

Altoona Elementary

April

Newsletter



Dear Altoona Elementary Families,

First and foremost, I hope you and your families are staying safe and healthy. This new normal is impacting us in so many ways. Some of us are working from home while trying to keep our kids learning and engaged. Some of us are still reporting to work while trying to ensure our kids are learning at night or depending on the caregiver to keep our kids engaged. No matter what your situation is, please know that we are here to support you through these uncharted waters. Our staff is working hard to plan instruction and supports that are accessible and feasible for all.

There will be more communication about this later this week. In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather!

Tara Betlach
Altoona Elementary Principal



I miss you!

♥ Jerry

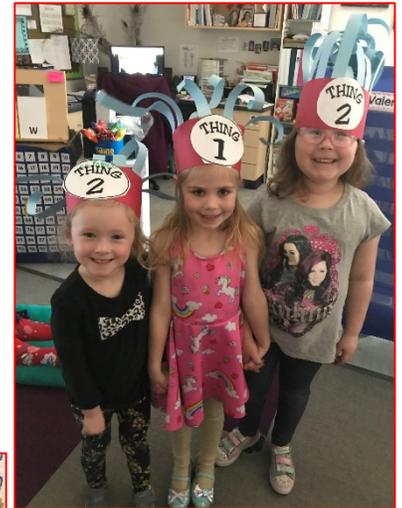
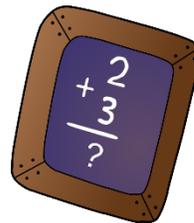
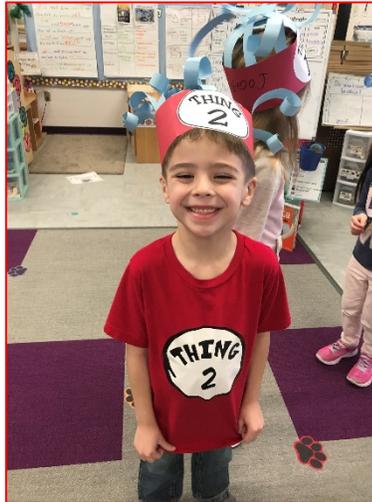


NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarteners enjoyed celebrating with Dr. Seuss after learning about authors and illustrators. Then we moved on to fiction and non-fiction discussing how the authors have a different purpose either sharing a story for our enjoyment or writing about things that are true so we can learn from it. The children enjoyed doing some non-fiction research on farms and weather as well as looking at different views through funny stories like Farmer Duck and The Wind Blew. We also looked at the difference between fact and opinion.

During math the kindergarteners worked on solving story problems first by acting them out and later by representing what they knew on paper. We worked on number sentences as well as the terms sum, addend, total, plus, minus and equals.

Finally, as our crazy month came to an early stop we made leprechaun traps and tried to lure a few of those mischievous little guys into our rooms.



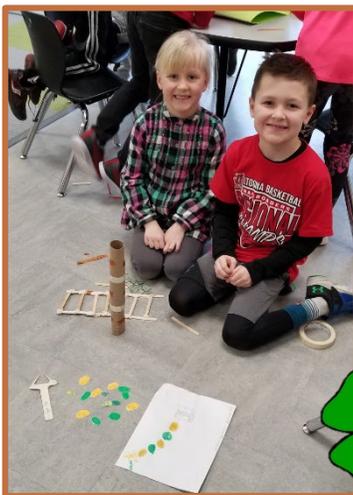
HELLO FROM 1ST GRADE

It was a busy month of learning in first grade! In math, we finished up a unit on solving story problems with unknown change. We also worked a lot on showing our work and writing equations. Then we started a new unit where students were learning about surveys and organizing data in two to three categories. First graders also needed to describe the data and share what they learned from it. First graders finished up with conducting their own survey in the classroom and creating a poster to represent their data. They did a great job!

During language arts, students learned about wants and needs as well as goods and services. First graders had the opportunity to either make goods or perform services in the classroom to get "paid". Then, students chose how to spend or save up this money for items in their classroom store. They had so much fun with this activity!

Students also heard many stories in which the characters had different opinions. Then, they wrote about many of their own opinions. Later, they also wrote a persuasive letter to an adult at home about something they thought they should have. It was fun to see what each student really wanted to have!

Since it was March, we of course had to make leprechaun traps for St. Patrick's day! Unfortunately none of us caught the leprechaun, and he left quite a mess in our classrooms! Maybe next year...



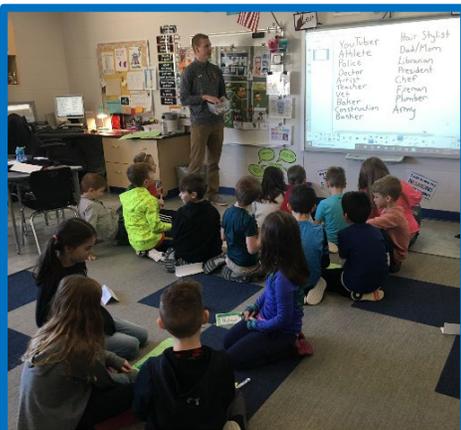
2nd Grade News



2nd Graders have been working with Junior Achievement to learn all about our community and how we as citizens benefit and contribute to its success. Junior Achievement is a wonderful partnership with businesses and educators to bring real world experiences to students through hands-on activities. Students learn about careers, businesses and production, the government, money, taxes, voting, and how they can contribute to the community. Needless to say, we love our JA program and all that we learn!

In these photos, students received job cards and became the person on the card. Each card included a job description as well as the education and skills needed to perform the job. Students were encouraged to discuss what they could do if they had that job, why the job is important to the community and if they would like to do that job.

Students also worked in teams to create new donuts for the community and to see who could produce the most donuts to be sold. Students had a blast creating delicious donut flavors they would like to try!



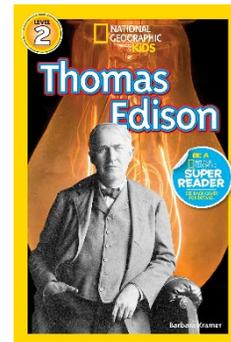
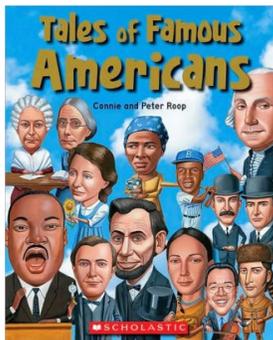
NEWS FROM THIRD GRADE



Time sure does fly by when you are having fun and learning lots! The third graders have been busy learning about a variety of different topics.

In math, we just wrapped up a unit of learning all about fractions! We learned what a fraction is, how to represent fractions in multiple ways, and how to compare fractions!

In language arts and writing, we have been busy learning about famous Americans who helped shape the world we live in today! Everyone got to choose an influential person, so we have been exploring a variety of resources to learn about the challenges they faced and how they changed the world! When we are done researching, we will present the information learned about the inspiring Americans to the class!



This past month we have also been celebrating National Reading Month with some dress-up days and reading challenges. To help embrace our love for reading, some of our buddies from the high school football team came into our classrooms and read to us! What a fun month it has been!



**The more that you read,
the more things you will know.
The more that you learn,
the more places you will go.**

