benton ALL DAY
17  NO SCHOOL-PRESIDENTS’ DAY
18  Volleyball game @ Thompsonville C Game 5:30
18  School Board Meeting 6:30pm
19  Volleyball game @ DuQuoin C Game 5:30
20  Volleyball game HOME vs. Sesser 5:30 c-game
24-28 7th Grade Basketball Tournament @ Spring Garden
27  Volleyball game @ Crab Orchard C-game 5:30
28  EARLY DISMISSAL 11:30am
29  Volleyball 8th Grade Tourney @ Benton ALL DAY
29  Solo & Ensemble Contest @ Carterville ALL DAY

MARCH
3  Volleyball game HOME vs. Akin C Game 5:30pm
4  EARLY DISMISSAL 2:00pm
4  Volleyball @ Marion C Game 4:30pm
5  Volleyball @ Galatia C Game 5:30pm
7  Volleyball-Fairfield Varsity Tournament
9  Volleyball game @ Waltonville C Game 5:30
10  Volleyball game HOME vs. Bluford C Game 5:30pm
13  Volleyball game @ Woodlawn C Game 5:30pm
14  Volleyball-Massac Varsity Tournament
16-20  SPRING BREAK-STUDENTS RETURN MON. MARCH 23
16  Volleyball game HOME vs. Spring Garden c-game 5:30 (8th grade night)
17-24  Volleyball Regionals
23  School Board Meeting 6:30pm
28  State Volleyball-Herrin
28  State Archery-Springfield

STATE TESTING WILL BEGIN IN APRIL. PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE AFTER SCHOOL HOURS. TESTING WILL BE APRIL 6th-24th. PLEASE NO INTERRUPTIONS!
I would like to take the time to thank the teachers, staff and parents of Ewing Grade School. It amazes me everyday how well Ewing students do and how much they achieve. I know that it takes everyone to ensure our students learn. So, thanks to all!! I know that each and every one of you put forth great effort to guarantee all children in this building receive a quality education. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!

Lunch Bills-Parents please remember to check your child’s folders weekly for lunch bills. Ms. Teresa prints them on RED paper, so be on the lookout for that. You can also look on the Parent Portal website for an updated lunch money amount. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Teresa in the office.

Parents- Thanks so much for sending those Boxtops!! We use that money for support our reading program and the AR program. Please keep saving, cutting them out and sending!! You may also use the app online. They are so worth the effort!!

Testing 2020- Grades 3-8

Illinois state testing will no longer be called “PARCC”. State testing will not be referred to as ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS (IAR). The State Board of Education explains IAR, “Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) is the state assessment and accountability measure for Illinois students enrolled in a public school district. IAR assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered in English Language Arts and Mathematics. IAR assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics will be administered to all students in grades 3-8.”

Parents please mark your calendars for the weeks of April 6th- April 24th for testing this year. Students will not all test at the same time this year due to several other activities and events. Notification will be provided explaining what week each grade level will be testing.

The assessments students will take will be Performance Based Tests as well as cumulative content tests. In the performance portion of the assessment, the students will be asked to demonstrate what they know and can do by writing, working out and creating equations and/or through multistep problem solving. The cumulative aspects of the tests are geared towards collective knowledge for the school year within each content area. This is
the mandatory state testing for students in grades 3-8. Students are tested in reading and math in grade 3-8. These tests are very important and want to encourage our students to do their best. Please help your child do well on these tests by encouraging lots of rest and a well balanced breakfast. Your child’s teacher will provide information closer to time when your student will be testing. Also, the state will test students in grades 5th and 8th in science. Those tests will be given during the testing window as well.

School District Report Card

Here is the link for the school report card that is published by the state. This website provides an overview of our district.

RtI- Response to Intervention- Well, the winter benchmark has been completed K-8. This is the second benchmark test for the year. Students will be tested again in the spring as the final iReady assessment in reading and math. The winter benchmark scores for each child are reviewed carefully by the RtI team at your child’s grade level. When we set goals at Ewing, we set them based on the National Norm and grade level expectations. We have seen amazing results from the RtI program. Students are making great educational gains. If you have any questions regarding the program, please don’t hesitate to ask.

We are halfway through the school year, but we still have a long way to go before May. Everyone must still work hard and continue to do their best work. Students you should have all your homework written down in your agenda book and packed before you leave each day. Parents, please ask to see the completed homework before you sign your child’s agenda book each evening. The agenda book is a tool to increase communication between the classroom teacher and parents. If you have any questions about an assignment, you may call the classroom teacher, homework hotline and look at the webpage.

WOW---After School Tutoring is a big success. The goal is to help students complete their daily assignments and study for tests. This is a support service for students who are willing to work and apply themselves. There are currently around 35 students attending after school tutoring on a daily basis. Several of the students attending After School Tutoring Sessions earned merit, honor, or high honor awards for the Second Nine Weeks Grading Period. Keep up the good work and I hope it is contagious. Wouldn’t it be great if all of the students in the after-school tutoring program earned merit, honor, or high honor awards for the Third Nine Weeks Grading Period? We would have a fantastic celebration.

www.ewinggradeschool.org

Ewing-Northern Consolidated School District # 115 has a school website. Please access the school website to view the current school lunch menu, calendar, and school board meeting
agendas. The school budget is also on the homepage. Ms. Andrea is working hard to maintain the online calendar, so please check the calendar for practices, games, events.

Ewing will be providing a parent event on Monday, March 2\textsuperscript{nd} through Centerstone Counseling. A flyer will be available soon, so please mark your calendars!!

The topic of discussion will center around how to help students with stress, anxiety and trauma!

Graduation will be on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm. It will be held in the Ewing Grade School gymnasium.
Reminder: The graduating class will wear caps and gowns on the stage. Students may wear their formal/dress attire under the caps and gowns and to the dinner and dance afterwards.

3 Tips for Increasing Intrinsic Motivation
For students to own their accomplishments, they must be intrinsically motivated to do high-level work. Students who feel good about themselves and their abilities – who are intrinsically motivated – are more creative, don’t need to be reminded as often about their responsibilities, are better behaved, enjoy school, and have lower rates of absenteeism than do students whose performance depends on extrinsic motivation (rewards from teachers or parents).

3 Tips for Increasing Intrinsic Motivation

1. Build pride in workmanship. If students consistently feel good about their performance, they will internalize the good feelings and strive to do well every time. Students should welcome praise but don’t depend on it because their job satisfaction will come from knowing that they have done their best work.

2. Create a joyful persistence. Use problems and mistakes as opportunities for positive learning, not blasé or other negative messages. Remember: Edison didn’t fail 6,000 times to find the right filament for his light bulb; he discovered 6,000 things that wouldn’t work. Students should understand the value of persistence and internalize the project. This will help them get through difficult assignments and emerge successful.

3. Make stress a positive. When students take pride in their work and in overcoming obstacles and conquering challenges, negative stress is replaced by excitement and satisfaction. Students who don’t fear failures can take risks that propel them to higher levels of accomplishments.
STUDENTS OF THE TERM – Top students for the Second Nine Weeks at Ewing-Northern Grade School were treated to lunch at McDonalds for their hard work and grades. Students in the front row from left to right: Roper Roberts, Ava Lowe, Hudson Munoz, Isabella Clark. Second Row: Caden Shaputis, Cayden Thiele, Bryli Minor, Abigail Martin, Ava Minor and Mrs. Ing. Ewing Grade School would like to say a special thanks to Benton McDonalds for providing lunch to all our McDonalds Students.

STUDENTS OF THE TERM-Ewing Grade School also had top students for the Second Nine Weeks for good behavior. They were treated to lunch at McDonalds for their accomplishments. Students in the front row from left to right: Eli Minor, Abram Gates, Hayden Corn. Back Row: Molly Hicks, Makinley Roberts, Layla Myers, Makena Carollo, Kiera Allsopp, and Mrs. Ing.
- Cut the Box Top from participating products and send with your student to school. (Turn into Mrs. Cripps)

NEW BOX TOPS BONUS APP

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Earn even more cash to help your school get what it needs through the Box Tops for Education® Bonus App. Turn your everyday receipts into cash for your school.
It’s free and as easy as 1-2-3. Here’s how it works:

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FIND OFFERS.
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Ewing Northern Grade School Educational Foundation

Our Future depends on our youth...

What is the ENEF?

This foundation was established in 2002 to support and enhance the educational efforts at Ewing-Northern Grade School. The goal is simple to generate private-sector funds to help continue the tradition of excellence at Ewing-Northern.

The foundation is committed to:
- promoting school and community partnerships
- helping students achieve in academics, fine arts, athletics, leadership and citizenship

Continuing the high academic standards that we have come to expect from Ewing-Northern

By accepting financial gifts and other contributions from community members, businesses, alumni and friends, the Ewing School Educational Foundation will be in a position to help insure the future of our school.

What is the benefit of having a foundation?

A foundation offers benefits to both the donors and the school. The ENEF is set up as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation of the Internal Revenue Code.

That means that your charitable contribution is tax-deductible and can offer substantial tax benefits for large donations. A foundation gives you a variety of ways to become a donor.

The benefit to EGS is funding - without additional burden on taxpayers- that can be used for special projects or to help with major financial challenges

How can you help?

You can make either a non-restricted or restricted gift to the ENEF.

- Non-Restricted contributions will be allocated by the foundation's board of directors to support the goals of the foundation.
- Restricted contributions allow you to designate a specific purpose or use for the donation. Supporters, benefactors, and patrons have the option of naming a specific fund.

The foundation offers four levels of support. Depending on the amount of your contribution, you can become a Friend, Supporter, Benefactor, or Patron of Ewing-Northern Grade School.

5 Good Reasons to Give to the ENEF

- You’ll help EGS continue its commitment to excellence.
- You’ll receive federal tax benefits by giving to the foundation.
- You have a variety of ways to give to the foundation.
- You can designate how your gift is used-ideas include new curricula, the music program, athletics, building improvement, or even a scholarship fund.
- You’ll have a direct impact on the future of our school and the students it serves.

Four Levels of Support

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<th>Level</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Friend</td>
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<td>Supporter</td>
<td>$101 - $1000</td>
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<td>Benefactor</td>
<td>$1001 - $5000</td>
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<td>Patron</td>
<td>$5001 - $10,000</td>
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Contribution Options Include

Cash, Check, Memorials, & Will

Like us on Facebook:
Ewing-Northern Grade School Foundation

How to preserve your memory or a loved one at Ewing Grad School

By purchasing a brick for our Ewing College Bell Courtyard you give a lasting gift to a favorite teacher, coach, graduate or loved one. Honor your school colleagues, group affiliation, favorite teacher, friends, or EGS graduates or a special memory in this unique and permanent way.

Money raised will be used to support and enhance the educational efforts at Ewing Grade School.

Your donation is tax deductible also!
- 4”x 8” bricks are $100.00 each and can accommodate up to 3 lines

Suggested Ideas for Engraving

<table>
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<th>Congratulations</th>
<th>Holden Allsopp</th>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Jones</td>
<td>Class of 2018</td>
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<td>In Honor of</td>
<td>In Memory of</td>
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<td>John Henry</td>
<td>John Doe</td>
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Mail and Make Checks payable to:
Ewing-Northern Education Foundation
51 N. Main St.
Ewing, Illinois 62836 (618) 629-2181
shelly.allsopp@gmail.com
President: Adam Allsopp (618) 927-6756
Sec/Treasurer: Shelly Allsopp
officers: Ryan and Emily Skibo
NEWS FOR WHOLE SCHOOL

This year is flying by, and the 8th graders, as well as the school, have a lot going on. Below is a list of all the activities that will be taking place in the next couple of months.

● Chili Supper
  ○ The annual chili supper is scheduled for **Friday, February 14**. The chili supper is an event organized by the 8th grade class to raise money for their end of the year school trip to Springfield. Students are currently selling tickets. **The tickets are $5.00 each and the supper will be from 4 pm to 8 pm in the school gymnasium.** The students will be selling tickets until February 10th, but you are welcome to purchase a ticket at the door.
  ○ Also, everyone knows that one great feature of the chili supper is the **DESSERTS**!! If you are willing to donate cakes, pies, or cookies for the chili supper please let Mrs. Jones know. (Please send desserts in disposable containers.) You can drop them off in the cafeteria on **Friday, February 14th** any time before 3:00 pm. Thank you for all your help and donations!! The 8th grade class and Mrs. Jones are very appreciative!
NOTES FROM NURSE LYNN

(618) 629-2181 EXT. 120
email: ljones@ewinggradeschool.org

Notice to Families with children entering Kindergarten:

Screening will be April 24th.

DUE DAY OF SCREENING:
1. State Physical with updated immunizations
2. Eye Exam with an Optometrist, appointment date and time
3. Dental Exam

Hello everyone I am so pleased with our attendance so far. We have had several cases of stomach issues with vomiting prior to Christmas, but seem to have this under control. I have not had reports of seasonal flu to date but I suspect there is more flu to come. Here are a few of the most common symptoms: high fever, headache, general body aches, fatigue and weakness, chest discomfort, nausea and cough. Please remember to keep your child at home if they have anything that might be contagious. I would also like to remind you that if your child has a fever please don’t give them Tylenol (Acetaminophen) and send them to school, more and likely they will have symptoms again in four hours and will need to go home. If they need over the counter medication while at school remember to send it in the original package with name, time last dose was given, and when the next dose is due. If the medication was prescribed by the doctor he or she must give you a note for school with dosing instructions. Please refer to the hand book. Thanks for helping me care for your children.

February is National Children’s Dental Health Month!

Safari Dental visited January 13th, we had amazing participation this year. Each student should have given you there results of the exam. We are doing great! So keep up the good work. Below is a reminder of the important steps to maintaining a healthy smile.

Parents are encouraged to help their children brush and floss each day, eat nutritious foods, and visit the dentist on a regular basis.

In celebration of Children’s Dental Health Month, three of the most important habits parents can encourage in their children for a lifetime of healthy smiles are:

1) Ensuring children brush twice a day. Parents should try to set a good example by introducing brushing by the age of two to familiarize young children with brushing

2) Visiting the dentist six months after eruption of the first tooth. The dentist can examine the child’s oral cavity to ensure the teeth; jaw and bite are all developing properly. Tooth decay is still the most common chronic childhood disease, five times as common as asthma with poor oral health resulting in 52 million missed school hours. Some parents have the false impression that very young children “can’t” get tooth decay. Tooth decay can occur at any age including in the very young and if left untreated, can negatively impact a child’s ability to eat, speak, sleep and learn. Children should have at least bi-annual check-ups to ensure good oral health

3) Making mouth guards a part of any sport activity. Five million teeth are knocked out each year. Many of these injuries could have been prevented by having a child wear a mouth guard during sport activities. Mouth guards help protect a child’s teeth from being knocked out, chipped or broken and can save a child from needing oral surgery to replace a tooth.

IHSA encourages parents, students, and stuff to view a CPR training video on hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillators on the association’s internet website at http://www.ihsa.org/Resources/SportsMedicine/CPRTraining.aspx.

Thank you for all your support! Don’t forget the number one way to prevent illness is to use good hand washing.
Ewing School District #115 Pre-K Child Find Screening:

**LOCATION:** WHITTINGTON CHURCH!!!!!
**Date:** Thurs. Feb. 13!!
**8:30-10:30 MAKE SURE TO CALL 453-4271 for APPOINTMENT!!!**

(If anyone knows of a child that would benefit from our wonderful Pre-K program or other related programs please let them know about our screening!!! The screening is for children birth to five years old.)

In Pre-K we have been busy working on Kindergarten readiness skills.

**Language/Literacy:** The students are printing and spelling out the letters in their own name and exploring inventive spelling. We have been working on language skills in the area of book sharing, recognizing/naming letters, using new words/complex sentences, segmenting letter sounds, and drawing/dictation. *State Goal 4: Recognize and name some letters.*

**Mathematics:** Rote counting, ordering objects by size, patterning, identifying numbers, colors, and shapes. *State Goal 6: Demonstrate and apply a knowledge and sense of numbers.*

**Physical Development:** Fine motor skills (pencil grasp, scissor skills, controlled and refined movements in tasks.). Gross motor activities (Coordinating movements, active play, following simple safety rules during play). *State Goal 19: Acquire Gross/Fine movement skills.*

**Social Emotional:** Communication skills, making good choices, independence in the classroom, cooperative group play, Following classroom rules, routines, and transitions. Applying knowledge to classroom material, staying focused, and showing an eagerness/curiosity as a learner. *State Goal 31: Develop an awareness of personal identity and positive self-concept.*

Pre-K will exchange Valentines on Fri. Feb. 14th. Pre-K students may send in Valentines anytime. Please only place your child’s name on the Valentines. This year we are going to have students decorate their box at home. It will be fun to see all the different box designs. Be as creative as you like but please keep it on the simple side/small scale. If anyone is unable to help their child with a box let us know and we will help them here at school. Thanks!!!

**Pre-K Up & Coming:**
Feb. 5th Ewing 2:00 Dismissal
Feb. 13th Ewing Pre-K Screening (No Pre-K classes this day!!)
Feb. 14th Pre-K Valentine Exchange
Feb. 14th Ewing School Chili Supper 4:00
Feb. 17th NO SCHOOL (Holiday)
Spring Break March 16th – 20th
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**Kindergarten News-Mrs. Emily McDanel**

We are very busy in Kindergarten!

In reading we are going to cover Unit 6 (Weather for All Seasons), Unit 7 (The Animal Kingdom), and Unit 8 (From Here to There). We will work on short and long vowel sounds and well as finding the beginning, middle, and end sounds in words. Please continue reading with your child each night and working on his/her sight word rings. Learning sight words will help build fluency when reading. If your child comes across a word that he/she doesn’t know, have him/her slow down and sound it out. This will encourage reading and build confidence.

In math, we are adding! We will be focusing on adding within 10. We will also learn to subtract within 10. To prepare for first grade we need to fluently add and subtract within 5. We are now writing our numbers to 100. We have been counting by 5’s and 10’s- please continue practicing at home or in the car.

The Valentine’s party will be Friday, February 14th. The party will begin at 1:30 PM. Jennifer Wagley, Samantha Newbury, Cassie Emberton, and Mary Timmons are in charge of the party. We will be exchanging Valentine’s Day cards in the afternoon. We have 25 kids in the class, so please send enough cards for every student to receive one. Have your child write ONLY his or her name on the card. This will make passing the cards out much easier. Please send the Valentine cards in a bag labeled with your child’s name for the party.
Mark your calendar! We have Spring Break this year on Monday, March 16th - Friday, March 20th. Ewing homecoming will be on Saturday, March 7th. The kindergarten class is in charge of making an office supplies basket to raffle off as a fundraiser. If you would like to donate items to be put in our basket, please send them with your child to school by the end of February. Thanks in advance for your help!

Kindergarten screenings for next year will be on Friday, April 24th, 2020. You may call the office to schedule appointments. Please spread the word if you know of anyone who is of Kindergarten age.

Thanks for all of your support throughout this year. The students are making amazing progress and learning so much!

**Computer Classes-Mrs. Hart**

Students will continue using the Common Core Curriculum – ABCya & Starfall working on Math and Reading activities on the computer. Introduce Keyboard Climber to practice finding letters on the keyboard. They will also use - Tumble Books to listen to wonderful stories being read to them with using headphones.

**Title I Reading Teacher-Mrs. Cripps**

In reading groups we do a variety of activities. One activity is repeated reading. I will read a page then have the student read back to me. This especially works well on harder material. The student reads along silently the first time as they hear it read. Then when they read it aloud, they know what should make sense in the reading.

The biggest need is for students to practice their reading!! Make sure you have many books accessible at their reading level. Reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity. Make it a nightly routine. Be sure to take advantage of the books and videos that are available! Above all---practice, practice, practice!!

Another area for extra practice is in phonics. When studying spelling words, take time to relate the spelling pattern to other words not on the spelling list. The main point of spelling words should be the spelling pattern not necessarily the word itself. For example, if learning oy/oi words, think of other words with the same spelling pattern and have your child try to spell them as well.

**Physical Education-Mr. Fauver**

The students have spent the vast majority of their time indoors this winter due to the cold and wet weather conditions. The kids and I are looking forward to springtime and warmer weather so that we can get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air! The K-1 students have been very active and getting plenty of exercise. They’ve been busy playing age appropriate games such as Builders and Bulldozers, Pacman, Continuous Tag and Sharks and Lifeguards with the big parachute. They’ve even learned to play Dodgeball with super-soft balls! The students enjoy PE and are always excited when I introduce a new game or skill.
Art/Science-Mrs. Page
In art, we are working to create artwork that we will submit in the Doodle for Google contest. The contest rules state that students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. We will begin by doing some activities to help students think creatively and then we will work to create and entry. I will send their entry home for you to sign off on and then mail them to Google. The grand prize winner gets a trip to California, a scholarship and a tech grant for our school! In Social Studies, the students are working to learn important information like their phone number, address, birth date and parents’ names. We want them to be able to articulate this information in the event of an emergency. You can work with them on this at home. In science, We will be investigating on forces and motion through a Mystery Science unit called Force Olympics. We plan to get in some fun hands on experiments! In Special Social Studies we will continue to look at our weekly newspapers that cover a variety of skills and key concepts like weather, holidays, and being a good citizen.

Music-Mrs. Milligan
The Christmas Concert went so well this year. I was beyond proud of all of the student’s hard work and dedication. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the music program at Ewing and encourage your students to participate in our concerts. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase all the hard work they put in during the school year in the music room. Currently the students are learning to perform call and response, identify percussion instruments and describe how sound is made, and learning how to sing softly and loudly. The Spring Concert date is April 7 at 6pm for K-4 students. Our show is “Disney – The Movies, The Music! Celebrating 75 Years of Disney Magic!” Your child is welcome to dress up however they would like for this concert, their Easter clothing would be perfect for this show!

NEWS FOR WHOLE SCHOOL
This year is flying by, and the 8th graders, as well as the school, have a lot going on. Below is a list of all the activities that will be taking place in the next couple of months.

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  - Also, everyone knows that one great feature of the chili supper is the **DESSERTS**!! If you are willing to donate cakes, pies, or cookies for the chili supper please let Mrs. Jones know. (Please send desserts in disposable containers.) You can drop them off in the cafeteria on **Friday, February 14th** any time before 3:00 pm. Thank you for all your help and donations!! The 8th grade class and Mrs. Jones are very appreciative!
In February we will do a unit on bears. We will be learning all about types of bears, bear habitat, hibernation, and we will have some fun with our good old friend the teddy bear! We will be reading *Corduroy* by Don Freeman and will take turns taking a stuffed bear named Corduroy home each evening. The students will get to take the bear home and write down their experiences in a special class journal. Since it is a big class, we will have two Corduroys making the journey each day.

Read, read, read! That is what first grade students must do in order to be successful. I know it is challenging with how busy we are as adults to take the time to sit down and listen to our children read. It is very important though, and doesn’t have to take a long time. Reading to the children is equally important. They get to hear what a good reader sounds like! I hope you will take the time to fill out the Book-It forms each month. It can be for reading to your child, or for your child reading to you. If you have lost the form, simply write down the names of the books on a piece of paper.

In math we have been working very hard on the COINS strategy when doing word problems. The kids must:
C Comprehend the Question
O Observe and highlight the data
I Illustrate a picture
N Write a Number Sentence
S Solve the problem

We have also started a daily math fluency and review of concepts page that the kids work on right when they get to school.

Our Valentine’s Day party will be on February 14th at 1:45 p.m. I have the following parents signed up to help: Michelle Lowe for craft, Michelle Thiele for snack, Sami Corn for games, and Tammy Sartor for drinks. The kids will be decorating their Valentine bags during their art class in the next few weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg Poole. He purchased a special phonics book to help our first graders learn through secret stories. Storytelling is a great way for children to learn important concepts and they are loving it so far. I would also like to thank all of my parents who have been able to donate snacks or supplies this year.

Our basket theme for Homecoming is Arts, Crafts and Crayolas Oh My! If you could donate items for our basket, that would be great! I will give specific ideas in my weekly newsletter. Thanks again for making our school great!
**Computer Classes-Mrs. Hart**

Students will continue using the Common Core Curriculum – ABCya & Starfall working on Math and Reading activities on the computer. Introduce Keyboard Climber to practice finding letters on the keyboard. They will also use - Tumble Books to listen to wonderful stories being read to them with using headphones.

**Art/Science-Mrs. Page**

We are working to create artwork that we will submit in the Doodle for Google contest. The contest rules state that students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. We will begin by doing some activities to help students think creatively and then we will work to create and entry. I will send their entry home for you to sign off on and then mail them to Google. This year's theme is all about showing kindness. I will be posting a video in dojo. The grand prize winner gets a trip to California, a scholarship and a tech grant for our schooll In Social Studies, we are learning about landforms and different types of maps. In Science, we are learning about light and sound. When we wrap up, we will move on to space! We are applying the scientific process to our study! We will also be looking at geometry in special science and art class at the end of February and March.

**Title I Reading Teacher/ K-3rd Grade Writing-Mrs. Cripps**

In reading groups we do a variety of activities. One activity is repeated reading. I will read a page then have the student read back to me. This especially works well on harder material. The student reads along silently the first time as they hear it read. Then when they read it aloud, they know what should make sense in the reading.

The biggest need is for students to practice their reading!! Make sure you have many books accessible at their reading level. Reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity. Make it a nightly routine. Be sure to take advantage of the books and videos that are available! Above all---practice, practice, practice!!

Another area for extra practice is in phonics. When studying spelling words, take time to relate the spelling pattern to other words not on the spelling list. The main point of spelling words should be the spelling pattern not necessarily the word itself. For example, if learning oy/oi words, think of other words with the same spelling pattern and have your child try to spell them as well.

**First Grade Writing** – We are focusing on informative writing in first grade. Our first writing was about Martin Luther King. This week we are learning about Rosa Parks. We will be learning about several famous people in this series.
Physical Education-Mr. Fauver
The students have spent the vast majority of their time indoors this winter due to the cold and wet weather conditions. The kids and I are looking forward to springtime and warmer weather so that we can get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air! The K-1 students have been very active and getting plenty of exercise. They’ve been busy playing age appropriate games such as Builders and Bulldozers, Pacman, Continuous Tag and Sharks and Lifeguards with the big parachute. They’ve even learned to play Dodgeball with super-soft balls! The students enjoy PE and are always excited when I introduce a new game or skill.

Music-Mrs. Milligan
The Christmas Concert went so well this year. I was beyond proud of all of the student’s hard work and dedication. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the music program at Ewing and encourage your students to participate in our concerts. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase all the hard work they put in during the school year in the music room. Currently the students are learning to sing music in a round and identify string instruments and explain how sound is made on each of them. The Spring Concert date is April 7 at 6pm for K-4 students. Our show is “Disney – The Movies, The Music! Celebrating 75 Years of Disney Magic!” Your child is welcome to dress up however they would like for this concert, their Easter clothing would be perfect for this show!

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  ○ Also, everyone knows that one great feature of the chili supper is the DESSERTS!! If you are willing to donate cakes, pies, or cookies for the chili supper please let Mrs. Jones know. (Please send desserts in disposable containers.) You can drop them off in the cafeteria on Friday, February 14th any time before 3:00 pm. Thank you for all your help and donations!! The 8th grade class and Mrs. Jones are very appreciative!
Winter is moving out and spring is moving in! I don’t know about you, but I’m ready! February and March are exciting months in 2nd Grade!

Our Valentine’s Day party will be on February 14th at 1:45. Our party parents are Samantha Newbury-craft, Bethany Bradford- drink, Jerica Stubblefield – snack, and Melinda Squires-game.

Spring Break will be upon us before we know it! March 16-20, 2020. Hopefully we will have great weather.

We will be working on adding and subtracting within 100 in February. In March, adding and subtracting within 200 in word problems will be our focus. We will continue working on both time and money for the rest of the year. *We will also start on unit on multiplication! We will work on 0’s, 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s.

In Science, we will learn about Dinosaurs! The kids will be doing a couple of projects with Dinosaurs! Get ready to learn some really cool facts!

We are only a few months away from 3rd grade. I will be setting higher expectations and more from the students. Remember it is the STUDENTS’ responsibility not yours!

This year has flown by! The kids have really learned a lot! I appreciate all your help and support!

Physical Education-Mr. Fauver

The 2nd - 4th grade classes have been participating in a variety of games and activities such as Ga-ga, Wizard Ball, Kingpin, Aerobic Bowling, Zone Tag and many other fun activities that keep the kids involved and constantly moving. They also usually get a daily dose of calisthenics as a warm-up prior to our main activity. They all are enthusiastic about PE and seem to enjoy the activity no matter what it is!

Title I Reading Teacher – Mrs. Cripps

In reading groups we do a variety of activities. One activity is repeated reading. I will read a page then have the student read back to me. This especially works well on harder material. The student reads along silently the first time as they hear it read. Then when they read it aloud, they know what should make sense in the reading.
The biggest need is for students to practice their reading!! Make sure you have many books accessible at their reading level. Reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity. Make it a nightly routine. Be sure to take advantage of the books and videos that are available! Above all—practice, practice, practice!!

Another area for extra practice is in phonics. When studying spelling words, take time to relate the spelling pattern to other words not on the spelling list. The main point of spelling words should be the spelling pattern not necessarily the word itself. For example, if learning oy/oi words, think of other words with the same spelling pattern and have your child try to spell them as well.

**Computer Classes-Mrs. Hart**

Students will begin typing using Dance Mat Typing. This is so EXCITING! They have been wanting to typing since they were in Kindergarten.

Students will continue using the Common Core Curriculum – *ABCya* & *Starfall* working on Math activities on the computer. They will also use - *Tumble Books* to listen to wonderful stories being read to them with using headphones. Students will be creating Power points on different subjects to practice their computer skills.

**Art/Science-Mrs. Page**

We are working to create artwork that we will submit in the Doodle for Google contest. The contest rules state that students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. We will begin by doing some activities to help students think creatively and then we will work to create and entry. I will send their entry home for you to sign off on and then mail them to Google. The grand prize winner gets a trip to California, a scholarship and a tech grant for our school! We will also be looking at geometry in special science and art class at the end of February and March.

Second grade is also the year of the Dinosaur Diorama which takes up some of all three specials and is a great way to showcase all the fabulous learning that happened in Mrs. Brandi’s room. Special Social studies will be a time when we look at weekly newsletters that cover a wide variety of topics all second graders should know. Take a minute to review what we talked about with your child on Friday afternoons.

**Music-Mrs. Milligan**

The Christmas Concert went so well this year. I was beyond proud of all of the student’s hard work and dedication. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the music program at Ewing and encourage your students to participate in our concerts. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase all the hard work they put in during the school year in the music room. Currently the students are learning to identify brass instruments and explain how sound is made on each instrument, identifying West African Music and learning how to play music from that culture. The Spring Concert date is April 7 at 6pm for K-4 students. Our show is “Disney – The Movies, The Music! Celebrating 75 Years of Disney Magic!” Your child is welcome to dress up however they would like for this concert, their Easter clothing would be perfect for this show!
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I can’t believe we are already in the second half of the school year. We are having a great time in 3rd grade and learning so much! Please continue to keep in touch through Class Dojo or email. As always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

**What We Are Learning**

**Math**- We will work on fractions, geometry, multiplication/division, and word problems. We will also spend some time reviewing skills before the state test March.

**Language Arts**- We will work on writing a good paragraph, verbs, and adjectives. Students will work on several writing projects as well!

**Reading**- Students will read a variety of texts including folktales and fables. We will continue to work on writing constructed response answers with text evidence and learn about important text features.

**Science**- Students will continue to learn about and classify animals. We will also learn about weather/climate and the water cycle. Toward the end of March, we will begin our unit on plants, just in time for spring!!

**Social Studies**- We will begin learning about our government and why laws/rules are important. We will also explore different landforms and bodies of water.

**Homework**

**Reading**- Complete your guided reading homework and fill out the reading log please. Reading practice is crucial for reading improvement, so please make sure your kiddos are READING! If the students can read out loud with someone, that is even better. 😊

**Math**- Complete the math lesson worksheet every night but Wednesday. I will also mix in some multiplication/division fluency practice. All students need to know their facts before they leave third grade, so study all you can!

**Spelling**- Study the spelling words each night and be ready for the test on Friday.

**State Testing**

In the Spring, third grade students will be taking the state test for the first time. This is a very important test in which students will be expected to show what they have learned in third grade. I will expect students to get a good night’s rest and a good breakfast each morning before the test. I want them awake and ready to work! Let’s encourage them to do their best on the test!! I know they will do great.
Dates to Remember

**February 5**- Early Release-Teacher’s Meeting 2:00

**February 14**- 8th Grade Chili Supper

**February 17**- No School, President’s Day

**February 28**- Teachers In-service, Dismiss at 11:30

**March 4**- Early Dismissal, 2:00

**March 16-20**- Spring Break

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**Title I Reading Teacher –Mrs. Cripps**

—in reading groups we do a variety of activities. One activity is repeated reading. I will read a page then have the student read back to me. This especially works well on harder material. The student reads along silently the first time as they hear it read. Then when they read it aloud, they know what should make sense in the reading.

The biggest need is for students to practice their reading!! Make sure you have many books accessible at their reading level. Reading should be a fun and enjoyable activity. Make it a nightly routine. Be sure to take advantage of the books and videos that are available! Above all---practice, practice, practice!!

Another area for extra practice is in phonics. When studying spelling words, take time to relate the spelling pattern to other words not on the spelling list. The main point of spelling words should be the spelling pattern not necessarily the word itself. For example, if learning oy/oi words, think of other words with the same spelling pattern and have your child try to spell them as well.

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**Computer Classes-Mrs. Hart**

Students are working on MULTIPLICATION in computer class by listing to songs to learn facts and a program called [https://www.multiplication.com](https://www.multiplication.com) and Timez Attack.

Students will continue using Typingweb to practice their typing skills. They can log in at home and practice by going to [https://www.typing.com/student/login](https://www.typing.com/student/login).

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**Internet Safety Presentation**

Trooper Bridget Rice gave a presentation on Internet Safety for students in 3rd- 8th Grade. She did a wonderful job teaching lessons that keep our children safe on-line. We will learn to UYN......USE YOUR NETSMARTS! Net smarts web link. The students really enjoyed this site. Play it at home! [http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm](http://www.netsmartzkids.org/indexFL.htm)

Internet Safety is a major focus with students. Lessons will continue to be taught in the computer classes that will help keep students safe online at home, however, parents need to be aware of their child’s time spent on the computer. Do you know what your child is doing online? Do you know who your child is texting during the day or night? Discuss what grooming means with your child. It is so important. Check their devices! There are apps that help parents monitor multiple devices. Here is an article on – **Top 10 Best Parent Control Apps of 2020**. This explains a little about the apps. Check them out for yourself.
TOP 10 PARENTAL CONTROL APPS COMPANIES

1. Bark  
2. Qustodio  
3. WebWatcher  
4. ESET Parental Control  
5. Net Nanny  
6. Screen Time  
7. FamilyTime  
8. Circle  
9. Norton Family Premier  
10. Identity Guard

What are parental control apps?

Simply put, parental control apps are applications installed in a phone or other mobile device that monitor and/or control how that device is used. Apps can serve a variety of objectives, from simply letting the administrator monitor the phone’s activities, to actively controlling the usage and setting schedules for when the device can be accessed.

Many apps will give parents the ability to limit access to certain websites and content, control which internet sites can be accessed, see incoming and outgoing texts (even record keystrokes in some cases), and see the pictures the child takes. Importantly, many of them also able to track the child's location, sending alerts to parents should the child roam into certain areas. In a similar vein, some apps also feature an SOS or panic button the child can press if they’re in danger.

Below is a link that is worth reading.

https://www.bark.us/blog/grooming-signs-sexual-predators/

Physical Education-Mr. Fauver

The 2nd - 4th grade classes have been participating in a variety of games and activities such as Gaga, Wizard Ball, Kingpin, Aerobic Bowling, Zone Tag and many other fun activities that keep the kids involved and constantly moving. They also usually get a daily dose of calisthenics as a warm-up prior to our main activity. They all are enthusiastic about PE and seem to enjoy the activity no matter what it is!

Art/Science-Mrs. Page

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Music-Mrs. Milligan

The Christmas Concert went so well this year. I was beyond proud of all of the student’s hard work and dedication. Thank you to all of you who continue to support the music program at Ewing and encourage your students to participate in our concerts. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase all the hard work they put in during the school year in the music room. Our Talent Show is coming up on February 28, students beginning in 3rd Grade can participate! Auditions will be February 3rd and 4th. Currently the students are learning to identify woodwind instruments and explain how sound is made on each instrument. Students are learning to sing and play alone, simple rhythmic patterns by reading simple music notation (recorders). Students are also learning to sing alone and with others. The Spring Concert date is April 7 at 6pm for K-4 students. Our show is “Disney – The Movies, The Music! Celebrating 75 Years of Disney Magic!” Your child is welcome to dress up however they would like for this concert, their Easter clothing would be perfect for this show!

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It is amazing to think that we are more than halfway finished with the school year! Your 4th grader is getting closer and closer to being a big, bad 5th grader! We had an excellent first half of the year; let’s make this second half even better!

The Valentine’s Party is on Friday, February 14th from 1:45 – 2:45 pm. The party parents are: Jenny Martin (snack), Annie Gates (dessert), Elizabeth Roberts (drinks), and I do not have anyone signed up for games/craft. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know. The kids are allowed to do Valentine’s this year, as long as they bring one for everyone in the class. I sent out a class list at the end of January.

Spring Break will be the week of March 16th – 20th. I know you will all be busy, but please encourage your child to read daily and practice all math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.) When we return, we will be reviewing for state testing, which will occur in April.

For the next two months in math, we will first finish up our module on multi-digit multiplication and division, and then we will be working on fraction equivalence, ordering and operations module in math. This module is very lengthy, containing lots of lessons with valuable material that students will need to know for the state test in March and in 5th grade next year. Students have been reviewing previously learned math concepts on IXL. They have IXL sheets in their data folders that provide them with tasks to review those concepts. We usually work through those on Fridays.

In reading, we will be finishing up our third unit of study and beginning and completing our fourth. In Unit 4, we will be focusing on these essential questions:
- Why do we need government?
- How do invention and technology affect your life?
- How do writers look at success in different ways?

We will be using narrative nonfiction, historical fiction, and narrative poetry to answer these questions. I really like the variety of stories that this reading series provides and so do the students. With our narrative nonfiction, we will be studying comprehension strategies such as cause-and-effect text structure and asking and answering questions. The students will practice making predictions, review point of view, and use text features to help their better understand a text when using the historical fiction pieces. I love that we will be bringing back poetry in their unit to focus on literary elements of poetry and theme. In guided reading, we have been able to focus on these skills as well. Students’ fluency has also improved thanks to guided reading. I can definitely tell that students are getting more opportunities to read our loud, are becoming confident in their reading, and reading with expression has improved.

After Christmas, I decided to have students read five AR chapters books on their level. They were reading books, but nowhere near their level and most of them were still picture books. The students need challenges and this is one way to do it. Therefore, during AR weeks for reading homework, you should find your child’s nose in a chapter book that will last them the week. The chapter books are worth more points as well. Their AR points are increasing every week and I believe most, if not all, are really working towards going on the AR party at the end of school. I love how the students are recognizing what reading levels and books are good for them as well as setting goals for themselves, such as going to the AR party. I have even had students challenging themselves to read above their comfortable reading level, which is fantastic!

The students did a better job on the biographies in the 2nd nine weeks as opposed to the 1st nine weeks. I saw lots of good information written on the completion pages this time. I expect that they are even better for the 3rd nine weeks. Students are still allowed to use their biographies on the AR tests. I only do this on these books because they are informational, and locating information in a text is an important skill for students.
In science, we are currently working through the chapter on Ecosystems. We will finish this chapter in early February and test over it. Then, we will move onto the Earth’s Resources chapter. In this chapter, students will learn about rocks and minerals, landforms, slow and fast land changes, and the water cycle. I am hoping to finish this lesson in March and begin our chapter on Heat and Energy at the end of March.

In social studies, we are continuing to learn about Illinois in our Studies Weekly Newspapers. I have learned a lot that I didn’t even know in these newspapers. We have a few more weeks to cover before we go back into the textbook to learn about our diverse nation. We will also learn about the levels and branches of government as well as the rights and responsibilities as a United States citizen. At the beginning of March, students will choose a state to research and do their state collage on. We will be researching in class for students to write an informative piece. I will send home the project sheet for the state collage at the beginning of March as well. Students will complete these state collages at home. They will be displayed at Young Author’s Night.

Please take time each week to read my Newsflash that I send home every Friday. I take time each week to publish my Newsflash to make sure that you all are informed on what is going on in the 4th grade and within the school. Please, please read them!

I cannot stress enough to everyone how important it is for the students to gain more and more responsibility with their school work and with organization. They should be the ones packing their backpack every night and making sure that they have all of their assignments completed. They are the ones to make sure that they get your signature on the things they need a signature on. They should be the ones putting their names on their papers and being an active participant when at school. I expect them to keep their lockers and desks clean and organized. We take time at the beginning of each day for them to make sure they get all of their assignments written down, and then they check to make sure they have everything ready to go home. I really want them to be prepared for them next step so it isn’t a shock to their system. 😊 I have witnessed lots of improvement since we have begun school and I am so proud of them for it, but we still have a long way to go!

Happy Valentine’s Day and Happy First Day of Spring! I hope you all enjoy your Spring Break! Thanks again for all of your support and hard work with your children!

Art/Science -Mrs. Page

We are working to create artwork that we will submit in the Doodle for Google contest. The contest rules state that students can work with any materials they want, but all doodles must be entered using the entry form. We will begin by doing some activities to help students think creatively and then we will work to create and entry. I will send their entry home for you to sign off on and then mail them to Google. The grand prize winner gets a trip to California, a scholarship and a tech grant for our school! Fourth grade will also be using geometry to design a town! I am super excited for them to apply their learning in a fun and creative way. We are also looking at measurement during their special periods using the program Zearn.
Physical Education-Mr. Fauver

The 2nd - 4th grade classes have been participating in a variety of games and activities such as Ga-ga, Wizard Ball, Kingpin, Aerobic Bowling, Zone Tag and many other fun activities that keep the kids involved and constantly moving. They also usually get a daily dose of calisthenics as a warm-up prior to our main activity. They all are enthusiastic about PE and seem to enjoy the activity no matter what it is!

Music/Band-Mrs. Milligan

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Computer Classes-Mrs. Hart

Students will continue using Typingweb to practice their typing skills. They can log in at home and practice by going to https://www.typing.com/student/login. Students will be creating Power points on different subjects to practice their computer skills.

Internet Safety Presentation

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Internet Safety is a major focus with students. Lessons will continue to be taught in the computer classes that will help keep students safe online at home, however, parents need to be aware of their child’s time spent on the computer. Do you know what your child is doing online? Do you know who your child is texting during the day or night? Discuss what grooming means with your child. It is so important. Check their devices! There are apps that help parents monitor multiple devices. Here is an article on – Top 10 Best Parent Control Apps of 2020. This explains a little about the apps. Check them out for yourself.
TOP 10 PARENTAL CONTROL APPS COMPANIES

1. Bark
2. Qustodio
3. WebWatcher
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NEWS FOR WHOLE SCHOOL

This year is flying by, and the 8th graders, as well as the school, have a lot going on. Below is a list of all the activities that will be taking place in the next couple of months.

● Chili Supper
  ○ The annual chili supper is scheduled for Friday, February 14. The chili supper is an event organized by the 8th grade class to raise money for their end of the year school trip to Springfield. Students are currently selling tickets. The tickets are $5.00 each and the supper will be from 4 pm to 8 pm in the school gymnasium. The students will be selling tickets until February 10th, but you are welcome to purchase a ticket at the door.
  ○ Also, everyone knows that one great feature of the chili supper is the DESSERTS!! If you are willing to donate cakes, pies, or cookies for the chili supper please let Mrs. Jones know. (Please send desserts in disposable containers.) You can drop them off in the cafeteria on Friday, February 14th any time before 3:00 pm. Thank you for all your help and donations!! The 8th grade class and Mrs. Jones are very appreciative!
I’m proud of my students, they are working very hard and making progress. As we gear up for testing it is so important to stay focused on our goals. Let’s work together to keep them motivated.

We have been using Class Dojo for our reward system and communication. I hope you have enjoyed this new system and have had a chance to message me. I have a separate account so that you can see how your child is behaving in my classroom too. I use charts and stickers as rewards also and they earn small pieces of candy instead of Dojo points. (AR and Lexia lessons)

Students should read a book, practice their word ring, and study vocabulary definitions every night for Reading homework. In spelling, students have to write words at least 3 times every night. A pre-test is usually given on Wednesday, so if they make a 100% on it they will not have spelling homework Wednesday night or Thursday night. If your child is struggling in any area academically at home, please contact me so that we can work it out. I do not want students to struggle at home.

We have December-Benchmark scores available and I am always happy to schedule an appointment to review them with you. Be sure to check your school calendars for all of the upcoming events! Don’t forget that our website has information and resources available for parents and students. You don’t want your child to miss out. 😊 Continue to watch for your Annual Review notice if we have not met this year. Special Education will schedule your conference and send you a notice in the mail.

Thank you for your commitment to your child’s education.
What is IAR?

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness is based on the core belief that assessment should work as a tool for enhancing teaching and learning. IAR assesses the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core and will be administered in English Language Arts and Mathematics, grade 3-8. The assessments ensure that every child is on a path to college and career readiness by measuring what students should know at each grade level. They will also provide parents and teachers with timely information to identify students who may be falling behind and need extra help.

Here at Ewing Grade School, we strive for our students to do their best. We will start IAR testing in March/April. The assessment will be administered on the Chromebooks within the classrooms. Please encourage your child to strive to do their very best when doing this assessment.

How to Help Your Child

Before the Test

- Help your child in areas that are difficult for him/her.
- Focus your practice on your child’s weaknesses rather than his/her strengths.
- If you have concerns about the test or testing situation, talk with your child’s teacher
  - Discuss your concerns with the teacher and/or school administrator.

During Testing Week

- Make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and eats a healthy breakfast
- Remind you child to remain positive and try his/her best.

On a Daily Basis

In addition to these strategies, there are a number of ways that you can maximize your child’s learning capabilities throughout the school year, which can lead to confident test-taking. Some of these strategies include:

- Ensuring that your child is completing all homework assignments and assisting when needed.
- Helping him/her to develop good study habits, thinking skills, and a positive attitude towards education from an early age
- Ensuring that your child has good attendance at school
- Staying in communication with your child’s teacher
- Encouraging your child to read as much as possible, and to increase her vocabulary - even reading magazines, newspapers, and comic books regularly will help improve her reading skills
- Looking for educational games and programs that engage your child
- Helping your child learn how to follow directions carefully
- Be involved as much as you can in your child’s education.

https://www.colorincolorado.org/article/parent-tips-how-help-your-child-prepare-standardized-tests

**Test-Taking Tips, Suggestions, & Strategies**

- Get a good night’s sleep.
- Eat a good breakfast. Eat protein that morning—for the brain benefits.
- Listen carefully to directions given by the teacher.
- Be sure to read each question thoroughly.
- When feeling anxious, take 5 deep breaths every once in a while.
- When faced with a reading passage followed by a series of question, do not forget that you can go back and reread parts or the whole passage, if needed.
- Multiple choice: Don’t rush. On multiple-choice items, force yourself to read each possible choice carefully before selecting an answer.
- Use the process of elimination when you do not know the answers to a question. When in doubt on a question, make an educated guess. Never leave a question unanswered.
- If you are struggling with a question, flag it and go back to it at the end of the test session.
- Math Test Checklist:
  - Did I copy the problems correctly before working?
  - Did I remember to label my answers?
  - Did I use the right operation?
  - Did I check my answers to see if they make sense?
- Always try your best and give 100%!!!

Attendance at school is very important. In the event your child is absent from school, please try to pick up any missed work for the days absent. This will help your child stay on track at school and not get behind in assignments.
Thank you to the following parents for your part in making our Christmas party an exciting and fun-filled event: Jordan Montgomery, Sandra Woodcock, Leslie Prior, Nikki Carollo, and Amy Minor.

With Christmas behind us, we are beginning to think about the next classroom party. The Valentine’s Party parent volunteers are Leslie Prior (food), Emily Milligan (food), Nikki Carollo (food), Jordan Montgomery (drinks), and Amy Minor (paper products). If you want to be part of this party and have not signed up, please just get in touch with me and let me know how you would like to participate. The party will be on Friday, February 14, 2020 at 2:15 pm. Thank you for your continued support in our classroom!

5th-8th Grade Reading/Literature— The focus in all of my classes will be reading skills and concepts in the upcoming weeks. We will be reviewing some and introducing new ones that students will be responsible for understanding to be successful in literature. We have done a lot of reading in all classes, but have had a deeper study of the novels, excerpts, and short stories we read. It takes a while to get through a novel when we study it instead of just reading it from beginning to end. Currently, all classes have an assignment that is due March 13th. They have a list of 100 resolutions that they must select 10 from and complete assignments for each of them. I have stressed the importance of pacing themselves so they aren’t rushing at the end to complete this large assignment. I have given a calendar with due dates to prevent the last minute rush of completing this assignment. This is a fabulous opportunity for the students to expose themselves to many different genres and types of literature. I hope they have a great time with it, even though they have to put some effort into it! It’s a biggie...over 200 points! While resolutions will be graded as they are turned in, the final grade of the overall project will not be posted until after the due date.

Fifth grade has been working through the new Wonders curriculum. We have had some great essential questions that make us think about our own lives before we see how it is applied in our reading. We have covered several genres and currently working with poetry. I have exposed some honesty about my interest with poetry. I have shared how I did not like the thought of poetry before teaching it. Now, I have found the genre of poetry that I can withstand, but most importantly, the one I love. My love of poetry has come through music. I feel that sharing personal experiences can really help students to identify me as human and some feelings they may be feeling, I have felt at some point in life, as well.
We have been taking things slow while learning about our human rights, in addition to the Wonders curriculum. This is part of a curriculum I used previously, but it is a great way to learn about our rights so that as we begin a novel shortly, the students can identify when/how the characters' rights are being kept as promised or broken. Once we begin the novel, the students will be very knowledgeable about the human rights we have been given and will be eager to point those out, especially when they discover how they have been broken promises for some of the characters. Be looking for a novel to come home in the upcoming weeks.

Congratulations to Ava Minor for being the 2nd Quarter 5th grade top academic student and Makena Carollo for being the top behavior student! It is always a close race, so please encourage your child to continue working to their fullest potential so they too, might experience top student in the last half of the year!

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**English-Mrs. Jones**

We have been working on various types of descriptive writing. Students have been practicing using their five senses in their writing, how to use literary devices, and how to describe in detail. We are now starting a writing project. We are creating our own children’s books. Students will be writing and illustrating their own books.

**STANDARDS/EXPECTATIONS**


**Math-Mrs. Carlton**

PARRC testing will be the first week of April, along with the start of Volleyball and all kinds of basketball tournaments. PARRC testing involves Fifth graders and Eighth graders in mathematics. I know from our families past experience it’s hard to fit in the attention to homework and the rest we need. Please make a special effort for this through the testing times to make sure conditions will allow them to do their best.

**Mathematical Knowledge** is defined as a student’s ability to demonstrate his/her knowledge of mathematical principles and concepts which result in a correct solution to a problem. This requires the appropriate use of mathematical terminology and notations and complete and correct execution of algorithm, including correct computations.

**Strategic Knowledge** is defined as a student’s ability to identify and understand the relationships among important problem elements. This includes using models, diagrams, symbols and/or algorithms which systematically represent and integrate concepts. It may also require a student to recognize when a procedure is appropriate, to execute a procedure to verify the results of a procedure and to generate or extend familiar procedures.

**Explanation** is defined as a student’s ability to translate into words the steps of the solution process and to provide a justification for each step. Therefore, to do well on this dimension, a student must describe not only what steps he or she chose to solve a problem but most also describe why he or she chose those steps. Though important, the length of the response, grammar and syntax are not the critical elements of this dimension.

The students in answering these open-ended problems need to take all of this into consideration.

In all areas in mathematics, whether it is working with fractions, data collection, geometry, probability, algebra, or basic operations, our mathematics curriculum today strive for students to be problem solvers, to communicate mathematically and to demonstrate reasoning ability. Please take the time to encourage your child to use math whenever you can. Help them realize how often adults use percentages. Have him/her calculate tips when you are in a restaurant. I was sitting next to a father at a ball game who was asking his child to calculate how many points the other team was ahead. Making practical situations out of what we are learning in class is very good reinforcement.
Science-Mrs. Scarborough
5th grade is currently working in chapter 4 “Ecosystems”. We have finished lesson 1 “how plants get and use energy”. We are now exploring how organisms interact. We will also be looking at how ecosystems change and the interactions of humans in an ecosystem before we finish the chapter. This work will be done in class as much of it is guided. I am planning to do another stem project at the end of the chapter. It will focus on solving a problem with plants.
Please check with your student about supplies they may need. I am currently low on loose notebook paper and pencils in the classroom.

5-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

Chorus & Band-Mrs. Milligan
In the music room, we are currently preparing students for District Solo and Ensemble, which will take place on February 29 at Carterville JH School. Hard work and preparation will go far not only in this endeavor, but in life. Good luck to you all! Talent Show auditions will be February 3rd and 4th with the show taking place on February 28 in the morning. Choir is currently working on selections they chose from Glee last year for the Spring Concert on which will take place on April 7 at 7pm. Band is working on “Defying Gravity” from the musical Wicked. I have asked that choral and band members dress in their Sunday Best at the concert.

Physical Education-Mr. Fauver
The students have spent the majority of their time indoors this winter due to the cold temperatures. The students and I are looking forward to springtime and warmer weather so that we can get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air! The 5th-8th grade classes have been participating in a variety of games and activities such as Team Handball, Ga-ga, Wizard Ball, Kingpin, Aerobic Bowling, Zone Tag and other activities that have allowed them to interact and be constantly moving. One day a week is also designated as a “Fitness Day” where the focus for the entire class session is on exercises that help increase each student’s muscular strength, muscular endurance, aerobic endurance and flexibility. On those days we usually do fitness stations or some type of running activity. In addition, the middle school students have been participating in Health classes throughout the quarter. Also, this spring all students in grades 3-8 will be required to take the Illinois Physical Fitness Assessment Test. Students will perform tests which measure their muscular strength/endurance (push-ups and curl-ups), flexibility (trunk lift or sit and reach), and aerobic endurance (Pacer). We will administer those tests sometime this spring and the results are sent in to the state.

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One final note, if your child is interested, Fellowship of Christian Athletes is meeting every Wednesday morning at 7:45 in the gym, all 5th – 8th grade students are welcome to attend.
Computers-Mrs. Hart

Student are learning invaluable skills that prepare them for problem solving in a digital world. Google Applied Digital Skills is a program designed by GOOGLE to teach students to create and connect what they are learning to real life. Another GOOGLE program is called CS First- which teaches coding to students. All lessons are designed for students to watch a video with instructions and design while interacting with their colleges in the school work place. It’s pretty cool!

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https://www.bark.us/blog/grooming-signs-sexual-predators/
Happy Valentine’s Day to students and parents, I want to say thanks to Tracey Webb, Melanie Webb, Shelly Allsopp and Sara Van Horn for providing an excellent Christmas Party. Our next party will be for Valentine’s Day on February 14th at 2:15 pm.

Party parents are:

- Snack-Katrina Beatty
- Snack- Kristi Johnson
- Drinks- Melanie Webb
- Paper Products- Sarah Van Horn

Cayden Thiele was the top student this term. Congratulations Cayden! Also, Top Behavior Student was Keira Allsopp!

**Math-Mrs. Carlton**

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Science- Mrs. Scarborough

In 6th grade we are working in the next book titled Diversity of Life. In the first lesson, we defined what is life. We are now studying how biologists classify living things to make them easier to study. This includes looking into the Latin meaning of names in binomial nomenclature and the levels of classification biologists use. Please check with your student about supplies they may need. I am currently low on loose notebook paper and pencils in the classroom.

MS-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
MS-LS4 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

English-Mrs. Jones

We have been working on various types of descriptive writing. Students have been practicing using their five senses in their writing, how to use literary devices, and how to describe in detail. We are now starting a writing project. We are creating our own children’s books. Students will be writing and illustrating their own books.

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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2a CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2b CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.6.2c
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.1e CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.2b CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.2a
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CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.6 CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4a
CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.4c CCSS.ELA-Literacy.L.6.5b

Reading-Mrs. Watkins

The focus in all of my classes will be reading skills and concepts in the upcoming weeks. We will be reviewing some and introducing new ones that students will be responsible for understanding to be successful in literature. We have done a lot of reading in all classes, but have had a deeper study of the novels, excerpts, and short stories we read. It takes a while to get through a novel when we study it instead of just reading it from beginning to end. Currently, all classes have an assignment that is due March 13th. They have a list of 100 resolutions that they must select 10 from and complete assignments for each of them. I have stressed the importance of pacing themselves so they aren’t rushing at the end to complete this large assignment. I have given a calendar with due dates to prevent the last minute rush of completing this assignment. This is a fabulous opportunity for the students to expose themselves to
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**Sixth grade** is currently taking a break from the Wonders curriculum and conducting a novel study. They are asking every day if they can read the next chapter in *The Lightning Thief*. This story is always a big hit! We are currently focusing on the hero's journey that we will encounter as we continue walking through the story with Percy Jackson. Will he be a hero in the end? There's only one way to find out...keep reading! We have several skills and concepts we focus on during this novel study and there is a lot of annotating and writing that keeps us busy, along with the reading. The students would love if I would just tell them to read it all, but I am preparing them to be successful in text evidence, written responses, challenges/responses, cause/effect, and so many more skills necessary for promotion to 7th grade.

**Chorus & Band-Mrs. Milligan**
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**Science- Mrs. Scarborough**

7th grade is finishing learning about plate tectonics and the process of plate movements within the earth. Next we will explore how the processes of earth’s motion affect our lives in the form of earthquakes and volcanoes, how geologists study those processes and steps we can take to stay safe from natural disasters.

Please check with your student about supplies they may need. I am currently low on loose notebook paper and pencils in the classroom.

MS-ESS1 Earth’s Place in the Universe
MS-ESS2 Earth’s Systems
MS-ESS3 Earth and Human Activity

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**Social Studies- Mrs. Scarborough**

Before Christmas break I had a discussion with the class about what topics they were most interested to study in history. After looking at several topics and taking a vote we decided to study WW2. We have looked at some of the events leading up to WW2 including the election of FDR and the Great Depression. We are now looking at the rise of leaders around the world that led to the causes of the war. After this, we will look at America’s policy of neutrality and the attack on Pearl Harbor that ultimately changed our policies.

SS.IS.1.6-8. Create essential questions to help guide inquiry about a topic
SS.IS.4.6-8.MdC. Determine credibility of sources based upon their origin, authority, and context.
SS.H.1.6-8.MdC. Analyze connections among events and developments in broader historical contexts.
SS.H.3.6-8.MdC. Detect possible limitations in the historical record based on evidence collected from different kinds of historical sources.

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**Chorus & Band- Mrs. Milligan**

In the music room, we are currently preparing students for District Solo and Ensemble, which will take place on February 29 at Carterville JH School. Hard work and preparation will go far not only in this endeavor, but in life. Good luck to you all! Talent Show auditions will be February 3rd and 4th with the show taking place on February 28 in the morning. Choir is currently working on selections they chose from Glee last year for the Spring Concert on which will take place on April 7 at 7pm. Band is working on “Defying Gravity” from the musical Wicked. I have asked that choral and band members dress in their Sunday Best at the concert.
The focus in all of my classes will be reading skills and concepts in the upcoming weeks. We will be reviewing some and introducing new ones that students will be responsible for understanding to be successful in literature. We have done a lot of reading in all classes, but have had a deeper study of the novels, excerpts, and short stories we read. It takes a while to get through a novel when we study it instead of just reading it from beginning to end. Currently, all classes have an assignment that is due March 13th. They have a list of 100 resolutions that they must select 10 from and complete assignments for each of them. I have stressed the importance of pacing themselves so they aren’t rushing at the end to complete this large assignment. I have given a calendar with due dates to prevent the last minute rush of completing this assignment. This is a fabulous opportunity for the students to expose themselves to many different genres and types of literature. I hope they have a great time with it, even though they have to put some effort into it! It’s a biggie...over 200 points! While resolutions will be graded as they are turned in, the final grade of the overall project will not be posted until after the due date.

Seventh grade has finished reading A Long Walk to Water, and it culminated very nicely when we watched videos with the real Salva Dut and some of the Lost Boys from Sudan. The kids have learned a lot about problems they might face (1st world problems) versus what other people their age might face in other countries (3rd world problems). We have been working in our StudySync curriculum since finishing up our novel study. Our focal topic for all stories in the unit is “In Pursuit”. Each excerpt we have read has a tie to someone being in pursuit of something. We are currently reading a poem titled, “The Song of the Wandering Aengus”. In the poem, the narrator is in search of a “glimmering girl” he met, but has left as quickly as she arrived. We have discussed how the “glimmering girl” is representation of any concept one pursues in life, such as success, love, knowledge, etc. We are focusing on figurative language for this part of our study, but we have focused on main idea, theme, and text evidence in previous excerpts. This new curriculum is digital so the students have access to everything we do from home even if they leave their book at home😊. No excuses to not complete something now!

Next up, we focus on identity. Picture books will be read aloud to them. With each picture book, they have to take note of what they notice within the story and use that information to create a theme once the story is finished. They will be practicing cold writes with this information, where they must be able to use the information gathered to write a timed essay. Our focus will be identifying a common theme in at least two of the stories. We will continue to explore the concept of identity as we begin reading the play Pygmalion and/or The Witch of Blackbird Pond. Before we get there, we will read from excerpts and other pieces of writing to explore identity and how daily life affects our own identity.
PARRC testing will be the first week of April, along with the start of Volleyball and all kinds of basketball tournaments. PARRC testing involves Fifth graders and Eighth graders in mathematics. I know from our families past experience it’s hard to fit in the attention to homework and the rest we need. Please make a special effort for this through the testing times to make sure conditions will allow them to do their best.

**Mathematical Knowledge** is defined as a student’s ability to demonstrate his/her knowledge of mathematical principles and concepts which result in a correct solution to a problem. This requires the appropriate use of mathematical terminology and notations and complete and correct execution of algorithm, including correct computations.

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**English-Mrs. Jones**

We have been working on various types of descriptive writing. Students have been practicing using their five senses in their writing, how to use literary devices, and how to describe in detail. We are now starting a writing project. We are creating our own children’s books. Students will be writing and illustrating their own books.

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Student are learning invaluable skills that prepare them for problem solving in a digital world. Google Applied Digital Skills is a program designed by GOOGLE to teach students to create and connect what they are learning to real life. Another GOOGLE program is called CS First- which teaches coding to students. All lessons are designed for students to watch a video with instructions and design while interacting with their colleges in the school work place. It’s pretty cool!

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### NEWS FOR WHOLE SCHOOL

This year is flying by, and the 8th graders, as well as the school, have a lot going on. Below is a list of all the activities that will be taking place in the next couple of months.

- **Chili Supper**
  - The annual chili supper is scheduled for **Friday, February 14**. The chili supper is an event organized by the 8th grade class to raise money for their end of the year school trip to Springfield. Students are currently selling tickets. **The tickets are $5.00 each and the supper will be from 4 pm to 8 pm in the school gymnasium.** The students will be selling tickets until February 10th, but you are welcome to purchase a ticket at the door.
  - Also, everyone knows that one great feature of the chili supper is the **DESSERTS**!! If you are willing to donate cakes, pies, or cookies for the chili supper please let Mrs. Jones know. (Please send desserts in disposable containers.) You can drop them off in the cafeteria on **Friday, February 14th** any time before 3:00 pm. Thank you for all your help and donations!! The 8th grade class and Mrs. Jones are very appreciative!
8th GRADE NEWS

The best way to contact me after school hours is through Dojo or email. Please feel free to email me anytime at bjoness@ewinggradeschool.org. I will get back to you as soon as I can. If you ever have a question on assignments, make sure you check the homework hotline or the website. We update these daily.

Valentine’s Day Party: The class Valentine party is **Friday, February 14th at 9:40-10:25 am**. We will spend the afternoon setting up for the chili supper. Our party parents are Lisa Shook - snack, Jordan Montgomery - snack, Ed Shelton - drinks, and Kylie Hicks - paper products. Thank you to everyone who has donated this year!!

Chili Supper Information

Here are a few reminders to all 8th grade parents regarding chili supper!!

- Each student has **30 tickets** to sell. It would be greatly beneficial to the students if they sold **all thirty**, and of course, they may have as many tickets as they can sell. I must have the money for the first thirty tickets before the student will be given any more tickets.
- **All ticket money will be due to me by 3:00 on February 10th.** I must have an accurate ticket count, so I know how much food we need. Please make sure I have everything by this date.
- Each 8th grade student will be expected to have **one person** at the chili supper to represent him/her. Please make sure I know who this person is well in advance.
- Each 8th grade student is **required** to donate a dessert. I will let 8th grade parents know closer to time as to what type of dessert is needed. Just a reminder, they can be dropped off at the school anytime on the 14th, and the dessert needs to be in a disposable container.
- I would like to say thank you to all the parents for their help! The students will get to have a great trip because of all your hard work!!

**Springfield dates are April 16th and 17th. Make sure to mark it on your calendars. I will send out information closer to date.**

Male Chaperones: Vic Munoz, Denzil McClintock, and Jared Montgomery

Female Chaperones: Emily Munoz, Sherry Campbell, and Susan Shelton
LIVING MUSEUM WILL BE ON THURSDAY APRIL 23 FROM 6:00-7:30.

*****Graduation******* is set for Thursday, May 14.

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**Literature-Mrs. Watkins**

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Eighth grade is finishing up reading and studying Inside Out and Back Again. With that, students were connecting texts, along with focusing on some skills and concepts that they will need, not only this year, but for high school. Through the study, we have learned why someone might quote, “I would choose wartime in Saigon over peacetime in Alabama.” It is sad to see someone with so much promise have their world ripped apart and confidence stolen from them in a matter of twelve months. We have come back full circle with literary elements we studied in the beginning of the year and have been applying our knowledge of character types with the main character, Ha, in Inside Out and Back Again. The young men and ladies were also able to place themselves in the shoes of Ha, the protagonist of the story. They experienced what life on a refugee boat might be like with the mixing of odors from bodies, bodily fluids, rotting food, and other factors. The students brought in a smelly item to represent one of the smells associated with the smell/stink of the refugee ship. It’s important to offer these experiences for students to have a more vivid understanding of what people they read about have experienced. We will continue reading about history as we continue this last half of the year.

Speaking of the last half of the year, eighth graders are extremely busy with trips, preparation for high school, and other events. I have told them from the beginning that each assignment is crucial to their grade because as the year goes on, they will most likely see fewer grades due to various activities going on and being out of the classroom. Please encourage your child to continue working until the very end. The level of success is up to the effort willing to be put forth!

English-Mrs. Jones

We have been working on various types of descriptive writing. Students have been practicing using their five senses in their writing, how to use literary devices, and how to describe in detail. We are now starting a writing project. We are creating our own children’s books. Students will be writing and illustrating their own books.

STANDARDS/EXPECTATIONS

Social Studies-Mrs. Jones

We have now started the Federal Constitution. We are reading through the interpretation and history of the constitution. The workbooks are designed to emphasize the key elements of the document and demonstrates how it directly affects the lives of our students.

Math-Mrs. Carlton

PARRC testing will be the first week of April, along with the start of Volleyball and all kinds of basketball tournaments. PARRC testing involves Fifth graders and Eighth graders in mathematics. I know from our families past experience it’s hard to fit in the attention to homework and the rest we need. Please make a special effort for this through the testing times to make sure conditions will allow them to do their best.

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Science- Mrs. Scarborough

8th grade is learning about atoms and the arrangement of the elements in the periodic table. That includes metals, non-metals, metalloids, and radioactive elements. We will continue with how atoms bond and what happens in chemical reactions.

MS-PS1 Matter and Its Interactions

MS-PS3 Energy
The students have spent the majority of their time indoors this winter due to the cold temperatures. The students and I are looking forward to springtime and warmer weather so that we can get outdoors and enjoy the fresh air! The 5th-8th grade classes have been participating in a variety of games and activities such as Team Handball, Ga-ga, Wizard Ball, Kingpin, Aerobic Bowling, Zone Tag and other activities that have allowed them to interact and be constantly moving. One day a week is also designated as a “Fitness Day” where the focus for the entire class session is on exercises that help increase each student’s muscular strength, muscular endurance, aerobic endurance and flexibility. On those days we usually do fitness stations or some type of running activity. In addition, the middle school students have been participating in Health classes throughout the quarter.

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