



Smith Spectacular

January 23, 2018



Students did a fantastic job with the NWEA's this last week. Second quarter ends this week. Progress reports will be coming home on Friday, February 2nd. Reminder, there is no school this Friday, Jan. 26. Teachers will be in professional learning.

Fourth grade writers have been working hard on writing essays! Students have learned how to write strong thesis statements and how to support thesis statements with reasons and evidence. Fourth graders have strong opinions!

Fourth grade math students have worked diligently on their multiplication facts and applying that knowledge to multi-digit multiplication. Now, they are using what they know about multiplication and are practicing multi-digit division. They continue to be exposed to real-life word problems that allow the students to practice all the skills they have learned thus far. I encourage students to grab some flash cards and become more fluent with their facts, making the word problems more comfortable to tackle.

Fourth grade readers have been hard at work learning all about nonfiction texts and how to decipher them. Students have learned how to decode a text's structure, find the main idea and supporting details, and summarize what they have learned. Fourth graders have also worked on breaking apart tough words by learning a wide variety of prefixes and suffixes. Students have found that the more they read, the easier it gets!

Third Grade fun!
The Titanic has sailed again! Once again we are studying the Titanic.

Although this unit is considered an informational unit in our reading curriculum, we have included math, science and social studies. We have used our texts to identify main idea and supporting details, identifying fact and opinions, and identifying author's purpose in writing. The era of the Titanic has provided us with many rich discussions involving classes of passengers and the Gilded Era. Students were surprised to learn about employment conditions, wages and what happened if a worker got hurt or took too long at lunch. They were interested to learn about the science involved with icebergs and how that science impacted the Titanic.

Kindergarten and Pre-K Registration Thursday, February 8, 2018

The Smith School will hold Kindergarten Registration and Pre- K Registration on Thursday, February 8, 2018 from 12:00 - 5:00 PM in the conference room. Children do not need to be present on this day, but must be five years old on or before October 15, 2018 in order to attend kindergarten during the 2018-2019 school year. Students must be four years old on or before October 15, 2018 to be eligible for Pre-K for the 2018- 2019 school year. Students need to be a legal resident of Winterport or Frankfort in order to attend Kindergarten and Pre-K at Smith School. Please bring the following items with you to registration:

- Certification of Vital Record (hospital birth certificate is no longer acceptable)
- Immunization Record
- Proof of Residency
- Recent Photograph of Student

You may call the office at 223- 4282 with any questions for Kindergarten Registration and 322-5086 with any questions for Pre-K Registration.

Pre-K Openings

There are currently openings in our Pre K for the remainder of the school year. If your child was 4 by Oct. 15, 2017 and you are interested, please contact Dawn Moore at dmoore@rsu22.us.

Why Fit In When You Were Born to Stand Out?

That's what the students and staff in Ms. Beckett's room discussed prior to a very wintery break! The kids had a wonderful time decorating individual snowflakes to reflect their personal uniqueness. After the fun of glittering, coloring, and cutting, the students' snowflakes were laminated and displayed on our bulletin board in the Woods Wing. If you get a chance, come check it out!



Growth Mindset Transparency



Over the last few months we have shared ideas on how to build a growth mindset in your child. We hope that you have tried some of these ideas and you have seen a change in your child's attitude toward hard work. Being transparent and sharing the mistakes we make as adults is another positive way to instill growth mindset. For example, reflecting on how you solved a problem at work gives your child

the understanding that everyone has times when they need to stick with a problem and push through. Share strategies and examples of how you practice perseverance and it will become a strategy your child can use!

Learning Styles

What is a Learning Style?

We used to think that everyone studied best in the same way—sitting alone quietly at a desk in a well-lit room. Recently, researchers have found that this “style” of acquiring new knowledge doesn't work for everyone. Some people will remember a paragraph better if they read it while lying on the sofa rather than sitting at a desk. Some people will remember it better if they're listening to music. The individual way in which each of us learns best is our personal learning style. The following Tips for Parents will help you better know what to look for to understand your child's learning styles.

Why is Learning Style Important?

Learning style is more than a question of being physically comfortable while studying. A child who doesn't study according to his or her learning style will have trouble learning and retaining new information. This mismatch not only affects your child's performance, but also his or her attitude toward learning. In other words, learning style relates to your child's motivation. It's important to remember that children can learn almost any subject matter if it's taught in a manner consistent with their learning style. By the same token, when learning style is ignored, your child's chances of failing increase substantially. By supporting your child's learning style, you help make learning easier and more enjoyable—a rewarding, lifelong pursuit for your child.

What is my child's learning style?

Notice the way your children study. Do they like to study in front of the television or with music? Do they close the door to their rooms and disappear for an hour or two? If it works, don't try to change your child's routine. It may seem hard to believe that your child is actually learning, but remember, you may have a very different learning style.

Learning styles can change. In fact, most children start out with a more global learning style and become more analytic as they get older. But this doesn't mean that your child will eventually end up at a desk.

The Classroom

Teachers support different learning styles when they set up their classroom. You may notice one area may have traditional desks, another may have rugs, pillows, or beanbag chairs. There could also be areas in the classroom where lighting sources are different. Classrooms are also often divided into different areas so that children with one learning style can study in one area without interfering with children in another area where a different learning style is being supported.

(<http://www.thelearningcommunity.us>)

For more information about discovering your child's learning style:

<https://www.schoolfamily.com/school-family-articles/article/826-what-is-your-childs-learning-style>.



A SLICE OF PIE!
(Partners in Education)

Join us on Friday, **Feb. 9th** from **6:00-8:00** for PIE's annual Valentine Sock Hop and Cakewalk. There will be dancing, a giant cakewalk, raffles, concessions, "Go Noodles" and more! This will be a fun event for all ages. We hope to see you there!

PIE is accepting donations of sweets for the Valentine Cake Walk. These can be cakes or ANY baked good, store-bought or homemade. Donation forms went home in backpacks and can also be found on the school website. Donations should be brought to the event or sent in the morning of Feb. 9th for families who are unable to attend. Thanks for any and all contributions!

Who doesn't like to win a great raffle prize? PIE's fundraising efforts often include fun raffles at our events and we are always looking

for donations from the community for these great raffle prizes. Do you own a business in the community or know someone who does? PIE is gratefully accepting gift cards or items (for kids and adults alike) that can be raffled at our events to help raise money for Smith School. If you are interested in making a donation, contact any PIE member or email us at adamo@roadrunner.com. We appreciate your support!

Happy New Year everyone! I hope Box Top collecting is on everyone's New Year's Resolution list! Each month the class that collects the most Box Tops will have Baxter the Box Top Bear to care for and hang out with in their classroom. Baxter is happily hanging out with Mrs H Pattersons class for the month of January and will be heading to Mrs LaBreque's class for the month of February. Who will be the lucky class for the month of March?! Every Box Top collected is worth 10 cents, send them in one at a time, in a baggie, an envelope or try to fill out a collection sheet each month. Collection sheets do not have to be filled out 100% to be sent in. Collect what you can, involve your family and friends! Thank you everyone and happy collecting! -Nina McKenney - Box Top Coordinator

Next PIE meeting date: **Tuesday, Feb. 13th** at **6:30** in the library.

Upcoming Events:

Friday, January 26: Second quarter ends

Friday, January 26: NO SCHOOL

Friday, February 16: Early dismissal, 11:30

Monday-Friday, February 19-23: School Vacation