



Washington Wavelength

February/March 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Washington Families,

We are all aware of the fact that literacy skills are the key to success in school and life beyond. Our primary goal at Washington is for all students to leave here with the skills necessary to be successful in the years ahead. Accordingly, we place a heavy emphasis on literacy skills, from the most basic foundational skills to higher-level critical reading and comprehension skills. We are also aware of the important role that parents and families play in supporting student growth in reading. If you are wondering about some ways you can assist your child in developing their interest in reading and growing their skills, here are a couple of easy opportunities that we would encourage all families to consider.

1. **Literati:** A fundraising opportunity for the Washington School LMC. This is a way to purchase books for your child's home library and it helps raise funds to purchase books for the school's library. You can purchase books online using the following link <https://efairs.literati.com/?school=WASHINGTON-ELEMENTARY-SCHOOL-JANESVILLE-WI> or books can be purchased in person at the book fair during March conferences.
2. **Janesville Jets Reading Club:** The Janesville Jets and SSM Health have created a program to encourage kids to read on a regular basis. During the week of January 30th, information regarding this program was sent home with each Washington student. The program runs from February 6th through March 3rd. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping all Washington students learn and achieve at high levels. Included in this newsletter are some important dates to take note of, including the spring sing and parent-teacher conferences.

Best Regards,

Matt Peerenboom, Principal

Important Dates

February

14 - PTA Meeting 5:30pm
23 - End of 2nd Trimester
24 - No School for Students

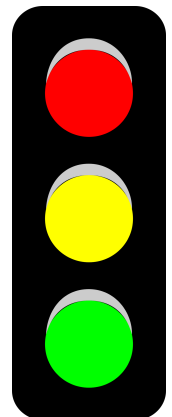
March

1 - Conferences 4-7pm
2 - Conferences - 8am - 7pm - No School for Students
3 - No School for Students or Teachers
10 - No P4J Classes
14 - PTA Meeting 5:30pm
17- Spring Sings
 KG - 8:45am
 1st Gr - 9:45am
 2nd Gr - 10:45am
 4th Gr - 12:15pm
 3rd Gr - 1:15pm
 5th Gr - 2:15pm
20 - 24 - Spring Break - No School
31 - No School for Students

Please like and follow our Facebook page [Washington Elementary School - Home](#)

Traffic and Safety Reminders

- **Stop Drop and Go Area:** Parking is not allowed in this area. Please make sure to go as soon as you have dropped your child off. If you feel more comfortable you can park your car outside of the Stop-Drop & Go area and walk your child to the appropriate area.
- The **parking lot is not to be used** for dropping off or picking up students before or after school. If you need to use the parking lot during school hours, please use the visitor parking stalls.
- **Crosswalks:** Please have your child use the designated crosswalks each time he/she is crossing the road. Please do not park within 10 feet of the crosswalks as this makes it difficult for crossing guards to see any oncoming traffic.
- **Drive slowly around the school and be attentive.**



Grade Level/Special Area News

P4J

P4J Students have been working on recognizing letters and practicing letter sounds. We have been naming the letters in our names and writing our names. In February and March, we will focus on Valentines, Dental Health, Dr. Suess stories and rhymes, and St. Patrick's Day. We will be continuing to work on our fine motor skills of cutting, holding a pencil/crayon, picking up small items, and writing our names. Families can work on these skills at home as well by: lacing beads, making beaded or cheerio/fruit loop necklaces, playing with playdough, cutting, and writing names. We will also continue working on our counting and 1 to 1 correspondence. Playing board games at home can help with these skills and also helps students practice taking turns.

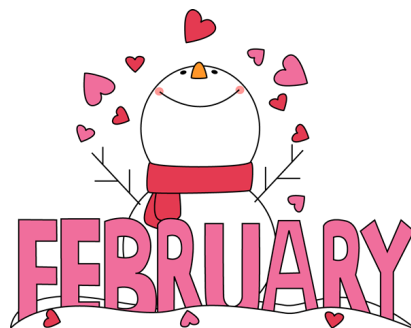
Kindergarten

February is a busy month celebrating Groundhog's Day, the 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and Children's Dental Health Month!

Also, in February we will be completing assessments for trimester 2. Please continue to practice and review – counting, number recognition, shapes, letters, sounds, words, and tying shoes.

For Valentine's Day, we will be doing activities in the classroom. This year we are able to give out Valentines. Please refer to the Valentine note that came home.

Please be sure your child is dressed for winter. Snow pants and boots are a MUST in order to play in the snow. **All students go outside unless it is below zero.**



First Grade

Happy New Year! First graders are working hard in this new year on reading, writing, and math. We want to remind you to please listen to your child read their decodable stories each night at home. Practicing rereading these passages for 10-15 minutes will reap huge rewards in their reading success! In math we will be working on using single digit addition, in which we are fluent in, to then solve larger addition facts. Place value will also be a focus in the upcoming weeks. Just a reminder to send dry shoes in your child's backpack when they wear boots to school. They also need athletic shoes on days we have PE. Thank you for your support!

Second Grade

During the next several weeks, our second graders will be reading a variety of genres. Through this literature, we will integrate our social studies program into our reading. The students will become more adept at using the variety of text features to improve their understanding of non-fiction material. The children will be writing opinion pieces, focusing on their favorite season.

In math, the children have enjoyed our measuring unit and are getting quite good at estimating distances. Our next focus will be on place values. We will be exploring values to 1,000 as well as place value with money. Continue to be on the lookout for math home connections that are sent home two to three times a week.

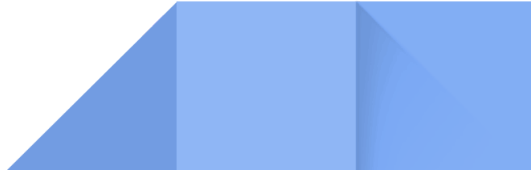
Please check with your child that they have all the necessary tools to do their work in the classroom. We are about halfway through the school year and many students are in need of working headphones, crayons and **dry erase markers**.

Continue to encourage your child to come to school with the proper winter attire. We have found it helps when they bring their winter gear to and from school in a separate bag. It can be difficult to put snow pants as well as home folders in the backpacks.

Third Grade

A “few” things from Third Grade! In math we are busy learning about fractions, division, and our geometry unit is coming up. Please continue to complete the weekly math homework sheets.

In reading we will be reading realistic fiction, expository texts and poetry (narrative, free verse and haiku.) Our reading skills are focusing on finding text evidence, explaining different characters' perspectives and how one or more characters develop throughout the plot, figurative language, theme and text features. In writing we will be finishing up our persuasive writing and getting into writing expository texts while doing some research to support our central idea.



In Science we are just finishing up our simple machines and magnets unit and will have some STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) lessons in the library area, with Mrs. Miller, to further understand the Engineering Design Process. In trimester 3 we will be learning more about ecosystems. In Social Studies, we will be learning about Janesville's history. Students love this unit, and each year they are amazed by the history we have right here!

We are also getting started with our preparation for the Forward Wisconsin state testing. More information will be shared at conferences. In the meantime, continue to read 15 -20 minutes each night. We look forward to seeing you at conferences and sharing more about your child's successes!

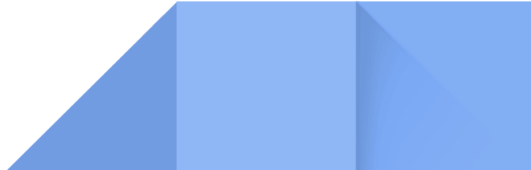
Fourth Grade

Students in grade 4 have been working on different strategies to help them solve larger addition and subtraction problems. They built on what they learned about addition in the first weeks after the holiday break and shifted their focus to subtraction. We utilize problem strings and story problems to help students better understand which strategy might be the most useful to them based on the problem they are addressing. Our goal is to find a strategy that they not only feel comfortable and confident in using, but also one that is the most efficient.

Social Studies and reading classes have often overlapped. For example, this week students focused their attention on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his lifetime accomplishments. They were able to learn more about the Civil Rights Movement and his tireless efforts to realize his dream of equality between all people. In reading, our texts centered on biographies of other individuals contributing to the end of segregation in the United States.

Fifth Grade

In fifth grade we have been busy and are always onto the next thing! In math, we just finished up our unit on decimals, and now transitioning into a unit on multiplying and dividing fractions. In reading, we are finishing up expository texts and will soon be moving on to reading biographies. In writing, students will be using what they learned in reading to apply that to their own expository writings, and then also complete a research project for a biography as well! In social studies we finished up our unit on the colonial times and are now moving to the Revolutionary war; and in science we are working on a unit about force and motion. In a few weeks we will also begin working on a biztown unit that will set us up for Biztown in April, more information about that will follow later! It's hard to believe how far into the year we are but we look forward to seeing you at conferences in the beginning of March!



Learning Commons

The book fair is back with a Secrets of the Sea theme. Our online companion fair found at: efairs.literati.com will open 3-4 weeks before our fair to get a head start at a deep dive into reading.

Sneak peek book trailers here: [K-3](#) [4-6](#)
March 1st & 2nd.



Counselor Connections

Hello families!

We have begun learning in our Second Step curriculum. Throughout the year, your child may be bringing home Home Links that go with several of the Second Step lessons. Home Links are simple, fun activities for you and your child to complete together. They are a great way for you to understand what your child is learning and for your child to show you what he or she knows. If you have any questions about the Second Step program, please do not hesitate to contact me for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Go online to SecondStep.org and log in with the activation key **CPUK FAMI LYGK** to get more information about what your child is learning in the Second Step program. Thank you for helping us to make our school a safe and supportive place where everyone can learn!

If you have any questions about what we will be learning, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at morgancasey-schm@janeyville.k12.wi.us, call me at (608)743-7225, or via text at (608)561-1424.

Notes from the room

5th Graders:

The 5th grade students finished their instrument packets, and the students who are interested in taking band or orchestra in 6th grade were able to work with a middle school band and orchestra teacher to try out some of those instruments. Then they filled out their schedule for middle school!! So exciting!!

They are finishing up their recorder unit by composing 4-measure melodies in a range from Middle C up to 4th space D that they will perform for the rest of the class on their recorders. The students could choose to work on their own or with a partner for this composition assignment. They really had to focus on their Treble Clef Staff reading skills, as well as their rhythm skills in order to complete this assignment, and they also honed in on their recorder playing skills.

Starting in February, the students will be choosing 7 or 8 popular songs to perform in their upcoming performance in March. The students will be able to sing solos or with a small group, as well as assist in writing introductions for the songs and introducing them for the show. We will also work some instrument performing into the performance, as well.

****5th Grade Performance will take place on Friday, March 17!!** Save the date!**

4th Grade:

The 4th graders have been finishing up with ukuleles and chords, playing along with songs like, “Best Day of My Life” and “Thunder.” They have been reviewing and applying Dynamics (volume) and the Italian words we use for that in music as they played along with songs. We will begin working on the Recorders, which are beginning woodwind instruments.

The students will begin working on their “Pirates 2: The Hidden Treasure” musical in February, learning the songs and auditioning for and memorizing speaking parts and singing solos. We will work some instruments into the musical, as well. The students are excited to begin learning the show!

****The 4th Grade Performance will take place Friday, March 17th!** Save the date!**

2nd & 3rd Grade:

These students have been learning chords on the ukuleles and have learned to accompany several fun songs, including songs you can hear on the radio! They have recently been reviewing several Italian words that are used in music that have to do with Dynamics (volume) and Tempo (speed of the beat). They are learning a game that is similar to the Hot and Cold game, and it uses Crescendo (gradually getting louder) and Decrescendo (gradually getting quieter) to let the person know whether or not they are close to the item they are supposed to be finding. The students are loving this game! They also honed in on their Treble Clef Staff-reading and rhythm-reading skills when they learned the song they need to sing when they play the game.

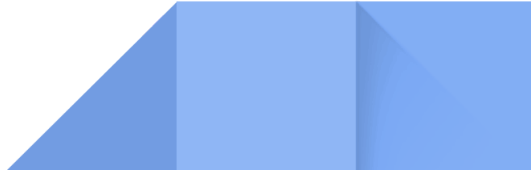
The 2nd and 3rd graders will be performing a musical in March and will begin learning the songs and the speaking parts and solos for these shows beginning in February. The students are very excited to get started on their shows!

****The Performances are Friday, March 17th** Save the date!**

Kindergarten & 1st Grade:

Kindergarteners and 1st Graders have been learning about Guido d’Arezzo, who was a monk living in a monastery in a small Italian village and developed the music staff, which is the system on which we write music notes, as well as the music scale and solfège, which is Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, and Ti. This is why we still use so many Italian words in music today. The students learned six Italian words that have to do with the volume or Dynamics of music. We sang songs and used our voices to sing the words according to what they mean, as well as used motions to help us remember the meaning. They have just begun learning some Italian words that have to do with Tempo or the speed of the Beat. Ask your children to sing these songs to you or tell you some of the Italian words they have learned!

These students have also been busy finishing up their E, G, and F compositions on the music staff that we started working on before winter break. The students will perform their



compositions for their classmates as soon as everyone has completed their musical masterpieces!

These kindergarten and 1st grade students will begin learning their spring musicals as February begins! We will become fish and sea creatures for our upcoming shows. They are getting ready to sing and dance and learn their parts as we prepare for these performances!

****The performances will take place on Friday, March 17th!** Save the date!**

A Few Lines from Washington's Art Studio



Dear Families,

I am very excited to announce that the **Square 1 Art Fundraiser** is back this year! The money raised goes back to your child in the form of purchased art supplies for Washington students.

Students are creating a very special art masterpiece that you may purchase on unique gifts and keepsakes to enjoy for a lifetime. Every order made will help you preserve the special memories of your child's creative growth in a fun and inspiring way! You may want to share your child's awesome art with family or friends for fun or for special occasions such as birthdays, Mother's Day, or Father's Day.

Student artwork will be shipped to the Square 1 Art Company February 6th and returned back to us by February 22nd. **Order catalogs will be sent home February 23rd** along with student artwork, and a free sticker page with their artwork on it.

Families place all orders online by scanning the code on the catalog. All items will be shipped directly to your house. Orders should arrive approximately 2-3 weeks from the order date. **All orders must be placed online by March 3rd.**

Our Washington community looks forward to an amazing fundraiser with Square 1 Art!

Sincerely,

Lynn Hopfauf
Washington Art Educator



PE News



Hello Washington Families,

We have been having fun in the gym learning new skills and getting better at ones that we have already used before. In these next couple months we will be starting to work on some volleying skills with volleyball, dribbling skills with basketball, rollerblading in the gym, and learning about the heart and how it works.

We will be rollerblading between February 20 to March 3, if you would like to have your student bring in their own helmet and other safety equipment that is okay but it is not required. I will be sending out more information in the coming weeks to remind everyone as well.

If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me. zachary.hutson@janesville.k12.wi.us or call at 608-743-7248.



Kick-Off to P4J Enrollment

for children who turn four years old on or before September 1, 2023.

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Kick-Off to Enrollment will take place at the Educational Service Center at 527 S Franklin St,
Janesville WI 53548.

A Parent or Legal Guardian must attend the Enrollment Appointment.

Enrollment will be done by appointment ONLY.

Starting January 16, 2023 you can:

1. Call to make a P4J enrollment appointment for our Kick-off date or later.
For February 11th Kick-off appointments call 608-743-5038.
For appointments needed after the kick-off date call 608-743-5011.
2. Pick up enrollment packet at the Educational Service Center at 527 S Franklin St,
Janesville

Documentation Needed For Your Appointment:

1. Completed Enrollment Paperwork (will not be accepted prior to February 11, 2023)
2. Proof of Residency (copy of lease/purchase agreement or utility bill must be dated within
the last 60 days)
3. Guardian Identification (Drivers License/State ID)
4. Child's Immunization Records
5. Child's Birth Certificate

If you live outside of the School District of Janesville you will need to apply for Open Enrollment.

For P4J Questions contact

Angela Lynch, P4J Coordinator, or Peggy Karleski, P4J Secretary Educational Services Center
527 S Franklin St.
608-743-5038

INICIO DE INSCRIPCIONES DE P4J

PARA NIÑOS QUE TIENEN CUATRO AÑOS CUMPLIDOS AL 1º DE

Septiembre de 2023

Sábado 11 de febrero de 2023

El inicio de inscripciones será en el Centro de Servicios Educativos en:

527 S Franklin St, Janesville WI 53548.



Un padre, madre o tutor legal debe asistir a la cita de inscripción.

Podrá inscribir SOLAMENTE si tiene una cita previa.

A partir del 16 de enero de 2023 usted podrá:

1. Llamar para hacer una cita en el inicio de inscripción a P4J o fecha posterior.

Para citas de inicio el 11 de febrero, llame al 608-743-5038.

Para citas después de la fecha de inicio, llame al 608-743-5011.

2. Recoger el paquete de inscripción en el Centro de Servicios Educativos en:

527 S Franklin St, Janesville

DOCUMENTACIÓN NECESARIA PARA SU CITA:

1. Papeleo de inscripción llenado (no se acepta antes del 11 de febrero de 2023)
2. Comprobante de residencia (copia del contrato de renta/compra, o factura de Servicios públicos. Debe estar fechado dentro de los últimos 60 días)
3. Identificación del padre o madre (licencia de conducir/identificación estatal)
4. Registros de vacunación del niño
5. Acta de nacimiento del niño

Si vive fuera del Distrito Escolar de Janesville, deberá solicitar la Inscripción Abierta.

Si tiene preguntas sobre P4J, comuníquese con:

Angela Lynch, Coordinadora de P4J, o Peggy Karleski, Secretaria de P4J

Centro de Servicios Educativos

527 S Franklin St

608-743-5038

