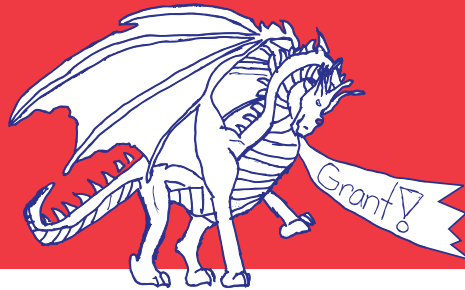


GRANT

DECEMBER 2016



DRAGONS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

MONICA FREY

As we look back at the last few months and end our first half of the year we have really accomplished a great deal at Grant so far this year. Below are just a few that I wish to highlight.

1. The entire building continues to implement Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) by setting common area expectations for all students. These rules keep us safe at school and provide an atmosphere for learning. Students have been working hard to earn tickets when they are showing positive behavior. These tickets are used by teachers to earn extra time on preferred activities, special jobs and for building-wide celebrations.
2. We have improved our attendance of most students at Grant compared to prior years' data on attendance at Grant. Remember we are striving for Everybody, Everyday!
3. This year we started a new adventure at the beginning of the year. Some of you were able to participate in a home visit with your child's teacher. Thank you for allowing us to learn more about you and your student. We can do so much when we work together!
4. We had 97% of our families attend fall elementary conferences. Thank you and congratulations to parents and teachers on the extra efforts to schedule and complete conferences. As we approach our spring conferences in late February, let's try to reach a 100% participation level.
5. SPARC (Spreading Passion And Recognizing Creativity) has been a success this year. We love seeing so many parents come on our last Fridays to share what we have been working on in our SPARC groups. LEGO fun, mad scientist, dancing and book club are just a few of the fun projects so far this year.
6. We have a dedicated staff working in professional learning communities to improve our academic goals in reading and math. Teachers have been busy on Friday learning new strategies, analyzing data and planning for targeted instruction to provide targeted learning for all students.

CALENDAR of Events

December 22	Staff Progress Reporting- No School for Students
December 23-January 2	No School Holiday Break
January 3	First Day of School after Holiday Break
January 13	End of the Semester
January 16	Staff Learning-No School
January 17	Staff Learning –No School
February 8	3rd Grade Fire Department Visit
February 10	HR Imaging Spring Pictures
February 21	Conferences 4-8 p.m.
February 23	Conferences 4-8 p.m.
February 24	Staff Progress Reporting No Student
March 2	Kindergarten Registration 7:00a.m. – 7:00 p.m. at ELSC
March 13-17	Spring Break-No School

FLAMES STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our 12 FLAMES leaders organized and inspired Grant students to contribute 544 pounds of food this year. This food was shared with the Linn Community Food Pantry and will be used to feed many hungry families.

This group has also tied two blankets and given them to the Asbury Care Center, hoping to keep two elderly people warm. They will also be putting on an anti-bullying play written by Desi. This will be recorded and shared with all classes.

The School Store continues to be successful with these dedicated members who come to school early on Friday mornings to help sell school supplies to our students.

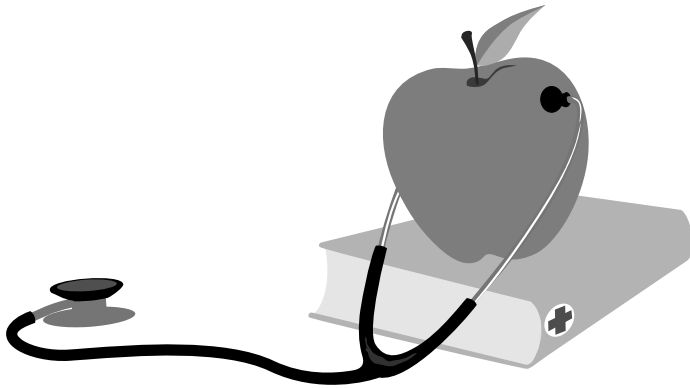
Thank you, FLAMES, for your hard work this semester. In February, 12 other students will have this opportunity to learn leadership skills and promote positive school spirit at Grant.



HEALTH OFFICE

SANDY BYARD BSN, RN, NCSN

Grant now has an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) machine from a grant through Mercy Medical Center and Think Safe Company! An automated external defibrillator (AED) is a portable device that checks the heart rhythm. AEDs are used to treat sudden cardiac arrest (SCA). SCA is a condition in which the heart suddenly and unexpectedly stops beating. When this happens, blood stops flowing to the brain and other vital organs. SCA usually causes death if it's not treated within minutes. Using an AED on a person who is having SCA may save the person's life. You do not need to be trained to use AED machine and all 50 states have laws protecting bystanders from liability when using an AED machine. AED machines save lives every day and we are fortunate to have a unit at Grant.



SAFETY CONCERNS

Cedar Rapids Community School District takes your safety seriously and welcomes your input. Please contact your building principal/administrator and report any safety concerns that you may have. Thank you for helping us keep staff and students safe.

PARKING LOT AND PARKING



Please be considerate of where you park when you come to Grant to drop off or pick up your child. In the morning, if you are dropping off a student please remember to park next to the curb to let your student out. If you need to come into the building, please try and park in

the parking lot and when you do, do not park where you block other cars from leaving. It has come to our attention that when parents do park in the circle it creates an unsafe situation for students being dropped off and block the line of cars from moving. We need to ensure our students are SAFE!

PBIS/500 PARRT TICKETS

As a Positive Behavior Intervention Support school (PBIS) we strive to acknowledge the positive behaviors our students demonstrate after explicitly teaching the common area expectations/rules (hallway, bathrooms, recess, cafeteria, arrival/dismissal, etc.) and classroom expectations. When staff see students doing their PARRT (personal best, active listening, respectful, responsible and trustworthy behaviors) they may be given a PARRT ticket. The tickets go into a classroom container and are drawn out for special classroom jobs or rewards. When 500 tickets are collected, there is a classroom reward. A flame goes upon their classroom dragon displayed in the cafeteria and the class celebrates with activities like an extra recess, gum day, pajama day, electronics day, free draw time, etc. All of our classes have earned at least one flame, many with three of four flames at this time. These tickets encourage students working together towards a common goal through their appropriate school behaviors.

VIRTUAL BACKPACK

The District offers an online Virtual Backpack site to support the efforts of community organizations wanting to share information about educationally-based programming.

Individuals or organizations wishing to post material on the Virtual Backpack submit items electronically and approved materials will appear online for families to access.

Organizations will find a link to submit flyers for consideration on the District homepage at www.cr.k12.ia.us. Families can access the Virtual Backpack from their school Web site.

Active Listening Respect Responsibility

Personal Best

I GOT CAUGHT DOING MY
PARRT!

Trustworthiness

Follow the District on ,  @crschools, and 



It's that time of year when we think about New Year's Resolutions, of the things to do better. If you rated yourself as a parent, what would your score be? Parenting is a tough job, I know from experience! (And no, I am not a perfect parent, just ask my boys!) No manual come with your child and each one is different from the other. Everyday life does interfere with this very demanding yet rewarding position that you have chosen to do. Yet there are things that all kids need. Love, a home, clothing, food...and I think you're doing those!

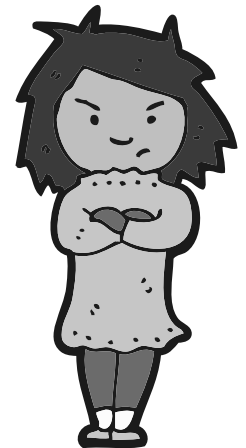
I would encourage you to think about how you support your child's education. Do you check the daily agenda or folder that come home and ask about your child's day? What about listening to your child read to you or you read to your child? Is home work completed on time? Maybe it's making sure that there is a time limit (1 hour daily) on playing video games and more time playing a family board or card games. How do all of your children interact with each other? How are the bedtime and mornings going, could they become more routine? Have you complimented your child today? Is it possible to put your cellphone away until after your child has gone to bed, to give your child your undivided attention? These are just a few ideas that come from the everyday conversations I have with "our kids" about their needs. These are types of things parents do to help their children be "ready to learn" every day at school.

Your children love you and need your love every day. They need your guidance and want to talk with you (sometimes without a brother or sister around!) They enjoy doing things with you, even if it's picking up their rooms or doing chores together. So maybe it's a 'Family Resolution' that you start this new year, one that everyone is a part of with celebrations along the way for hitting the goals you agree to work towards as a family!

Happy New Year!

BEHAVIOR PASSPORTS/OFFICE REFERRALS

Last year, we began using Behavior Passports for students who needed some time to calm down or cool off! Thinking Stations are a place in each classroom where students may choose to go to and take a 5 minute break OR a teacher may ask a student to take a break when his/her behavior may be interfering with the learning going on in a classroom. This is not meant to be a 'bad thing' but a way to help students recognize when they need to be in control of themselves. Should inappropriate behaviors continue, the next expected step in the process is going to the Buddy Classroom, usually the classroom next door, for 10 minutes. Each station has a box of fidgets for the student to play with while they are calming down. The timer rings, staff members talk with the students about how they're feeling and what behavior changes will be made. When inappropriate behaviors continue or there is physical aggression/fighting, students are sent to what's called 'Room 101' to see Mr. Wertz/staff for the 'office referral'. In this room students have time to regain control of themselves, talk about their behaviors and then complete a number of worksheets. Students using this room for 'office referrals' may miss fun activities in the classroom, lunch with their friends and is not intended to be a fun place to be. Parents are contacted. Likewise, students may also use this room as a place to take a break in or celebrate earning a reward to do puzzle, play a game, or use a tablet.



As of November 30, 85% of our students had 0-1 office referrals, 10% had 2-5 office referrals and 5% had more than 6 office referrals. The majority of our referrals are for physical aggression (147) and noncompliant office referrals (109) and a total of 309 referrals. Behaviors can be turned around when we ALL need to teach, reteach, practice and reinforce the expected school behaviors. We thank you for your help with this!

Non-Discrimination Policy

It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (employment only), marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (students/program only) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. District employees with questions or a grievance related to this policy should contact Rodrick Dooley, Executive Director of Human Resources, rdooley@cr.k12.ia.us 319-558-2000. Students and others should contact Ken Morris, Jr., Manager of Student Equity/Title IX Coordinator, kmorris@cr.k12.ia.us or Paul Hayes, Director of Learning Supports/504 Compliance Officer phayes@cr.k12.ia.us 319-558-2000. The District mailing address is 2500 Edgewood Rd NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-1015.

MISSING WINTER CLOTHES

It's that time of year when our Lost and Found box in the front hallway begins to overflow. Coats, boots, snow pants, hats and mittens are expensive and sometimes difficult to replace as the season goes on so PLEASE label your child's clothing and it can be returned when lost. We don't want anyone cold during our winter recesses and miss out on playing in the snow!



LIBRARY NEWS

MRS. VINER AND MRS. HATAWAY

Winter break means a well-deserved reprieve from homework and daily obligations. But before you know it, the holidays will be over and it will be back to business-as-usual. The Cedar Rapids Public Library will be open and a great resource for students and families. Library cards work at the main branch, the Ladd Branch, Hiawatha Library and Marion Library. Some ideas for reading during break follow.

Read for pleasure. Whether your child is in the mood for holiday stories like *The Night Before Christmas* or the newest installment from his favorite series, winter break provides the perfect opportunity to stash schoolbooks and read for fun. Encourage relatives to give books as holiday gifts or gather in front of the fire (big kids too!) to take turns reading from classic tales.

GrantWoodAEA (<http://www.aea10.k12.ia.us/media/onlineResources.html>) provide links to free online books. BookFlix and TumbleBooks are favorites. Students know their logins and passwords. If you need help, please ask the library staff.

VOLUNTEERS

giving time supporting learning

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

DEIDRA USHER

Keep collecting Box Tops, Labels for Education and Hy-Vee receipts. This is helpful to Grant School and raises money for playground equipment such as balls and jump ropes. We also have monthly contests to see which classroom can collect the most Box Tops and which classroom can collect the most Hy-Vee receipts. Also, if you want to volunteer or have any questions please feel free to email or call me.

TITLE ONE TIDBIT

Ways to improve your child's fluency

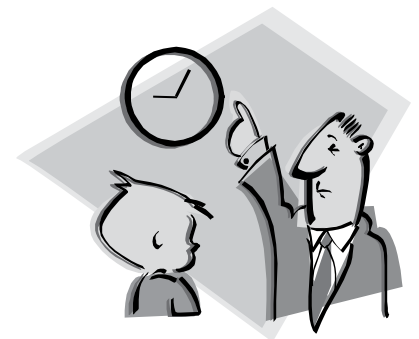


In order to read fluently, students must first hear and understand what fluent reading sounds like. From there, they will be more likely to transfer those experiences into their own reading. The most powerful way for you to help your child is to read aloud to them, often and with great expression.

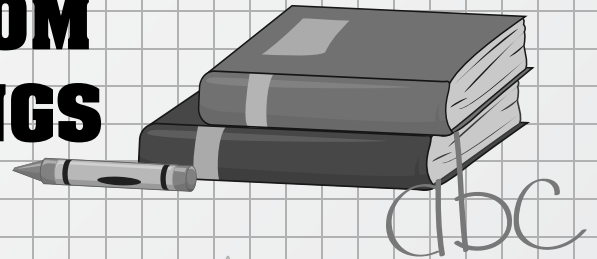
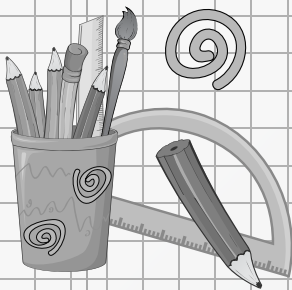
Choose selections carefully. Expose them to a wide variety of genres including poetry, excerpts from speeches, and folk and fairy tales with rich, lyrical language-texts that will spark your student's interests and draw them into reading experience.

BE AT SCHOOL AND ON TIME

While I am excited we are improving on our attendance data, we need to work on getting to school on time. School starts at 8:45. After 8:45 students are considered tardy. We are tracking students that are continually late for school. Teachers start each morning with a community circle. Students that are late miss out on this important classroom community building activity. Students need to begin their day with a positive start.



CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten has had a great beginning to the school year and are very busy learning their letters and their sounds. They are enjoying reading the new reading series and look forward to meeting each new character that corresponds with each new letter they learn. We are also busy concentrating on numbers and shapes and enjoy doing various activities that help us remember all these new facts. We are learning to apply social skills such as sharing and turn taking. Kindergarten students are also learning to respect their peers and their teachers.



FIRST GRADE NEWS

First Graders are working hard on learning Math Facts! We are learning strategies to help us say the answer "Snappy." Some of the strategies we are working on are: Doubles, Near Doubles, Fact Families, Flip Flops. If we can say the fact without help from our fingers or objects and we can say it "Snappy" we say we have "Math Fact Power"! To help us with this, we will be beginning to practice "Rocket Math".

SECOND GRADE NEWS



Second Grade has been busy this year with many different projects. Recently we prepared cards to send to the soldiers in the Iowa National Guard which were sent with their care packages. We are also starting our unit on Immigration and have been discovering about the lives of immigrants when they arrived to America. Second grade has started a new reading series so they have enjoyed learning the new characters in the book. I would like to take this time to encourage you to have your child read at least 20 minutes every day!

THIRD GRADE

Third graders have been busy! We learned so much about structures of life and segregation and slavery. Students continue to work hard on multiplication and division skills. Please keep working at home with learning all the times tables through 12!

Also, we went on two field trips this fall. We went to Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools to see their Playtime Poppy Play, James and the Giant Peach or Elf. Both were wonderful productions put on by our local high schools. Then, in December we went to the Cedar Rapids Public Library.

Finally, we've had a wonderful opportunity to learn from Firefighter Julie and Taylor from Food Corps. Julie taught us about fire safety. We now know to check the fire alarms on our birthdays and to plan for a safe meeting spot. Taylor has been coming to help us "try" new veggies and fruits. She taught us to not YUCH someone else's YUM!

THIRD/FOURTH-MRS. BUCKLEY

Things are running smoothly in the 3-4 combo class! In math 3rd graders were excited to start multiplication and are getting better at their math facts. They are starting division this week. 4th graders are "finally" learning long division; they have been asking about it for a long time! They will start fractions later this month—learning about equivalence, comparing, and adding and subtracting. In Social Studies, 3rd grade is learning about slavery; 4th grade has been learning about Iowa, and now will study the different regions of the United States. In reading, both grade levels are learning to summarize, and are learning to identify various themes, main ideas, and details, using evidence from the stories to support their reasoning. In writing, both grade levels have completed their personal narrative, and we are now practicing opinions writing for the next ELA assessment. We are continuing to learn about friendship, how to solve conflicts peacefully, and treating each other with respect.



FOURTH GRADE

We're off to a good start in fourth grade this year. We've been reviewing skills first taught in third grade and learning many new things.

We have a new reading series this year called Wonders. We have read many stories and practiced identifying theme, main ideas and details, and summarizing. In our guided reading groups students have been reading books at their level and working on comprehension strategies. We have been using our writing skills to write narratives and responses to reading using evidence from the text. We try to read library books at least twenty minutes each day at school and another twenty minutes at home.

We are currently working on Topic ten in math where the students are learning to divide. We took a couple of weeks to really learn standard multiplication and also practiced how to extend and identify patterns, make a rule, round, and add and subtract.

In science we learned about Living Systems and enjoyed having worms and butterflies in our room. In social studies we reviewed with What is History and learned about the history of Iowa and the Progressive Era.

We will continue to work on responsible behavior in the hall, on the playground, in the cafeteria, and in the classroom. Please enable your student to do lots of different kinds of reading at home and remind students to do their nightly 20 minutes of reading. Thank you for the support and encouragement you've given your student the first semester of school.

5TH GRADE ROCKS!

The fifth grade teachers this year are Ms. VanDeest and Mrs. Sherard. After the first few weeks of school, we enjoyed having Ms. Burke come to Grant and substitute long-term for Ms. VanDeest while she was gone on maternity leave.

In reading, we have been focusing on practicing reading fluently and finding the theme of a variety of texts.

In Math, we just finished the Unit 2 test. In Units 1-3 we will be learning about the following SLE's:

- I can add and subtract whole numbers and decimals.
- I can explain the value of a digit in the thousandths place.
- I can multiply and divide whole numbers and decimals

In Social Studies, we learned about the basics of geography and different ways Native Americans adapted to their environment. In Science, we have been learning about the different environments that animals live in and prefer. We grew plants and carefully observed different insects and animals in our classroom and around Grant school.

We have taken two field trips so far this year. We have gone to Wickiup Outdoor Learning Facility and we saw the play Elf Jr. at Kennedy High School



Grant students getting ready to enjoy the play Elf Jr.



Fifth graders used a limited number of marshmallows and toothpicks to try and build the sturdiest structure.



Fifth graders learning about the parts of a buffalo at Wickiup Hill.

