

Frenchtown Elementary April 2021 Board Report



<u>Pk:</u>	22
<u>Kindergarten</u>	91
<u>1st Grade</u>	81
<u>2nd Grade</u>	82
<u>3rd Grade</u>	94

Current enrollment as of April 8, 2021 PK-3 Current Enrollment 370



We have 54 kindergarteners currently enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. Kindergarten is an important year for helping kids gain momentum for their educational journey. Kindergarten is rigorous, invigorating and all about growth. If you have any questions about sending your child to school next year, please contact the school 626-2620. Here are the places to pick up registration packets:

<https://www.ftsd.org/domain/20>

Frenchtown Elementary Office
Bronc Grocery Store
Clark Fork Coffee Company

Kindergarten

In Mrs Kurpius's class, we kicked off April by learning a little bit about baseball. Did you know that the fastest pitch ever was thrown by Aroldis Chapman at 105 mph? The Solar System will be our next focus, followed by Earth Day then dinosaurs and volcanoes. It is also National Poetry month, so to celebrate we are focusing on rhyming words and funny poems.

This month in Miss Luebke's class we are learning all things eggs and chickens! We started our eggs in our incubator and in 21 short days we will have chicks hatching in our classroom! We'll also be celebrating Earth Day and talking about all the ways we can protect and care for our earth.

To kick off April, Mrs. Musso's class celebrated Easter by drawing bunnies, and making eggs complete with a writing portion and picture explaining what we'd put inside our eggs. We then dove into learning all about plants and their life cycle. Next we will learn about insects, followed by learning about how to care for our earth and celebrating earth day. We will end the month with exciting dinosaur explorations such as creating our own volcanoes and watching them explode, digging for dinosaur fossils, and using our own feet to compare our sizes to the size of a dinosaur's foot.

In Ms. Geaudry's class in April, we started the month off with learning about plants and the parts of a plant. Next we started to learn about different insects, baby animals, and wrote our very first book! Lastly, we spent the rest of the month learning about ways to help the earth and started our Dinosaur unit! This is by far the kids' favorite unit each year because I turn our entire classroom into a dinosaur museum, featuring our hard work!

In Ms. Juden's class we will be learning about the solar system, life cycle of plants, and how to make our earth a better place :) we will also be learning about manners this month by having a fancy party!

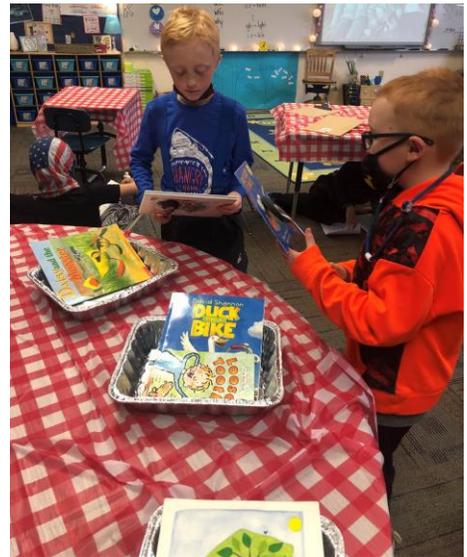
1st grade

First Graders have been busy learning about bugs this month. We have several different types of bugs for class pets. The bugs need a habitat, food, and water, so we learned about what they needed to survive and then took care of our insects each day. It has been fun to watch the metamorphosis that several bugs go through.

To conclude our unit on bugs, we will all go on a virtual field trip to Missoula Butterfly House to learn more about amazing insects.

We are learning comprehension and phonics skills and are becoming fantastic readers! In math we are learning to tell time and discovering attributes of different shapes.

First-grade is always fun and exciting!



2nd grade

Our Second Graders have been very busy this spring! We have started a new unit in math working on data and graphing. We have learned how to make different graphs including picture graphs and bar graphs. In this unit students are learning how to look at data and ask questions, draw graphs from tally charts, and analyze the information. They have also been enjoying surveying the class on their favorite pizza or candy and drawing graphs based on the results.

Mrs. Udem & Ms. Stenerson's class has completed a Peeps Science Experiment. They learned what liquids are best for dissolving a Peep. Mrs. Straw's class has also been working with Peeps doing the Peeps Science Experiment as well as a math measuring activity. The students enjoyed working with their edible specimens.

Ms. Harvey's class has been working hard reading different folk tales while Ms. Vinton's class enjoyed learning all about Montana and 406 Day.

Ms. Duke's students just finished a fun unit all about Water.

As the year is winding down to an end, we are ready for the spring weather and are looking forward to a few field trips we have planned in May. Stay tuned for more information about how we plan to enjoy ending our year in Second Grade.

Counseling Corner

Healthy Self Talk is when we build positive, optimistic, and kind thought patterns in our brains. We use words like "I am..." and "I can..." The K-3 students have been learning about their brains and the function our brains play in our emotional and social development. Powerful stuff! We have learned about the amygdala and our frontal lobes. Kids have learned that emotional regulation is important to keeping our lid on top of our amygdalas so that we don't flip our lid.

Kids have learned that a key component of keeping our lids on tight is using the strategy "Self-Talk". Two types of self talk were taught: affirmations and growing words which can help us when we get stuck in the muck of stinking thinking. Stinking Thinking is just like it sounds; "I can't do this." "This is too hard." "I never have any friends." "No one likes me." This stinking thinking is often irrational and can develop a negative mucky thought pattern that is difficult to get out of: stuck in the muck thinking.

To bolster our coping strategies, we are working on healthy, kind, optimistic self talk. Our K-3 kids know about healthy self talk. They are building their positive thought patterns by giving themselves affirmations and can statements. Here are a couple of examples: I am loved. I am amazing. I am kind. I am capable. I can be persistent when things are tough. I can use my strategies in (reading, breathing, coping, math, etc).

To finish out the school year, our students will be learning about character and how we display our character in friendship skills. Our students have grown so much in their social emotional development this year. It remains a privilege to hold this job. Mrs. America, K-3 School Counselor, Frenchtown Elementary

K-5 Library News

Mrs. Rugg and Mrs. Evans have been busy putting together mobile coding makercarts to be checked out to classrooms. The students have enjoyed using the Spheros, cubelets, and other

coding devices. We have been given permission to welcome students back to the library makerspace. April is National Recycling Month. The project for April was designed to support the book *One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia*. Our K-3 students have been listening to the five Treasure State book nominees. Voting is almost completed and Frenchtown results will be sent and tabulated with other students from around the state. The books are a variety of genres both fiction and non-fiction. The students in the Intermediate have been working on lessons that support using and navigating databases such as World Book Encyclopedia. Conversations and lessons about using reliable sources and citing sources is ongoing. We are teaching students the importance of organizing their work in Google Drive. This includes naming their documents and creating folders for these documents.



Frenchtown Book Fair a Success

Thank you Frenchtown community, students and staff for making the 2021 Frenchtown Book Fair a huge success despite the delays in getting the fair to our school. The truck arrived with books on March 2 and with the help of Roberta Chapman, Elaina Blass, Karolie Lydell, and Natalie Martin (Bova), the fair was set up before the end of the day.

The two day book fair took place during Parent Teachers Conferences. Covid protocol was followed and parents were very appreciative and generous. The success of this event is a testament of the support this community has for Frenchtown School and how they value reading.

The proceeds of this book fair will be used to purchase books and supply our Makerspace for up and coming projects.

Your continued support of this event is very much appreciated!!!

Carson Wilcox Eagle



Elementary Entry

Scout Project for the

Carson Wilcox is a senior at Frenchtown High School. He completed his Eagle Scout project by building three solid wood benches for the entry of the Elementary School. He said it took him about 70 hours to build. He received donations from Home Depot and Boyce Lumber in Missoula. He did a beautiful job. THANK YOU Carson for choosing our school for your project, we are fortunate to have these for many years to come.

