

THE RAM REPORT

OCTOBER 2018

Greetings from our Principal

I welcome all our Spring Garden families to October! As the weather turns colder and thoughts turn to less pleasant weather, I want to remind all of you of some important safety information.

Please park LEGALLY and cross the street ONLY at one of the two crossing guards located to either side of the school. Please DO NOT pull into the teacher parking lot unless you have a handicapped placard clearly visible in your window.

Please do not drop off your children unattended prior to 8:50 AM. Adult supervision is NOT provided outside for students when they arrive significantly early to school. In cases of extreme cold or rain, we will bring the children into the building at approximately 8:45. Please do not drop them off early!

We ask for your cooperation with our important safety tips as we put the well-being of all our students first in our minds, especially as the weather gets worse during those winter months.

In the Know With PTO:

- *PTO meeting: 10/2 @ 7pm*
- *Picture Day: 10/3 Dress to impress and don't forget to put on a smile!*
- *Family Fun Movie Night: 10/12 @ 6pm. Can't wait to see which movie the students voted on!*
 - *Spirit Wear Sale: 10/19-11/2 Show some school spirit!*
 - *Halloween Parade: 10/26 @ 1:45pm. Get creative with those costumes!*
 - *Family Fun Night at Skyzone: 11/5 4-8pm JUMP! JUMP!*
- *Thanks to the Spring Gardeners for making the school look beautiful and Thank You all for another successful Ram-A-Thon!*

News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten - Fall into Kindergarten with Mrs. Connors, Mrs. Fondl, Miss Gregoris, and Mrs. Ostrelch and all the new students! We are jumping right into learning and are off to a great start. During the first two weeks of school we spent a lot of time getting to know each other and learning how to be a leader in Kindergarten. All of the kindergarten students have been working hard to be good listeners, show a kind heart, use gentle hands and feet and use inside voices. Three cheers for Kindergarten!

Also, during the month of September, all of the children have been introduced to our essential questions and counting how many days we have been in school. We are enjoying learning all about the calendar and predicting the weather forecast. Sounds, letters, and numbers, oh my! Who knows what letter their name begins with?

Through Wonders, the students are being introduced to capital and lowercase letters and getting used to the new routines of our workstations. We are also working hard to write our names correctly. Lowercase letters can be difficult, but we keep on practicing. We are also working hard to sharpen our math skills. Counting with our attendance stick is helpful to find out how many students are here each day. Practicing our numbers is fun too!

Having an older buddy to read with is the BEST! Kindergarten has met a special new friend that they will get to visit with each month. We look forward to reading books, playing games, and completing special projects with our fifth-grade buddies.

As we quickly fall into October we look forward to reading new books, learning more letters and sounds,

and using manipulatives to help us learn more in math. We also look forward to special events like picking pumpkins at the pumpkin patch and dressing up for the Halloween Parade right here at Spring Garden. So far, we are having a spooktacular time in Kindergarten!

Grade 1 - Our first graders are off to a great start! We have learned a lot about how leaders follow the 7 Habits in school so each of them can do their best jobs of learning. We've created class contracts, promising to follow the rules. It will take some time to learn all the new routines and responsibilities, but we're working hard and moving forward.

In literacy we started the year in our new Wonders curriculum by reviewing all of the letters and their sounds and how to write them during our Start Smart time. Then we moved into reading and writing about books. There are many interesting stories that have surprises and fun things to talk about. ***Please continue to read with your child every day. Also, practice the high frequency words in fun ways so your child will be able to read and write them from memory.***

In math we've been counting and working with numbers up to 30. We've also practiced how to write the digits and that our numbers have groups of ten using ten frames and bundles. We have compared numbers to see which represent more or less than others. We have been moving into basic addition.

We've also learned about apples and enjoyed hearing about Johnny Appleseed's life and learning from his example. In October we'll learn more about fall and pumpkins and Christopher Columbus. Halloween is also right around the corner!

Thank you for all the donations of tissues, wipes, and hand sanitizer! They help us keep our room as germ free as we can! Donations of glue sticks are also helpful!

Grade 2 - Welcome autumn! Second grade is excited to be reading about Friends and Family in our WONDERS reading series! Pets and animals are the focus this month. We are eagerly reading 4-5 selections a week and working hard to become better readers. Children are encouraged to read nightly independently, or with a grown-up. In math this month, second graders will be exploring the world of different ways to add and subtract numbers. We will be moving into geometry towards the end of the month. 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! We are looking forward to the holiday party and parade at the end of the month!

Grade 3 - Third grade has settled into a routine and students are adjusting nicely. We have already jumped into a challenging curriculum so please check the planners and folders nightly to help your child meet the increased expectations. Students are learning multiplication and division concepts, the human body in science, communities in social studies, and reading and writing skills through the newly implemented Wonders program. We are fortunate to have these new materials!

Third grade is a critical year in the transition from primary (K-2) to intermediate (3-5). We have focused on Habit #1, "Be Proactive" since the first day. Students are proud of themselves when they act responsibly. There are more leadership opportunities for older students. In the next month we will be focused on Habit #2, "Begin with the End in Mind". We will be setting academic goals with your children that are personalized to them.

A few reminders for this year. We have a snack every day. Please don't send in snacks with nuts. Dress for the weather. We go outside every day that we can. Sometimes it is cool in the classroom so send in a sweatshirt that they can put it on over short-sleeved shirts. Have your child explain what is in their folder. They should be able to tell you what they need signed and returned.

Students are looking forward to the Halloween parade and classroom party. We will enjoy some healthy treats and we will engage in some fun games and crafts. Students will be bringing home a paper turkey to decorate. Please use your creativity and help design and disguise your masterpiece! More information regarding this project will be sent home in the coming weeks. Happy Fall!

Grade 4 - Welcome to a new school year! It's always great to get back to school to see old friends, make new friends, and then work together for a successful school year. This year 4th Grade will focus on a new reading series called Wonders, as well as the Leader In Me Program. It's our mission as 4th Grade Leaders to be responsible for our learning every day! As a complement to our 7 Habits program, students will be assembling their Leader in Me Notebooks. The notebooks will include both academic and social goals, successes and progress in subject areas, as well as students'

celebrations throughout the year. Emphasis is on students taking responsibility for their learning, along with their participation in leadership roles and activities throughout the school. This year all students will set goals relating to the First In Math program. Meeting these goals include "LEAD MEASURES." These are daily activities to progress a student towards achievement of their personal FIM goal. Be sure to ask your 4th Grader about their personal "LEAD MEASURES."

Fourth Grade will have their first field trip on October 15, to the Freemansburg Canal Education Center. This is an educational enhancement to our Social Studies Unit of the Lehigh Canal. Students will need to bring a bag lunch, and a drink in a plastic throwaway container. We will depart school at 9:15, a.m. and return at approximately 2:00 p.m.

We look forward to a great year in 4th Grade by meeting our academic goals while having fun learning! We appreciate the support and participation of our families in the educational process.

Grade 5 - It's hard to believe but one month of our final year at Spring Garden is already complete. Here is what we've been up to.

In math class, we get to spend 20 minutes each morning working on First in Math. The BASD's goal is to have us complete our Very Important Facts (VIFs) by the end of March. Many of us have already completed our adding and subtracting. There are even a few that have finished their multiplication and division. Each week we track the amount of stickers we earn. Some are making a competition out of it, but the most important thing is that we are spending quality time learning math concepts.

In reading, Wonders is our new program. It certainly has us on the move each day! We transition quickly from whole group activities to ones in small groups all afternoon. There are times when we meet with the teacher in very small groups to do intensive reading, sometimes we are at our desk doing a grammar lesson with classmates, and then there are times we are rereading text with the whole class looking for answers to questions. It has been a challenge to keep up with the expected pace, but we are getting better.

Some special events have happened too. We met our kindergarten buddies for the first time. That was lots of fun! Many of us have taken on leadership roles like safety patrol and morning announcements. In the upcoming weeks, we will be anticipating our trip to Lost River

Caverns, which will support our studies of the earth in Science class.

The first month of school has been a hectic ride so far, but we are getting settled in and look forward to an enjoyable year.

Art - Greetings from the Art Room!

As the month of September comes to an end, I must say that I have already seen each student begin to show me the artist they are. Students in 1st - 5th grade were presented with design challenges where they needed to use creative thinking, problem solving and thinking outside of the box to create an artwork or meet a challenge. These Design Thinking projects/challenges were a way to explore students' ability to take a challenge, work with a partner(s), come up with and execute an artwork of their planning.

The month of October will be filled with students investigating who they are in explorative ways. Portraiture is a fundamental skill in art and learning the mathematical proportions, using shapes as well as connecting portraits to themselves is the goal. Students will learn about the emotional side of colors and how to use these colors in their portrait in an intentional way. With this knowledge, students will have the chance to express their individuality and share what makes them unique.

We will also begin to investigate writing "artist statements" to explain what their artwork means and what they are trying to say through their artwork

Digital Literacy - Digital Literacy is a fresh approach to learning. Combining a traditional library environment with computer skills - including several programs that introduce basic coding techniques, and the introduction of Maker Space projects - simple programming, basic robotics, computational thinking and simple engineering design. Digital Literacy allows students to develop critical thinking skills in an information rich environment. Welcome to the new age of skill development and research.

Instrumental Music - Instrumental Music lessons are off to a good start. String lessons are on Mondays and Band lessons are on Wednesdays and Fridays. Students have lessons one day a week with the time of the lesson rotating throughout the school day. Fifth grade students who are in their second year of playing are setting practice goals and trying to get to #115 in the lesson book by the end of December so they can participate in All-City.

Fourth grade students are learning proper playing and rest positions, how to make their first notes, and will soon start learning to read music. Please encourage your child to practice at least 15 minutes a day five days a week. The more consistently your child practices, the better he/she will progress in playing!

Spanish - Bienvenidos a la clase de español. We have had a great start to the school year in our Spanish classes! Students have shown excitement about learning another language and culture. Students with Hispanic backgrounds have been great role models for their classmates. Students have learned greetings, farewells, classroom objects and emotions in Spanish. Students have also learned about the culture of many Spanish-speaking countries, some of which are Argentina and Dominican Republic. We are in the middle of celebrating Hispanic Heritage month that celebrates those of Hispanic heritage who are living in the United States. If you would like to read updates on other things happening in our classes, please follow me on twitter at @CiarechJen.

The
Leader in Me™

great happens here

Habit 1 – Be Proactive

You're in Charge

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

