

THE RAM REPORT

MARCH 2019

In the Know with the PTO!

*March 5th: **PTO Meeting** 9:15 AM First step to get more involved with what is happening at school. See you there!*

*March 12th: **Early Dismissal** 12:05 PM*

*March 12th: **Family Fun Night at Panera RT 512** 4-8 PM*

*March 19th: **Pre-K Literacy Night** 6 PM*

*March 22nd: **LEADERSHIP DAY!***

Thank you for another wonderful family fun night at Franks Pizza and for all the support in making Book Fair successful this snow filled winter.

Gertrude Hawk Fundraiser has begun. You can support the school online using this link and code: 719571 <https://www.gertrudehawkchocolates.com/fund-raising>

Our 6th annual Carnival is right around the corner. We need your help to continue a fun, community event that provides funds to better our children's educational experiences at Spring Garden Elementary School! Contact Brie Chambers for more information regarding sponsorship/ donations at briechambers@gmail.com

News and Notes from Classroom Teachers

Kindergarten - We had a blast dressing up to celebrate Read Across America Week and honoring Dr. Seuss! We are looking forward to celebrating St. Patrick's Day and SPRING! We are excited for spring! The students are enjoying working on literacy skills in small group and stations. We are focusing on decoding and reading whole words. In addition to decoding and reading whole words in literacy, this month we are learning all about baby animals, pets, and animal habitats. Please continue to practice the high frequency words with your children. In math, we are learning about 2-D and 3-D shapes and then will move on to different types of graphs.

Information regarding conference make-ups will be coming soon. Thank you so much for all your constant dedication and support!

Grade 1 - February has come and gone with a whole host of exciting new learning experiences for our first graders. We are diligently working in reading, exploring all types of literature and encouraging the children to

take on more challenging books. Our math classes are filled with basic addition and subtraction fact reviews, problem solving, and taking surveys. We had fun with Ground Hog Day and Super Bowl surveys, celebrated the 100th Day of School, and shared valentines with our friends. We have also had fun learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. Being able to be the teacher in our conferences was a big highlight!

March will bring more opportunities to read, write wonderful stories, and develop speed and accuracy in mathematics. Eventually we'll be able to see some green for St. Patrick's Day and spring! Maybe we'll even have a visit from a mischievous leprechaun.

Please continue to listen to your child read every day, practice the heart words and math facts.

Need: more wipes for our classrooms.

Grade 2 - March is said to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb...2nd grade is looking forward to warmer spring weather! In reading this month, 2nd graders will continue learning about "Our Life, Our World," by

studying Earth Changes, Special Cultures, and Nature. We will be reading a variety of genres to learn about these topics including expository text, folktales and poetry. Continue to read with your children at home and encourage them to read for pleasure. In math, we are continuing to work on 2-digit, even 3-digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping (borrowing). Students should be working on basic fact practice daily. Strengthening these skills will help them with the regrouping work. In social studies, we are continuing to study maps. We are utilizing technology to explore different types of maps and locations. We also look forward to our Flat Stanley project returning to school! In science, 2nd graders are engaged in studying air and weather, and balance and motion.

Grade 3 - Third grade is very busy as we start the third quarter! We are thankful to our room parents for throwing a fantastic, fun-filled Valentine's Day party. We also visited East Hills Middle School to watch Alice in Wonderland! We are starting to prepare for many end-of-the-year field trips, including a trip to Burnside Plantation and Math Fun Day. Stay tuned for more information!

In math, we have been learning to estimate to the nearest ten and hundred, as well as adding and subtracting three-digit numbers. Soon, we will also begin learning how to multiply by multiples of ten. In Literacy, we are busy in Wonders Unit 4. Students are learning how to ask and answer questions to increase their comprehension, as well as figuring out the author's point of view. As always, please encourage your child to read for 15 minutes per night and complete 10 minutes of First in Math to increase their fact fluency!

Grade 4 - 4th grade recently attended the musical play, Alice In Wonderland, performed by the drama club of East Hills Middle School. Our students were amazed by the singing, dancing and acting abilities of the 6, 7, and 8 Graders of East Hills. This is just one example of the many leadership opportunities that students can look forward to when they attend middle school.

Snow storms, and school delays didn't stop our 4th grade leaders! Student Led conferences persevered either at home or in school! These conferences gave our 4th Graders another way to show off their Leadership Abilities by conducting the conference and leading discussions regarding their academic successes and attaining their goals.

March means celebrating reading with Read Across America Month! We've had a week of activities to

celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday; including guest readers in our classroom. Be sure to ask your child to share the fun! Please keep encouraging your 4th grader to read daily to improve their fluency, and complete their reading log!

This month Math includes topics on decimals and measurement. Students are achieving their goals set in FIM by working hard in school as well as home. Thank you for your continued support!

Leadership Celebration Day is March 22 from 9:30-10:45 am. You're invited to celebrate your child's leadership as a student at Spring Garden as well as in the community! 4th Graders will be highlighting a self-chosen career and share their future ambitions of leadership! We welcome you on this day to share in their success!

Grade 5 - Do you think February was a mess? We do! Between snow days off of school, half days, vacation days, holiday parties, book fairs, conferences, canceled conferences, and conferences canceled again, it was a blur of a month. Hopefully March will offer us nicer weather and more consistency in the classroom!

In math class, we are working with measurement concepts. In topic 10, volume was the focus. No, I don't mean how loudly the students complained about doing math, I mean the amount of space inside a three-dimensional shape, like a rectangular prism. Just multiply the length, width, and height and you've got it! In topic 11, we will be moving on to other measurement concepts related to liquids, weights, and distances. We will be measuring in both customary units and metrics, so beware!

Recently, we have been entertained by both East Hills and Nitschmann's Spring plays. It's pretty impressive to see how well middle school kids perform in their dramatic roles. In both, there were some familiar Spring Garden "graduates" in action. It is always nice to see our students move on to bigger and better things. Specifically, it was very entertaining seeing our very own 5th grader, Lucas Rodriguez, on stage. He was an awesome 10 of hearts!

The very beginning of March brings with it a fun, annual event. To celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday, our school has special events planned from February 25 to March 1... everything from Crazy Sock Day to Hat Day. Be sure to follow the schedule that was sent home with the students. The week culminates in a book swap that Mrs. Cassidy's class has been preparing. So be sure to bring in books to donate to make this event extra special this year.

In conclusion, the third marking period will conclude on March 29th. Can you believe it? It seems like we just began the year together, but we already need to start thinking about end-of-the-year activities, like classroom visits from middle school guidance counselors and administrators. It's both exciting and concerning at the same time, so get ready!

Digital Literacy – Our mission this month in Digital Literacy is to explore the types of books that have garnered awards from the literary community. We are discussing the types of stories and styles of writing that make a book both enjoyable and informative. The Caldecott and Newbery Awards and on through the Pulitzer prize provide all levels of readers a wealth of quality literature to round out their selections in school projects and for their own reading. Additionally, the exploration of research options for the older students reinforces the types of print and on-line resources available to them for in school projects and for simple curiosity. Our rotating display of books during Black History Month in February, offered our students a glimpse into the immense struggles and tremendous successes of African American luminaries.

Instrumental Music - Morning rehearsals for band and orchestra have started! In our first rehearsal students learned where their section is seated within the ensemble. They played some warm-up scales and exercises and began working on one or two of the concert pieces. Each week we will progress in our playing as a group and delve into the music a little further. Lessons will continue as usual throughout the week. In lessons, our focus will be working in the lesson book to learn new notes, rhythms and songs. Our ensemble rehearsals will focus on playing together and preparing specific songs for the Spring concert. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Walmer!

Physical Education - One of my goals as Spring Garden's Physical Education Teacher is to provide plenty of exercise opportunities for students in the upper grades. Here are some upcoming events:

- **Wednesday Morning Tennis Lessons For All Students In Third Grade During The Month Of March.** I will teach the fundamentals of tennis, scoring and game play. Students will enter school through the gymnasium doors at 8:15. Students are dismissed at the end of the session to their homerooms. This is a free activity and all equipment is provided.

Many of our students have gone on to play Tennis with the Hanover Township Rally Stars Program, which I run with a Tennis Professional, and some students have even played on local high school teams!

- **Field Hockey At Spring Garden.** Coaches at Freedom High School would like to build a feeder program at the local elementary schools. They reached out to me and I quickly expressed my interest in the program. They are finalizing plans. This is a free after-school program. Look for flyers to come home shortly.

- **Women and Girls Move For Health.** Hanover Township Community Center is once again hosting the Women (and girls) Move for Health Program for ages 11 - 80. This is a twelve-week, run/walk program that promotes long distance walking and running. Participants are placed in groups according to ability. There are walking, walk/jog and running groups. All groups have experienced mentors. The goal of the class is to finish the Hanover Township 5 K Race in June. Details and sign ups can be found on the Hanover Township Community Center website. I have been a proud leader of this program for nearly fifteen years and would love to have some S.G. students and Moms try it out!

If you have questions about any of these programs, please call me at school or use my email address: jdeibler@basdschools.org to correspond. Also, feel free to use me as a resource if your child has an interest in participating in a sport.

Let's Keep Kids Moving!

Vocal Music - Please take note and mark your calendars...

The Spring Garden Spring Vocal Concerts will be held over the course of two days...**Tuesday, May 28th** and **Wednesday, May 29th**. Both of the parent concerts will be **Identical Concerts**. In order to accommodate all audience members with seating, we are suggesting that you come during the following times....

Tuesday, May 28th - 2:00 PM for all parents of Kindergarten & 1st Grade Students

Wednesday, May 29th - 9:30 AM for all parents of 2nd & 5th Grade Students & RAM RINGERS

Again, both parent concerts will be IDENTICAL, and students performing in both concerts include...

Kindergarten, 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade, and the 4th & 5th Grade Spring Garden RAM RINGERS. You may, of course, go to either show if that is all your schedule permits.