

Monroe - Message From the Principal



March 27, 2023



The weather is starting to feel a little warmer and I think most of us are ready for this change. While some days may start to feel like the summer days we know are coming, we are not quite there yet and students should still be dressing appropriately for outside activities. As the snow continues to melt, we all know that mud season comes next and it would be helpful for students to have a change of clothes/shoes in their backpacks if possible.

This week I would also like to ask families for additional support with addressing student behaviors. We have wonderful students in all of our schools, and often in the smaller schools we become even more of a family due to single classrooms with students who have been or will likely be together as a class for multiple years. Much like in a family, this constant “togetherness” can be a good thing and at times a challenge.

While it is not uncommon for students in schools to exhibit a variety of behaviors, lately the term “bullying” has been coming up in various conversations. I would like to assure families that bullying is not a significant issue in our schools. We definitely have continued work to do to support students with self-management and impulse control and this includes giving them the tools to make safe, responsible choices for dealing with frustration, anger, etc. The types of behaviors we are seeing in school are not typically malicious behaviors, but more a response in the heat of the moment that leads to a variety of behavior choices including: sometimes becoming argumentative or non-compliant with adults, disrupting the learning environment, getting upset with peers for perceived injustices (ex. “he/she won’t stop looking at me, he/she laughed at me), and at times putting hands on in an impulsive way (ex. “he/she bumped into me in line so I pushed him/her). While none of these behaviors are acceptable, they do not necessarily constitute bullying. Whenever we process with students about how these behavior choices impact others, they are all very quick to own their choices and want to make amends to the person they “harmed” in some way. In fact we often discover that many situations start out as students “playing” (mutual roughhousing that gets carried away).

Our focus in school is to give students appropriate tools to support their development of impulse control. We talk often about these strategies and provide opportunities to practice. Through our PBIS efforts, we work to reinforce positive choices and strengthen students’ ability to pause and think about the impact their actions will have. We still have a lot of work to do on this topic, as more and more students are finding it hard to regulate their emotions and manage their impulses. **I assure you that this will continue to be an important focus at school.**


We would sincerely appreciate your support at home by:

- Reinforcing the difference between safe/appropriate choices and unsafe/unkind/inappropriate choices.
- Check in with your child every day and prompt them to give all of the details when they share about events that sound unsafe or upsetting (possibly including the part they may have played in the situation)
- Remind your child to always report to an adult when they feel unsafe or upset, if they know that someone else is feeling this way, or if they even think that something unsafe or unkind may be going to happen.
- Always reach out to your child’s teacher or to me directly with any questions or concerns so that they can be addressed as soon as possible.

Again, we recognize that there is continued work to do and I want to acknowledge the entire staff for their hard work every day, supporting all students in developing life-long skills in academics, behavior, and social-emotional learning. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate their efforts, patience, and positivity as they embrace some of our daily challenges. They truly adore your children and want what’s best for them. We all appreciate the team approach we have between school and home and we know that together we will help all students to grow up to be amazing, kind, responsible citizens. Thank you for your continued support!

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, concerns, or need support for your child or your family. Have a great week!

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K	 <p>In Kindergarten, we have been working on writing stories with a beginning, middle, and end. We wrote about how we tapped maple trees, checked the buckets for sap, and evaporated the sap to make syrup. The last (and best) part was about sampling the maple syrup with ice cream!</p>
1	<p>We have been continuing our experiment with evaporation this week. We have 5 cups throughout the room and we investigate them, make a hypothesis about why sometimes there is more water evaporated than other times, measure them and then write in our journal about how much has evaporated each time.</p>
2/3	<p>We are starting a science unit on Earth & the Solar System. We'll start by answering the question, "where are we?" We'll review and learn vocabulary words for different scales of place (town, county, state, region, country, continent, planet, solar system, galaxy, universe). We'll put those terms in order from smallest to largest and then learn the actual place names for each.</p>
4/5	<p>This week we started our international studies unit by picking countries to learn about. Each student will create a slideshow and kahoot then present their country. We also started a new read aloud, Things Not Seen. In the book the main character Bobby is invisible due to light refraction. To understand this more we did some light/water experiments. Also in reading a couple groups are finishing up their current chapter books and are getting very excited about the endings. Both grades finished up chapter 4 in the Go Math program and we are moving on to factors for 4th and fractions for 5th grade. Our 5th grade field trip has been rescheduled for May 5th. Hopefully it will go smoothly this time! Thank you to the parent chaperones who helped out and took time out of their day!</p>

Reminder: Currently Monroe students are participating in a read-a-thon to support the Gesner Park project. Between this and the upcoming Bikes For Books opportunity, students will be doing a lot of amazing reading!



🧼👏 Regular hand washing is an effective way to prevent the spread of germs and illnesses, **which can improve school attendance** by keeping students healthy. When students are absent due to illness, they miss out on important learning opportunities and can fall behind.

💧 Here are two fun rhymes to help make hand washing more memorable for young children:

1 "Wash, wash, wash your hands,
Make them nice and clean.
Scrub the dirt and germs away,
And keep them good and clean." 🎵

2 "Soap and water,
Wash and scrub,
Make those germs
Go down the drain with a rub-a-dub-dub!" 🎵 🐸
Try incorporating these rhymes into your day! 🧑🏫💪📚

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