

Medinah Primary and Intermediate Schools

March 2019 Newsletter



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

Medinah Primary School and Intermediate School students have been hard at work.

Kindergarten registration took place on March 7th. If you have a kindergartener who will be attending Primary School next year, or know of a kindergarten or first grade student who will enroll at MPS for the first time next year, please call the school office at 630-529-9788. Second grade students at Primary School will be taking the InView Test † April 9th. We know the students will do a great job!

Throughout the past few months, the staff and students at Medinah Intermediate and Middle School have been preparing for the upcoming Illinois Assessment of Readiness Assessment(IAR) for grades 3-12, which will take place after Spring Break. 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/>. IAR Assessments will take place for grades 3-5 the week of April 8th through April 12th. The students will complete one assessment a day including two ELA and three Math Assessments. Please help in ensuring the students get plenty of rest, eat breakfast and arrive to school on time.

Thanks to our amazing PTO and our community for all of our fundraisers and events that support our school. Bingo night was a hit and we all had a great time! It was so nice to be able to see families together enjoying their time in our schools!

We hope that you have a wonderful spring break with your families! School will resume on Monday, April 1st. We look forward to hearing about all the fun the students had over break!

Melissa Langietti
Principal, Medinah Primary School

Natalie Czarniecki
Principal, Medinah Intermediate School

P

This month in preschool we talked about ice cream and began our "Around the World" study. The students loved making ice cream from scratch! We talked about what ingredients we used, measured them out and discussed why we had to use specific ingredients. The students did a wonderful job understanding why the ice is needed to make ice cream and also why the sugar is important! We also had a leprechaun visit us for St. Patrick's Day! The students found his gold and set traps to try to catch him. In our Around the World unit we began by discussing the earth. We reviewed from our space unit the differences between the green and blue parts. We then talked about how to get to different parts of the world and why we may need to use different modes of transportation to get to different countries.

In our social emotional lessons this month we talked about how to control feeling big emotions by taking 3 deep breaths, holding our belly and saying stop. In handwriting without tears we learned about the letters K, A, and M. Keep discussing the different letter sounds at home by using environmental print. This could be as simple as looking at the cereal box and asking about the different letters or talking about the letter sounds you here in the cereals name.

Have a wonderful spring break!

K

In literacy, we are really becoming good little writers. We are using our letter-sound knowledge to write about so many different topics. It is so easy for you to help reinforce this at home by allowing your child to help you write out your grocery list, write a letter to a family member, etc. Allow your child to use his or her "kindergarten spelling" to sound out the words and write them on the paper. We are really encouraging first letter of the sentence being uppercase, the rest lowercase, spacing between words and punctuation at the end. So proud of our kindergarten writers!

In math, we are cruising through our unit on subtraction. The children are doing an amazing job using math vocabulary when talking about subtraction and explaining their work. There are so many fun, engaging and hands on ways to learn subtraction. By the end of kindergarten, the children should understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from. Your child should also be able to fluently add and subtract within 5. We will continue to work on these skills throughout the remainder of the school year.

We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Spring Break.



In Literacy in Mrs. Fasso and Mrs. Parker's classes we have read various stories including how people, places, surprises, and items can all be important treasures to us. As we continue reading throughout the next few weeks, we will be learning more about how to draw conclusions and separate facts from opinions as our comprehension skill. We are working on the informative style of writing. We will be exploring lots of non-fiction texts to help us as we write. In Mrs. Cermak's class, they will be finishing a text set about humorous stories and how authors play with language when they write. We will be starting an author study on Nicola Davies after break and studying long vowel patterns.

Within Math, we will have been working on comparing numbers within 100. We have focused on determining what numbers are one more, one less, ten more, and ten less than a given number. We will be learning more about numbers that are greater, less than, or equal to a given number.

In Science, we have been learning all about sound! We have studied sound vibrations and are beginning our project-based learning activity to create musical instruments using recycled materials brought in from home. Thank you to all of the families that donated materials to help make this project possible.

Enjoy a relaxing spring break!

Second grade is lucky 🍀 to be learning so much in school. In literacy, we are currently reading Signmaker's Assistant and Carl the Complainer while students focus on the main idea. In Ms. Ferguson's class, students are reading humorous tales and deciding the most humorous character. During writing class, the students have been introduced to opinion writing through mentor texts and shared writing led by the teacher. Students will learn how to plan out opinion writing by including a topic sentence, two reasons for their opinion, examples to support the reason and then a conclusion to restate their opinion.

Second graders are wrapping up addition and subtraction topics in math class. They have learned a variety of strategies including base ten shorthand, open number line, decomposing numbers and of course their favorite standard algorithm. Upon returning from spring break, our new focus will be learning about money and telling time.

In science, students are investigating matter in its different forms. They will complete activities to construct an argument with evidence that some changes caused by heating or cooling can be reversed and some cannot. The students will interact with many hands on activities throughout this scope. Following spring break, second grade will move on from Physical Science and begin our study on Earth and Space Science!

Have a wonderful spring break! Remember to curl up and read a great book over the break!



In reading, we've just started our fifth unit about cultural diversity. We'll be reading stories about children from different cultures and learn about the ways they are similar and different to each of us. We will practice important reading skills such as comparing and contrasting, identifying main ideas and details, as well as drawing conclusions. In writing, the students are learning about narrative writing and will practice writing imagined narratives by imagining a creative ending to a story. We'll also try our hand at writing real narratives after about various personal experiences and memories. In science, we'll be learning about weather, climate, and the processes and impacts of natural disasters. In math, the students are learning about different interpretations of fractions, and they'll soon be able to find equivalencies! We look forward to starting geometry soon as well. Please continue to practice multiplication facts at home—students are working hard to master their facts before fourth grade! As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher!

It has been a busy month in fourth grade, and students and teachers are very excited for the arrival of Spring! Fourth graders are currently working on many hands-on activities in math to understand how the same fractional amount can be named in different ways using equivalent fractions and how fractions can be compared and ordered. Students used this new knowledge of equivalent fractions to create a colorful March hallway display titled "Equivalent Fractions Are Golden". In addition, all fourth grade students have been participating in Math March Madness in their classrooms with daily trashketball competitions for the winning teams. Be sure to ask a 4th grader all about this exciting teamwork competition! During writing, students completed their opinion papers which gave them the opportunity to voice their opinions on the popular topic: "Should Elementary Students Have Homework?" Prior to making their opinions, students completed two readings, one pro and one con, and then used evidence from the papers as well as their own reasons to support their opinions. In Social Studies, 4th graders are finishing up their study of the West Region where they learned all about the landforms, water, climate as well as the natural resources and products produced in the West. Students are now looking forward to our next Science Scope that will focus their attention on Renewable and Nonrenewable Resources. As you can see, it has been a busy month in Fourth Grade!



Fifth grade students in Miss Chernesky and Mrs. Bautista/Carbonara's classrooms have wrapped up their novel studies by creating mock-Amazon listings and we now turn to our Big Question of Unit 5: Who goes seeking adventure and why? They will focus on informative writing in Trimester Three. Mrs. Petschinsky's reading classroom will try to answer the question: What compels us to survive? In writing, they will work on narrative journals. In math, we have mastered multiplying decimals and are moving into how to divide by them, which is no easy task! Fifth grade scientists investigated the scopes focusing on space. In Social Studies, students are learning about Colonial Williamsburg and the Acts leading up to the Revolutionary War.



K-5 Math: Ms. Spino and Miss Kurey

March has been a marvelous month for math! The students have continued to develop their mathematical skills and logic, and the 3rd-5th graders have begun to prepare for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness which they will take in April. While we are all looking forward to a relaxing spring break. It is also important for students to remember to continue to practice their math skills at home over the break. Please continue to use the IXL math program at home. The program targets specific skills your child can work on. It is divided by grade levels and skills. Math facts should also be practiced at home. Teachers are teaching the strategies and conceptual understanding of computation, however, repetition at home is beneficial.



K-5 Technology: Mrs. Akdeniz

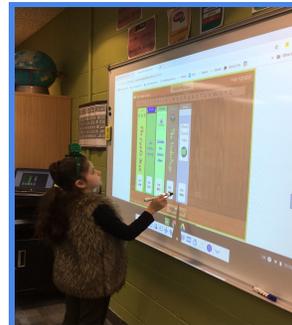
Spring break is just around the corner! Don't forget to work on [IXL \(MPS\)](#), [Buzz Math \(MIS only\)](#), [Typing Club](#), and [Raz Kids](#)! Here are some other links you might enjoy:

- [Scratch.mit.edu](https://scratch.mit.edu)
- [Madewithcode.com](https://madewithcode.com)
- [Tynker.com](https://tynker.com)





MPS LMTC with Mrs. Pickren



In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, we held a guessing contest in the library. Congratulations to Harris from Mrs. Menconi's kindergarten class! His guess of 630 goldfish crackers was the closest to the actual number in the fishbowl (635!) and he got to take the crackers home to share with his family

First and Second grades have been working hard on their typing skills using programs such as Dance Mat Typing and Typing Club. These can be found on our [LMTC home page on the MPS website](#). Practicing at home is encouraged!!

Second grade has also been learning about the Dewey Decimal System. (Yes, we still organize our library with Dewey!) This fun activity has students dragging books into the correct order. All those decimals are tricky, but they are becoming little librarians! Students enjoyed seeing "Dewey" in action with [this video](#).



LMTC: Mrs. Jasper and Mrs. Mouser

Wolverine Book Award

The Wolverine Book Award reading incentive has come to a close. We are extremely proud of all the students that participated by reading some of the nominated books for 2019. We are looking forward to celebrating these students hard work at our celebration in May. A special congratulations to Elizabeth Ivasyuk, Emily Mallqui, Gianna DeMaria, Olivia Dziuba, Mia Quaranta, and Aryan Rattani for reading ALL 20 of the nominated books!!! The students who read 4 or more of the nominated books were able to vote for their favorite in hopes that it would win the 2019 Wolverine Award. Be on the lookout to find out which book will win the prestigious MIS Wolverine Award!

Battle of the Books

The LMTC is very excited to be starting our 2019 Battle of the Books competition. The 4th and 5th graders have been very busy selecting teams. Throughout April, the teams will be busy reading the novels. During the month of May, the teams will compete to win the title of "MIS Book Battle Champions". On the last full day of school the top scoring teams will participate in the final round, held in front of the whole school, to determine the winning team. The champion team will have a plaque with their names on it displayed in the library and will receive trophies. Good luck and happy reading to all those participating. Please contact the LMTC if you have any questions regarding the rules and regulations of this competition.



Art: Ms. Bibula

ADVENTURES IN ART

The annual art show is coming up for Medinah Primary and Intermediate Schools! Join us April 18th from 6 to 8 p.m. in the MIS gym to view beautiful works of art from all of our students. In addition to the artwork on display there will be art-making stations with demonstrations that everyone can participate in to make artwork to take home. Hope to see you there!

The month long display at the Roselle Public Library for Youth Art Month will be coming down April 1st so hurry there to see it before it's gone!

In the month of March, Kindergarteners created image transfers using oil pastels, and large numbers or letters like artist Jasper Johns decorated with patterns and primary and secondary colors.

1st grade created beautiful Japanese Notans which focus on contrast, shape, and opposites. Students are now learning about drawing landscapes.

2nd graders have been working hard to glaze their relief sculptures since they have been fired in the kiln. Once they are finished being glazed, the sculptures will be fired for a second time.

The 3rd graders have been making paper masks with meaning and design that they will be using later for an in-class performance.

4th grade has been learning about street art and the art of hand lettering while creating artwork of their name in graffiti style lettering.

5th graders have finished sculpting animal heads out of clay and are now glazing the pieces to give them color.

Follow @artatmedinah on Instagram for pictures and more updates!



Music: Mrs. Bender

MUSIC AT MEDINAH

March has been a marvelous month in the Medinah music rooms! At Primary School, 1st grade spent the month exploring quarter notes and eighth notes, and even composed their own sixteen beat rhythms. They also continued their work on the music staff and will soon label their high and low sounds. Their enthusiasm for reading and writing music is wonderful to witness! Kindergarteners labeled our *dynamics*, piano (soft) and forte (loud) and have continued to explore high vs. low sounds and moving steady and even to the music. 2nd graders spent much of the month improvising and composing simple melodies with the pitches *so*, *mi*, and *la*. They also continued their work on meter in music by labelling the time signature, barlines, and measures in a piece of music. At Intermediate School, 5th grader began exploring both a new rhythm and a new pitch. They will have completed the diatonic major scale in no time! 3rd and 4th grade wrapped up their units on identifying the instruments of the orchestra. I look forward to seeing how 4th graders will apply this knowledge when they choose an instrument to play in band in 5th grade! Toward the end of the month, 4th graders were also very excited to begin learning how to play the soprano recorder. I look forward to watching all grade levels continue to experience the joy of music through singing and creating as we head into the final trimester of the school year!



District Nurse: Mrs. Edwards, RN, CSN

Our first few weeks of Girls on the Run have been a success so far. The girls are really enjoying the lessons each week and are especially enjoying the exercises that they do together. We are anxiously awaiting the warmer weather so that we can exercise outdoors. Please encourage your student to dress in layers for the cooler temperatures. We are very pleased with the level of excitement that our girls have exhibited so far this season :)

We want to continue to encourage students to dress in layers. Spring mornings will start out cool with temperatures, rising as the day goes on. We are hopeful that spring will arrive soon so that students may enjoy the outdoors.

The dental van will be returning this spring to MPS and MIS. Be on the lookout for information coming home regarding the dental van. All students may visit the dental van. Students with financial needs will receive their dental services for free.



Physical Education: Mr. Boeing

Gems From The Gym

Physical education has blossomed these strong students into stronger students hopping into the spring month of April. At both schools we have continued to talk about what skills can be taken from the physical education setting and applied to all areas of any lifestyle. Sportsmanship in P.E. can translate into being a good member of a class group, or working on a group project in the business world someday. Having qualities of a good teammate will carry over into any content, sport, and through life in general.

At both schools we have been lighting the lamp during our hockey unit. We have been making connections with soccer, basketball, and hockey. Students participated in a march madness hockey tournament, learned different positions, face offs, and many other fundamental hockey skills.

Moving into April we will be going into a volleying and striking unit. Students will be learning how to pass, set, serve, and volley different objects with our hands and rackets. Let's spring into fitness!

Mr. B's Kitchen Spring Carrot Cups

Directions:

1. Using a spoon, fill your plastic cup with the hummus. (1) 7 oz. tub will fill 1 cup entirely to the top. For kids, I purchase smaller sized cups to be able to make several. Otherwise, buy the bulk container.



2. Use a spoon or small food strainer to spread the unsweetened cocoa on the top of the hummus. This will be your "dirt".

3. Take the pointed end of a knife and hollow out a small hole in the top of a baby carrot.

4. Place a bit of hummus into the hole and place one of the celery leaves in. This will make it look like a real carrot. (This step is optional)

5. Serve with additional carrots or your favorite pita chips for a delicious and nutritious treat!



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