Elementary School Board Report

November 16, 2026

Educate the *difference makers* of tomorrow.

Angela Shepard-

~Veteran's Day Program-





Star Spangled Banner -3rd Pledge of Allegiance -4th

~269 Elementary Parent/Conference



~November 19th Hearing/Vision Screening grades 1, 3, 5

~December 10th @ 6:00 K-4 Music Concert

14th @ 6:00 5th & MS Band/Choir Concert

22nd @ 1:30 Holiday Sing Along

Early Childhood- Emily Johnson

Turkeys have been the theme the last 2 weeks in Preschool. We have been counting and matching letters/sounds and numbers through fun turkey activities during circle and play time. We decorated our bulletin board for Thanksgiving and are looking forward to our families seeing our classroom at conferences. We have been learning to listen for and say rhyme words too!






Early Childhood- Heather Grigg

We have been busy in preschool! We had so much fun during our class pumpkin parties. We sorted emotions, stacked pumpkins, played games, colored by shapes, voted on our favorite candy, raced to a pumpkin patch in a game and loved showing off our costumes. The weeks following were filled with dreaming of what we want to be when we grow up learning all about different community helpers followed by healthy food and nutrition. We are now diving into Thanksgiving and all things Turkey! We worked hard on coloring by letters and continue to work on number recognition through different number games and activities. Feathers went home last week and are slowly coming back to school. We talk daily about what we are thankful for and love to share all about it with our class.












Kindergarten- Carissa George, Taylor Allen/Hallie Courrier







What a busy month for kindergarten! We have been working on blending and segmenting sounds to read and write! We started our unit on heroes and underdogs and are excited to practice identifying the characters, settings, and events in a story! In math, we have started our teen numbers unit. We also learned all about the election process and held our own class mascot elections!

1st- Becky Lind, Jessica Burt

Our first graders have been busy learning addition and subtraction strategies in math! In UFLI, we are working on different digraphs and practicing our reading skills with lots of fun stories. We are also learning about geography, including states and provinces. We are looking forward to Thanksgiving, and our turkey disguise projects turned out awesome! We are so proud of all our hard work!





2nd- Shannon Kopperud, Jacob Heftman
We have started our computations unit in math. Students are adding 2-digit by 2-digit numbers. They are doing a great job! In science, we have been learning about the Earth and how its tilt creates seasons and rotates around the sun. Students continue to develop their reading and spelling skills. Our most recent topic was adding -ing and -ed onto words.

3rd- Krissy Kelly, Jacqueline Avilez
The 3rd grade has finished their multiplication units in math and moved on to division!! The students are loving the fact they are learning division. We have also finished our Science unit on Weather. We will move onto Economics in Social Studies next week. In reading, we are currently learning about Ancient Rome. We have learned most of the lowercase letters in cursive and every Friday we practice our typing skills.

4th- Jon Theuer, Belle Berg
In 4th grade, students have been working hard on multi-digit multiplication and strengthening their multiplication facts as we prepare to move into division. In reading, we have been studying the Middle Ages through Unit 2, with a focus on paragraph writing, reading comprehension, and learning about life during this historic time. Students have been developing their ability to use details from texts to support their thinking and writing. In social studies, we recently learned about government and the election process, giving students an opportunity to better understand how our government works and the importance of elections.

5th- Clay Olstad, Brooklyn Werner Students have been learning to solve problems involving decimal operations, including addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. Students have been strengthening their reading comprehension skills and developing their writing skills through a variety of reading and writing activities.

K-5 Reading & Math Intervention- Meredith Johnson

K-4 Reading & Math Title- Lacey Drinkall
We have been working really hard in the Title 1 classroom! We are moving through our IMSE curriculum and UFLI curriculum to learn all of the skills to make us better readers! In math, kindergarten is moving onto teen numbers, 1st grade is working on Friends to 10 and 2nd grade is moving onto double digit addition.

We also had our first ever Flippin' for Books event this past weekend! It was a huge success. We had over 150 people join us for pancakes and literacy activities!

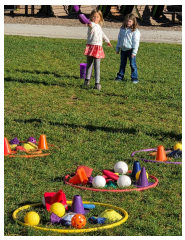


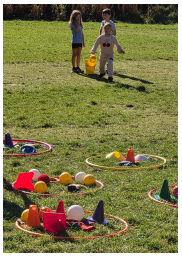


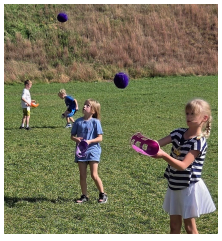


PE- K- 3- Teresa Brown

Kindergarten and first graders have been doing fun activities using a scoop and different objects. We are working on eye-hand coordination, working in self space and underhand tossing.

Second graders have also been using scoops and playing various activities to improve their eye-hand coordination, working independently, and their underhand tossing.

Third graders have been working on their soccer skills. The benchmarks for soccer is to dribble through general space with control of the ball and their body and passing and receiving the soccer ball with the feet "giving" with the ball.





PE- 4-5-Chris Drinkall

The 4th and 5th graders finished up their outside units by playing capture the flag and big base. As we move inside the students are working hard on their volleyball, basketball and nitro ball skills. We are looking forward to improving our skills and knowledge of the games.

Music K-4- Jodi Monerson

All K-4 students are working diligently on their Winter Concert songs. Please join us at our concert on Thursday, December 10th at 6pm in the big gym – it promises to be a great show!!

Kindergarten: We are working on moving to the beat, as well as using different voices (singing, speaking, whisper, yelling and audiating). We have sung and played many different music games and instruments. We are training our ears to hear the difference between high and low sounds, major and minor and loud and quiet.

1st Grade: We have worked on dramatizing our music and songs through fun games, and activities. We have been learning about playing classroom instruments including Orff instruments. We have studied many movements of The Carnival of the Animals music. We also studied the piece of music Funeral March of a Marionette. We have created our own music and improvised through songs.

2nd Grade: We have been working on writing music notes, and are doing a really great job!! We learned about singing in a round and how to sing in a round. We even have one of our concert songs where we will sing in a round to showcase our new skill!! We studied the music titled Hungarian Dance, and were able to connect how that sounded similar to the Surprise Symphony! We are learning more classroom instruments and honing our stills on the Orff instruments.

3rd Grade: We studied minor tonality a lot throughout the month of October. We also studied the piece of music titled In the Hall of the Mountain King, in which students learned all about the story of Peer Gynt. We memorized and performed The Star Spangled Banner at the Veterans Day program along with the band. We practiced complex rhythm patterns and created our own patterns. We learned how to play in 3rd on our xylophones, and have a concert song that features this skill!

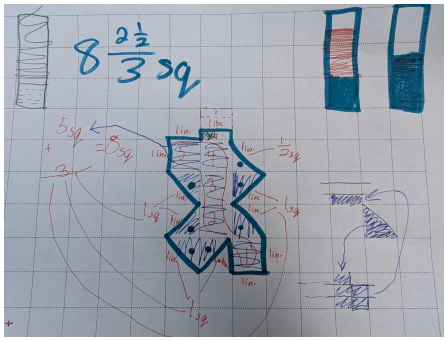
4th Grade: We spent most of October learning about minor tonality and even got to perform one of our instruments songs for the Kindergartens! We learned how to play the glockenspiels by reading the music, and we will showcase this new skill at our concert as well! We studied the piece of music titled Danse Macabre, and got to do a glow stick activity on our final day of studying this piece of music. We are currently learning about sharps, flats and natural symbols and what those mean and how they are used in music.

Music 5- Ben Mahlke, Ethan Papenfuss

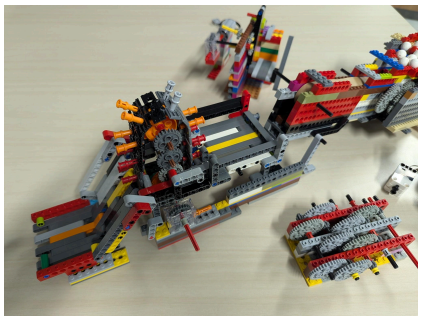
Students are making excellent progress on their instruments and singing voices. We are currently working on materials in preparation for the Winter concert.

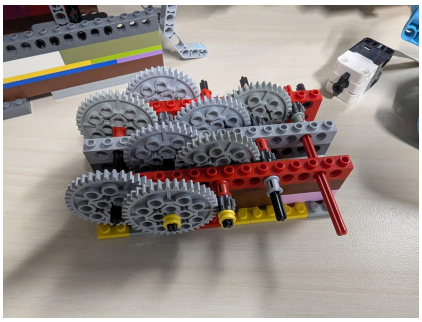
Art - Sam Cunningham
4th and 5th grade students are winding down art for the year/trimester with clay projects and paintings. Fourth grade is learning about atmospheric perspective and watercolor painting with warm and cool color layers. Fifth grade looked at impressionist landscapes with Monet, Cezanne, and Surat. They are creating an acrylic canvas painting with impressions of colors.

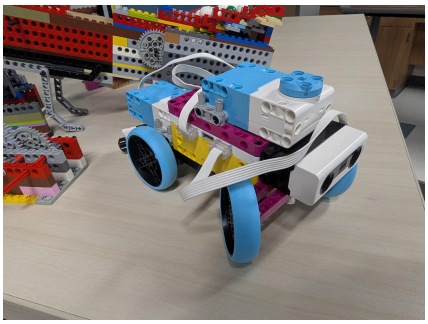
Math Enrichment- David Jewison



In Room 128, our primary focus has shifted from merely getting correct answers to explicitly teaching students how to handle complex, intimidating challenges. To build this resilience, we intentionally present students with content that is one to two grade levels beyond their current placement—such as giving fifth graders seventh-grade math concepts. When faced with these daunting tasks, we constantly anchor back to our "PROBLEM-SOLVING" framework, focusing heavily on Step 1: stopping to gather information. Instead of allowing the default response of "I don't get it," students are required to analyze the words, numbers, and symbols, and write down at least one piece of information they *think* they know. Just as importantly, they must write down at least one thing they think they *don't* know, which is typically a specific vocabulary word or an unfamiliar symbol. This simple act of pausing to isolate knowns and unknowns has transformed our classroom dynamic, drastically reducing learned helplessness and sparking rich, student-directed conversations. By learning to dissect a problem rather than retreating from it, our students are developing a foundational skill that empowers them to confidently tackle any challenge—whether in math, engineering, coding, or life as a whole.







Reading Enrichment- Andrea Larson
Students have been busy strengthening their skills to become even better readers. We have been reading and listening to stories and discussing multiple perspectives within a single story. We have taken time to dive deeper into texts and discuss what the author tells us directly as readers and what we must infer to fully understand a story. We have written alternate endings to stories and discussed what our changes can change in the plot of the story.

Special Education- Aspen Blom, Kendra Vix, Sophia Wescott
Sophia: We have started evaluations this week and are working on assessing students before Thanksgiving break. Our elementary students are very excited to have their reading buddies during Library time and are continuing to work on their skills.

Social Worker- Kelly Smith and School Counselor - Lindsey Olson
The Student Support Team is busy implementing Tier 1 SEL instruction with a focus on Gratitude this month. Our November/December theme is “Look for the Good” and we are working with classrooms on expressing appreciation for others, having a positive attitude, and being grateful. Next week we will have another elementary pepfest around those themes!

In Tier 2, we’ve started our small groups with a video game theme of Level UP and Magnificent ME! Students meet once a week to practice skills in focusing, positivity, grit, confidence, and teamwork! We continue to work with Level three interventions by meeting one on one with students as well.





