

**LEWIS AND
CLARK
ELEMENTARY
HOME OF THE
EXPLORERS
WHERE
LEARNING IS
MAGIC!!**



PTA NEWS:

LEWIS AND CLARK PTA OFFICERS

Tausha Stoll, President

Chrissy Baroch, Secretary

Misty Bickel, VP Fundraising

Rachel Bohannon, VP Membership

Laura Goulet, Treasurer

Tammy Dues, Volunteers

Thank you for all your support with the fall fundraiser and Original Artworks!
All proceeds go back to the students at LC .

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

LEWIS AND CLARK CARNIVAL

JANUARY 15, 2009



**LEWIS AND CLARK
DECEMBER UPDATE**



Dear LC Families,

It is hard to believe we are well into the second quarter. Even though December is a very exciting time for children, as a staff we are focusing on instruction. One of our primary goals is to polish our 90 minutes of core math instruction in the classroom. The students are working toward mastery of math facts using flashcards, a computerized program and timing folders where they race the clock to beat their previous score.

The students have added a new problem solving strategy called "Model Drawing". Each day students are given a short problem of the day that they are asked to solve using multiple strategies.

All students are completing a math computerized program called Success maker. Each student is enrolled in his/her program 15 min. each day. What if your child struggles in Math? We have Mr. O'Rourke 3-6

and Mrs. Mullens who works with K-2 students on a new program called Number Worlds.

Attached to our newsletter are two school to home connection activities based on Math concepts. Enjoy!!

At the end of January, we will be assessing your child through MAP Assessment to check on gains and support your child instructionally as needed.

Please call or ask if you have any questions about math instruction. We will do our best to help you!

Happy Holidays!!

Vickie Donisthorpe, Princ.

RTI

Do you ever wonder about all the abbreviations that educators use?

Here is a new but great one!!

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a process that the LC staff is being trained on. Students' school performance and data is monitored.

Our intervention team meets regularly and provides interventions to help students succeed in reading and math.

PARENTING WITH DIGNITY CLASSES:

JAN. 7, 14, & 28

Do your children ever challenge you, speak disrespectful or act out in public or school? If so, join us for FREE parenting classes lead by Paige Nicholson. A meal will be served and child care will be available. Look for fliers coming home. Sign-up in the office. 268-6705.

To keep up to date on our events, please check our

- **Web page:**
www.gfps.k12.mt.us
- **Our event line:** 268-6706
- **Reader board and monthly event flier.**

HO HO HO!!

What do I buy for my child's teacher for Christmas?

We can help! Posted in the hallways at school are posters filled with ideas that can be purchased for the classroom and for the teacher. Just grab a gift reindeer!

Student Council News:

Holiday canned food, used and clean winter coats and mittens drive

December 1-18

Holiday Program and Bake Sale

Dec. 15 Gr. 4-6

Dec. 16 Gr. K-3

Bake Sale Items needed.

Third Grade News



The third grade classrooms are very busy learning their multiplication, and will soon be using that knowledge to learn division facts. They will also be collecting and interpreting data by making graphs and tables. They will be making tally and frequency tables, and bar and pictograph graphs. We are currently working hard on writing skills and measurement of length, temperature, mass, and volume using the metric system. Our Social Studies unit will be about how communities grow and change. One question you might be asked is: How has Great Falls change since you were in third grade?

Please continue to keep track of your child's progress through Wednesday envelopes and homework. It is important that your child read each day. We are hoping for 100% return on 20/20 calendars. Your Third Grade Team, Mrs. Gregori and Miss Gessaman

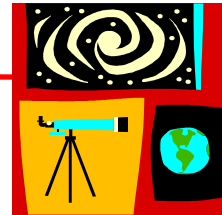
Fourth Grade News

4th GRADE ASTRONOMY FIELD TRIP

On November 16, we will depart at 8:45 for an Astronomy Environmental Education field trip. We will use models that illustrate simple concepts and compare those models to the actual solar system. When we enter the planetarium, we will identify stars in the sky and be able to explain that light and heat come from a star called the Sun. Please make sure your 4th grader comes with a coat that day. Since we will be removing our shoes before going into the planetarium, please have them wear socks. Students wearing shorts, skirts, sandals or flip flops will not be allowed to attend due to safety reasons.

WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

In Math, we have entered the world of multiplication, division and algebraic concepts. Keep practicing those multiplication flash cards at home. In Reading, we are finishing up a unit. We will be testing the week of November 9. Please be looking in the November 18 Wednesday envelope for a copy of our reading strategies. At home, after 20/20 reading time, ask your child what reading strategy he or she used. In Science, we are learning how special properties of water allow life on the water planet called Earth. In Social Studies, we will be grouping the 50 states into five geographic regions. This makes it easier to compare areas of the United States. Each student will be assigned a region to research and build a salt dough map to show regional landforms. Your Fourth Grade Team, Mrs. Agnew and Mrs. Kelley



Fifth Grade News



You have heard the news - the flu is here. We are working at washing our hands and cleaning our work space often. Thank you for your diligence in keeping your kids home when they are sick. We hope you enjoyed Open House and your taste of our Science Variables unit. We are just finishing our "Flippers" (catapults). Ask your child about our results. We will do an experiment in which each group gets to plan a Flipper investigation. This will be the last group experiment. The next step is for your child to design an experiment using one of our four Variable explorations to test a variable of their own and present to the class. There will be class time to do this. Double digit multiplication and division have been a great challenge for our students. Learning about compatible numbers helps us choose the correct quotient. Those who struggle to remember their multiplication facts with automaticity struggle the most. It can seem overwhelming even though they have the opportunity to use the multiplication chart. Some of you received flash cards at Open House. Be sure to practice daily. You can eliminate those already mastered and work only on the remaining facts. Winter is fast approaching. Montana weather is quirky and apt to change for the worse at any time. Please check your child's attire before sending them to school. Make sure your child is prepared for our winter weather. They need coats, hats, gloves, and many days boots. This January we will be going into the mountains for our Winter Ecology trip. Warm clothing is essential for this trip. Anyone not prepared will stay at school with another grade level teacher. Your Fifth Grade Team, Mrs. Swartz and Mrs. Houge

Kindergarten News

Thanks for attending parent teacher conferences. We enjoyed visiting with you about your child's growth! Please remember to practice the sight word cards that we handed out at conferences and continue journaling. Also, we're really striving for quality handwriting. Remember, only the first letter of their name should be capitalized.

We've started our study of leaves in Science. Fun! In math, we're learning about 3 dimensional shapes. Have your child find cylin-

der, sphere, cube, and cone shapes around the house. Find which ones stack, roll, or slide. We look forward to seeing you at our Christmas program. We appreciate the bulk snacks still being brought in. Thanks!



The Kindergarten Team
Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Petrini, and
Miss. Loch



First Grade News

October was a big learning month in first grade. We were busy working on our handwriting and practicing writing complete sentences with capital letters and punctuation. We are also reading each day and practicing our spelling words. We are becoming such great writers and readers.

Our science unit this month was all about balance. We balanced paper crayfish and even pencils. This month we will investigate motion. We will get

to spin tops and fly paper twirlers!
How cool!

Also, Torgenson's Farms kindly donated a pumpkin to each first grader in Great Falls. This gave the first graders at Lewis & Clark a great opportunity to practice writing thank you notes!

We have enjoyed visiting with all of the students and their families at Parent-Teacher Conferences. We appreciate all that you do to support learning at home and school! Please

keep reading each night and recording it on your child's reading calendar each month.

Your 1st Grade Team
Mrs. Albrecht, Mrs. Nadeau
Mrs. Logan



Second Grade News

Second grade has been a whirlwind of activity this past quarter. We have been working diligently in all subject areas!

Reading and math, our core subjects in elementary school, are a major part of our learning day. In reading, we have been working on using correct grammar, the writing process, practicing new strategies to enhance our reading comprehension, and working to improve the speed of

our reading (fluency).

In math, we have just completed our first unit test on two digit addition and subtraction with regrouping, understanding numbers to 100, and rounding and estimation. This past week, we started our Geometry unit. The kids love studying geometrical concepts and are quickly catching on to spatial sense.

In addition to these areas, we have Social Studies, Science, and Singapore Math. Mrs. Brown has been

teaching the students all about maps, how to use a globe, and landforms in Social Studies. In Science, second graders are learning all about air and weather. Finally, in Singapore Math, our students are learning special strategies to solve a variety of real life math problems. It is amazing what our second graders are able to accomplish! We are so proud of them. Thank you for all of your help and support. Your Second Grade Team, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Yoder, and Mrs. Seder

6th Grade News

In Communication Arts, the sixth graders have been working feverishly to improve as readers and writers! First, we just recently finished up the Socratic Unit *Whipping Boy* and we are diving back into the Harcourt reader with the wonderful story *My Side of the Mountain*. Next, the students have taken on the challenge of sentence diagramming with prodigious fervor. We are rapidly moving through the different parts of sentences and how they are "drawn" together via diagrams. Finally, these prodigious pupils have been working extremely hard to improve their writing skills utilizing the *Step up to Writing* format. We will continue to build on the skills already mastered and strive to learn as many new ones as possible by the end of the year.

On the Social Studies side of the classroom, we have been studying archeology and what archeologists do. We have employed many different reading strategies and note-taking strategies while completing the various chapters in the book. These include partner read, choral read, and reciprocal read, as well as outline and flow charts for note taking. We are approaching the test for chapter three and then we will move on to *Early Man* in chapter four. We are rapidly approaching the early civilization chapters, and I look forward to these, as I plan on completing some cooperative projects with this wonderful class.

In Math, our sixth graders are beginning algebra. They are practicing adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with variable. Our students have also begun to work with exponents and square roots! They have been very busy! Our goal by the end of the second quarter is to have all students able to complete their 12 by 12 multiplication charts with 100 percent accuracy in less than 8 minutes. Keep practicing those tables!

Science finds us finishing up our first investigation about Mixtures and Solutions. We have worked with concentration, saturation, and chemical reactions. One of our favorite experiments was testing Kool-Aid to find the appropriate (and tastiest!) level of concentration. We are going to be beginning an investigation about Landforms. I am looking forward to another exciting unit in Science!

Your Sixth Grade Team, Mrs. Hurin and Mr. Marquis

Literacy

It's November so Mrs. Stubbs and Mrs. Harp suggest that you "gobble up" some good books!

Remember your reading calendars. You can read to your child, with your child, or even have your child read to you for 20 minutes each night and mark your calendar at least 20 nights this month and you will be eligible to join us at the end of the month for some Wacky Colored Hair Day.

While reading with your child, ask questions to check for understanding. For example: Who is in the picture? What are they doing? What do you think is happening? Where are they? Why are they doing _____?

These are powerful questions that will aid comprehension.

And remember..."Reading is Magic!"



Student Council assisted with Red Ribbon week and plan to jump start recycling, do a schoolyard cleanup, facilitate a food and winter clothing/mitten drive. Mrs. Mason

Student Council 2009-10
Blake Wasserman, President
Zach Cortez, Vice President
Ariana Dea, Secretary
Trinity Brown, Treasurer

Mrs. Logan:

Alex D'Antuono

Conor Flesch

Mrs. Albrecht:

Ryen Palmer

Isaac Woldtvedt

Mrs. Nadeau:

William Reed

Kobi Loch

Mrs. Brown:

Sierra Hoock

Jackson Howell

Mrs. Seder:

Cameron Barnes

Isabel Cogger

Mrs. Yoder:

Kati Wasserman

Ryan Casey

Miss Gessaman:

Trinity Brown

Tyler Oller

Mrs. Gregori:

Taylor Williams

Trinity Lewis

Mrs. Kelley:

Rylan Periman

Nichole Bramblett

Mrs. Agnew:

Riley Killhan Treible

Isaiah Armstrong

Mrs. Houge:

Ariana Dea

Dylan Borger

Mrs. Swartz:

Ashley Camacho

Sophia Kimbell

Mrs. Hurin:

Zachary Cortez

Kaylee Olson

Mr. Marquis:

Blake Wasserman

Amanda Williams

WINTER COAT AND MITTEN DRIVE
DECEMBER 1-18
CLEAN, NEW OR USED



CANNED FOOD DRIVE
DECEMBER 1-18



Throughout our school, we are working on building empathy (the ability to recognize feelings, understand other's point of view and respond appropriately to others.) Empathy is a key component in developing prosocial behaviors and interpersonal problem-solving skills. Children who understand emotions are less aggressive, more accepted by peers and are better able to use general social skills.

Counselor Corner

Sixth Grade News

We have just finished reading the novel *The View from Saturday* by E.L. Konigsburg. This novel was part of our ~~third Socratic Seminar unit and in this unit the students were challenged to ponder what it takes to make a difference~~ in their community. Through reading the novel and the subsequent discussions, I believe the students developed a great understanding and appreciation for what "making a difference" is and what is required to accomplish it.

Theme Six in the reading book is now our focus, as we "Expand our World" and experience new cultures and ideas. Expect your student to be bringing home their weekly packets as well as their spelling lists again.

Ancient Greece is our current destination in Social Studies. Students are soaking in the culture of Greece as well as learning how Greece evolved into one of the early democracies. The Greeks were very passionate about theater and it was exciting to have the students recall knowledge gained early this year when we read *The Skill of Pericles!*

On a more somber note, we are missing several social studies textbooks and they need to be returned ASAP!! These books are very expensive and we need them to complete our work in class. Please check your houses, and if you have any of the *A Message of Ancient Days* textbooks, **please return them.**

Your Third Grade Team. *Gregori and Miss Gessaman*

Fourth Grade News

Math: Multiplication basic facts, regrouping, partial products, and Distributive Property. Keep practicing those multiplication flash cards at home.

Science: we are learning how special properties of water allow life on the water planet called Earth.

Reading: We will begin novel study groups next week. Ask your student what book they are reading!

Social Studies: Cultures, national symbols, and government branches. WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

In Reading, we are finishing up a unit. We will be testing the week of November 9. Please be looking in the November 18 Wednesday envelope for a copy of our reading strategies. At home, after 20/20 reading time, ask your child what reading strategy he or she used.

In Social Studies, we will be grouping the 50 states into five geographic regions. This makes it easier to compare areas of the United States. Each student will be assigned a region to research and build a salt dough map to show regional landforms

Thank you parents, for the snacks! We appreciate you!

We are in need of dry erase markers as we use them every day during math. If possible, please send your child with at least one. J

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works with 3-6 grade students

Our yearend rapidly approaches, and I know spring fever is building, but please help us keep these fine young people on track. We still have a good deal of curriculum to cover and we would appreciate your continued support to ensure that your child is receiving the optimum education possible.

