



Hello Kindergarten Families!

November and December are very busy months in Kindergarten!

In November, a few of our themes include families, Thanksgiving, and what it means to be grateful. We will incorporate these themes into Literacy and Math activities.

In December, we will learn about many different holidays and traditions that are celebrated around the world. The students will "travel" to Mexico to learn about the Mexican poinsettia, Germany to hear about how the tradition of hanging stockings began, and Italy to learn about La Befana and much more! Students will read about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas too!

In Math, we will be comparing, writing and ordering numbers up to 10. We will use the vocabulary-greater than, less than, more, fewer and equal to. We will then move on to composing and decomposing numbers to 10. The students will learn to represent addition and subtraction with various models and strategies.

In Literacy, we will work with our Foundations curriculum to continue to learn the lowercase letters and sounds before moving on to uppercase letters. We are also learning the correct formation of these letters. Keep an eye out for the weekly Foundation letter formation guide to help your students at home as well. As we learn the letters and sounds, we will begin blending sounds together which will lead to reading our decodable books. We will continue to learn trick words and use them in our writing. The students are learning about sentence structures (capitalization at the beginning, spaces between words, punctuation at the end). We practice these skills through interactive writing, shared writing and writing in our journals.



It is hard to believe it is November already! Please keep in mind that even though the weather is getting colder we still plan to go out for recess every day. We ask that your child be properly dressed. If they want to play in the snow they need to have a winter coat, snow pants, boots, mittens (gloves), and a hat. An extra pair of socks packed in their backpacks will help them warm up their chilly, wet feet after playing. It is also helpful to pack an extra plastic bag to put wet clothing in. Please write your child's name on/in ALL clothing and footwear.

We will have two half-days in November during which parent-teacher conferences will be held. Students will be dismissed at 11:25. We will be on Thanksgiving break from Wednesday, November 22nd through Sunday November 26th.

In phonics we are moving along quite nicely. We have just finished a chapter on digraphs (wh, ch, sh, th, and ck). We learned that 'wh' is found at the beginning of a word and that words never start with 'ck'. We are starting Unit 4, which covers bonus letters (ff, ll, ss) and the glued sound 'all'. In Unit 5 we will be learning more glued sounds (-an, -am).

In our classrooms this month we'll learn about all kinds of holiday celebrations. We'll be discussing Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Christmas and Los Posadas. And we will also be studying "Gingerbread stories". And of course we will continue to read, read, read and write, write, write!

In math we are beginning Chapter 4. In Chapter 3 we continued to learn about addition and subtraction to 10. We will be extending this learning by adding to sums of 20 in Chapter 4. In Chapter 5 we will be practicing subtraction starting with numbers to 20. We continue to stress how addition and subtraction are closely related.

The winter vacation begins on the afternoon of Friday, December 22, 2023. We'll return to school on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

May everyone's holidays be happy and healthy!

Second Grade News 2021-2022

November and December are very festive and busy months at Major Edwards! Second grade is preparing for Parent-Teacher Conferences which will be held on Monday, November 20th and Tuesday, November 21st. We look forward to meeting with you to discuss your child's progress in second grade.

Our Readers Workshop lessons will continue to focus on story structure, including the identification of characters, setting, problems and solutions. We will then transition into a unit on character traits. We begin by determining the difference between outside traits (things you can see) vs. inside traits (feelings and actions). During focus lessons we will describe and analyze the way characters think and behave in stories. Students will also work on building stamina during independent reading time.

We will continue to work on double digit addition strategies (with and without regrouping) in math. In addition, we will practice basic math facts, both addition and subtraction, in order to develop "Fact Power"!

Our social studies lessons will focus on celebrating and honoring Veterans and the Thanksgiving holiday. In science, we will begin an exciting unit of study on animals and their habitats. This fun unit is always a big hit with our second graders!

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season!

Sincerely,

The Second Grade Team

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The third grade team is looking forward to meeting with all of you during the month of November for conferences. Open communication between home and school is a wonderful opportunity for students to get the support that they need. We continue to work very hard to ensure success for all students.

Encourage your child to READ, READ, READ, and of course, READ at home!

Literacy

In Language Arts we will switch gears and begin to focus on the genre of fiction. We will begin to study plot and review the elements of fiction including character, setting, problem, and resolution. We will talk about story structure and recognize the climax of a story.

We will be making a change in our writing as well. We will be moving away from writing a research based paragraph or essay and begin to write narratives. Our narratives will include a retelling of a story we have read from a different character's point of view or be a continuation of a story we read. We will continue to revise our writing for content and edit for capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling as well as build our typing skills.

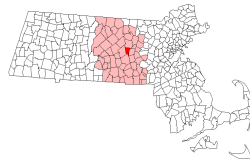
In phonics we are working on spelling multisyllabic words with closed and vowel-consonant-e syllable types and changing words by adding a suffix. In the upcoming weeks we will be learning about the tricky schwa sound of vowels.

Math



Students are finishing up their study of multiplication and division in school. Now that they have a good background in how to solve multiplication facts, it's time to build automaticity. Please have your child practice their multiplication facts each night for about 5 minutes. Practice can be done on flashcards, on a website, on an app on your phone, or by playing a game. After finishing multiplication and division we will be moving on to solving problems related to area.

Science/Social Studies



In Science, we are wrapping up our study of the weather. Students predicted whether storms were coming and developed an understanding of why we have different climates in different locations around the world. We will be moving into Social Studies and we will learn all about the diverse Native Tribes who lived and still live here in Massachusetts.

Wrapping Up!



A friendly reminder to have your children bring in jackets and sweatshirts as the weather gets colder as we will have the windows open in the classroom when possible and will be heading outside for recess every day we are able to.

Best Wishes for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving season and as strange as this is to type already, happy holidays!

Sincerely,
The Third Grade Team

Fabulous in Fourth!

November/December 2023



Welcome! We are so glad you're here!

Reminders:

-Please request work when you report your child's absence. It can be sent home with a sibling/neighbor or it can be picked up at the office after school.

-Students have a "working snack" at approximately 10:30 a.m. Please send in a small, healthy snack and reusable labeled water bottle.

-Our classrooms are very warm throughout the year. Please remind your children to dress in layers and bring a reusable water bottle.

SCIENCE & SOCIAL STUDIES

Students are...

- Conducting research on an animal native to Massachusetts.
- Presenting their research to the class.
- Learning about Light and Sound Energy.
- Continuing to practice their Map Skills.
- Learning about regions of the USA with a focus on New England.
- Looking forward to Massachusetts Audubon Society enrichment programs.
- Getting excited for the Wingmasters enrichment program.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Students are...

- Annotating text as they read
- Finding evidence to support answers in a text
- continuing to work on reading and writing narrative stories
- writing focus will shift to story development in response to literature
- continue to develop and practice reading skills such as determining themes, character traits and points of view within a story
- continue to concentrate on developing detailed setting and character descriptions using rich verbs and descriptive adjectives to effectively help our readers visualize the story better
- word work lessons will focus on spelling rules when adding vowel suffixes
- discuss the three sounds of -ed

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift."—Kate DiCamillo

MATH

As we begin the new trimester, our focus is on everything Multiplication.

Students will ...

- recognize multiplication as repeated addition of equal groups.
- use and draw models (arrays) to represent multiplication facts.
- use strategies for solving the facts such as finding number patterns (multiples).

We are very excited to start multiplying multi-digit numbers!

Students will...

- learn both the breaking apart method of multiplication and the traditional method.

Each night, students should be practicing multiplication facts through the 12's until they are mastered. Quick recall of basic math facts is necessary to keep up with the pace of the class. Help your child to be successful! Practice! Practice! Practice!

Looking Ahead:

Festival of Gratitude - November 16

Parent/Teacher Conferences - November 20 & 21

MA Audubon program - November 27

Wingmasters Birds of Prey program - December 5



Your Fourth Grade Team,

MRS AVERY, MRS. LEMAY, MRS. MILLER,
MRS. HEIDEMANN, MRS. ATKINSON



Fifth Grade Newsletter November & December 2023

Language Arts

Word study: Greek & Latin number roots; common prefixes

Reading: traditional literature and informational texts

Writing: response to traditional literature with a focus on theme

Science/Social Studies

- The 3D plant posters look amazing!
- In science we will be moving onto our ecosystems unit and then a unit about the water cycle.
- In social studies we will finish up talking about our government and move onto early colonization.

Math

We are moving into our big multiplication and division unit. 5th graders will determine the difference between multiplication and division word problems.

If math facts are not automatic, students need to practice at home

Important Dates

Friday, November 10
No school

Wednesday, November 15
Report cards issued via SchoolBrains

Monday, November 20
Tuesday, November 21
Half days of school
Parent/Teacher Conferences by appointment

November 27 - December 18

Wednesday, December 6
Half day

December 25 - January 1
Holiday Vacation

Don't Forget!

If you haven't already please sign up for a parent teacher conference with your child's homeroom teacher.

Thanksgiving Collection Items (11/6-11/17):

Conway - shampoo, soap, toothpaste

Brancaleone - cleaning products, dish soap

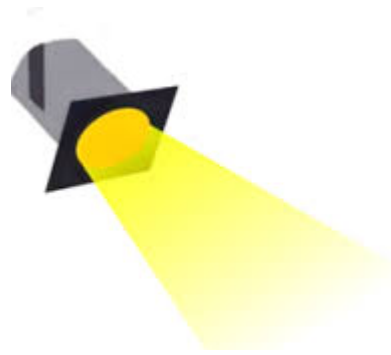
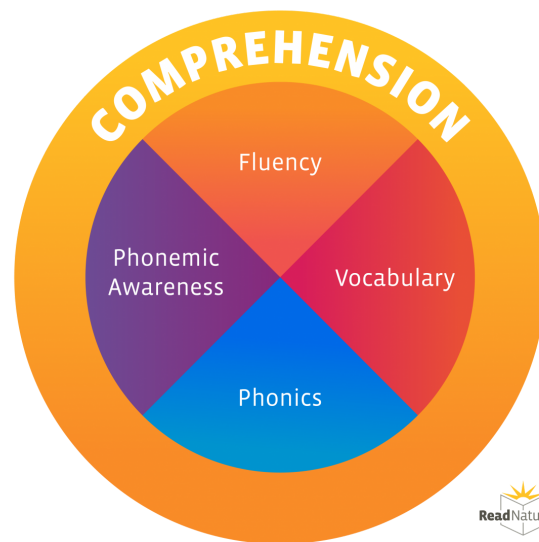
Bjorklund - paper towels, toilet paper, tissues

Reading Corner



November/December

Essential Components of Reading



Today's Spotlight Is On: **Phonemic Awareness**

What is Phonemic Awareness? It is the ability to notice, think about, and work with the individual sounds (Phonemes-The smallest parts of spoken language that combine to form words.) in spoken words. This includes blending sounds into words, segmenting words into sounds, and deleting and playing with the sounds in spoken words. [Link explaining Phonemic Awareness](#)

How do we work on Phonemic Awareness here at Major Edwards? The Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum is utilized in Grades Pre K - 1 for all students. Bridge the Gap: Phonemic Awareness Intervention Lessons are used as needed for students in Grade 2 and above.

Visit <https://heggerty.org/parents/> for some suggested phonemic awareness activities you can do at home.

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday Segmenting	Tuesday Blending	Wednesday Deleting first sound	Thursday Substituting <small>(The /t/ indicates sounds. Do not use letter names.)</small>	Friday Segmenting and Blending	Saturday
			1 chop, chip, much, batch	2 The /ch/ in chop for /t/, the /ch/ in chip for /l/, and the /m/ in much for /t/.	3 Segment: chop, with, fish, whip	4
5	6 with, thumb, this, than, bath	7 w-i-th th-u-mb th-i-s th-a-n	8 with, thumb, this, than	9 The /w/ in with for /f/, the /th/ in thumb for /g/, and the /th/ in thin for /w/	10 Blend: ch-o-p ch-i-p m-u-ch b-a-tch	11
12	13 fish, ship, show, wish, shack	14 f-i-sh sh-i-p sh-ow w-i-sh	15 fish, ship, show, wish	16 The /f/ in fish for /w/, the /sh/ in ship for /ch/, and the /sh/ in show for /g/	17 Segment: chop, chip, much, batch	18
19	20 whip, when, wheel, which, whale	21 wh-i-p wh-e-n wh-ee-l wh-i-ch	22 whip, when, wheel, which	23 The /wh/ in whip for /sh/, the /wh/ in when for /p/, and the /wh/ in wheel for /f/	24 Blend: f-i-sh sh-i-p sh-ow w-i-sh	25
26	27 chop, with, fish, whip, batch	28 ch-o-p w-i-th f-i-sh wh-i-p	29 sash, cinch, think, sheep	30 The /ch/ in chop for /sh/, the /f/ in fish for /w/, and the /wh/ in		

CAMPBELL
READERS

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday Segmenting	Tuesday Blending	Wednesday Deleting first sound	Thursday Substituting <small>(The /t/ indicates sounds. Do not use letter names.)</small>	Friday Segmenting and Blending	Saturday
					1 Segment: slash, smash, stash, stick, stay	2
3	4 slip, snap, stop, scan, slug	5 s-t-i-p s-n-a-p s-t-o-p s-c-a-n	6 slip, snap, stop, scan	7 The /l/ in slip for /n/, the /n/ in snap for /l/, and the /l/ in stop for /l/	8 Blend: s-m-a-sh s-t-a-sh s-t-i-ck s-t-a-y	9
10	11 skip, snug, Scott, stuff, stuff	12 s-k-i-p s-n-u-g S-c-o-tt s-t-a-ff	13 skip, snug, Scott, stuff	14 The /k/ in skip for /l/, the /k/ in Scott for /l/, and the /l/ in stuff for /l/.	15 Segment: slip, snap, stop, scan, slug	16
17	18 skiff, slim, snow, spin, spot	19 s-k-i-ff s-l-i-m s-n-ow s-p-i-n	20 skiff, slim, snow, spin	21 The /k/ in skiff for /l/, the /n/ in snow for /l/, and the /p/ in spin for /k/.	22 Blend: s-l-i-p s-n-a-p s-t-o-p s-c-a-n	23
24/31	25 slash, smash, stash, stick, stay	26 s-l-a-sh s-m-a-sh s-t-a-sh s-t-i-ck s-t-a-y	27 slash, smash, stash, stick	28 The /l/ in slash for /m/, the /m/ in smash for /l/, and the /l/ in stash for /l/.	29 Segment: skip, snug, Scott, stuff, stuff	30 

CAMPBELL
READERS

SPECIALIST NEWS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

5th and 4th grade students were introduced to 2 of the 4 Fitness Components in October. First, they focused their time on Cardiovascular Endurance where they participated in exercises that raised their heart rates for a longer period of time. We also discussed flexibility and the benefits of stretching and mobility. Lesson specific exercises were mixed in this month with Chasing and Fleeing games like freeze tag and team tag. All students played variations of Chasing and Fleeing activities, with the focus being to increase students abilities to “keep moving” for longer periods of time. Most recently everyone has enjoyed the Fall season themed games like Haunted House and Ghostbusters Tag!

MUSIC

October was a busy month in music! We focused on learning about Johann Sebastian Bach and his famous piece “Tocatta and Fugue in D minor”. We also learned about the different parts of an organ and how they work. We then “traveled” to Hogwarts and learned the basics of the 3/4 time signature. Afterwards, we focused on learning about another keyboard instrument called the celesta. The celesta is similar to a piano however instead of hammers hitting strings they hit metal bars. The sound that is produced can be compared to “twinkling stars”. The celesta was made famous by composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky as he featured it in “The Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairies” from “The Nutcracker”. John Willams then composed the song “Hedwig’s Theme” for the celesta for the Harry Potter films.

ART

WOW—we have been busy! Students have been doing a fantastic job utilizing new techniques and skills to create their art. Kindergarten has been learning about the colors and they have even mixed primary colors to create secondary colors! First grade used warm and cool colors to create a beautiful fall leaf. Second grade learned how to use value in their art using oil pastels to make a pumpkin landscape. Third grade used warm and cool colors to create an op art leaf design. Fourth grade created cartoon self-portraits with personal meaning while learning about Frida Kahlo. Grade 5 created spooky portraits while learning about the artist Tim Burton. November and December bring on a new season to creatively explore and the start of our clay unit! A favorite for sure!

The Beaman Memorial Library will be showcasing student artwork every couple of months. You can see the art displayed in the Children’s Room. Congratulations to the following students whose artwork will be on display for November and December are:

Lilliana Generelli, 1 : Rowan Arce, 2 : Domenic Sawicki, 3 : Shannon MacKenzie, 4 : Brelynn Piergallini, 5