

THE RAM REPORT

NOVEMBER 2018

In the Know With PTO:

Spirit Wear: 10/19 - 11/2 Get your orders in!

Holiday Shack Wrapping: 11/29 Volunteers needed.

Family Fun Night @ Skyzone: 11/5 4-8pm JUMP! JUMP!

PTO meeting: 11/13 @9:15am See you there!

Start your morning with Dad: 11/14 Muffins and bagels, Yummy!

Author Visit: 11/15 Jerry Pallotta

Fall Scholastic Book Fair: 11/19 and 11/20 Enchanted Forest theme brimming w/woodland wonder.

News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten - Our Kindergarten classes have really been traveling!!! We've been traveling through the alphabet by learning our letters: m, a, s and p, t & i in our Wonders Reading series. We've traveled over the rainbow by reviewing our colors and learning our numbers and shapes in Math class. We've traveled on a school bus to Unangst Tree Farm where we enjoyed a hayride to the pumpkin patch and we even got to pick our own pumpkins. We also went through a maze; played with corn kernels, and got to pet and feed farm animals. We had fun observing, measuring, and investigating our pumpkins. We got to guess our costumes before traveling by foot around our school in colorful Halloween costumes, too!

This month, a paper turkey will be traveling home with each Kindergarten student so that families can synergize, decorate and disguise the turkey to save it from becoming part of the Thanksgiving Feast! We will display these creatively disguised turkeys in our school hallway during Parent/Teacher Conference time. Before we travel home for our Thanksgiving vacation, we will have a feast with our fifth-grade buddies. Kindergarten students will travel back in time on that special day and dress as a Native American or a Pilgrim. We are looking forward to the holidays and our next traveling trip in December, where we will need our warm pajamas. Kindergarten is really on the go!!!!!!

Grade 1 - Our first-grade children are enjoying all of the wonders of the season of autumn. We are reading and writing about this beautiful season and using fall images

to practice our math facts and enhance our combinations skills. We have discussed fire safety, enjoyed our time at the fire station, celebrated Halloween, and learned about Veterans' Day.

We are working diligently to grow academically and socially. *Please continue to support your child in reading by sharing books on a daily basis.* Remember to practice "Heart Words" and Wonders activities on the computer, too, to enhance your child's understanding of how our words work so they can read and write even more effectively. Please practice math addition facts as well so they can do solve these quickly and efficiently. We are working hard to develop our leadership habits and appreciate all of your positive support in fostering respect and cooperation in each child.

As colder weather arrives, it is important to dress your child in layers in order to maintain comfort in our classrooms and out of doors. Please note that we will go outside for recess as long as there is no rain and the temperatures exceed the freezing point. First graders will continue to have a daily snack break. *Please remember to send a small, healthy snack for your child each day.*

Please continue to support your child in completing homework. We look forward to the opportunity to meet you during parent-teacher conferences.

Grade 2 - Even though we try to be grateful year-round, November is a month where we focus on giving thanks. Thank you for allowing us to share your children, teach your children, guide your children and help your children

grow. Thank you for your continued support at home and in our classrooms. We are grateful for you and all of the Spring Garden families that make up this community.

This month, second grade is excited to be reading about ANIMAL DISCOVERIES in our WONDERS reading series! We will focus on animals and nature, animal stories, animal habitats, baby animals, and animal poetry. We are eagerly reading 4-5 selections a week and working hard to become better readers. Children are to continue reading nightly, independently, or with a grown-up. In math this month, second graders will be exploring the world of geometry! We will be studying Investigations Unit 2: Shapes, Blocks, and Symmetry. Keep practicing math facts at home, as this is an important skill we build on all year long. In science, we are continuing to experiment and learn about balance and motion and air and weather. How fascinating! Second grade loves the inquiry-based approach and really thinks like scientists! In social studies, we are looking forward learning about the Mayflower's voyage to America and studying the first Thanksgiving! We are looking forward to the holidays that lie ahead!

Grade 3 - Third grade continues to work hard in all subject areas. We can see that students are starting to become more responsible and they are taking ownership of their work. Great job third grade!

*Reading skills...In reading, we are continuing to review character, setting, plot, sequence, cause and effect, main idea, and key details. We will be working on theme and author's point of view in the upcoming weeks. Please make sure your child is reading nightly and logging it in their student planner. Students will begin taking the reading assessments independently starting in the second quarter.

*Math...In math, the students continue to learn strategies to help them master multiplication skills. Students are finished with the multiplication topics and are enjoying learning division. Please continue to practice multiplication facts nightly with your child to achieve mastery. We have been working on our Very Important Facts on First in Math at school. Students should also be working on these at home. Our goal for the spring is to have completed all of the addition and subtraction modules.

*Leader in Me...Students are setting academic goals and continuing to work on their leadership skills.

Third grade students and teachers are excited to see the finished Thanksgiving turkeys. Please remember that

these are due the first week of November. Thank you for your continued support at home.

Enjoy your fall break!

Grade 4 - Both teachers as well as 4th graders are settling into the Wonders Reading Routine. The Reading stories and activities for Unit 2 focus on, "What can animals teach us?" This is the big idea that initiates collaborative conversation between students as we read, write and complete close reading activities. 4th grade will read a variety of genres such as; folktales, fables, drama, mystery, and narrative nonfiction. All of which are, of high interest to spark our young readers to interact with higher order thinking and writing, which leads to a deeper comprehension! Please encourage your child to continue to read nightly.

Our trip to the Freemansburg Canal was an adventure! Walking into the locktender's house, tasting homemade foods such as sauerkraut, harnessing mules, and walking in the canal that once hosted hundreds of canal boats in a day, was the perfect way to experience canal life back in 1925! Thank you once more, to our parents who accompanied the 4th Grade on the trip!

On November 29th, all 4th grade students of the school district will be travelling to Northeast Middle School for a morning concert to watch the Philharmonic Orchestra. Please remember to have your child dress appropriately for the concert. Be sure to ask them what their favorite tune was.

November 19th and 20th are designated parent teacher conference days. Be sure to sign up online to schedule a conference with your child's teacher.

As the weather turns colder, please remind your child to bring their coats and hats as we still go out for daily recess unless the temperature drops to freezing.

Grade 5 - The weather is changing as we transition into marking period two. The weeks are flying by!

The season of Fall brings about many changes. The temperature dips and the leaves begin to drop... and grade five goes to the cave! We will visit Lost River Caverns in Hellertown as a culminating event to our studies about the earth's changing crust. At the cave, we will review the main concepts of erosion, types of rocks, and cave formations.

It's hard to believe one marking period is already done. That's 1/4 of the year! Of course, this means the first report card will be coming home soon. Please know that it will not include as many categories as previous years. In addition, because the BASD has implemented a new

reading program this year, the grades you will see in the reading categories have been predetermined by the district, not the classroom teacher. Then the remaining report cards will show reading grades determined by the classroom teacher.

The end of October brings the conclusion of our math work related to multiplication. From now on, division will be the topic of study. Traditionally, this is a difficult concept for many students. Generally speaking, the difficulty is a result of the children having limited understanding of their basic facts. This is where First in Math can help. If you are experiencing difficulty, spend extra time each night at home working on your facts because the next unit will require you to have your adding, subtracting, and multiplication facts mastered. 1/4 of the year is done. 3/4 remains... and there's lots still to come!

Art - Greetings from the Art Room! October has been filled with students investigating who they are. Students have learned about how colors relate to their own emotions and how knowing this allows them to use colors intentionally in their artworks to express their emotions. This understanding of color is now beginning to be translated into their self-portraits where different grades are investigating different parts of who they are, like their homes, the alter egos they want to create and how others see them.

Kindergarten is investigating color mixing through the creation of caterpillars where they mixed the secondary colors together by hand! They then learned about why leaves change colors and created leaves that show these layers of color that exist in nature. We will begin learning about symmetry and creating artworks that are focused on this next.

I am excited to close out October with our first ever Family Art Evening. Students will come with a parent and learn and create art that is centered around the Day of the Dead. Working with the Spanish teacher, we will be adding the cultural element to create more understanding for the cultural beliefs and traditions behind this celebration.

Digital Literacy - Jerry Pallotta - AUTHOR VISIT

Children's author, Jerry Pallotta's visit on November 15th, is fast approaching. His litany of fanciful and entertaining titles began with a simple idea - joining the 26 letters of the alphabet with the beach and ocean so dear to his heart. Ocean Alphabet was his first book and the Jerry Pallotta franchise has grown exponentially; adding 30

alphabet/subject book titles to a host of other visually stimulating and engaging books - including the explosively popular Who Would Win series.

Having fearlessly faced over 2 million children in over 3500 schools, Jerry Pallotta is infinitely adept at providing incredible children's books for a wide range of young readers. His warm, welcoming style draws the students into his world to both jump start and encourage their love of reading.

BARNES AND NOBLE NIGHT

Spring Garden Elementary School night at Barnes and Noble is scheduled for December 11th.

Readings of Holiday titles by your favorite teachers, special deals on books by many of your favorite authors and a chance to raise money for Spring Garden, are all part of a fun night out at Barnes and Noble's Southmont Center store.

Come out and join all of your friends, old and new, for a night of entertainment on December 11, 2018.

Instrumental Music - Band and string lessons are going well. Every student should have their own lesson book for music lessons. The title of the book is Essential Elements, Book 1 for their instrument. If your child does not have a book yet, please purchase one as soon as possible! Also, please help your child get into a regular practice routine. The more they practice at home the better their sound, note reading and confidence will be.

There are some upcoming events for returning 5th grade band/orchestra students who are participating in the Winter concert. The Winter Concert is December 10th/11th during the school day. Barnes & Noble Night is December 11th and it is an optional event in which students can participate. A permission slip for this recently went home.

Spanish - Students are continuing to learn vocabulary and culture in our Spanish classes. They remember many concepts and vocabulary words from week to week. It is truly exciting to witness their enthusiasm and growth. Topics for the month include colors, numbers, and of course culture. We also are proud to be learning about the Mexican Holiday, "El día de los Muertos". The Art program and Spanish program had their first combined after school event where they made many crafts and learned even more about this holiday. On a daily basis, students ask inquisitive questions, wanting to know more about the Hispanic Culture! I encourage all students to go home and share what they are learning weekly in class. Remember, if you would like to see

occasional posts about what we are learning and some supplemental resources to use at home, please follow me on Twitter @CierechJen

Vocal Music - RAM Ringers, Spring Garden's very own 4th and 5th Grade Hand Chime Choir, Boomwhacker, and Bell Set Choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, October 31st from 8:20-8:55AM.

In other "noteworthy" news, please mark your calendars with the following dates...

On **Monday, December 10th at 2:00PM** and **Tuesday, December 11th at 9:30AM**, Spring Garden Elementary School students will present their annual **Winter Holiday Concerts**. Students in **Grades 3, 4, and 5** will be singing tunes that will have you "**CELEBRATING**" the holidays. **RAM Ringers** will perform a few selections as well. Students in the **5th Grade Spring Garden Strings** and **5th Grade Spring Garden Band** will be performing their holiday selections. We welcome all parents/guardians, relatives, and guests of those students performing to attend the Winter Holiday Concert. The snow date for the Winter Holiday Concert is **Friday, December 14th**.

Physical Education - All classes are enjoying the great outdoors! Finally, the cooler, less humid weather has arrived so part of each class is spent on the field next to the playground. The upper grades have completed a Unit on Soccer and are now enjoying Floor Hockey Games. The younger students began the year learning how to move their bodies in different ways. Students are

expected to skip, hop, jump, gallop and perform a grapevine step by the time they reach Third Grade and they love playing the games that reinforce those skills. Perhaps they have mentioned Snake in the Grass, Dead Bug, Couch Potato and Octopus Tag?

The Mileage Club, a walk/run activity that takes place during Fifth Grade Recess is in full swing. Students earn a "punch" on their score cards every time they complete a lap. Students who fill up a card with twenty-five "punches" earn a prize.

Over forty Fourth and Fifth Graders are participating in the Fun with Fitness program on Tuesday morning. Students come to school early for forty-five minutes of sport and game activities.

On another note, the Annual Fifth Grade Ice Skating Trip will take place on Tuesday, December 18th from 9:15 - 11:00. This is a great chance for our students to learn a life-time sport. I will teach a beginner skate lesson to all **new** skaters. Later, the children will have a chance to earn a certificate if they are able to perform a "U" - turn, zig-zag through cones and skate backward. Students who have mastered basic skate skills may even take part in a modified Ice Hockey Game!

Parents who are available from 9:15 to 9:45 to tie skates, please get in touch with me at jdeibler@basdschools.org or send a note in with your child. I'm also looking for parents who can come out on the ice with us.

Let's Keep Kids Moving!

Habit 2 – Begin with the End in Mind

Have a Plan

I plan ahead and set goals.

I do things that have meaning and make a difference.

I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision.

I look for ways to be a good citizen.

