

Medinah Primary and Intermediate Schools February 2019 Newsletter



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

The month of February has been filled with learning activities both inside and outside of the classroom. The Medinah PTO has been a great support this month. The students had a great time during their Valentine's Day celebrations. It is always fantastic to be able to show our friends and teachers how much we care about each other and remember that Medinah Chooses Kind!

Throughout the next few months, the staff and students at Medinah Intermediate School will be focused on preparing for the upcoming Illinois Assessment of Readiness Assessment for grades 3-12, which will take place in April. The teachers and students have and will continue to focus on their learning goals, as well as practice Reading and Math sample test questions. Practice test questions are available to access at home at <https://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>. As we get closer to April, more information will be sent home about this assessment.

Medinah Primary School will be having Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 school year on March 7th from 9am-11am, 2:00-3:00 pm and 6:00 pm-7:30 pm at Medinah Primary School. Students who will be 5 on or before September 1, 2019 are eligible for kindergarten next year. Please spread the word to your Medinah friends! It is always exciting to welcome our new students and families to our district.

We enjoyed seeing our families during conferences this month and truly value the partnership between home and school. Continue to encourage students to practice their reading and math skills at home through programs such [IXL](#) or [Raz Kids](#)!

We are looking forward to the month of March. As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Melissa Langietti
Principal, Medinah Primary School

Natalie Czarnecki
Principal, Medinah Intermediate School



P

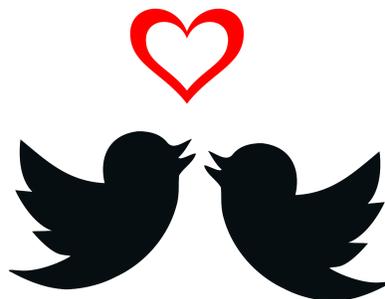
This month in Preschool we have been talking about Community Helpers. The students have learned about doctors, nurses, dentists, firefighters, and bakers. We talked about how they help us and the tools they use to do so! We also visited the fire department this month! The students loved seeing where the firefighters work, the fire truck and also all their gear. The students have learned about the letters S, J, D, and P. Continue identifying all the letters of the alphabet with your students when you are out and about in your environment. Focus on talking about letter sounds at the beginning of the words. Some of our students are beginning to point out sounds they hear in the middle of words. This is great! Be sure you talk about how the sound is in the word but not at the beginning. This month in our Social Emotional lessons we talked about "good" and "bad" touches. Continue talking about this at home in relation to hugs. If a child does not want a hug be sure to encourage them to say, "No thank you, I don't want a hug right now." Lastly, thank you to everyone who came for conferences! We enjoyed seeing you all and discussing your child's progress! :)

K

In literacy, we are working hard on mastering our sight words! We are doing a lot of sight word practice here at school using different strategies and appreciate your at-home support with it. It is important to make learning sight words fun for the kids. This will help our students become great readers! Keep in mind; we have a goal of reading at a level D at the end of kindergarten. Both sight word mastery and strong comprehension are very important to help your child achieve that goal! Please continue to have your child practice reading and taking the quizzes at his or her appropriate level on Raz-Kids.

In math, we have been focusing a lot on number combinations to 10. The kids are becoming more fluent with adding numbers together. We have been talking a lot about how the two parts go together to make a whole. To help us, we are learning about the many different math strategies we can be using to solve math problems for both adding and subtracting. The kindergarteners are doing a great job trying to figure out which strategy works best for them as a learner!

We enjoyed meeting with all of the families in February for our parent-teacher conferences. We are looking forward to the rest of the school year with the children and the continued growth they will make to be ready for 1st grade.



1

In Literacy, we are finishing our narrative writings about the Valentine's Day party and will be moving into the informative style of writing. We will be exploring lots of non-fiction texts and learning what text features authors use when writing non-fiction text.

Within Math, we have been working on comparing numbers within 100. We are exploring patterns on the 120 chart and practicing counting forward and backward from a given number.

In Science, we have been learning all about light! We have studied how light reflects and learned the difference between objects that are transparent (allow light to pass through completely) and opaque (do not allow any light to pass through).

A special thanks to all families who were able to attend Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate your continued support at home and working together to help your children be as successful as possible at school. Please continue to reach out to your child's teacher if you ever have any questions or need materials. Thanks again!

2

Second grade has been working hard in science. We have been completing many hands-on activities to explore solids and liquids in different forms. Recently, the students went through the engineering and design process to build towers using marshmallows and toothpicks. It was a challenge to consider the guidelines and constraints while building these structures. While not all teams were successful in building, it was a great lesson in revising and reflecting on how to improve in the future. In math, we are using multiple addition strategies to help us solve 3-digit addition equations. Keep practicing math facts at home to build fact fluency! In reading, we are focusing on what it means to be responsible. We have read stories about people who show they are responsible in different communities. We will discuss town government, various community jobs, and ways we can show responsibility ourselves. Ms. Ferguson's class is learning about the elements of folktales. In writing, we have enjoyed seeing the students' creative minds soar as they write personal narratives about the Valentine's party. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for parent-teacher conferences. We love being able to work with you in order to meet the needs of our students! Thank you for your continued support at home. Keep reading and discussing books to foster the love of books both at home and at school.



3

In reading, we're continuing to learn about what it means to be one of a kind. We've been reading biographies of incredible people who have made a difference just by being themselves. We are practicing important reading comprehension skills such as generalizing and identifying facts and opinions. In writing, the students completed their opinion process papers, and they have a lot of great ideas! In science, we'll be learning about weather, climate, and the processes and impacts of natural disasters. We're looking forward to some social studies to learn about immigration what life is like for children from different cultures and parts of the world. In math, the students will begin the fractions unit. They'll be learning the basics: dividing regions into equal-sized parts, fractional parts of sets, and locating fractions on the number line before learning about fraction equivalencies. They are also continuing to master their multiplication facts, so keep practicing for the weekly tests! As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher!

4

Fourth graders have been enjoying all the new learning experiences 2019 has brought thus far! From division and strengthening our problem solving skills, to learning about Plate Tectonics and celebrating the 100th day of school, lots has been happening! We kicked off February with a new science unit on Plate Tectonics where we learned how the plates have affected the earth over millions of years and how they impact us today. Students have read in depth about the causes and effects of the plates and have been engaging in hands on experiments to model what occurs deep in the layers of our earth. In math, we wrapped up our division unit and have begun fractions. Currently, we are learning about factors, multiples, and prime and composite numbers, and we will move through our fractions unit over the next few weeks. Students are continuing to work on math IXL weekly and practice their math fact fluency. In reading, Mrs. Flanagan's class is beginning a new unit on main idea, summarizing, and text evidence. In Mrs. Akert and Miss Parker's class, students are deepening their understanding and use of graphic sources and sequencing in text. All fourth graders are working on opinion writing, and we can't wait to see students' final products on whether homework should or shouldn't be a requirement for elementary students! Beginning this week, all fourth graders will be using Time for Kids as their reading log to answer questions and take a quiz. Math logs will remain the same. Lastly, the fourth grade team enjoyed seeing parents at conferences, and we are looking forward to the continued growth students will make from now until June!



We want to thank all of the parents who came to our February Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate you taking the time to sit down and talk to us about your child as we continue to partner together in their educational journey.

5th graders have been very busy in all areas of the curriculum! In math fractions have been the focus. Students have been dividing fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions. Ask your child what a reciprocal is and when we use it in math. We will be moving onto multiplying decimals in our next topic.

In Social Studies, students discussed the big idea of dilemmas and how that little word had a huge impact during the days of slavery. This sparked great conversations in all classrooms that were also very honest and respectful. We will be starting our space exploration in Science focusing on the stars and sky around us.

Also, did you know 5th graders are experts at stating their opinions? We have been working on what strong opinion statements are, how to support an opinion with text evidence, and how to 'hook' our readers into our writing.

Fifth graders in Mrs. Bautista/Carbonara's room and Miss Chernesky's room have been reading their novels, while continuing to focus on various reading skills. Ask your child about the book they are reading and what they do when they meet with their novel groups. This is a great way for students to collaborate and have deep, meaningful discussions about literature.

In Mrs. Petschinsky's classroom, students started Unit 5 in the Benchmark curriculum. The essential question is, *What value does technology bring to people's lives?* There are great discussions happening in class as students are realizing technology isn't just an electronic device.



MPS LMTC with Mrs. Pickren

Kindergarten, first and second grades have all been reading and listening to the final books on the 2019 Monarch list, in preparation for voting this week! It will be a hard decision choosing just one. The students have heard me say that my favorite book is always the one I'm reading at that moment! Of course, only students can vote, so I am off the hook! We will know our school's favorite book this week, but will need to wait until March 22 for the state-wide favorite. For more information about the Monarch Award: Illinois' K-3 Readers' Choice Award, you can follow this link: <https://www.aisled.org/monarch.htm>

During chilly days when your child needs to stay inside, don't forget that there are lots of fun learning activities on our LMTC Symbaloo page at this link: <https://www.symbaloo.com/home/mix/librarylinks-mps>. Reading on RAZ Kids is a great way to keep up, and improve reading skills for all grades!





LMTC: Mrs. Jasper and Mrs. Mouser

Remember there are only a few weeks left to read Wolverine Books. The last day to turn in summary forms is March 15th. During library check out the following week, we will be voting for your favorite and determining which book will win the 2019 Wolverine Book Award. Be thinking about which nominated book is your favorite. Mrs. Jasper and Mrs. Mouser will also begin creating invitations to invite students to our celebration as well as purchase prizes. We look forward to having many students join us in this celebration of reading!!!

The LMTC would like to give special congratulations to Elizabeth Ivasyuk and Olivia Dziuba for having read ALL 20 Wolverine Award nominated books!!! The following students deserve a round of applause as well for having read over half of the books at this time: Aryan Rattani, Emily Mallqui, Valentina Ancona, Eva Jamka, Eva Peak, Gianna DeMaria, Mia Quaranta, and Molly Talaga.

We are already looking forward to our next reading incentive. In March, the 4th and 5th graders will be invited to participate in the LMTC MIS Battle of The Books Competition. Teams of two to four students will be asked to read 4 books by May. In May, the teams will compete against each other with trivia questions about the books. The teams who answer the most questions correctly will become our school's champion and will receive a trophy. Their names will also be put on a plaque that is displayed yearly in the LMTC. Be on the lookout for the specific guidelines and permission slips for this competition.



Art: Ms. Bibula

ADVENTURES IN ART

February has been an exciting month in art! Kindergarten has learned how to create an image transfer using oil pastels. 1st graders read the book *Beautiful Oops!* By Barney Saltzberg, and then created their own collaborative and individual "beautiful oops" projects. Now they have begun learning about the Japanese design concept known as the notan. 2nd grade has been hard at work building their relief sculptures and will soon begin the process of glazing their ceramic creations. 3rd grade is currently learning all about masks while creating their own 3D paper masks with symmetry and meaning. 4th grade did a beautiful job finishing their surreal paintings and reflecting on all of their hard work. Now they are learning about graffiti and typography. 5th graders have been working with clay building animal head sculptures while learning different clay techniques.

A small selection of artwork from the students of MPS and MIS will be on display at the Roselle Public Library during the entire month of March to celebrate Youth Art Month.

Follow @artatmedinah on Instagram for pictures and more updates!





Music: Mrs. Bender

MUSIC AT MEDINAH

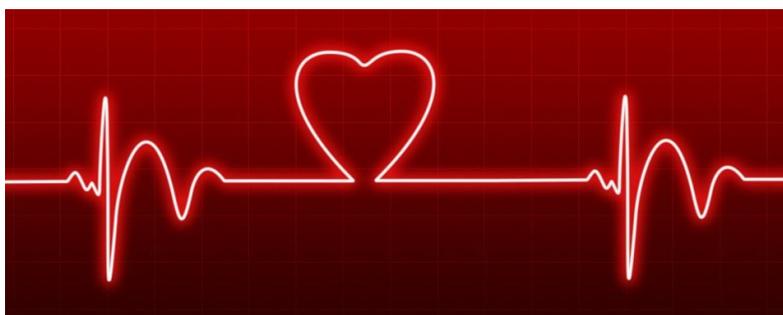
February has been a fantastic month for music in Medinah. At Intermediate School, 3rd and 4th graders finished up learning about the instruments of the orchestra. 3rd graders also demonstrated their mastery of our rhythmic concept, half note, and began listening for a new, faster, rhythm in many of our known songs. Looking ahead, our 4th graders will soon be working to review note names in Treble Clef in order to play instruments in the near future. 5th grade spent the majority of the month preparing and presenting their performance, "A Lincoln Portrait." They did an outstanding job on this performance, and I could not be prouder of their hard work! At Primary school, students at all grade levels have continued to find the joy of music through discovery and play. 2nd graders finally labelled their higher pitch as *la* and have been writing, improvising, and composing with it ever since. After spending months working on beat and comparing the beat to the rhythm, 1st graders finally labeled their first two rhythms: quarter note, and a pair of eighth notes. I am so impressed by how quickly they are becoming independent with these rhythms. Our kindergarteners have really begun to come out of their shell in the music room this month. They are singing more independently and accurately as well as showing an awesome beat. I look forward to more marvelous music making with your students in March!



District Nurse: Mrs. Edwards, RN, CSN

February is National Children's Dental Health Month! Throughout the month we have conducted dental health presentations in each of our MIS classrooms. During the presentations we reminded our students of the importance of dental health. We talked about how everyone needs to visit the dentist at least once a year, brush and floss their teeth twice a day, and to effects of sugary foods on their teeth. Many of the students were surprised when we showed them images of teeth that were not taken care of!

This month we kicked off our annual Girls on the Run program for our 4th and 5th grade girls. The Girls on the Run program is a program which teaches girls to recognize their inner strengths and celebrate what makes them one of a kind. Trained coaches lead small teams through research based curricula, which includes dynamic discussions, activities, and running games. The 10 week program culminates with the girls positively impacting their communities through a service project and being physically and emotionally prepared to complete a celebratory 5K (3.1 miles) event. We are looking forward to a great season ahead!





Physical Education: Mr. Boeing

Gems From The Gym

The basketball unit has been heating up getting ready for March Madness. Over the past four weeks students have been revisiting the proper ways to dribble while moving, chest/bounce/overhead passes, B.E.E.F. ball protection, offense, defense, and full 5v5 scrimmages. With the weather getting nicer moving into spring it was my goal to teach kids games like horse, knockout, and around the world to keep them playing outside. Also NEW at M.I.S. is the Medinah 5th grade basketball club. Once a week on Fridays select 5th graders are invited to the gym in the morning to participate in basketballs games to kick start their body so they are ready for the day! Our next unit will be floor hockey.

There is no better time to be healthier than right now! Students should be getting at least 60 minutes of exercise every day. Adults should be getting a minimum of 30 active minutes every day. Popular spring activities could be going ice skating, spring cleaning the house, golf, basketball, roller skating, bike riding, dancing, and much much more! Anything that gets us moving and our heart beating faster is great! Your body will thank you afterwards. Do not forget to sleep! Students should be getting 9-11 hours of sleep each night and adults should be getting 7-9 hours of sleep according to the national sleep foundation.

Mr. B's Kitchen

- 1 Green Apple**
- 1 Clementine**
- 1 Strawberry**
- 2 Edible Candy Eyes**
- 4 mini Heart Sprinkles**
- Peanut Butter or Toothpicks**





K-5 Technology: Mrs. Akdeniz

MPS:

- KG and 1st grade are reinforcing their math and word study skills with [Osmo](#) Numbers and Words. KG also utilized Seesaw to practice counting to 100.
- First and 2nd grades learned how technology can help us read with Epic Books.
- Second grade also utilized Seesaw to learn about retelling a story, writing about what they would do if they had \$100 (100th day of school), and reading poetry they have written.
- Technology Club is off to a great start for 1st and 2nd grades!

MIS:

- Third grade completed a scavenger hunt for Google Docs and Slides.
- Fourth grade math is diving into measurement and fifth grade math is diving into decimals. Students are using Seesaw and Kahoot as assessment tools.
- Thank you to all of the students, staff, and parents on a fantastic Afternoon of Kindness! It was a real treat for me to be able to capture it all on camera and I enjoyed interviewing the students about their experience.





K-5 Literacy: Mrs. Lima and Mrs. Mellert

Comprehension can be a tricky thing. Your child may be reading every word correctly but it doesn't always mean he is always understands what he is reading. When at home, asking your child questions about what they are reading is a great way to check for comprehension.

Here are a few suggestions in regards to asking and modeling effective questions.

1. QUESTIONS DON'T HAVE TO BE SAVED UNTIL THE VERY END.
 - If your child seems a bit confused over a particular passage, stop and ask, "Did that make sense to you?" or "What was the author saying right there? Can you put it in your own words?"
 - Students who struggle to maintain focus do better if asked questions *while* reading versus instead of at the end of reading.
 - Asking questions is something good readers do throughout reading.
2. QUESTIONS THAT START WITH "HOW" OR "WHY" TEND TO DELVE DEEPER INTO COMPREHENSION.
 - "**Why** do you think the main character did that?" or "**How** do you think she is going to solve this problem?" These questions require young readers to "read between the lines." They must take what they know (their schema) and add it to what the author is telling them to create an answer.
 - Answering the deeper questions requires your child to know the basic answers. For example, if you ask your young reader, "Why do you think the main character did that?" Listen for him to use the main character's name while answering.
3. QUESTIONS CAN LEAD TO MORE QUESTIONS
 - Instead of simply being satisfied with the answer your child gives, you can follow up with another *great* question, "What makes you think that?"
 - Asking how your child got the answer requires her to think about the strategies she used to get the answer.

