

Elementary Principal's Report - May 2025

Community Involvement and Awareness

- Family Reading Night occurred on May 4th. Mrs. Borton, Mrs. Kollross, and Mrs. Schuler planned reading events with a travel theme. We had a great turn out and Mrs. Schuler made nearly \$1000 at the book fair. Thanks to Miss Jakubek for filling in while Mrs. Schuler was on maternity leave. In addition, SPARK fest occurred on this night as well. Families enjoyed small band ensemble groups (including fifth grade student performances) and looking at student art work displayed by Mrs. Hoffert.
- PreK took their final family field trip on Friday May 2. Students and families went to Playsynthesis in Bloomington and enjoyed educational experiences with various toys and social interactions.
- STANGS conducted their final meeting of the 2022-2023 school year. They elected new officers and approved field trip opportunities for Kindergarten, 3rd grade, 5th grade. Again, we are fortunate to have their support each year.

Curriculum & Program Development/Staff Collaboration

- Our new grade level teachers attended Math professional development provided by our Regional Office of Education during the weeks of May 5th. Staff are continuing to emphasize the mathematical practice standards and looking toward a more discovery approach to mathematics.
- I attended the Special Education Law presentation delivered by attorney Brandon Wright on April 16th. There were several takeaways from this event, including independent educational evaluations, homebound instruction, and dos and don'ts for meetings.
- I attended a student teaching panel at Illinois State University to speak with students who will be beginning their student teaching experience next semester. This is a great opportunity to answer questions, but also to heighten awareness of the smaller, rural school districts in central Illinois and the benefits of these districts.

Students and Staff

- 4th Grade students completed their economics unit with the culminating market day project. Students designed and created their own product, marketed it, and engaged in sales. Staff and other students were given an allowance to buy various products and support students. The event ended with a prize auction in which students used the money they earned to bid on various items. The 4th grade students always look forward to this experience.
- Third grade students wrapped up their Chick-It-Out unit, studying the development of animals and various components of the life cycle. We had at least 10-12 chicks hatch this year and several students volunteered to adopt them.
- Students in grades K-2 participate in Earth Week during the week of April 21st. Students enjoyed learning about our planet, recycling, and conservation. Thanks to Chris and Lincoln Wyant who presented on beekeeping, our FFA members for showing our students the power of decomposition, Mr. Neuhaus who donated and planted trees with our students, and Mrs. Borton and Mrs. Kollross who planned all of the activities.
- Students participated in several field trips during the last few weeks. Kindergarten visited the Children's Discovery Museum on 5/15. First Grade visited the Peoria Zoo and Third Grade students visited Funks Grove Nature Center on 5/9. Fifth Grade students attended a

movie on 5/16 to celebrate their last year as elementary students. Thanks, as always, to STANGS for funding these field trips for all of our students.

- Elementary Student Council completed their first semester and contributed to the betterment of our school by recognizing and appreciating staff in all areas of our building and by spreading positivity. This was a successful semester and I'm looking forward to continued student leadership opportunities. They celebrated with a field trip to a baseball game at the Corn Crib on Heartland's campus.
- Students completed FastBridge assessments for the Spring during the week of April 28th. Our student growth assemblies will be held on May 16th to recognize all students who grew by the 50th percentile or more on reading, mathematics, or both.
- Our Illinois State University student teachers wrapped up their student teaching placement on Friday May 2nd. We were fortunate to have so many great student teachers, including interns in PE, Music, and 4th grade. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.
- Students performed in their final band concert of the year on May 6th. It's always great to hear how much they have accomplished this year and then listen to the junior high performance and hear how they will sound in the future.
- Mrs. Borton organized a performance by Prairie Fire Theater on May 9th related to self-esteem, sticking up for yourself, and making good choices. Prairie Fire Theater is a traveling opera group who exclusively perform original works in schools.
- Staff were celebrated during the week of May 5th for Teacher Appreciation Week. Thanks to Jenny Jamison and crew who organized these daily events and showed great appreciation for our staff.
- Students will participate in Field Day on the last day of school, May 23rd. Thanks to Mrs. Aupperle and Mrs. Borton for organizing this year's events. This is always a great way to close out the year and I am looking forward to it. Our students definitely deserve a great celebration.
- Graduating seniors and fifth grade students took part in the Parade of Seniors on May 9th. Fifth grade students interviewed graduating seniors and created presentations to deliver to all other grade levels highlighting the seniors' accomplishments and future plans. Thanks to Mrs. Friedericks and, Mrs. Beck for organizing this experience so our elementary students can envision themselves as graduates one day.
- Second grade students have completed their ocean projects with the help of their classroom teachers and research support in the media center provided by Miss Jakubek. Students families will be invited in to view their creations on May 19th.