

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

January 17, 2020



NEWS



A LOOK AHEAD

Happy Friday Owasco families!

I hope this newsletter finds you happy and well and enjoying/enduring the return of winter weather. We wanted to continue sharing with you some of the wonderful things happening at Owasco over the last two weeks, but also begin communicating with you on some deeper issues as well so let's get right to it.

Curriculum and Instruction: As the first half of the school year is coming to a close your children have been working hard to start to put the pieces together. Routines have been established, expectations reviewed and reinforced, and the boys and girls are well into learning their grade-level content. Teachers and students are doing their thing at this point through reading, writing, creating, collaborating, presenting, debating, and practicing (homework). This is the 'what we learn' as well as 'how we learn' portions.

Assessment: To evaluate the effectiveness of teaching and learning, or the 'how well are they learning,' we check for understanding by way of daily and weekly formative assessments. At the end of a unit, or module, there is always a summative assessment which objectively measures what a student knows and is able to do at that point. This is where a student demonstrates proficiency (65-84%), or hopefully mastery (>85%), of a subject or skill. Teachers use the data from these assessments to determine the a) quality of our curriculum, b) effectiveness of our instruction and c) to determine if any reteaching or additional supports are needed.

Three times a year we also administer independent norm-referenced assessments to measure our students' overall growth in ELA and Math. The tests we use are Dibbles for K-2 and STAR for 3-6. Your teacher has likely communicated some of these scores with you in discussions throughout the year.

State Assessments: As you likely know NY State also requires students in grades 3-12 take end of year assessments to ensure students meet minimal academic expectations. In high school those are the Regents Exams and are requirements to graduate. In grades 3-8 those exams measure the overall progress of students compared to their peers locally, regionally, and across the state. In Auburn, we utilize the data from those state assessments in a number of valuable ways.

- First, this data helps identify the quality and rigor of our curriculum. Are we teaching the right content? Are there gaps or repetitions? Have we prioritized the right standards? Are we using our time wisely?
- Second, this data helps us to evaluate the quality of our instruction? The lessons and techniques that worked ten years ago may not be as effective today. How can we best incorporate technology? Collaborative instruction? Project-based learning?
- Third, this data helps to compare the five different elementary schools within the district. Are we delivering a consistent experience to all students within a grade level? Where do we see strengths and areas in need of improvement? This leads to rich discussions and sharing of best-practices so we can all get better and challenge and support every learner.

In the next newsletter we will be discussing our status as a TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) school and what that means for our building and programs.

Student Dropoff: Parents please remember that students being dropped off before school (8:00am-8:40am) must be dropped off in front of the walker doors (near the gym) and not in the bus loop.

Sock Donations: We'd like to thank the Sacred Heart community for their generous donation of a huge bag of brand new socks for our kiddos!

Again, Be well and hug those precious people tight! Yours, Jeremy Moore Owasco Elementary Principal

1/20 - MLK Jr. Day **No School**

1/22 - **PBIS** Meeting

1/30 - **Disability Awareness**
Day Grade 3

1/31 Jersey Day!!!



Every Tuesday :

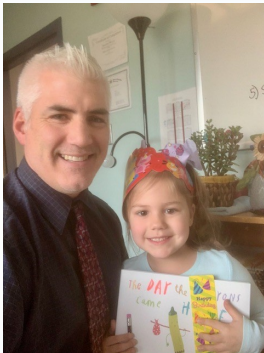
Student Banking in the library. Students can start savings accounts and make deposits every T

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Kindergarten— The Kindergarten family project for January was to create a snowman using objects found at home. They have made snow dogs, snow hockey players, snow mermaids, and many more (below left)



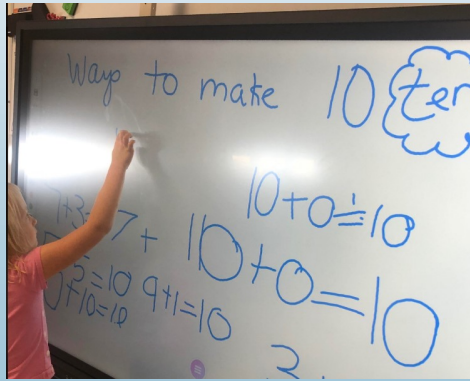
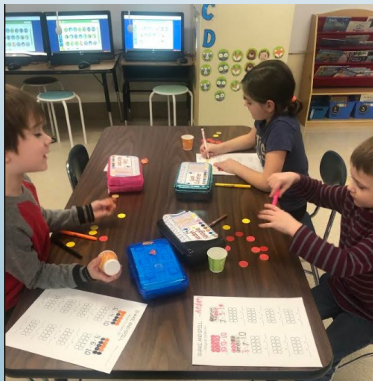
Kindergarten is finishing our Superkids booklet that featured our friends Tic, Tac, and Toc (as modeled by our friends Madden, Alayah, and Callie). We are blending CVC words and reading simple sentences.



It just so happened that Alayah had a birthday this week. She chose the ever popular [Dragons Love Tacos](#) as her birthday book!

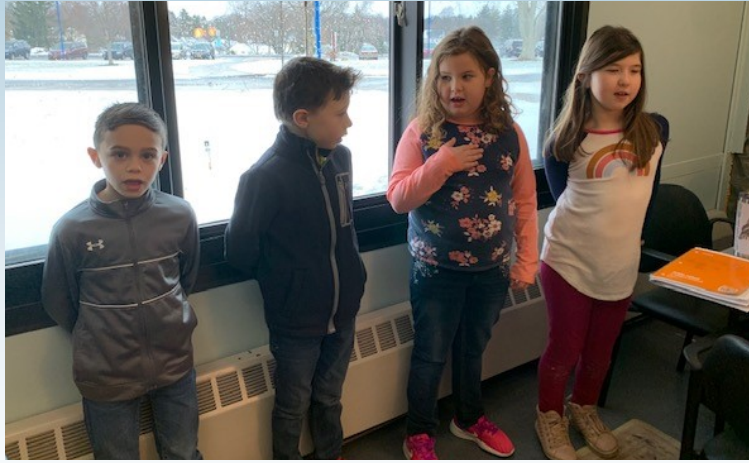
1st grade— Math: (Below) First grade is continuing to learn about ways to make a 10, so we can begin adding and subtracting larger numbers. Through filling Ten Squares with colored chips, to writing Turn Around Facts on the promethean board. If you'd like to work with us adding three numbers together that would be very helpful!

In Superkids, we are beginning to work on long vowel words. Please continue to practice the word cards that came home in the beginning of the year and please let your child's teacher know if you



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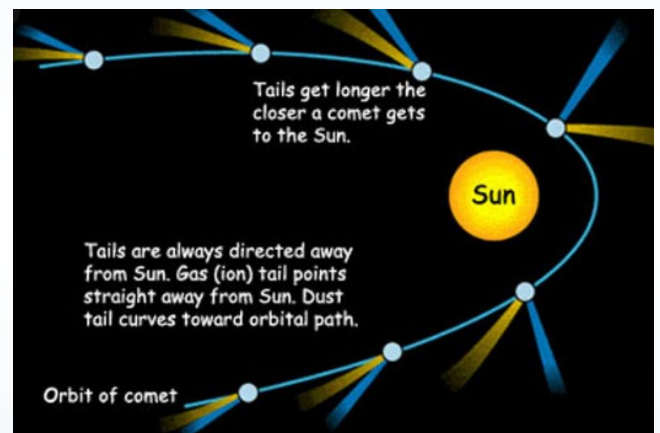
2nd Grade — Second graders from Ms. Stoker's class did a wonderful job with morning announcements last week. (Below) Michael, Rocco, Abigail and Alexandra lead



everyone in the pledge of allegiance, the Owasco pledge, and the Facts of the Day all about space! Did you know that the former planet Pluto is actually smaller than the continental United States or Australia? Or that the tail of a comet always points away from the sun, which means it is sometimes in front of the comet as it travels?



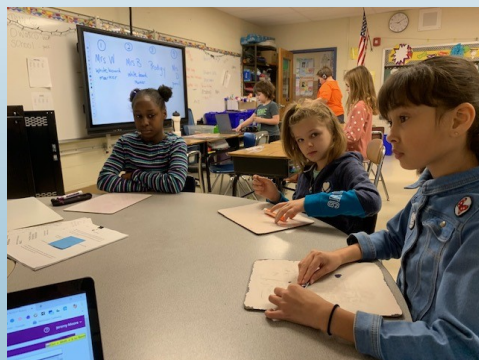
Did
you
know?



3rd Grade— Students Maddyn, Natalie, and Drayden are pictured (right) analyzing and comparing maps to determine which Climate Zones are found in different countries around the globe! The students enjoyed the engaging activity as part of their unit on Weather.



Click this link for [COOL CO2 Experiments](#)



Gigi, Maya, and Nevaeh (left) work on rounding to the nearest tens and hundreds. They use those number to estimate the sum of two and three digit addition problems.

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4th Grade— Math: We have begun our Geometry unit. The students have learned about the different types of lines and angles. Our vocabulary includes: parallel lines, perpendicular lines, right angle, acute angle, and obtuse angle. In the next couple of weeks, we will learn how to measure angles and classify two-dimensional shapes based upon their angles. This is all in preparation to begin our next Project-Based Learning titled “GEOMETROCITY”.

ELA:

The students have been working on answering extended response questions using the RACE strategy.

R- Rewrite

A- Answer the Question

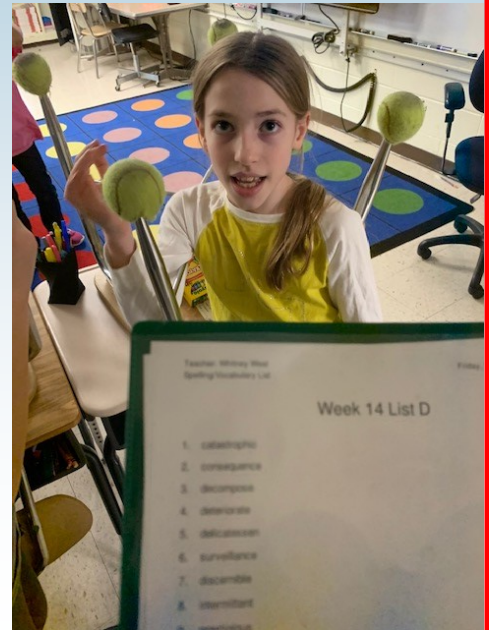
C- Cite (“According to the text”)

E- Evidence

Social Studies:

We have started our unit on Colonial Times. The students are learning about the daily life in Colonial America. The students are blown away by the fact that the colonists survived without running water, electricity, and indoor plumbing.

Alexis (right) has moved up to the “D List” for spelling. I checked her on some tough words and was very impressed!



5th Grade:

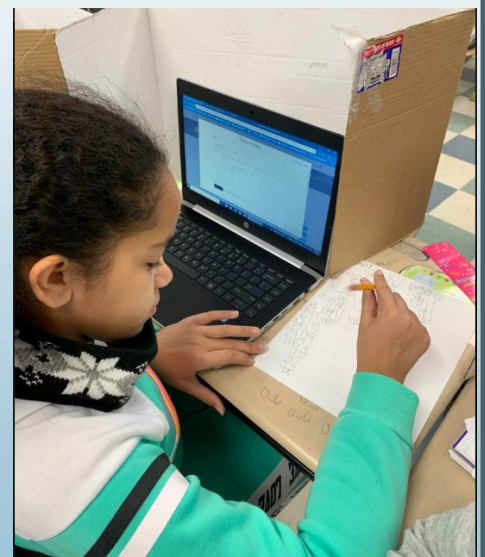
Science-This week we continued to explore ecosystems and the food web through Mystery Science and its informational videos, exploration and discussion. Students participated in the food chain game, discussed predators, decomposers and the matter cycle, and created mold terrariums (left), which we will continue to observe over the course of the next 12 days. We also played a pond ecosystems game and discussed the potential extinction of koalas.

Social Studies - Ask your child to share their Animoto Project highlighting European Exploration.

ELA - Establishing criteria to select a text for independent reading

Writing Skills: Two-Voice Poems, Opinion Writing, Essay Structures

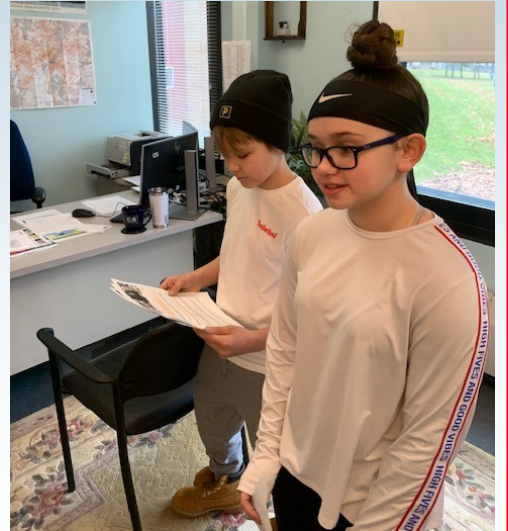
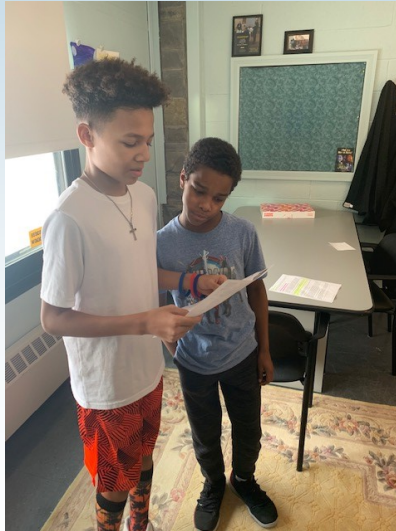
Math: We Khan Do It! 5th graders are exploring standards aligned practice through Khan Academy! **Payton Humphrey (right) practicing her 2 digit division strategies.**



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6th Grade— Social Studies/ELA: 6th grade has been learning about the great American civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.. After taking notes on two excellent documentary videos and three articles, students got to work synthesizing all of it into a report they shared on Friday. All week students from Ms. Biz's class (Amadi, Kaiden, Aaliyah and Kevin – below) led morning announcements and shared their goals for the year along with some meaningful quotes from Dr. King.

Science: Currently, we are doing Space Exploration which covers Sun-Earth-Moon System and solar system. Earth's tilt, lunar cycle, eclipses, designing habitation in space.



“Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun, be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best of whatever you are.” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Speech before a group of students at Barratt Junior High School in Philadelphia, October 26, 1967



Specials: Students in Mrs. Lupo's library this week worked on collaboration and thinking outside of the box. Their challenge was to break into a “Breakout Box” by solving a series of library-related challenges (5-finger rule for selecting an appropriate book, determining cardinal directions for sections of the library, etc.)



The activity was 2 parts brainteaser, 3 parts Amazing Race, 1 part Sherlock Holmes. You can tell these students were all about it!



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Word of the Month

Loyalty is the quality of staying firm in your friendship or support for someone or something.

Synonyms: allegiance, fealty, devotion, steadfastness, commitment to.

Ex. Mr. Moore's dog Teddy is a loyal and faithful friend.



Teacher: **Mrs. Mindy Gebo—K**

Favorite Childhood Book: [Charlotte's Web](#) by E. B. White

Currently Reading: [Do Fly](#) by Gavin Strange

Best Advice ever given: "Be proud of yourself for how far you've come and never stop pushing yourself to be the best you can be." *my mom*

Hobbies: camping, baking, crafting

What's the one or two highlights from teaching this year?

Seeing the excitement on my Kinders faces when they master a new skill, hearing them use our word of the year: Persevere

Mrs. Gebo has been teaching at Owasco Elementary for three years and is a highly respected member of our Kindergarten team. She is also a contributing member of several committees including: PBIS, Technology, TCIS and Family Engagement. Her students share that she is also "the smartest teacher" and "makes learning fun!"



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OWASCO'S BEST



Congratulations: Addison, Daniel, David, Hudson, Kinnely, Riley, Riley, Gemma, Lucas, Aniah; also Mr. Cuddy, Mrs. J Mahunik, Mrs. Moulton and Mr. Joy!



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AROUND THE SCHOOL



First grade students have been working hard on following school rules and classroom expectations and as an incentive, this Friday we opened all three classrooms for recess! The kids had such a great time playing with all of their different friends and could go into any first grade classroom of their choice!



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AROUND THE SCHOOL



As you can see our friends spent some much needed outdoor recess time. I love when they come in all rosy-cheeked and smiling! Body, mind, and spirit all get refreshed under crisp, clear, blue Owasco skies!