



The Pottorf Post

December/January 23/24 | RVP.Leeschools.net

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Below~ Ms. Mak and the Ray V. Pottorf student artists decorated a tree for the Children's Tree Trail at the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. A good time was had by all who attended the free preview night on 11/21/23.



Above~ Ranger Rob (a naturalist) got close to nature with some of our students on Career Day. We had approximately 90 community members share their occupations throughout the day. A total of twenty-four career paths were represented.

Below~ These 2nd grade boys weren't the only winners at this year's Turkey Trot. All participants showed grit and perseverance!



Upcoming Events

December	
6th	House Lunch
18 th 7:30 pm	Snowman Day
19th	Holiday Sock Day
20th 6:00 pm	Clubs-Mas Performance
20th	Ugly Sweater Day
21st	Christmas Head Gear Day
22nd	Polar Express Day ~ Pajama Day

January	
11th	SAC/PTO Meeting
11th	Student Led Conferences
16th	Student Led Conferences
19th	Disney Day
25th	100th Day of School ~ Dress Like a 100-year-old
26th	101 Dalmatian Day
26th	Snoballs ~ Bring \$2



The Importance of Early Oral Language

Oral language forms the bedrock of early literacy. It is one of the greatest predictors of a child's success in school. Oral language development plays a critical role in early literacy because it provides the foundation for reading and writing. As children acquire more words

and learn to use them in meaningful ways, they are better able to understand and use written language. Beyond the foundational role of oral language, early language skills are in fact predictive of later reading comprehension development. Grade 5 students with poor reading comprehension despite adequate word-reading skills – showed weak language skills as early as 15 months of age. Studies show that children with unresolved specific language impairment in kindergarten are at a higher risk for reading difficulties, particularly in phonological processing and reading comprehension.

Games you can play at home to increase oral vocabulary:

- Play I Spy using words that describe the items position. For example, “I spy something in front of the couch, next to the dog.”
- Play games that require talking, listening, following directions, & giving directions. For example, Simon Says or Red Light/Green Light.
- Use Kitchen Time to make meaningful conversations by asking your child to name the utensils in the kitchen. Describe the food you are eating by the color, taste, & texture. Ask them where the food came from? What was their favorite part of dinner? What was their least favorite part of dinner? Use prepositions when talking to your child. For example, “Put the napkin **on** your lap. Put the napkin **under** the table. Hold the napkin **over** the table. Put the napkin **in** the garbage.”

RVP students and staff are in the beginning stages of school-wide recycling! Our 4th grade recycling club and every 5th grade class was able to take a field trip to the Lee County Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham. Students were able to watch the operations of a busy recycling plant AND waste management operations. In the weeks ahead, they will be sharing what they've learned with younger students.



[Short video about home recycling in Lee County](#)

December/January

Kindergarten

Kindergarteners have been working on SO many different skills! We've been breaking words into their onset and rime (the word dog can be broken into /d/ /og/) and breaking words into their individual sounds (/d/ /o/ /g/). We continue to work on learning our letter sounds and started reading cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words. Please work with your child to read simple books. Repeated readings help to build your child's fluency! In Math, we've been comparing groups of objects to find the group that is greater or less and learning about length, weight, and volume. Also in Math, we work on verbalizing their mathematical thinking. Please work with your child on verbalizing their thinking after they problem solve!

Second

Wow! We cannot believe how fast this year has gone by!

In ELA we just wrapped up homophones and antonyms. We are going to work on poetry next. Afterward, we will start The Gingerbread Man and The Runaway Piggy, to compare and contrast the two books.

In Math, we finished balancing equations and are learning how to partition shapes. Then we will move into time and money.

Students are working hard on their AR goal at school - we appreciate you reading at home with your child too.

Fourth

We are so proud of the progress our 4th graders have made during the first semester! One concept in ELA we are continuing to discuss is how literary elements affect the plot, and are looking forward to seeing a play at Cypress Lake High School to practice these skills. Math will be all about division and fractions - try to find real life examples of these math skills in your family's daily life! Science topics are Earth & moon, as well as resources. Be sure to watch the night sky and observe the changes you see! Thank you families for your support and Happy Holidays!

First

This month is full of exciting times in first grade. In ELA, we have been focusing on identifying and describing story elements and creating thinking maps. Your student has been acquiring many new phonics skills that are helping them become a stronger reader and writer. In math, we finished collecting, representing, and interpreting data through the use of tally graphs and pictographs. We are now exploring place value. Many of our first grade students are making their weekly AR goals, we love curating a love of reading. Happy Holidays!

Third

We began this month with a field trip to support our ELA benchmarks. We went to see students at NFM High School perform their version of "Finding Nemo" to enhance our understanding of character traits, story elements, central message, and theme.

In Math, we have moved from Geometry to Number Sense and Operations. We have been adding, subtracting, and solving problems involving two steps. We will continue to spiral our review with these topics but be on the lookout for our next topic "Fractions!"

Science is all about Energy this month!

Have a safe and happy Winter Break!

Fifth

Fifth grade is celebrating the holiday season with lots of learning and fun. In Math we are dividing and multiplying fractions. In Science we are learning about energy. In ELA we will be learning how to analyze poetry and figurative language. We will also be looking at how different story elements work together to contribute to the plot of a literary text. Fifth grade will be hosting Holiday Pictures (Dec. 15 & 20) and the Holiday Shoppe (Dec. 18-22). All proceeds raised from these events will support 5th grade's end-of-year trip. We also have a field trip to Cypress Lake High School on Jan. 26th to see Willy Wonka Jr.

Letter From Our Administration



Dear RVP Families,

As we approach the Winter Break, we want to share some valuable tips to help maintain positive behavior and a harmonious environment at home. While this time is filled with joy and relaxation, a little structure can go a long way in ensuring a smooth transition back to the school routine. Here are some suggestions to consider:

- 1. Establish a Routine:** Maintain a consistent daily routine during the break. Having a schedule helps children know what to expect and can contribute to a sense of security.
- 2. Reinforce Positive Behavior:** Acknowledge and celebrate positive behavior. Whether it's sharing, helping, or demonstrating kindness, reinforcing positive actions with praise or a small reward can be a powerful motivator.
- 3. Set Clear Expectations:** Communicate clear expectations for behavior during the break. Discuss the importance of respectful communication, sharing, and cooperating with siblings and friends.
- 4. Encourage Reading:** Promote a love of reading during the break. Set aside dedicated time for reading, and consider a family reading challenge to make it a fun and rewarding activity.
- 5. Plan Engaging Activities:** Provide opportunities for engaging and constructive activities. Crafts, puzzles, and board games can be both entertaining and educational.
- 6. Monitor Screen Time:** While technology can be a great source of entertainment, it's essential to monitor screen time. Encourage a healthy balance with outdoor play, creative activities, and family interactions.
- 7. Foster Independence:** Give children age-appropriate responsibilities. This fosters a sense of independence and accomplishment, contributing to positive behavior.
- 8. Model Positive Behavior:** Children learn by example. Model the behavior you wish to see, whether it's patience, empathy, or effective problem-solving.
- 9. Stay Connected:** Keep open lines of communication with your child. Discuss any concerns or expectations, and encourage them to express their feelings.
- 10. Plan Family Time:** Most importantly, enjoy quality family time. Whether it's a winter walk, game night, or holiday traditions, these shared experiences create lasting memories.

Remember, Winter Break is a time for relaxation and enjoyment. By incorporating these tips, you can create a positive and nurturing environment at home. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year, ready for more learning adventures.

Wishing you a joyful and peaceful Winter Break!