



NEWSLETTER

November 22, 2024

Principal: Barbara Gerard
<http://matsuk12.us/acc>

Phone: 907-746-2358
Fax: 907-746-2368

Dear Academy Families,

Family Feast

We are excited to welcome you to our annual Family Feast, Wednesday, November 27th from 11:30am-12:30pm! This special celebration is a time to reflect on and recognize the many, many blessings in our lives:

- We are thankful for our families!
- We are thankful for our incredible staff!
- We are thankful for our amazing students!

Thank you for all you do to make ACADEMY GREAT!

Questions? Needs?

Please do not hesitate to call, email, come in. We care!

With Warm Regards,

Barbara Gerard, Principal
907-841-5704 Barbara.Gerard@matsuk12.us




Date:	Event:
11/27	3 rd Grade presents Tommy Turkey 10:20 and 11:00am Taekwondo Room
11/27	Family Feast 11:30am-12:30pm Early Release 12:45pm
11/28-29	Happy Thanksgiving!

The weather is changing, and temperatures are dropping. Dressing your student appropriately for the weather is important. Students will be outdoors for recess, weather permitting. It is important for the students to go out in the fresh air and exercise.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL ITEMS ARE LABELED WITH THE STUDENT'S NAME

DRESSING FOR COLD WEATHER

CHILLY

adding layers will help keep you warm as the temperature drops

1-2 layers

long layer

outer layer to keep out wind, rain

warm shoes water proof

weather.gov/safety

COLD

warm hat

2-3 layers

gloves

outer layer to keep out wind, wet snow

boots water proof

1-2 layers

EXTREME COLD

warm hat

face mask

3+ layers
insulating

gloves

outer layer to keep out wind

boots water proof

2+ layers

Looking for Parent Volunteers!

- Fix/replace blinds in Mrs. Kramer's room
- Clean florescent light covers in classroom
-

YEARBOOK PHOTOS NEEDED!

SEND ALL PHOTOS TO
ACADEMYCHARTERYEARBOOK@GMAIL.COM
OR TEXT TO 907-350-8070

FIELD TRIPS, CLASSROOM LIFE, ETC!

Kindergarten



Students were taught the sentence: Her first nurse works early. It is to remind us of the 5 ways to spell the sound ER. When they ask how to spell a word, we refer to the sentence for the correct spelling. All of our books and stories

this week used the sound for the day. Ask your student which was their favorite. Small reading groups each finished a book and will be bringing it home to read to you.

During our math block we continued subtraction. We worked on strategies of minus one or zero and subtracting the entire number. We have a large walk on number line that we used to do some problems. Using the number line makes it possible to do problems that stretch beyond our fingers.

Next week is Family Feast. We look forward to having you as our guests for lunch. Please use the sign up on our Facebook page on what to bring to lunch. Students switch rooms today, so my group is now in Ms. Laura's room and her group is in mine.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Mrs. Berg
Verona.Berg@matsuk12.us



hello FIRST GRADE

Have we told you all recently what a great bunch of kiddos you have? We are genuinely thankful for ALL of them. They are incredibly happy and motivated as well as growing in every way, from adding three numbers and spying partners in ten/doubles, reading more fluently, to shining with classroom expectations. We feel we are in a gear groove ... all students are warm at recess and managing their gear beautifully.

We hope you have a terrific Thanksgiving next week and we look forward to seeing many of you for Family Feast!

Contact us anytime!



Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond
Betsy.Mayer@matsuk12.us
Jessica.Drummond@matsuk12.us

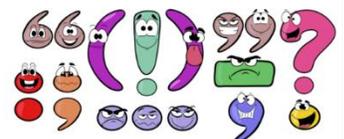
Writing: We are continuing to practice cursive handwriting. The students are growing more confident in connecting letters and writing full words in cursive. Please encourage your child to show off their new skills at home! In addition, we've been focusing on using correct ending punctuation in sentences. From periods to question marks to exclamation points, the students are learning how punctuation can shape meaning and expression.

Reading: Our class is thoroughly enjoying *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown. The students are captivated by Roz's adventures and the beautiful lessons about nature, survival, and friendship. We're discussing important themes from the story while practicing comprehension strategies like predicting, questioning, and making connections.

Math: In math, we've begun practicing triple-digit addition. The students are learning strategies to add with regrouping and solve problems step by step. They are excited to tackle these bigger numbers, and their confidence is growing every day.

Reminders: Winter is here, please make sure your child has warm outdoor gear for recess, including a hat, gloves, and a warm coat.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Kramer
Erin.Saunders@matsuk12.us Kimberly.Kramer@matsuk12.us



2ND GRADE

Grade 3



Kile's Kittlets

In LA, we are still learning Native American Stories. This has been a fun unit about traditions and the why behind them. We have worked hard this week on WPR and the rules of Spalding. Students completed a Thanksgiving LA mystery this week.

I look forward to Tommy Turkey's play and the Family Feast next week.

In math, we continue to work on multiplication and division facts. Students are making significant progress with ALEKs. I am very proud of their hard work. Next week, we will do some fun Thanksgiving Multiplication facts.

Tamela Kile Tamela.Kile@matsuk12.us

Grimes Gambit

Language Arts: This week in Language Arts, we wrapped up our study of Roman mythology and transitioned to learning about the citizens of the Roman Republic and the Punic Wars. In Spalding, we continued with List P by entering words into our composition notebooks and analyzing any hesitations from the Spelling Dictations. Students also became skilled at using their dictionaries, looking up their Spalding words to find and record the correct definitions.

Math: In Math, we focused on mastering the 9's for multiplication and division. The students are becoming increasingly fluent with their multiplication and division facts, and we are very close to completing our introduction and practice of 0-10 multiplication facts. Please continue reviewing flashcards with your student to reinforce their learning.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at austin.grimes@matsuk12.us.

Thank you,

Austin Grimes



FOURTH GRADE

Nielsen's News:

We are excited to see you all for the Family Feast on Nov. 27 @ 11:30!

ELA-We are wrapping up our reading of Pollyanna and have really enjoyed playing the glad game too! Our comprehension skills have been top notch this week. We wrote opinion essays on things we are thankful for. We also are preparing some entertainment for you for the Family Feast. We reviewed compound sentences, contractions, adverbs, similes, and possessives.

Reading goal: They've read 22,950 of the 77,500. Keep reading!!

Math- We are getting the basics down on with our fractions, covering equivalent fractions, simplifying, comparing and starting to add like fractions. Keep working with your child on getting those basic fluent!

Mrs. Nielsen
laurie.nielsen@matsuk12.us



Benbow's Buzz

Family Feast is next week! Is it just me or does it feel like this year is going by incredibly fast? Please make sure that your child has all of their winter gear every day! I have kiddos nearly every day who have forgotten their coat or boots, etc. We have up to an hour of outside time some days.

Language arts - We began reading King Arthur and the Round Table and have found many opportunities to make comparisons to what we learned in our Empires in the Middle Ages unit and while reading Robin Hood. Chapters of our books are coming home as homework to allow more time for discussions about the events and characters in class. Please take the time to listen to your child read and help them identify important information throughout the chapter. We worked on identifying compound sentences and sentence parts, possessive nouns and contractions, the use of adverbs and adjectives, sentence editing and adding suffixes as part of our Daily Language Review. Additionally, we have been identifying the dependent and independent clauses in complex sentences and getting practice writing complex sentences as part of our Spalding lessons.

Math - This week we learned how to find common denominators and make equivalent fractions. We have been taking time to review previous content, and I continue to see students struggling with basic math facts. Automatic recall of the basic multiplication facts is absolutely vital to success in fourth grade math, especially now that we have reached division and are beginning fractions soon. Although we will practice multiplication facts every day in class, I do encourage you to make sure that your child finds time at home every day to practice as well.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns!
cherie.benbow@matsuk12.us



SCHUMACHER MATH

Math class this week worked on fraction skills. Ms. Lisa has been managing the class and handling the instruction. I'm running the email, Google classroom, planning and grading. We are so lucky to have her! Please give a huge thank you if you see her around. All students have started to enter photos of complete and/or redone assignments into Google Classroom. I'd like to see a few family-favorite dessert recipes in our kitchen soon. Ask your fifth grader what they'd like to bake. Students are expected to complete assignments by working at home and at school. Quicktables is a 30 minute per day task until finished. And students need to master 2 or 3 ALEKS topics daily.

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us



5TH GRADE



The Manley Minute:

The highlight of the week was making our apple pies to take home! A huge thank you to all of the parents who stepped up to make this happen!

Language Arts: For Spalding this week, we studied rules 13, 29 and 5. We entered 30 words in our Spalding notebooks. For our persuasive essays, students have written their claim, and found two pieces of evidence from the text to support their reasons. They also came up with a good hook for their introduction paragraph and began writing their rough draft!

Math: It's been a great week with long division! Students continued to practice 3- and 4-digit dividends with one-digit divisors. We focused on placing the first digit, having quotients with zeros and interpreting remainders this week. Our class average in ALEKS is 60% so we celebrated with a short party playing some math themed games. Just a reminder, ALEKS topics are encouraged at home, but Knowledge Checks need to be completed at school.

Mrs. Manley

Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us

Sturgis Super Students!

Language Arts--For our spelling this week, we've focused on understanding the meaning of our spelling words by completing fill in the blanks. This has been a great exercise for the class and should prove to increase reading comprehension in the future. Due to our short week next week, we will not have a spelling test until after our break.

For reading, we continue to read through Don Quixote and have added more to our list of his good intentions that turn into dangerous situations. We will finish the reading part of this unit next week, then begin writing persuasive essays after break.

Please remind your student to keep reading the book they selected for Book Club. This is going to be a fantastic event, and we don't want anyone to miss out due to not having finished their assigned reading.

Math--Division with a two-digit divisor has proved to be quite a challenge for several students. I had hoped to take a test on this topic before break but am going to postpone testing until after we return. While we are reviewing division to prepare for the future test, we have taken a bit of a detour to work on logic problems and decimal addition and subtraction.

Mrs. Sturgis

Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us

Outdoor Fitness

Outdoor fitness classes exercised with Miss Molly by running, biking, sledding, and/or playing games this week. The Trail Tamer crew has been working with her to create fun and challenging snow structures for sledding, biking, and climbing. These middle school kids know how to get the most out of our winter wonderland. Give Molly a high five for getting a weight room started for our school. Great job Mrs. Nichols!

Mr. Schumacher Jared.Schumacher@matsuk12.us Mrs. Molly Molly.Nichols@matsuk12.us



K-5 Lab Classes



This week in kindergarten, students celebrated Thanksgiving by learning how to draw and paint a turkey. After completing their Thanksgiving project, they continued with their sculpture unit and learned about totem poles, exploring how these tall sculptures tell stories and represent communities. They learned about specific shapes and symbols and used them in their own versions.

First grade continued their Ancient Art studies by exploring the fascinating world of hieroglyphics. The students practiced writing their names using these ancient Egyptian symbols, blending art and history in a fun and creative way.

Second grade expanded their understanding of Abstract Art, focusing on the elements and principles of art to guide their creations. They worked on vibrant and imaginative abstract pieces, showing off their growing artistic skills and creativity.

Mrs. Saunders and Mrs. Grimes



This week third, fourth and fifth grade learned some skills and tricks in Google slides. They have created Thankfulness turkeys they look forward to sharing with you!

Mrs. Nielsen



Kindergarten - Pacific Northwest Native Americans, making totem poles.

1st grade - Early explorers and settlers, John Smith/Powhatans and Pilgrims.

2nd grade - Ancient Greece gods/goddesses, Olympics, great thinkers and Alexander the Great.

Mrs. Mayer & Mrs. Drummond



3rd, 4th, and 5th grades wrote some great essays about Thanksgiving. They wrote about what they were thankful for, family traditions, and how to save a runaway Turkey.

Ms. Kile



What fun to be in primary science this week!

Kinder has been exploring how the sun warms the earth, particularly how the lightness and darkness of a surface affects how warm that surface gets.

This week the kindergarteners met the challenge of an ice-melting race! First grade worked to develop sound effects for their puppet shows, learning about how sound effects artists use everyday objects to make special effects sounds.

Our second graders got to make a new glue recipe, focusing especially on how heat affects different substances. We'll see next week how their picture frames hold together!

Sincerely,

Ms. Heppner & Mr. Nick

Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us

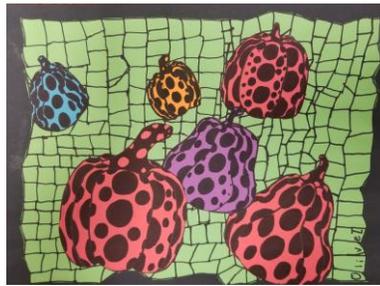
Nicholas.Treinen@matsuk12.us



Middle School Art-Ventures

With Ms. Christensen

Sixth and seventh grades are winding down on their current art projects! Sixth grade's "Castle Winter Window" landscapes should be completed after Thanksgiving and seventh grade's "Kusama Pumpkins" project (see pictures) are finishing this week. Middle school students in the "Fantasy Map Drawing" elective began planning and drawing their maps last Friday and will continue working on their projects this week. Some student maps are based on a book series, mythology, video game, and some are based on their own fantasy world creations!



It's a 6th GRADE Thing

Six grade is working hard! Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Zerkel's Language Arts classes have been working on gratitude poems to share with their families next week at the family feast, as well as their holiday children's books. Their creativity is very impressive, and we are excited for them to share their work. In Math, Mrs. Williams's class is working on Algebraic Equations and Fractions, and Mrs. Zerkel's class is working on Exponents and Expressions.

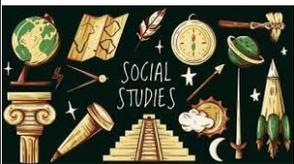
In Science, students are learning about the human body and the circulatory system. On Monday and Tuesday, we will be baking pies in the kitchen from 9am-noon and would love some parent volunteers. Please email us if you're able to help.

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a great weekend!

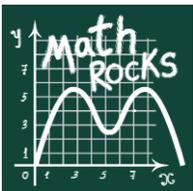
Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Zerkel

Amanda.Williams@matsuk12.us Katherine.Zerkel@matsuk12.us



We just completed a whirlwind tour of the American Revolution and took a look at how the ideas of the Enlightenment influenced the formation of the United States of America. Next week we will have a short assessment. After break we will learn about some of the highlights of the French Revolution.

Mrs. Sturgis Sabra.Sturgis@matsuk12.us



It has been so good to be back with my math students! This week we took a midchapter check on changing between fractions, decimals, and percents, and they did fabulously. We have continued on with finding the percent of a number and ordering/comparing the different forms. Keep up the great work!

Mrs. Heppner Natalie.Heppner@matsuk12.us

Wrights Winners!

Wright 7th LA: It's all about debate practice this week! Students worked in their research teams debating their topics. They're analyzing weak arguments that they'll fix Monday. Next week, students will continue to practice, integrating points of information and timers into their deliveries. Time is going fast!

Wright 7th math: The class finished up Chapter 5's various ratio concepts on Monday and dove into Chapter 6. They're reviewing how to use percentages in various ways, including via memorization of benchmark fractions, through equations and proportions. Ten ALEKS topics are due Monday.

Wright 7th history: Students took notes on the reasons the U.S. joined WW1 in 1917, before studying the Battle of Verdun. They continue to read and respond in their graphic novel, *Treaties, Trenches, Mud and Blood*, chose a research topic on WW1 technologies and will be researching those topics through next week.

All hand-outs and homework are in ConnectEd or Google Classroom.

Have a great weekend and happy Thanksgiving!

Mrs. Wright
Melodie.Wright@matsuk12.us



"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." - William Arthur Ward

This week in English, students continued daily practice with grammar, editing, and reading comprehension and demonstrated knowledge of the spelling and meanings of last week's vocabulary with the roots "scrib, script" and were assigned 10 more words with the roots "cred." Students continued reading All Quiet on the Western Front (finishing chapters 3 & 4), learned targeted vocabulary for chapters 5 & 6 to support understanding in context, answered and discussed comprehension questions supported with textual evidence, and completed the second quiz on Chapters 3 and 4. Students also wrote about gratitude for simple items that we often take for granted for their weekly writing prompt. They will be working through the writing process to publish and share with others during the Family Feast next week.

In Math, students finished Chapter 4. They took their last quiz on Lesson 8, reviewed Lessons 1-8, ensured that their notebooks were complete for support on the chapter's assessments, completed both the vocabulary and skills tests, and began learning about rates, the first lesson in Chapter 1. Many of the concepts we learned in Chapters 2-4 will support work in the first chapter. Please encourage your child to support Chapter 1's content in ALEKS by working in the "**Ratios, Proportions, and Measurement**" pie. What students are introduced to and practice at home will enhance understanding in class.

Students in History continued practicing using an atlas to answer various world geography questions and their study of Europe. They learned what trench life was like for those battling in WWI and various weapons used, including new warfare technology. After learning a little about ten different weapons, they selected two they felt had the greatest impact to research more in depth and will write a paragraph for each supporting their claims.

Together, this will be a great year!

Ms. Twohy
Tuesday.Twohy@matsuk12.us



I hope all seventh-grade families are discussing family traits over the upcoming family gathers. The Family Tree assignment is due the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Hopefully all students learn about themselves and their families. This week in class we learned more about genetics. Students learned about dominant and recessive traits, and how those can be inherited, or even skip a generation. They also learned how to create Punnett Squares to figure the probability of traits being inherited.

Next Tuesday, the students will take a quiz on Punnett squares and turn in their blue worksheet on Sponge Bob genetics. Students will then take what they learned and design a DNA dog!

Mrs. Dunham Susan.Dunham@matsuk12.us



Happy Friday 8th grade families! It was a busy week. It was a cold week and as long as it might have seemed at times, it was incredibly productive! A huge shout out to all of the 8th grade students who attended Wednesday evening's school board meeting. I am so proud of all of the 8th graders for really digging into their Active Citizen Project for Civics!

Speaking of Civics, we have been having fantastic conversations in class regarding the Amendments to the US Constitution. As I discussed with the students, the intricacies of our government are incredibly complex and there is a reason lawyers and political scientists spend years studying government & law. We are just truly just scratching the surface, but our goal is for the students to finish this course with a basic understanding of how our government works and how they can become more engaged citizens.

Eighth grade Math has been causing along and the students were incredibly successful on this week's Scientific Notation assessment. Every single day I see those "Ah ha!" moments as the students realize how much math they really do know! Way to go 8th graders! Additionally, we have reached a class average of 70% in ALEKS which is simply phenomenal!

My Honors English I students have been deeply engrossed in Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth* and we are already almost half-way through the novel. I have been so impressed by the deep conversations the students have been having, the meaningful connections they are making and the incredible amount of respect they have demonstrated for a culture so very different than our own.



Please don't forget, next Wednesday is Family Feast! Please be sure to visit the Sign-Up Genius link to sign up. Also please let us know how many people from your family (parents, grandparents, older siblings, etc.) we should expect so we can have our room ready for this celebration. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B49ADA82CA3FE3-53174123-family?fbclid=IwY2xjawGtq5hleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHdlvp7Zj2hB_J6lAsFjMGTq608eJ24KpjK77O6xgzcQtcvQSualQk6ZpfQ_aem_lz8SfreoOFSR5UaX_7E4Sw#

Thank you to our amazing room parents, Ashley Chappel, Trish Ivacic and Missy Shafer for setting this up for us and for just being amazing! I am so grateful for you!

Have a fantastic weekend,
Mrs. Molina
Stacy.Molina@matsuk12.us

Manley's Minute: 8th Grade LA

Students have done an incredible job analyzing poems this week. We started off analyzing "Chicago" by Carl Sandburg, then went on to E. E. Cummings' "Buffalo Bill 's". Our week ended off analyzing "Nothing Gold Can Stay" by Robert Frost. Students also explored adding sound to a poem. They dramatized "We Real Cool" by Gwendolyn Brooks by adding sound and changing its rhythm. Students then discussed if making these changes had any effect on the *meaning* of the poem. We finished off the week looking at different styles of poems and having students write their own poems.

Mrs. Manley
Patsy.Manley@matsuk12.us



We are almost finished up with Chapter 7 we will be taking the Chapter 7 test right before Thanksgiving break to then have a full send mindset on Chapter 8 which is on Quadratics, so I am excited to get to that!



We finished up a lovely mini unit on fermentation. I am very happy with how it went; with the field trip we went on and the pickles we made this year! The sourdough has been finicky, but the majority of the starters did survive which I was very impressed by.

Mr. Farring Timothy.Farring@matsuk12.us