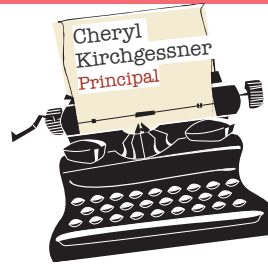


CONNECTION

From the Principal...

It's hard to believe we are already returning from our Thanksgiving Break, and then only three weeks until Winter Break!



Things I'm thankful for this year at Old Bonhomme:

- Students who are working hard to improve themselves academically and socially.
- Engaged and involved parents who attend conferences, ask great questions and work in partnership with the school to help our students succeed.
- Hard-working parents, who organize great events for our families and make contributions of their time, talents and funds for our classrooms.
- Dedicated and caring staff, who go above and beyond to learn new teaching strategies and monitor student progress in meaningful ways.
- District leadership, who is responsive to our needs and ask for input into future planning.
- Very few indoor recess days so far this year! Hopefully in this season of thanks you can take some time to say thank you to those you appreciate.

Mrs. Kirchgessner

blog: <http://obeprincipalblog.blogspot.com/>

November

30 Passport Night, 6-8 p.m.

December

3 OBPTO Exec. Mtg 7 p.m.

6 OB Math Night, 6 p.m.

7 Early Dismissal, 1:15 p.m.

11 OBPTO Community Mtg. 7-8 p.m.

12 Walk in the Park (during PE)

21 Show Choir Performance, 9:30 a.m.

Winter Parties, 10-11 a.m.

Early Dismissal, 1:15 p.m.

Quarter 2 ends

24-Jan.1 NO SCHOOL- Winter Break

January

2 NO SCHOOL- Records day

3 School Resumes

Specialist News

Spanish News



By Señor Martin

HOLA! The year has been going very fast, and the Spanish students have been doing a phenomenal job expanding their vocabulary, learning about cultural celebrations and participating during class. The kindergartners are learning new songs, and action words. First-grade students have been learning the names of fruits and making cool projects about their favorite fruits. Second and third-grade students have been working really hard exploring new verbs, working on their books and learning new numbers and vocabulary. Fourth-grade students are mastering the verb conjugation of AR verbs and doing projects.

Please keep working with them at home. Continue to ask your child what he/she is learning in Spanish class, the more they practice the more they will learn. Hope you had a ¡Feliz Acción de Gracias! (Happy Thanksgiving!)

Art Studio News



By Mrs. Roth

The art students have just completed a long unit in Ancient Egyptian Studies. The artists learned about the art and traditions of the Egyptians 2,000-5,000 years ago. We drew in the style of the Egyptians on papyrus, we learned hieroglyphs, designed sarcophagi, and pharaohs hats! We sculpted canopic jars, pyramids, scarabs, crocodiles and hippos! We are currently learning about textile traditions in different countries like Mali, Ghana and Nigeria. Check your artists digital portfolio on Artsonia to see the masterpieces!

Our second and third graders had a trip to the art museum in the last few weeks. Thank you to the OBPTO for sponsoring these fabulous community connections. It means so much to see the real thing and not just pictures! If you haven't been to the art museum lately, there is a wonderful exhibit of the portrait artist, Kehinde Wiley, until February 10th. Mr. Wiley is the artist chosen by President Obama to paint his official portrait in the National Portrait Gallery. It's an amazing exhibit of paintings, try and get there to see it in person. The web link for information is www.SLAM.org

Physical Education



By Coach Jander & Coach Prange

We have started an Instagram (o.b.pe) 7-part Playground Series: "What makes the playground SO powerful?" Part one was about brachiating (or in other terms, "doing the monkey bars.")

As arms alternate, both sides of the brain are used, making it more connected for learning to happen. Muscles are strengthened for pencil grip and for sitting in a chair. This means more endurance in writing and in paying attention. Follow us to learn even more about the power of the playground!

We live in a 3-dimensional world and are better prepared to face all of its challenges when our bodies are aware of and are skilled to move through all dimensions. In O.B.'s daily P.E. classes (and on the playground), students get to experience all dimensions with lateral movements, forward and backward movements, as well as turning left and right, and rotating on axes that are vertical and horizontal. Our world is three-dimensional. Live three-dimensionally - MOVE!

Library in the Limelight



By Mrs. Kelley

A majority of library time in the last month and a half has been focused on elections. Students learned how voters vote, why they vote, and they even participated in their own election, thanks to Kids Voting. It's never too young to get students engaged in voting!

On top of learning about elections, we've had some time to sneak in some great reads, too. Here's a run-down of some of the books we've read in the last couple of weeks:

Kindergarten—*Mother Bruce*, *Hotel Bruce*, *How Rocket Learned to Read*, *What To Do If An Elephant Stands On Your Foot*, *How To Take Care of Your Lion* (paired with a nonfiction book about lions), *Gaston*, *Antoinette*

First Grade—*Not Quite Narwhal* (paired with a nonfiction book and video about narwhals), *Penguin Problems* (paired with a nonfiction book about penguins), *Madelyn Finn and the Library Dog*, *Bob Not Bob* (paired with the nonfiction story *Why Do I Sneeze?*), *Diana's White House Garden*

Second Grade—*A Bike Like Sergio's*, *Twig, Mixed: A Colorful Story*, *The Quickest Kid in Clarksville*, *Abiyoyo*, *Jangles*, *There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed Some Leaves* (followed by a reader's theater version of the story)

Third Grade—*Around America to Win the Vote*, *The Pumpkin Runner*, *Fancy Party Gowns*, *The Magic Word*, *Granddaddy's Turn at the Ballot*

Fourth Grade—*Small Steps* (former Mark Twain Award winner, based on the true story of author Peg Kehret's experience with polio as an adolescent)

Counseling News



By Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Carey

Communicating About Real Experiences (C.A.R.E. Time)

C.A.R.E. Time is a class that happens every other week in your child's classroom. During this time, we cover School Counseling Grade Level Expectations. In order to cover all the areas of a school counseling program we collaborate with NCADA to deliver lessons. They present four lessons in each of our classrooms. The teachers and students love their lessons and look forward to them coming each year.

Kindergarten. - Winning Friendships

This four - lesson unit promotes language and behaviors that build friendships and provide skills to handle uncomfortable feelings such as anger and conflict.

- Using "Teddy Bear" words/actions instead of "Porcupine" words/actions
- Using our hands to help, not hurt or hit others
- Feelings are normal; talk to your friends about feelings
- Importance of talking and working out problems

First Grade - Caring 4 Classmates

This four-lesson unit helps young children develop social competency skills: self-respect, sharing, and reaching out to friends.

- Recognizing special qualities in yourself and others
- "Push-Ups" = compliments
- Sharing
- How to handle angry feelings

Second Grade - Friendship Rules

This four-lesson unit introduces children to four friendship rules:

- Friends include each other
- Friends give each other a chance
- It's okay for friends to be different
- Friends laugh and play together

Third Grade - Building You, Building Me

This four-lesson unit explores the different levels of friendship and focuses on the language and behaviors that can either build or "wreck" friendships.

- Using "building/construction zone" words/actions instead of "wrecking ball" words/actions
- Body language and tone of voice in communication
- Teasing = "Wrecking ball" words
- Importance of teamwork/working in groups

Fourth Grade - Taking Charge of Me I

This four-lesson unit promotes some important ways to be in charge of yourself:

- Recognize and respect the uniqueness of self and others by practicing tolerance
- Finding the treasure in yourself and others and boosting self-esteem
- Set goals for yourself
- Take responsibility for your actions

Music Notes**By Ms. Ladue**

The Show Choir did a fantastic job on their recording of "Thank You Soldiers" by Michael and Angela Souders, for the Veteran's Day Slideshow. If you did not have the opportunity to watch, please take five minutes to view as a family and honor our veterans, who have devoted their lives in service to others. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11Vo1UE14eCULHJu4k06tiGBE2e3WISHh/view?usp=sharing>

The Show Choir is also preparing for their Winter Concert, which will take place at 9:30 a.m. on December 21, at our school assembly. This has become a fun send-off tradition for students and staff to celebrate the joys of the winter season.

The second-grade students have been diligently preparing for their in-class performances for their parents. These performances, which reflect the school-wide study of Africa, and generate excitement for Passport Night on Friday, November 30. A video of the second grade performances will be played on a loop in the gym throughout the evening.

Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Our kindergarten classes have been very busy these past couple of months, and we have had many special activities take place. The Olivette Fire Department made a special visit to Old Bonhomme for Fire Safety Week. They taught us about how to be safe during a fire, and all of the kindergarten students were able to see one of the Olivette fire trucks. They also brought us many goodies to take home such as fire hats, stickers, pencils, and a coloring book. Our field trip to Thies Farm was another exciting day for the students. We had fun climbing on hay stacks, going through hay and corn mazes, zip lining, balancing on rope bridges, and each student got their very own pumpkin! We ended October with wonderful fall parties. Our room parents and parent volunteers did a great job planning fall crafts, games, and special fall treats. We can't wait to see what's in store for the winter parties!

The kindergarten classes have been really diving into the curriculum! In Reading, the students have been getting into great routines during guided reading and center time. During this time, the students are working hard on sight words, sound association, blending, and breaking down words. We are having a great time rotating through engaging reading centers. We are becoming great readers and building our endurance tremendously. In Writer's Workshop, we just finished our "Show and Tell" unit and will be starting our "Writing for Readers" unit soon. We are learning how to use inventive spelling, drawing, adding descriptive labels to our pictures, stringing together words to make full sentences, writing across pages in a pattern using high frequency words to create our own books, and planning each page in our books by studying mentor texts. In Math in Focus, the students continue to add parts to our calendar routine. We are counting the days of school, breaking down numbers, figuring out the date, learning the days of the week and months of the year, and graphing the weather. We have also practiced all of our numbers to 10. These past few weeks students have been working hard on composing numbers to 5, counting on, ordering numbers, using the terms more than and fewer than when comparing numbers, and understanding the meaning of the same. In Science, the students learned a lot about fall, pumpkins, and apples. In social studies, we have been working on fire safety, community helpers, voting, and Veteran's Day.

It was great seeing many of you at conferences and sharing each child's progress. We are looking forward to finishing our fall theme and discussing what we are thankful for. We are also looking forward to our upcoming theme for December of celebrating many of the holidays from around the world. The kindergarten teachers are looking forward to watching the kindergarten students grow as readers, writers, and mathematicians this year!

First Grade News

Second quarter was exciting and engaging time in first grade. We kicked off the quarter by beginning our Native American unit in social studies, where we are studying the regions of our country as well as the tribes that lived/live there. Some classes who have not done magnets yet will also do a magnet unit in science this quarter, which will be full of opportunities to learn through experimenting in the classroom. As readers, students are studying non-fiction books and using all they know about solving new and more challenging words in books. Their perseverance is growing as the year moves forward. In writing, students are writing their own non-fiction, "all about" and "how-to" books. Students love this unit because it gives them a chance to show-off their expertise in many areas, teach their peers, and sometimes even their teachers! Finally, in math, students are learning a lot this quarter! Topics will include addition and subtraction to 20, comparing numbers, and place value. Please also continue to encourage your child to practice their basic fact fluency with addition and subtraction within 20.

Second Grade News

How would you like to spend sixty-six days in the hold of a ship with crowded conditions, little food or fresh water, and cold, stormy weather? The second graders definitely did not think this would be fun at all. They felt very sympathetic toward the Pilgrims on their uncomfortable Mayflower voyage. When they learned about the difficult winter and how hard the Pilgrim children had to work, they were especially thankful to be living in modern times.

We have been using the knowledge we gained from our last Social Studies unit; maps and communities, to track the Pilgrim's journey to the New World and to understand how they organized and governed their new settlement. We also learned how the Wampanoag helped the Pilgrims survive in their new home and the details of the first Thanksgiving celebration. We are linking science activities such as, making the Mayflower and seeing how many pennies can it hold before it sinks. The kids are loving the challenge and have a deeper understanding of how challenging it was to get to America.

In Math, we recently completed our chapter on subtraction up to 1,000, both with and without regrouping. Please continue to review our basic addition and subtraction math facts with us at home. We are introducing multiplication and division skills before the semester ends too.

Our reading and writing units are all about INFORMATIONAL books! Focusing on what they are experts at individually has been challenging but rewarding. They are learning how to take all their knowledge and then write multiple ways to teach others. They are also working on comparing books on the same topic during reading time. It is an important skill that they are getting better at daily.

All in all, second grade has been busy and has a great deal to look forward to, and even more to be thankful for!

Third Grade News

The weather outside may soon be frightful, but our third graders are bringing the heat in the classroom during the second quarter!

Our third grade readers wrapped up an October filled with small group work that addressed a wide variety of reading skills and strategies. Students have been exploring nonfiction texts about topics like space, pandas, lost civilizations, and more! They also have put their detective hats on for an exciting mystery reading unit. Writing has been exciting with teaching about topics of expertise and sharing their opinions on how they can change the world. As we enter the cold months ahead, our readers will be learning more about how wondering and questioning while reading can lead to improved comprehension.

From learning about bar modeling, in October our students were pushed to use a visual approach to solving real-world problems involving addition and subtraction. Multiplication and division have been now taking center stage for third grade mathematicians. Through the use of arrays, number lines, skip counting, and other representational forms, third graders have been building an understanding of multiplication/division word problems in terms of the number of groups, the number in each group, and the total number.

After months of scientific inquiry in which our learners investigated light and sound, and even some weather, third graders will now put their social studies hats on. Through read-alouds and in-depth research, the kids will begin going back in time, learning about the history and lifestyles of Colonial America.

It's true that the weather is getting colder, but third grade is really heating up!

Fourth Grade News

Can you believe we're almost done with half of fourth grade? This quarter we were lucky to participate in the annual Giving Assembly. As the oldest kids in the school, fourth-graders got to help collect and organize all the donations we received during the month of November. Students were given a variety of ways to help and had a chance to apply for certain jobs involving this special assembly.

We have a lot of great learning going on in fourth grade. Students are perfecting their multiplication and division this quarter and will end the year working on two-digit by two-digit multiplication and four-digit by one digit division. This is definitely a skill that takes practice and patience! In social studies, we will be learning about the founding of St. Louis, and will then move into learning about the Lewis & Clark expedition! Fourth-graders have also begun their first switch to a new science topic. Ask your child who their science teacher is this quarter! It's sure to be a fun quarter in fourth grade!

