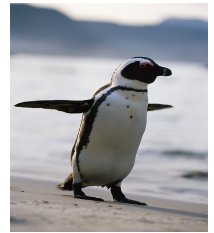


SETH WHITMAN ELEMENTARY 2010 JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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Comments from Ms. Connor

Sometimes teachers get the recognition they deserve. Unfortunately, most do not. However, thanks to Ashlyn Smith Mrs. Hannigan was name "Teacher of the Week" by WZOK. Here is just a little portion of what Ashlyn had to say: "She is great about teaching us the importance of doing things for other people and giving to our community without asking for anything in return. She teaches us respect in and out of the classroom and is a great example of what we should want to be when we grow up. There are not enough people in the world that do all the extra stuff for others and take that extra time to help teach us kids to be GOOD people. Thank you for letting me tell you about this very special person at Seth Whitman. I would like to be able to reward her everyday but I hope you can help me recognize her for the job she does....."

Winning Essay Effort

I do my very best. I use effort to be very good. I can swim really good and build really good buildings because of my effort. I am really good at tumbling too. Everyone should always do their very best effort.

Written by: Brian Ackerman

Physical Education News

We have started our third quarter with a unit on bowling. After 3 weeks of pin action, your child should be on the road to a great bowling career!! We also have a student teacher from N.I.U. with us for 8 weeks, Ms. Beverly Otte. She has been a resident in Belvidere for the past 7 years and is excited to be student teaching at Seth Whitman. She will be introducing some jump rope activities along with a unit on basketball. The winter has been long and we are trying to get the kids back in shape for Spring. Ms. Stevens is looking forward to starting up her mileage club again. Eat healthy and stay active!

FEBRUARY

- 1-11.....Valentine Hearts On Sale
- 2.....Chef Night Out 4:00-8:00
Sams Restaurante/Riverside Blvd.
- 8.....Family Reading Night 6-7:30 p.m.
- 9.....Movie Night-Kindergarten
5:30-8:00 p.m.
- 12.....No School/School Improvement Day
- 15.....No School/President's Day
- 18.....PTO Meeting 6:30
- 19.....Market Day Pick Up
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m

MARCH

- 3.....Spring Picture Day
- 9.....Chef Night Out/Giordano Restaurant
4:00-8:00 p.m.
- 16.....Movie Night 1st Grade 5:30-8:00 p.m.
- 18.....PTO Meeting 2:30
- 19.....Market Day Pick Up
2:30-3:30 p.m.
- 26.....No School
School Improvement Day
- 29-April 5.....No School/Spring Break

Primary Autism

Our class is studying the Arctic. We are learning about the animals and the cold, snowy environment. We are working on subtraction, telling time, and money. Thanks to Excellence In Education we had a G-Force Pizza Spy Party with our 4th Grade A-Team members. Our A Team members have been doing an awesome job. Thanks for all of your help!!!

Intermediate Autism

The Intermediate Autism program has been learning about the different animal groups. The students are also really enjoying learning about the life cycle of animals. Next month, we will be learning about some of the important places in the United States.

Red Cross Collection for Haiti

Seth Whitman School collected \$1,030.12 in coins, cash and checks for Haitian Relief. We can be proud that we made a difference in the lives of those less fortunate. Thank you for your generosity.

Kindergarten

We are having a busy month! We have been learning about penquins, snowmen, and mittens. We are reading easy books on these subjects and we have started reading decodable books which have us sound out words. We are adding new vocabulary words each week. Make sure you are practicing those word cards daily with your child. The kindergarten classrooms are excited about celebrating the 100th day of school. We have already been in school 92 days and we practice counting every day. We are also learning to count by 5s and 10s. In math, we are learning to recognize coins and to know their value. Parents, please help your child become independent about getting ready for the outdoors. Each child should be able to zip their own coat, tie their own laces and put on their own hats and gloves. These skills are necessary because we teachers do not have the time to help over twenty students do this at the end of each day. Please help us keep your child warm and protected from the elements.

First Grade

The 100th day is quickly approaching in first grade! Can you believe your child is 100 days smarter? We have some special activities planned for our 100th day. In the upcoming weeks, we will also be talking about Groundhog's Day and Presidents' Day. We are also busy writers in first grade. We are working hard on writing paragraphs with topic sentences and details. Some classes have been writing about Martin Luther King Jr., while others are writing about celebrations. Happy January!

Second Grade

The second grade students all have a new reading book for the second half of the year. They were so excited to get a new book. Ask your child to tell you about a few of the stories that look interesting. We are noticing that many students are still having trouble with memorizing basic addition and subtraction facts. Please continue to practice using flash cards each night. All students will have an opportunity to participate in a readers theater at Family Reading Night. We hope to see you then!

Third Grade

The third graders are excited to begin a new year! We have been learning our lowercase cursive letters here at school. Any practice at home would be great. Beginning the third quarter, we have switched from studying social studies to studying science. The third graders love learning about the classification of animals and will soon be studying life cycles. We look forward to seeing you at Family Reading Night on February 8th!

Fourth Grade

Brrrrr, it's cold outside! Luckily, the fourth graders have been heating up with lots of learning! In the past month, 4th grade students have studied different types of pronouns in English. Most recently, we covered the subject and object pronouns I and me. The reading units have focused on non-fiction and biographies, as well as the skills of fact and opinion. All classes wrapped up science for the year with a different unit, and we are now focusing on social studies. The first social studies concepts are continents, hemispheres, longitude and latitude. Additionally, we have finished probability in mathematics, and are continuing on with measurement and geometry. Finally, we are getting excited for our upcoming field trip to Don Carter Lanes on Friday, February 5th!

Fifth Grade

The 2nd half of the year is now in full swing. This is the hardest quarter for students. New material is being presented and taught every day, so attendance is very crucial. Please make sure if your student is absent to follow through on getting any missed work. We are studying geometry in math, but still could use practice on the multiplication and division facts. In science, we are studying the Earth's structure and how to take care of our planet with recycling, reducing and reusing items. The American Revolution will be the topic for Social Studies. We are continuing to write essays with more details, elaboration, and support on a given topic. Our 5th grade team is again selling the Bergners Community Day coupon booklets for \$5.00 for the sale on February 27. We are raising money for needed supplies in the 5th grade. Mark your calendars for the Seth Whitman Reading Night on February 8th from 6-7:30. That night we will be hosting a book walk. If you have any new or gently used books to donate, that would be greatly appreciated. We hope to see you there!