

Watson Times

I READ. I THINK. I COMPREHEND. I SHARE.

February 2017



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb. 3 - Wear Red Dress Down Day
- Feb. 10 - Patriot's Dress Down Day
- Feb. 13 - Family Dance
- Feb. 20-24: Winter break - no school

The Nurse's Office

Happy Valentine's Day!

In the month of February we will be sponsoring two fund raisers. Our annual Pennies for Patients, which supports the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (Childrens' Cancers), will kick off again on February 17th. The student will attend an assembly to explain what blood cancer is, and how they can help other children living with cancer..

And this year will have included our students in the American Heart Association's (AHA) Wear Red Day. AHA sponsors this event every year to raise money to support Women's Heart Health. Heart disease and stroke is the number one killer of women in our country. Through education and lifestyle changes 80 percent of all cardiac events can be prevented. So let's educate our young woman!

Students have received red hearts to bring home. Parents can put any name on the heart and sent it back to school and we will display the hearts in the school foyer for the month of February. A donation of any size will be accepted from the students on behalf of the AHA.

And as always, thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs. Couto

We have the school's family dance coming up, February 13, 2017 from 5-7pm at the Boys and Girls Club - invitations were sent home February 6th! We continue to fundraise for the school and have PTO meetings that are open for all to come. Next PTO is scheduled for February 7th at 3:30pm. Call if you are interested!

Message From Principal Carvalho

Second quarter is over and time is marching on. Once again, I am asking for your help

Every child at Watson has one similar homework assignment and that is to read and log their time/pages. Studies have proven that the more a child reads, and it doesn't matter what they read, the more successful they are in all areas of their education. Children need to be exposed to all kinds of stories and more importantly, vocabulary.

Let them read to you then discuss what was read. Ask questions that begin with why, how or I wonder. These types of questions help children think about what they have read and this is another important skill that will help them be successful learners.

We have free books in the hall, and all teachers have classroom libraries so there is no need to go out and purchase books. The library is another great choice.

What we need from you is to check in with your child every night and take 20 minutes to sit and read with them - the difference that time will make will be huge!

Also, our PTO has many great new ideas and plans for the remainder of the year and we need more parent volunteers to make these programs successful! Please think about joining the PTO or become a parent volunteer. Teachers always need help copying and laminating work for your children.

In closing, I am very proud of our students this year. They are working hard and showing us their best work. Please have discussions about all the new, exciting things they are doing and learning about .

Thank you,

Mrs. Carvalho

ATTENDANCE

The grade level with the best percentage is grade 5 again with 96.02%!! Go grade 5 you are on your way to a free field trip!! Attendance for the month of January was 94.23%, great job Watson families with making sure your children are in school! We had 47 students with perfect attendance this month. Please make sure students are bundled up walking to school the cold weather will be setting in. We need to stay strong with attendance in these cold months so please make sure your child is here all day every day and on time!! Thank you for your cooperation with ensuring success for your child!!

What is Going on In...

Kindergarten

Can you believe we are halfway through the school year! Be on the lookout for a letter regarding our 100th day celebration! We will be sending it home the beginning of next week!

We just started unit 3 in ELA and the students are loving it! We continue to work on letter sounds and sight words. They also have been working very hard on writing sentences.

In math, we are focusing on numbers 6-10. The students are really enjoying growing their brains.

Please continue to read every night and fill out the reading log! When reading with them try and let them read their sight words or sound out some of the words! You will be amazed at how much they can read!

Grade 1

Wow, first grade is half over and students are that much closer to second grade!

In ELA, we have started unit 3 and we are exploring changes around the world. We will read and write about things that change around us- at home, at school, seasons, and how animals change and grow.

In math, we are practicing adding and subtracting within 20. We are adding money and starting to read and solve word problem. Continue reading every night!

Grade 2

In ELA, we are working on unit three, what does it mean to be creative? We are reading stories about creative ideas and working together to solve problems. As the weekly conventions and phonics skills become more challenging, we ask that you have your student complete the weekly homework packet. Independent practice is very important as the students begin to apply the skills they have learned.

In Math, we just began our unit on geometry. This is a very language rich math unit. You can help at home by having your student find and name two and three dimensional shapes.

As always, students should be reading and logging at least 20 minutes of reading time each night!

Grade 3

During February in math class, we are learning the meaning of multiplication. The students are using two strategies to determine a product; ratio tables and arrays. We will soon begin memorizing the multiplication tables up to the tens tables. You can expect more information about that soon.

In science, we are continuing to learn about how motion can only occur with force and that the directions and strength of such a force affects the motion.

In ELA we have finished reading our first novel, Fantastic Mr. Fox. We will begin discussing how people and nature are connected by reading Charlotte's Web. The students will be doing some research about habitats. Be sure your child is reading for 20 minutes as part of their homework! Mrs. Borkman's class has completed their projects for Fantastic Mr. Fox and they are so proud and excited to share it with you.

Grade 4

In ELA, we are finishing our first novel study. We've worked very hard on many comprehension skills and will be holding a showcase to show off all of our hard work. Invitation to follow. Next, we will be moving on to a research project on Extreme Weather to help us build background for our next novel study. Please keep encouraging your loved one to read and log every night.

In Math, we are working on multiplication and division with bare numbers and word problems. We are taking our assessment soon! Moving on from here will be conversions. Please help your student with their multiplication facts at home!

Grade 5

In math, we are working on applying our adding and subtracting skills to answer complex word problems.

In ELA, we are focusing on reading and finding themes and main ideas. We are finishing up our first novel study "Esperanza Rising", and will soon begin our project! Our projects will be creative and fun, and I cannot wait to begin!

P.E./Music

I can't believe we're already in February! The students have been great with the abrupt changes of weather throughout the day which allows us to be outside, or changes the lesson to an indoor activity. Catching and throwing is going to a continuous priority for the K-2 classes, and the upper grades are staying active with movement games that incorporate thinking, strategy, and teamwork.

STEM

Kindergarten has been working on polar animals and their cold homes.

First Grade is starting to work on animal behavior and interactions between parent animals and their children..

Second grade is has recently been looking at states of matter as well as reversible vs. nonreversible reactions!

Third grade is working on force and motion and the differences between balanced and unbalanced forces.

Fourth grade is learning about waves and how sound is created and light waves. Grade 4 has also been working on their typing skills.

Fifth grade is learning about matter and mass of objects. We also are focusing on the scientific method and more specifically on variables.

Miss Amaral

In ELA we will continue our unit on Freedom and will be learning about personal freedom and the law. Students will work on their comprehension and writing skills by using t-charts to show what they learned about Freedom at the end of each week.

In math we will wrap up our fraction unit through a project. Students will be working in small groups to understand and explain a fraction concept to the class then to our families. Stay tuned for information regarding this project and presentations!

Many students are not keeping up with their homework so please check in with them each night. Homework is important because it helps students practice skills independently and become more confident learners. We want them to grow their brains!