

December 12, 2017



From the desks of Mrs. Shober & Mrs. Kries

- Dates to remember:

- **Report Cards**

- Will be published on December 15th. You will be able to access the report card through Genesis.

- **Class Parties:**

- December 20th and 21st. More information will be distributed by homeroom teachers.

- **Other important dates:**

- December 22nd- Single Session Day
 - December 25-January 1st- School Closed for Winter Break



Winter Weather is Approaching

Please be sure to send your children with coats, gloves and hats for recess. We want them to be warm when headed out to play and while walking to and from the bus.



Mrs. Francescone's First Grade Reading Detectives and Expert Writers

Hmmmm, what can this word be? We better call the detectives in to look at the clues! Our First Graders have been busy word detectives in **Reading Workshop**. Word Detectives notice tough words and they stop to solve them right away before moving on. Students have learned to use everything they know to solve tricky words and then also check their words slowly to make sure the word looks right, sound right and make sense. These detectives have also learned many strategies such as tapping into the power of "Snap Words," which are words they already know, breaking words apart, paying attention to beginnings and endings of words, looking closely at vowels and vowel teams and scooping up words and reading in longer phrases to build fluency. First Graders are getting ready to celebrate and show off their skills within the coming week!

In **Writer's Workshop**, writers have been applying elaboration strategies to bring *their Small Moment* stories to life. We are making sure we use capitalization, punctuation and spacing as well as apply our spelling strategies and craft moves we learned from our *Mentor Authors*. Students are using *Revising Checklists* to check their work and take their writing piece through the writing progress.



Word Detectives in action!



Mrs. DeLorenzo's Class is Busy Writing!



We have been writing wonderful stories during Writing Workshop! The students are continuing to brainstorm ideas and get thoughts down on paper in story form. They are also continuing to have conferences to help them generate their ideas and find out what they are writing about that day. We have recently begun Writing Workshop Unit 2, which focuses on “All About” stories.



The students have been writing stories about something they know a great deal about. Some students chose to write an all about story about a certain animal and some about living things, such as plants or flowers. They have been working on adding details into their stories and pictures.

They will celebrate the end of the unit by choosing a story to publish, having a book Sharing Party and displaying their books in the hallway for all to see! The students are looking forward to beginning a new unit! They also look forward to sharing their stories with their classmates each day!

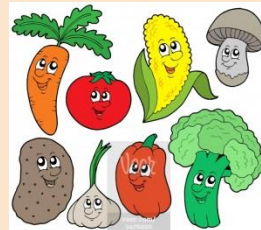


Ms. Sydlowski and Ms. Everson's Class

Third Grade Caring and Sharing Garden!

The third grade Caring and Sharing garden is **Coming Soon!** In October, the children, along with some wonderful parent volunteers, weeded and turned the soil to prepare for planting in the beginning of April. We are going to grow a wide variety of vegetables: radishes, lettuce, onions, spinach, beets, arugula, and swiss chard. In June we will harvest our vegetables and celebrate with a Salad Extravaganza! Master Gardeners will share their knowledge of gardening with the children covering a wide variety of topics from worms to weeds.

Our thanks to the Master Gardeners and parent volunteers who help make this a wonderful experience for the third graders!





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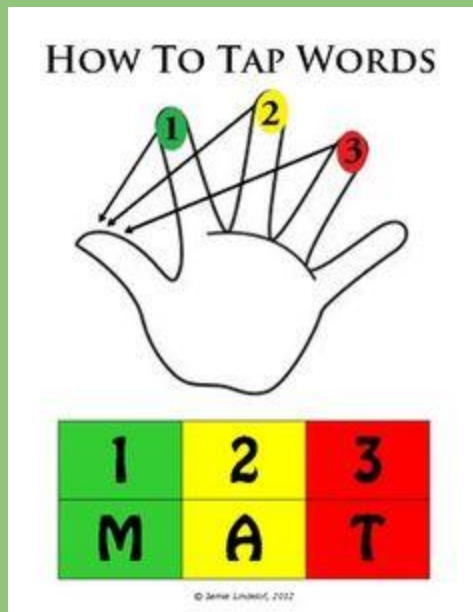
News from Physical Education

Happy Holidays from Physical Education. Students have been working hard. So far, they have been working on their locomotor skills, general fitness and learned several games to play at recess. Everyone had fun and demonstrated good teamwork skills during our Halloween Spooktacular Obstacle course. As we move into our winter months, look to start hearing about our holiday cooperative activities and basketball skills units.



Miss O'Neill's Reading Group loves working on tapping out words

This month, first grade students in Miss O'Neill's Reading Groups were using the sound-tapping method to decode tricky words they come across in their reading! We have also been using cubes to tap out each sound in Elkonin boxes. By isolating each sound, the students were able to then make word families and create new words!



Happenings in Ms. Hall's Class

Our 3rd grade class is becoming quite the multiplication and division wizards! We are using Touch Math strategies for acquiring our repeated addition skills for multiplication and breaking our target numbers into equal groups for division.

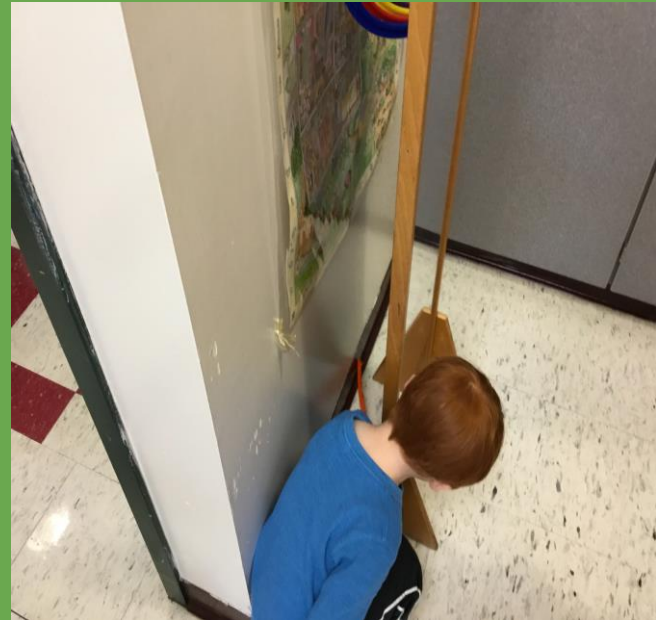
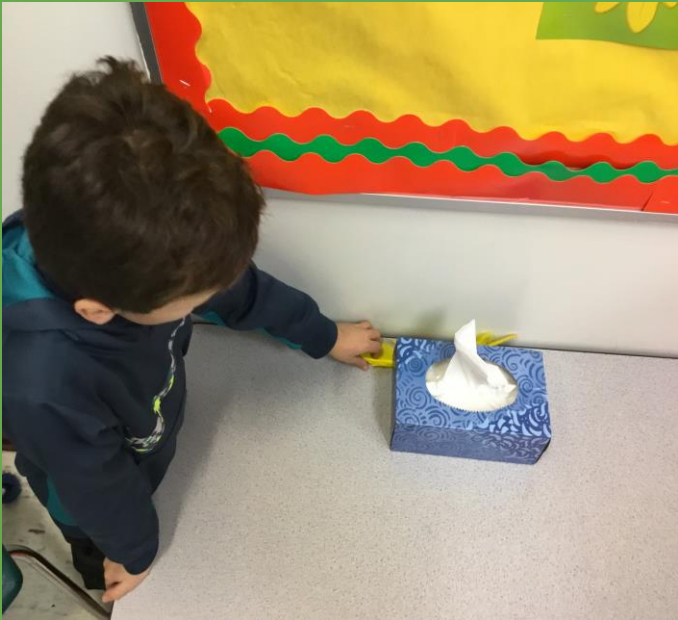
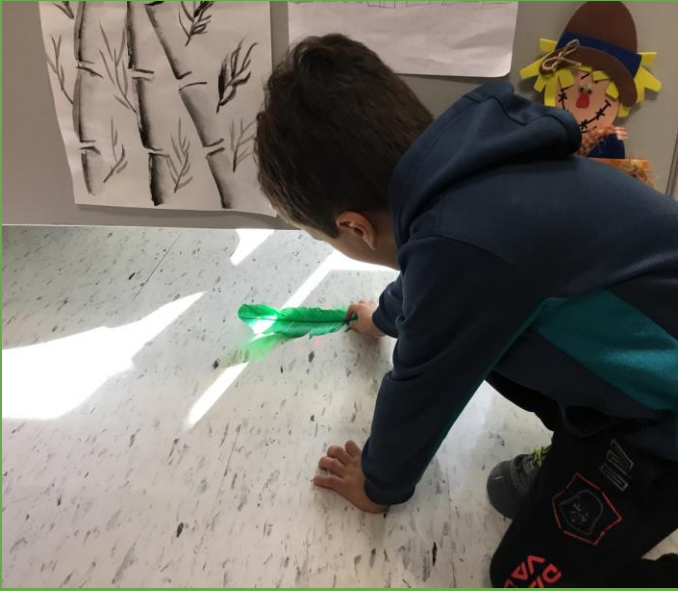
Another great program we started using is the online program called Front Row Education. The students love this program, as they use multiple strategies to acquire success with educational standards. This program reaches students at "their" level and creates a learning path when facing material that is too difficult or easy for them. One other thing the students love is getting to visit the online store to visit Piggy and set up his room and pick out his wardrobe! 😊

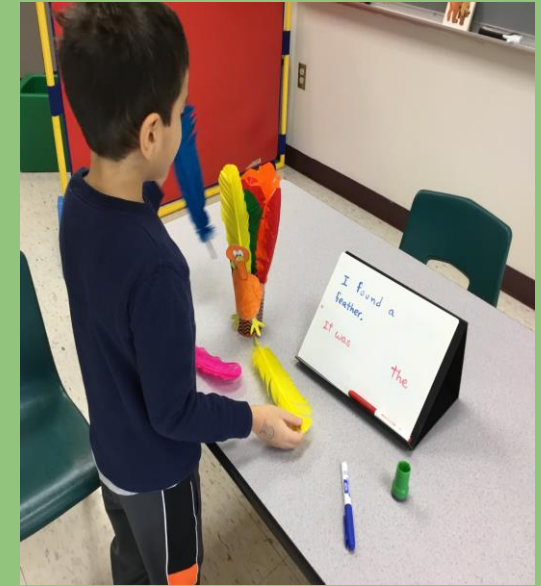
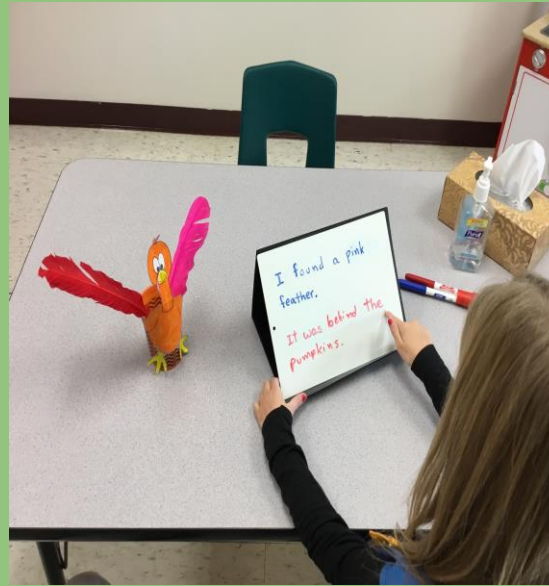


GOBBLE GOBBLE NEWS FROM MRS. WEIGHART'S SPEECH ROOM



Over the past month, students in preschool through first grade enjoyed playing Turkey Feathers Hide-and-Seek games during speech-language lessons. This simple homemade game can be used to practice many language skills including: following directions, giving directions, colors, size concepts, location concepts, counting, describing, asking questions, making predictions, and using past tense sentences. Students working on articulation can also get repeated practice of their target sounds, especially /f/, /th/, and /r/. Older students can work on reading and writing skills as well.





How about making your own Hide-and-Seek game to keep young ones entertained at your next holiday gathering? You could use pictures of gift boxes, favorite treats, favorite toys, snowflakes, snowmen, mittens, etc. and hide them throughout the house. The trick is having the children tell each other or an adult where they found their picture. They can work individually or as a team to find the most items. For older children, you can write down clues they can read to find the hidden pictures. There are endless variations of this game, so find one that works for your family and have fun!!!

St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center with four locations in NJ (Madison, North Branch, Ledgewood, and Mt. Olive), came to Whiton in November to enrich our character education lessons. Whiton Grade 3 learned about *Safety & Respect* (designed to build students' skills in reading body language for both people and animals to result in safe animal handling and conflict resolution between peers). Grade 2 learned that *Kind Choices* matter (a picture book read aloud to relate simple concepts of sheltering, basic animal care, and an engagement of feelings of empathy).

Students brought in donations to support the centers, too.

They passed on their beloved blankies, old towels, toys, cleaning supplies and pet food/treats.



Ms. Karen brought two friends with her, Elsa and Anna. WE couldn't tell the difference, but Ms. Karen explained that just like children, each animal's personality is different. Anna was more docile and Elsa was more active.



St. Hubert's believes building healthy relationships between humans and animals begins with education and we thank them for their generosity by coming to our school.

Our third grade has recently completed the first cycle of Helping Hands! We partnered with Meals on Wheels, and I am so proud of the work this group has accomplished. Here is some of the work your child participated in:

- assembled and decorated 75 holiday favors to be distributed to the senior citizens attending the Meals on Wheels Holiday Gala

-decorated 100 placemats for the Holiday Gala

-decorated Blizzard Bags to be distributed in case of inclement weather

The students have been busy spreading kindness and cheer! If you would like to learn more about the organization, please visit:

<https://www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org/>

Here are some pictures from our club for you to enjoy.

Happy Holidays!

Allison O'Neill-Helping Hands Coordinator



see you soon!

