



**Altoona Intermediate School**  
Altoona, Wisconsin



## October 2021 Newsletter

From the Principal, Andrea Steffen:

### **Hello AIS Families!**

What a great start to the school year! At the very beginning of the year, students worked on establishing behavior and academic routines. Over 95% of our students have had no behavior write-ups to date and we celebrated our first behavior goal! In academic news, students in fourth grade are studying legends and just finished a math unit on multiplication, multiples, and prime and composite numbers. Their next math unit is on data, and they are studying the human machine in science. Fifth graders finished their personal narratives and read many books by author Andrew Clements. In math they studied the order of operations, multiplication of multi-digit numbers and division with a two digit divisor. They will be studying data next in math. In social studies they finished their geography unit on oceans and continents and are starting their watery planet science unit.

In other news, our school was recognized by the Wisconsin RTI Center for creating multi-level systems that support students behaviorally and academically! We're honored to receive this achievement!

Parent Teacher Conferences will be known as Family Conferences moving forward. You will get an email on Friday, October 8th that gives instructions for sign up. Please sign up by no later than Friday, Oct. 15th. If your family needs a virtual conference, please contact your teacher to get this set up.

Upcoming: Picture Retake Day Wednesday, October 20th

Dental Sealants the first week in November

# What are 4th Graders Studying?

## First Math Unit

By: Amelia Moore  
Mrs. Smith's Class

First we learned about square, prime, and composite numbers. Square numbers are  $1 \times 1, 2 \times 2, 3 \times 3$  and so on. Prime numbers are numbers that have only one factor pair, 1 and itself. Composite numbers are numbers that have more than one factor pair. We also learned about multiples. Multiples are like skip counting and are the product of a whole number. For example, multiples of 8 are 8, 16, 24, and 32. In fourth grade, we use math workshop during our math time. In math workshop, we can practice what we learn by playing games like Multiple Turn Over and Fit the Array.



## First Month of Reading and Writing

By: Rachel Jahr  
Mrs. Smith's Class

In the first month of school we built reading stamina and writing stamina. Stamina is when you write or read for a little bit and they do it for longer and longer. We read The Strange Case of Origami Yoda. While we read we learned about reading strategies that good readers use and we made a chart to look at. In writing, we picked one of our pieces of writing and brought it through the writing process. We learned how to edit and revise it before we wrote it in a final draft.



## Mrs Smith's Kindness Rocks

As a class we talked about what kindness means to us. We then painted and wrote kind messages onto rocks that we could take home. We either placed them around our house or placed them around town.



# What have 5th Graders been up to?

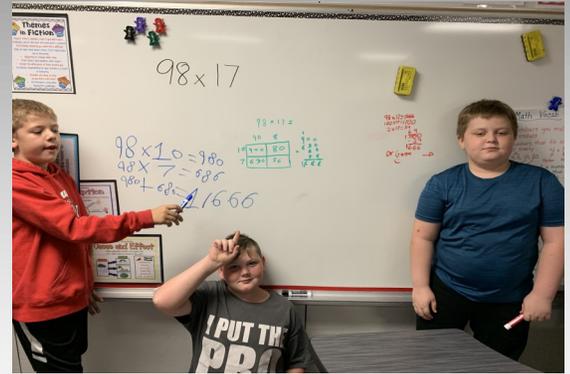
## 5th grade Math

By: Paxton and Xander  
and Mrs. Brahan's class

In this unit we learned about the order of operations. The order operations are:

1. Perform operations within grouping symbols first ( ) and [ ].
2. Multiply and divide in order from left to right.
3. Add and subtract in order from left to right.

We're also working on solving multiplication problems using different strategies like breaking apart both numbers, using cluster problems, adjusting one factor, and breaking apart one number. We have also done work with arrays and properties of numbers like naming a number as odd, even, prime, composite, and/ or square.



## 5th Grade ELA

by Mrs. Brahan's Class



We just recently finished our first unit called "Setting the Stage for Learning". We learned about good readers. Good readers reflect, summarize, read from different genres, think as we read, learn new vocabulary words, make connections, make predictions, ask questions/ wonders, visualize, make inferences, and use evidence.

We've done two writing projects so far. One was a Who Am I poem and the other one was a paper describing how we are superheroes at AIS by following the core values.



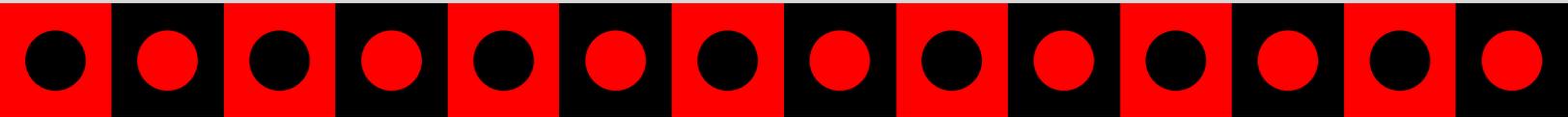
Our teacher also read us My Life as a Book. Many of us are reading more books from this series.

# My Life as a Book

by Angelica and Alaina

My Life as a Book is a great book! We would recommend it to people who like mystery and drama. The point of view is first person and told by Derek. One day Derek found a newspaper article about Susan James in the attic. So he's been researching the article to find out more about Susan. He went on crazy adventures to find out about her. And Derek hates reading so he decided instead of reading, his goal in the summer would be to find out about Susan James. To find out what he learns, read this great book!

Our new unit is on Andrew Clements and we are currently reading two of his books - The Landry News and The Map Trap. We are working on identifying story elements like characters, setting, plot, and theme. We will also be writing personal narratives in this unit.



## 5th grade **Specials**

By Mrs. Brahan's Class

**In phy ed we're learning how to play soccer. In music we are starting to play the ukuleles and learning more about the treble clef. In Spanish we are learning about cognates. In art we are learning about the painter Grandma Moses. In tech ed we are making 3-D printed objects like a keychain. In keyboarding we are practicing typing and learning how to set up Google folders.**

## CORE VALUES AT AIS

By: Scott and Brielle

Our core values at AIS are being respectful, responsible, and safe. To be respectful it looks like eyes on the teacher when they are talking, and also being quiet around your peers while they are working. Being responsible looks like getting your homework returned on time, also using a voice level 0-1 in the iZone. Being safe looks like hands, feet and body to self at all times. It also means using playground equipment properly. And that's what the AIS core values should look like.