

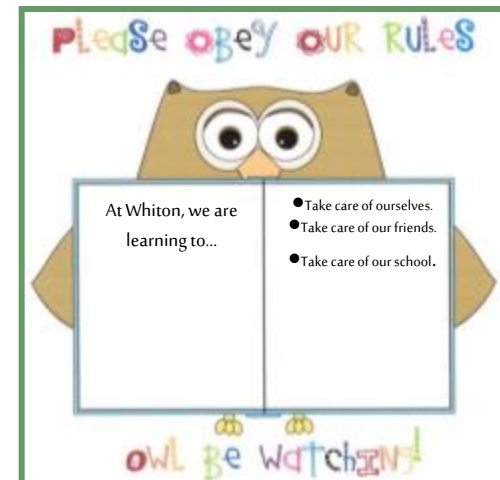


KEEP
CALM
AND
HOOT
ON

aWESome news



April 25, 2014



From the Desks of Ms. Gensel & Mrs. Shober

- May has finally arrived and we have a WHOLE lot going on!

- Dates to Remember:

- 4/29 – Board of Education Meeting
- 5/2 – Single Session Day
- 5/5 – 3rd Grade Field Trip
- 5/6 – 2nd Grade Concert, New Parent Orientation *Change of Date*
- 5/8 – 3rd Grade Field Trip
- 5/9 – 1st Grade Field Trip, 2nd Grade Empty Bowls Project
- 5/12 – 5/15 – 3rd Grade NJ ASK
- 5/14 – Pre-School Field Trip
- 5/15 – 2nd Grade Field Trip, PTO Meeting
- 5/16 – 1st Grade Night of the Arts
- 5/20 – 1st Grade Concert
- 5/22 – Board of Education Meeting
- 5/22 & 5/23 – Kindergarten Field Trip
- 5/26 – Memorial Day – School Closed

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 well
- Children need to walk with their parents at all times



From the Teachers' Desks

■ Mrs. Quinn

- Technology has taken off in Kindergarten. We officially have the iPad program up and running in our classroom. We embarked on the pilot program called eSpark. eSpark takes student's learning needs and creates a personalized learning profile for each individual. The program and teacher set two math goals and two reading goals for each child. Then the program will guide the children through apps, videos, and games. Game choices are available to them based on these goals. Teachers have access to student's activities and can change goals once mastered or as needed. Teachers also can monitor progress, review work, and identify opportunities for intervention or celebration.
- Mrs. Quinn's classes started using the iPad during their center times. The children are really enjoying the games. They have had the opportunity to do the math and reading video/games. The children are thrilled when it is their time to work on the iPads. It's so nice to have a bit of technology in the Kindergarten classrooms.





Ms. Zimmerman's 2nd Grade Class



- March Madness Kindness
- During the month of March, our class participated in the March Madness Reading Challenge where for every 30 minutes read at home our class earned 1 point. We were matched up with the Oklahoma Sooners, who unfortunately didn't earn us many points since they were eliminated the first round. We turned into a reading machine and set our goal at 100 points which equals 3, 000 minutes for the first week. Some students were reading up to 3 hours a night. After the first week we had met our goal. When we saw the spreadsheet we noticed we were in the top two for our division (2nd and 3rd grade), but Mrs. Sydlowski's 3rd grade class was beating us by 14 points. So during the second week we stepped it up to put more points on the board. We also earned points by showing our Sooner pride by wearing crimson and cream on Fridays. By the end of the second week, Mrs. Sydlowski's class had taken the win.
- Mrs. Sydlowski's class then chose to do something amazing. Her class decided to donate their reading points to us! Her class felt that we worked so hard and really strived to increase our reading stamina that we deserved to win. They not only donated their points to us, but they also made our class reading achievement certificates. They decorated and personalized each one. Mrs. Sydlowski's class came down one afternoon and distributed the certificates with praise to each student in our class. It was a really special moment watching the 3rd graders compliment and recognize our efforts!
- Our classes together read over 16,000 minutes!





Mrs. DeLorenzo's Class

- Our class has been busy during science this month! We have begun a new science unit: Living Things. Our class has discussed about and created charts on living and nonliving things. We have learned that plants and animals are living things. We also talked about how you can use your senses to explore living things. The students were excited to plant their own bean seeds. During the rest of the year, they will observe them growing and make predictions about what the bean seedling might look like after it sprouts. They will use soil, water, and sunlight to help the seed grow. The students are eager to see that the plants will grow and change over time.
- Our class is also looking forward to visiting other living things on our field trip, in May, to the Turtleback Zoo!



Ms. Pernini's Class

- Greetings from Miss Pernini's 3rd grade! Can you believe that the year is almost over? Here in 3rd grade we have been extremely busy. Check out what we have been up to.....
- In Math, we are studying multiplication and multiplication and multiplication! We have been working hard to master our facts and learned a few new games along the way. Stop in and play MultiPIGation or Zap It! In Science, we are working on growing our Wisconsin Fast Plants. Our plants have finished their life cycle and we are waiting for our seed pods to dry up so we can harvest. Outside our garden plot has started to bloom and we are anxious to get outside and help our Salads Sprout! Last but definitely not least is Language Arts. Reading, writing, and reading some more is what we have been up to this month. We have been mixing it up with some fiction and some nonfiction reading and writing just to keep us on our toes. Although we are doing some test prep for the NJ ASK, overall we're ready to Rock This Test! As a class we are loving the marathon reading we do every day. Even Miss Pernini gets to read!
- In other news, Author's Day is right around the corner and we can't wait for that celebration! June 5 we will be having our annual Author's Day with a visit from Herman Parish, Lee Harper, Alan Katz, and Karen Rostoker Gruber. We have started reading some of our favorites so we can be prepared for our authors. More news on Author's Day will be coming soon.
- Enjoy the warmer weather! We will definitely take advantage of the sun and get outside as much as we can. I think there may be a kickball challenge in our future!



Be Your Best for the Test ~ Test Taking Tips

by Ms. Rhonda Sherbin*



Don't Stress on the Test



Just Do Your Best

- Hi there, third grade students. You will be taking the NJASK soon and I thought you might want to hear some good test taking tips. I am going to tell you some simple things you can do to be at your **best** for the **test**.
- **Before the test:**
- **First** thing is to get a good night's sleep. That means to go to sleep early (or at least at a reasonable hour) so you are well-rested. You will do better on the test if you are not tired.
- Think **Rest** is **Best** before the **Test**
- **Second** thing to remember is to eat a good breakfast that morning. But not just anything... you need something that will last in your tummy and won't make your stomach growl with hunger in the middle of the test. You need your energy from the food/fuel you eat. You also don't want to have your stomach talking to you during the test. You want to stay focused on what you are doing.
- **Wear comfortable clothes.** You don't want to be distracted by shoes or clothes that are too small, too tight, too itchy, too cold, too warm, or whatever else bothers you about clothes.
- It is about doing your **Best** on the **Test** not being **Best Dressed!**
- **Before the test**, just stay calm. Don't be scared about taking the test. Just relax. All you can do is the best you can do. Some questions might be easy and some might be hard. Don't worry about it.
- Don't **Stress**, just do your **Best**
- **While taking the test:**
- **Follow the directions carefully.** Listen to directions given by your teacher and read the directions in the test. It might even help to reread the directions to make sure you know what to do. If you don't understand the directions, ask your teacher to explain.
- **Work at a good speed.** It's not a race to see who finishes first. Don't worry how the other kids are doing. Doing your best is much better than being first person done.
- **Fastest** does not mean you are the "**bestest**"
- **Check it over.** Go back and review your work to make sure it is the best you can do.
- I **Suggest**, you check your **Test**. Did you do your **Best**?
- I hope these test taking tips help you on your **Quest** for **Success** to do your **Best** on the **Test**.
- *(These tips were inspired by NJEA article, "Test-taking tips to help students succeed" Nov. 2013)





SPEECH AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT IN BILINGUAL CHILDREN

(Submitted by Adriana Weighart, M.S.CCC/SLP)

- The following article came from the American Speech and Hearing Association website. If you would like more information regarding this topic you may contact me at aweighart@branchburg.k12.nj.us.
- **Learning Two Languages**
- *Anyone can learn a new language. Some people find it easier than others, but all of us can do it. People who can use two languages are **bilingual**.*
- *Children can learn to be bilingual. They can learn two languages at home, at school, or in the community. Some children learn both languages very well. But sometimes they know one language better than the other. The language a child knows better is called the **dominant language**. Over time the dominant language may change, especially if a child doesn't use it regularly.*
- *Speaking two languages is like any other skill. To do it well, children need lots of practice, which parents can help provide. Without practice, it may be difficult for children to understand or talk to people in both languages.*
- **Will learning two languages cause speech or language problems?**
- *No. Children all over the world learn more than one language without developing speech or language problems. Bilingual children develop language skills just as other children do.*
- **What should I expect when my child learns more than one language?**
- *Every bilingual child is unique. Developing skills in two languages depends on the quality and amount of experience the child has using both languages. The following are some basic guidelines:*
- *Like other children, most bilingual children speak their first words by the time they are 1 year old (e.g., "mama" or "dada"). By age 2, most bilingual children can use two-word phrases (e.g., "my ball" or "no juice"). These are the same language developmental milestones seen in children who learn only one language.*
- *From time to time, children may mix grammar rules, or they might use words from both languages in the same sentence. This is a normal part of bilingual language development.*
- *When a second language is introduced, some children may not talk much for a while. This "silent period" can sometimes last several months. Again, this is normal and will go away.*
- **If my child is having trouble communicating, should we use only one language?**
- *In this case, it's best to talk to your child in the language you're most comfortable with. This is true even if he or she uses a different language at school. But try not to make a sudden change in your child's routine. This can be stressful.*
- *Children who are having problems in both languages may need professional help.*
- <http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/bilingualchildren.htm>



GOOD SPEECH IS CATCHY!!

Submitted by Adriana Weighart, M.S.CCC/SLP

- Some of our Whiton students have been working on generalizing the skills they have learned in speech class to other school settings. This month, they participated in creating a display in the kindergarten hallway to remind them and motivate them to use their target sounds correctly. Great job everyone!!!





Ms. Cook



- **Seeds to Salad Program**

- On April 1, students from Mrs. Cole's third grade class met with master gardeners from Somerset County. The students learned how to prepare vegetable seeds for planting and set up the garden. The following week they learned about the positive impact of earthworms on the garden that they had planted. Every week the students will maintain the garden with the assistance of the master gardeners and volunteers. Mrs. Cole's class planted carrots, lettuce, onions, spinach, and Swiss chard. Students will conduct the garden harvest on Tuesday, June 10. The students will enjoy the items they planted during the "Salad Extravaganza" which will be held on Thursday, June 12.





Mr. Motz

Physical Education



- Students have been working hard in Physical Education class. Kindergarten students have been working on object manipulation and have been learning to control objects with their hands and feet. They have also been working on using these skills with partners and in small groups to develop cooperative skills. Along the way they have also mixed in some dancing as part of a movement education and rhythm unit.
- The upper grades have been working to complete a unit on object manipulation as well. They have focused more specifically on basketball skills. These have been practiced in both individual and group activities. We have also worked on games involving these skills they can use at recess and with friends and family.
- Next we will be starting another fitness unit and third grade classes will be participating in our annual Whiton Walking Challenge.
- Soon we will be moving into our end of the year fitness testing with second and third grade Field Day just around the corner!



Planting the Garden



Celebrating Earth Day

(in Ms. Bitner's Class)



