



“Hills Happenings”

Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center

April/May/June 2019

Dear Wyomissing Hills Families,

It seems like our Winter is giving us one last hug and hopefully Spring will be right around the corner. As always, we have a great deal of activities and adventures happening at Wyomissing Hills Elementary Center!

PSSA tests for third and fourth grades will be taking place on:

English Language Arts- April 23-25

Mathematics- April 29-30

Science- (Grade 4 Only)-May 1 and 2



Make up sessions will be scheduled in the afternoons after each day of testing. We will be testing from 9:15 until 11:30 each day. Our students and teachers are well prepared for these tests. Please make sure that your child comes to school ready by having breakfast and a good night's sleep. We also encourage all electronics to be kept home on testing days.

Important

Snow Make Up Days: Monday, April 15th and Monday April 22nd

School is in Session



Important Dates



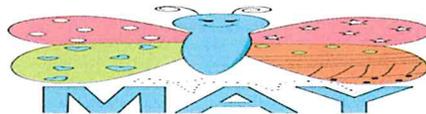
Monday, April 15 **SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**

Tuesday, April 16 -
Friday, April 19 **NO SCHOOL**

Monday, April 22 **SCHOOL IS IN SESSION**

Tuesday, April 23 –
Thursday, April 25 PSSA’s Reading – grades 3 and 4

Monday and Tuesday
April 29 and 30 PSSA’s Math – grades 3 and 4



Wednesday and Thursday
May 1 and 2 PSSA’s Science – grade 4

Friday, May 3 PSSA Make-ups

Thursday, May 9 Grade 3 Spring Concert – 6:30 – HS

Friday, May 10 PTA WYO Walk (rain date May 17)

Thursday, May 16 Grade 4 Spring Concert – 6:30 – HS

Monday, May 27 NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day



Thursday, June 6 EARLY DISMISSAL 12:30

Friday, June 7 EARLY DISMISSAL – 12:30
LAST STUDENT DAY

Kindergarten News!

Kindergarten students are continuing to expand their sight word vocabulary, expand their Kidwriting stories and are learning to apply literacy skills to become better readers and writers.



In our math classes we are enjoying units on two and three-dimensional shapes! We have especially enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of school and Dr. Seuss' birthday. The many fun and integrated activities have given us lots of fun things to take home and share with families – not to mention fun learning opportunities with our good friends in Kindergarten. We are all ready to celebrate the coming of spring in just a few days!



Grade 1 News...



First grade students have recently enjoyed several events that have provided an enhancement to learning and a great deal of late winter fun.

~Students celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss and participated in various Read Across America themed events including special guest readers, green eggs and ham and many varied activities based on this prolific author's funny and often thought-provoking works.

~In February, a snowstorm interfered with our kick-off to RIF (Reading Is Fundamental) We look forward to our March and April RIF days and our year-end highlight the **RIF CARNIVAL !!**

A look ahead in grade one:

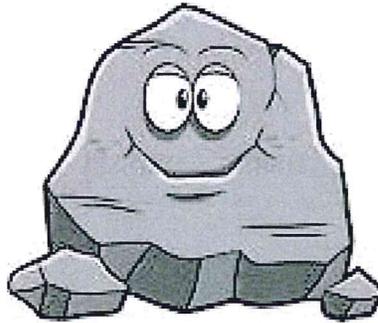
~Our Spring science units are WEATHER and ANIMALS. Both units will include hands on discovery as well as journal writing. We will even examine and compare some 'live critters' (always an exciting part of the animal unit! Stay tuned ☺)

~In the month of May the first grade students will enjoy two field trips. The first trip to the Santander Performing Arts Center will be on May 10th. We will see the Theatreworks production of *Charlotte's Web*. On May 28th, we will visit the Reading Museum and Planetarium. The day will also include a picnic lunch. More details to follow...

SPEAKING of *SPRING*...**SNEAKERS** are **ALWAYS** a good idea in first grade! We play outdoors daily and want the children to be **COMFORTABLE** and **SAFE**. Please save pretty sandals, flip flops and the like for weekends!



Grade 2 News...



Spring is a great time to be a 2nd grader! In March, we became scientists as we explored the world of rocks and minerals. All of our students had the chance to work with scientific tools to observe similarities and differences in both rocks and minerals. We learned many things about their different characteristics. We even learned about classifying rocks as sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic.

At the end of our rocks and minerals unit, our scientific learning took flight into the world of butterflies! Our 2nd graders had the chance to learn about life cycles, and specifically how that term applies to a butterfly. This unit began with tiny baby caterpillars being delivered to our classrooms. The students monitored their growth and analyzed the daily changes that were taking place. They continued their observations right up to the amazing metamorphosis into butterflies! At the end of the unit, we released the butterflies into the wild. It was a little sad to see our friends go, but as soon as they started to fly into the breeze the students' sadness turned into cheers of excitement.

In May, we will turn our attention to preparing for our Sir Bookworm play. This is definitely one of the biggest highlights of the entire year. For the play, all of the students are assigned an important role. For many, this is their first time ever performing in front of a live audience. It takes a lot of practice, and hard work, but all of the students agree that it is worth it in the end. The Sir Bookworm Play is a day that they will never forget.

It is super exciting to be a 2nd grader in the Spring!



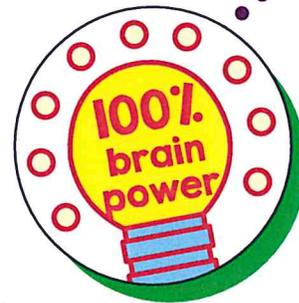
3rd Grade

FACT Frenzy

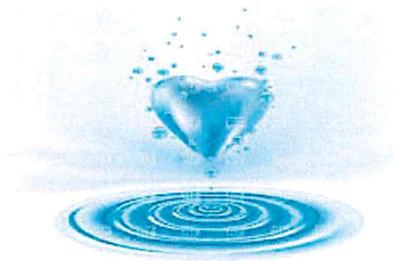
It was Fact Frenzy Month for third grade! Each third grade classroom engaged in a little fun, friendly competition together to see which class could master the most facts! The challenge was exciting and successful – with students cheering each other on throughout the event. After an intense month of practicing fact fluency, we're happy to announce that **we almost doubled the number of correct multiplication and division problems** throughout the third grade, in just four weeks! There was a **total of 110,767 correct problems** in multiplication and division from all the timings combined.

Why is the Fact Frenzy so important? We're glad you asked! Fact Frenzy is all about fact fluency, which 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.

Here in the third grade at WHEC, we are working to grow more successful, confident math learners!



Grade 4 News...



Water, Water, Everywhere!! The fourth grade students dove deeply into a science unit on water. They learned about the properties of water by doing investigations such as putting droplets on a penny to observe surface tension, creating a bottle straw system to show how water expands and contracts, and testing objects for density and buoyancy.

Students also learned about the water cycle, types of clouds, water pollution, and how to keep our water clean.

The final science unit will include learning about the skeletal and muscular systems. After learning about how the body works and how we can stay healthy, the students will participate in a fourth grade field day to put their bodies in motion.

In social studies, the fourth graders are starting to learn about the colonial period. Students will research what it was like to live in colonial times and will have a chance to participate in hands on activities which will include baking cornbread, weaving, playing colonial games, etc. In May, the students will visit the Daniel Boone Homestead as a culminating activity.



Music Room News:



A HUGE thank you to all of the musicians who helped make our Music In Our Schools luncheon performances a success during the month of March!



The 3rd and 4th graders enjoyed a Woodwind Music in the Schools assembly sponsored by the Reading Musical Foundation and the Wyomissing Area Music Association.

TAKE NOTE:

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



One hundred forty band students perform at “A Night of Funk”. This Progressive Band Concert featured Wyomissing Area students from grades 4 through 12.