

PLAINS SCHOOL

Newsletter

Principal's News
Submitted by Hank Skala

Dear Plains Families,

March is going to be a very busy month here at Plains School for many reasons. First, we have conferences, report card distribution and Packet Pick Up Night for Kindergarten registration. Besides these dates, we will be working on several other school projects that will be announced soon to all the Plains Community. In the meantime, I am listing below the following dates:

March 3, 2020- No School-Full Day Teacher In-service. (Town Elections)

March 9, 2020- Early Release K &1 dismissal at 2:25, Pre-K dismissal at 2:00.

Finally, we are going to do our Saludos Spanish Program again this year. Watch for a brochure to be sent home soon.

Sincerely,

Hank Skala

Kindergarten News
Submitted by Gina Moulton
Grade Level Coordinator

Tree Song

by Lorraine Hammond
This is my trunk I'm a tall tall tree
In the springtime the blossoms grow on me.
They open, they open.
This is my trunk I'm a tall tall tree
In the summer the breezes blow through me,
I bend, I bend.
This is my trunk I'm a tall tall tree
In the autumn the apples grow on me,
They drop, they drop.
This is my trunk I'm a tall tall tree
In the winter the snowflakes fall on me,
Brrrrr, Brrrrr

In February, classes celebrated the 100th day of kindergarten with a variety of counting activities. Some classes worked with 100 items and made 100-item creations. Children have been counting each day of school and noticing number patterns on the hundreds chart. We continue to practice skip counting, reading larger numbers, and writing numbers. Children are breaking numbers apart, finding number partners, and looking for tens within teen numbers.

We will continue to meet for reading groups, study our high frequency words, and have fun with our Writer's Workshop stories. Classes will also explore the history and traditions of St. Patrick's Day, watch for signs of spring, and study Dr. Seuss and his books.

Grade One News
Submitted by Ashley Macey
Grade Level Coordinator

It is hard to believe that the 100th day of school has come and gone. The children celebrated this milestone with many counting activities in the various classrooms. This celebration was one of the numerous events occurring in February. The children also learned about the Chinese New Year and the many traditions and customs surrounding it; Groundhog Day – predicting and estimating what will happen; Valentine's Day – a celebration of love, friendship and kindness; Black History Month and recognizing the many famous/historic people for their achievements; Dental Health Month and the importance of good oral health; President's Day, and a well-deserved week off for winter break. To kick off all these activities the children went to the Hitchcock Center for an animal tracking field trip. The children loved learning about the natural world around them and how animals indigenous to this area cope with the rigors of winter – migrating, hibernating, sleeping a lot and/or staying active. Before the trip each class had a visit from a Hitchcock Center Environmental Educator who prepared them to look for signs of animal activity. First grade would like to give a big thank you to the PTA for always sponsoring this incredible trip.

March is a time to welcome the warmer, spring weather. Spring is a season of renewal, rebirth and new beginnings. The days are longer and brighter, flowers are blooming, robins are singing and good moods are all around to celebrate another beautiful season. Things come back to life and invigorate us for the remainder of the year. Compared to February, March is a quiet, almost uneventful month; therefore, it is a great time for consistent classroom instruction. First grade teachers generally notice a lot of growth in the children, as well, as they solidify much of the year's instruction.

Midway through the month, teachers will be having parent conferences for the students they may have concerns about. Following this, your child will be receiving their second term report card. While most parents are familiar with the marking system, it can still be a bit confusing. Please keep in mind that it is a grade level expectation that children will be at "M" (*Meets the Standard*) for all items by the **end** of the school year. This means that "P" (*Progressing*) is still an appropriate mark for this point in the year. You may also see the mark of "NA" (*Not Assessed*) on your child's report card. This means that, although the teacher has been working with the particular skills and concepts as a whole class, individual children have not been assessed. "NA" could also mean that the teacher will be teaching that item as a unit or part of a unit during the last part of the school year. This is often the case for science and social studies units. If you should have any questions about the markings on your child's report card, please contact your child's teacher.

As always, thank you for your support.

Counselor's Corner

Submitted by Nancy Jessup

School Adjustment Counselor

Some of you may have seen the notice in the last newsletter about Family Culture Night. We are very excited about this tradition at Plains School. In the past we've had families present displays about many different countries and cultures such as Canada, Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, Fiji Islands, Kenya, India, Costa Rica, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Czech Republic, Lebanon, Israel, Russia, Egypt, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia, South Africa and Japan. This year our family culture night will be on Thursday April 30th. We will have passports for the children so that when they visit each display they will get a flag sticker that represents that country.

This is a wonderful opportunity to represent the diversity of our Plains school family. It is very exciting for the families to share their experiences and for the children to take pride in their heritage. Students are proud to share pieces of their heritage with others. We have quite a diversity of families at Plains.

In some of our Friendship Groups, we are taking the opportunity to celebrate our diversity. Sometimes if children are different from their peers they feel that there is something wrong with them. It's important for us all to celebrate and appreciate our differences. It makes our community so much more interesting and exciting! I try to teach children to be proud of who and what they are. This is an important piece of our sense of self and our self-esteem.

If you have any questions about Family Culture night, feel free to contact me at njessup@shschools.com

PBIS News

Submitted by Nancy Jessup

March 2020

Every few months at Plains we have a PBIS assembly, this helps to remind everyone of our PAWS behavior expectations and helps to strengthen our community. We had a wonderful PBIS assembly in January in which three first grade classes (Mrs. Goodale, Ms. Modlish and Ms. Teixeira) presented skits about Pausing and Thinking and Acting With Kindness. They then taught us all the new Plains School Cheer! They were supported by the energy of some wonderful cheerleaders who joined us from the high school. We thought you would be interested in learning about the cheer. Maybe you can ask your children to demonstrate!

WE ARE PLAINS

P - L - A (clap, clap) I - N - S (clap, clap)

Plains School (clap, clap) is the best (clap, clap)

P - L - A (clap, clap) I - N - S (clap, clap)

WE ARE PLAINS

We're safe and respectful

Each and every day.

We're kind to each other

When we work and play.

P - L - A (clap, clap) I - N - S (clap, clap)

As Tiger Cubs, (clap, clap) We do our best (clap, clap)

P - L - A (clap, clap) I - N - S (clap, clap)

WE ARE PLAINS!

SAVE THE DATE!

Family Culture Night

Is



Thursday April 30th 6:00-7:30

There will be food trucks at the school starting at 5:30

Plains School Families will have displays about different countries and cultures. Children will get passports and there will be games and music.

Each family will get a book.

Please come and travel the globe at Plains School!

A flyer with more detailed information will be coming home soon. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Jessup njessup@shschools.com

Notes from the Nurse
Submitted by Eileen Garvey, R.N.

During this time of year we often see strep throat in the schools. I would like to take this opportunity to give you a little information about strep. Strep throat is a bacterial infection of the throat. Symptoms usually include sore throat, fever, beefy red pharynx, and sometimes “patches” of mucous are visible on the tonsils. Some children may also experience a headache, tiredness, nausea, and vomiting. The glands in the neck can also enlarge and become tender.

The only sure way to diagnose a strep throat is by having a throat culture done at your doctor’s office. Most offices now use a “Rapid Strep Test” throat culture that can pick up the presence of strep bacteria within 5 minutes. Treatment for the infection is with the use of an antibiotic. If children are feeling better, they are considered “safe” to return to school after 24 hours of being on the antibiotic.

To help prevent the spread of this infection we should encourage the children to use good hand washing and avoid the sharing/drinking from other children’s food or utensils. It is also recommended that children who have the strep infection may benefit from a new toothbrush. This will help prevent a recurrence of the strep infection.

I have also been seeing children with the flu the last few weeks. I remind parents to keep children home with fever and flu symptoms. Children must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.

Stay healthy and keep warm!

Notes from Shane Harrington
Physical Education Specialist

Just a reminder that students should be wearing sneakers on the days that they have P E class. Boots are not acceptable footwear.

Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTICE

Non-Discrimination Statement

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and the full range of any occupational and vocational education programs offered by the South Hadley Public Schools.

Declaración de No discriminación

Todos los estudiantes, independientemente de su raza, color, sexo, identidad de género, religión, origen nacional, orientación sexual, discapacidad o falta de vivienda, tienen acceso equitativo al programa de educación general y a toda la gama de programas de educación ocupacional y profesional ofrecidos por Escuelas Públicas de South Hadley

If you feel you may need special accommodations or assistance as a result of a handicapping condition or limited English proficiency, please call Beth Cooke at the South Hadley School Department, 116 Main Street at 413-538-5072 (hearing impaired fax 413-532-6284) and notify us of your special need.

Si usted necesita alguna adaptacion o asistencia especial debido a algun tipo de minusvalia, por favor llame al telefono 413-538-5072 (fax para personas con deficiencias auditivas 413-532-6284) y notifiquenos cuales son sus necesidades especificas.

