



Altoona Intermediate School

Altoona, Wisconsin



February 2023 Newsletter

Hello AIS Families! I hope the month of February is welcoming you with higher temperatures (especially with what we just had at the end of January!), more light in the day, and time for you to enjoy with your child(ren). As we get further away from Winter and closer to Spring, it always brings a renewed sense of life into the building and the excitement and energy becomes palpable to all!



We are in the midst of our current PBIS Challenge, focused on *Integrity*. *We have been communicating to our students that integrity is all about the phrase 'being morally upright' - simply put, doing the right thing, even when no one is watching! Our staff has been intentional with looking for students acting with integrity, specifically in areas like the iZone, hallways, cafeteria, and playground where they may not always have*

someone directly supervising them. When staff 'catch' someone demonstrating integrity, they receive a paper fish and are able to redeem that fish in the office for a snack bag of goldfish. Our goal is to reach 150 fish on the office window, and when we do, we will have an all school celebration!



We value growth and progress for our students! In the first seven days of February, Mr. Rundquist and Mr. Zuiker personally affirmed each student at AIS for their growth on the Winter Fastbridge assessments, both in reading and math. Our students are growing in their academic skills and our staff are an integral part in that. Thank you for affirming your child for their growth, along with the work our staff does to continuously improve as teachers! From a schoolwide lens, AIS just wrapped up our building scorecard check-in. Please see the video linked [here](#), chronicling how we are doing on our goals. Please know that there was an adjustment made to our Academic Outcome goals, pertaining to Fastbridge Math and Reading. Our goal still sits at an increase of 3% for each, but the baseline is different, based on getting our data from the previous year clarified. **As a school, it is our goal for 37.4% of our 4th and 5th-graders to reach the 65th percentile or higher by the end of the year in math and 38.3% of our 4th and 5th-graders to reach the 65th percentile or higher in reading.**

A simple, yet powerful, topic to discuss with your child(ren) is the impact that words have, in different social settings, with different people. At school, we have top-notch staff whose job it is to help facilitate productive struggle and high expectations for our students. Sometimes, that is not always met willingly by students. However, how students respond in those situations has an impact and we want to always increase our ability to respond in a positive manner, even if it's not something we want to do. A couple of questions to discuss with your child(ren) could be:

How do you respond to a staff member when they remind you of an expectation?
How do you respond when a staff member provides a challenging task in the classroom?
As you get older, what would be some negative consequences for treating adults with disrespect?



Lastly, our Family Conferences are upcoming soon, on February 27th and March 2nd. It was great to see such a high number of families attend our Fall conferences, and the impact it has on our students is vital. Please be on the lookout for communication from our school, as well as from your classroom teacher, on signing up for time slots. We look forward to seeing you at that time and to continue to build relationships with the families we serve!

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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715-838-7111 ext. 309

"It takes years to build a culture, and you will always be looking to improve it"



Save the Dates for Summer School!



Session 1: June 12-June 29, 2023

Session 2: July 10-July 20, 2023

All opportunities and registration information
coming soon.

4th Grade Updates

ELA - Mysteries!

By: Natalie & Alaric

Our AIS fourth graders have been learning about mysteries in this time period. They have spent the month learning and reading about mysteries. We have been completing graphic organizers to show what we know during this unit. We have been learning about characters, plots, settings, and red herrings. We have also been writing a mystery comic, using Pixton and will share it with our classmates. This sharing will help with reading, writing, and speaking. Many students enjoyed this unit!

READING - MYSTERY GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Characters

1. Who is working to solve the mystery (detective)?

2. Who are the suspect(s)?

3. Pick a character, read a character card, and provide evidence of the trait from the story.

Character	Character Trait	Evidence



Math - Standard Algorithm

By: Jaxon & Anjelica

This is how the AIS fourth graders have been learning the standard algorithm. We have been practicing the standard algorithm in fourth grade for subtraction and addition. Our 4th unit in the Bridges math curriculum includes standard algorithms and we use borrowing from the next number for subtraction and in addition, we carry the one or two depending on what number it is.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4712 \\ - 398 \\ \hline 134 \end{array}$$

Standard Algorithm
for Subtraction

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 537 \\ + 698 \\ \hline 1235 \end{array}$$

Standard Algorithm
for Addition



Waves of Sound

By: Jonah & Charlotte

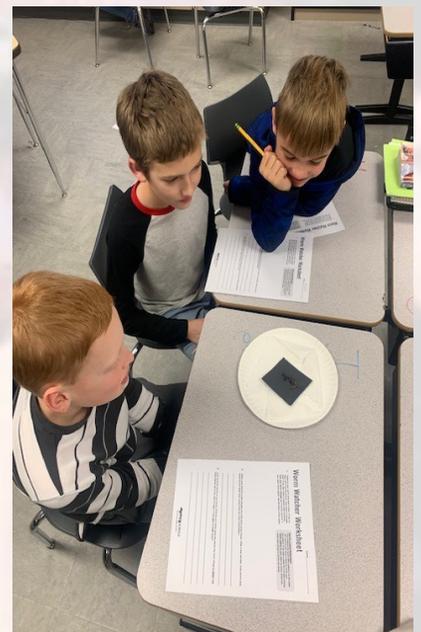
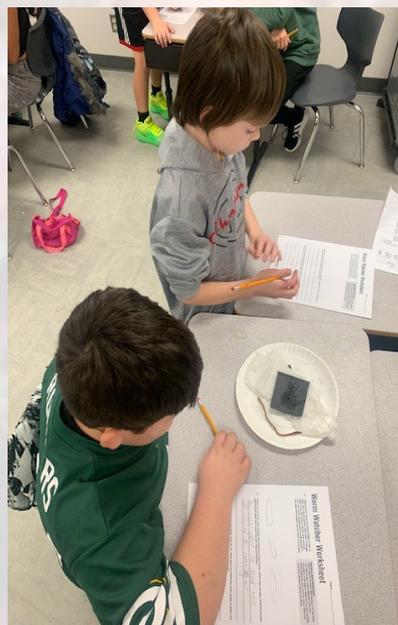
In fourth grade we are learning about the study of sound waves. We are learning about vibration and about how to see sound and understand how they vibrate through the air, water and other materials. It does this by finding the air or water blobs so it can vibrate through them and get to the listener. We also learned that if there is not anything to vibrate on it can't get through because there is not anything for the sound to travel through. One of the projects that we have done are two cups that are connected by string so it makes a paper cup telephone. It works because the sound vibrates through the string. We also learned about how when you talk into a balloon it vibrates and you can feel the vibration. Through experiments, we learned you can feel vibrations in your ear, see vibrations in water, and feel vibrations in a balloon when you speak.



5th Grade - Science

In our science unit, The Web of Life, we experimented with worms, mold and other decomposers. We had groups of our pods to see who could make the most mold within our bag. Some had air, some were in the fridge. There was one that was affected by the heat and that one got really moldy! One group put lots of germs on it and that one was super green and moldy. Next, we played a game called the food chain. In that game we each drew a card and tried to make the longest food chain. That game was pretty fun! Another Web of Life lesson was playing with worms, we learned that worms really like dark and wet environments. Did you know sometimes they even jump out of the case and dry up on the classroom floor? Sometimes the worms would even pee on the towel and you could even see it. We played another game called Big Fish to figure out why we didn't need to clean a pond and we needed to clean a fish tank. The game was a little like Go Fish but you had to make sure your fish was safe and the water level stayed healthy in between a certain number. Overall our science unit the Web of Life was a very fun unit!

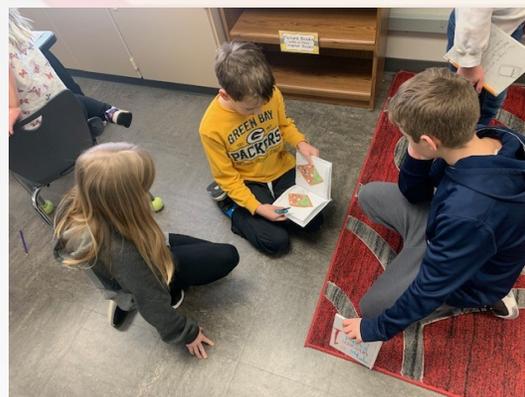
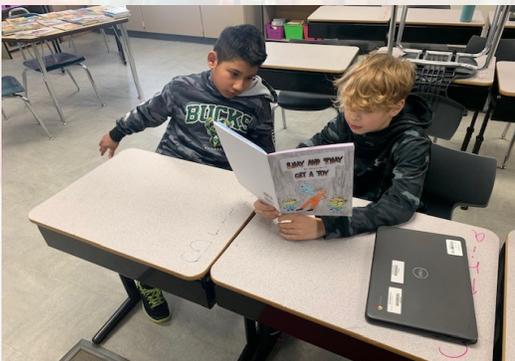
By:Adalynn Biederman



5th Grade - Children's BOOKS

In our ELA unit we created children's books. First we talked about the story element mountain. The 1st step is the exposition, which starts the story and is when the characters are introduced. It also shows where and when the story takes place. After the exposition is the rising action which builds suspense. Then the most exciting part of the story comes and is called the climax. This explains where you don't know what is going to happen, but you want to keep reading. The falling action is where the story starts to slowly get less and less exciting. Then comes the resolution, the end to the story and when the problem to the story gets solved. After we learned about the story mountain we put ideas down on a graphic organizer. After we felt good about the story we put it on a Google Doc and highlighted different colors for each element of the story mountain. We started to copy and paste the story onto a Google Slideshow. After this step, we printed! We got our books and glued our writing, then created and colored all of the pictures. We then were able to read our stories to the 4th grade students and show them our hard work. Overall we had a very fun time making children's books, and we learned a lot about story elements.

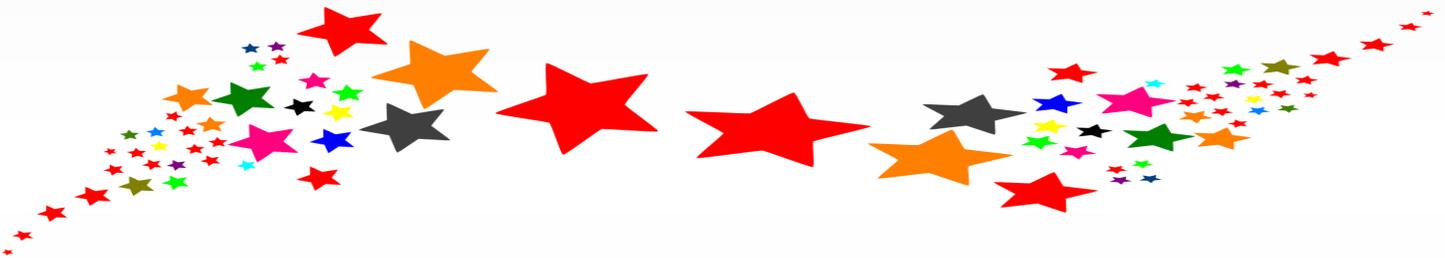
By: Bria Bauer



5th Grade - Biographies

For ELA we read biographies on a person of our choice. After we picked our person we started reading the Who Am I series and started taking notes on our book. Each day we would have a different color to take notes in. We would have to write about character traits and fascinating facts about the person we picked. After we took notes about the person we started working on our TDA's. The next step, we had to write clues about our person. Once we finish the summative, we will be doing the Who Am I project. The last part of the biographies is going to a different classroom and sharing our projects. We will give them the clues and they will guess who our person is. Overall the biography unit has been super interesting and I would love to do it again!

By: Brianna Leis



Meet Mrs. Steinke, our AIS Technology and Engineering Teacher !



The 5th graders used the Engineering Design Process to design and build a balloon powered car with given criteria and constraints. They completed the project with balloon car races in the FabLab!

