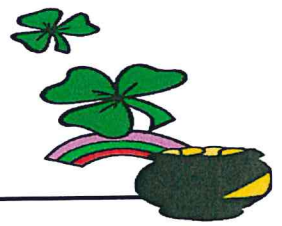




"Hills Happenings"



Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center

February/March 2019

Happy 2019! We have jumped right back into our busy school schedule. Teachers are working harder than ever to provide our students with the best education possible.

We are currently preparing for **STEP UP DAY** at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center! Step Up Day is currently scheduled for Friday, June 7, the last day of school. This thirty-minute meeting will help our young learners know who their teacher will be for next school year.

The teachers, specialists, guidance counselors, and reading specialists will be working hard to develop our class lists. Our goal for Step Up Day is to ensure that your child gets to meet the team for the 2019-2020 school year in June! This will alleviate anxiety some learners feel over the summer when they are worried about meeting their new teacher in August.

To make our Step-Up Day a success, please review the attached rostering letter notice from Mrs. McClennan. Remember the letter is due by **Friday, April 5, 2019**.

As we move into February and March, please pay particular attention to the upcoming events and days that are important:

- Friday, February 1- Football/Favorite Team Jersey Day
- Friday, February 8 – Celebrating Day 100! Dress like you are 100.
- Thursday, February 14-Wear Red
- Friday, February 15- Valentine's Day Celebrations
- Monday, February 18- NO SCHOOL (unless snow make-up day)
- Wednesday, February 20-EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:30
- Friday, March 15 - Wear green for St. Patrick's Day
- Week of March 18 – 22 - Music in our school week
- Wednesday, March 20- EARLY DISMISSAL – 12:30
- Wednesday, March 27 through Friday, March 29 – Kindergarten Orientation/Registration sign up on the website.



Thank you for your continued support and help!

Kate Bobst

Principal





Important Dates



Friday, February 8

Celebrating 100th Day of School

PTA Movie Night

Thursday, February 14

Valentine's Day

Friday, February 15

Valentine's Day Parties

Monday, February 18

NO SCHOOL (or snow make-up day)

Presidents' Day

Wednesday, February 20

EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:30



Monday, March 4

Progressive Concert - 6:30 - HS

Tuesday, March 12

Spring Portraits

Saturday, March 17

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Week of March 18

Music in Our Schools Week

Wednesday, March 20

Spring begins!

EARLY DISMISSAL - 12:30

Wednesday, March 27

Kindergarten Orientation

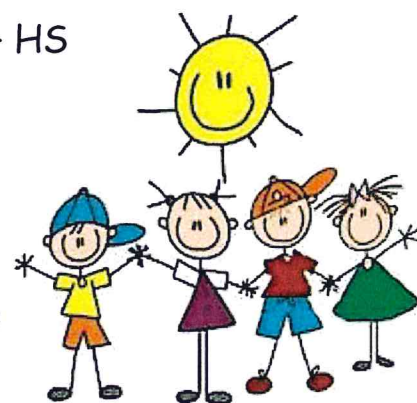
End of Quarter 3

Thursday, March 28

Kindergarten Orientation

Friday, March 29

Kindergarten Orientation



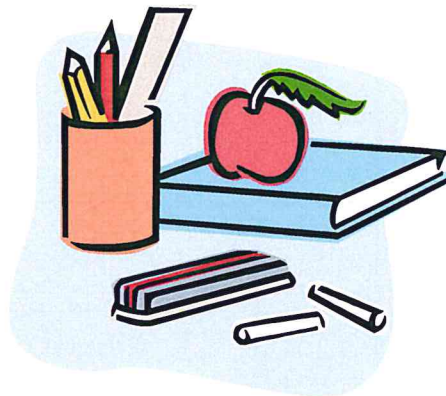


Rostering 2019/20

Rostering for the 2019/20 school year is in its beginning phase. Parents wishing to bring to our attention any special needs or concerns about their child should put those concerns in writing and send them to the Rostering Committee **no later than Friday, April 5, 2019**. If you are the parents of twins and you would like them rostered in the same homeroom, please send in that request. **No rostering letters will be accepted after this date.** All letters will be handled confidentially by team members.

All information will be considered, and rostering will reflect what is in the best interest of the children within our diversified program. The intent for writing these letters is to inform the team about your child's needs, not to request a teacher by name.

To ensure careful and confidential discussion, we need your cooperation in meeting our request guidelines and deadlines for sharing information. The rostering teams will determine students' homeroom placements. If you have questions, please contact **Kelly McClennan**. Thank you!





Kindergarten Orientation/Registration

The Wyomissing Area School District will conduct its 2019-20 kindergarten orientation/registration on Wednesday, March 27, Thursday, March 28, and Friday, March 29 at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center. Children who reside in the district and who will be five (5) years old on or before **September 1, 2019** may attend one of the nine sessions. Orientation sessions will be conducted from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m., 11:00 to 12:00 p.m., and 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. A parent and eligible kindergarten child must attend one session.

Please complete the online registration forms at:

<http://www.wyoarea.org/>

After you complete the Kindergarten Orientation/Registration Information for WASD Residents ONLY form, you will receive a letter notifying you of your assigned orientation session.

Please fill out the registration forms and bring them with you to the orientation/registration.

Kindergarten News...

Kindergarten has been learning about winter, its holidays and snow! We are enjoying reading books, completing art projects and other activities during the cold winter months.



We are practicing rhyming, writing meaningful sentences in KidWriting, hearing sounds in words and reading our high-frequency words. In math, kindergarten is learning about larger numbers, patterns, skip counting, odd and even numbers and more. February is a fun month in school and we are looking forward to celebrating and learning about the 100th day of school, Valentine's Day and President's Day!



Grade 1 News...

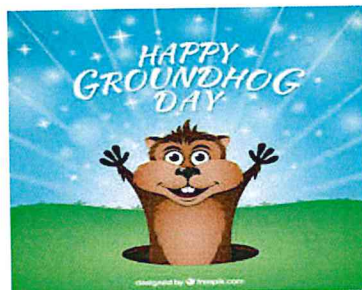


First grade students are ready for a Fantastic February! The shortest month of the year turns out to be one of the busiest on our calendar, as we will cover a wide range of topics.

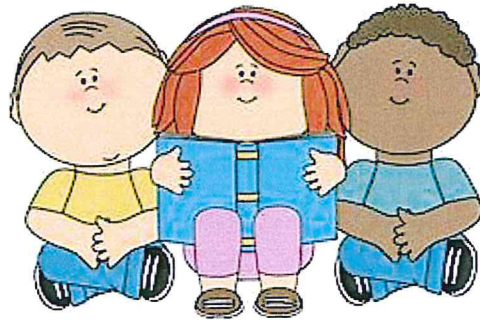
We begin to explore weather facts and lore when the groundhog appears on February 2nd. Our Math curriculum is enhanced by the One Hundredth day of school activities that will take place early in February~ exact date TBA. Chinese New Year is always a favorite winter topic in grade one. The Year of the Pig begins on February 5th and the celebration lasts for a week. Children will learn what symbol they were born under and the special characteristics of their animal. Valentine parties will take place on Friday, February 15th as children exchange cards and enjoy classroom activities.

Our (Reading Is Fundamental) program kicks off on February 19th with a visit from our favorite singer Tama McConnell! The children will sing along during her interactive performance and will choose the first of three books to take home, read and enjoy. Presidents' Day provides a time to explore the history of the U.S. Presidency, a study of our most notable past leaders (particularly Washington and Lincoln) and a chance to examine the significance of their lives and contributions.

Now that first graders are readers and writers all of these very interesting units of study take on a whole new meaning for them as learners. February is an exciting part of our year for learning and fun!



Grade 2 News...



Second graders are looking forward to a fantastic February! Our students have been busy learning to research using PebbleGo.com. (PebbleGo is available online through a link on our WHEC library page.) Each second grader has been using research skills to find and gather information from the site.

After the research is completed, each child will organize the details into a well-written, non-fiction, paragraph consisting of a topic sentence, facts, and a closing sentence. The students will continue applying their research skills in the upcoming weeks to write biographies using a variety of different types of resources including books and informational videos.

Second graders are also preparing for our upcoming math units on time and money. Learning to tell time and count money are two very important “real world” skills for children to master. You can easily reinforce these skills at home with simple tasks. Develop money skills by having your child sort and tell you the value of a small pile of coins. Reinforce time telling skills by simply having your child tell you the time on an analog clock. You will be amazed by the difference that this small amount of practice can make.



It is sure to be a fun, and fact-filled, February in second grade!

Grade 3 News...

FEBRUARY FACT FRENZY

As third grade students approach the end of the 2nd Quarter, they have now moved through the portion of the Go Math series that introduces Multiplication and Division. As we continue to move into more difficult math concepts, it is very important that students master their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

What is fact fluency and why is it important? We're glad you asked! Fact fluency refers to a student's ability to recall the basic facts in all four math operations quickly, accurately, and effortlessly. Math facts are the building blocks for all higher learning math concepts. A student's inability to recall basic facts significantly hinders their progress as future concepts are introduced. As a matter of fact, studies have shown that students experience less "math anxiety" overall when they have successfully mastered their basic facts. They are more successful, confident math learners!

So, in an effort to get all of our students working towards this very important goal, the Third Grade teachers are pleased to announce that the month of February will be FEBRUARY FACT FRENZY MONTH. The third grade classrooms will be engaging in a little fun, friendly competition between rooms to see which class can master the most facts! Details will be forthcoming in a future flyer. Please support your child in his/her efforts to master this important skill. The challenge is on!



Grade 4 News...

Electricity is in the air in grade four! Students are learning about static and current electricity while experimenting with balloons, batteries, bulbs, and wires. We will also be building circuits, testing materials to see if they are conductors or insulators, and discussing electrical safety. During this unit, fourth graders are sure to agree that science is electrifying!



In social studies, grade four students will travel back in time and learn about early settlers in the New World. They will recognize the hardships faced by settlers in Jamestown and the early colonies. Students will see how the settlers overcame obstacles to build prosperous colonies. Later in the year, students will learn about colonial life in the thirteen colonies.





One School One Book

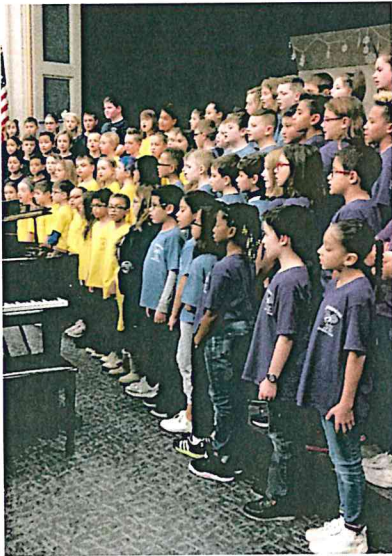
Robot fever is rampant at the Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center! Students received their book, *The Wild Robot*, on January 14th (funded by WAEF) and ever since then have been discovering how Roz will use her instincts to move, communicate, and learn as she adapts to her new life on the island. While the book is being read primarily at home, activities at school are adding excitement to the experience. Robots are being created in STEAM and art classes, robot songs are being enjoyed in music, and students in library are learning all about Peter Brown, author and illustrator of our One Book.

Music Room



News:

December was a very busy month for the music department. First, students in 4th grade sang carols at the PTA Holiday Shoppe. Next, the 3rd and 4th grade students did an outstanding job at the Winter Concerts. Lastly, the Wyomissing Hills faculty band and chorus held a special assembly for the entire school to kick off the Winter break.



Take Note:

February 10 from 2-4 p.m. at the high school-WAMA's Sweet Sunday Showcase and Dessert Extravaganza
March 4-6:30 p.m. at the high school-Progressive Band Concert Rehearsal for grades 4-12
March 5-6:30 p.m. at the high school-Progressive Band Concert for grades 4-12
May 9-6:30 p.m. at the high school-3rd Grade Spring Concert
May 16-6:30 p.m. at the high school-4th Grade Spring Concert

Music In Our Schools Month Luncheon Performances

Do you have some type of musical talent that you would like to share with others?

Do you sing or play an instrument?

Would you like to perform for our students during their lunches?

Performances will take place March 18-22, 2019

Stay tuned for more information!

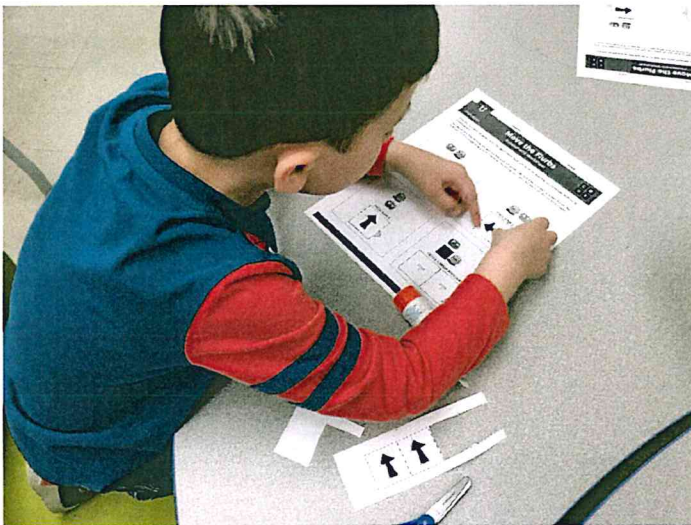
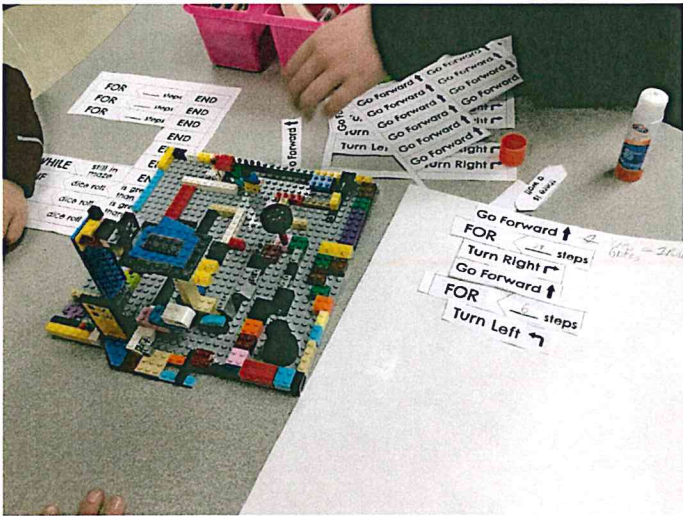
STEAM Explorations

The second quarter of the school year moved the students into coding and robotics. We started our coding unit with various “unplugged” activities. These activities gave students an opportunity to practice computer programming without the use of a device. Eventually we were able to use code.org to practice coding with our iPads. Then, we started using robots, with and without coding. In the third quarter, the students will continue to use robots and coding, but they will also be exposed to activities involving magnetism, circuitry, and Legos.

During the third and fourth quarter of the year, the STEAM Explorations class will be taught by Mrs. Moulin while Dr. Wengerd is out on maternity leave. Please welcome her into this very exciting classroom!

Thank you again for all of your donations! Updates will be sent as more supplies are needed!

Unplugged Coding Activities



Hello! My name is Lauren Moulin. I will be the long-term substitute in STEAM Explorations while Dr. Wengerd is out on maternity leave.



Just a little bit about myself...

I graduated from Kutztown University in December with the honor of summa cum laude.

Before getting my bachelors degree, I was a preschool teacher at Boyertown YMCA.

When I'm not in the classroom, I spend most of my time with my family. My husband, Scott, is a business and technology teacher at Daniel Boone High School. Together we have 4-year-old triplets, James, Lyla and Rileigh. In my free time, I enjoy being outside camping and hiking, being creative, and attending musicals.

If you ever have any concerns please feel free to email me or message me on Class Dojo.

I am excited for my time here at Wyomissing Hills!