

Word Power

Compassion - (noun)

Awareness of the suffering of another coupled with the wish to relieve it.



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A Lion's Life

Spring Avenue Elementary School
Newspaper

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Musical Activities After School

By: Anna S.



Choir: Choir is taught by Mrs. Kay. Choir is from 3:20-4:05pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. 5th and 6th graders can participate in Elementary choir. Students can also do choir in Gurrie. In choir students learn about dictation so people can understand them better, breathing so they have enough breath to make it through a long phrase, and listening so they can improve their sound.

The elementary choir performs 3 times a year with the orchestra in the Gurrie gym and at Great America. The choir also participates in



a contest during the Great America trip.

Band: 4th - 8th graders can participate in band. There are four stages of band; beginning band, intermediate band, concert band, and jazz band. Beginning band is on Mondays and Wednesdays after school. Intermediate band is from 7:00am until 8:15am. Band performs a winter concert and spring concert. The intermediate band also does a duet and solo contest. For those who don't know, the difference between orchestra and band is that in orchestra the instruments are string instruments and band instruments have no strings.

There are many more after school activities that you can join!

Here are students singing at an after school practice.

Birthday Books

By: Lindsey B.

In our school we have a new Birthday Books program. Birthday books are for each person's birthday!

There are more than 70 people who donated birthday books for their birthday or half birthday this year.

Anyone at Spring Avenue can get a Birthday Book. We use Birthday Books in the library. To get a Birth-

day Book, your parents can write a check for \$17 to Spring Avenue School for a book to be chosen by the LLC team, Ms. Marek and Mrs. Blazek. Students may include their interests on the form found on the website, so a book can be chosen that the student will like.

Or, you can buy a book from the book list on the LLC page on the school web-

site (www.D105.net). There are two lists to choose a book from, a K-3 list and a 4-6 list. When you have your book, Ms. Marek will take your picture and put it inside the book on a bookplate. Your picture will also go up on a big cake bulletin board in the LLC.

The Birthday Books will be donated to the library so that you will always be able to read your favorite book.

Principal's Corner

By: Mrs. Webb



We are happy to share with you that the teachers who were involved in the National Boards Certification program have been informed that they have all passed! Congratulations to Mrs. Charlton, Ms. Eck and Ms. Folliard, and Mrs. Petrak. We are very proud of all the hard work and excellence portrayed throughout this process. These teachers have expressed appreciation for the support they received from staff, students, and community to complete this process. Thank you for your help and support!

Assessment period is upon us once again. We will be taking data about student progress using the CBM's (Curriculum Based Measurements) for fluency and comprehension checks for reading. We will also provide winter MA testing as needed. We do not wish to over assess children; however, we feel that gathering progress data is extremely important for programming and

planning for each child.

We will attempt to get all these winter assessments complete before winter break, but we may need to use the first week back for makeup testing.

As always, it is very important for your child to be at school with plenty of rest and a healthy breakfast. If your child is not going to be at school, for any reason, please call the office to let us know as soon as possible.

At a recent School Improvement Planning meeting, staff discussed the importance and commitment of moving all children ahead in mathematics. We have implemented many new grouping plans and individualized programs to help students succeed in math. This includes more pretesting for each unit as students learn at different rates in every grade level. Students who understand certain concepts in one unit may need more challenging

work for that unit.

We can provide this for students in many different ways including: enrichment activities, challenging problems, integration of writing and other subjects into mathematics, tiered activities, homework options, acceleration, individualized projects, compacting units, parallel challenge problems, and research activities.

Speaking of math, our own sixth grader, John Cosgrove is determined to memorize many of the digits that define pi. He has currently learned over 1,000 digits and is forging forward to break a record. This is a personal gift of John's as none of the digits are combined in patterns, nor do they repeat themselves. His own deadline is December 1st! We wish him the best of luck for this personal goal.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Elizabeth Webb, Principal

I am appreci-
 sate the support
 that they have
 received from
 staff, students,
 and community
 to complete this
 process. Thank
 you for your
 help and support!
 Assessment
 period is upon
 us once again.
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 progress using
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 progress data
 is extremely
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 programming
 and

Bullying Do you know the four types?

By: Mrs. Webb

Last week Spring Avenue engaged in some school wide discussions about bullying. Students were reminded that bullying is not allowed or tolerated at Spring Avenue. They were also challenged to think about four possible kinds of bullying one might be able to identify.

The mind tickler about different kids of bullying sparked great discussion during classroom morning meetings and even at home.

The next day we met as an entire school to go over the four different kinds of bullying. Students were able to include their ideas into the four categories.

The following is a review of the discussion and categories we've identified. Please talk about these ideas with your child children. As a Responsive Classroom School,

we are defining clear strategies and methods to help children understand ways to react and act in a variety of situations.

1. **Physical Bullying**: When someone forgets the rules and their manners and kicks, pokes or touches another person with the intent to harm or hurt someone.
2. **Verbal Bullying** (verbally, written in notes, or on the computer) When someone uses hurtful words or damages a person's reputation with words.
3. **Social Bullying**: Students laugh at and encourage a bully to continue being hurtful to another person.
4. **Standby Bullying**: Students stand by and do not share with anyone about bullying that they have seen happen. They also do not stand up for another person who may be bullied.

Bullying can and does interfere with the learning process. More importantly, bullying, or being a victim of bullying, can have a negative and lasting impact on a child's self esteem, sometimes for a very long time.

How Can We Help? As a parent, we appreciate and request the support of our families. Please talk to your child. Visit the websites about bullying that are linked to the principal's page. Share with the school your concerns. Share safe and appropriate strategies with your child. Use stories and role playing about ways to handle situations, like we do in the classrooms. As we continue to work together, we will help all children feel safe all of the time at Spring Avenue School. Thank you!

Five All Aways 6th Grade Reclamation Road

For earth science 6th grade went on a field trip to the Vulcan Quarry. Now they will be doing a project and coming up with ideas on how to fill the North Pit. Students can choose between a choice of power points, web wonders, movies, 3D models, and they will write an essay that Ms. Hessler will turn into Vulcan. Before the students could start the actual project they had to make a blue print. Kids were full of work during the process, said Ms. Hessler.

The project is about filling up the North Pit and coming up with ideas that are socially, economically, and environmentally safe. The ideas are about possibilities that the Vulcan Quarry can do with that area.

Vulcan is a minerals company where they mine for certain rocks. The 6th grade split into three groups at Vulcan. One



This is an example of a blue print created for Ms. Hessler's class.

group went on a bus tour of the Quarry; another group went to a session where students got to do an experiment on separating rocks, and the other group a reclamation project.

There are many inter-

esting facts like the facts collected during this process are only from District 105 students. Kids had creative, fun ideas, Ms. Hessler added. In 10-15 years the North Pit should be filled.

The project is about filling up the North Pit and coming up with ideas that are socially, economically, and environmentally safe.

Tips for Staying Safe this Winter

By: Mrs. Webb

Winter is here! Winter requires some additional preparation and planning for warm and successful days. Please make sure your children are not coming to school before 8:20. It is very cold and they will have to wait outside until the doors are open at 8:20. Also, if there is not an adult visible at drop off, please bring your child around to the front of the building after 8:30. Often Mrs. Bodgorski is able to wait for a couple minutes to get everyone inside and she always checks for students who may be hurrying down the street, but if she is not there,

it is safest to drop your child at the front of the building. Enter Spring Avenue by Gurrie to be on the correct side of the street.

Students will play outdoors at recess time if the temperature is above zero degrees. We include wind-chill factors and do not want to send children out, even if it feels like zero. Have your child/children bundle up for that 15 minutes of fresh air. If they wear snowpants, snow boots, hats and gloves, they will be allowed to play in the snow. As you can imagine, this process of helping children bundle up does take some extra time and we

do not wish to take away time from eating lunch, so we will continue to monitor this as we go.

We expect some indoor recess days when the temperature is too cold or the weather is too wet. Please consider donating any board games you may have around the house that your own child/children do not use. This includes Lincoln Logs, art supplies, Legos, and more. Again, it is only a 15 minute period so lengthy board games, like Monopoly, are not as useful. Thank you in advance for sending these in. Please mark the game with an I DOO RECESS note and

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