

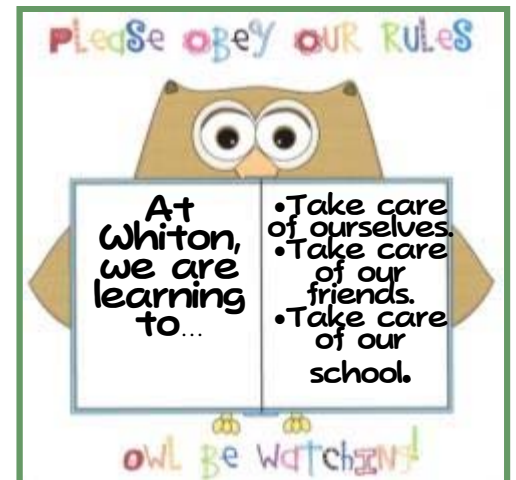


KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
HOOT  
ON

# a **WES** me news



January 30, 2015



# From the Desks of Ms. Gensel & Mrs. Shober



- We are more than halfway through the school-year and students continue to learn wonderful things. Enjoy the SuperBowl on Sunday and Happy Valentine's Day!

- Dates to Remember:

- 2/3 – PTO Meeting
- 2/5 – Kindergarten Registration for 2015-16
- 2/12 – Holiday Parties
- 2/13 – School Closed for Students; Staff In-Service
- 2/18 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Field Trip
- 3/2-3/6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PARCC Testing
- 3/12 – Assembly PreK, K, and 1<sup>st</sup> Grade
- 3/13-3/14 – Science Fair
- 3/19 – 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Field Trip



## Parent Pick-Up Safety

- Please drive on the RIGHT side of the road
- Please be careful when pulling out of parking spaces, as children are small and cannot be seen
- Children need to walk with their parents at all times



## Ms. Landon's Class

This month in Ms. Landon's class was all about winter and snow. We learned about how to dress when it is cold outside and made snow angels with our friends in Mrs. Harwood's class, cutting out and gluing our winter clothes. The class had a snowball fight by crumbling up paper to throw and catch to each other. It was a lot of fun when we mixed and explored 'snow' for a sensory activity.



## Ms. Muzychko's Class

*“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.” ~Aesop*

- In December, we started our persuasive writing unit. As a class, we discussed items we would like for our classroom. We decided we would like a document camera. I was told by my stepmother about Donorschoose.org, which is an organization designed to help public school teachers get items they want or need for their classrooms from outside donations. I posted a request on Donorschoose.org for a document camera. Within 2 weeks our request was filled by 4 generous donors!
- Since receiving the document camera, we have been using it in all subject areas. It has made shared reading time a blast! My students really enjoy sharing their writing, math strategies, and work samples. It has fostered a new “sharing” community within our classroom.
- We are currently handwriting thank you letters, using the friendly letter format and backing up our reasons why we love our new technology. We have learned so much from this experience. The pure kindness and generosity of the donors who do not know us, yet gave to our cause, is most inspiring!





# ***“Moor News” from Mr. Moor’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Class***

- Social Studies: We took the story of a fictional community called Riverside and introduced ourselves to the concepts of history, change, growth, and community planning. We were then able to show that a community’s history can be affected by the natural features of the land in that community over a course of time.
- We are now in the process of identifying symbols and abbreviations used on U.S. maps and locating natural and cultural features.

Math: There is only one word to describe math these past weeks. .  
.....FRACTIONS! We are able to explore numerous fractional relationships while being introduced to equivalent fractions. We have now begun to develop a greater understanding of fractions as numbers by representing a fraction on a number line diagram. Being able to distinguish between the numerator and denominator and being able to know what each of these numbers ask us to do help us to solve word problems with fractions of sets as well as write fraction number stories!



# News from Physical Education

Students have been working very hard in Physical Education over the past several weeks! Kindergarten students have been working on their throwing and tossing skills. 1st, 2nd and 3rd students have been studying fitness, what it means to be physically fit and different ways to get fit. All classes also took some time to work fun into getting fit by participating in our holiday activities Whoville and Holiday List. After coming back from break students participated in our annual winter games where they test their skills in events like ice skating, snowboarding, curling and ski jumping among others.

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes are in the process of developing their foot eye coordination skills while 2nd grade students are studying nutrition and 3rd graders are working on hand eye coordination through ball skills.

Overall, students seem to be enjoying themselves while working together with peers and getting physically fit.





# Reading With Your Child

- Research has proven that reading aloud to your child is one of the most important activities that you can do to help your child build knowledge for their eventual success in reading. Shared book reading times with your child in which you talk about the book, support language and literacy development.
  - By reading with your child, you are showing them that books can be a source of exciting and valuable experiences and children who value books are more motivated to read on their own. Reading aloud will let you be a role model for your child – if they see you excited about reading, they will catch your enthusiasm.
  - Use books to discuss real-life experiences and issues. Stories and books can open up many meaningful discussions about many different topics. Talk about what you are reading – before, during, and after a read-aloud. Ask what the story reminds them of in their own life.
  - Reading aloud can introduce your child to many different types of literature that they might not discover on their own. They can use their imaginations to explore people, places, times, and things that happen beyond their experiences. Talk with your child's teacher about the different genres they are reading in school. Your willingness to spend a little quality time with your child may help them read better, think better, and become a passionate and lifelong reader.
- 
- Linda Kaminsky
  - Instructional Support





# Mrs. Elms & her Kindergarten Penguins



The Kinders in Mrs. Elms' class have been having a great time learning about penguins! We watched penguins frolicking in their habitat at Sea World in San Diego thanks to YouTube, and Pebble Go had some great information on different types of penguins too! Some friends were surprised penguins only live in the Southern Hemisphere of our world, and we had fun locating where penguins lived on our globe. One of the questions someone asked was, "Do penguins have to walk upside down?" while checking out Antarctica on the globe. So that led to another type of conversation!

The students enjoyed creating fact books about penguins, using information we found on the web and gathered from a bunch of non-fiction books from our classroom library as well as the Whiton library. We created penguin covers for our books and decided to hang the books in the hallway so others can learn about penguins too! I have also noticed a number of penguin books popping up during our Writing Workshop unit on Teaching Books. With all their knowledge, I bet the writers will create some interesting books chock full of penguin facts!



And the fun didn't stop there! Ms. Venturini took on a brave project while she worked in our class! She painted the bottom of each Kinder's foot with black and white paint, and had them make a footprint which will be turned into...a penguin, of course! We are going to use them to create a big mural to be hung in our hallway, playful penguins and icebergs included!

While learning about Emperor Penguins, the largest penguin in the world, each student took a turn standing next to our class Emperor. Who was about the same height as an Emperor? Who was taller? Was anyone shorter? We had a great time finding out!

**REAL EMPEROR  
PENGUINS →**



**OUR  
CLASSROOM  
EMPEROR AND  
KINDERS! →**



To end our unit, we will be creating penguins using clay, so they can be a permanent reminder of all we learned!

# Mrs. Francescone's First Graders

- *Did you know that all snowflakes have six sides? Did you know that squirrels build homes called dreys in tree trunks? Did you know that Mars has a volcano three times the height of Mt. Everest? **Mrs. Francescone's First Graders** have been learning so much in Reader's Workshop while navigating through Nonfiction text. They have been reading like scientists and setting a purpose for their reading. The children have also been exposed to features of nonfiction text such as the *Table of Contents*, *glossary*, *captions*, *labels and subtitles* and have been using them to learn even more! These first graders have been thinking very deeply about what they are reading and really enjoying writing and sharing new and interesting facts with their peers. They have learned to react to their learning, share their thinking and make connections all while reading Nonfiction Text.*



- In Writer's Workshop, students are currently working on Publishing their How-To Books. In this unit, they learned how to plan their writing, add details to pictures and words, and understand their audience for their procedural text. Writing partners have helped one another to develop very concise How-To's by acting out or visualizing each step and discussing any important steps or reminders that may be helpful to their audience. After students revise, edit and "fancy-up" their books, students will enjoy another Writing Celebration and share them with a Kindergarten Class!

