

What's SOARING at KP?



Happy New Year, and welcome back!

We are almost at the end of MP 2, can you believe it?? The school year is flying by. As we fly through January, students will be participating in MAP testing for ELA (3-5) and Math (K-5), WIDA Access Assessments and Benchmark Assessments. Classroom teachers will share specific testing days with you ahead of time so you can plan accordingly.

We are looking forward to having our Winter Concert this week. It has been very nice to have in-person events again, and the kids are very excited to perform!

While the weather has been much like Spring the past few days, please continue to remind your child to wear their coats outside at recess and to/from the school bus. We know, it can be a winless battle, but we hope to keep everyone safe and healthy this winter. Also, if your child is exhibiting any flu or Covid like symptoms, please keep them home. We have at-home Covid tests here at school should you need any, please call the Main Office ahead of time for pickup.

Finally, we want to remind parents that the Gifted and Talented (GT) identification process will be starting in February 2023. In preparation, we would like to give parents one more opportunity to "opt in" for identification, should their child not be on the list for automatic rescreening. Please complete this [Parent Request Rescreen Form](#) **ONLY** if you currently have a child in Grades 3 or 5. Some parents have already completed this form that was previously in a letter from MCPS indicating that your child did not meet the criteria for GT. Therefore, this is just a reminder for parents that inadvertently forgot to do this.

I hope 2023 brings you and your family much joy, happiness and prosperity.
~Principal Ross and AP Pearce

Keeping up with Kindergarten

We have had a great second quarter of Kindergarten! As the weather is getting colder, please make sure you send your child to school each day with a warm jacket. Also, please practice putting on and zipping outerwear and accessories to help save time while transitioning to recess. Important dates and our classroom focus for January can be found in our [K News](#). Parent Tips for Eureka are below.

Eureka Parent Tips; [Module 3, Lesson 20-24](#) and [Module 3, Lesson 29-32](#)

Focusing in 1st Grade

In Literacy, we will be reading fairytales and folktales. We will be making predictions/inferences using key details in the texts. Also, we will be focusing on opinion writing.

In Math, we are in Module 3. Students will be learning how to measure accurately using various standard and non-standard units. Also, we will be collecting and analyzing data using graphs and tally marks.

In Science, we will be discovering how light and sound travel.

Sailing into 2nd Grade

Literacy: We are wrapping up Benchmark Unit 3. We have been reading a book called “Plants and Animals in their Habitat”. This book includes nonfiction and fiction texts about animals. In our RGR (Really Great Reading) lessons we are learning about R-Controlled Vowels. We continue to use our finger stretching strategy to help us break apart words. We are even using this strategy to help us add or delete phonemes to create new words! In writing, we are working on an arctic animal research project. We are using information from kid-friendly online databases to practice note-taking skills. Students are creating a book based on their research on their chosen animal.

Math: Students are becoming experts in the vertical way (addition and subtraction with composing and decomposing) and place value chip strategies through their continued practice. We are improving our fluency skills through the quick math facts completed during sprints.

Social Studies: In the first half of quarter 2, we have learned about how geography impacts culture. Students practiced their map skills by exploring the cardinal directions and how a key can help you learn more about a map.

Science: We are learning about landforms and bodies of water. Students will learn about quick/slow earth changes and how water/wind change the shape of land.

Class Meetings: We have been learning about accepting each other’s differences, empathy, and responsible decision making.

Thriving in 3rd Grade

Happy New Year from Third Grade! It is hard to believe that the second marking period ends later this month.

In Reading, we ended our Animal Adaptation unit. Students worked hard identifying the main idea and key details, making inferences, determining meaning of words using context clues, and using text features. Our next unit will be literature with a focus on character's different points of view. Students did an awesome job on the cereal box book report! Look for the next one coming soon.

In Writing, students completed their animal reports and will be meeting with second graders for an author's celebration. Our next writing project will be an opinion piece based on a character from our reading unit. In math, we are continuing with multiplication, division and finding the area. Keep practicing those facts!

In Science, we are ending our weather and climate unit and will begin to investigate the phenomena of animal groups and animal adaptations- they should be experts. We will focus on what affects an organism's survival. In social studies, students are wrapping up with the geography unit and will move onto how people make modifications to our environment based on their changing needs.

Testing season is fast approaching! If you know of an absence, please make sure to let your child's teacher know. Third grade classes would welcome any donations of healthy snacks, paper towels, sandwich size Ziploc bags, and boxes of tissues. Thank you! The Third Grade Team

Flying through 4th Grade

In Benchmark Reading, students will be wrapping up Unit 3 "Observing Nature" and moving into Unit 4, "Understanding Different Points of View." Students will be focusing on the essential question of, "What do we learn when we look at the world through the eyes of others?" Students will be working on opinion writing.

In ELC Reading, students will finish writing a personal essay on someone who is special to them. Then they will write an opinion essay.

In Math 4, students will finish up Module 3, by working with four-digit dividends with divisors of 2, 3, 4, and 5, decomposing a remainder up to three times. In Module 5, students will identify equivalent fractions, compare fractions, and decompose fractions using various strategies.

In Math 4/5, students will use decimals to express and add fractions with denominators of 10 and 100. They will also compare decimals by reasoning about their size. Students will also organize data that includes fractions using a line plot to help them interpret data. In science, students will focus on the structures of different sensory body parts and how they help animals survive, specifically animal eyes and ears. In health, students will analyze various media messages for valid health information and will identify and recognize product label information.

Feeling Fine in 5th Grade

Our 5th Graders seem happy to be back in school and ready for a very busy 2nd half of the year! They have been working on registering for their elective course for NBMS. There is a lot of excitement building about middle school!

In 5th grade Reading we are beginning Unit 4, which focuses on recognizing an author's point of view. Students will participate in a novel study of Esperanza Rising as a means of studying theme, figurative language and point of view. In small groups, students will study the historical time period of Esperanza Rising by learning about the Great Depression, migrant farmworkers and the Dust Bowl. In Writing, students are researching a specific land biome of earth (desert, forest, tundra, grassland). After researching their biome they will write an informative report.

In Grade 5 Math, students completed the Mid-Module 3 Assessment and are forging on with fraction work. They have learned how to make like fractions by drawing models. Now they will be finding equivalent fractions numerically. Work will continue with adding and subtracting fractions greater than one. The students will also use these skills to solve multi-step word problems.

The 5/6 Compact Math class has started Module 1 of the sixth-grade curriculum. For the next few weeks, students will focus on a study of Ratios. They will use their previous knowledge and understanding of fractions and problem solving to compare quantities, make equivalent ratios and find missing values. They will use their new understanding to write equations to solve ratio tables and create double number lines.

Succeeding in Specials

Check out what is happening this month in Art, PE, Music and the Media Center. Each month we will share our topics and skills we are covering in our [monthly newsletter](#).

Music:

Winter Concert: The Winter Concert is coming up! KP Singers and 5th Grade Instrumental Music students will be performing on January 12th at 7 PM. Performing students should wear all black and try to arrive by 6:15!

3rd Grade Recorders: In the coming weeks 3rd grade students will begin recorders. If you already have a recorder from an older sibling, or any other reason, that will be fine! If your child does not have a recorder yet I will provide order information.

K-5 Creating and Music Reading: In the home stretch of quarter 2 all students are continuing to work on music creating and music reading skills. Grades K-2 continue to emphasize rhythm reading while grades 3-5 are working on identifying melodic notes on the music staff.

Media:

This month in Media all students will be reviewing expectations on how to SOAR in the media center and reaffirming positive behavior. Please review with your children how to do well in the media center. Practices can include: returning your books by their due date, respecting and taking good care of your books and each other, and avoiding any damages.

Grades K-1: We will be starting a new author study of Jon Klassen. His picture books are always creative and include humor in them. Klassen also does collaborations with other authors and illustrators, including Mac Barnett, whom he recently paired up again for a new retelling of “The Three Billy Goat Gruff,” which I recommend as your next great read!

Grades 2-3: We are in the middle of our Black Eyed Susan (BES) Nominee Read-Alouds! As we are reading these picture books, students are writing their book review and determining which one they will choose as their favorite book to vote for in April. Make sure to check in with your child to find out which books they are enjoying! If your child is interested in reading more BES nominated books, make sure to check out the public library or MCPS’ eBook platform, SORA!

Grades 4-5: We are introducing a new reading challenge for students! 4th and 5th grade students are invited to complete the Black Eyed Susan (BES) Reading Challenge. This optional reading challenge will include students reading 3 BES Nominated Chapter Books **and** 3 BES Graphic Novels, in order to participate in our voting party in April! More information will be shared with students during their media checkout time this month. If your child is interested in participating and wants to read more BES nominated titles, please make sure to check out the public library or MCPS’ eBook platform, SORA!

BES NOMINEES

Read 3 of...



Graphic Novel Nominees

Read 3 of...



Chapter Book Nominees

You can find
these books at:



The
media
center



SORA
(eBooks)



The
public
library

PE Grades K-2:

We will be working on rolling, throwing, and dribbling with our hands as well as cooperative tasks and various fitness themed activities.

We will be focusing on the following concepts:

- Recognizes that skills will develop with appropriate practice and use of the correct cues.
- Recognizes that challenge in physical activities can lead to success
- Rolls a ball while demonstrating some critical elements.
- Demonstrates an underhand throw using some critical elements
- Catches a soft object from a self-toss before it bounces.
- Catches a variety of objects tossed by a skilled thrower
- Dribbles continuously in personal space using the preferred hand

PE Grades 3-5:

In the upper grades, activities will include speed and agility based games, throwing and catching games, volleyball skills, and physical fitness goal setting.

We will be focusing on the following

- Movement Skills and Concepts
- Overhand throw to different levels
- Catching at different levels
- Forearm pass (volleyball)
- Goal Setting-Identify a realistic goal

Art: Clay Sculptures

Students in k-1 learned all about clay, read the story Owl Moon, created clay owls and learned glazing techniques.. Students in grades 2-5 learned all about pinch pot techniques, how to add details, created a pinch pot sculpture and learned glazing techniques.

