FOXTALES

Question to ponder: What are you thankful for?

Important November Dates:

Monday, November 2nd: No School (Professional Responsibilities Day)
Tuesday, November 3rd: No School (Election Day)
Wednesday, November 4th: MTSS Assemblies (Wear Forwood spirit wear or blue/white colors)
Wednesday, November 4th: PTA November meeting 6:30pm
Thursday, November 5th: Flag Football game vs. Carrcroft vs. Lombardy at Brandywine HS (6:30pm)
Friday, November 6th: MTSS 1st MP Incentive- Magician Joe Romano
Monday, November 9th: Chorus walking field trip to Forwood Manor to perform
Wednesday, November 11th: No School (Veterans Day)
Friday, November 13th: Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day (Wear purple)
Friday, November 13th: 1st MP Report Cards available on Infinite Campus
Thursday, November 19th: Fall Picture Retakes
Friday, November 20th: BRIDGES Friendsgiving
Monday, November 23rd - Friday, November 27th: Schools and Offices CLOSED for Thanksgiving Break

Looking ahead…
Friday, December 11th: PTA Sneakerball
Wednesday, December 16th: Forwood Holiday Caroling Event with community at Forwood Elementary
Monday, December 21st - Friday, December 22nd : Winter Spirit Days
Wednesday, December 23rd - Friday, January 1st: Winter Break- NO School (School reopens on Monday, January 4th)

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 Kiana Green at 302-475-3956 or kiana.green@bsd.k12.de.us .

PTA Updates

Please join us for our November PTA meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 6:30pm! We will be organizing and assembling items for Basket Bash, the PTA's upcoming silent auction fundraiser. Parents who attend will receive a Pajama Day pass for their student or students. There will be childcare and snacks. We hope to see you there!

Sense of Belonging Rotation

Our students participated in a Sense of Belonging Rotation, reconnecting with former teachers and building relationships across grade levels. Our kindergarten students also had the opportunity to get to know our fifth-grade teachers! This special time together helped strengthen connections within our Forwood family and reinforced our commitment to making every student feel known, valued, and included.

Flag Football Event at Brandywine High School



We've had a fabulous flag football season! Our students have strengthened their skills, practiced teamwork, and demonstrated great sportsmanship. We'll wrap up the season with games against Carrcroft and Lombardy at BHS on November 5 at 6:50 p.m. All players, cheerleaders, and singers should be there at 6:30pm Our chorus will sing the national anthem, and our cheerleaders will be there to cheer on our players. All are welcome to join us and show your Forwood school spirit!

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 **Friday, November 13th.** Join us as we walk through our school communities and engage in meaningful dialogue on activism, anti-racism, and anti-bullying.

Report Cards and Infinite Campus (Grades 3-5)

To improve access and convenience, the Brandywine School District will now provide all Interim Reports and Report Cards electronically through our new student information system, Infinite Campus. Families can access these reports through the Infinite Campus Parent or Student Portal on a web browser or by using the "Campus Parent" mobile app. The first marking period report cards will be available on Friday, November 13th.

How to Find the Report:

- Printable Report: A PDF version of the official Interim Report or Report Card can be found under the "Documents" tab.

Need Assistance? Please contact Forwood Elementary School's Main Office (302-475-3956) if you:

- Would like a printed copy of the Interim Report or Report Card
- Need your Infinite Campus authorization code and/or login information
- For more information or assistance, please visit: www.brandywineschools.org/InfiniteCampus

MTSS

We're getting ready for our first marking period incentive, a Joe Romano Magic Show on November 6th! Students have been working hard to follow our school-wide expectations. Anyone with less than 2 referrals, zero suspensions, and earned 75 Fox points, will attend! Our second marking period incentive will be our Winter Carnival in January.

Students are also completing their first Fox Cash cash-out! They are spending the individual Fox Cash they've earned by being safe, responsible, and respectful. Choices include extra recess, a book from our book vending machine, being a guest on the announcements, and more!

Our Fred the Fox SAFE Campaign continues with a focus on safe hands, respecting personal space, making friendly choices, and treating everyone with respect. Congratulations to Ms. Clay's class, our September winner! Several classes are in the running to be named October's winner.

Thank you for reinforcing these expectations at home and helping our Foxes shine!

Read on for some highlights from across our building…



As we conclude the first marking period, we are pleased to share the wonderful progress our kindergarten students have made. The children have been actively engaged in learning experiences that build strong academic and social foundations. Below is an overview of what we have been studying in each subject area.

English Language Arts (ELA)

In ELA students completed **ABC Bootcamp** and the first two units in **CKLA (Core Knowledge Language Arts)**. We are continuing to work on Unit 3.

- In **Unit 1**, students focused on listening closely to environmental sounds and to words within sentences. This skill prepares them to identify individual sounds within words, an essential component of early writing and reading development.
- In **Unit 2**, students learned how to blend segmented syllables to say two-syllable words and blend individual sounds, or phonemes, to say two- and three-sound words. Blending is a critical skill for reading and supports future decoding and spelling.
- In **Unit 3**, students began making connections between **sounds and written symbols**. They continued to practice blending sounds into words and were introduced to several of the most common ways to spell eight sounds of English.

Students also learned the following **sight words**: *I, a, the, like, is, one, two, three*.

In **handwriting**, students have been practicing proper **upper- and lowercase letter formation**, developing fine motor skills and attention to detail that support legible writing.

In mathematics, students are developing a deep understanding of numbers as they **count, compare, compose, and decompose** quantities. This module emphasizes the four parts of the number sense: **number sequence, cardinality, one-to-one correspondence,** and **written number symbols**. Students are beginning to connect sorting and grouping objects with decomposing numbers, laying the foundation for strong number sense and problem-solving skills. Students began Module 2 which focuses on 2D and 3D shapes. We use vocabulary such as **straight sides, curved sides, open, closed, and corners** to describe the attributes of each shape.

Our science focus this marking period has been on **Needs of Animals and Plants**. Students explored the characteristics and parts of trees and plants, observed seasonal changes, and discussed what living things need in order to grow and thrive.

In social studies, students have been learning about **Civics**. They explored concepts such as rules, responsibilities, and the importance of cooperation within a classroom and community. Students are developing an understanding of what it means to be respectful, responsible citizens both in school and beyond.

We are so proud of our kindergarteners' growth during this first marking period. Their curiosity, enthusiasm, and perseverance have been wonderful to see. Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's learning at home. We look forward to a successful and exciting second marking period ahead.



Our First Grade Foxes have been off to a wonderful start. Over the first marking period everyone has settled in, rekindled old friendships and made many more! Rules and procedures have been practiced as our students have worked hard to be Responsible, Respectful and Safe Forwood citizens. Over the first few weeks of school ALL students participated in testing. These assessments helped our first grade team plan for both individualized and whole group instruction as we work with grade level curriculum.

ELA: As we worked within our CKLA curriculum over the first marking period, many skills were introduced, practiced and implemented. Our practice helped to distinguish patterns of long vowel sounds such as the /ee/ and the silent "e" rule, as well as learning and reading both tricky words and spelling words that help support students in becoming strong fluent readers and will be ongoing throughout the year. CKLA Focus: Sound/Spelling Connections: • /ee/ as in seed • /ae/ as in cake /oo/ as in soon /oo/ as in look • /ie/ as in line • /oe/ as in hope • /ue/ as in cube /ou/ as in shout /oi/ as in oil /aw/ as in saw Grammar: • Nouns • Proper Nouns • Adjectives • Verbs

Reading: We identified and integrated key ideas and details from texts; analyzed how the author/illustrator organized texts and presented ideas. Strengthening comprehension remained a huge area of focus and was done so by building our sight words, vocabulary and fluency as we read different genres and texts within our readers.

Writing: The classroom used many mentor texts to help with writing. These texts helped to teach and practice sentence structure, story elements such as character, setting, plot, and sequencing events as well as how to develop ideas and descriptive writing.

Math: Math consisted of completing Module 1 where the areas of focus were Counting, Comparisons, and Addition. Data contexts provided opportunities for counting, answering questions from data and making comparisons. Counting is very important so that students have the ability to use various strategies that support "counting all or taking away, counting on, and the practice of converting to an easier equivalent problem."

Science: In science, we focused on the idea that Earth is inhabited by a staggering variety of animals and plants, with incredible variation in size, shape, color and parts. How does each of these kinds of living things continue to survive? How do their offspring survive? What does their survival have to do with the nearly endless variation we observe among living things? All living things must meet their basic survival needs, including getting food, water, and oxygen, and avoiding being eaten by other animals. The body parts (structures) of animals and plants function in ways that enable living things to meet their survival needs. Understanding how structures help organisms and their offspring meet survival needs serves as a foundation for future learning about adaptations, inheritance, genetics, natural selection, and evolution.

Social Studies: First grade focused on community building and what makes a good citizen as a neighbor, town, state and just simply our school and classroom. Lots of the rules and procedures were modeled and practiced in order to assure that we are being the best citizens we can be! First Grade enjoyed participating in authentic experiences and had a great time tasting apples, making apple sauce and Vegetable Soup. Also a trip to Ramsey's Farm ended the marking period with wonderful memories and the understanding that regarding life farm experiences. Can't wait to see what our next marking period brings!



Throughout our first marking period, second-grade students have been focusing on graphing and measurement as they constructed picture graphs and bar graphs to evaluate data during our mathematics lessons. Using centimeters and meters, students measured objects, compared lengths, and worked with benchmarks to make estimates. They used rulers as number lines to add and subtract. We then completed part one of our Module 1 assessments. Students are currently exploring place value concepts for numbers within 1,000. They are enhancing the lessons taught in class by completing Dreambox applications each day.

During our whole-group reading sessions, we engaged in close reading with our Bedtime Tales stories where students applied decoding skills during choral, partner, and independent reading. Students demonstrated comprehension through group discussion, multiple choice, and short answer questions. During our grammar lessons, students linked phonemic awareness with spelling patterns for vowel sounds. They learned about capitalization rules, quotation marks, and ending punctuation. Students applied phonics and language skills while writing sentences and personal narratives.

In social studies, we finished our Civics unit, focusing on lessons around having respect for people, places and things. We recently began our unit on Plant and Animal Relationships in science. We are looking forward to celebrating our first marking period incentive with Joe Romano the magician in November!



Third graders are off to an incredible start this marking period! We kicked off our reading journey with *Owen Foote, Money Man*, and students can look forward to exploring *The Constitution of the United States*, *Fudge-a-Mania*, and *Because of Winn-Dixie* next. In writing, students are finishing their Response to Literature unit and will soon begin Informational Writing. Our upcoming focus will be on restating the question when responding to text, alongside checking for correct capitalization and punctuation.

Our mathematicians and scientists are tackling exciting new concepts as well. In math, we completed Module 1 and are now navigating place value through metric measurement in Module 2, while continuing to memorize multiplication facts. In science, our *Balancing Forces* unit has us investigating touching and non-touching forces. Be sure to ask your child tonight how they would explain a floating train!

Finally, we are so proud of the positive community our students are building. The classes are working together to earn paw prints toward classroom celebrations, while individuals earn Fox Points for safe, responsible, and respectful behaviors. Keep up the magnificent work, third graders!



The first marking period of 4th grade has flown by! We started the year by reading “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. We are now reading about the Jamestown colony in the novel “Blood on the River”. In social studies, we learned about primary and secondary sources, and America before Columbus arrived. We supplemented our social studies instruction with field trips to Old New Castle and to Ashland Nature Center. Our science curriculum this marking period focused on geology. Primarily focusing on how geologists can infer how the environment has changed over time. In math, we rounded, estimated, and added and subtracted numbers up to the millions place value!

Moving into the 2nd marking period, we will focus on learning various strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up to 4 digits. We will dig into the causes of the American Revolution and look at a few of the major battles. We will also have the Kalmar Nyckel Foundation visit our classrooms and help our students learn about the first European settlers in Delaware. In science, we will complete a unit on energy conversions. The students will play the role of engineers and work to explain why a fictional town is experiencing blackouts.



5th graders started the year strong! They learned major math concepts like multi-digit multiplication and division. Next marking period, they will dive into the world of fractions. In reading, they read Walk Two Moons, and will read Bud, Not Buddy in the second marking period. They have written two opinion pieces: one on the reclassification of Pluto as a dwarf planet, and another on the law limiting service animals in public to miniature horses and dogs. Next marking period, they will focus on narrative writing and will write a legend. While all of this learning has been fun and meaningful, I think they were most excited to meet their Kindergarten buddy, and they're looking forward to building those relationships through the second 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.

K/1 Classroom

This marking period, we focused on letter recognition and letter sounds, high-frequency words, and core vocabulary words such as *do, go, stop,* and *see*. Students also participated in Unique Learning System (ULS) lessons focused on following rules and moving their bodies safely and appropriately.

In math, we worked on identifying numbers 1–10 and developing one-to-one correspondence skills. Students also participated in math lessons through Zearn to build and strengthen their mathematical understanding. We also did some practice with time and shapes.

We enjoyed several exciting learning opportunities outside of our classroom! Our first-grade students took a trip to Ramsey Farms for some Fall fun, and all of our students attended a field trip to Mount Pleasant High School, where they participated in a hands-on cooking class and made cookies.

It has been a wonderful marking period filled with learning, growth, and meaningful experiences!

2/3 Classroom

Mr. Coffin's class began this school year by developing their classroom community in 404 and learning how to "keep up" with a busy autumn. Academic units "I Can Follow the Rules" and "Move It!" from Unique Learning Systems had focuses on Social Studies: Government and Science: Physical Science, respectively. We have done many things already this year (field trip, Picture Day, Sense of Belonging, testing, pumpkin carving, Fall Festival, Halloween Parade) and there are more fun things still to come!

4/5 Classroom

Mrs. Bass's class began the year remembering and applying the rules and expectations of school. We completed two units from our adapted curriculum- "We Have Laws and Rules" and "Make It Move". We read texts and non-fiction articles to help us answer WH questions. We learned why seat belts are important and explored how different surfaces make things move. For math, we practiced counting from 0-20, making sets, and comparing. Outside the classroom, we made cookies in the kitchen at Mount Pleasant High School, 4th grade students traveled to Old New Castle, and we began practice in chorus. We look forward to the next marking period and the holiday season.



Physical Education with Mrs. Rogers
We are off to an amazing start in physical education at Forwood! Students have come to class excited, enthusiastic, and ready to learn. Please help support your student by helping them remember to wear sneakers on their scheduled physical education day-sneakers will help to keep them safe and able to participate in activities for the day.

All third, fourth, and fifth grade students started out the school year completing their fitness testing. We have spent a portion of our class over the last few weeks testing our cardiovascular endurance with the Pacer test, and muscular strength and endurance with the curl-up and push-up tests. We are in the process of completing our flexibility tests using the trunk lift and the sit and reach tests. All students have done an amazing job and have given their best efforts on these assessments! To break up some of that fitness testing, students played some of their favorite games like Capture the Castle, Spud, Scooterball, and Snowball Fight.

Kindergarten and first grade students have focused on 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 they have made in the last two months! Kindergarten and first grade students were introduced to games such as Toilet Tag, Fishbowl, and Knockdown.

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. We will be putting our soccer skills to use playing developmentally appropriate games for each grade level.

Music with Ms. O'Connor

There is a lot going on in the music department! Students have been learning spooky classical music and have been playing instruments, dancing, and singing in their General Music classes. Third graders are still working on recorders, and 4th and 5th graders have been learning to play the ukulele. Chorus has our first performance on Monday, November 9th, at Forwood Estates. We'll be singing patriotic songs for a Veterans Day observance and celebration. This has become such a wonderful tradition! We have 30 students attending the Philly Thanksgiving Day Parade and have already begun rehearsing! This is the most we've had participate yet, and I'm so happy that our numbers grow each year! They'll be singing Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, so please tune into 6ABC to catch a glimpse of our Forwood Foxes on TV the day of the parade! On the horizon, our first Holiday Caroling event will be held on Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:30 pm in front of the building. We hope your family can join us for some holiday cheer! Hot chocolate will be provided, we'll hold a cookie exchange, and Dark Horse Coffee will have their truck there for the grownups to purchase coffee! Please be on the lookout for an RSVP Dojo message for this event.

Library with Mrs. Szostek

October was filled with fall fun and learning in the Forwood Library! Students in grades K–2 explored how pumpkins and apples grow, enjoyed fall-themed stories, and expanded their vocabulary along the way. They also read and discussed books by Ryan T. Higgins, our Author of the Month, who has become one of our favorites.

Students in grades 3–5 learned how to find, borrow, and enjoy eBooks through Sora. They also began using Typing.com, our keyboarding program, to build confidence and improve their typing skills. We encourage students to keep practicing at home whenever they can!

In November, students will learn to use Google Slides tools to create presentations. We will also introduce our next Author of the Month, Jon Scieszka, whose humorous stories and unexpected twists inspire readers to keep turning the pages. In addition, we will explore stories and traditions associated with Thanksgiving.

As always, all library lessons are available on Schoology under the Library tab. Students can access these resources from home to catch up on a missed class, review what they have learned, or finish a lesson.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out—I'm always happy to help.

Art with Mrs. Brendlinger

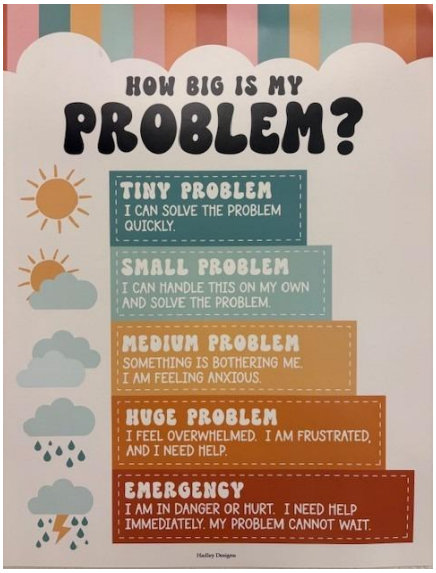
Welcome to the Forwood art studio where all students in grades k-5 learn, experiment, and practice using art supplies to draw, paint, paper engineer, sew/weave/knot, 3D design, and print. The first quarter, 4th and 5th grades focused on techniques for the former four stations and 1st through 3rd focused on the first three medium techniques. Kindergarten is still learning about different drawing supplies and next quarter we will focus on cutting.

As you may have noticed, I hold onto your child's artwork until the end of each quarter. We upload all our artwork to Artsonia. If you are interested in viewing your child's artwork prior to the end of the quarter please make sure you connect with your child on Artsonia and stay connected with quarterly art updates about your child's grade. https://www.artsonia.com/connect/R6NJYT4F Code: R6NJYT4F

Students select one artwork for our Forwood Blue Fox Art Exhibit and I select about 15% of Forwood students for the Young Brandywine Artist Exhibit in March at the Blue Ball Barn.

Counselor's Corner

Forwood School Counselor News~ Mrs. Ward



Bully Prevention Unit wraps up

Grades 1-5 are nearly finished with weekly Second Step Bully Prevention Unit lessons. Second Step defines bullying as *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.*

With heightened awareness, there is often an uptick in reports of bullying. Each report is taken seriously, but once we talk through the situation, it is usually a conflict that is easily resolved. Review with your child if a problem is big (scary, dangerous or someone is hurt) or if it is a small problem (annoying or frustrating). 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/?srsltid=AfmBOopYU93q3XRFyVma4SWCfXQFBFPdT7LclPq8OltMEubk7cO1E7a9

Kindergarten students are mid-way through Kelso Conflict Resolution lessons. I hope they remember to practice the strategies at home.

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.

Costume Collection

Mrs. Pickering and I are collecting clean, gently used Halloween costumes to share with children who may not have the opportunity to dress up. Please send in gently used costumes, marked to our attention. Thank you in advance for your generosity.





November Health News: Thankful for Healthy Habits
Nurse Pickering and Nurse Richardson

November is also a wonderful time to practice gratitude and remember the everyday habits that help keep our school community healthy. As cooler weather and holiday gatherings arrive, please keep these reminders in mind:

Clean hands help keep germs away. November marks the peak convergence of seasonal health threats: influenza, RSV, common colds, and COVID-19 variations. School settings provide prime conditions for rapid virus transmission as students socialize indoors. Encourage children to wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after using the bathroom, and after blowing their nose. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow. These simple steps help reduce the spread of illness.

Give children time to recover. Please follow the school's illness and return-to-school guidelines. Children with fever, repeated vomiting, significant diarrhea, or worsening respiratory symptoms should stay home. Contact the school nurse if you are unsure whether your child is ready to return.

Make room for healthy routines. During this busy season, set aside time for regular bedtimes, balanced meals, water breaks, and active play. Send appropriate layers for outdoor activities as temperatures change.

Practice kindness and gratitude. Invite your child to name something they appreciate or share an act of kindness. A thoughtful word can help someone feel included and supported.

Please notify us of any changes in your child's health status via dojo and if unsure, we are available for consultation.

In Delaware, public school nurses perform mandatory postural and gait screenings for students in grades 5 through 9 to detect orthopedic conditions like scoliosis and walking irregularities. We will be conducting for 5th graders during their PE class during the month of November/December.

Thank you for partnering with the health office to care for our students. Wishing all our families a healthy, restful November.

Resources:

https://www.cdc.gov/children-and-school-preparedness/php/interventions/when-students-or-staff-are-sick.html

https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/school-nutrition/education/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-weight-growth/tips-parents-caregivers/index.html

https://www.cdc.gov/howrightnow/gratitude/index.html

