



Washington Wavelength

April/May/June 2023

FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Dear Washington Families,

As we are closing in on the month of May, I'm finding it hard to believe how fast the year has gone by. It's been such a pleasure working with the Washington students this year and we are incredibly impressed by the growth they have made. As hard as it is to see the year come to a close, it brings us great joy to reflect on the progress students have made over the course of the year. They've worked hard and are continuing to do so during the WI State Forward Exam, which will be concluding this week. We are proud of their efforts and know that each child has done his or her best.

Spring is always a busy time of year and in this newsletter you will notice several important dates and upcoming events. As the school year winds down, you can expect more information coming home with your child about these activities and more.

In closing, I would like to thank Washington's PTA for all of their contributions to the Washington School community, the support they have provided to promote learning, and the fun events they have planned for our students to enjoy. Your time and energy is greatly appreciated and helps to make Washington a great place for students to learn. I would also like to thank all of our parents and families for your ongoing support and involvement this year. The partnership between school and families is crucial to the success of each child we serve. Thank you for all you do and I hope you have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Mr. Matt Peerenboom
Principal

In case you missed it, here is a link to the grade level musical performances in March: [Link](#)

Important Dates

April

- 6 and 7 - No School
- 12 - 5th Grade Field Trip to BizTown
- 13 - FRC Family Dinner 5:30-7pm
- 14 - PTA Movie Night 6pm
- 18 - Culver's Scoopie Night 4-8pm
- 21 - No P4J

May

- 4 - 3rd Grade Field Trip to Tallman House
- 9 - 2nd Grade Field Trip to JSOL - p.m.
- 12 - No P4J
- 18 - Kindergarten Field Trip to Busy Barns
- 19 - No Afternoon P4J Class
- 23 - 5th Grade Track Meet - a.m.
- 24 - 4th Grade Track Meet - a.m.
- 25 - PTA Ice Cream Social 5-7pm
- 26 - Track Meet Rain Date
- 29 - Memorial Day, No School

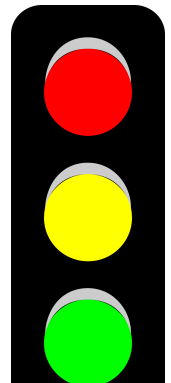
June

- 6 - Kindergarten, 2nd Grade and 3rd Grade Field Trip to Palmer Park
- 7 - Last Day of School

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

Early Childhood

Our classroom consists of our youngest learners that are three and four years old and have been identified as being a child with a disability. Our classroom has a special education teacher as well as an assistant special education teacher. Throughout our sessions, many other specialists come to work with the children, including: speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, vision therapist and mobility specialist.

Skills that we work on in the early childhood classroom include increasing language knowledge with nursery rhymes, strengthening our motor growth by stretching, reaching, crossing midline on our bodies, increasing balance, getting our fingers and eyes ready for reading by increasing their strength and stamina, and increasing the amount of time that we stay engaged in tasks not of our choosing, becoming more independent and tolerating transitions and regulating our feelings.

The brains of our youngest learners are busy making connections and organizing those connections, which will become the foundation of all further learning. Even a child's play is helping the architecture of the brain. When we talk back and forth to our children, we are helping with making those connections in the brain.

In the early childhood classroom we love getting our hands dirty. We have many different sensory bins that go with our various themes. We love playdough but also explore slime, putty, noodles, shells, rice, sand, water, and shaving cream.

P4J

P4J students have been working hard on recognizing letters and naming their sounds. We have also been practicing some problem solving skills and ways to calm down when we have big feelings. Throughout April and May, we will continue to focus on letter recognition, letter sounds, number recognition, and counting, writing our names independently, and practicing our problem solving skills.



Kindergarten

It is really hard to believe we are approaching the end of our kindergarten year! We have learned so much this year and we will continue all the way until the very end! Here is a list of things that first grade teachers want their future first graders to be able to do in the fall: writing his/her own name neatly with an uppercase letter at the beginning and lowercase letters for the rest, knowing alphabet letters and sounds, counting and number recognition, reading consonant-vowel-consonant words AND tying his/her own shoes.

This summer, please consider sending your child to Washington for Getting Ready for First Grade during summer school. It is a great opportunity for students to continue on skills taught during the school year, see friends, and receive a free breakfast and lunch! Summer school will be from June 12- July.

First Grade

First graders are working hard! Our reading themes for the end of the year integrate science topics such as classifying and categorizing, up in the sky, inventions and inventors, sound, and how things get built. Decodable books will continue to come home each week. Please remember to listen to your child read these stories to help them practice their word knowledge and fluency. In Math we are working on place value, and continuing to focus on addition and subtraction strategies. Kids are also working to tell time on digital and analog clocks to the hour and half hour. Spring weather is unpredictable. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately each day for the weather.

Second Grade

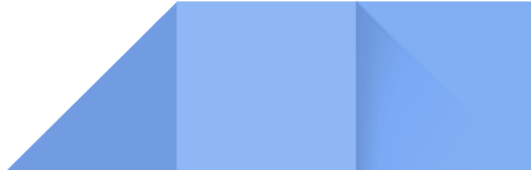
It is hard to believe we are closing in on the end of the year.

In reading, we will focus on comprehension and fluency skills. Please continue to practice the weekly sight words and read with your child each night.

The end of the year will find us studying measurement, fractions, multi-digit computation and place value in math. Please continue to work with your child on the homework and games sent home.

During this trimester we have been working on biographies. We will be studying Helen Keller and Bessie Coleman. Then students will be writing their own biography.

We will be taking students on a trip to the JSOL in May. This will be a way to extend our learning of plants and animals in science. Look for more information to be coming closer to the date.



We have enjoyed having your children this year. We are so proud of how they have risen to meet the many challenges we faced and the growth they have made. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Third Grade

Wow! We can't believe it's already Trimester 3! It was great to be able to talk to parents at conferences and share what we are doing in class. 3rd grade students have been busy preparing for their first time taking the state testing. They have been working very hard.

In math we are continuing to work on multiplication/division, perimeter/area, telling time, geometry, and fractions. In reading we are continuing to learn more about fiction and nonfiction stories. In writing we are working on a variety of pieces and our main focus for the trimester is writing informational pieces and a research project. In Science we will be learning about weather and ecosystems. We will be learning about Janesville's history in Social Studies. We will be going on a field trip to the Tallman House and Frances Willard School house. Be on the lookout for more information later this Spring!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders are busy getting ready for Forward testing. They are especially excited to be able to use a chromebook. In addition to our regular class work we have been taking time to discuss testing expectations and strategies. Students have engaged in practice tests in the areas of ELA, science, social studies, and mathematics. Students are able to familiarize themselves with the type of content the tests will cover and learn how to better navigate through questions that might not be as easy for them to answer. Please help your student get a good night's rest so that they can do their best work on each and every test!

Students in this grade level will be continuing to work on multiplication and division strategies, studying line plots to analyze data, as well as practicing how to convert fractions to decimals. In social studies we continue learning about Wisconsin's early heritage. Our studies are taking us on a historical journey from being just a territory to becoming a state. Class discussions focus on Wisconsin's three major economic enterprises of manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism. Students will create booklets identifying Wisconsin state symbols, cultural traditions, government structure, historical landmarks, mapping major cities and bodies of water as well as identifying individuals that played a significant role in the development of our state. In science we will begin a unit on rocks and minerals followed by forms of energy. Our WIN groups are continuing to enjoy their novel studies groups. They are developing essential reading comprehension and critical thinking skills and remain excited and engaged in peer discussions.

Our classes are very much looking forward to participating in the city-wide track meet at Monterey Stadium in May. They will be able to compete against fourth graders from other



schools in Janesville in track and field events. More detailed information will be provided as we get closer to the big day!

Fifth Grade

It's crazy to think the school year is almost over! Students have really been working hard and that is not stopping with the end of the year. We are working on state testing which everyone is doing their best on, and it's very encouraging to see such hard work! Soon we will be going to BizTown which will give students a taste of having a job and bank account. Everyone is so excited for their job and to have a little taste of "adulthood". In math we are starting geometry and will end the year with surface area and graphing. In social studies we are finishing up the Revolutionary war and then will end the year with the Civil war. In reading we are working with expository texts about space, which is always a fun concept to explore. Finally, in writing we will wrap up the year with a personal narrative and get to see how much these students have really grown this year! At the end of May we have the annual track meet and that will be a great way to end our year!

Learning Commons

The school year is flying by and before you know it our shelves will be closing down for the end of the year. Please be sure to stay on top of returning your library books. Come May we need them all tucked away nicely and neatly for inventory and are always super sad to add any books to our lost or reorder lists for the following year. Thanks!

Counselor Connections

Hello families!

We have begun focusing on friendships and bullying in our Counselor Connection Lessons. Throughout these lessons we will do activities that encourage classroom community, problem solving, and review of rules that help all of our students to feel safe and respected while at school.

And we need your help, too! Get involved in making our school a safe and respectful place by letting us know if you hear about bullying at our school. Make sure your child knows to tell you



or someone at school if he or she is being bullied. And give your child the clear message that it is never okay to bully others.

If you have any questions about the Bullying Prevention Unit or the Second Step program, please contact me. For more information on our school's anti-bullying policy and specific procedures, check our school website or contact the school office. Thank you for helping us make our school a safe, respectful 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.

Thank you,

Morgan Casey-Schmidt
Washington School Counselor
morgan.casey-schm@janesville.k12.wi.us
Office: (608) 743-7225
Cell & Text: (608) 561-1424

Notes from the room

5th Graders:

As the last few months of the school year are upon us, and the 5th graders will be completing the last classes of their elementary school careers, they will be continuing to explore the various elements of music on various classroom instruments and with their voices. I also want to give them all a Huge shout-out for their performance they gave right before spring break. They really pulled it together as an entire 5th grade group, and they Rocked it!! I loved seeing and hearing all of the musical talents the students are gifted with, and it was a pleasure putting on this show with them! The students will review their recorder compositions they wrote before we began working on their show, and they will practice and perform them for me. They will then review piano skills and perform songs, requiring keyboard knowledge, as well as rhythm and pitch-reading skills. We will play fun musical games and explore other classroom instruments as we hone in on all of the musical concepts they have learned about.

4th Grade:

Now that the 4th grade's fabulous performance of, "Pirates 2!" is over, the 4th graders will be reviewing their musical compositions they finished right before we started learning our show. They will rehearse and then perform them on Xylophones, Metallophones, and Glockenspiels. They will then move on to work on everyone's favorite beginning woodwind instrument, the

Recorder! This will combine several musical skills while they learn proper holding and fingering placement in order to play the instrument. Learning how to blow softly with warm, gentle breath is also so important for them to play sweet, gentle sounds instead of loud, squeaking noises. This skill takes time, as does learning the tonguing technique needed to correctly separate each sound as they play. The students will continue to work on the recorder at the beginning of 5th grade. After the short introduction to the Recorder, they will continue to work on their piano skills and pick up where they left off at the end of last school year, not only working on their knowledge of the keys, but reading pitches on the Treble Clef Staff and reading and playing rhythms.

2nd Grade:

Now that their amazing performance of “Go Fish!” is over, and the students did a fabulous job performing and showing off their musical and acting skills, we will get back to performing their E, G, A compositions on xylophones, metallophones, and Glockenspiels for the rest of the class. We will work on demonstrating knowledge of form and rhythm on various instruments, as well as texture and different ways we express meanings through music. The first graders will be hearing the story of “Peter and the Wolf” as we discuss how music and musical themes are used to help tell a story. The 4 families of instruments will be discussed and practiced through the story, and then they will demonstrate their knowledge of different instruments’ timbres, or unique sounds, by playing “Peter and the Wolf” Bingo at the end of this unit.

3rd Grade:

As the 3rd grade’s spectacular performance of “Arf!” is at its end, they will begin a keyboard unit to finish out the school year. While learning how the keys work related to the music alphabet and how to play basic piano songs, they will be reviewing Treble Clef Staff pitch-reading, rhythmic skills, work on their fine-motor skills, and also review different dynamics as they play. We will also play some fun musical games and continue working on our vocal skills and different voice parts, as well as harmony.

1st Grade:

Now that their amazing performance of “Go Fish!” is over, and the students did a fabulous job performing and showing off their musical and acting skills, we will get back to performing their E, G, A compositions on xylophones, metallophones, and Glockenspiels for the rest of the class. We will work on demonstrating knowledge of form and rhythm on various instruments, as well as texture and different ways we express meanings through music. The first graders will be hearing the story of “Peter and the Wolf” as we discuss how music and musical themes are used to help tell a story. The 4 families of instruments will be discussed and practiced through the story, and then they will demonstrate their knowledge of different instruments’ timbres, or unique sounds, by playing “Peter and the Wolf” Bingo at the end of this unit.

Kindergarten:



Now that their big show is over, and they did a fabulous job on their performance, we will be working on rhythm as the students learn to play Rhythm Bingo with 4-beat rhythms using Quarter Notes, Quarter Rests, and combined Eighth Notes. The students will perform their E,G, compositions on Xylophones, Metallophones, and Glockenspiels for the class, and we will be working on Form, noticing different parts of a song and looking for patterns. The kindergartners will hear the story of "Mortimer", and discuss how music is used to help tell a story, and they will be adding music to the story using various classroom instruments as we read and bring the story to life with music. We will continue to explore different types of instruments, rhythms, texture, and melody as we finish out the school year.

A Few Lines from Washington's Art Studio

Dear Families,

A special shout out to all the Washington artists for their hard work on the beautiful masterpieces they created for the Square 1 Art fundraiser!

A very appreciative thank you goes out to all the families that ordered artwork for the Square 1 Art fundraiser and made it so successful! Your support makes a difference and the money raised will go back to the students in the form of art supplies.

Once everyone receives their orders, Washington will be given a check for a percentage of the total amount of money raised. It looks like so far that we have exceeded the goal amount. Way to go!!!

Thank you again!

Artfully Yours,

Lynn Hopfauf
Washington Elementary Art Educator



PE News



Hello Washington Families,

K-1

In the younger grades we are going to practice using long handled implements by starting off with pool noodles to practice hitting and eventually trying out badminton. In May our 4th and 5th grade students have a track meet and I will have every grade practice the events just so they know what they will be doing as they get older and have their chance to compete at the track meet. While the older students continue to practice track events the students will be getting some time outside to work on throwing frisbees and doing other activities that need more space than we have indoors.

Grades 2-3

We will be practicing using long handled implements using lacrosse sticks and badminton throughout April. In May we will practice track events that they will be competing in coming years when they are in the grades 4 and 5. While our older grades are still practicing for their track meet I will take the students outside and let them practice golf as well as throwing frisbees and trying out frisbee golf.

Grades 4-5

In April we will be trying out both badminton and lacrosse, and if there is time using short rackets for pickleball or tennis. In May we will start practicing for the track meet, which is May 23rd for 5th grade and May 24th for 4th grade, both in the morning. While we practice for the track meet the students will get to pick which events they would like to compete in. After we are done with the track meet I will take the students outside to try using the golf clubs.

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.

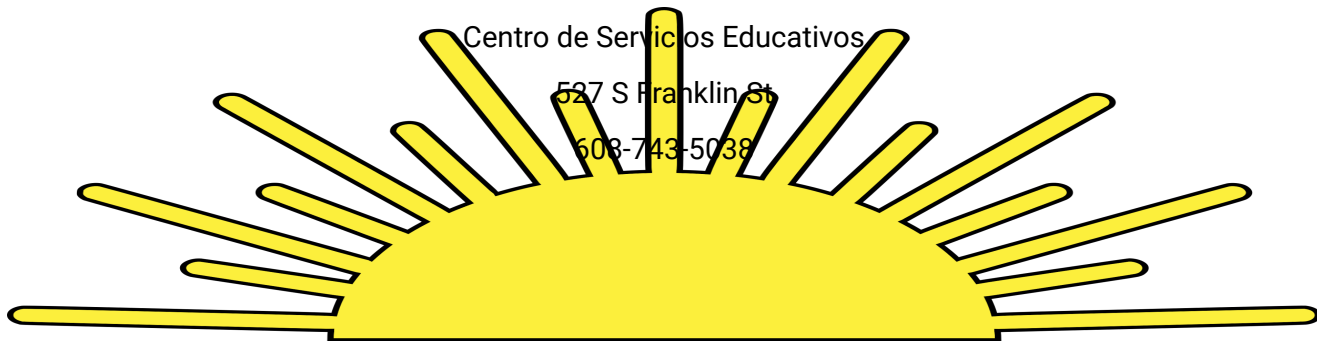
Si tiene preguntas sobre P4J, comuníquese con:

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

Centro de Servicios Educativos

527 S Franklin St

608-743-5038



Summer School

Summer School registration is here! RIGHT NOW, families can visit the summer school page (<https://www.janesville.k12.wi.us/departments/summer-school>) on the district's website to create an account they will need for registration.

Then, at 4:30 p.m. MONDAY, APRIL 3, course selection will go LIVE ... allowing families to pick their classes for the summer. A friendly heads-up: Some classes fill up very quickly. By creating your account now, you will be all set to select classes when they go live at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 3. We look forward to seeing your students for some fun summer learning!

