



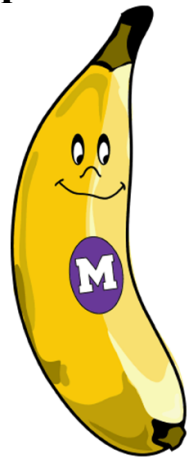
Mosinee Elementary News
Volume 15 **Issue 5 December, 2011**

NOVEMBER MOSINEE ELEMENTARY
TOP BANANA'S



Back Row: Jeremiah Salahdyn, Citty Xiong, Nathan Vils, Top Banana and Mackenzie Aldrich. Front Row: Chloe Lemke, Brett Dudei, Allison Kordus, Trevor Garski and Logan Cychosz.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF
YOU
"TOP BANANAS"!**



WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL

DECEMBER 23, 2011 THRU
JANUARY 2ND, 2012



Merry Christmas!

NOVEMBER COMPLIMENT CRITTER WINNERS



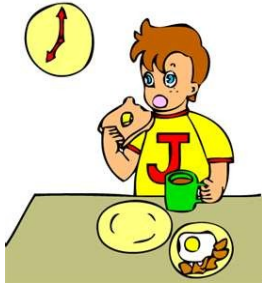
Front Row: Cole Murray, Sebastiano Ollman-Sitton, Sammy Fochs, David Haskin, Noah Nechuta & Nicole Luedtke. **Row 2:** Andrew Johnson, Wyatt Kurzinski, Avery Ahles, Tristan Iczkowski, Kylie Maliszewski & Jett Meyer. **Row 3:** Sydney Leszczynski, Emily Wolf, Robert Hernandez-Benford, Taylor Javoroski, Megan Hawro, Jack Struble & Ava Clendenning. **Back Row:** Molly Shnowske, Jordan Aldrich, Lexi Iczkowski, Brock Seis, Nolan Harris & Seth Wesley.

The Mosinee Elementary Students earned 1,064 compliments during the month of November!

The winners were randomly drawn from the compliments earned. Great job kids. Keep it up!

NEWS FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Here is something to think about during this hectic time of year. Routines are important. Routines are actions and events that are repeated regularly. They are ways to organize daily actions and they can benefit you and your child in the following ways:



- Routine provides predictability
- Routine is comforting
- Routine helps with discipline
- Routine can be empowering
- Routine encourages cooperation
- Routine can help your child feel safe and secure



- Routine provides a supportive framework for the child to learn new skills

Preschool and child care centers have understood the importance of routines for a long time. They start and end their day with a series of familiar activities that form comforting routine. Having familiar routines at home can make a difference between a chaotic or calm house. So during these holiday times, establish some simple routines for the start and end of your day at least. You will see a difference.



Have a Merry Christmas!!



NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN:

The holiday season is an exciting time in Kindergarten. A few of the themes that we have been working on include bears, our 5 senses, holiday celebrations around the world, and gingerbread houses as well as reading about *The Gingerbread Man*. We have also enjoyed the creativity of making Christmas ornaments and crafts.



We continue to practice our math and reading skills. In reading we have been identifying letters and sounds, as well as answering questions and retelling about our stories. In math we have been working on solving addition and subtraction problems using different strategies, writing numbers, continuing patterns, and grouping numbers as a 5 or 10.



In consideration of the spirit of Christmas, instead of giving gifts during the holiday season we are asking students to bring in non-perishable food items or paper products for the Mosinee Miracle Christmas Tree. The items will be collected under our tree in the main lobby. The food items will be taken to the United Methodist Church to be donated to the New Hope Food Pantry. The remaining paper products will be donated to a local charity. Thank you for assisting in this donation.

Now that winter is here, please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Winter jackets, hats, mittens and snow pants are needed for your child to stay warm at recess. Snow pants and boots are required or your child will be asked to stay on the blacktop during recess. Please label all of your child's winter clothing.



The Kindergarten staff would like to wish you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We would like to thank all of the parents who attended our fall Parent-Teacher Conferences. We had 92% of our parents attend. We are glad that our parents took this opportunity to learn about how their child/children are progressing and ways in which we can work together to help them succeed. The staff appreciates your support of your child's learning.



NEWS FROM 1ST GRADE:

In December, there was excitement in the air. The students performed their winter music program in the Creske Auditorium. They did a fantastic job performing for their families and friends!

First graders learned that December is a month of giving. The students were so caring and selfless with their involvement with the food, clothing, and book donations for the Mosinee Miracle Tree. Thank you for all of your support!



In the classroom, our reading theme has been about Friends and Family. The students are learning about consonant letter clusters at the beginnings of words and silent consonant letters. In math, we have been working on addition skills that add numbers with tens and extra ones. We have also been studying about different cultural celebrations that occur in December.

Now that Wisconsin winter weather is upon us, the students have been wearing their warm, bulky clothes. Please encourage the children to have independent dressing skills with their winter attire. Your involvement makes the difference. Thank you!



NEWS FROM 2ND GRADE:

Jingle Bell Jukebox was a rockin' hit in 2nd grade this month! Thanks for all of your support at home! The outfits were fabulous and the kids performed great! Everyone had a beboppin' good time!

The 2nd graders also collected food and household paper goods for area pantries. Thanks for your support with this project! Educating our students on the spirit of giving is a wonderful gift!



As the season has turned colder, please help us in reminding your children to dress for the weather. They each need to come prepared every day with a winter coat, boots, snow pants, a hat, and gloves (an extra pair of gloves and socks is not a bad idea as these items tend to get wet). All items should be labeled with his/her name. Also, please remind him/her to pack tennis shoes in his/her backpack or leave a pair at school.

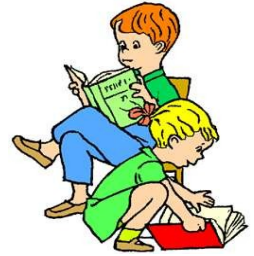
Finally, on behalf of the 2nd grade staff we would like to wish you all a healthy and safe holiday season!

NEWS FROM 3RD GRADE:

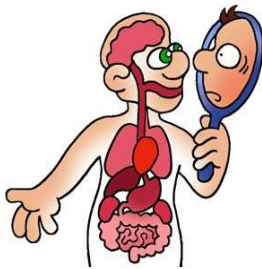
All third grade students are busy working with leveled reading books in their respective classrooms. They are acquiring valuable reading strategies as they progress to higher levels. Independent work skills are also being used during this time.

Some of the third grade classes have Reading Incentive Programs to encourage independent reading at home. Please become familiar with your child's program and encourage them to reach their individual goals.

In Math, the addition and subtraction facts are being put to the test as these facts are needed to solve two, three, and four-digit problems involving carrying and borrowing. These skills are also being applied in story problems. Students are being encouraged to explain the strategies they use to solve problems by journaling.



Some of the classes are busy learning about the human body. They are studying the functions of the various organs and systems that make up our complex body. Other classes are researching and writing reports on the continents.



The students are very proud of their cursive writing. Some classes have learned all the lower case letters and are ready to start the capitals. Please encourage your child to use cursive whenever possible. In the case of handwriting, practice makes perfect!

As the cold weather has arrived, appropriate winter clothing is necessary as the children will go outside for recess except in the coldest weather. Some students need an extra pair of dry mittens or gloves for the afternoon recess. Also, please remember to send snow pants and boots to prevent the mud and snow from coming into the classrooms.



Parents are reminded to check your child's weekly newsletter for specific information regarding your child's class activities.

Happy Birthday to, Sylwia D, William A, Joshua H, Tanner M, Katlyn T, Alex L, Ethan C, Olivia D, Jenna Z, Adrianna J, and Alexis D. Happy Half Birthday to Haile and Kaytlyn. We will be celebrating summer birthdays throughout the winter months.

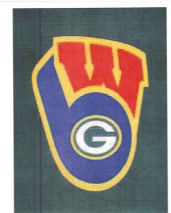
PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE — from Mr. Mielke



The 2nd and 3rd grade classes have been busy learning and actively participating in a wide variety of activities recently. They completed a basketball skills unit which included ABC dribbling, shadow dribbling, and a challenging game of basketball golf. The next unit was our golf unit. This unit taught the students about chipping and putting. They learned the parts of the club, how to grip the club correctly, and practiced chipping and putting at a variety of targets. Most recently the students used pedometers in a variety of activities. Students learned what a pedometer is, how it works and what a "healthy" amount of steps in a day is. Then the 2nd and 3rd graders competed for the GOLD SHOE! Congratulations to Mrs. Muth's class for winning the third grade challenge by totaling 49,177 steps in one class period! The second grade winning class was Mrs. Seeger's class totaling 44,296 steps!

The kindergarten and 1st grade classes have been working hard on many fundamental skills. They worked on bounding and catching while practicing letter recognition along with passing and catching. Then the students used foam noodles for a mirroring activity which challenged the mind as well as the body!

Next week will involve many Holiday activities! Have a Happy Holiday Season!!! Go Packers and Badgers!



SCHOOL NURSE NEWS FROM SUE POHLKAMP, RN:

Have a REAL Happy Holiday: Take the Stress Out of the Season

From the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Newsletter, November, 2011

Your house is adorned with festive lights, the kids are quietly wrapping presents for friends and family, the gingerbread houses are iced and gum dropped, a fire is crackling in the fireplace, and the smell of freshly baked sugar cookies lingers in the air. What's wrong with this picture? It only happens in Holiday Movies of the Week. For most families, the reality of the holiday season means harried shopping trips, overstimulated kids, burned holiday treats, broken ornaments and last-minute tree trimming. But there is a way to help your family have a fun holiday without the frazzle!

- **Make a Mess.** You might like the decorations lined up symmetrically and your cookies to be perfectly shaped. But if you let your kids get really involved in all of the holiday activities and forget about getting it perfect, your family will have a blast. The holidays won't be ruined if the snowmen cookies look like they've melted, or there are four times more tinsel on the right side of the tree than the left. Celebrate your child's creativity and show them that everything doesn't have to be perfect to be fun.

- **Tradition, Traditon, Tradition.** Some families act out the Hannukah story of Judah and the Maccabees. Others make elf footprints by dusting flour on sponges cut up to look like feet. Whether it is staying up extra late on Christmas Eve watching a holiday movie, reading a special traditional story or playing dreidel with jellybeans, creating an annual tradition with your family makes the holidays even more special and gives everyone something to look forward to. If you don't already have a holiday ritual, have a family meeting to discuss what everyone might enjoy together each year.

- **Get Real:** If you're a parent, and especially if you're the parent of young children, be realistic about what you can accomplish this holiday season. Maybe your holiday cookies and all your side dishes need to come from the local store. Give yourself room to enjoy your time with your family instead of worrying about all the details.

- **Plug In:** Try to get as much of your holiday shopping done online. No crowds, no wandering the aisles searching frantically for those items on your child's list. Be sure to start early so you have all your gifts in time for the holiday. Most shopping sites give delivery estimates.

- **Be a Peacemaker:** Practice these words: It's not a big deal. Give yourself a holiday mantra if things start to get ugly. If your in-laws insult the meal or your kids are arguing over presents, don't react right away.

Take a deep breath, hold it for three seconds and exhale slowly. Try to focus on fun rather than fighting.

- **Keep on Moving.** Now isn't the time to give up regular exercise; the added stress and extra calories mean you need physical activity even more. Try to stick to your regular routine. If you're too busy, a noon-hour walk or parking your car at a distance from a mall entrance will help get some extra steps in.

- **Plan for Fun.** If the kids are home and so are you, take some time to share some fun activities together. Go to a local museum or performance of the Nutcracker. Have lunch and a movie. Bake some cookies together, then get out the photo scrapbooks and remember holidays of the past. Treasure the time your kids are home and relaxed on their holiday break.

Rest Easy. Balance active times with periods of rest and quiet activities. And make sure family members get a good night's sleep every night so they're fresh for festivities.

Have an enjoyable and stress-free holiday!



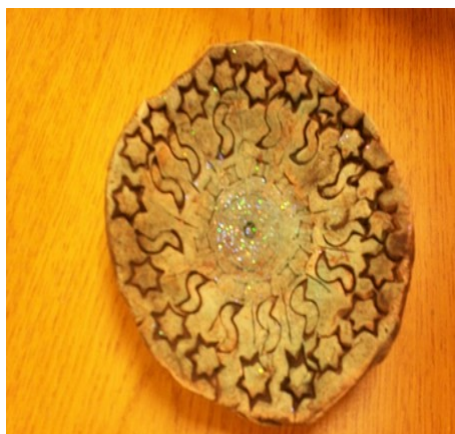
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ART ROOM NEWS FROM MRS. FORD

December has been a very busy month in the art room! Kindergarten and 1st grade made ornaments from clay, 2nd graders used their knees to make some very unique clay pots, and 3rd Graders had a lesson in digital photography and computer editing. We used two free programs (available online) called Picasa and Picnik to edit the pictures. By the end of the hour, students were showing me how to do things I never knew about! 1st graders also went to the computer lab to create snowmen using the program called KidPix. Their art is online at www.artsonia.com.

Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Ford



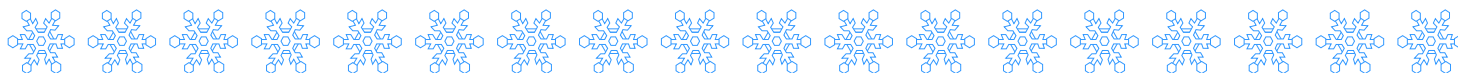
By Hannah, 2nd Grade



By Lauren, 3rd Grade



By Savannah, 1st Grade



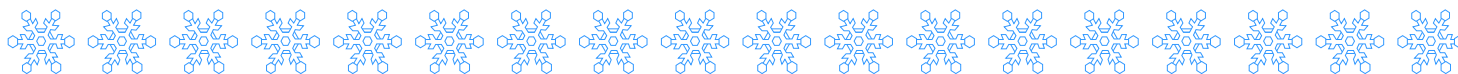
Schools will be closed when inclement weather or road conditions might jeopardize the safety of our students. School closing announcements will be made as near to 6:00 a.m. as possible on the following area stations:

WAOW-TV Channel 9
WSAW-TV Channel 7

WDEZ 101.9 FM
WIFC 95.5 FM
WSAU 550 AM/99.9 FM
WRIG 1390 AM
WOZZ 94.7 FM



Early dismissal announcements will be made on the same radio and TV stations.



GREETINGS FROM MRS. WESTFALL IN THE MUSIC ROOM

I hope that the magic of the season has filled you and your loved ones with happiness! It sure is beginning to sound a lot like Christmas around here!

The second grade students did an AWESOME job with their concert 'Jingle Bell Jukebox'. I am so proud of them! The 2nd grade classes collected over 400 items that will be donated to our local food pantry to help out families-in-need. Thank you for your support.

The first grade classes did an awesome job with their concert this week as well. It makes my heart happy to hear their precious voices filled with the Christmas spirit.

The third grade classes will begin practicing for their concert sometime after Christmas break. Stay tuned for more information on that. Please mark your calendars for the remaining concerts below.

May your Holiday Season be filled with love and happiness!

Mrs. Jessie Westfall

Mosinee Elementary Music Teacher



Concert Dates- All concerts held at the Creske Center Auditorium

3rd grade Concert- Friday, March 16th, 2012- 1:30 p.m.
Kindergarten Concert- Friday, May 11th, 2012- 1:30 p.m.

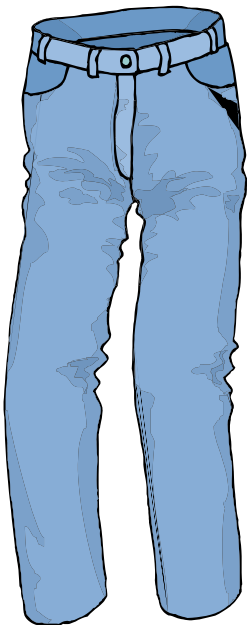


"JEANS FOR WISHES"

In the upcoming months you may notice that some of the Elementary School staff is wearing jeans on random days throughout the week. The staff has the option of participating in a fundraiser for the

Make-A-Wish Foundation®. in which they are able to choose up to two days a week to wear jeans. On each day that they choose to wear jeans they donate \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation®. The fundraiser is being held from November 1st until April 1st. If a staff member chooses to participate two days a week for the entire time, a donation of \$40 will be made.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Make-A-Wish Foundation®, here is a brief background:



MISSION Make-A-Wish Foundation of Wisconsin grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. With the help of generous donors and nearly 25,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 40 minutes and has granted more than 200,000 wishes in the U.S. since inception. For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit www.wish.org and discover how you can *share the power of a wish*®.