

# Lake Forest South Elementary

## On track for success ....



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**Principal:** Tania S. Alexander

**Assistant Principal:** Nicole A. Wright

Dear South Families,

Let us begin by wishing you all a Happy New Year filled with many successes and continued progress. As we ring in the New Year, we see this as an opportunity to check in with students and families to ensure that our students are on-track, prepared and ready for the second half of the year. What we have observed, as we approach the midpoint of the school year, is that our instructional and support team remains energized.

Reminder please have students dressed for the weather. It is getting colder. There are also items in the lost and found. If your student has lost an item have them look in the lost and found.

**Mrs. Alexander and Ms. Wright**



### UPCOMING DATES

**1/11** ~ School Reopens – Cohort “B” Week

**1/18** ~ School Closed for:  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**1/19 - 1/21** ~ Cohort “A” Week

**1/22** ~ End of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period

**1/25** ~ No School – Staff Development Day

**1/26 - 1/28** ~ Cohort “B” Week

**1/28** ~ Report Cards

## Parent Teacher Organization

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00p.m via Zoom.

Any questions or concerns, the PTO can be contacted at [fspto@gmail.com](mailto:fspto@gmail.com).



Please continue to collect box tops as it greatly supports Lake Forest South.

## Kindergarten News

Students and teachers all enjoyed their winter break and are well rested and ready to finish up the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period as we roll into the month of January. Students will begin learning some new writing and math skills as we prepare for the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period. Students will be introduced to opinion writing and get to share their own opinion on lots of topics. In math, we will be focusing on subtraction as we finished up our unit on addition before break. The 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period will be coming to an end at the end of the month. We will begin report card assessing the last two weeks. Make sure you are working with your child on letter recognition, the letters sounds, counting to 100 by 1's and 10's and writing those numbers to 20. Practicing the sight words each night is always helpful too! We want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and we can't wait for so much more fun and learning the second half of the school year!

The Kindergarten Team



## First Grade News

The second marking period is almost finished! That means that report cards will be released soon. Please make sure that your student is keeping up with their assignments and completing any make up work as soon as possible. If you are unsure about your student's work, please contact your child's teacher.

During the next month in ELA, we will read words with long vowels. We have a little trick to help students spot the difference between long and short vowel sounds in words. We like to say that the "silent e zaps then he naps" That means he makes the vowel say it's long sound but then the e does not say anything. This is true in words like cane, cake, bike, mute, etc. We will continue to introduce new weekly sight words and continue our discussions of fiction and nonfiction texts. Please make sure your students are reading every day.

Please consider helping your student learn their basic math facts by practicing math addition and subtraction flashcards. During Math this month, we will be working on data collection, representing and interpreting data, as well as comparing data. The students really seem to enjoy this math unit.

Whether your student is attending school at South, at home, or at daycare, please make sure that students have all their supplies readily available. Students should have all the tools in their virtual learning kit as well as pencils, crayons, a dry erase marker, and their Math Book. Teachers have worked hard to create engaging lessons utilizing these tools. Also, teachers may ask students to complete online activities such as Freckle, Lexia, and DreamBox. Please make sure your student is completing items on those platforms. Those activities allow your students a chance to practice all they are learning in class. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher and as always, thank you for being our partners in education.



## Second Grade News

The New Year is here and the resolution of the second grade teachers at Lake Forest South Elementary is to put your children first! So here's what's going on in your child's second grade virtual and or hybrid classroom.

In reading, your second grader will explore how the sequencing of key details can lead the reader to the main topics of non-fiction texts. We will then begin to investigate the plot sequencing of fiction texts.

In math, we will be adding and subtracting two digit numbers. You know what that means...more regrouping! After that, we will be starting our time and money unit. We will be adding coins and dollars and telling time to five minutes.

Second grade science will see us begin our unit on technology. Your second grader will explore the different kinds of bridges. Beam, arch and suspension are the vocabulary terms for the next unit. This unit is both fun and full of real world science applications.

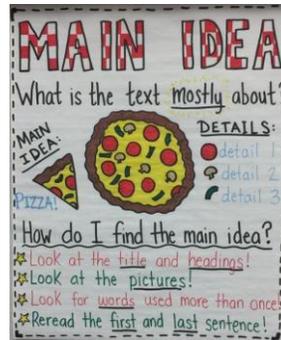
Social Studies classes in grade two will have students working to understand how the different climates of the world affect the wildlife and plant life of each region. Terms such as polar, temperate and tropical will be used daily.

January...Wow 2021 is here already! Thank goodness. We're getting ready for the longest part of the year so let's work together to make sure we give you child the best opportunity to be successful. Thank you for all your help so far! Working together, we will make the most of this different type of school year! ☺



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade News

# THIRD GRADE squad



Happy New Year! It's 2021! We are so happy to begin this New Year with our third- grade students and families.

For ELA, we studied similes. A simile is a comparison of two things using the words, "like" or "as." We use similes in our everyday lives. We also worked on visualizing, or making a movie in your head, while you read. Additionally, we worked on cause and effect. The cause is the reason why something happened and the effect is what happened. We also started with spelling words the last full week of December.

Next in ELA, we are going to be working on main idea and details. The main idea is like a pizza. The whole pizza is the main idea. The details are the toppings. It may also be helpful to understand main idea by thinking about the main idea as a stool. The seat is the main idea and the legs are the details that support it.

Speaking of support...how can you support your child's learning in ELA? Have your child read for at least 20 minutes per day. Studies show a significant impact on vocabulary development from children who read consistently at home. Also, have your child find the main idea and details in everyday reading.

For Math, we continued our unit for multiplication and division. We spent some time learning how to write and solve multiplication and division story problems. And, we wrapped up the multiplication and division unit in the second week of December. Then we moved on to area. Students learned that they can find the area of a rectangle by multiplying the length times the width.

Next in Math, we are going to begin our unit on Addition and Subtraction. First, we will be learning about the properties of addition: commutative, associative, and identity. Then we will move on to rounding. We'll learn a rhyme to help us: "5 or more, raise the score; 4 or less, let it rest." Finally, we will work on addition and subtraction of three-digit numbers.

How can you support your child's learning in Math? Help your child memorize addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. There are a variety of websites and apps that will help children with this task. Of course, you can always make or buy a pack of flash cards.

For Science, we investigated the hardness of minerals. We used the Mohs Hardness Scale to seriate (order) minerals according to hardness. In addition, we investigated additional earth materials to determine if calcite was present. Students observed fizzing when we put vinegar on some earth materials.

Next in Science, we are going to continue learning about earth materials. We are going to analyze a sample of granite to determine which minerals are present.

How can you support your child's learning in Science? When your child finds a rock outside, allow him/her to record observations and conduct simple tests (like the scratch test and the vinegar test). Consider purchasing, borrowing, or looking online for a rocks and minerals guidebook.