

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

February 14, 2020



NEWS



A LOOK AHEAD

Happy Friday Owasco families!

It has been a couple of whirlwind weeks here in February between seasonal weather, viruses, and important dates but we've kept at it and are very happy with the results.

Happy 100 days! I am very excited about this accomplishment and the hard work we've all put in to get here. Students and teachers celebrated our 100th day on Friday with a wide array of fun and challenging activities from counting 100 fruit loops for necklaces, to stacking 100 cups to visualizing what they would look like at 100 years of age....CRAZY!

Happy Valentine's Day! I do think this is a business-created holiday but I am a romantic at heart so I love the added opportunity to tell others how much you care about them. As a 1st grader I remember getting a valentine from

Lisa Partak (who I had a crush on) and thinking "I was the man" for the rest of the year :)



2/14 - Valentine's Day

2/17-2/21—**Winter Break no school**

2/25 Student Banking (am)

PBIS Meeting (3:30pm)

2/28 4th grade Colonial Days (2:00pm)



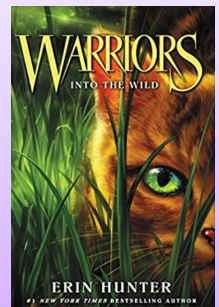
As we have been discussing several important topics over the last several weeks I have received multiple requests for more information regarding curriculum, assessments, NYS testing and our status as a TSI school. To better explore these topics in depth we will be having a parent informational night in early March in the Owasco Auditorium.

For now let's talk about literacy. On average it takes a child two to three years to learn to decode English. Did you know that the English language is the "toughest alphabetic writing system in the world? (Chinese is tougher, but isn't alphabetic. The symbols stand for words and syllables, not sounds.)" -*Center for Early Reading, 2017*. This largely stems from the fact that there are so many exceptions to the straightforward letter sounds that 26 letters should make. If you think about the letter E, how many different sounds can it make to start a word? I thought of two the first time I tried....the answer is SIX: egg, each, eight, eye, english, early. So to master the language students need more than just learning simple letters and sounds they need to build a memory bank of all the possible sounds, plus blends, plus exceptions. Once a child has the ability to decode words they can lift the text off the page and begin to make meaning of it when combined with their understanding of meaning/vocabulary. The rule of thumb is that between Kindergarten and 2nd grade students learn to read, then from 3rd grade on student read to learn.

What can you do as parents to help us achieve this lofty goal of every student reading at or above grade-level by 3rd grade? First and foremost is purposeful practice. "Exposing students to the right level texts just seven minutes per day (more than typical instruction) adds up to more than 160,000 additional words reads per year!" -*Center for Early Reading, 2017*. So head to the library and grab some books that you and your children can read together and discuss. With my daughter Abby in 4th and 5th grades we read the [Warrior Series by Erin Hunter](#). I am currently reading [White Fang by Jack London](#) with my son Grady. Be well and see you soon!

Yours, Jeremy Moore

Owasco Elementary Principal



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Kindergarten - Kindergarteners fell in **LOVE** ❤️ with all the fun February activities! Our family project for the month was to create Valentine Boxes. The Yoda Valentine Box was out of this world!

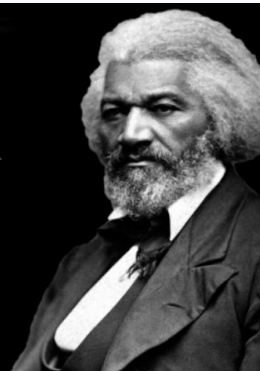
We celebrated the 100th of school with counting to 100 by 1's and 10's. Ettabetta was our new Superkid. Please continue to practice CVC words and writing simple sentences using memory words.



(Above) Raelynn is "100 days smarter" "because of Ms. Bouley!"

It is easier to build strong children
than to repair broken men.

Frederick Douglass



1st grade— We celebrated the 100th day of school on Friday. The first grade did rotations of activities in each classroom. In my class the kids enjoyed building using 100 legos. And flipping a coin 100 times to see if there is a pattern. Here are a few pictures.



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2nd Grade Students and teachers enjoyed a visit from Merry-Go-Round Playhouse. We learned about Aesop's fables and "the moral of the story". We continue to work with money and counting change, so Mom and Dad empty out those pockets and have your student count your money! Have a great winter break, enjoy your time together!



"I had reasoned this out in my mind, there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other." [Harriet Tubman](#)

3rd Grade— ELA/Science: - Frog and other animal adaptations

- Facts about frogs - Compare/Contrast different types of frogs
- Research project on frog adaptations using Google Slides

Math:

- Multiplication and division using units of 0, 1, 6-9 and multiples of 10
- Understanding Area using multiplication and division
- Solving word problems involving area

(right) Mr. Jones checks out the slideshow Landon and his group have been collaborating on for the last several days.



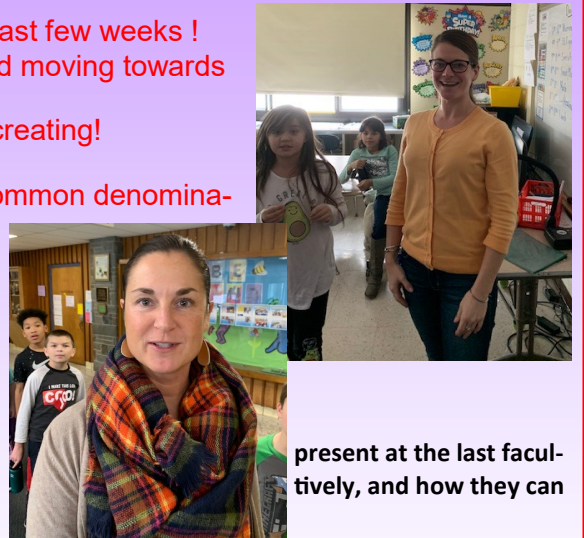
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4th Grade— We have been very busy in fourth grade the last few weeks ! In Social Studies we are working on our colonial day projects and moving towards our colonial day presentations! Wait until you see the amazing Google slide shows that we are creating!

Our math groups are working hard on fractions starting to find common denominators and working on unit fractions.

In our ELA groups we are working on our paired selections and finding common themes between two reading passages as well as working with Merry go round talented staff to work on some amazing next generation skills

Ms. West (top rt) and Mrs. Carbonaro (bottom rt) were gracious enough to present at the last faculty meeting on our technology plan and on new sciences resources, respectively, and how they can enrich every grade level experience.



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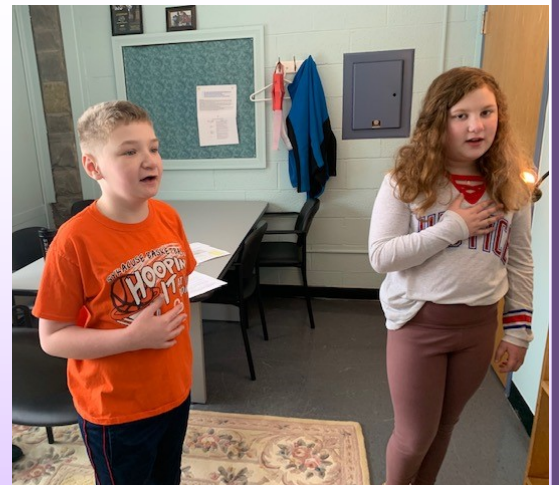
“We learned about honesty and integrity – that the truth matters...that you don't take shortcuts or play by your own set of rules...and success doesn't count unless you earn it fair and square.” Michelle Obama

5th Grade: ELA - Students completed their mid-unit assessment which focused on the visual elements of a graphic novel, Max Axiom. We have begun the discussion on inventors and inventions, and looking at the big questions of: How do new or improved technologies meet societal needs? How do authors structure text and use visual elements to engage and support readers' understanding of complex ideas?

Science - Students have completed their own Mystery Doug presentation, using research and technology to discover and present the answers to their own questions/inquiries.

Social Studies - Students explored mnemonic devices and took the Thirteen Colonies Assessment.

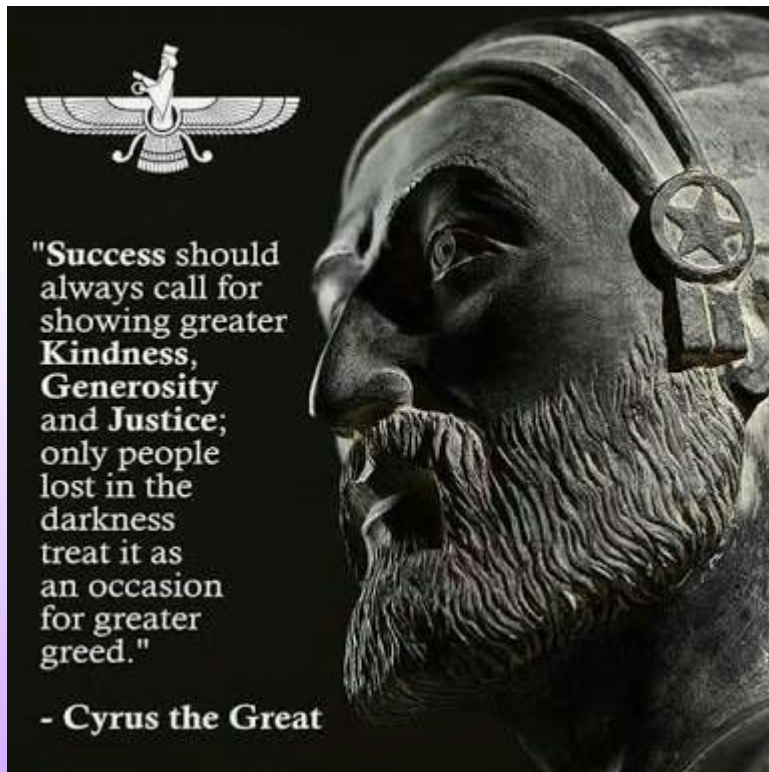
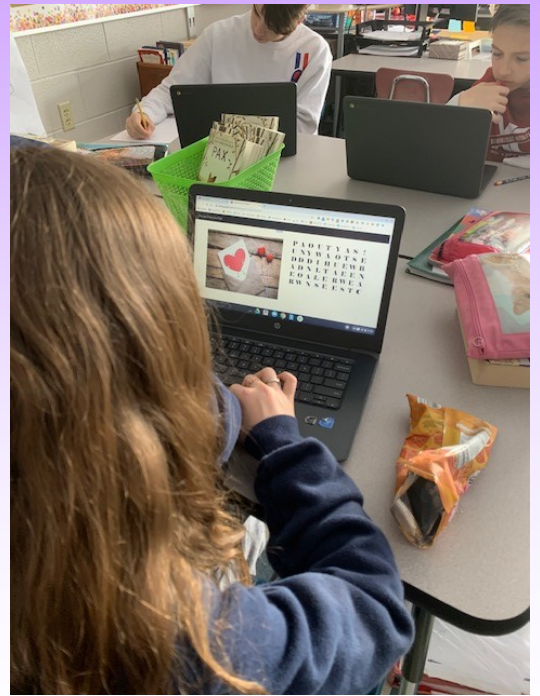
We will be analyzing colonial unrest and events that lead up to The American Revolution. Students continue adding to their interactive notebooks.



Shout out to Austin and Sydney (above) and Mrs. Robert's 5th graders who han-

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6th Grade— Students in Mrs. Pineau's class (right) worked on escaping a digital Escape Room on Valentine's Day. In Mrs. Germinara's social studies students are learning about the ancient Persian and Greek empires. It is amazing the impact that the convergence of natural resources, technology, religion, political philosophy and ambitious individuals have had on the course of human history.



I have been listening to Dan Carlin's [Hardcore History](#) podcast for the last several months. One thing I learned about the Persians is that they largely allowed peoples they conquered to keep their religious and social traditions and general way of life. Compared to the Assyrians before them they were comparatively more tolerant. This is a different perception than what you might get from watching the movie 300!

[Click above to check out the Hardcore History podcast...](#)

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Word of the Month

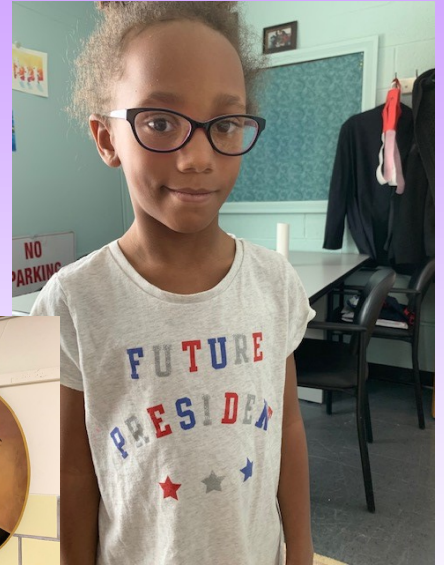
Honesty as defined by Merriam-Webster

1: adherence to the facts : SINCERITY

2: fairness and **straightforwardness**
of conduct



I love this description!



Teacher: — interim Secretary Superstar

Favorite Childhood Book: Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

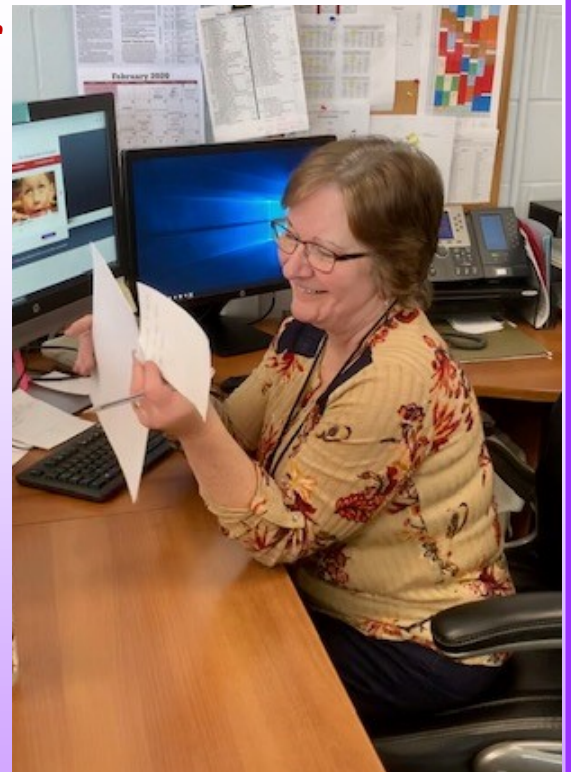
Currently Reading: any book on the Amish.

Best Advice ever given: "Stay true to yourself." my parents
"and I have followed that advice to this day."

Hobbies: Being a grandparent/babysitter, camping. Favorite place Cedar Point State Park where we watch the big ships go by, travel (Newfoundland, Labrador, Ireland, Switzerland-balloon ride, Germany—favorite destination of them all!)

Favorite Movie: The Sound of Music, The Quiet Man

What's the one or two highlights from working at Owasco? Seeing the kids that went to Herman Avenue now as parents bringing their children to school, how they've grown and what they're doing.



Jeanne Jakaub

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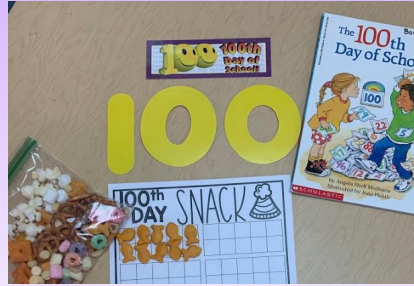
OWASCO'S BEST



Congratulations to the following students: **Hayden Chase, Lyla Serrett, Francesca Mancuso, Kara Sova, Ayden Brown, Evan Murphy, Noah Wrench, Lyric Matthews, Alex Sadusky, Aedan Neagle, Harper Mirrer, Miley Vitale**; and staff: **Mrs. Reynics, Mrs. Barbuto, Ms. Townsend, Ms. Jones, Mrs. Hostetter, Mrs. Rooker**

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AROUND THE SCHOOL



Not only was it **Valentine's Day** on Friday it was also our **100th day** in school! Students participated in activities all day long like 100 cup stacking, 100 snack counting, and reading about the number. A big shout out to our fantastic Kindergarten teachers Ms. Bouley, Mrs. Chadderdon and Mrs. Gebo (above left)! Great work so far and we're so excited about what's still to come:)

Mrs. Chadderdon's students enthusiastically greet a new classmate to their room (right)! Talk about treating others the way you'd like to be treated:)

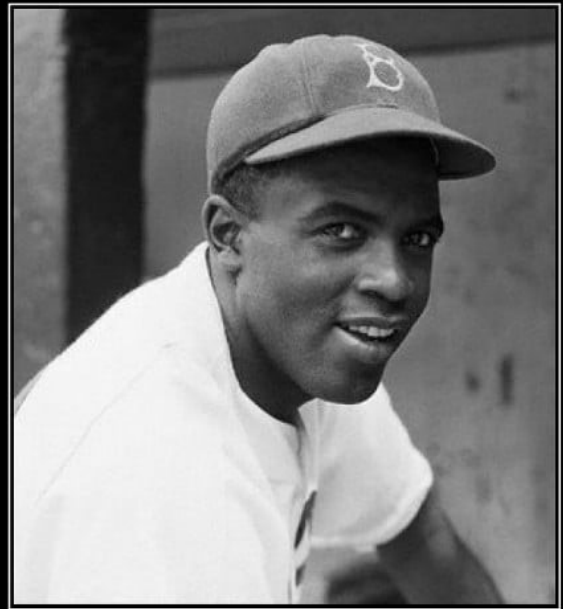
Ms. Bouley's students building creative lego structures (below) during recess. Smiles included for free...every day



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AROUND THE SCHOOL

Owasco celebrated Black History month in class and around the school. Below Sydney shares inspirational quotes from African-American leaders throughout our history.



ACTION

"Life is not a spectator sport. If you're going to spend your whole life in the grandstand just watching what goes on, in my opinion you're wasting your life." -Jackie Robinson

Click the picture above to watch a short video about this inspirational leader.

Click below to learn about 21 African Americans you should know but don't.



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RESOURCES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is that time of year again for SQUARE1ART!!! After February break students will receive their custom catalog featuring their artwork and order form.

Help your child feel like an accomplished artist by purchasing keepsakes for the whole family containing their masterpiece! The school earns profit from every order. And as a thank you for participating, we provide each child with a sheet of stickers imprinted with their artwork for free!

Watch out for more details about order deadlines.

