

Ella P. Burr School Newsletter

February 2019
Volume 2, Issue 6

Principal: Peter J. Loiselle
School Website: <https://www.rsu67.org/o/ella-burr-school>



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2018-19 Concerts

- Gr. 1: Jan. 17
- K: Feb. 7
- Gr. 2: Mar. 14
- Gr. 3: Apr. 4

Principal's News

January has been a wild month. The weather has caused us to miss two days in the past two weeks, making it difficult to create a rhythm in the classroom. Learners come in wondering is it Wednesday or is it Wednesday with Thursday's schedule. And that could apply to the classroom schedule as well as the menu for the day. Throw into that mix, cold and flu season, and things really get confusing. Thanks to the efforts of the staff and students, no one seemed to miss a beat. Learners completed the winter STAR testing and continue to show growth and staff will be meeting in grade level data meetings this week to identify those who need a little extra push to get to the next level. The month of January can be a long month, but now we're looking at only two weeks before February vacation and everyone is doing everything they can to be successful and happy. Please be sure to read all four pages of this month's Newsletter, there are several events in the coming months that we could use some help with. Bring on February, we're ready.

Mr. Loiselle

Parent Reminders

There are several things that will help keep us informed and our learners safe. If you could help us by following these expectations it will ease the confusion for each learner.

1. In order to cut down on the confusion of dismissal time, we are reinstituting the expectation that written notes are needed when your child is going to a different location. We will no longer accept phone calls for dismissal changes. Thank you for your cooperation.
2. When dropping our child off in the morning, please park beside the building so staff can park in the staff parking lot in front of the school.

Children's Stage Adventures

Thanks to a Bailey Grant, our school has the opportunity to have two actors/directors/teachers joining us for the last week of March. They will be producing a musical called "*Cry Wolf*" and up to 50 of our students get to star. There will be two rehearsals a day and in the end two productions, one for the school and one for the public. There are many needs to make this all happen and it starts with the request for housing for two separate people for that week. If you can, or know someone who might be able to, provide housing for one or both performers, please call the office so we can provide more information. You would not be required to feed them, but if you wish, I'm told they enjoy interacting with families. There's lot's more information to come, but I wanted to start a conversation now so housing can be found. I have been at a school where this group performed and it is an amazing opportunity for your youngest learners to be introduced to the performing arts.

Pre-K News Ms. Sherman and Ms. Tash

Here's what's happening in the world of four and five-year-olds in Pre-K! We have begun Unit Four in our OWL curriculum, (Opening The World of Learning). It is called The World of Color, and we are exploring all kinds of colors, especially those found in nature. We hope you read the letter we sent outlining the main Read Alouds and skills that we are learning. We continue to build on new vocabulary words and phonemic awareness skills, (playing with word sounds and knowing how words work). We are focusing on counting, creating and extending patterns, finger painting, and exploring with water using plastic tubes, measuring cups and funnels. We are learning new songs and word plays.

Early K/Kindergarten News Mrs. McCarthy, Miss. Crockett, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. Olsen, and Mrs. Peters

Jack Frost has made many kindergarten learners happy. At recess, they have been building snowmen, Making chairs, realizing snow and ski pants make you faster on the slides and best of all getting outside and using their imaginations. In the classroom, we have been learning about polar animals and how they survive the cold. Many kids are anxious to see if Punxsutawney Phil will see his shadow this year.

First-Grade News Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Cuccinello, Mrs. Harper, and Mrs. Larlee

For the last few weeks, first-grade teachers have been giving students time to take STAR tests. First-grade has to take math, reading and early literacy tests. We try to do this in small groups so that students can have the best opportunity to succeed. For this reason, teachers have not been able to meet with their guided reading groups as frequently. STAR testing will be completed on February 1st, which will allow us to go back to our normal schedule. Thank you for being patient throughout this process.

All of the first grade classrooms talked about Martin Luther King last week. The students learned who he was, the amazing things that he did and how he made the world a better place.

The winter days have been super cold and have made it so we couldn't go outside to play very often but that hasn't stopped first grade from working hard in the classroom and being super students! Just a reminder to send in the appropriate clothing for outdoor play. Students love and need this time.

Second-Grade News Mrs. Hallett, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Gardner, and Mrs. Morse/Mrs. Himes

Winter continues on and so do we in 2nd grade! We've been working on many goals and activities. Here are just some of the things we've been working on. In Reading, we're reading both Fiction and Non-Fiction and determining the Main Idea of the text, as well as details to support our findings. In Writing, we're continuing with our Informational unit, in which we're writing about what we're experts on! In Math, we're finishing up money and starting skip counting soon. Skip counting is the foundation for many mathematical concepts and skills, and it gets them ready for multiplication later on. We encourage you to skip count by 2s, 5s, 10s, and 100s with your child anytime you can! In Science, we continue to learn about animals and their special abilities that help them thrive in their unique environments. We want to thank all the parents at home for your continued support throughout these tough winter months. We hope you can get a chance to play and have fun outside with your little ones! Thank you, -Second Grade Teachers :)

Third-Grade News Ms. Tolman, Mrs. Thornton, Mrs. Manzo, and Mrs. Brawn

Third grade continues to work diligently on our learning targets. Please continue to work on reading, math facts, and spelling words for a few minutes each night. In third grade, each year we have a service learning project of collecting pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. We would accept any donations of pop tabs, including soda can tabs, canned vegetables and soup can tabs. Thank you so much for your support with this project.

Staying Warm Mrs. Turner, School Counselor

Just a “warm” reminder that staff and students are encouraged to wear hats and/or sunglasses to help others. Students and staff can wear them every Friday during school hours. We are asking everyone that wears a hat or sunglasses to bring in 50 cents for each one. The money collected will go into our Ella P. Burr Fuel Assistance Fund.

We are doing this in an effort to help families stay warm during the cold winter months ahead. It is an act of kindness to help others and we are excited to support our students and their families.

As the weather gets colder we hope parents will call if they need assistance with fuel. We will do what we can to help. We will only have the funds raised from these Hat Day Fridays to offer support. If we all get involved we can help keep all families warm this winter season. It helps us all feel warm inside and out! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call. Thank you very much!

Movies and Books Mrs. Crane, Mrs. Leighton, and Ms. Murchison

Movie Night: The cold winter can be the perfect time to enjoy movies. One idea is to pick some movies based on books. Listen to an audio recording of the book or read it together. Then watch the movie with some popcorn or snacks! Compare and contrast the movie and the book. Which one did your child prefer?

Morning Math Mrs. Gulesian and Mrs. Goslin

We love our jobs as interventionists! We get to work with learners from every grade and do lots of hands-on activities and games to teach math concepts. Currently, we are looking at all of our winter screening data and are making groups of learners to work with. Looking forward to working with these learners!

Physical Education/Health Mr. Lindsay

In PE we, I have introduced a new portion of class called Character Ed. I am introducing vocabulary words that deal specifically with, character, kindness and proper behavior in both PE and out in the world. The first 4 we are going over, with a new one being introduced each week, are Integrity, Sportsmanship, Honesty, and Courtesy. At the beginning of each class, I spend 2-3 minutes talking about what the word of the week means, what it looks like, and how we can apply it in class and

Art and Music Mrs. York

In music, we are continuing to chip away at the concert schedule. Next up is kindergarten on the seventh at 1 PM. In regularly scheduled classes, we are starting instrument sounds and being able to identify instruments. Art is finishing up principles of design with pattern, balance, and scale.

Parent Survey

Attached you will find a short parent survey we would like you to complete. Several members of the district administrative team are working on a Century 21 grant to create an after-school program for students K-3. This program, if the grant is awarded to RSU 67, would provide an after-school program from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The information from the survey will help in completing the grant proposal. Please return them to school by Friday, February 8. Thank you for your help.

From the Clinic Mrs. McIntyre



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Unfortunately, we have seen some confirmed cases of influenza in our community and school district, please stay alert to the signs and symptoms of influenza in your learners. If your learner does come down with influenza (or any other communicable disease) please call the school and let the clinic know. If your child is sent home with a fever please refer to our fever free policy and do not send them back to school until they are fever free without a fever reducer for 24 hours. We also ask that if your child has vomited in the middle of the night or in the early morning before school, please do not send them to school. Practice good hand hygiene at home and limit the amount of time spent around individuals who are sick. A friendly reminder to parents that learners are **not** allowed to bring medications into school, those need to be brought in by a designated parent/guardian with the proper paperwork filled out. Thank you for your help and understanding in this and let's all think spring!

Sleep and Child Development

**Empowering
Learners, Today
and Tomorrow.**

Over the past month, the staff has been involved in a book study involving the book *"What if Everybody Understood Child Development? Straight talk about bettering education and children's lives."* While there have been many points that have interested us, the one that seemed to resonate the most was about children and their sleep habits. Below is an excerpt from the book with a little information that might help guide you when you are deciding bedtimes.

"...a very significant percentage of challenging behaviors are actually the result of tired kids. In fact, she states that in her practice, 95 percent of the kids presented to her with challenging behaviors are short on sleep

It makes sense. We've all had days—or weeks—when we were overtired and grumpy. When we'd gladly bite the head off of anyone who looks at us sideways. Why should it be any different for kids, who require even more sleep than we do? Dr. Kurcinka pointed out that if you're tired, you can't manage your emotions, you can't read those of others. The result is often conflict.

Overtired kids are also wired, clumsy, and unable to focus and pay attention, all of which can result in more negative emotion and behavior—and even accidents.

A kindergartner, she said, still needs twelve hours of sleep a night—and ten to eleven hour for a school-aged child. But because most parents don't know that, they're satisfied with their children getting around eight hours of sleep. Considering that sleep deprivation is cumulative, it's not much of an exaggeration to say that our schools truly are filled with zombies."

Rae Pica, pg.34

*"A child's life is
like a piece of
paper on which
every person
leaves a mark."*

Chinese Proverb

Some things you can do to help your child:

- Using electronic devices within an hour of bedtime can result in an inability to fall asleep for thirty to sixty minutes. This is the result of the devices' output of blue-daylight spectrum light, which blocks the flow of melatonin in the brain.
- Children metabolize caffeine much more slowly than do adults. Dr. Kurcinka pointed out that a cola drink can affect sleep eight to ten hours later.