

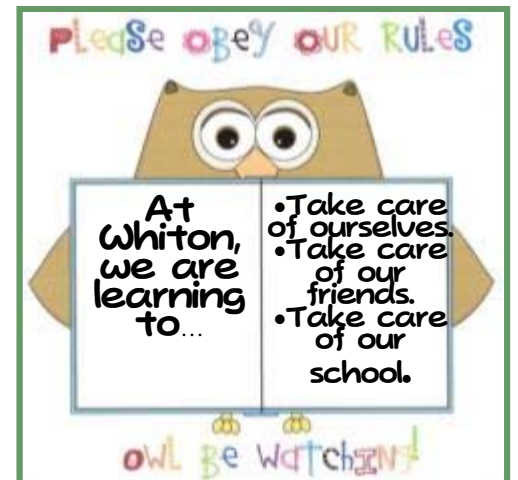


KEEP
CALM
AND
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ON

a WES me news



March 25, 2015



From the Desks of Ms. Gensel & Mrs. Shober



- It's hard to believe that Spring Break is already here! We hope that everyone has a restful and safe break!
- Dates to Remember:
 - 3/27 – School **IN** Session
 - 3/30 – 4/3 – Spring Recess
 - 4/6 – School **IN** Session
 - 4/7 – PTO Meeting
 - 4/9 – Board of Education Meeting
 - 4/17 – 2nd Grade Empty Bowls
 - 5/8 – 1st Grade Night of the Arts



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





News from Mrs. Shandor



- Our class has been working hard writing informational booklets . Students chose a range of topics – the beach, dance, dogs, football, horses, princesses, school, soccer, and trains. They enjoyed presenting their booklets to Mrs. Lisa Quinn's Kindergarten class. Thank you, Mrs. Quinn, for having us as your guest readers😊 !

4-H Science Wizardry

by: Miss Roper

- This month the first grade students had a visit from the 4-H! Students learned facts about scientists, science safety tips and even tried out some experiments! Our favorite experiment was: The Great Ice Lift. During this experiment students used string and salt to lift an ice cube out of a cup of water; and learned the science behind the salt melting the ice just enough for the string to mold to it! We are looking forward to more visits from the 4-H later this year! ☺





Out of This World Science!

By: Ms. Sydlowski

What would it be like if we could visit all of the planets in our Solar System? Our class is joining Mr. Moor's 3rd grade class to become space travel agents. The students are working in pairs conducting research using books and the internet about a particular planet. Their research will include:

- * fast facts - size of their planet, distance from the sun, length of day, length of a year, etc.
- * weather information
- * travel essentials - water, sunscreen
- * things to do
- * pictures

They will also compare and contrast their planet with Earth. After completing their research, each student will create a travel brochure that will convince clients to visit their planets, which ties in with our Persuasive Writing Unit!





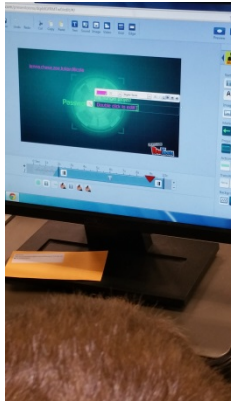
Mrs. Quinn's March News



- In kindergarten, we love Dr. Seuss! We began the month celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. We read the book The Cat in the Hat and made hats to wear for the week any time we were reading. We discovered we read ALL day long not just books but signs, names, directions, etc. Mrs. Szajdecki's class partner read to our class many different Dr. Seuss books.
- During read alouds this month we read many of Dr. Seuss' books. We did several fun activities to go with a story. After reading The Cat in the Hat, students had a relay race balancing first one then two erasers on their head. We learned it's not easy balancing things on our heads. How did the Cat in the Hat balance many things on his head while on a ball? After reading Green Eggs and Ham, students were given boards with rhyming families like -ig, -at (egg whites). Students had to match a beginning sound (green yolk) that makes a word. We took a vote in class more than half the class would try green eggs but not ham.
- In writing, students drew/wrote about their favorite Dr. Seuss character and why they like that one best. The overall favorite character of our class was the Cat in the Hat. Some thought he'd be fun to have as a friend. In Math, we measured how many Cat in the Hat's hats tall each student was. Then they chose a friend to compare if they were less than, more than, or the same amount of hats tall. Dr. Seuss brought us lots of rhyming time, discussions, reading, writing, and giggles.
- We love Dr. Seuss!



Technology Talk With Miss Patente



- We have been very busy this month in Technology class. The Preschool and Kindergarten students have come such a long way since September and can navigate many websites with ease. They are even becoming more comfortable with the keyboard.
- The first grade students listened to stories on Storylineonline.net and then we created a class book on the computer or a book cover to tell about our favorite books. We also went online to look at some fun spring activities.
- 2nd grade students are working on their hunger projects using information they found online. They are creating a Powtoon to share their information at Empty Bowls Night. We are learning A LOT of technology skills through this project as well as ways to make a difference by helping hunger! **If you are coming to Empty Bowls be sure to download a free QR code reader from your app store to your phone, tablet, or e-reader so you can view the projects and the bowl videos. *We will have a tablet at each table to use as well.**
- 3rd graders are geniuses, just ask them! The genius hour project is their opportunity to learn, create and share about WHATEVER they want. We will be infusing our tech skills along with many other cross curricular skills. The students love collaborating with each other using Google Docs and I really enjoy being able to comment on their work and view it as it is being done. They are more than welcome to work on their projects at home and use Docs for virtual group work! I cannot wait to see what they do!
- For more updates, websites and tips please visit my website at <https://sites.google.com/a/branchburg.k12.nj.us/3340/>

Wow! I Didn't Know That!

- When students read non-fiction text they learn about so many new and amazing things. Second graders were intrigued by plants that can eat bugs, habits of spiders and bats, the many types of heavy equipment used when building a road, and recently, all about plant and animal life in the desert.
- Special non-fiction text features help students know what to look for in order to read to learn and develop and grow ideas. Some features help them navigate text. These include the table of contents, chapter headings, the index, and the glossary. Types of print, such as **Bold**, *italics*, highlighted, and underlined, indicate when a word or phrase might be important. The author might use visual features to add meaning to help teach students more about the topic than just the written words. Tables, maps, graphs, and timelines all help students understand the topic in more depth. Photographs show students how things look in real life.
- Reading non-fiction is a genre not to be missed!

