



SAFETY MATTERS



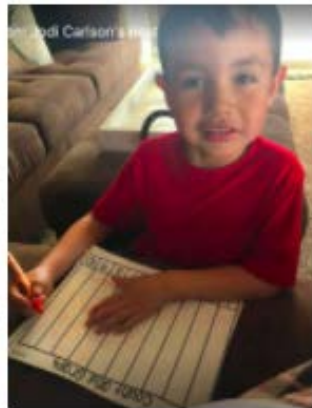


GRADUATION MATTERS

Early Kindergarten

(Submitted by: Ruth Shea)

PreK teachers are working extremely hard to maintain contacts with parents and with students. We read stories to the kids on our websites regularly. We post songs, videos and notes to parents almost daily and we make regular phone calls. We were overwhelmed with strong feelings when we went into our classrooms to begin to pack up our rooms. There were some teary eyed teachers for sure. We decided to think of some of the positive things that have come out of this unusual school year. 1. We have formed stronger relationships with most of our parents. 2. We are getting a clear message that our students miss us greatly which tells us that they must like school. 3. Teachers/paras are going above and beyond to support each other as we figure out the new normal. 4. We have grown as teachers as we brainstorm distance teaching ideas and how to continue to teach our students. 5. We are more grateful than ever before that we work in the community that we work in. We want to thank the board for making the safety of staff and students a priority and cancelling school for the remainder of the year. As hard as it is not to finish the year in the classroom, we know in our hearts that it is the best decision-thank you.



Kindergarten

(Submitted by: Kelley Sharp)

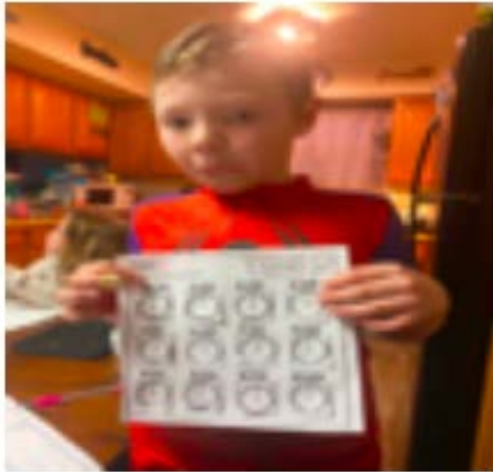
This past month has been a new learning experience for teachers and students. We are trying our best to navigate distance learning. In Kindergarten we are continuing on with our ELA and Guided Math Tool. We are passing out packets every two weeks and parents are responding through email, phone calls, and bringing back packets to the school. Teachers are communicating with parents by making weekly phone calls and checking on our little



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ones. Here are a few comments and pictures on how things are going with our Kindergarten teachers.



Ok! to All!

I have been in contact weekly via telephone with both parents, guardians and sometimes getting to speak with my students since we have been in shelter in place.

All the parents and guardians I have spoken with have told me, "Everything is good; their child is doing their school work". Some parents and guardians asked, "What should they do with their child's work?" At the beginning I instructed them to just hang onto the school work. But later I instructed them to take a picture and email it to me. This week's contact, I advised them we will have a drop-off in front of KW/Vina Elementary when they come to pick-up their child's packet of work.

Have a great week/weekend! Carol Grant

I have a facebook group for my students and their parents. We get to keep in contact and share videos and concerns with each other. Parents post pictures and videos for other students, parents and myself to see of new activities they are trying at home. This group has made our new normal a lot easier now that we can still see each other and contact each other as needed. *Ms. Burd*



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Ms. Pepions girls working on homework. A little focus wall for some calendar time and using my refrigerator as my white board to do some video lessons for the students.



Kindergarten Instructional Coach

(Submitted by: Brandy Bremner)

As educators, it's challenging to work from home. It's a balancing act of work duties, obligation to our students, home responsibilities, parenting, and teaching our own kids. We also need to support our family's emotional needs and deal with our own stress during these uncertain times. We need to remind ourselves, "I'm doing the best I can"...and be ok with that.

Teaching is not typically a "work from home" profession, and it's been a learning curve. We've never had to consider what it would look like trying to teach standards, engage 4, 5, & 6 year olds, or meet the needs of a variety of learners in the way we've been asked to during this Covid 19 Stay at Home order. I know we're all doing the best we can.



Through the challenges, I'm proud to say KW Bergan teachers are continuing to collaborate as a team and find ways to make the best of it for the sake of our kiddos. Some of the things we have been doing include;

- A shared Google Drive for Remote Learning
- Collaboration on packet content and ideas
- Each teacher is assigned a Montana Common Core Standard, they find resources (worksheets, links, videos) that reinforce the standard to add to the packet
- Providing families with instructions on accessing both ABCmouse and Istation from home, as well as other digital resources
- Packets are sent home every two weeks, these packets include;
 - Math worksheets and links to supporting videos
 - Literacy practice sheets and a 1 page script of literacy activities for the week
 - Paperback books and foldable books from the curriculum
 - Resources from our PE, Music, and NAS teachers
- Many teachers have set up class groups on Facebook or Google Classroom, where they are reading aloud for their class, providing resources, sharing links, and engaging with families
- Teachers are making contact by phone, email, or messenger with parents weekly
- Grade level Google Meetings, and Coach Google Meetings happen regularly
- All teachers spend 6 hours per week in their classroom on a rotating schedule (to ensure social distancing and sanitization). A timeline of specific tasks was developed for this rotating schedule for the remainder of the year.

First Grade Instructional Coach

(Submitted by: Nicole Whitney)

What a world we're living in these days. As May approaches, I wonder where April even went. Usually, I can blame the fleeting sense of time on the fact that we are so busy at school, but that's just not the case. Rather, days bleed into other days, and then poof! April is gone. This month has challenged us all for varying reasons, but I think the most pressing question we all have had is, "How do we keep going with our students?" And as the Instructional Coach, I needed to gather answers to this question, and synthesize these answers into a feasible idea. Here's what we came up with:

Each week we are sending home Homework Menus. Teachers have volunteered to fill in specific sections and get materials ready for each section. The menus have options for



reading, math, writing, science/social studies, BNAS, library, P.E., creative play, and useful links and websites. With the age of our students, and the variance in family support and well being at this time, we felt it was important to give students choices to help them feel safe and secure.

For math and reading content especially, we have needed to plan very carefully. Seeing as how we had just about taught to every Mathematics Common Core State Standard (we only had measurement and graphing left to teach, and the rest of the year was reserved for review and practice) we have sent home assignments for measurement and graphing that students can do at home and well as practice for previously taught skills. For reading, we have created pages for each packet to introduce new phonics graphemes so we can "keep going". Along with the introduction page, one teacher per week has recorded themselves teaching a Word Work lesson that students can do every day. We include the link in the homework menu so students can access the video if possible. As the coach, I did the first videos as models, and now teachers are volunteering to record themselves.

For writing and science/social studies, we are trying to create prompts and assignments that have students reflecting on this moment in time, and being observant of the world around them. We have very creative teachers, and they are coming up with some very engaging ideas that students can explore from home without any special materials. This process has challenged me. In the beginning, people were turning to me for answers that I did not have. I felt lost. But with teamwork, and teacher input, we came up with a solution together and I am very proud of the first grade team. Whether the students are in the building or not, this team truly cares about their well-being and will do whatever it takes to keep providing content, engaging ideas, and smiles. We miss them so much and will keep their best interest in our sights for the rest of the year, and beyond.

(submitted by: Egan Black First Grade)

For the month of April, when our teachers are not busy making student and parent contacts or getting materials ready for distance learning, you can find them doing yard work, working on a puzzle with over 1,000 pieces, reading new books, and of course, staying close to home. Others have been baking a lot of bread, cleaning, taking a scenic drive out to the country, or learning a new hobby such as playing the guitar. Coffee, as usual, is still within arms reach and all the dogs and horses are loving the extra attention during the day.

Vina staff is trying to stay fit by doing at-home workouts and trying to eat heather. Our teachers are enjoying distance learning since we feel we are getting the hang of it but we definitely miss seeing everyone's smiling faces every day, especially the students!



In the month of May, we will be getting grades ready and cleaning out our classrooms for summer. We, at Vina Chattin will continue to work diligently to deliver the best education possible during these trying times.

Thank you Colleen Wilson for the cups and Shaylea Tatsey for the message!!



CULTURE MATTERS

(submitted by: Jocelyn Big Throat BNAS PreK & K)

This month has been a tough one on my little ones. From having to use more technology to do their school work, to having me as their teacher. Life has been a new learning experience for us since we have been here at home doing our remote learning. We had the privilege to go on a few trips around the Rez to learn about some of our sacred sites.. One trip we took was to Ninastiko - Chief Mountain. My Dad has told me about an old warrior from Kainai who went up there and had a vision, and how he had gained his powerful medicines. His name was Art Calling Last Saakoiyinaa. I told them about the history and significance of our sacred sites, and told them some of the history. We had a fun time and hope to go back when the weather warms up a bit more.



School Counselor

(submitted by: Tammy Hall-Reagan)

The Month April we switched gears and moved to delivering student services and education remotely. In the counseling center, we provide a weekly reach out to guardians of our students to check on student/family well-being. I have sent out to all of our students, via educational packets, a time capsule project. The time capsule will help the children preserve their thoughts and feelings, as we experience a global pandemic, history in the making. I have also sent some video resources to students. The videos are a 1 minute social emotional learning lesson. I have coordinated resources for our student's families that are in need of food and personal supplies.

We have our weekly remote tier 1 and tier 2 meetings to staff our student needs.



All of our student 504's are currently implemented and up to date.

#InThisTogether
#DancingPrincipal
#DancingPrincipalChallenge

