

## Bobcat News

### Kindergarten

Remember the book, "All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten" by Robert Fulghum? Throughout the month of September, we learned a fair amount of the lessons from that book. We learned to share, take turns, line-up, and wash our hands, keep our hands to ourselves, follow rules, clean up, etc. We sang a lot of songs, heard some poems, and listened to a lot of stories. In October, we went to full day kindergarten. All of our students adapted really well to the full day. We are on our way to learning all the names and sounds of the alphabet based on our Zoo Phonics characters. We have been learning how to write, count, and describe the numbers 0-5. Last week, we celebrated our 5 senses. We discovered that our taste buds taste bitter, sweet, salty, and sour. We played a game called "Who's That Knocking on Our Door?" in which we just used our ears to listen for our friends voices. We are now starting a unit about nocturnal animals. Soon the big news will be all about pumpkins and Halloween. Kindergarten is off to a wonderful start!



### First Grade

First Grade is off to a great start! The first nine weeks have been spent learning all sorts of concepts in reading, math, and science, as well as, reestablishing friendships and routines. Reading has brought about new terms and elements of reading such as story webs, informational texts, and how to read for understanding! We also work very hard on our phonics and writing in our journals! It's fun to watch the students grow in their reading journey each and every day. It's one of the many pleasures of being a teacher. In math, we have already learned many different strategies for addition and key words such as: addends, sums, addition sentences, and how much we love adding doubles! Science has been exciting so far learning about the life cycle of a frog, the sun, and the moon! We are looking forward to our first classroom party and the annual community Halloween parade! This is a tradition for our school and community that is second to none! It's always so fun to see the streets lined with friends and family members who are taking in the joys of kids and dressing up in their favorite costumes. We will also enjoy a unit on pumpkins and our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch!



### Second

It's been a busy first quarter in second grade. In Reading and Writing, our focus has been on sequencing, main ideas, and supporting details. We have become better problem solvers in and experts at place value. Science has been exciting as we learned about birds, their habitats, their nests, their beaks, and their eggs. With the help of the high school FFA class, we built bird houses from scratch. A big shout out to those high school students who helped cut, drill, and assemble the birdhouses with the second graders. Our class has also started using I-pads to supplement our curriculum in Math, Reading and Spelling.

We are looking forward to Ag in the Classroom, the annual Halloween parade, and the making of pumpkin pies for our annual Thanksgiving feast. The beginning of the next quarter starts on October 31<sup>st</sup>. My! How time flies!

### Third

The year has started off well in third grade. In math we began with a review of addition and subtraction with regrouping, and learning how to read different types of graphs. In writing we've completed an informational writing assignment. The students had fun with this assignment because they were able to teach the class about a topic that interested them. We've also worked through two reading units. The first was about helping others, and the second was about the balance of nature. We have enjoyed reading multiple fiction and nonfiction texts throughout these units. As we continue to move through the year, one activity that is coming up is learning how to multiply and divide!

### Fourth

In fourth grade this year, students are adjusting to having two classroom teachers and switching from room to room. On Mondays and Thursdays, Mrs. Eder is teaching Language Arts, Social Studies, and Art. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Mr. Dunlap is teaching Science, Technology, and PE. Both teach Reading and Math every day. It is working out well so far. Fourth graders are looking forward to the annual fourth grade trip to Western Oregon and Washington in May. More information on that will follow.

## Fifth

The fifth grade class is learning to use the Chromebooks that are new to our district. We are using many new programs that include Spelling City, Extra Math, and Accelerated Math. In addition, the fifth graders are coming to terms with the idea that fifth grade will be a challenge. They feel confident that they can learn the ropes by the end of the first quarter. Ukuleles are also a part of the fifth graders daily routine. Please be ready to listen to them when they strum their way through the Christmas concert in December.



## 6th Grade Project Summary

Altruism, Empathy, Gratitude, Honesty, and Responsibility are all important ingredients in the recipe for a successful student! Mr. Nowak's 6th grade class has been discussing and writing on these key character traits in reading and language arts. The project will culminate in a character board displaying these traits, student goals, and interests.

As we have been looking at the foundation of a great personality, in science we have been focusing on the building blocks of all life (Cells). In a two day lab, students used light microscopes to examine and draw specimens from all five kingdoms. In addition, students brought in "pond scum" samples to spotlight living protists like paramecium and amoebas. This unit will have the students creating a 3D model of an animal/plant cell including all organelles and functions.

Finally, in Social Studies, we are delving into the birth of civilization itself, "Ancient Mesopotamia". Between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in present day Syria and Iraq, the Mesopotamians were responsible for creating the wheeled-cart, plow, irrigation, and cuneiform. Students will be working on building a Mesopotamian city-state out of salt-dough featuring the religious temple or ziggurat.

## Music

The music department hit the ground running this year. We have several upcoming events for each of the classes. November 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, two students will be attending the honors choir in Milton Freewater. The Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> grade will perform at the Veteran's assembly. November 11, the pep band will be playing in the Veteran's Day Parade. November 16<sup>th</sup>, the choir will be attending EOSSMA (Eastern Oregon Small Schools Music Association) festival in Wallowa. December 7<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas program will start at 6:00 for the elementary and Santa, and 7:15 for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, intermediate, and high school bands and the choir. January 12<sup>th</sup>, a select group of intermediate and high school band members will be attending the All State festival and conference. It is going to be a busy and exciting few months.

## Thoughts from the principal

This is the first of four Elementary School Newsletters you will be receiving the year. This is one of the ways we are trying to reach out to the community about wonderful things that happen at school. Parents that have kids will receive an overview of activities of the past period in their child's report card and adults that do not have have children in school have this communication in their water bill.

As a resident of the Union Community, if you observe occurrences of children's safety or behavior that needs to be addressed by the school, I encourage you to call Bill Johnson at 541-562-5278.



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