

Elementary School Board Report

Heather Friday, PK-8 Principal

January 13, 2020

Pittsville School District's Vision and Mission:

Our Vision: Expecting Excellence and Innovation, Honoring Legacy, and Embracing Partnerships.

Our Mission: Expecting Excellence and Integrity from all, developing Innovative students, strengthened through Partnerships with parents and the community.

Student and Staff Notable Learning

4K Learning

The students in 4K continue to identify and write letters along with writing their names - in the correct order and using proper form. Students are working on orally counting to 30 and identifying numbers 1 to 10. Daily read alouds expose the students to literature, the components of the book, title and author. The read alouds provide an opportunity to learn rhyming words and new vocabulary words. Stations encourage and foster structured and free play, which helps students develop social and academic skills. Stations foster creativity in the students. The writing station, the Lego station, the dramatic play stations, and puzzle stations are a few of the stations in the 4K classroom.

2nd Grade Math Learning

2nd Grade students in Mr. Klein's and Ms. Sischo's class are currently learning how to identify coins and count amounts of money in coins / dollars. Students learn a song that helps them identify coins, how much they are worth, and to remember the symbols that are on the coins. Students are encouraged to use this knowledge when they are at the store. In the spring, the 2nd graders walk to the Cenex and they use their own money to purchase their frozen treat.

2nd Grade Reading

In Reader's and Writer's Workshop, the 2nd graders are reading books and using the details in the books to persuade someone to want to read their book. Students in Ms. Sischo's class will include a book recommendation when they write to their Pen Pals in Neillsville. Mr. Klein's class writes letters to Pen Pals in Alaska. The 2nd graders plan to invite students from another class to hear their book recommendations and to listen to them read some of their stories.

Junior High Mathematics

Mrs. Knutson is using Delta Math as another resource for our students in Grades 6-8 to replace practice worksheets. This program allows Mrs. Knutson to assign intentional practice problems related to certain math concepts and / or standards. All students who are working on the same concept / standard complete their own practice problems (the actual problems are all different). This program is interactive - it provides students with visuals and gives them helpful hints to solve their problems. It also provides them with immediate feedback on how they solved the problems. If the students are having difficulty solving the problem correctly, this program provides them with the solution and the steps to complete the problem so they will know how to do them in the future. Mrs. Knutson assigns students problems and they have to get 5 questions correct. The students may have to answer only 5, or they may have to do more. Students can practice as many problems as they

would like! Mrs. Knutson can monitor student progress through the reports Delta Math provides. Networking with other teachers in the state / country, Mrs. Knutson found this resource.

School Climate Survey Completed

At the end of November, I invited all staff to participate in an anonymous survey via Google Forms to allow all staff members the opportunity to provide input on areas in need of improvement at the Elementary School. The survey allowed staff to share their perspectives and offered the opportunity to share solutions / ideas for improvement. The topics for the survey were focused on the following: Learning environment for students (both academics / behavior); staff / colleague relationships; staff / student relationships; teacher leaders; staff accountability; building leadership / principal actions. The results of this survey were shared with all elementary staff members to view. Shared Leadership has reviewed all the results and subcommittees have started working on action steps to make improvements in these areas.

Innovation and Recognition

Adult Crossing Guard Recognition Week

January 13 - 17, 2020 is Adult Crossing Guard Recognition Week. Every grade level decides how they will show their appreciation. Thank you to Mr. George Duerr, Mrs. Wilke, and Mrs. Zieher, who help our students stay safe each day.

Christmas Shop Donation

The staff would like to share how grateful we are for the support of the annual Christmas Shop. Thank you to the students for shopping, the community volunteers for helping with set up, sales, and clean up, and the staff who make this event possible. We are happy to announce that the Elementary School will be donating \$1200 to Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf. This check will be given to P.A.N.S. during our Golden Awards assembly on Wednesday, January 22nd.

Box Tops Collection

Thank you to the families who collect and turn in box tops. The elementary school received a check for \$463.80. Box Top funds are used for school-wide activities for the students in Grades 4K-8. There is a Box Tops app to download on your phone. You scan your receipt and box top money is added to our school account! The paper box tops will eventually be phased out.

Looking Ahead

Empty Bowls and Pottery Club

Our Annual Empty Bowls dinner will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Pittsville Elementary School. The money raised at our dinner will be donated to Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf. P.A.N.S. is our local food pantry - a non-profit, charitable organization that distributes food to local families who have difficulty purchasing enough food to avoid hunger. We want to make a positive difference in the lives of our students and our community through our actions.

The Pottery Club has approximately 20 students from 5th - 12th Grade and 6 community members. The club meets every Monday night and one Saturday a month. The club started meeting

on Monday, October 28 and will end with their 7th annual Empty Bowls Dinner event on Tuesday March 10, 2020.

Students learn how to knead the clay and how to center the clay on a pottery wheel. Slowly over time, they learn how to create a bowl and bring up the walls. Our high school students are working on more advanced pieces, like covered containers, tea pots, cookie jars, and mugs. After the pieces are created, they are fired. To finish their pieces, the students glaze the bowls and then the pieces are fired again for a finished product. The club currently has approximately 250 pieces made. Their goal is to make 500 pieces for the Empty Bowls Dinner.

