



Hello, Wizard Parents.

Transparency is key to our **effective and productive communication** regarding student learning and behavior.

This month, let's take a look at **flexible grouping**, which helps teachers maximize student learning, and our **communications process**, which helps ensure that you reach the relevant points of contact to assist you with your inquiries about student learning or behavior.

What is Flexible Grouping?

Flexible grouping is an **instructional method** in which our teachers work together to analyze student work in order to **create more specific instruction** that targets each group's assessed needs. Flexible grouping provides opportunities for students to work together in a variety of ways and configurations, depending upon activity and learning outcomes. Flexible grouping **may require your child to change teachers during the literacy or mathematics blocks**, particularly in the intermediate grades 3-5. If you have any questions regarding your child, please work directly with your child's classroom teacher for specifics around flexible grouping for that grade level.

What is our Communications Process?

Because families and schools represent the primary environments where our children grow and develop, it is important for all of us to be clear about who should be contacted when you have questions or concerns about student learning or behavior. Please see our communications process below:

- **For school-wide or classroom safety/security concerns:** Call the Main Office staff (Mrs. Alvarado or Mr. Hazel) and School Administration (Mrs. Scott or Mr. Jackson).
- **For classroom student concerns:** Call the Classroom Teacher.
- **For children who are experiencing social-emotional concerns:** Call the School Counselor (Ms. Dobres).
- **For attendance, registration, or student records concerns:** Call the Attendance Secretary (Mr. Hazel).

Our goal is to streamline our communications process to provide the appropriate level of support for our students without creating barriers for our families.

Craig Jackson



Kindergarten

We can't believe that the first quarter is over!

Kindergarten is well on their way with their routines, and each class has been **earning incentives for exhibiting star behavior!**

In **reading**, we will be **diving into fiction texts**, and not only **identifying the characters**, but also **figuring out the major events** that are happening in the stories! We will be discussing, drawing and writing these major events. We will be **learning new reading strategies** as we read our leveled books, and we will **continue to bring our books home to read to you!**

In **writing**, we will **become more independent** by using the **sight words** we learn to create sentences and practice stretching out our sounds! We will continue to **practice using our finger spaces and punctuation** as well.

In **math**, we will be **counting and ordering numbers** as well as **ordering objects by their length**. We will also **measure objects using non-standard units**. We will continue to **practice our counting strategies** by counting scattered objects, as well as objects in lines, arrays, and circles.

In **science**, we will begin the month by **discussing ways to stay healthy**. We are also excited to learn about plants and sprout some seeds!

In **social studies**, we are switching gears and **learning geography!** It will be so fun to learn about different landforms!

What a busy month!

Event to Remember:

- PTA Book Fair: November 12
- PTA Book Fair: November 13



First Grade

First graders have an exciting November ahead of them.

In **reading**, students will work on identifying the central message/lesson learned in different **fables**. Students will also work on understanding the difference between **facts** and **opinions**.

In **writing**, students will compose **opinion writing** supported by strong reasons. Students may write a review about a movie, restaurant, game, book, or even a store.

In **math**, students will work on representing **two-digit numbers** in different ways and on solving place value riddles.

In **science**, students will explore **living** and **nonliving things**.



Second Grade

We have had a great, full month of learning in October!

In November, we will **begin our second Lucy Calkins unit**, which focuses on **informative writing** including lab reports and science books.

This will tie in nicely to our **second unit in science, Earth and Space Science**. We will be developing and analyzing models to **describe landforms and changes in the Earth**, such as erosion and natural disasters.

After a deep dive into non-fiction texts in reading, we will be switching back to literature and **challenging ourselves to engage in collaborative conversations and write detailed and clear written responses**.

Dru and Teller will keep us busy **using mathematical thinking** to solve real world problems with our new Mathematical Minds enrichment curriculum.

We are really **forming strong classroom communities** and cannot wait to see how much more we will grow as the school year continues!

Event to Remember:

- **Strathmore Concert: November 27**

(with the bus leaving at 9:40 am, concert at 10:45 am, and the bus returning to school at 12:35 pm)



Third Grade

During the month of November, third graders will continue to **deepen their understanding of multiplication** by exploring facts involving 2's, 4's, and 8's.

Students also will **explore patterns on a multiplication table** and **solve multiplication and division word problems**.

We will continue to **read complex text in the genre of poetry**. Students will understand literal and non-literal word meanings.

In **writing**, students will **gain a deeper understanding of informational writing**.

In **social studies**, students will **explore geographic characteristics of Montgomery County** long ago and today.



Fourth Grade

Fourth graders had a fun and festive October. Here is what's coming up in November.

In **math**, students will learn the terms **factor** and **multiple**. Students will **multiplicatively decompose whole numbers 1– 100** into factor pairs in order to develop the understanding that a whole number is a multiple of each of its factors.

Students also **will classify numbers as prime or composite**. Students will also **reason about fractions as numbers** and **explore fraction models**, such as Cuisenaire® rods, fraction circles, and extended sets of pattern blocks. Students will encounter and be able to reason with other denominators.

In **reading**, students will read several Junior Great Books literature selections and nonfiction Inquiry texts. Students will **engage in extension activities** to strengthen and **deepen their understanding of the text** and its connection to the concept of communication.

In **writing**, through our Calkins units of study, students will **write personal and persuasive essays** through flash-drafts, developing thesis statements, gathering and organizing evidence, developing strong introductions and conclusions, and evaluating clarity through self-reflection.



Fifth Grade

Our fifth graders really got into writing during the first quarter. They learned about **focusing on a small moment** and developing the idea. Our focus statement was, "*Dream the dream of the story and write in a way that allows readers to experience the moment along with you.*"

So, what's happening in November?

For our **Math 5** students, they will continue studying various **decimal concepts** including comparing, adding, subtracting, and multiplying decimals. Our **Math 5/6** students will be learning about **ratios and rates**. These students will begin by learning what a ratio is and then studying the different types of ratios and rates. Students will interpret and complete ratios and rates problems using tables, then move on to applying ratio and rates to real-world examples.

In **literacy**, we will be **using a variety of fiction and informational texts** to determine two or more main ideas and to summarize the text.

In **literature**, students will be **honing their close reading skills** as they read and discuss **character development** and **identify the theme** in an assigned text.

In **writing**, we are excited to be using the Lucy Calkins program to help our students **develop their informational writing skills**. They will also continue to **write short opinion essays** and continue to work on **narrative writing**.

In **science**, we will be continuing to study physical science, learning this month about **wave properties** and how they are applied to global communication devices.

In **social studies**, we will continue to study the events that led to the **American Revolution**.

Reminders:

- **All** students should be **reading at least 20 minutes every day at home**. We are encouraging our students to select chapter books for independent reading.
- **All** students in math need to continue working on **increasing their speed and accuracy in ALL basic math facts** (especially in multiplication and division).

Thank You!
