

Grant Gazette

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Remember to check out E-Flyers for the latest non-profit community and school sponsored events.

You can access E-Flyers [here](#) or by clicking on the E-Flyers button on the top bar of the website.

**MAR. 16,
2018**



Important Dates to Remember



Mon.	Mar. 19	8:40a	Vision & Hearing Re-check
	Mar. 19-21	3:30p	G2M
Thurs.	Mar. 22	6:00p	FACT Night—Regi Night
Fri.	Mar. 23	11:30a	EARLY DISMISSAL, End of Quarter
	Mar. 26-30		SPRING BREAK
Mon.	Apr. 2	6:30p	PTO Meeting
Fri.	Apr. 5	9:30a	KG & Gr. 1 to Grand Theater
	Apr. 9-11	3:30p	G2M
	Apr. 16-18	3:30p	G2M
Thurs.	Apr. 19	5:30-7:00p	PTO Bingo Night
	Apr. 23-25	3:30p	G2M
Fri.	Apr. 27	8:45a	KG to School Forest

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarten is springing into action as the flowers begin to bloom and the weather starts to warm up (or so we hope). In reading, we have been working with the Superkids to learn the letters Bb, Rr, Mm, Nn and Pp. As the Superkids continue to teach us about the letters and the letter sounds we have started to read stories about the Superkids and the adventures they go on. We have been working on sounding out words to read them, reading our stories with fluency, and answering questions about the stories. Continue to work with your child at home with the stories they bring home in their Superkids books as we continue to practice here at school. In writing, we have been writing stories about experiences here at school and at home. As your child writes sentences about things he or she has done there are goals they are working on as they write. Your child has also been working on illustrating a picture to match their story by using colors that make sense and adding details to their drawings. Encourage your child to write at home about different things that have happened at school or at home!

Writing Goals:

Start a sentence with a capital letter
Spaces in between words

A period at the end of a sentence
Nice and neat letters

The Wausau School District does not discriminate against individuals on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. Federal law prohibits discrimination in education and employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability. Anyone who believes that the Wausau School District has inadequately applied the principles and/or regulations of Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504 or the Americans with Disabilities Act, may file a complaint with the WSD Equity Director at the Longfellow Administration Center, 415 Seymour Street, Wausau, Wisconsin 54402-0359, or by telephone at 715-261-0500.

In math, we are continuing to work on showing partners for numbers by using break apart sticks and math mountains. By showing partners for two through ten it helps children build their understanding of addition and subtraction. We have also been solving story problems for addition and subtraction stories and writing equations that match. When you are at home or out and about with your child, tell your child a story problem such as the one below to help them practice their addition and subtraction!

Example Story Problem:

Mrs. Zompolas went to the grocery store, she bought two apples and four oranges. How much did she buy altogether? $2+4=6$ Happy Learning!

~Mrs. Meyer & Mrs. Zompolas

FIRST GRADE NEWS

As the year goes on our Superkids stories are getting longer. Students are getting better at solving words more quickly therefore we are able to focus more on practicing reading fluently (smoothly, like we talk, and accurately) and answering questions about what we read. By the end of the year our target for fluency is 53 words per minute. You can help your reader achieve this by setting a one minute timer and asking them to read a story for one minute, then count the number of words they read correctly. Following reading stories it is important to ask your child questions about the story they read or listened to and ask them the meaning of key vocabulary words or concepts. They can retell or summarize the story to you as well to practice verbalizing their understanding. We appreciate the time parents spent coming in to talk to us about their child's learning. We shared with you packets of information about signing your child up for summer school. We believe that it is important for young learners to continue to practice the foundational academic skills gained this year in order to solidify them for future learning. Summer school also offers students opportunity to be social with peers and avoid summer boredom. We are here to help you if you need assistance getting them signed up. If you have questions about your child's learning always feel free to reach out to us. We are willing to meet with you any time, not just at conferences.



~Mrs. Blanchette, Mrs. Majewski, & Mrs. Mertes

SECOND GRADE NEWS

Second graders have been enjoying the various types of weather that Wisconsin has this time of year. Whether it's 45 degrees and they can jump rope or play with playground balls, or it's snowed yet again and they get to build another snow fort, they just can't wait to get outside. In the classroom, they have been making good connections between their Superkids readers and fiction chapter books that are read aloud. It is neat to see those "aha" moments. Second graders are working on seeing the differences in how we talk to friends and family and how we use academic language to answer questions from a story. In math we have just begun our next unit on double-digit subtraction. The second graders are learning many strategies to help them solve subtraction problems involving larger numbers. They should be able to show you some of these strategies at home. They might surprise you with how differently they are learning these strategies versus what you remember learning as a student. Keep practicing those basic addition and subtraction facts at home in order for your child to be more fluent in math. Looking forward to a nice break coming up the end of March and one last quarter to go! Have a great Spring Break!



~Mrs. Seanor & Mrs. Simons

THIRD GRADE NEWS

Third graders are having a busy month of March! On March 13th, we went on a field trip to the Leigh Yawkey Art Museum and took part in an author study of Eric Rohmann. In math we have finished working with division and now we are working with fractions. In April we begin our state testing with the Forward exam, so are spending time each week practicing our typing on Chromebooks. Please remember that on Friday, March 23rd students we be released at 11:30 AM and this marks the start of spring break until students come back on April 2nd.

~Ms. Jandrt, Mrs. Smith, & Ms. Stotmeister

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

It is hard to believe that the end of the 3rd quarter is near! In 4th grade, we are busy preparing for the Forward Exam (Wisconsin's State Test). We will begin testing the week of March 19th. In 4th grade students are tested in four areas (Science, Social Studies, Math, and Language Arts). Please make sure your child is well rested during the testing window. We are beginning to prepare for our May field trips to Madison and The Little Red School House. Please look for information coming home soon about both of these events. Students have been busy in

class learning about poetry. We are reading and writing our own poems. In math, we have just finished up a unit on division and will now begin fractions. In Social Studies we are learning about the states in the Mid-West region and will focus on Wisconsin State History next month. We plan to have our next Family Friday in April after our state testing concludes. Look for information sent home soon!

TESTING

~Mrs. McGrath & Mrs. Witter

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The fifth graders have been very busy in Math learning how to add and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. Our next unit will focus on multiplying and dividing fractions. We continue to work on comprehension skills in Reading, such as, predicting, summarizing, compare/contrast, inferring, while reading a variety of genres.

On March 7th, students had a tour at John Muir Middle School. Many students were both excited and nervous. Hopefully the tour put their minds at ease. Camp School Forest and Transition to Middle School is the program that is offered during Summer School for 5th graders and is a great opportunity for students to become even more familiar with John Muir. There is still time to sign up if you have not done so already! Fifth graders will be starting state testing, which is called the WISCONSIN FORWARD EXAM after spring break during the weeks of April 9th and April 16th, 2018. Thank you for your support!

~Mrs. Fochs & Mrs. Lucht

MUSIC NEWS

Kindergarten: We've been learning some new fingerplay songs such as "5 Little Ducks" and "2 Little Apples" where students speak rhyming words and use movement. We've been singing "Mary Wore Her Red Dress" with each student drawing something Mary wore or did. Another song we've been working on is "Oh A Hunting We Will Go" exploring words that rhyme.



1st grade: We are exploring more fast and slow tempos with the musical story "The Tortoise and the Hare." We also got to watch the a video of "The Tortoise and the Hare" where we compared and contrasted the video compared to our musical story. We've been playing our circle game "Little Johnny Brown" with a scarf where each student gets to sing a solo and practice folding a scarf.

2nd grade: We've been singing a Spanish chant "Bate Bate," working on our ti-ti rhythm. We also get to sing the song and do some partner movements. Another song we've been singing is "Se, Se, Se," a Japanese version of Rock, paper, scissors."

3rd grade: We are playing on our own during music class now! Most of the students have mastered "Hot Cross Buns" and are now working on "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

4th grade: We are playing independently on our own using the Recorder Karate curriculum. Many of the students are working very hard on their songs to achieve that black belt!

5th grade: We've been singing a song about friendship called "Stand by Me" where we had a few people sing solos in class. We learned a new rhythm syn-co-pa which is in the Nigerian song Funga Alafia. We added some drumming to accompany the song, which makes it sound even more awesome! In honor of Black History month in February, we learned "Down by the Riverside" and talked about the importance of the Underground Railroad. Currently, we are learning a very popular sea shanty, "Shenandoah."

~Mrs. Kue

PHY ED NEWS

Kindergarten and first grade students have been working on throwing and catching skills. We are concentrating on stepping with the opposite foot when throwing and getting our hands in the proper position when catching a ball. Second and third graders have worked on hockey skills and being safe with the stick. Fourth and fifth grade students have been playing floor hockey and have been working on proper spacing and offensive and defensive strategies. Physical Education days at Grant will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday until late May unless the schedule is changed with another snow day. If the schedule stays the same the Grant School track meet will be on May 7 with May 8 as the rain date.



~Mr. Luebbe, rluebbe@wausauschools.org

SCIENCE NEWS



Did you know that we have been using technology to help us learn in science class? Playing Kahoot! is a great way for us to review our science vocabulary. QR codes help us to quickly access science information online instead of having to type in a long web address or to access iTunes audio recordings about the Periodic Table. Click the QR code to learn about the water cycle! The Stop Motion Video app was a lot of fun to use to create a stop motion video of the movement of a skeleton. The fifth graders have also had the opportunity to access an interactive periodic table. Did you know that the element phosphorus can be found in our bones, fertilizer, and matches?

~Mrs. Mulry

LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been buzzing with reading, reports and green screens! Students have been learning how to create a video, add a background and polish their presentation. We also celebrated Reading with Dr. Seuss in Read Across America week! March has us programming and working with our robots: Dewey, Decimal and Dot.

~Mrs. Faulkner

LUNCH ROOM NEWS

We had a fun National Breakfast week, March 5-9. We had a contest to see who could answer a few questions about our breakfast. One question was, "On average, how many students ate breakfast?" The answer is 92! The next question was "On average, how much milk do we go through in the morning for breakfast..the answer is 58! The last question was "What is the name of your "lunch ladies"... the answer is Mrs. K (Krueger) and Miss Jen! We enjoyed Dr. Seuss week! The students enjoyed a lunch on Friday of Green eggs and Ham served with Mr. Brown's hash browns! This month's harvest of the month will be served on Monday, March 19th, real local maple syrup to enjoy on our blueberry waffles!

~Mrs. Krueger & Mrs. Johnson

PBIS UPDATE

November 2017:

In November of 2016 there were a total of 134 Behavior Tracking Forms submitted by teachers, compared to 152 Behavior Tracking Forms that were submitted in November 2017. As our students continue to learn and practice respectful, responsible and safe behaviors, we have experienced an increase in behavior tracking forms completed in November 2016 compared to November 2017. The classroom and playground continue to be where most challenging behaviors occur.

December 2017:

In December of 2016 there were a total of 73 Behavior Tracking Forms submitted by teachers, compared to 186 Behavior Tracking Forms that were submitted in December 2017. As our students continue to learn and practice respectful, responsible and safe behaviors, we have experienced an increase in behavior tracking forms completed in December 2017 compared to December 2016. The classroom and playground continue to be where most challenging behaviors occur.

January 2018:

In January of 2017 there were a total of 59 Behavior Tracking Forms submitted by teachers, compared to 131 Behavior Tracking Forms that were submitted in January 2018. As our students continue to learn and practice respectful, responsible and safe behaviors, we have experienced an increase in behavior tracking forms completed in January 2018 compared to January 2017. The classroom and playground continue to be where most challenging behaviors occur.

February 2018:

In February of 2017 there were a total of 72 Behavior Tracking Forms submitted by teachers, compared to 120 Behavior Tracking Forms that were submitted in February 2018. As our students continue to learn and practice respectful, responsible and safe behaviors, we have experienced an increase in behavior tracking forms completed in February 2018 compared to February 2017. The classroom and playground continue to be where most challenging behaviors occur.

Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

March 2018

Wausau School District
Title I Parent Involvement

SHORT NOTES

School events

Show your child that his school is important by asking about and attending events. Encourage him to post notices about plays, award ceremonies, or talent shows on a family bulletin board. You could also put them into your electronic calendar and turn on notifications to remind you.

Musical vocabulary

Enjoying music with your youngster can help her vocabulary grow. Try introducing her to your favorite songs from when you were growing up, and have her share music she likes. Together, listen for new words, and discuss their meanings.

DID YOU KNOW?

More than half of all smokers took their first puff by age 14, so it's not too early to talk to your child about smoking. And with e-cigarette use on the rise, he may think they're a safe alternative. Explain that most e-cigarettes still contain nicotine, which is addictive.

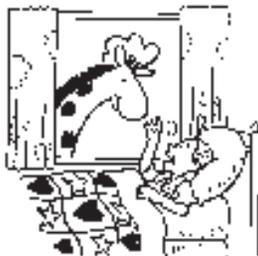
Worth quoting

"We grow great by dreams."
Woodrow Wilson

JUST FOR FUN

Q: What do you get when you cross a rooster and a giraffe?

A: An animal that can wake people on the top floor of a building.



Be "super" respectful

Being respectful is one way your youngster can build strong relationships with teachers, classmates, and family members. Here are tips for helping her understand and show respect.

Imagine your powers!

If your child were a respect "superhero," what would her super-powers be? Let her draw a picture of herself in this role. She might be carrying a backpack full of supplies for writing thank-you notes. Or perhaps she'll be wearing a bracelet with a "grabber" that picks up litter to show respect for the environment.

Roll for respect

Have your youngster number a sheet of paper 1–6. Beside each number, she could list a person (custodian, bus driver, neighbor). Take turns rolling a die and naming a way to show respect for that person. If 2 is for bus driver, she

might say, "Follow bus rules." That demonstrates respect for the job he does.

Write a poem

Suggest that your child write the word RESPECT down the left side of a sheet of paper. She can make an acrostic poem by writing a way to show respect that begins with each letter in the word. Examples: "Really listen when others speak" for R, "Everyone's equal—treat them that way" for E.♥



Break for learning

During spring break, inspire your child to enjoy learning adventures outside the classroom. Consider these ideas.

● **Live coverage.** Let your youngster practice writing and speaking by pretending to be a news reporter covering your family's spring break. He might write about activities like playing with cousins or making his favorite meal with you. At the end of the week, invite him to read his "broadcast" to the family.

● **Spot the state.** Print out a United States map online, or have your child draw one, and take it in the car. Everyone calls out license plates they see from different states, and your youngster finds and colors each state on his map. How many states will he locate by the end of spring break?♥



Ready for standardized tests

Springtime is state test time for many students. Encourage your child to do his best with this advice.

Be strategic. Suggest that your youngster use strategies that increase his chances of getting the right answer. If he has to answer multiple-choice questions about a passage, he could read the questions first so he knows what to look for in the text. For fill-in-the-blank items, he might read the sentence with each possible answer to see which one makes the most sense.



Plan before writing.

Your child will do better on a short answer or essay section if he takes time to plan what he will write.

This may be as simple as listing his main points on scrap paper. Then, he can write about each

point in a separate paragraph in his essay. Or he might create

an outline. His essay will be more organized, and he'll be more likely to include all the important information.

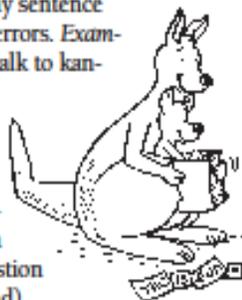
Idea: Tell your youngster to stay calm and confident. Remind him that he has been preparing for the test simply by going to school and completing his work.♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Grammar detective

Using proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation will help your youngster write clearly and effectively. Practice together with these activities:

- Write a funny sentence that contains errors. *Example:* "can you talk to kangaroos." Let your child read it and correct your mistakes (capitalize the C in *can*, put a question mark at the end).



Then, she could write a sentence with errors for you to fix.

- Together, cut out words and punctuation marks from newspaper or magazine headlines. Put them in a bag, and have your youngster pull out one at a time until she can form a sentence using correct grammar and punctuation.♥

Q & A

Build sibling bonds

Q: I'd like my kids to be close, but they bicker a lot. How can I help them have a better relationship?

A: It's common for siblings to squabble.

What's important is that they form a connection that helps them enjoy each other (at least sometimes) and handle disagreements.

Try giving them tasks that require them to rely on each other. For instance, one might wash dishes and the other dry them, and then they could put them away together. Also, encourage them to spend time doing something they both enjoy, like hitting baseballs or playing with toy dinosaurs.

Finally, use their disagreements to build their conflict-resolution skills. When they argue, let them take turns setting a timer for 1 minute and explaining their side to the other. If they can't come up with a solution, suggest they take a break by going into separate rooms. They can try again when they've both calmed down and had a chance to think.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Protecting your child online

My fifth grader, Sadie, likes to watch videos on a kid-friendly website. I worried that she might come across something inappropriate, so I looked at the site's help page.

Luckily, I found several safety features. I marked Sadie's account private and disabled the "comment" option. And I changed her search settings so mature content will be less likely to pop up.



I explained to Sadie that the changes would help keep her safe from strangers and away from videos that may upset or confuse her. But since I know settings aren't foolproof, I told her to come to me if she sees anything that bothers her. I also reminded her not to upload anything without my permission and to never post personal information.

I still keep an eye on Sadie's internet use, but I feel like she's better protected now. Plus, she's learning good habits for the future.♥

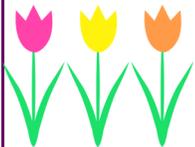
OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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GRANT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CALENDAR OF EVENTS March–April 2018

18	19–Day 5	20–Day 1	21–Day 2	22–Day 3	23–Day 4	24
	8:45a V&H Re-Check 3:30p G2M 6:00p Youth Softball	6:00p Youth Softball	7:45a Good News 1:30p Raptors-Gr. 5, gym	6:00p FACT Regi Night	End of Quarter 11:30a Early Dismissal	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	S P R I N G B R E A K					
April 1	2–Day 5	3–Day 1	4–Day 2	5–Day 3	6–Day 4	7
	6:30p PTO		7:45a Good News	9:30a KG to Grand 6:00p GS, art rm		
8	9–Day 5	10–Day 1	11–Day 2	12–Day 3	13–Day 4	14
	3:30p G2M		7:45a Good News			
15	16–Day 5	17–Day 1	18–Day 2	19–Day 3	20–Day 4	21
	3:30p G2M		7:45a Good News	5:30-7:00p PTO Bingo 6:00p GS, art rm		