



October 2022 Newsletter

What's Happening in AIS?

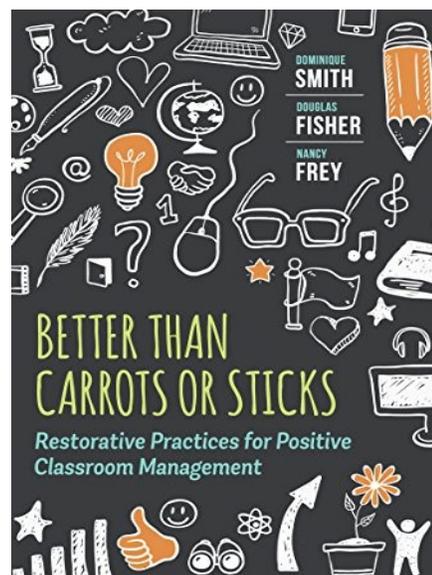
Hello AIS Families! WOW, it is hard to believe that the end of September is upon us already, and we are a full 4 weeks into the school year. It is an absolute honor to serve as the principal of Altoona Intermediate School, it truly is an Innovative school that supports our students, lets them know they are cared for, and holds them to high expectations and levels of accountability. We are doing the right work in impacting our students through building positive relationships, providing strong instruction and assessment, and reflecting and adjusting based on our results!

Our dedicated staff at AIS is engaging in some learning on the concept of restorative practices within our classrooms and schools. All of our AIS staff including teachers, paraprofessionals, support staff, custodians, and admin assistants were given a copy of the book *Better than Carrots or Sticks: Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management*. One of our staff learning centers per month is dedicated to engaging in reflective discussion with each other on a segment of this book and how we can apply the learning into our own classrooms. Our staff has done a tremendous job of grappling with the concepts in this book and doing the hard work of reflecting on their own practice! If you would like a copy of this book, Mr. Zuiker has a few extra copies he would be happy to share. Otherwise, this [link](#) will take you to Amazon, where you can purchase a used copy of the book for as little as \$7! Additionally, below is a graphic that provides a summarization of the difference between a traditional versus a restorative approach to discipline.

Figure 1.1 Traditional Versus Restorative Approach to Discipline

Traditional Approach	Restorative Approach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools and rules are violated. Justice focuses on establishing guilt. Accountability is defined as punishment. Justice is directed at the offender; the victim is ignored. Rules and intent outweigh the outcome. No opportunity is offered for the offender to express remorse or make amends. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People and relationships are violated. Justice identifies needs and obligations. Accountability is defined as understanding the effects of the offense and repairing any harm. The offender, victim, and school all have direct roles in the justice process. Offenders are held responsible for their behavior, repairing any harm they've caused and working toward a positive outcome. Opportunities are offered for offenders to express remorse or make amends.

Source: Adapted from San Francisco Unified School District. (n.d.). Restorative practices whole-school implementation guide (p. 19). San Francisco, CA: Author.



Our school-wide PBIS focus for the month of September was *Start Strong* and our teachers utilized our 'Cool Tools' to work with students and facilitate what it meant and looked like to be safe, responsible, and respectful in various situations and settings throughout the day. ALL of our classrooms completed their goal of demonstrating their understanding of each Cool Tool and we celebrated with a frozen treat at the end of September! The October focus is on the concept of 'GRIT'. Students are learning about and practicing the skills that go along with persistence, resilience, and trying their very best. This is a concept that is difficult, not just for students, but for adults as well. At AIS, we truly appreciate you discussing with your child this concept, what it looks like, and what struggles they may face in developing this skill!

Thank you for your partnership with AIS! Our school thrives when we have strong support from our families and community. I will always finish my insert portion of the newsletter with the same statement I read to students as I close the morning announcements:

We are so proud of you at AIS. We are here to help guide you through struggle and celebrate your wins with you. Every single one of you plays an important role at AIS, YOU ALL MATTER to our school community. Just in case someone didn't tell you they love you today, you matter, you belong, and you are LOVED at AIS! Have a FANTASTIC day everyone!

Best,

Cale Zuiker
Altoona Intermediate School Principal
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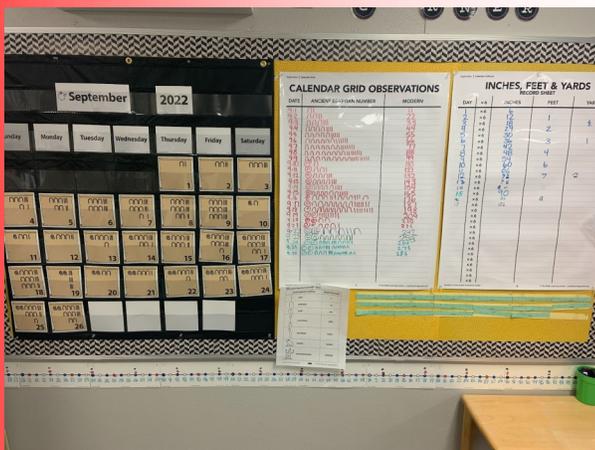
"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"



4th Grade Updates

Number Corner

One of the components of our new math curriculum is a daily 20 minute session called “Number Corner”. Each month will have a different pattern for the calendar pieces. I say pattern very loosely because it’s not just the pattern we are looking at. September’s calendar had ancient Egyptian numerals that the students studied and used in equations. Each month will also have a different collection of items. In September, we “collected” 6 inches a day. We then compared inches, feet, and yards. In the subsequent months, students will be working with different collections. There are 3 other concepts that students learn about, discuss, and practice. Those are computational fluency, problem strings, and problem solving. Ask a 4th grader about Number Corner!



4th grade Number Corner

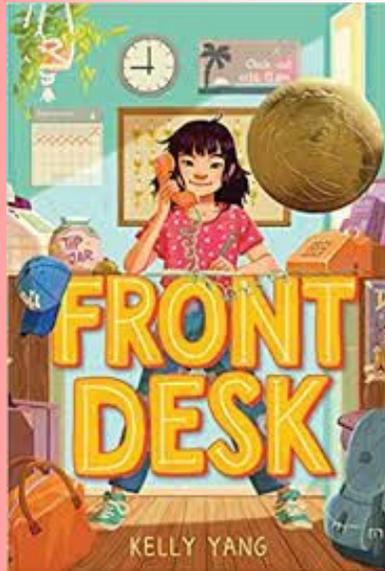
Ancient Egyptian Numerals	Modern Numerals
 staff	1
 heel bone	10
 scroll	100
 lotus flower	1,000
 bent finger	10,000
 tadpole	100,000
 astonished person	1,000,000

Ancient Egyptian Numerals that 4th graders studied in September

Front Desk

To begin the school year, the students listened to a book called Front Desk. It is about a girl who moves from China to America with her parents. The book talks about the trials and successes that the family has. One of the skills we focused on was being able to read and figure out what unknown words meant based on the context. 4th graders decoded and defined words such as inconsolable, collateral, ecstatic, and meticulous.

The main character in this book is Mia. One of the things she does throughout the book is write letters to several different people. The author not only showed Mia's letters but also showed how Mia revised and edited these letters. It was a fabulous way for 4th graders to review not only letter writing, but also how to revise, edit, and polish writing of any sort. One of the tasks students were to do was write a letter to their teacher explaining how he or she is a respectful, responsible, and safe AIS citizen.



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Miller,

Thank you so much for the \$8 tip ~~alone~~ along with the ~~good~~ kind note. It helped ~~my day~~ made my day, and I was ~~have~~ having a bad day. I got a bad grade at school. It was so bad that I was ~~thought~~ thinking about ~~not doing~~ giving up ~~in~~ on something.

But then two things ~~happen~~ happened – my friend from school ~~says~~ said something nice to me and I ~~get~~ got your note and tip. I think that's a sign, ~~do you~~ don't you?

My parents ~~believe in~~ are big on signs. I'm not, especially if they are bad. But I like the good ones. ☺

Thanks for ~~give~~ giving me a good sign. And thanks for staying ~~in~~ at the Calivista. I hope you'll come again soon.

Sincerely,
Mia Tang
Assistant Manager

Donut walks are very popular for Principal Coupon winners!

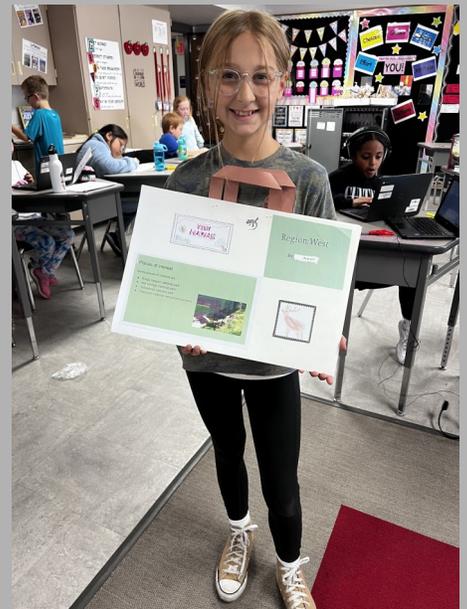
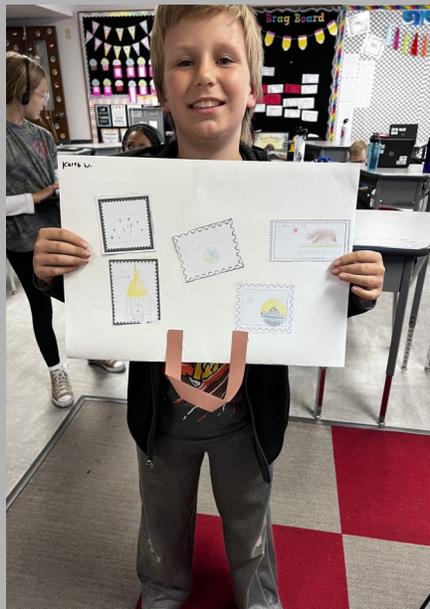
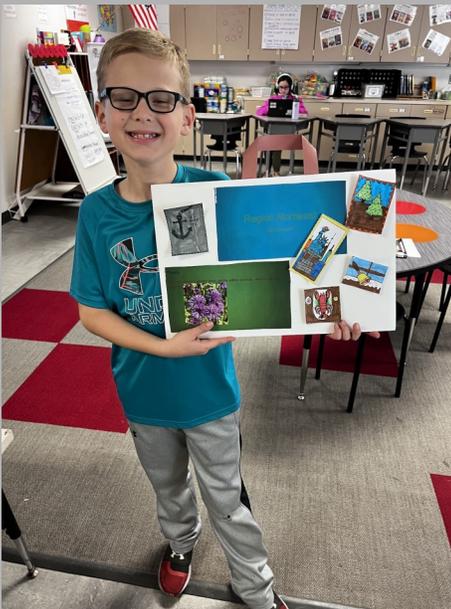


What have 5th Graders been up to?

5th grade Social Studies

By Layla Rieckens and Laynee House

This month we've been working on region projects. We chose from the west, southwest, northeast, midwest, or northwest. We researched the regions, and picked a region to present on a poster but we added a handle and folded a piece of paper to look like a suitcase, on the inside we put all of our research and some pictures. Then on the back we put a map of all the states that were in the region. We added what region we chose and some pictures on the front. We also made our own stamps for five states in our region, and then glued them to the front of our suitcase. This is what we have done in social studies in 5th grade this month.



5th grade ELA

By Laynee and Layla

For 5th grade ELA this month we have been talking about the government and Wisconsin history. For our government unit we are learning about the Judicial branch, Legislative branch, and the Executive branch. They all involve the government and important people like all our presidents, governors, and judges. We also have been talking about how we have rights, responsibilities, ect, at home, school, as an adult and as a citizen. Moving on to Wisconsin history we have been talking about the ABC's of Wisconsin, we have been researching Wisconsin history. We have been reading lots of articles, and we have been doing lots of vocabulary word matches about Wisconsin history. And that's what we have been learning about in ELA.

AIS 4th & 5th News Report

In the school district there is a new school play/musical on December 18th and practice starts on October 17th. If you would like to join, see Mrs. Scott!

The Cheer and Dance club are available for people to join but you will not be able to join after next week Tuesday. They meet at the football field during recess and we can not lift anyone off the ground due to safety rules.

Don't forget to thank the principal for all his work because he works really hard!

GO RAILROADERS!



Homemade vs Store Bought Treats

Due to many restrictions with dietary needs and allergic reactions we will be continuing with restrictions of only allowing store bought products for classroom birthday treats. Treats should be in the original packaging from the store with description and ingredient labels still listed. This restriction has nothing to do with your students own PERSONAL snack that they eat during snack time. This is ONLY pertaining to the snacks that are given out to the entire classroom.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 715-514-3444 or bengel@altoona.k12.wi.us

Thank you for your cooperation,
Brittany Engel, RN, BSN
K-12 School District Nurse