

FOXTALES



Question to ponder: What are you thankful for?

Important November Dates:

Monday, November 4th: MTSS 1st MP Incentive- Joe Romano Magic of Reading
Tuesday, November 5th: No School (Election Day)
Wednesday, November 6th: Girls on the Run Practice 5K at Forwood
Thursday, November 7th: 5th grade Chorus walking field trip to Forwood Manor to perform
Thursday, November 7th: End of the 1st marking period
Friday, November 8th: No School (Professional Responsibilities Day)
Monday, November 11th: No School (Veterans Day)
Tuesday, November 12th : PTA November meeting 6:30pm (Middle School Administrators visit)
Thursday, November 14th: Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (Wear purple)
Friday, November 22nd: BRIDGES Friendsgiving
Monday, November 25th-Wednesday, November 27th: No School (Offices Open)
Thursday, November 28th- Friday, November 29th: Schools and Offices CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break

Looking ahead...

Thursday, December 5th: Forwood Winter Reading Night
Monday, December 16th- Friday, December 20th : Winter Spirit Week
Monday, December 23rd - Tuesday, January 1st : Winter Break- NO School

Volunteering at Forwood (including field trips)

Family support through volunteer efforts is essential to the effective operation of our school! Parents/Guardians may serve in a variety of ways to help enhance our programs. Parents/Guardians must have a completed volunteer packet with district office to be able to attend field trips and/or volunteer at Forwood events, such as Field Day. We invite all parents/guardians to complete the required documentation. Please visit www.brandywineschools.org for more information. You can also pick up a packet in our main office. Thank you to all those who have already completed the packet and/or have volunteered! Questions may be directed to Nicole Talarico at 302-475-3956 or nicole.talarico@bsd.k12.de.us

PTA Updates

Please join us for our November PTA meeting on Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30pm! Administrators from all three of our BSD middle schools will be present to speak about the programs offered at their school as well as answer any questions from families. There will be childcare and snacks.



Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day – Wear Purple!

Forwood Elementary along with our sister schools in BSD will participate in the nationwide **Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day** on **Thursday, November 14 at 9:15 AM.**

On November 14, 1960, six-year-old first-grader Ruby Bridges stepped into the history books when she integrated William Frantz Elementary School. She was not looking to make history. She just wanted to go to school and have the opportunity to learn, and to do so safely. But her courageous action and historic steps initiated the desegregation of New Orleans' public schools.

We will also recognize and celebrate our own local connection to the landmark Brown vs. Board of Education case and desegregation of Delaware's Public Schools. Special guest community members will join the activities. In Partnership with the Claymont Community Center, selected members our grade 5 Leaders of the Pack will also spend the morning engaged in a mini student leadership conference where they will have an opportunity to visit the original Claymont HS and the newly established **Brown Room.**

Join us as we walk our school communities engage in meaningful dialogue on activism, anti-racism, and anti-bullying.

Forwood's Garden

Our students have been busy planting and watching our garden grow. Second grade turned over the soil to get it ready for planting. Then, Kindergarten and First grades planted Arugula, Kale, Radish, and Tokyo Bekana. Now our 3rd grade students are helping with regular watering during their brain breaks and other learning opportunity times. Our upper grades will harvest the garden once our vegetables are ready. Our nutrition department will then wash our vegetables to serve to our students.



Read on for some highlights from across our building...

Kindergarten

Forwood's youngest Foxes spent lots of time learning and practicing classroom expectations and the 3 big school rules—Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible.

In Handwriting, we practiced correctly forming capital letters, lower case letters, and numerals. We also learned that we start our name with a capital letter followed by lower case letters.

In Reading, we introduced all letter names and sounds through ABC Bootcamp. We continued these phonological awareness skills by blending the sounds of the letters m, a, t, d, o, g, c, t, and i together to make words. We also practiced reading the sight words: I, a, the, like, is, one, two, three, play, my, and was.

In Math, we classified objects by attributes. We counted objects up to 10 and decomposed numbers to 5. Additionally, we practiced recognizing and writing numbers to 10 and we counted to 20.

In Social Studies, we practiced working in teams to build our classroom communities and discussed ways to be a responsible citizen.

In Science, we learned about the needs of animals and plants as well as studied trees, their parts, and how they change during the seasons. We read many non-fiction books about seasonal changes.

1ST GRADE

First Grade has had a busy start to the school year.

In Reading, students completed Skills 2 and are currently working in Skills 3 in CKLA. In Skills 2 students were introduced to five new vowel sounds: /ee/ as in seed, /ae/ as in cake, /ie/ as in line, /oe/ as in hope, and /ue/ as in cube. Additionally, the following tricky words were introduced: he, she, be, me, we, they, their, my, by, you, and your. Students read the decodable reader: Gran. Gran is about a well-traveled grandmother that visits her grandchildren Jen and Josh. Finally, students were introduced to nouns and proper nouns. In Skills 3, students will be introduced to five new vowel sounds: /oo/ as in soon, /oo/ in look, /ou/ in shout, /oi/ in oil, and /aw/ in paw. Students are reading the decodable reader Fables, a decodable version of famous fables. Students are working on verbs and tenses. Please continue to practice sight words and read each night!

In ELA, the focus has been on Becoming A Writer. Our first focus was on how to write complete sentences. So far this year, we have been engaging in KidWriting. We learned what a sentence is, the essential elements, and how to construct complete sentences. We have discussed sequential writing and started retelling stories we have read in class using the transition words: first, next, then, after that, and finally. We also learned how to write sentences that describe. Currently, we are working on writing personal narratives. We can't wait to read all about the fun adventures our students are having!

In Math, we started with collecting by answering questions, sorting sets, and making observations. We created bar graphs, picture graphs and tally charts to visually represent data. We used more than, fewer, than, and equal to compare quantities. Next, we found totals by counting all objects (Level 1 Strategy) to choosing a part they know and counting on to find the total (Level 2 Strategy). After that, we moved on to find totals for expressions. We used math tools like a number path and our fingers to count on from the larger number to find the sum. Finally, we have deepened our understanding of the equal sign. We learned that expressions on both sides of the equal sign have the same total. We worked with more complex number sentences to determine whether they are true or false like $4 + 6 = 8 + 2$. This is

true because both sides of the equal sign are 10. We also spent some time finding the expressions that equal 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10. Do you know the Best Friends of 10? Knowing the BFF's of 10 (0 and 10, 1 and 9, 2 and 8, 3 and 7, 4 and 6, and 5 and 5) will help us tremendously in our upcoming units.

In Social Studies, we have focused on Civics. At the start of the school year we learned the Cool Tools here at Forwood Elementary. We set goals for the school year, "Our Hopes and Dreams," and then we wrote some classroom rules to help us create the learning environment we will need to achieve those goals! Next, we learned that a government is a group of people who lead our community and that there is an election where we vote on who we would like to represent us. We voted on our favorite pet. Ask your child which pet was the most popular in their class!

In Science we began our year long unit Dark Nights, Bright Days. We will determine the amount of sunlight each day and record it on a graph. We will notice days get shorter in Fall and Winter and then longer in Spring in Summer! We have also been working on Animals and Plant Defenses. In this unit, we have been learning about how living things must meet their basic needs: air, water, food, and not being eaten by another animal. We have learned that structures (body parts) help animals and plants meet their needs. Ask your children who Spruce is and about how his structures help him survive?

Learning and growing together in first grade is SO MUCH FUN!



Second grade is about halfway through module 1 in Eureka Math. We have worked on measurement, graphing and on adding and subtracting on the number line. We are now moving into place value and will begin to work with students using this strategy to add & subtract. We will finish module 1 within the next couple of weeks and take an assessment on these concepts. Following this, we will begin module 2 - addition and subtraction within 200. In science we have been working through our Plant & Animal Relationships unit. Students are learning what seeds need to grow along with the process of seed dispersal. During our CKLA time, we have been working on words with long-vowels and focusing on comprehension with our Kids Excel book. Grammar lessons have involved looking closely at nouns, adjectives and verbs. In our writing block, students have worked on a personal narrative as well as a descriptive writing piece. We will begin working on a persuasive writing piece in the upcoming weeks.



Third graders continue to work hard! We recently finished reading a student favorite: *Fudge-a-Mania* by Judy Blume, and are currently working on a non-fiction unit of study about *The Constitution of the US and Congress*. In math, we have completed Module 1 and are working on place value concepts through metric measurement in Module 2. Students are also working on memorization of multiplication facts! In science, we continue to learn about *Balancing Forces*. Our next science unit is *Environments and Survival* which will begin in a few weeks. In the meantime, for social studies, we are extending our units on government and will also learn about basic economic concepts. Students have completed the first writing unit on *Informational Reports* and are in the process of the *Response to Literature* unit. We continue to focus on restating questions when responding to text while checking their work for capitalization and punctuation. We are also busy earning paw prints and classroom paw print celebrations, while individuals earn Fox points for demonstrating safe, responsible and respectful behaviors. Keep up the great work, third graders!



It has been a busy first marking period in 4th grade! In reading, we started the year with “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” and “A Strong Right Arm”. We’ve spent the last two months focusing on opinion writing and giving convincing arguments to support our opinions. In math the students rounded, added, subtracted, and solved word problems involving numbers through the hundred thousands place. In science, we made sedimentary rock models to help us understand how a fossil ended up on the side of a rocky outcrop. We even managed to fit in two field trips to Old New Castle and Ashland Nature Center.

Looking forward to the second marking period, we will spend a lot of time learning about the English colonies. Not just in social studies, but also with our next shared reading novel, “Blood on the River”. This is a historical fiction book centered on life in the James Town colony starting in 1607. We will also be hosting visitors from the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation to help us learn about the first European settlers in Delaware. In math we will spend the majority of the marking period working on multiplication and division. Finally, in science we will begin studying energy conversions by trying to solve a blackout problem in the fictional town of Ergstown.



Fifth grade has had a busy start to the school year. This amazing group of students have shown time and time again that they are leaders by being positive role models for their younger peers at Forwood. Over twenty fifth graders applied and were accepted to be Forwood's Leaders of the Pack. The enthusiastic group has broken up into committees to support Bully Prevention Month and have already started a school clean-up program where they keep our school clean using grabbers, and buckets to pick up trash both in the hallways and outside. The fifth graders were all excited to meet their kindergarten buddies and were able to cheer them on for the Alphabet Parade and walk with them more recently last week in our Halloween parade. This week, fifth grade is excited to travel to Hagley Museum for our first field trip of the year to wrap up our first marking period.

BRIDGES Program

BRIDGES at Forwood Elementary School comprises of 3 different classrooms supporting students with different needs. Each classroom consists of a teacher and various support staff. Students receive differentiated instruction to meet their needs. Please read what each classroom has been working.

Mrs. Shenkle's Class (K/1):

We are working with Core Knowledge Language Arts Program (CKLA). Students are developing an alphabetic principle (letters and combination of letters represent sounds). They are also exposed to a sound wall that is a valuable tool providing a visual representation of speech sounds.

Math: Learning correct number formations

Building number stairs using cubes as a visual that each number is 1 more or counting back for 1 less.

First graders are working with addition and subtraction.

Our students also have speech groups, art therapy, adaptive music and motor group with OT and PT. We are happy to welcome back Ms. Cathy and Lucy From Paws for People.

Mr. Coffin's Class (2/3):

Coffin's class explored the theme of friendship using social stories, cut and paste crafts, and lessons using core vocabulary. Acknowledging emergency service workers on Patriot Day, recognition of diverse cultures during Hispanic Heritage Month, and sharing ways to be a good friend on Indigenous Peoples Day is helping our class become a strong, kind community.

Ms. Bass's Class (3/4/5):

Our 3rd graders worked on writing about fall while 4th and 5th read and wrote about Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Each day, we practiced number sense and math facts. Our class also participated in adaptive music and art lessons, practiced bocce for an upcoming Special Olympics events, and partook in social emotional lessons focusing on how to paying attention can help us learn. Our 5th graders also supported their kindergarten buddies at assemblies, a nature walk, and read aloud. We look forward to the next marking period, celebrating the holidays together, and continuing to build our community.



Physical Education with Mrs. Rogers

We have had an awesomely active first marking period in physical education at Forwood! Students have come to class with enthusiasm and ready to learn. Thank you for making sure that they are coming prepared with sneakers for class! Just a friendly reminder that students are unable to participate in class without sneakers-this often makes them very sad! If you are unsure of your students' PE day, please reach out to me.

All third, fourth, and fifth grade students started out the school year completing their fitness testing. We spent five weeks testing cardiovascular endurance with the Pacer test, muscular strength and endurance with the curl-up and push-up tests, and flexibility with the trunk lift test and the sit and reach test. All students did an amazing job and gave their best effort on these challenging tests.

Kindergarten and first grade students focused on both spatial awareness and learning or reviewing their locomotor movements. They worked on walking, running, hopping, jumping, skipping, galloping, leaping, and sliding. They learned the difference between moving around in personal and general space and Kindergarten students were introduced to jumping rope-I am amazed at the progress that some of them have made in the last two months.

Second grade students have been learning a variety of games that focus on teamwork, building sportsmanship, and following directions. Many of these games are lead-up games that tie into our different sports skill units throughout the school year.

The month of November will bring soccer skills to the gym. We will be focusing on dribbling, ball control, trapping, and passing.

During the month of December, students will be participating in a mini dance unit where Ms. O'Connor and I will join forces to combine music and movement to learn some popular line dances from today and some from many years ago. We will also be practicing for our winter school wide sing-a-long before the holiday break!

Music with Ms. O'Connor

The music department is off to a busy start this school year! 4th and 5th grade students in Orchestra and Band have received their instruments and have started studying with Mrs. Braddock on Wednesdays and with Mrs. Allen on Thursdays and Fridays. Please encourage your child to practice what they're learning and to celebrate their accomplishments! Please also remember to send your child with their instrument on their lesson days. 4th and 5th grade Chorus started rehearsing on Fridays with Ms. O'Connor and has their first performance November 7th at

Forwood Manor for Veterans Day. This is always a rewarding experience for the students, and it means so much to the residents. The next big performance is the 6ABC Thanksgiving Day Parade, and we have 25 students who signed up to go! Please look for them on TV on Thanksgiving Day! Students in grades K-3 have begun to practice for their upcoming musicals. Grades K and 1 will perform *Cookies* on January 30, and Grades 2 and 3 will perform *Gotta Be Jazz* on February 13. Both concerts will be held at Claymont Elementary School and will have concession stands that you can contribute to and buy from. Videos have been shared via Dojo for students to practice their songs at home. Students in 3rd grade have started playing the recorder and are doing very well so far! They will perform a concert this spring (date TBA) where they will play along with the Mount Pleasant High School Early Music Ensemble. The recorders they're using will remain at school, but if your child is interested in practicing one at home, they can be purchased at Music and Arts or on Amazon for less than \$10. Yamaha, Allos, and Angel are the recommended brands; they last the longest and have the best sound.

Library with Mrs. Szostek

In October, Forwood students in grades K-2 investigated how pumpkins and apples grow, listened to stories about fall and learned new vocabulary associated with the topics. They also enjoyed reading and discussing books by David Schanon, our October "Author of the Month". Students in grades 3-5 learned how to find, borrow and read electronic books on Sora. They also started using a new keyboarding program that will gradually help our students become more efficient in typing. Students are encouraged to continue their typing practices at home. In November, our students will be busy learning the best Internet safety rules to protect their personal information, use social networking safely and respond to cyberbullying. All library lessons are posted in Schoology, under the library tab and can be accessed from home if students miss their library special or wish to finish their lesson. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns. hanna.szostek@bsd.k12.de.us



Forwood School Counselor News~ Mrs. Ward

It has been a wonderfully busy start to the 2024-25 school year! Our Forwood student family has grown significantly and it is a pleasure meeting with students new to Forwood this year! New students in grades 1-5 have met with grade-level peers and me a few times to welcome them, learn about Kelso's Choice and ask for their input and impressions, as student voice is important to us. We care about our students and want them to feel welcome and valued. Students who joined us more recently will meet with me in November.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month.

During weekly School Counselor lessons, Forwood students learn the following Second-Step definition: "Bullying is mean behavior, done on purpose, it usually happens more than once, and the person it's happening to, is not able to make it stop." 4 Unit lessons to Recognize, Refuse, and Report bullying behavior to a caring adult are taught and reinforced daily. Bully Prevention Unit lessons will conclude in November for grades 1-5. Kindergarten will begin the Bully Prevention Unit after we complete the weekly Kelso Conflict Resolution lessons.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to visit www.secondstep.org using the following activation keys for more information and Home Links discussion guides for the Second Step BPU and SEL programs.

Kindergarten: **BPUK FAMI LY00**
 First grade: **BPU1 FAMI LY01**
 Second grade: **BPU2 FAMI LY02**
 Third grade: **BPU3 FAMI LY03**
 Fourth grade: **BPU FAMI LY 04**
 Fifth grade: **BPU FAMI LY 05**

Before starting the bully prevention lessons, students reviewed Kelso's Choice Conflict Resolution lessons to empower them with strategies to solve small problems (annoying, bothersome, or frustrating situations) before they become BIG problems; problems that are scary, dangerous, or if someone could get hurt. Encourage your child to try 2 Kelso strategies to solve small problems independently. Big problems must be reported to a caring adult right away! Click on the link for more information. <https://kelsoschoice.com/about/for-parents/?srsId=AfmBOopYU93q3XRFyVma4SWCfXQFBFPd7LclPq8OltMEubk7cO1E7a9>

Please let me know if you have any questions, it is my pleasure to help your child have the best experience possible at Forwood Elementary.



Did you know?

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. This marks the 100th year anniversary of the medicine used to treat diabetes, insulin! Approximately 1.1 million children and adolescents are estimated to have type 1 diabetes globally, with an estimated 128,900 new cases annually (International Diabetes Foundation, 2019). Roughly one third of all new T1D diagnoses present with life-threatening diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) (American Diabetes Association, 2020). Children with T1D spend 6-10 hours in school, and effective T1D management is integral to their short- and long-term health.

Types of diabetes

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disease where the pancreas stops producing insulin—a hormone that allows the body to get energy from food. Its onset has nothing to do with diet or lifestyle. With type 2 diabetes your body doesn't use insulin properly—which is known as insulin resistance. As a result, your pancreas makes extra insulin to compensate, but over time it is unable to keep up.

What are the symptoms of diabetes?

T1D is identified in children and adults as they show signs of the following symptoms:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Frequent urination | Unexplained weight loss |
| Extreme thirst | Slow-healing cuts |
| Dry mouth | Increased appetite |



Please click onto the resources below if you would like to learn more about diabetes.

<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/diabetes-basics?ref=search>

<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/library/reports/reportcard.html>

<https://www.diabetes.org/>

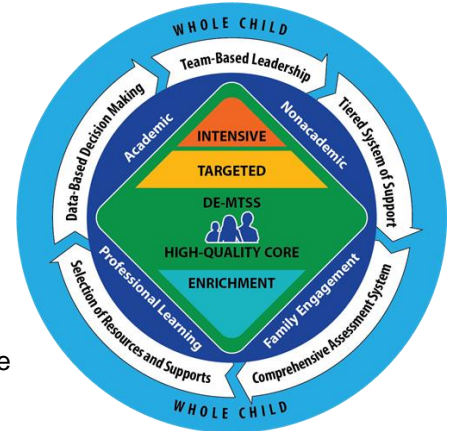
<https://www.diabetes.org/tools-support/know-your-rights/safe-at-school-state-laws/training-resources-school-staff/diabetes-care-tasks-school>

<https://www.jdrf.org/>

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!
Nurse Sheila Pickering & Nurse Angela

MTSS/PBS

There have been many exciting things happening with our MTSS Tier 1 efforts this school year! We have been using common language throughout the building about behavior expectations across settings. These expectations are outlined in our school-wide behavior matrix, which was updated this past summer to reflect more inclusive language. Mrs. Parker and Ms. O'Connor, the MTSS Tier 1 co-leads, presented information at the September PTA meeting, and discussed how to use common language at home and how to create an at-home behavior matrix and cash-out chart that look like the ones used at school. We started to use our new PBIS App to award Fox Points to individual students. They'll be able to cash in these points to receive rewards (e.g., extra recess, pizza party, Treasure Chest) for their efforts at the end of the marking period. We had our Fall Festival, and it was a huge success! So many families participated, and we were able to raise funds for other MTSS Tier 1 endeavors (e.g., items for cash-out Treasure Chests, bracelets for Leadership Awards, items for Glow Party and Winter Carnival). We had our quarterly assembly with many new additions to the program! Our cheerleading squad opened the ceremony with enthusiasm. Classroom teachers presented Leadership Awards to students for being Safe, Respectful, and Responsible citizens, and Related Arts teachers presented awards for outstanding work in their classes. Honorees received a certificate and a special bracelet. Parents were invited to attend to see their children receive their awards, and we had a great turnout! On the horizon, we have Joe Romano, the magician, coming to perform a show as our quarterly school-wide incentive for students who consistently demonstrate Safe, Respectful, and Responsible behaviors. School attendance is looking good so far this year! All of our grade levels are at above 95%; keep up the good work!



Friendly Forwood foxes leading and learning together!