

What's SOARing at KP?



Welcome to the 2nd Quarter! I can't believe how quickly the year is going, as we just celebrated the 50th Day of School on 11/15. Parent Conferences are well underway and I hope you value the time with your child's teacher to get an update on how they are doing this school year. It has truly been great to see a return to normalcy and good instructional practices in the classroom.

When we return from Winter Break in January, we will have our next round for MAP and Dibels testing. Grades 3-5 will have MAP-M and Map-R, and Grades K-2 will have Map-P (Math) and Dibels. Classroom teachers will be sharing the test dates as we get closer.

We are now moving into the colder months and preparing for the holiday season. Please be sure to send coats and hats that are labeled with your child's name. Students are still going outside for Recess and our Lost and Found pile keeps growing. Feel free to come by ANYTIME to browse the racks, and it may even save you on your holiday shopping :)

Also, as we move into the holiday season, please be sure to report any absences or changes in dismissal to Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Friedman in the Main Office.

We wish you all a safe and restful break, and Happy Thanksgiving!

~Principal Ross and AP Pearce

Keeping up with Kindergarten

We have had a great first 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. In Benchmark reading we are finishing up Unit 2- Every Story Has Characters and will soon be moving into Unit 3- Plants and Animals Have Needs. This unit will focus on retelling key details and identifying text features in informational texts. In Math we are finishing up Module 2 about identifying and describing shapes, and will soon move into Module 3. Module 3 will focus on comparing length, weight and capacity of objects using the words longer/shorter than, heavier/lighter than and more/less. We will also be using the words more/less/fewer to compare quantities and sets of objects.

We are beginning Quarter 2 with our Science unit about weather patterns and severe weather, and will be working on a culminating project to design a roof that will keep the rain and snow out of a "house". After our Science unit we will transition to Social Studies where we will learn about geography while identifying globes, maps, and various landforms.

Focusing in 1st Grade

In Literacy, we will be in Unit 3 of Benchmark. We will be reading to learn how living things grow and change with a continued focus on characters and characters in a story. We will be learning how to write and support our opinions.

In Math, we are continuing with Module 2. We will be solving problems by counting on and making ten to find the unknown. We will be learning about health and how students can take care of their bodies.



Sailing into 2nd Grade

Literacy: We are in Benchmark Unit 2. We have been reading a book called “Characters Facing Challenges”. This book includes folktales, fairy tales and poems that all involve characters who face problems. Many of these stories include a lesson that the characters learn at the end of the story after they have overcome their challenge. In our RGR (Really Great Reading) lessons we are practicing using the schwa sound when vowels do not make the sound we expect them to make and we are learning about vowel teams. We continue to use finger stretching and syllaboards as strategies to help us break apart words. In writing, we are working on a personal narrative. Students are writing a story that has a beginning, middle, end, and a lesson they learned.

Math: In Module 4, we have begun learning about the vertical way. Students are showing that they can solve two digit and three digit addition problems multiple ways. We are practicing the vertical way and place value chip way side by side to show how composing a 10 looks within each strategy.

Social Studies: At the beginning of quarter 2, we did five remembrance and reconciliation lessons to highlight historic African American communities within Montgomery County. Students learned about the discrimination these communities faced and how they responded. We are beginning our study of how geography impacts culture. We will also learn how to read and use maps.

Science: In the second half of quarter 2, we will begin science. We will study landforms and bodies of water.

Class Meetings: We have been learning about mindfulness, impulse control, and managing our emotions. We have learned different strategies to focus on our breathing.

Thriving in 3rd Grade

In Eureka Math, we started Module 3 on Monday, November 14. It will focus on multiplication and division with units of 0, 1, 6-9, and multiples of 10. We will revisit the commutative property, use the associative property, and we will solve problems involving all four operations.

In Writing, students have been writing their own fables including descriptive details and incorporating dialogue. Our next project will be writing to inform about a particular animal. In Benchmark Reading, our Unit 3 shifts back to informational text with a focus on animal adaptations. Look for the next book report to be coming home soon about a realistic fiction book. In Science, our next unit will focus on weather and climate. In Social Studies, students will be learning about Geography.

All third grade teachers are in need of extra snacks and paper towels. If you are able to donate, that would be wonderful! We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Flying through 4th Grade

In Benchmark Reading, students will be moving into Unit 3 “Observing Nature.” Students will be focusing on the essential question of, “How do we respond to nature?” We will use that knowledge to research and write an informative report on a chosen animal. In ELC reading, students have been reading and analyzing non-fiction texts. They have taken what they learned to write informative essays on a topic of their choice. After that writing project, they will move onto opinion writing.

In Social Studies, students will continue to research the Native American tribes that lived in the United States in order to identify how they used natural resources to survive. In Science, students will investigate how the senses work together to send signals to the brain, and how the brain then processes this information. Students will start this unit examining and comparing the human eye to an animal eye. In Math 4, students will continue in Module 3, focusing more on division strategies and will learn to interpret what remainders mean in real world situations. In Math 4/5, students will identify equivalent fractions, compare fractions, and decompose fractions using various strategies. Students will also organize data that includes fractions using a line plot to help them interpret data.

Feeling Fine in 5th Grade

November has been busy for our 5th Graders! We enjoyed a wonderful field trip to the Strathmore Center for the Arts. An amazing presentation about the history of the Blues in America was enjoyed by all.

Students in 5th Math will work on the last module of the 5th grade curriculum. They will use the First Quadrant of the coordinate plane to solve problems. Students will explore the relationship between ordered pairs, points, lines, patterns and rules. These concepts will then be applied to real-world examples of the coordinate plane and system.

In Grade 5 math, students have been working in Module 2. They have finished the lessons for multi-digit multiplication using the standard algorithm and have now moved on to long division. We began by learning how to estimate quotients and then solve the problem using the standard algorithm. Of course, they always check each problem using multiplication! After we finish these lessons, we will move on to division with decimal dividends.

After returning from the Thanksgiving break, students will engage in a brief study of tall tales. We will explore the elements of these traditional stories through all areas of literacy, including reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Students will compare different versions of several of the tales, identify characteristics that make them a unique form of storytelling from the American past, and enjoy having a chance to craft their own original tall tale. Students will bring their character to life through the use of hyperbole, common tall tale jargon/dialect, and a wild, rootin’ tootin’ sense of adventure and humor! Alongside this genre study, students will begin the third Unit in Benchmark with a focus on

informational text. Students will have opportunities to determine main ideas, explore cause/effect text structure, and integrate information from multiple texts. We will also begin a research project on biomes, where students will choose one that they are most interested in, develop questions to guide their research, and then write a multi-paragraph essay to present their findings. The next several weeks will be busy and full of learning!

In social studies, students have been learning about all the events that led to the Revolutionary War. They enjoyed learning about the Stamp Act, Sugar Act and other command decisions made by King George. The Liberty Kids videos are very informative and the kids love them! Our last lesson in November is a cliff hanger....The Battles of Lexington and Concord.

Next in science, students will begin a study of matter and learn about indoor air pollution. They will be looking for culprits in their homes and putting together a brief presentation video about the problem and propose a solution.

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](#).

Media:

This month we have been focusing on new things in the media center! In our library we have our interactive display where students can write what they are thankful for. It was great to see that many students said how thankful they are for their families and friends—as well as some great books!

In kindergarten, we have begun and continue to learn about the differences of a fiction and nonfiction book. This also means that we have started to explore the nonfiction section of our library. Please review with your child and ask whether the book they are reading is fiction or nonfiction!

In 1st grade, we have been reading books about Native American characters and stories to celebrate Native American History Month. I encourage you to find some [great Native American reads](#) to add to your personal book collection.

In 2nd and 3rd grade we started our Black Eyed Susan Awards nominees read aloud. Ask your 2nd or 3rd grade students what are the BES awards and what has been their favorite read so far! This is a project that we will be working on and off throughout the year. You can find more information about the BES awards on our [KP Website](#).



Music:

As quarter 2 gets underway our music measurement topics shift from Performing & Responding to Creating & Music Notation. K-2 begins this process with multiple improvisation opportunities while 3-5 begin with a review of the treble clef music staff.

The 2nd Grade will travel to Strathmore on Friday, November 18th to see the National Philharmonic Orchestra perform.

KP Singers has been invited to kickoff the KP Art Show (December 3rd) with a short performance. This optional performance is open to all 4th and 5th grade KP Singers students and will be a great opportunity to get up on stage in front of an audience. Participating students will begin gathering in the All-purpose Room at 10:30 to perform at 11:00.

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, and 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) and Goal Setting-Identify a realistic goal.

Art:

Collage, collage and more collage!!!!!!

Collage: a piece of art made by sticking various different materials such as photographs and pieces of paper or fabric onto a backing.

This month, in addition to the artist Eillen Agar, we have also examined and discussed Pete Comer's collage work. Students in grades K-3 will be using inspiration by him to create their own collaged animals.

