



# Mosinee Elementary News

Volume 15

Issue 3

October, 2011



## School Forest Creations!



### NO SCHOOL

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

OCT. 27TH & 28TH

Mark Your Calendar

### EARLY RELEASE

FRIDAY, NOV. 4TH

12:40 PM

### Photo Reminder!

Parents who visit the playground are reminded that they should not be taking photos while outside. We have several students whose parents have requested they do not have pictures taken. Even if the parent is taking a photo of his/her own child, one of these students could be in the background. We thank you for helping us ensure that the no photo request is honored.

## Back and Forth from Mom's to Dad's: Seven Ways to Ease the Transition

An article from the parent newsletter by Thomas Haller and Chick Moorman

Does your child have a tough time going from Mom's to Dad's? Does she take a while to settle in? Does he resist getting out of the car? Does she make up stories at one end or the other? Does he cry when it's time to leave? If so, it might be time to apply some of the following suggestions for a more easeful transition.

1. When your child arrives at your home, concentrate on helping him connect with you and your place. As soon as he arrives, focus on what happens when he's there. Play his favorite game. Give him his favorite snack. Welcome him back with the stuff and activities that help him feel connected to this place. Spend some time playing and interacting in his room. For the first hour, focus on this house.
2. Do not talk about or ask your child what she has been doing at her mother's. That can come later. Definitely refrain from asking questions about her mother. This places the child in the middle. It is not her job to take care of you or her mother. Let her be the child.
3. After the initial reconnect period, give your child a vision of what WE will be doing this weekend. This takes away the fear of the unknown. Explain or show what is coming up for him. Don't have it be all Disneyland adventures. Just give him some idea of what to expect. With a 3-6 year old it would be good to storyboard upcoming events with pictures. If you're planning to build a snowman, put up a picture of one. Do the same with going to the zoo, reading his favorite books, eating together, etc.



4. Before it's time to leave and go back to Mom's, debrief the weekend. Review with your child what you shared together, taking turns telling about favorite activities. Point out if she learned something new or did something different. "You learned a new word." "You slept in." "You played Chutes and Ladders."
5. Then move to talking about the upcoming week at Mom's. Talk about a few of the things your child can expect there. "Mrs. Smith, your preschool teacher, will be excited to see you." "Your dog will be waiting for you." "You'll probably have your favorite meal at Mom's." "I will be calling you during the week." Create a vision for him of what happens at Mom's.
6. Send your child back with something to show and tell at preschool, something to talk to her classmates or her mother about. When you do this, you are helping her let go while simultaneously giving her a piece of the weekend to hang onto.
7. Share with your child's mom important things about the weekend that she might need to know: how a bruise was created, how gently he held a frog, a new book he asked to have read to him again and again. If the two of you can get on the same page with transitions, and both of you implement the suggestions above, it will make your child's life much more relaxing and peaceful.

Transitions are not easy for a child at any age. Make them smoother with the ideas above. Your child is worth it. And so are you.

## NEWS FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD:

Ms. Becky's class has enjoyed making things with apples. They made individual apple pies and Snickers Salad. Both were yummy. In September we wore red once a week and are now wearing orange once a week. We have worked on the numbers 0, 1 and 2. We have learned songs about a circle and square shape. The children have been having fun learning to draw a person by drawing Mat Man. Now we are having fun learning colors and learning to count using colorful leaves. This past week we enjoyed learning about fire safety and singing and acting out songs about safety and firefighters. Some of the children got to sit inside the big fire trucks when they came to visit. Many of the children want to be firefighters when they grow up.



Making Snicker Salad

## NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN:

The season of Fall is upon us! Many of the kindergarten classrooms are noticing and discussing the signs of Fall. Some of the classes have taken walks outside around the school, and all the classes took a trip to our School Forest. The students learned all about leaves and made colorful creations with objects from nature.

This month we have also been learning about Fire Safety. We had a visit from the Mosinee Fire Department early in the month. The firefighters shared some important information with us about fire safety and showed us some of their gear.

Our next field trip will be to Willow Springs Garden Pumpkin Patch in Wausau. The children will have the opportunity to walk through a corn maze, take a nature walk, take a wagon ride and see some farm animals. They will each receive a mini pumpkin to take home.



Johnny Appleseed, squirrels, scarecrows, and pumpkins are decorating our kindergarten hallway. Skeletons, bats and spiders will soon follow as Halloween is fast approaching. On Oct. 31st we will have a special morning where all kindergarten children will rotate through all the kindergarten classes. Each teacher will lead a different activity for the children to complete. This is a great way for the children to get to know the other kindergarten teachers and vice-versa! Each child is asked to donate a coin for each activity. The money collected will then be donated to the UNICEF program. Some classrooms will have small celebrations in the afternoon. Please remember that costumes are not permitted at school.

In math most classes have completed the first unit. Our second unit will concentrate on writing and identifying numerals 1 - 10 and identify and continuing a pattern. Penny and nickel will also be introduced. In reading the Alphafriends are being introduced. Each friend has a name and a song to help the children learn the letter names and sounds.

**Kindergarten is looking forward to:** Oct. 27 and 28<sup>th</sup> - No School. Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> - Early Release ~ 12:40. Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 8:00 - 6:30PM. Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> - Parent/Teacher Conferences - 4:30 - 8:00PM.



## NEWS FROM 1ST GRADE:

Holy Guacamole! October has been a very busy month in first grade. The highlight of the month was going to the Grand Theater and meeting Skippy Jon Jones. We appreciate the opportunities such as these that the P.T.O. provides. Thank you!

We completed our MAP (Measure of Academic Progress) testing, visited the Mosinee School Forest, participated in School Bus Safety Week, Fire Prevention Week and celebrated Halloween.



We are making steady gains in both reading and math. We have been practicing reading books emphasizing short vowel sounds and writing short vowel words. Predicting, summarizing and evaluating are three main strategies we practice every day. We have also learned new math strategies for addition. Please continue to read and work with your child on their nightly homework. This extension of learning from the classroom to home is very important in your child's learning experience. Thank you for your tremendous and continued support!

The first graders have been doing a great job with rules and procedures in our classrooms, hallways and on the playground. We encourage children to think and demonstrate these positive behaviors at school as well as at home. As the weather changes, please remember to send in appropriate recess clothing for children.

### First grade is looking forward to:

November 4- Early release: 12:40 pm

November 14- Parent/teacher conferences

November 24 and 25- Thanksgiving break- NO SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM 2ND GRADE:

Our awesome second graders are busy beavers this fall. Our first school forest trip was during the first week of October. The beautiful fall weather permitted the second graders to observe nature at its peak. The students used their senses walking through the woods collecting items from nature to create a motif. Voices echoed, "Its raining leaves" as the wind made the leaves fall from the sky. Students would shake young trees to simulate the same effect they observed. After the students were finished with the motifs, Mrs. Hodgson brought out some special friends. A baby snake and three salamanders peaked curiosity. Many students overcame fears and even held these interesting creatures!



Fire Prevention week was October 9 - 15. The students have been learning about fire safety. On Tuesday, October 11 the Mosinee Fire Fighters gave a presentation about fire safety reviewing important information about home escape plans, meeting places, smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. The students were thrilled to see the fire truck and all its equipment. Each student received a small bag of fire safety information from the Mosinee Fire Department. Please practice home fire drills and check smoke alarms.

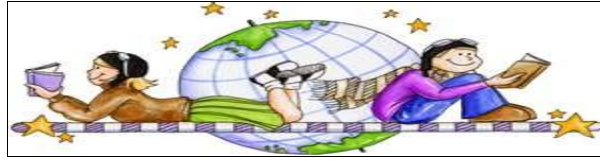
October starts our reading incentive program. The students are strongly encouraged to read each night to reach a monthly goal. The goal for October is 300 minutes. The program will run through April with a final reward celebration in May. Each month that the goal is met the students will earn a small reward and then in May will participate in a big reading celebration. The best reward is becoming a better reader! Happy Reading!

**News From 2nd Grade Continued on Page 4.....**



## News from 2nd Grade continued from Page 3:

The students have started switching classes for Social Studies and Science this month. They are very excited to learn from the other second grade teachers. Please ask your child what topics they are learning about in Social Studies and Science.



## NEWS FROM 3RD GRADE:

The third graders continue to learn new strategies for solving math problems and are encouraged to think out loud and explain their answers. Some of the strategies and techniques are new to parents, so answer keys for the homework have been sent home. The answer keys provide the answers along with examples. Sometimes the homework may be completed in class, but the answer keys are a tool for parents to assist their child at home.



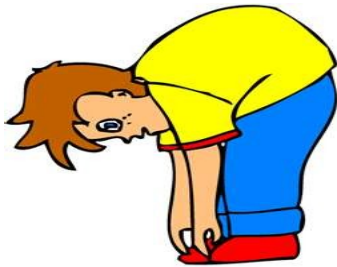
All third graders will be taking the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam during the week of November 7-11. The tests will be taken in the areas of math and reading. The students are currently working on practicing their test taking skills. Please refrain from scheduling appointments for your child during the day during testing week if possible. **Please help your child to do his or her best by ensuring that he or she gets a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast during the week of the test. An additional letter regarding this test will be sent home soon. Please watch for it.**

The students had the opportunity to go out to the school forest and spend a half of day exploring fall foliage. They observed and discussed different types of leaves and went on a hunt for fall items. The third graders later used their fall items to create a mandala. It was a successful field trip.

Once a month, the third grade teachers host a Birthday Lunch. All third grade students celebrating a birthday during that month have a special lunch with the teachers. It is fun to have a time to get to know the students on a more individual basis and to share some treats. The October birthdays were Kacia A., Opal H., Tanner K., Eryka H., Jacque C. Alex W., Anna H., Tabytha K, Mia A., Jordan S., Sophie M., Nekia R. and Deklyn L.



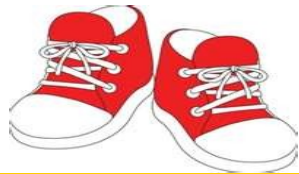
## PHYSICAL EDUCATION UPDATE:



It has been a very active start to the school year. Students have been learning the warm-up routine, which involves many locomotor moves, strength exercises and directionality activities.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes have been busy learning flag pulling skills, chasing and fleeing, and throwing & catching the football. All these skills are used in our flag football lead up games. Then the students practiced soccer skills and participated in soccer lead up games!

The kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes have also been learning a new warm-up routine. They have been taught what a BIG Space is, how to find it and move in their big space safely. They have also learned about different speeds and where it is appropriate to use those different speeds. These students also have had the experience of how our body changes when we exercise hard. For example, increased heart rate, increased breathing rate, and our bodies getting sweaty and warmer.



Just a reminder to PLEASE send proper shoes with your student to physical education class. It's for their safety! Thank you!

## SCHOOL NURSE NEWS FROM SUE POHLKAMP, RN:



### Dress for Success!

With the weather turning colder and field trips galore coming up, it is a good time to think about proper attire for school. Please be conscious of weather conditions and your child's schedule when you help your child dress for the school day.

The Health Room has a *limited* supply of clothing to loan to children. This supply is generally intended for students who have "accidents" at school, or who experience an unexpected event requiring a change in clothing (such as a bloody nose, etc.) We are not equipped to outfit numerous children a day who come unprepared to go on a field trip - school forest, Pumpkin Patch, walking to the Creske pool.

Make sure your child has weather-appropriate clothing which, in the fall, could mean socks and shoes instead of sandals; long pants instead of shorts; or coat, hat, mittens and boots in winter months. Remember, children can be on the playground for recesses up to an hour each day.

If your child receives a change of clothing or outerwear from the Health Room a note is sent home indicating what items your child received. Please launder the clothing after use and return to the Health Room as soon as possible so that the clothing will be available for another child in need.

### Sore Throat or Strep Throat?

It is often difficult to tell. A good guideline: If the sore throat lasts longer than three days or is accompanied by a fever, call your doctor for advice. Strep throat is usually accompanied by a fever that lasts more than 24 hours, headache, nausea, vomiting, and swollen and tender glands in the neck. Only 15% of sore throats are strep throats. 85% are due to viruses, post-nasal drip or allergies. Only a throat culture can determine whether your child's sore throat is due to strep or to a virus. Antibiotics *cannot cure* common (viral) sore throats. Strep throat *can be cured* with an antibiotic. **Untreated strep throat can lead to much more serious health problems including permanent heart conditions.**



## Greetings from Mrs. Westfall in the Music Room!

The third grade students will be starting a unit on recorders in the next month. A letter went home with all of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students last week regarding purchasing information. The money for ordering recorders was due last week and the order has been placed. If your child does not have a recorder and you have not paid the \$5.00 fee, please do so as-soon-as-possible. Once we start using the recorders in music class there will be times your child will be bringing their recorder home to practice. Please be patient with your child as they are learning how to produce a good tone on their instrument. Your child is required to have their recorder with them in music class each day, so please help them remember to bring their recorder back to school after practice days. If you have any questions or concerns about purchasing recorders, please contact me.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students will begin practicing for their upcoming concert beginning in November. The second grade concert this year goes along with their grade level theme of Rock-n-Roll and is titled 'Jingle Bell Jukebox'. The concert will be held on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Creske Center Auditorium. We look forward to seeing you there!

The 1<sup>st</sup> grade students will be having a concert coming up on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Creske Center Auditorium. Look for more information coming on that concert from the classroom teachers.

The kindergarten students have been learning fun songs about fall. They have enjoyed playing the steady beat on instruments and doing various movement activities.

\*\*If you have a computer at home I encourage you to do a search on YouTube for 'Animusic'. Animusic is very 'kid-friendly' musical entertainment that uses animation set to music. The students have enjoyed watching a couple of these Animusic segments during extra time in music class.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please mark your calendars for these upcoming 2011-2012 concert Dates\*\*\*\*\***

### All concerts to be held at the Creske Center Auditorium

2<sup>nd</sup> grade- Friday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011- 1:30 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> grade- Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011- 2:00 p.m.

3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012- 1:30 p.m.

Kindergarten- Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012- 1:30 p.m.

