



Altoona Elementary School December Newsletter

Dear Altoona Elementary Families,

One of our visions here at Altoona Elementary is to equip our students by creating academically, socially, and mentally self-regulated students. The staff is always looking at ways on how to accomplish this goal and continually improve. So a group of us recently went to a Love and Logic training. This training focused on using empathy and modeling to nurture and guide children to solve their own problems, make good choices, and how to be resilient. The training also highlighted that mistakes are priceless learning opportunities. This directly relates to another vision we have of empowering our students to celebrate success and opportunities for growth and failure. As Charles Fay (Love and Logic Trainer) would say, "Failure is not final, it's informative."

Tara Betlach
Altoona Elementary Principal



REMINDERS

School hours are
7:40-2:50

Please wait until
7:20 a.m. to drop
off your child as
there is no recess
supervision
before 7:20 a.m.

Please remember
to send your child
in their warm
winter gear!



IMPORTANT DATES

December 23 to January 1 - No School





4K NEWS

In 4K, we have been busy building, creating, and learning new things! Our handwriting program focuses on building and creating letters, understanding the lines and curves that create letter formations, and the connections between letters and sounds through a multi-sensory approach. We are focused on recognizing letters and how they're formed, creating and building them, so that we can eventually write them. We start with the letters in your child's name because those are the most important letters to them right now!

At this age, children learn best through play -- during play, they have the opportunity to solve problems with peers, understand empathy, use independent thinking, make choices, build self confidence, learn new vocabulary, and develop motor skills (both fine motor and large motor).

Please remember to send your child's winter gear -- snow pants, boots, mittens/gloves, and hats.

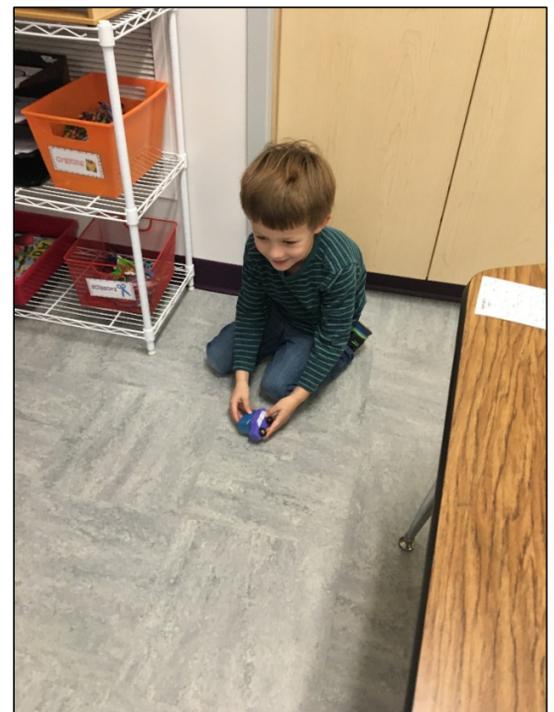
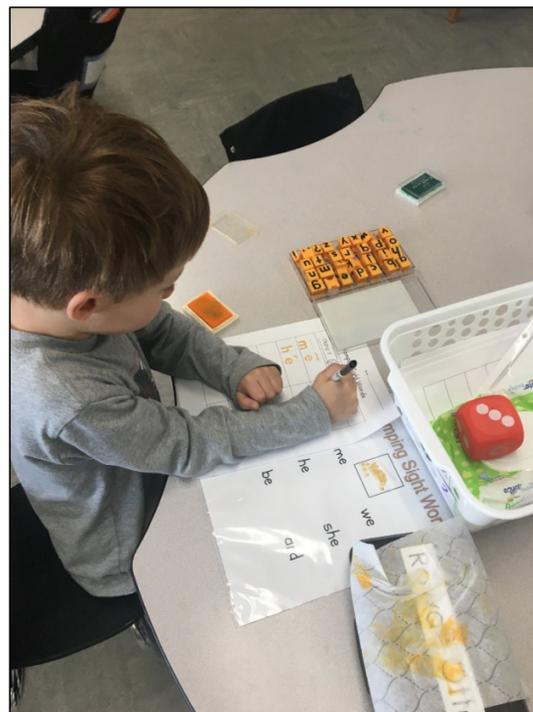
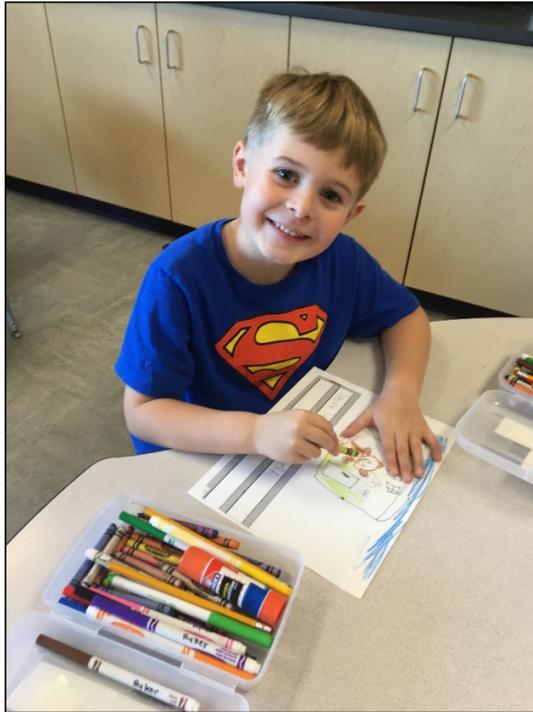
We will be heading outside to play as often as possible!

Reminder!!

Our 4K 2 Hour Late Start policy: if there is a 2 hour late start, our 4K program does **not** have AM 4K, however, we **WILL** have PM 4K.



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

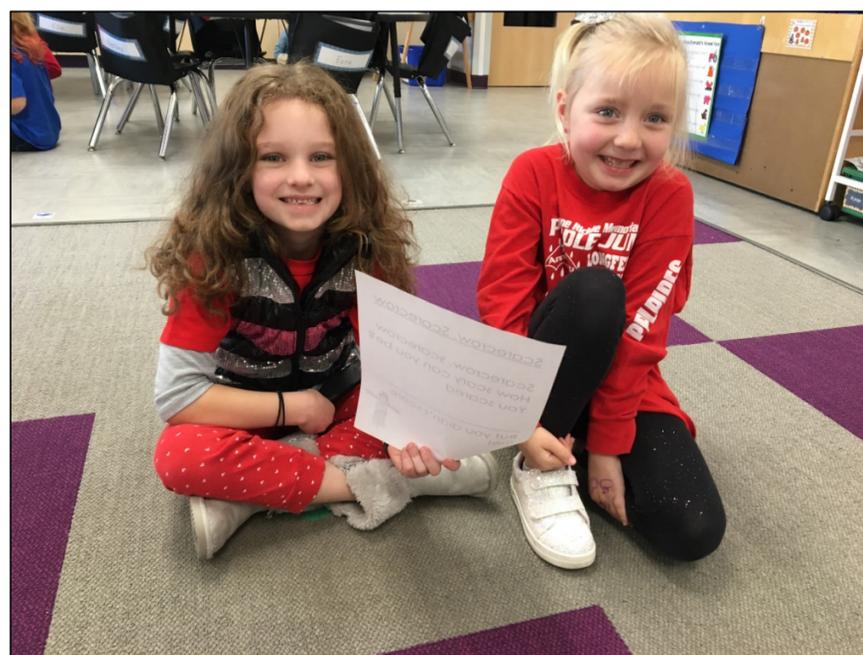


Throughout the past month, Kindergarten has been working hard on learning about forces! Students learned the vocabulary push, pull, force, motion, gravity, and friction. They also tested out different forces within the classroom. Students learned that wheels help things move easier across a smooth, hard surface.

In writing, students have been drawing detailed pictures and adding labels. Students have also been working on writing 5-star sentences: capital letter at the beginning, spaces between words, sight words spelled correctly, punctuation at the end, and the sentence makes sense.

In math, Kindergarten students have been working on measuring lengths, comparing short and long, and ordering. We have also started a 2D shape unit. We are talking about the following shapes: circle, rectangle, square, triangle, hexagon, rhombus, oval, and trapezoid. Students are working on building with these shapes to compose new shapes.

With Veteran's Day this month, students in Kindergarten learned about the branches of the military, and how important veterans are in protecting our country. Students did a variety of things to celebrate this day, including making thank you notes and crafts, and discussing family members of students in each classroom that are part of the military.



FIRST GRADE HAPPENINGS

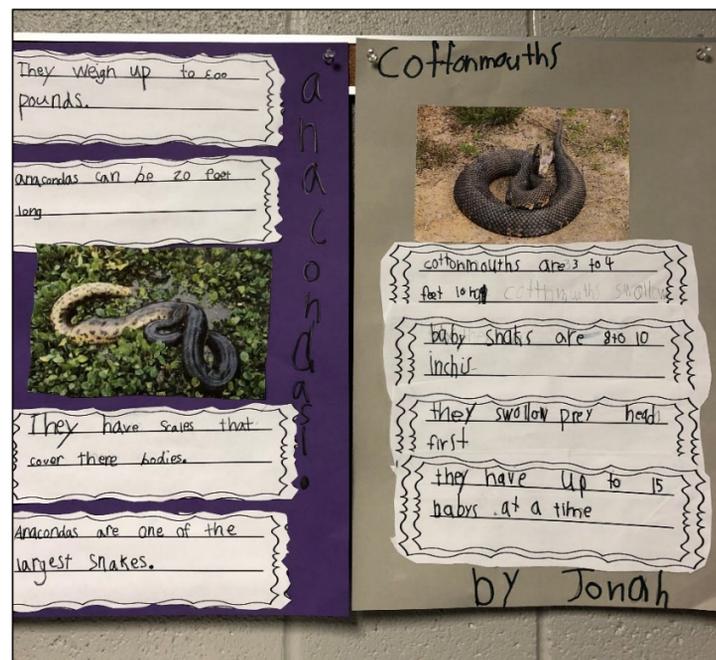
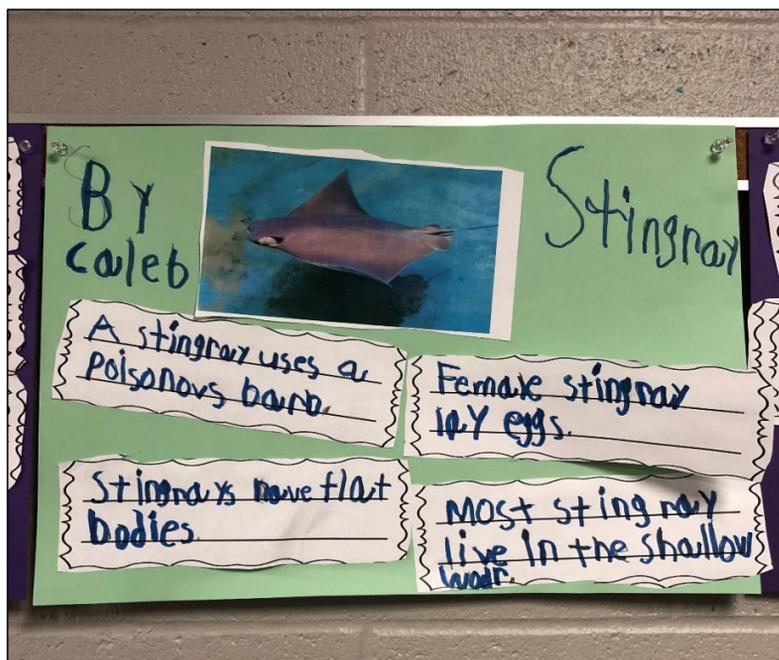


For Halloween each classroom invited special helpers and spent the afternoon carving pumpkins! Students completed some science observations and designed their pumpkin in groups using the shapes we learned about in our math unit! They had a great time! We are so thankful for our special volunteers who helped make this afternoon possible!



First graders have been busy building their number sense by playing different games like; "How many am I hiding?" and "Counters in a Cup". The students love to try and "trick" each other! They are so eager to share what they know!

We have also been busy reading many nonfiction books about animals. We learned about various text features and how they aide in our understanding! Students were able to complete their own research project of an animal of their choice. They did such a great job finding key details/facts and creating a beautiful poster for our hallway!



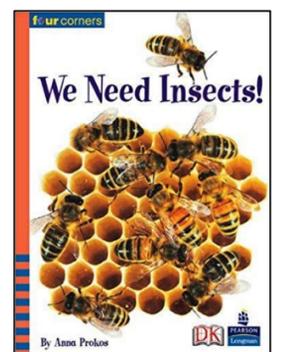
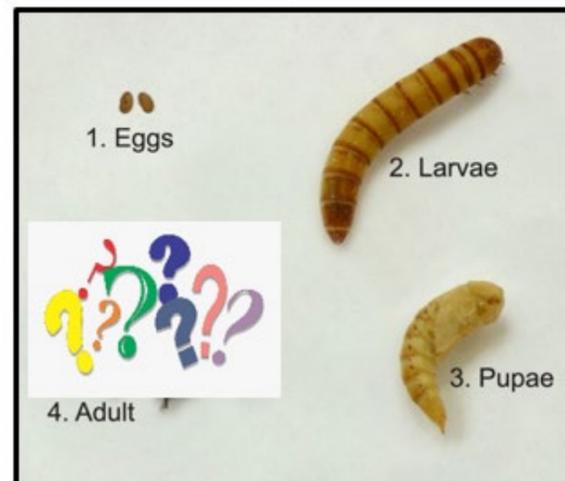
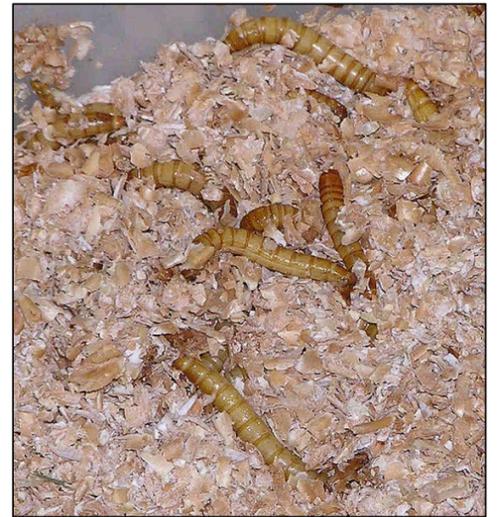
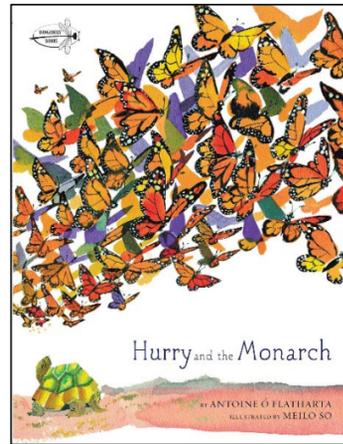
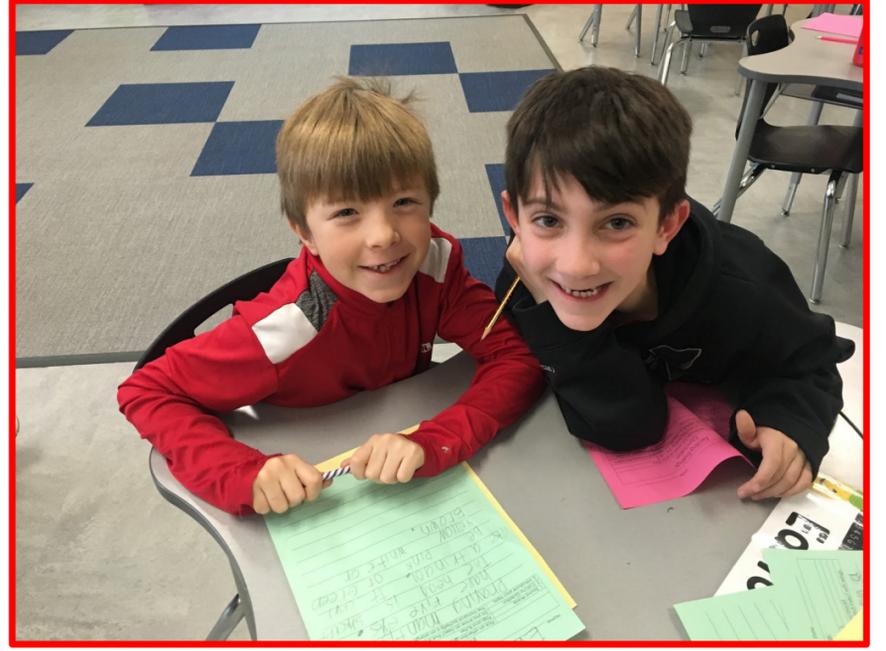
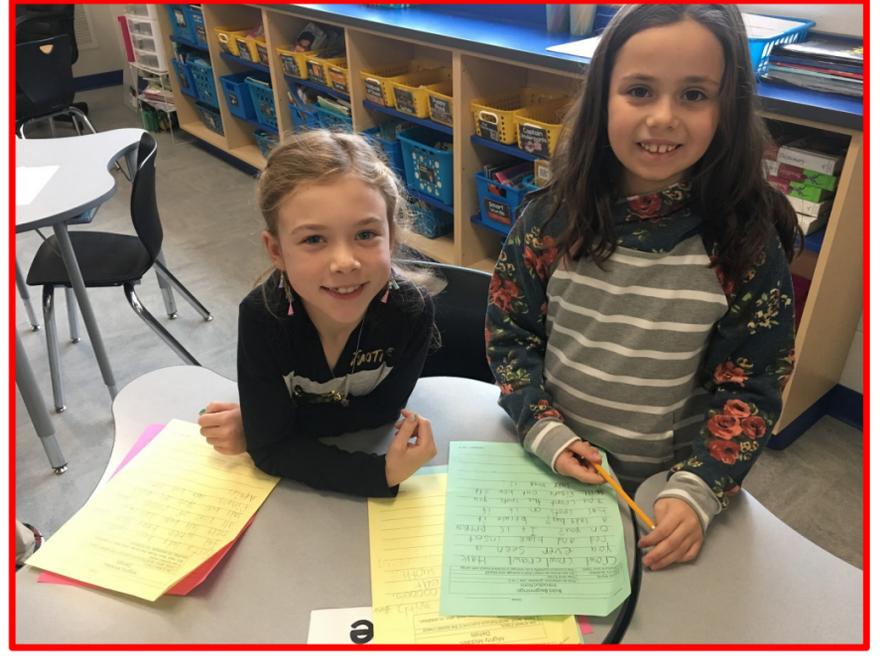


2nd Grade News

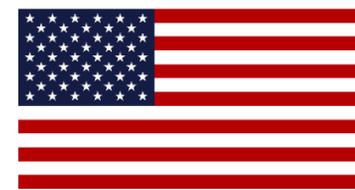


During ELA, our second graders have been learning lots about insects! We have been reading mentor texts such as *Hurry and the Monarch*, *We Need Insects*, and *Good Trick, Walking Stick*, all while learning how to use "Talk Moves" in our class discussions. Each student has also been researching an insect of their choice, and with much teacher guidance, have been writing a one paragraph report based on their research! These reports include a Bold Beginning statement that hooks the reader's attention, a Mighty Middle section where they show off the facts they've learned, and Exciting Ending statement that wraps up their report. Next, they worked with partners to peer edit their writing (partners were looking for fixes such as capital letters, spelling errors, or missing end marks), and are currently working on their final drafts. These will be proudly posted in the hall when they're complete!

Students have also had a chance to observe live mealworms in their classrooms to bring all of this insect learning to life! Kids were excited to watch the mealworm life cycle take place, and many were surprised to see the last stage. Ask your child what type of insect the mealworms turned into!



News from the Third Grade



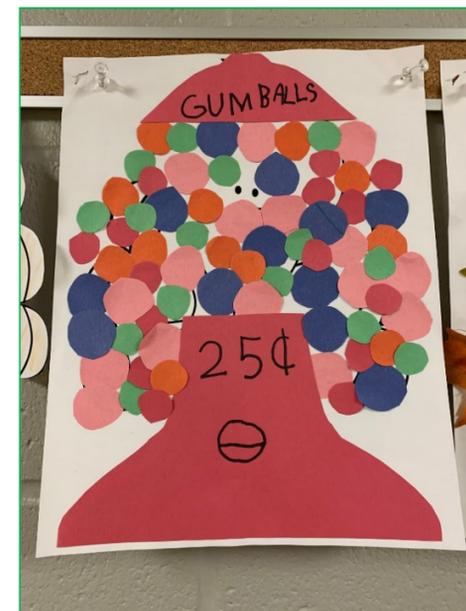
What a month in Third Grade! Third Graders have been working extra hard this month!

We have been busy writing Expert Books about a topic that we know a lot about. In fact, we would even consider ourselves experts! Some topics include how to plan a party, cats, Colorado and fishing. We started by brainstorming topics that we know a lot about. Next, we narrowed it down to the topic that we knew that most about. Then, we organized our topics into three chapters. Now, we are writing our first draft. Soon we will be publishing our work for all to read, learn from and enjoy!

We have also been busy solving addition and subtraction story problems. We have learned many strategies for solving these story problems. These strategies include adding my place and adding one number in parts. We are becoming very efficient with these strategies!

Some of our very own 3rd graders were part of our Veterans Day program at Altoona Elementary. They did a wonderful job speaking in front of a big crowd! Way to go 3rd graders!

It is that time of year again! The turkeys are getting nervous! 3rd graders are attempting to help the turkeys hide until Thanksgiving passes. They have come up with some **VERY** creative ways to help these poor turkeys out!



Rail Time

In Rail Time this month we talked a lot about family and gratitude. November seems like the perfect time to remind the students about the things in life that are most important.

All grades listened to the book *The Night before Thanksgiving*. We then discussed how we all seem to have way too much food in our kitchens on Thanksgiving! The students went ahead and constructed a bigger Thanksgiving table out of blocks, popsicle sticks and Lincoln logs. They set the "Thanksgiving feast" on the table without any overlapping or unbalanced dishes!

We are currently working on making Holiday cards for Christmas For Heroes. This Eau Claire program ships Christmas care boxes to the troops overseas. They also like to include a handmade card in each box. That is where we come in! All students are creating a card that is sure to bring cheer to each soldier this holiday season.



NEWS FROM OUR SPECIALS

MUSIC

Kindergarten: We are finishing up our first unit of songs in Kindergarten. Look for a "My favorite song from music is" worksheet and ask your child about it! After Thanksgiving break we will start brand new songs to be tuneful, beautiful, and artful! Continue to send notes when your child sings songs from music to you for them to earn a sticker!

First Grade: We are finishing up our first unit of songs in 1st grade. Look for a "My favorite song from music is" worksheet and ask your child about it! After Thanksgiving break we will be embarking on a new journey of creating and decoding rhythms in music.

Second Grade: We are continuing to work with mi, re, and do. Students have started being detectives and cracking the codes of melodies that I play or sing for them! Last month we got to share our favorite game (Snail, Snail) with some special guests! Thank you Mr. Brandon, Mr. Peggs, and Mrs. Werner for joining us!

Third Grade: Great job singing at the Veteran's Day Assembly third graders! We are continuing to work with do, re, mi, and so. Students have started being detectives and cracking the codes of melodies that I play or sing for them!



Please put these dates on your calendar:

Kindergarten: March 19th, 6-7pm - Kindergarten Specials Night

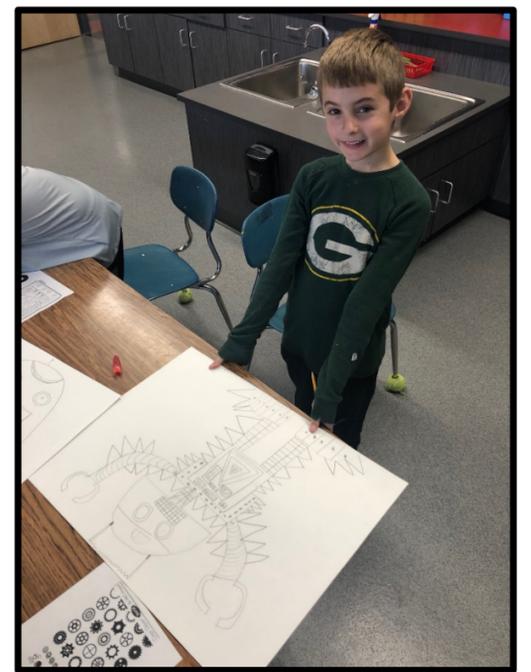
First Grade: April 30th, 12:30pm Music Program

Second Grade: Jan. 16th, 6-7pm Folk Dance Night

Third Grade: April 30th, 2pm Music Program



ART

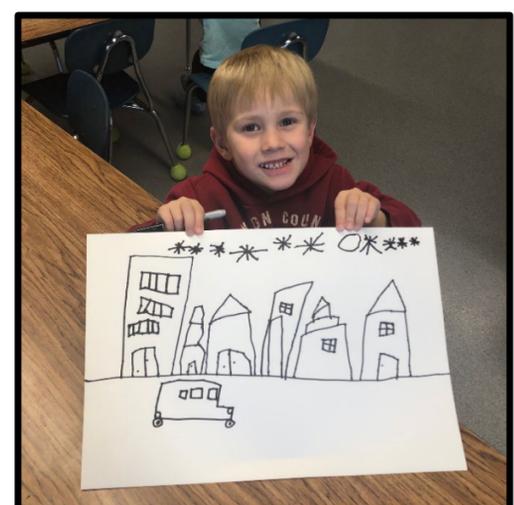


Kindergarten has been learning about being an architect in art class! We read the book *Iggy Peck Architect* and have been building and drawing different types of buildings. Students are also creating a cityscape inspired by another book we read called *If the Dinosaurs Came Back*. They are drawing a cityscape full of buildings and will be adding dinosaurs. Ask your kindergarten what an architect does and to name different types of buildings!

1st Grade just finished their Vincent Van Gogh sunflower painting and they turned out beautiful! They are now going to the computer lab to use technology to create digital art. They are exploring a program called Art Zone created by the National Gallery of Art. They are practicing computer and mouse skills while creating digital art on the Art Zone. Ask your students about using the Art Zone and if you want you can add it to your computer at home free!

<https://www.nga.gov/education/kids.html> 1st grade is also working on a weaving project! Ask them about their weaving in the upcoming weeks!

2nd and 3rd grade have been working on showing DETAILS in their drawings and using their imagination to create art! 2nd grade is currently designing and inventing robots. So far, they drew their large-scale robots using shapes and now are adding DETAILS like gadgets, gears, and buttons! Coming up next is adding color to the robots by painting them. Ask your kiddos if they designed their robot for a certain purpose or a job. 3rd grade is learning about a famous artist Grant Wood. You may know his famous painting titled *American Gothic*. Wood is also famous for his farmscape art. Students are creating their own farmscape showing distance in their art. They created a 3-D barn and horizon line and are now filling up the background, middle ground, and foreground with DETAILS! Ask your 3rd grader about the farm details they are drawing in their farmscape!



PE

Hello from the AES physical education department. As we approach the end of November we are really getting into the groove of things. We are continuing with our skills-based PE curriculum. Students in 2nd and 3rd grade have been learning the skills of throwing, tossing, and rolling and have been playing some fun group games that help facilitate the development of these skills. Students in Kindergarten and first grade have been learning about various locomotor (galloping, skipping, sliding, jumping, hopping) and balancing skills. We encourage you to ask your child/children what they are learning each day in PE and to engage in play/physical activity with your child every day. We look forward to continuing to assist your children in becoming physically literate individuals.



SPANISH

Kindergarten:

This month, students have been learning about things we see in the fall, like hojas (leaves) and pavos (turkeys). Here are some songs they've learned:

"Hojas": <https://youtu.be/MfdBwavGICA>

"Yo Soy un Pavo":

<https://youtu.be/Z7kthS65UYI>

First Grade:

Students are learning how to identify the parts of the face. Here are some fun songs they've learned:

"Una Papa": <https://youtu.be/9C2FBP+ks4s>

"Cabeza, Hombros, Rodillas,

Pies": <https://youtu.be/AlYpkpAB8k8>

Second Grade:

Students are wrapping up their sports unit by learning how to tell someone else which sports they like and do not like. Ask them how to say "I like" and "I don't like" in Spanish!

Third Grade:

Students did an amazing job on their presentations on famous Hispanic people. These are located in their Google Drives-- have them present to you!



School District of Altoona
Altoona, Wisconsin

Meet the Student Teacher

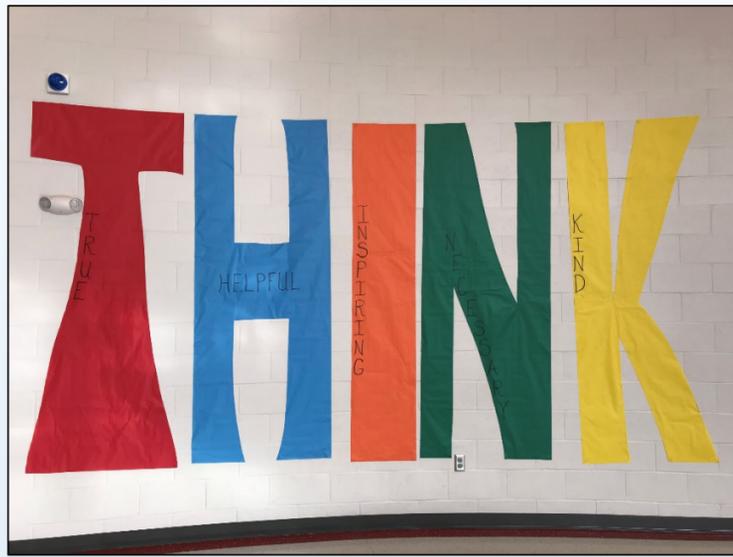
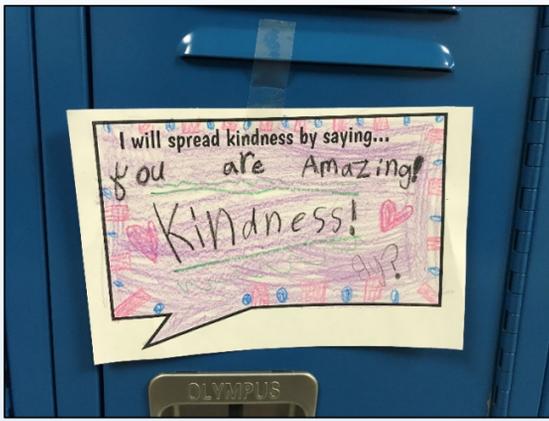
Hola!

My name is Señorita Woychik and I am a student at Viterbo University in La Crosse, Wisconsin. I am excited to be student teaching in your learner's Spanish classroom. I will be working with Señora Gillespie until January. We are looking forward to a lot of learning and laughter.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns using my email: swoych62797@viterbo.edu. I look forward to working with you and your learner.



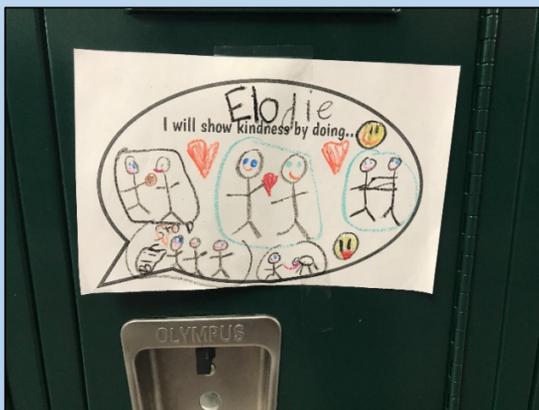
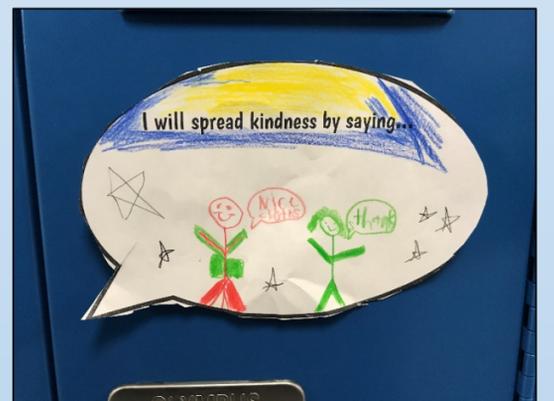
Sinceramente,
Señorita Woychik



The week of October 28th we celebrated End Bullying Week. Our theme was "What If Everybody Said That?". Students learned that the acronym T.H.I.N.K. means that before we speak we will make sure that what we are saying is **true**, **helpful**, **inspiring**, **necessary** and **kind**.



Students also made their own locker sign to show what they would do or say to spread kindness and the second graders made a fantastic music video with Mrs. Drayton to the song "Kindness is a Muscle." Every student was also able to dress up to acknowledge that we are working to end bullying at our school. We had a fun week thinking about and doing things to end bullying.





Altoona Elementary Lunch Menu

December
2019



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>2</p> <p>French Toast Sticks Tri Tater</p> <p>Cheeseburger on a Bun Tri Tater</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Soft Shell Tacos with Lettuce, Cheese and Salsa Garden Salad</p> <p>Creamy Macaroni and Cheese Garden Salad</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Grilled Cheese Sandwich Tomato Soup</p> <p>Crispy Chicken Nuggets Whole Grain Dinner Roll Tomato Soup</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Homemade Cheese Pizza Steamed Vegetables</p> <p>Corn Dog Steamed Vegetables</p> <p>***Chocolate Chip Cookie*** Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Popcorn Chicken Buttered Noodles Caesar Side Salad</p> <p>Yogurt Pack - Yogurt, String Cheese, Whole Grain Bagel and Cream Cheese Caesar Side Salad</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
<p>9</p> <p>Hotdog on a Whole Grain Bun Kettle Potato Chips</p> <p>Deli Sub Sandwich with Ham and Cheese Kettle Potato Chips</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Chicken Tender Basket Golden French Fries Whole Grain Dinner Roll</p> <p>Mini Corn Dogs Golden French Fries</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Pizza Munchable with Cheese, Sauce and Pepperoni Corn</p> <p>Breaded Chicken Sandwich Corn</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Oven Roasted Chicken Mashed Potatoes and Gravy Bread Stick</p> <p>Cheeseburger on a Bun Mashed Potatoes and Gravy</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Cheesy Italian Flatbread with Dipping Sauce Steamed Vegetables</p> <p>Crispy Chicken Nuggets Steamed Vegetables Whole Grain Dinner Roll</p> <p>***Ice Cream Cup*** Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Walking Taco with Cheese, Lettuce and Tomato Garden Salad</p> <p>Creamy Macaroni and Cheese Garden Salad</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>17 Maple Syrup Day</p> <p>Pancakes Sausage Hashbrown</p> <p>Pretzel with Cheese Sauce Hashbrown</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Fish Nugget Basket Golden French Fries</p> <p>Hotdog Basket Golden French Fries</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Pizza Dippers with Marinara Sauce Corn</p> <p>Crispy Chicken Nuggets Bread Stick Corn</p> <p>Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Homemade French Bread Pizza Caesar Side Salad</p> <p>Cheeseburger on a Bun Caesar Side Salad</p> <p>***Holiday Treat*** Fruit and Vegetable Bar</p>
<p>23</p> <p>No School December 23 - January 1</p> <p>Have a Great Holiday Break!</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>			 <p>Choose MyPlate.gov</p>

INFORMATION	Regular	\$2.70
	Reduced	\$0.40
	Adult	\$3.85
	Milk	\$0.50

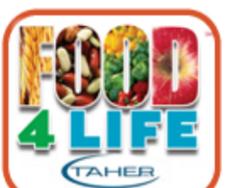
EXTRA INFO

Milk choice of 1% White or Chocolate Skim is included with lunch.

For questions or comments, contact Bernie Allen at 715-839-6056 or email ballen@altoona.k12.wi.us.



Your **MENUS** plus more information on our app **Taher Food4Life®**



www.taher.com

4K REGISTRATION
IS
NOW OPEN!



Dear Parents:

You are invited to participate in **the Altoona School District 4K Program**, our collaborative, community-based four year old kindergarten program, for the 2020-2021 school year. **Altoona 4K** is an enriched, play-based program designed to prepare your child for their educational career. We provide an enriched curriculum that provides school readiness skills and school expectations. We know that our children learn best through play and provide age appropriate activities in cognitive and pre-math skills, social-emotional, adaptive, literacy and language, and motor development. Our 4K program is a half day program (morning and afternoon options) that runs Monday-Thursday. It's a program designed for all children who live in the Altoona School District and who will be four years old by September 1, 2020. Four year old children who have been accepted for open enrollment will also be eligible to participate. The Altoona School District 4K program is provided at no cost. Transportation options are available.

The 2020-2021 **Altoona 4K** program is offered at four community sites:

Little Star Daycare, 2245 Hayden Avenue

Western Dairyland Head Start/Altoona Early Education Center, 1314 North Hillcrest Parkway

St. Mary's Elementary School, 1828 Lynn Avenue

The Little School House of Altoona, 2328 North Hillcrest Parkway

Little Minds Matter, 3085 Meadowlark Lane

A brief description of our 4K site options is provided on the website.

4K Enrollment is completed online. Please visit our website at www.altoona.k12.wi.us to complete the necessary paperwork. If you do not have access to a computer, we will have some available at the elementary school.

In addition to enrolling online, we require the following forms:

Original Birth Certificate (we verify the information and return it to you)

Proof of Residency – (mortgage documents or utility bill with your name and address on it)

Immunization form (only required if your child received their vaccinations from a different state)

Other important documents if applicable (IEP, court documentation, etc.)

Please bring the above listed forms to the Altoona Elementary School Office, located at 157 Bartlett Avenue, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 3:30 P.M., before Friday, May 31, to complete the enrollment process.

We encourage you to take advantage of **Altoona 4K** If you have questions, please contact Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator, at: ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us. Please pass this information on to others who may not have received it. We want all Altoona families with four year olds to be aware of this exciting opportunity!

Sincerely,

Laura Trachsel

Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator

