

O'Neill Elementary

Soaring Eagles News



February Newsletter

Parent/Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Thursday, February 12th. We will not have school that day. There was a note sent home to families with conference times for each student. Please make sure you check your child's bag for this form. If the time scheduled does not work for your family contact your child's teacher to see if they have a time available in their schedule to meet with you at a different time.

One important schedule change to share. **Friday, February 13th we will have school from 8:00-12:00 (with no lunch served that day)**. This is a change from the original schedule as O'Neill Public Schools was given the opportunity to host District Wrestling. If your child is attending Developing Eagles that day notify Mrs. Olson and plan on having them bringing a sack lunch. Please mark this change on your calendar.

As we progress through this winter, continue to work with the classroom teachers to keep our students on track through solid communication with teachers. If your child is ill they will receive one day upon their return to finish any missing work. For example, if a student misses school Monday, and returns on Tuesday, their work from Monday will be due Wednesday morning. If your child is absent and you wish to have their homework brought home by a sibling or picked up by a parent in the office that day please contact the school office and they will get this lined up for your student.

I also wanted to remind families of the schools policy on illness. If your child has a fever they are recommended to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. This will help assure all children are fully healthy when returning and not spreading any illness to other students. As students accumulate more days out of school for illness or other factors families will receive letters from the school district for every 5 days they are absent. When a child reaches 10 days absent, the letter will contain a notation to contact Mr. Woodle. At this point the school will ask to receive a doctors note for any additional absences.

I want to start this section by stating this is not currently a concern at O'Neill Elementary, but it is that time of the year where cases of head lice can rise. As winter progresses and students are wearing hats and coats we strongly encourage students to not share these items with each other. The school protocol for head lice follows the American Academy of Pediatrics and National Association of School Nurses guidelines which are as follows: If a teacher or staff member refers a student to the office they will be checked by the school nurse. If live bugs are found, that student will be sent home for the day with instructions on how to treat. Signs to look for are tickling feeling on the scalp, itching and irritability and difficulty sleeping, and sores on the head typically from scratching. If you have concerns that your child may have head lice please contact the school nurse or principal. The staff at our school is very diligent at keeping an eye out for these signs and reporting them to the office when they have a concern.

3rd Grade News

Can you believe it we have finished more than a 100 days of school? The month of January went by so fast! Well, it is time to get serious about classes. Math class is full of new multiplication facts, subtraction facts, and starting division. All students need to practice their facts because we are having lots of timed fact tests. Later this spring we will have a special activity with multiplication facts. We have also learned how to tell time to the minute. Parents, ask your child what the time is for practice. We are creating a line graph for a couple weeks of the low temperatures of O'Neill and another city. In 3A we are graphing the temperature of London, England.

Mrs. Reynolds' social studies classes are finishing up the study of westward movement. They have talked about the Louisiana Purchase and the explorers, Lewis and Clark. Soon they will study the immigration movement. Language Arts class is jumping into the study of verbs. Mrs. Pistulka reported the students have finished learning about writing letters, friendly and thank you notes. They had the final test last week. Almost everyday they are perfecting the skill of writing sentences. For the 100th day of school they took their picture on the ipads and used the Aging Booth. Be sure you stop to see how old they might look when they are a 100. Each student then wrote about what it will be like to be that old. The third graders had an electrifying time exploring electricity and currents. They figured out how to light a bulb with only a battery and 1 piece of wire. We also tried to make a bulb brighter by adding more batteries or more light bulbs. We will be ending the month with exploration of magnets. We hope to do several investigations. The next unit will be the Sun and Moon phases.

We are fortunate to have a student teacher working in Mrs. Keil's room this semester. Her name is Mrs. Jakubowski. Most of us already knew her because she has worked with Developing Eagles, dance team at the High School, and she has done some subbing in our school. She is slowly taking over teaching Mrs. Keil's classes. We would like to close this article with some reminders. 1) Parents, please encourage your child to read at home everyday. When they practice they get better. 2) Another practice-practice those math facts. We have a test every 5 lessons. 3) We hope to see you at parent-teacher conferences on February 12th. 4) Our Valentine's Day party will be the morning of the 13th. We will be dismissed early that day (12:00-no lunch) for district wrestling.

6th Grade News

In Math we are just getting done working with integers. We will begin identifying the different properties and then start solving 2-step equations. The students have been working really hard in Math getting ready to apply all their learning's for the NeSA test this spring.

In Language Arts, the 6th graders just completed a descriptive writing assignment and are moving on to a persuasive paper. They have also learned a new review game called Kahoot, which they have found they really like.

In Science, they have been very busy conducting experiments demonstrating diffusion. They have begun researching information about plant and animal cells.

Mrs. Shoemaker's reading class has been working on recording stories using the app GarageBand so the first graders can listen to them while reading the stories. They have found out that it is a lot harder process then they anticipated it would be.

All the 6th graders participated in the written round of the spelling bee. The 10 students who qualified for the oral round were Helen Martinez, Kelsey Osborne, Aleynah Gray, Harlie Pinkerman, Isela Verdin, Christopher Jennings, Tommy Kaczor, Blair Gutshall, Delaney Wallwey, and Anna Irwin. Congratulations to Aleynah Gray and Harlie Pinkerman for qualifying to the next round of the Spelling Bee which will be held on February 13 in Atkinson.

Kindergarten News

Hello from the Kindergarten Crew!

We have been busy learning all kinds of new things! January was a fun month! We learned about Martin Luther King, Jr., celebrated the 100th Day of School, and had a great time playing in the snow! We are looking forward to all of the fun that February brings: Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, and learning about Dental Health.

We are continuing to work extra hard with Reading and are able to read lots and lots of words now. Our teachers say we are so very smart! In Math, we are learning how to count by 1's, 5's, and 10's to 100. We are learning about different coins and their value. We continue to explore all kinds of Math concepts with pattern blocks, geoboards, number lines, balances, and more! We also learn more about the world around us with our units in Science and Social Studies.

Our teachers are excited to visit with our families on Thursday, February 12th when Parent-Teacher Conferences are held! They have lots of good things to share because we are working hard and learning lots!!!