

Wildcat Newsletter

Mary C Snow West Side Elementary School

Principal's Corner

If you've been to any events recently at Mary C Snow West Side Elementary you may have seen students with bright neon shirts greeting you throughout the building. These students are part of the Student Lighthouse Team. Our Student Lighthouse Team is a group of students with exceptional leadership skills who are committed to serving our school.

Student Lighthouse Team members must consistently demonstrate the following leadership characteristics:

1. Dependability, reliability, and respect
2. Completes classwork and homework assignments
3. Strong work ethic
4. Exemplary conduct and citizenship in and out of school
5. Excellent attendance (on time with limited absences and early check-outs)
6. Good judgment and decision making skills
7. Comfortable with public speaking
8. Ability to teach and demonstrate the 7 Habits to other students



Thank You!

Thank you to ExxonMobil Educational Alliance for the 2019 Educational Alliance Award of \$500. The Educational Alliance focuses on improvements in math and science from pre-school to higher education. They believe it is fundamentally important to encourage the next generation to pursue studies and careers involved in these fields.

Classroom News

Preschool

Preschool got a visit from Rex the RX teaching us about the hazards of prescription drugs. We had a wonderful field trip to Gritt's Farm. Preschool got to participate in the school-wide awards assembly for the first time ever. We have had a parent celebration and got to walk the school for a Halloween parade. In our classrooms, we have explored water

Upcoming Events

12/23/19-1/3/20

* NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

Monday, 1/6/20

* Students Return

Tuesday, 1/7/20

* Report Cards go home

Tuesday, 1/14/20

* Awards Assembly

Monday, 1/20/20

* NO SCHOOL (MLK Jr. Holiday)

Tuesday, 1/21/20

* NO SCHOOL

(Professional Learning Day for Teachers)

Thursday, 1/30/20

* Clay Center Field Trip (Grade 2-5)

Friday, 2/7/20

* Midterms/CATS Club Day

2/17-21/20

* Book Fair

Wednesday, 2/19/20

* NO SCHOOL

(Professional Learning Day for Teachers)

Thursday, 2/20/20

* Family Night (5:00 - 7:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, 2/25/20

* Class Pictures/Spring Pictures

Friday, 3/6/20

* End of Third Nine Weeks

* Reward Event

3/9-13/20

* Spring Break

Tuesday, 3/17/20

* Report Cards go home

pipes, tubes, tunnels, simple machines, wheels, and exercise. We have also learned the letters *h, i, j, k, l,* and *m* and have been busy counting, adding, and subtracting. We have also learned the rules and routines of the classroom and how to share and take turns with friends. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving lunch with our families, Family Night and our Christmas Celebration on Friday, December 13 at 8:30.

Kindergarten

Language Arts: November proved to be an exciting time for writing/reading in Kindergarten. They are learning to sound out CVC words, label drawings, or just write the beginning sounds for items in their drawings. In December, we will continue this process and also work on our ability to write. We began small reading groups with predictable texts in September 2019. They are so excited to become readers!

Math: We are counting to 50 by 1s! Please practice this at home whenever you can. We are also learning to count by 5s and 10s to 100. We continue to compare numbers less than/greater than/equal to. We will continue to practice writing our numbers 1-10.

Social Studies: This month we will focus on traditions in our own families and then share with each other. We will learn that families can be very different when it comes to celebrating the holidays throughout the year.

Science: We will continue to look out our classroom window at the changing seasons and weather. How lucky we are to have that right in our backyard! There is so much to observe with trees, animals, and the weather.

First Grade

Thank you for attending the Student-Led Parent-Teacher Conferences. The students were proud to share their Leadership notebooks with you. The first graders continue to be excited about learning and they are working hard to become independent readers. Between the three first grade classes our students have read a total of 1,627 books on Epic. The students seem to like non-fiction topics such as: insects, giant machines, dinosaurs, wildebeest migration, sharks etc. Continue to encourage reading by allowing them to read books of their choice. Thank you for your support and together we can anticipate significant growth in reading this school year.

Second Grade

Second Grade has been learning lots of new things and are looking forward to many more things to come. The second nine weeks has had us exploring butterfly lifecycles. We are currently waiting for our caterpillars to come out of their chrysalis. We will be learning about the characteristics of solids and liquids. We will compare and contrast solids and liquids during our investigations.

The month of November we learned about The Thanksgiving Story. We are continuing to practice our Seven Habits. Next nine weeks we will begin exploring the world around us. This will help us learn map skills, oceans and continents.

Our reading stories for the first and second nine weeks have focused on animals. We are now moving our focus onto stories about people and people with animals. Our stories will begin with learning about Helen Keller and some of her amazing accomplishments. Moving into the next nine weeks we will discover dinosaurs, mysterious tadpoles and the people who join in their adventures.

Math has continued to build on our basic facts. Our focus has turned to regrouping. We have been adding 2-digit numbers with and without regrouping. We are now subtracting 2-digit numbers with regrouping. Our next topic is place value and adding and subtracting 3-digit numbers.

Third Grade

During the past nine weeks, we have worked on pumpkin science by weighing and comparing pumpkins with our partners. We have also been learning how to multiply and divide basic facts. We have begun learning about our state, surrounding states, and counties. Also, we are currently working on researching a state park in West Virginia and creating a brochure about it. We have been practicing our creative writing by brainstorming our own inventions. Over the next nine weeks, we will continue practicing our writing by doing a winter themed writing activity. We are also going to continue identifying multiplication and division patterns to improve our fluency. We started a weather unit in science as the season changed from fall to winter.

Fourth Grade

The Fourth Grade will begin doing research on different Indian Tribes.

The behavior is improving and we are reinforcing the importance of being very respectful to all adults.

Mrs. Shuman's class has just finished reading the book *Wonder*. They really enjoyed it. Mrs. Greene's class will begin reading it real soon.

The Fourth Grade students have been working really hard in trying to master their multiplication facts. They are doing well. Practice makes perfect.

Fifth Grade

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM 5TH GRADE!!!!

The fifth graders have incorporated strategies to multiply by two-digit numbers, powers and exponents, divide three- and four-digit dividends by a two-digit divisor, interpret remainders, and adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals.

We are now ready to begin exploring fractions. Students must know their multiplication facts in order to be successful with this operation. Please encourage your child to practice their facts every night.

Unit 2 Reading focus is on wild animals, responsibility, conservation, courage, and animal behaviors. The skills and strategies we are using are Main Ideas and Details, Conclusions and Generalizations, Cause and Effect, Author's Purpose, and Understanding Characters.

We have many exciting events coming up! The fifth graders will be integrating Space Virtual Reality in their learning experiences. This is 21st Century Learning, and we are thrilled that Dr. Carena has incorporated this concept into our instruction. We are the only elementary public school in the county that will include this resource in classroom activities.

Our fifth grade trip to the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium is another fun learning adventure we have planned. We will be inspired by the Animal Kingdom, and become knowledgeable of our responsibility to our world. This trip is based on behavior! Students who have not incorporated the 7 HABITS to become an effective leader will not be joining us on this trip. Please encourage your child to make good decisions.

Title I Math

During the 2nd nine weeks, the Title 1 Math department looked over data from each class and was pleased to find that Mary C. Snow West Side Elementary students showed an average of 4 months of growth in mathematics. We continue to work daily with small groups of students helping to strengthen their knowledge of mathematics. In February, one student from both 4th and 5th grade will represent MCSWSE at the Kanawha County Math Field Day. We look forward to continuing our work with your students!



Related Arts

5th grade chorus is working with Selina Midkiff from ACC (Appalachian Children's Chorus). Their first performance was December 8th, 2019 at Charleston Baptist Temple.

Music teachers have been working with everyone for the Christmas concert that was held on December 17th.

Chorus went to the Charleston Town Center Mall on December 18th to perform in front of Macy's.



Mr. Dutton is working on Fitness Gram Testing and has been working with students to learn Yoga.

Ms. Bland continues to work with the robotics team. Their next competition is December 18th. In their last competition they came in 1st and 9th places.

Special Education

Be on the lookout for meeting notices and paperwork. Please return as quickly as possible to the school when you receive the notices of your child's meeting dates.

Special Olympics will take place this spring, we hope all our students can participate this year.

Nurse's Corner



Counselor's Corner

Season's Greetings Families!

This month's guidance lessons were on instruction from the curriculum MindUp. MindUp is a classroom-based social and emotional learning program (SEL) designed to enhance self-awareness, social awareness, attention, self-regulation, problem-solving, and pro-social behavior (helping, sharing, and cooperating). We believe that brain-focused strategies will help our students understand the ways their minds work and how their thoughts and feelings affect their behavior. Below are some tips for bringing MindUP lessons and concepts into the home environment:

- Connect with your child through mindful moments - taking time to immerse yourself together in present activities, like listening to sounds, or taking a walk outside, can enrich enjoyment
- Practice gratitude at a family meal - simply noting one

thing we are thankful about helps induce positive emotions

- Join together daily in a quiet, focused breathing exercise - together take three deliberate deep breaths to bring calm and reduce stress
- Before bed, ask your child to share one or more things that went well today - this helps foster a positive mindset.

Thank you for helping us to reiterate these strategies to help our students develop a positive mindset in both school and life.

I would love to hear from you!

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Attendance Corner

The 2019-2020 attendance goal for Kanawha County is to raise the percentage of attendance at least 2% from last year. We are working towards positive incentives that are not only for our students but for our parents as well to encourage good habits and increased attendance. A team effort approach from our staff, the families, and the community can only mean success for Mary C Snow West Side Elementary. We would like to increase the communication amongst all parties involved to ensure that the needs of the students and families are being met. In an initiative to peak the interest of the students they have the opportunity to gain V-Bucks for their classroom simply by attending school on a regular basis. The Fort-Nite inspired bulletin board references the popular video game that our students frequently play and it displays their attendance progress for their classroom per each week of the month. The classroom with the most consecutive weeks of reaching the weekly goal of 95% attendance will be surprised with an exclusive incentive at a designated time. Our hopes are to reach the competitive sides of our students and also provide them with the support to be able to work within their own households to encourage timelines and attendance.

December Attendance Battle Results

3 consecutive weeks of achieving 95% attendance is :

Mr. Wesley 95% 96.88% and 95%

2 consecutive weeks of achieving 95% attendance are :

Mrs. Godfrey 96.88%/ and 95.31%

Mrs. Martin 95.65% and 96.74%

Mrs. Brown 98% and 97%

Mrs. Metzger 96% and 100%