

Medinah Primary and Intermediate Schools January 2019 Newsletter



From the Desk of the Principal

Dear Families,

The students and staff have been very busy for the past month and have many exciting learning opportunities to look forward to.

During the past few weeks, the students at MPS and MIS have been taking their Reading and Math Map tests. We are all very proud of them for trying their best and working hard to achieve their goals they have set for themselves. Teachers are excited to be reviewing these results with you at conferences.

We are looking forward to all of our families attending Parent-Teacher Conferences coming up on Thursday, February 14 and Friday, February 15. We are excited to see the students attend the conferences to continue to work as a team towards a successful 2018-19 school year! Just a reminder that kindergarten conferences are for parents only.

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(IAR) 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/>. More information will continue to be sent home about this assessment.

Preschool Screening will take place on February 22nd. Please call the Primary School office to set up an appointment!

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 is 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.

The weather has been bitterly cold! Students may be spending more time inside. Use this opportunity to have kids continue to reinforce their reading and math skills through programs such as [IXL](#) or [Raz Kids!](#)

We are looking forward to the month of February. 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



This month in Preschool we have been learning about Transportation. We talked about vehicles that travel by land, water, and air. The students sorted vehicles according to how they travel and also learned about how they move! We talked about the purpose of having different types of transportation. The students enjoyed doing experiments. We looked at how to make a car move with a magnet on top as well as with a ramp. We utilized water to discuss the concept of sinking and floating.

In Handwriting without Tears we learned about the letters G, S, J, and D. We also practiced the Jolly Phonics songs for these letters (these songs are on Youtube if you would like to practice at home!). Please continue using the environment to practice identifying letters and also talk about the letter sounds.

In Second Step, we began the Child Protection Unit with Mrs. Cosgrove (the school Social Worker). In this unit we talked about safe choices. These include how to cross the street safely, don't touch knives and also appropriate touches. Please reinforce these concepts whenever appropriate at home!



In our Fountas and Pinnell literacy curriculum, we are doing a great job identifying the characters, setting and major events in a story. Our latest text set theme is wordless books. The illustrations in wordless books tell a story entirely through the pictures. The illustrations support early readers in actively participating in storytelling, and learning how a story works. We have been learning how to use the pictures to tell the story by telling what the characters are saying, describing what they look like, how they feel and what they are doing. Please continue to practice reading the kindergarten sight words at home. If you are in need of a new copy of the list, please let us know.

In math, we are working hard on adding and subtracting numbers. The children are doing a wonderful job using their kindergarten math vocabulary when talking about math. Please encourage them to do the same at home when completing math homework. We are encouraging them to use vocabulary words, such as, add, subtract, plus sign, minus sign, altogether, take away, and join when explaining their thinking. They are not only solving the simple addition and subtraction problems but also explaining what strategy they used to get to that answer. We are amazed at the progress they have made!

Please be sure to sign up for a conference time online, if you haven't already. We look forward to seeing everyone and discussing your child's progress then!

Happy 2019! We hope you all had a wonderful winter break with family and friends! First grade has been very busy working on so many new things! In literacy, we have been focusing on comparing and contrasting stories. We have been identifying how stories can be similar and different from one another. In writing, we continue to focus on developing complete sentences with nouns, verbs, capitalization, punctuation, and additional details to enhance our projects. In math, we spent a lot of time focusing on strategies to add numbers up to 20! We have used ten frames, number lines, using pictures, doubles, and so much more. We have recently moved into our unit on strategies to subtraction with numbers up to 20. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts with your child to increase fact fluency. Our science focus has been on characteristics and traits shared between parents and offspring. We have talked about how baby animals can look or act like their parents, just like humans can, too! Within Second Step, we have been learning all about safety. Please continue to review ways to stay safe with your child at home. If you have not done so already, please be sure to sign up online for a Parent-Teacher Conference!

Second grade started the new year off on a great note. We have been busy at work in all subject areas! In science, second graders have been learning about physical science which focuses on the states of matter as well as changes to materials caused by heat. We will engage in many hands on activities to strengthen our understanding. In writing, we have been writing personal narratives during Writer's Workshop. The students have been able to write about their own experiences while taking their papers through the writing process. They also get to conference with a teacher to show off their brilliant work. Moving forward, Ms. Ohlson and Mrs. Maciulewicz will continue with biographies which will include a research-based paragraph about a historical figure or modern day person's life. During the reading block, students will have the chance to present their biographies in front of the class. Ms. Ferguson's class has been focused on informational writing about animals. Students have been learning how to research and answer essential questions using both books and websites. In math, students are learning how to add two-digit numbers with and without regrouping using a variety of strategies such as using base-ten pieces, open number line and decomposing numbers. We will then move on to adding three digit numbers. Please continue to practice math through the IXL Math program at home to help reinforce your child's math skills.

Happy New Year! In reading, we're beginning our fourth unit which focuses on what it means to be one of a kind. We will be practicing important reading comprehension skills such as generalizing and identifying facts and opinions. Mrs. Reinmann's class has begun working on Benchmark Advance Unit 4, a fiction that explores the question, "What makes people view the same experience in different ways?". We will be examining the story of Cinderella from the viewpoints of Cinderella, and the stepsisters. We will also be reading two versions of "Jack and the Beanstalk" to decide who the real villain is—the giant or Jack? In writing, the students have independently written several POWs that demonstrate an opinion, as well as an opinion process paper about the most helpful superpower. Students will continue to learn about what makes a strong and convincing reason and how to use detailed explanations to support their ideas. In math, we have begun graded multiplication facts tests to show mastery of basic multiplication facts, and students will continue to learn and practice multiplication patterns before we move on to learning about division. In science, the students will be learning about reasons for plant and animal extinction and the importance of fossils to help us understand the lives of organisms before they became extinct. The students will be looking more closely at fossils in the weeks to come and creating some of their own in an exciting hands-on activity! As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to ask your child's teacher!

Fourth graders have had an exciting start to the New Year! In reading, Mrs. Flanagan's students are working on recognizing different points of view, while making inferences about characters in a story. Mrs. Akert and Miss Parker's students are finishing Unit 3 with the tall tale of Paul Bunyan. Students are practicing how to recognize valid and invalid generalizations. Mrs. Flanagan's students are finishing final copies of their Informational Writing, while Mrs. Akert and Miss Parker's students are completing an opinion paper about uniforms in schools. Then, they are going to explore the issue of homework, and independently write their own process paper about whether or not students should have homework. How do you feel about homework? Division has been our topic in math, and students have been learning a few new strategies including creating partial quotients and area models. Fourth graders have completed their study of the Southeast region of the United States, and are heading into a new science unit asking questions like; How did the continents and oceans form? Why are the Rocky Mountains in the western region of the United States? Why does California have so many earthquakes? Studying the topic of Plate Tectonics is going to answer so many questions. Fourth grade teachers are looking forward to seeing everyone soon at February conferences!

2019 has kicked off with lots of thoughtful learning in 5th grade! In reading for Miss Chernesky and Mrs. Bautista/Mrs. Carbonara's class, we are beginning Unit 4 which asks the big question: *How do people and animals adapt to different situations?* We will explore this through our novel study groups which will begin soon. Mrs. Petschinsky's reading class is immersed in Benchmark's Unit 4, which asks: *How can others' perspectives help us evaluate the world?* In writing, we are continuing to work on opinion writing and using text evidence to support our opinions. This has led to some great, and sometimes heated, discussions in class! In math, we are currently focusing on multiplying and dividing fractions and mixed numbers. Please continue to practice fact fluency at home to help keep students sharp for this topic. In social studies, we are going to explore the early British colonies of our country and learn about dilemmas that West Africans faced during slavery. In science, 5th graders have been participating in fun, hands-on labs to create chemical reactions and answer the question: *Does the mass of a mixture change after undergoing a chemical reaction?* Make sure to ask your student about what happened when they created these mixtures during the labs! We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon at Parent Teacher Conferences on February 14th/15th.



District Nurse: Mrs. Edwards, RN, CSN

It is hard to believe that we are already in the year 2019! The school year is quickly passing by. As the winter progresses, the temperatures continue to drop!

We want to remind our families and students that it is very important that all students are sent to school in clothing that is appropriate for the weather outside. All students should come to school with a coat, scarf, hat, and gloves.

We also want to remind our families and students that it is very important to drink lots of water, get a good night's rest, wash your hands often, and eat lots of healthy food. These simple tips will ensure that your student stays healthy through the winter season!



MPS LMTC

Kindergarten heard three different versions of the story, *The Mitten*, and found that the main idea of the stories were the same, but some of the details were very different. Ask your child which version they liked best. (They all seem to like *the first one* they heard, no matter which one that was!) They also acted out the story, pretending they were the animal characters, all cozy in the tiny mitten, until the mitten burst apart!

First graders participated in a "book tasting" event that featured books by several wonderful authors! We looked at books by Bob Shea, Cynthia Rylant, Jim Aylesworth, David A. Adler, Mac Barnett and Rosemary Wells. Ask your child who was his or her favorite!

Second graders have been learning about different genres and how to find them in the library. They also had a "book tasting", complete with menus and tablecloths! Second graders also learned how to navigate databases to find information on animals and biographies. As the quote says, "**Google can give you millions of answers, but your librarian can give you the RIGHT answer!**" You can find the databases we used on the [MPS Library Links Symbaloo page](#), under *Second Grade Research*.



MIS LMTC

The 3rd, 4th and 5th grade classes have been practicing their research skills while also preparing for the MIS Afternoon of Kindness. The students are visiting the websites of each organization, reading and taking notes to learn what each one does to help the community, and thinking about the service learning projects that will take place. The students are excited to be a part of this very special afternoon!

The Wolverine Book Award challenge is still going strong! Very special congratulations to Elizabeth Ivasyuk in 5th grade for reading all 20 of the books on the list. There are still 2 more months left to participate, so please continue to encourage your child to read some of the books that are nominated for the Wolverine Award of 2019!



Art: Ms. Bibula

Adventures in Art

The new year is off to a great start in art! Kindergarten completed their rainbow rocket mixed media artwork, and read the story *Too Much Glue* by Jason Lefebvre.

1st grade learned about the life and work of Henri Matisse. They also learned about scissor safety and have been hard at work making their own paper cut-out collages in the same vein as Matisse. Together we are exploring what variety looks like in art, learning about geometric and organic shapes, and creating human figures in action.

2nd graders are working with clay now! As a class, we viewed the famous and historical relief sculptures from the Greeks and Romans. Students have designed their own relief sculptures and will soon begin building them with a subject that literally stands out from the background which will be carved with patterns to create a texture.

3rd grade has now began glazing their ceramic centerpieces and beads that will be used to create hanging wind chimes. After glazing, students will be stringing together the pieces to construct the wind chime.

4th grade has been hard at work on their surreal paintings all while learning about tints, tones, shades, color mixing, and different brushstroke techniques.

5th grade created beautiful mixed media collages which they wrote artist's statements about and shared with their classmates. Next students will be working on building animal head sculptures out of clay.

Follow @artatmedinah on Instagram for pictures and more updates!



Music: Mrs. Bender



The new year has gotten off to a great start in the Medinah music rooms! At Primary School, students in second grade are exploring meter in music, as well as a pitch higher than so. 1st grade finally labeled our long and short rhythms as quarter notes and a pair of eighth notes! These same students have also been detecting the difference between high and low sounds that are only set a few steps apart. This difficult skill will lead us into discovering the music staff in February. Kindergarten continues to find the joy in music while we explore loud and soft music, high and low sounds, and move to the beat. At Intermediate School, 3rd grade students spent the majority of January reviewing all of our rhythms, and working with our newest pitch, *do*. 4th grade also took the time to get reacquainted with the music staff and worked with their brand-new pitch, *low la*. 5th grade students have had the most exciting month of all in the music room. These students have been diligently working to prepare for their upcoming performance in February. This performance, entitled, "A Lincoln Portrait" will take place on **February 20th** at **7:00 PM** at MMS. We hope to see you there!



Physical Education: Mr. Boeing

Gem's From the Gym

Physical education is heading into the third period. We have a few units under our belts and are on our way to being hall of famers. At both schools we have continued to discuss qualities of a good teammate, what is a healthy way to address a bad attitude on your team, how to demonstrate sportsmanship at all times, and working effectively with others. These qualities are great life skills which will carry over to middle school, high school, college, and the workplace. At both schools we have been talking about how and when we engage our cardiovascular system (heart at primary) and how we know our bodies are working hard. 5th grade students have begun to learn about our muscular system.

At Medinah Primary School we have been building off of our previous learned locomotor and nonlocomotor skills during our gymnastics unit. During this unit we learned different dynamic and static balances, various animal walks, jumping and landing efficiently, springboard and balance beam etiquette, and spatial awareness. Each class period students engaged in small group work stations. We are now heading into our catching and throwing unit.

The golf unit is now off the green and in the cup until the summer. During the golf unit students were assessed on the proper grip of a club, proper stance for each shot (put, chip, and pitch) positive communication, score keeping and spatial awareness. We played a variety of mini games such as; top golf, lilly pad putting, over the top 21, horse, bullseye, chipping 500, and a mini golf course. If students wanted to continue their golf unit outside of class there are golf domes at Links and Tee's in Addison, White Pines in Bensenville, and Top Golf in Wood Dale. We are always finding ways to incorporate technology into our classroom. For this month we used Kahoot which is an assessment using technology. We are now introducing the basketball unit. We will be learning rules of the game, dribbling, shooting, passing, strategy, and how to demonstrate sportsmanship and teamwork at all times.

Mr. B's Kitchen



Check out these cool snacks just in time for February!
Neat!

Two strawberries
2 pretzel sticks cut in half
4 mini marshmallows
Candy Hearts



K-5 Technology: Mrs. Akdeniz

At MPS, students have been using Seesaw to practice math skills, set goals for the new year, reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and learn how to utilize credible websites for project research. Kindergarten also had their first introduction to the Osmo by reinforcing their knowledge of "Friends of Five" with Osmo Numbers. Their excitement was contagious! First grade also learned about voice experiments with Google's Mystery Animal interactive website by playing a modified version of "20 Questions". Try it out at home! Play it on a Google Home by saying "Hey Google, talk to Mystery Animal," or try it on [the site](#).

At MIS, the students are continuing to fine tune their typing and editing skills on their Chromebooks. In my math enrichment groups, we are trying out a new tool called Flipgrid, a social learning platform that allows me to ask a question related to their current math topic and then the students respond in a video. I have been very impressed by the students' creativity and broadcasting skills! Some of my other groups are utilizing Edmodo and Empatico to connect with partner classrooms inside and outside the U.S. We are finding that even though there are many miles between us, we still have things in common!



K-5 Math: Ms. Spino and Miss. Kurey

January has become testing season in many school districts. The students are in the process of completing the Math Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing assessment which is done on the computer. This assessment is adaptive. When a student answers a question correctly, a more challenging question is posed. If the student answers incorrectly, an easier question follows. Students have also completed FastBridge testing which assesses knowledge of mathematical concepts along with computation. All of these test measures provide a snapshot of your child. This enables teachers to make appropriate placements for students in extra support groups or enrichment groups.

Refer to the website below for more information.

<https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>

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.

www.ixl.com

If you are interested in learning more about the Common Core Standards and mathematical practices visit www.achievethecore.org.