



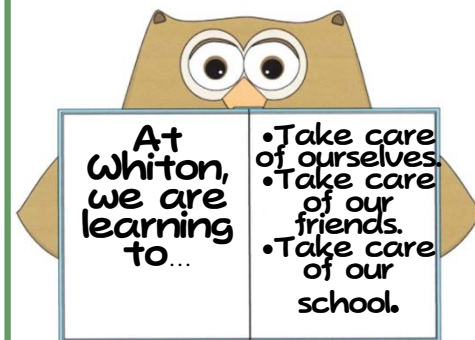
KEEP
CALM
AND
HOOT
ON

a WES me news



February 28, 2014

Please obey OUR RULES



owl Be watching!

From the Desks of Ms. Gensel & Mrs. Shober



- Think Spring – March is here!
- Snow Watch – Please be alert to inclement weather for possible closings or school delays. Be sure to check the district website for the most up-to-date information.
- Next week is Read Across America Week – please schedule time to read with your child every day!

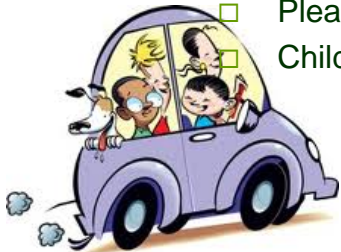


Dates to Remember:

- Week of 3/3 – Read Across America
- 3/7 – Wear Green for Responsibility
- 3/9 – Turn Your Clocks Ahead
- 3/20 – PTO Meeting
- 3/21 & 3/22 – Science Fair
- 3/24 – 1st Grade Trip – RVCC
- 3/28 – 3rd Grade Trip – DaVinci Science Center

■ 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

- Physical Education

- Mrs. Kolbe & Mr. Motz

- Physical education classes just completed the Whiton Winter Olympics! Students participated in winter team challenges such as; walking with snowshoes, jumping off a ski jump, snowboarding through the deep snow, figure skating around the icy rink, pushing the heavy stone in the curling event, or bobsledding with their teammate. Students were required to problem solve and cooperate with others at all events.

- Presently, students have been keeping their hearts healthy by learning about food groups and my plate. Students filled their plates with examples from each food group and explained why some portions were larger than others. In addition to discussing food groups we have been working on jump rope tricks, throwing and catching skills.

- SNOWSHOES



CURLING



Mrs. Szajdecki's Second Grade



- Our class has been reading up a “storm” during the past few weeks! While the snow has been piling up outside, we’ve been cozy and warm inside, working our way through some fascinating nonfiction texts. We’ve enjoyed exploring biographies, informational books, and reference materials, such as the dictionary, thesaurus, atlas and almanac.
- Reading workshop is one of our favorite times of the school day! This is when we learn what good readers do before, during and after a read. We have realized how important it is to take more time with nonfiction because there are so many new words and ideas to consider. Slowing down a little gives us time to think more deeply about the subject matter. Our brains are very busy while we’re reading. We are starting to pay closer attention to what our brains are doing while we’re learning. We’ve even learned a new word for this process called metacognition!
- Since nonfiction can be tricky, we are learning strategies to help us better understand and remember what we’ve read. Two new strategies we’ve placed in our reading tool box recently are writing ‘WOW’ notes to remember amazing facts and completing a 3-2-1 graphic organizer that leaves us thinking of a new question we have about the topic. The most challenging thing we’ve noticed is that it can be tricky to record what we have just learned in our own words.
- Since we first learned our ABCs, we have been working hard to learn to read. It’s wonderful now that we’re reading to learn! 😊

Reading Scientists!

Miss Ellis' class has been studying non-fiction and how to read like a scientist! First the students studied how to tell the difference between a nonfiction book and a fiction book. Then, they learned many of the features that authors use to help teach the reader **more** about a topic. Now, they are learning that scientists keep track of the facts they learn as they read. They think **DEEPER** about their facts by connecting their new learning to other facts they know, asking a question, or making a prediction about their fact. The scientists share their new learning with each other during partner time! We are learning so much from our non-fiction books!



Mrs. Shandor's Class

Students in Mrs. Shandor's resource room finished writing their chapter books on the topics they chose. A variety of subjects were chosen: football, swimming, karate, cats, lions, Minecraft, race cars, and foods! During the months of January and February the third graders presented their chapter books to Mrs. Bryden's first grade class. Her students were a wonderful audience:)The third graders are now working on their next writing piece: persuasive/opinion writing!



Mrs. Jennings' Class



- Did you know that February is Children's Dental Health Month? The students in Mrs. Jennings' class have been learning how to develop good dental health habits. Along with recognizing the importance of brushing and flossing, we know which foods help to make teeth strong and which foods we should avoid so that we don't get cavities.
- We were so pleased when Sabrina invited her grandfather, Dr. Fodor, to come in to visit. Dr. Fodor is a dentist in Branchburg who was nice enough to bring his two assistants with him to speak to us about caring for our teeth. Together we played a lively game of Family Feud to make sure we remember all of the important facts they shared with us. Each student also received a gift bag filled with toothpaste, floss, a toothbrush, and chapstick. We are now prepared to keep our teeth healthy for life!



Ms. Meehan

■ “One more time”, or Rereading Familiar Text

- Have you ever re-read a *classic* or a favorite magazine again? Is there a “go to” book on your shelf that you never get tired of?
- When given a choice does your child pick the same book over and over? Be patient, they are discovering some very important things about reading.
- Slow progress readers have greater difficulty discovering the regularities and the patterns in a rich reading environment. Each time your child re-reads a familiar story, he/she processes the text at a different level. With each reading, the child notices new features about reading.

■ Re-reading helps the reader to:

- Use their prior knowledge for support of their reading
- Move toward becoming an independent reader
- Engage in learning and develop inner control
- Practice effective reading strategies on easy material
- Develop all the reading behaviors to become an independent reader
- Children need to be successful when they are learning to read. When children are allowed to re-read familiar books they are learning to help themselves as readers. You can help your child by asking, “What have you read today?” Have your child engage in a quick conversation about the story that he/she read. Have them re-read the story to you, and offer them one area to work on for the next time they pick up that *treasured* book.
- Happy reading,
- Donna Meehan ☺



100th Day of School Festivities

- On February 21st, Mrs. Arencibia's AM and PM classes joyfully celebrated 100 successful days of school. Once the 100th Day crowns were complete, students welcomed the day by rotating to various "100th Day" centers of their choice. Some children preferred to "Q-tip-paint" 10 dots 10 times to create a 100 mural. Others preferred to construct trains with friends using 100 cubes. Students also enjoyed playing "Roll to 100", illustrating what they might buy with their big \$100 bill, estimating, and drawing or acting out various things they are grateful for to total 100 within their group of friends. We are officially 100 days smarter, and we very proud of the amazing things we have achieved in these past 100 Days. GO KINDERGARTEN!



100th Day Activities

■ Ms. Trubin's class



100th Day Activities

■ Ms. Bitner's AM Class



Ms. Bitner's PM Class

