

CONNECTION

Third and Fourth Grade Parents: Please mark your calendars for MAP Testing on April 27-May 1!

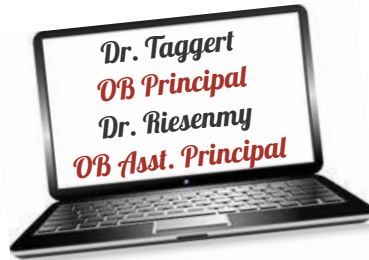
From the Principals...

Fearless Focus

When: Feb 6, 7-9p.m.

Where: Ladue High School Multi Purpose Room

Fearless Focus is a quarterly Ladue event that provides opportunities for our community to discuss and explore issues of race, gender, poverty, and other topics relating to diversity. During the upcoming Fearless Focus event, clips from the *America to Me* documentary series will be viewed and discussed. This 10 part series examines racial, economic, and class issues in contemporary American education.



Nurse News

It is cold and flu season, and we have seen several cases of **Influenza B** here at Old Bonhomme. If you or your child has not yet received a flu shot, it's not too late! Contact your doctor right away, because it takes two full weeks after the shot to be fully protected.

Just a friendly reminder that children should not return to school until their fever has been gone for a full 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Motrin.

If your child complains of feeling ill before school in the morning, please check their temperature.

Children with a temperature of 100.0 or higher should not attend school.

Also, the nurse is in need of donations of new or gently used boys underwear and socks. Thank you!

Valentines Day Mailbox

Dear Old Bonhomme Students and Parents,

Our annual Valentine mailbox will soon be opening for business! Please read all the information carefully to help us run it successfully! Parents - please check your child's cards before they bring them to school to be sure that they follow the guidelines.

In the spirit of community, kindergarten will once again be sponsoring a Valentine Post Office Service. This will be an opportunity to send Valentine cards to anybody in the school.

- Opening: **Wednesday morning, February 5.**
- Last pick-up will be **Wednesday, February 12 at 12:00 p.m.** We need to close early in order to get all Valentines sorted and delivered!

February

3 PTO Meeting 6-7:30 p.m.

5 First Gr. trip to Florissant Theatre

7 Passport Night with Second Gr. Performance 6-8 p.m.

12 Walk in the Park (during PE)

13 Valentines' Day Parties, 2:40-3:40 p.m.

14 NO SCHOOL- Professional Development Day

17 NO SCHOOL- Presidents' Day

22 PTO Parent Social @ Fallons, 6-9 p.m.

- **All Valentine cards must be in an envelope with only the "TO:" portion on it written in print writing.** (Kindergarten kids can't read cursive!)
- **Cards must have the recipient's first and last name and class name (grade then teacher's initial)**

Example: To: John Doe - KW

- Print writing only - NO CURSIVE!!!
- No candy is allowed! This is true for all Valentine cards, both in the school mailbox and within your room.
- The Post Office is for cards for children and teachers in **other** classrooms.

Parents, feel free to use the mailbox for your own personal Valentines. What could be more special than a Valentine from Mom or Dad, delivered to your son or daughter at school?

Please remember that Valentine's Day is for everyone! If your child brings Valentines on Thursday, February 13, please be sure that there is a valentine for each member of the class.

Classroom valentines will be distributed in the classroom - they should not go in the school mailbox. Thank you for your cooperation.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Mrs. Wallace's, Mrs. McGee's, Miss McKenna's, and Mrs. Mares' Kindergartners

Specialist News

Art Studio News



By Mrs. Roth

Artsonia!!!!

Dear Families,

I know many of you use ARTSONIA often. Thank you!!! It is a wonderful tool in so many ways! I love having access to all of the student work in one place. I love the comments students write about their work. I learn more about what they are thinking through their comments. I love the gift shop! You can buy beautiful gift items with your artists work on them. I buy the note cards regularly so I can always send a handmade note to a friend. Did you know you can share the artwork with your family around the world? You can comment on your child's artwork! Our students are learning how to use an Ipad to take focused, cropped pictures. They are also learning how to reflect on their work and share their thoughts through the comment section. The students title their work which helps them summarize or create a main idea for their work. Artsonia is such a helpful technology tool for us! If you have not logged into Artsonia and seen your child's portfolio please contact me at LRoth@ladueschools.net and I can get you access to your child's online portfolio. Thank you for supporting the art program!

Physical Education



By Coach Jander & Coach Prange

A few of the fun and powerful things that have been going on in P.E. recently: archery, tumbling, PACERs, Walks in the Park, kicking, striking, and catching. Coming up next: gymnastics, obstacle course, and maybe some climbing and cup stacking!

A few reminders:

Bundle up! We go outside a lot.

Follow us on Instagram at o.b.pe.

Get 10 hours of sleep each night.

Be nice.

Go outside!

Library in the Limelight



By Mrs. Kelley

Does this cold weather have your kids feeling a little stir crazy? Do the last 30 minutes before bedtime seem like the longest 30 minutes of your day? Consider paying a visit to the Cosmic Kids channel on YouTube for yoga adventures based on well-known stories such as *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. These engaging videos run between 15-30 minutes and are a great way for your child to start winding down before bed while listening to familiar stories. To make it even more fun for your child, get down on the floor and do it with him/her!

A reminder about returning library books: The OB library does not charge for overdue books but does ask that your family work hard to return library books in a timely manner. There has been an increase in the number of lost and overdue books and I want to do everything I can to keep our collection as fresh and appealing to our students as possible! Thanks for your help!

Music Notes



By Ms. Ladue

Bravo Show Choir!

Twenty six members of the Show Choir performed a concert at McKnight Place Assisted Living on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 20. Their joyful songs lifted spirits and added so much to our annual day of service! Well done Show Choir!

Second Grade Performance at Passport Night on Friday, February 7, 2020

Each second grade class will be performing three percussion ensemble pieces in the music room during our annual Passport Night!

Here is the performance schedule:

Ms. Burrough's Class- 6:05-6:20 p.m.
Mrs. Krueger's Class 6:25-6:40 p.m.
Ms. Law's Class- 6:45-7:00 p.m.
Mrs. Marchant's Class- 7:05-7:20 p.m.
Ms. Spellmeyer's Class- 7:25-7:40 p.m.
Ms. Towe's Class 7:45-8:00 p.m.

OB Show Choir Night at the Ballpark!

Don't miss the Show Choir performing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" on the field of Busch Stadium! We will have a reserved section for Old Bonhomme singers, families, and friends at the Cincinnati Reds vs. Cardinals game on **Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:45pm**. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased through the school. Please contact cswillinger@hotmail.com to order tickets!

Counseling News



By Mrs. Arnold & Ms. Carey

Help Your Child Practice Self Compassion

Information adapted from [The Power of Self Compassion](#) an Audible Original by Laurie Cameron. Remember our children are always watching us. They learn more about us from what we do than what we say. Therefore, more is caught than taught. As you read through this, think about how you can be an example to your child by practicing these steps as well.

Awareness - Help Them Be Aware of Their Pain

Help your child be aware of when they are in pain. Acknowledge and celebrate that they made a mistake. Let them know it is normal and okay to feel bad about it. We are human and we are going to make mistakes. We don't want them to be stuck in this space; however, we also don't want to sugar coat it either.

Empathy - Help Them Empathize With Their Selves and Others

Often times we are hardest on ourselves. The things we find ourselves saying through self talk can be helpful or harmful. When you hear yourself or your child spiraling down to a dark place, remind yourself or your child that they need to be empathetic toward themselves. Practice by thinking about what you would say to a good friend in this situation and say it to yourself.

Motivation - Help Them Create a Habit of Self Compassion

The latest research says it takes sixty-six plus times ([Good Habits, Bad Habits](#)) to do something before it becomes a habit. Helping your child practice self compassion now can help them grow and succeed in the future. Recently, Google launched [Project Aristotle](#) to find out what creates the most effective teams and discovered it is psychological safety. When we are loving and kind to ourselves we are more loving and kind to others.

Spanish News



By Señor Martin

Hola!! Es invierno, hay mucha nieve y hace mucho frio!! (It is Winter, there is a lot snow and it is very cold). The year is moving very quickly, I can't believe it is already 2020! All Spanish classes are doing a great job learning and practicing new vocabulary. Kindergarten and first-graders have been working very hard on learning new verbs and nouns in order to create short phrases in Spanish. First-third grade are learning vegetables and practicing basic grammar rules. They are adding new verbs to their vocabulary in order to increase their conversation skills. Fourth grade just took a quiz on house objects and now they learning vocabulary related to the rooms of the house. They are going to use this vocabulary to create their dream house, by drawing a very cool house and a floor plan. After the wonderful winter break all classes went through a week of review. They all practiced old vocabulary with some games, oral activities, and word searches. Please keep asking questions to your kids about what they are doing in Spanish class. The more they practice the better they will get!

Classroom News

Kindergarten News

Wow! We cannot believe we are halfway through the year! It has been a busy few months in Kindergarten! In Science, we learned about plants and animals. We discovered that they both have needs and some of them are the same like air, food, and water. In Social Studies, Kindergarten learned about families near and far and the traditions and cultures families can have. We studied special holidays our classmates celebrate like Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Diwali. In January, we had a Social Studies unit learning about our neighborhood's places and people. We ended this unit with a field trip to the Magic House and a community service project!

In reading, students are increasing their skills through learning a variety of decoding and comprehension strategies. It is great to see their confidence growing and their increased ability to read more independently! Guided reading groups are happening daily to support the wide variety of readers in Kindergarten.

In writing, we have begun our first Informational Unit. Students are exploring how to sequence information through How To Books. It is fun to see the progress they are making as writers. Sentences have more words, illustrations include more detail, and stories are becoming longer!

In math, students spent time solidifying their number sense with numbers 0-20. We have explored how to make numbers in different ways, count on from a given number, and understand the concepts of more, less, fewer, and the same. We have completed our unit on shapes. Students explored 3D and 2D (flat shapes). We spent time identifying shape properties, finding them in real life situations, and using them to create objects. We are now looking at larger numbers and learning how to use the strategy of skip counting, as well as, recognize place value with ones and tens.

We can't believe that we just hit the 100th Day of School! Students had fun celebrating through a variety of cross-curricular activities. The Kindergarten teachers continue to enjoy watching your children grow each and every day and are excited to see where the next quarter will take us!

First Grade News

We became astrologers as we studied all about how Earth rotates on its axis as it orbits the sun causing the moon phases! That's not all, we also learned about the stars, their positions, and at what time of year certain stars are brighter. We even learned the name of a few constellations!

As if that wasn't enough information for our minds, we also wrapped up our unit on Non-fiction reading and writing. The students learned how to use text features as readers and writers in order to learn more and share more information. The students used this knowledge to write several "How-To" and "All About" books on a variety of topics. Some students even researched their topic before writing an Informational Text which of course fit in well with our Non-fiction unit in Reading. During Reading, the students were marking and discussing the non-fiction text features, information read, and how it made them feel.

Finally, the new year brings new units of study. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday brings discussions of peace and what fairness means to each of us. This led nicely into our new genre, opinion writing. The students are becoming quite persuasive as they begin to elaborate on their opinions. We may have a few lawyers in this bunch!

Our mathematicians have been hard at work breaking apart numbers to build ten in a means to build our addition and subtraction skills. We are also learning different ways to read and share data using tally charts, picture graphs, and bar graphs. We are looking forward to another semester of fun with our "Firsties!"

Second Grade News

Second-graders are doing some amazing work! In writing, we are learning all about poetry. Students are learning about the rhythm of poetry, how to make precise word choices, and stick with one poem to add the special details to make the reader picture their words. Our next writing unit will be focusing back on non-fiction writing, with an emphasis on learning to write formal lab reports. In this unit of study, we will learn how to report on our science experiments, including how to show data, pose questions, and write conclusions. Speaking of science, our upcoming unit will be all about the states of matter. We will learn about liquids and solids by studying a penguins habitat. Math has been *spent* (get it?) working with money, money and more money! From identifying pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters, to knowing their values, and adding the coins and their values up to and over one dollar. We have been working on fractions and will get to learn how to tell time and customary measurement before the quarter is done. Reading has been very exciting since we are reading like second graders every day. This quarter, students are learning strategies to make their reading more fluent, understand literary language, and keep track of the longer books we read.

The second half of the year is always the most exciting part of second grade so stayed tuned for many great adventures!

Third Grade News

Welcome back and Happy New Year, OB families! Can you believe we are already in the midst of the third quarter of third grade?! We returned from Winter Break hitting the ground running and have already learned so much! Here's a little peek into what we've been up to so far and where we are headed for the rest of the quarter:

Math: Much of third quarter will focus around measurement and fractions. We will learn about and practice using the various kinds of measurement to measure weight and volume in both metric and customary units. Soon, your child will be progressing toward mastery of making sense of the differences between inches, centimeters, liters, kilograms, pounds, and so much more! Students will then use fractions to understand and represent parts of a whole, points or distances on a number line, and parts of a set.

Writing: Writing is just the best, don't you think?! Our third grade authors have been exploring their passions and thoughts and are working hard to construct persuasive writing pieces. Based on their opinions, or thoughts, feelings, and beliefs, students have learned how and why to introduce reasons with specific evidence to help guide their reader toward better understanding their point of view. During the months of January and February, third grade classes will also honor an African American by researching all about how this person helped make a difference in their community. As we study, each class in each grade will collectively create a "Living Museum" to celebrate Black History Month. Stay tuned - your child's teacher might reach out to ask for help with this unique and ever-important project!

Reading: Lights! Cameras! Action! What would our world be like without characters in it? Characters are vital to a reader's comprehension, and that is exactly what we will be learning about throughout third quarter. Students will dive deeper into focusing intently on characters in our stories and determining what kinds of traits -internal and external- these characters possess. We will also be paying attention to how these characters change over time, as well as their relationships with other characters in the book.

Social Studies/Science: Third-graders are currently learning all about the history behind the United States - starting from before it was even called "The New World". We will understand when and why Europeans and Africans arrived to this part of the world, how they interacted with the native people, and how our country has changed and developed since then. Upon completion of this unit, we will then begin our unit in Science called "Adapting to Change". In this unit, students explore interactions in ecosystems, how organisms adapt to environments, and how ecosystems change over both long and short periods of time. Throughout, students will consider an anchoring phenomenon of disappearing bumblebees in the Midwest while also focusing on three common ecosystems found in the Midwest - prairies, forests, and ponds.

Fourth Grade News

As we begin the second semester of fourth grade, your students have a lot going on! In Math, the fourth-graders will be learning about and growing their understanding of place value with work on decimals. After decimals, we will be moving into angles, lines, area and perimeter, along with conversions in measurement. For social studies, we will be working on preparing for our field trip to Jefferson City (March 26) by studying Checks and Balances: Government in the Show Me State! This unit will take about 21 days to complete. We started the quarter with Science this time around and are working on understanding what energy does! In this unit, students explore the flow of energy in natural and engineered systems in order to develop an understanding of how energy causes changes and can be transferred and transformed. As readers, we completed a mini unit at the beginning of the quarter on Theme and will move into developing strategies and skills to understand and read with fluency Historical Fiction. With this unit, students are still expected to be reading a minimum of thirty minutes per night. This can be done in many ways and if you need support, feel free to reach out to your child's teacher. For writing, students will be using the texts they are reading in class, analyzing them, and writing essays based off of the literature they are reading. These essays are five paragraphs, include a thesis statement or claim, and have well developed reasons with evidence. As we continue to work through the third quarter, please mark your calendar for the Jefferson City field trip on March 26. Also, Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences will take place on either March 10 or 12. Please stay tuned for sign-ups from your individual classroom teacher.

