

Leopard Prints

NEWS FROM THE PRINCIPAL

February brought us the ground hog proclaiming that winter would last a little longer.

March came in “like a lion” with rain and cold, and will hopefully go out gently “like a lamb”.

April may bring us “showers”, but then the flowers will come in May.

Each year April brings things that lead us into May, and this year will not be any different. Again this year, during the month of April, our 3rd through 6th grade teachers will be preparing our students for California State testing. Then in May these students will be given the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP).

“The primary purpose of this standardized test is to assist teachers, administrators, students, and parents by promoting high-quality teaching and learning through the use of a variety of assessment approaches and item types.”(California Department of Education)

This year student learning on-site and online will take the CAASPP using a computer. District computers have already had the secure browser downloaded to the device. If your child is using a personal device to participate in learning, then it will be necessary to download the secure browser onto the device. The instructions are easy to follow, just ask your teacher for more details.

The results from the assessments will not be available in May, but they will show you how your child is growing and flowering as a learner. So if you are ever asked, “What do May flowers bring?” You can answer, “Students with Learning Power”.

NEWS FROM MRS. MICHELLE

As we head into April and the official count down for summer begins, please remember that all 6th grade vaccines (TDaps) are required to enroll in middle school. If you have not provided a copy to the office this would be the time to do so. In addition, the only vaccine exemption is a medical note from your child’s physician.

Spring weather can require layering. Please remember to label sweaters and jackets with students’ names. This way, if lost, they may be returned to the rightful owner.



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CARES PROGRAM

- **Fall registration will begin Monday, April 5th at 7:00AM**
- **Summer Camp registration will begin Monday, April 19th at 7:00AM**

<https://www.orangeusd.org/child-development-services/cares/sites>

TK NEWS

Hello Spring!

Wow! I can't believe that it has been a year of on-line learning since the arrival of the Pandemic. However, as an unexpected outcome, my students are becoming very tech savvy. They are doing an amazing job using technology in their everyday learning. Everyone is adjusting so well and I am so proud of each and every one of them.

In keeping with spring, we have been learning about animals and the life cycle of the butterfly. We did many cute, fun activities about butterflies and created a colorful bulletin board in our class to showcase our learning.



For April, we will focus on nature all around us. We will be exposed to how plants grow, what's in the sky, our weather, and the four seasons. Children are encouraged to be curious about their environment by watching plant growth and observing changes they see in the sky, weather, and seasons. It will be a fun unit and I can't wait to cover it all in class.

6TH GRADE NEWS

Can you believe we have less than 50 days left of school? Time flies when you are having fun. Santiago visited us in March and will return mid-April to discuss their electives for next year.

In math we are learning about statistics and area. Mrs. Grant continues to pilot a new social studies adoption for next year while Ms. Ward continues with science and some experiments.

Students are enjoying their weekly VAPA and PE classes. We are also starting to prepare the students for SBAC testing by doing weekly interim assessment.



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Welcome to the third trimester of kindergarten. Our kinders have one foot into the next grade! We are reinforcing the skills that will carry them into first grade and beyond.

In language arts, we have completed introducing all our letters and sounds. The children are working daily on blending sounds to read and write words. Also, we have begun the great Rainbow Challenge. These are words that have been taught throughout the year and the goal is to become fluent and confident reading them. Be on the lookout for those spontaneous "ah ha" moments when your child realizes they can recognize words in print. It is absolutely thrilling!



In kindergarten, numbers are incorporated throughout our curriculum. We give real world meaning to our numbers by using them in our daily routines. Counting to 100 is kind of a big deal in kindergarten! Being able to count is a skill that students need before they can learn more complex skills. Now that most of our students have mastered counting to 100, we are moving on to addition.

As we head into the last trimester, we tell our students that they are almost first graders. Spring has sprung. Watch them grow!

4TH GRADE NEWS

We are continuing to move upward and onward in 4th grade!

In social studies we are finishing up our unit on the California Mission System. Students were assigned a mission to learn about and had to be prepared to share their information with their classmates in paragraph form on paper or on Google slides. They also completed an AVID One-Pager, which gave them the opportunity to share what they learned in a very different kind of format. Moving forward we will be learning about the transition from Spanish rule in California to Mexican rule, and the California Rancho system that took over after the missions were closed.



In April we will begin our third novel study of "The Great Horn Spoon"! This historical fiction tale takes us on a journey with a young boy named Jack as he travels from Boston to the California gold fields in search of riches to save his families estate. This is always a fun read and captures the imagination of kids very easily. When we finish the novel, students may take a Reading Count's test on the book. Our goal this trimester is 60 points by May 28th.

In math we will be taking a break from long division and moving into our topic on fractions. You will see work coming home on comparing fractions, finding equivalent fractions, and ordering fractions, just to name a few of the skills. Students should be continuing to complete their iReady assignments as homework each night.

2ND GRADE NEWS

Hello Families!

We cannot believe that we are already starting the last Trimester of the year! We just wrapped up our Flat Stanley book reports and are finishing our Kindness projects. Our hearts are full, and we have really enjoyed hearing about all the kind acts that our second graders and their families have done. We are making a difference in the world, as one act of kindness can have a powerful and lasting effect on others!



We have been busy with our Trimester 3 assessments and have set new goals to work towards. We have already grown so much and are excited to grow even more in this last Trimester! Keep up the great work second graders! Let's reach our goals together!



5TH GRADE NEWS

We all enjoyed our virtual Walk Through the Revolution! The kids had a blast and did a great job with their props, costumes, and memorizing their lines. We appreciate the PTA for sponsoring this fantastic program. What a great way to learn about our American history!



Currently, each class is enjoying a novel study, Guns for General Washington and Woods Runner. Both stories add additional context as we begin to study the causes of the American Revolution. We are also reviewing and applying skills previously practiced in Units 1-3 of Wonders; focusing on author's purpose, multiple perspectives, and character trait development. For all 5th grade students, we have added to our reading stamina by increasing the Reading Counts point goal to 70 points for Trimester 3.

In math, fractions are keeping us busy! We have begun working on understanding how to multiply mixed numbers and after Spring Break, we will learn about dividing them too! Our 5th graders have become experts in graphing ordered pairs on the X and Y axis and have even created some pretty amazing St. Patrick's Day rainbows!

We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break!

3RD GRADE NEWS

We have jumped into the third trimester ready to go! The third graders have been doing a lot of writing. We've been working on narrative and opinion writing. They've been doing a great job providing details to support their opinions. Our language arts unit theme has been *Meet the Challenge* and these students have done just that. They have been busy learning about figurative language, author's point of view, poetry, and biographies in language arts.

In math, Geometry has been our focus. 3rd graders can now look at polygons and know how to classify them. They learned many new math vocabulary words. Most recently they have been calculating perimeter and area. They've noticed that sometimes shapes can have the same perimeter, but different areas and vice versa. We continue to practice our multiplication facts to keep them fresh in our mind.

In social studies, 3rd graders will become masters in Geography. From continents to the landforms that cover them, the various types of physical features will be covered. Reading all kinds of maps and why they each have a different purpose to the reader will be discussed. What a great start to this last trimester!

LOST & FOUND

Please make sure to check the Lost & Found for any items your student may be missing. The cart is filling up quickly, and we need for these items to go back to their homes.

Any items not claimed will be donated to charity on Friday, April 30th at 3:30PM.

1ST GRADE NEWS

The First Graders have been hard at work. We celebrated St. Patrick's Day with some fun digital activities such as: This or That, Jokes, Unscramble Words, Find It, Leprechaun Names, and Dances. The students worked on a writing piece in which they wrote about reasons why they were lucky.

Our New Wonders Unit that we have been working on is: Figure it Out, which includes: See It, Sort It, Up in The Sky, Great Inventors and Sounds All Around.

We have begun our social studies unit, Celebrating America. We will be studying: Why Americans Celebrate Independence Day, What Our National and State Symbols Mean, and What do Monuments Help Us Remember.

We have just completed our Topic 9 Unit: Comparing Numbers to 120 in Math. We will be moving into our next Unit in which the students will be adding with tens and ones.



The first graders continue to enjoy their time with Coach Joel for PE and Mrs. McCausland for the library.

