

PTO Newsletter

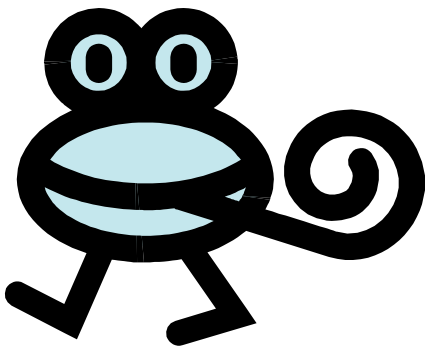
District 3 © Spring 2009

Kindergarten

Mrs. Diller, Mrs. Dilsaver & Mrs. LeGrand

Spring has sprung! Our spring rain children look so wonderful! Thank you, Families, for putting so much effort into those projects! There is a great deal of excitement in the kindergarten classrooms! The students are busy reading, writing, adding, subtracting, problem solving, and putting our I-Care rules into practice. We are looking forward to the arrival of our new classroom pets, the monarch butterflies! Be sure to welcome them when you come to visit the classrooms during our Spring Open House and Ice Cream Social on Thursday, May 7 from 6:30 - 8:00.

It's hard to believe that our un"frog"getable kindergarten year is leaping to an end. The kindergarten life cycle is almost complete. Our little tadpoles have metamorphosized into frogs and will be graduating on Thursday, June 11th at 1:30 in the ARS gym. Family and friends are all invited. It has been a "toad-ally" awesome year! The kindergarten teachers would



like to express our gratitude to all the parents for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children. Thank you for your continued support of our program throughout the year. Enjoy your summer.

like to express our gratitude to all the parents for allowing us the opportunity to work with your children. Thank you for your continued support of our program throughout the year. Enjoy your summer.

First Grade

Mrs. Nichols, Mrs. Wagner & Mrs. Cooker

The "dog-gone" winter seems to want to "sit and stay" a while longer. Hopefully spring will come to make our tails wag. As we "roll over" into the last quarter we will be focusing a lot on writing sentences and short stories. Our "pups" have been practicing this at school using the story words first, next, then and last. Their writing is "breeding" great "tails" as they use their word walls and picture dictionaries to spell correctly when journaling or in their creative writings.

The pups will begin learning to write super sentences,



which will help reinforce our past lessons on nouns, verbs and adjectives. Correct use of capitalization and punctuation will continue in formal and informal lessons.

Math units we will be working on until the end of the year will be place value, skip counting, money as well as addition and subtraction to 20.

In science we will finish the year with a unit on plants and animals (habitats, life cycles, etc.). In Social studies, students will learn about land formations, natural resources, our neighbors to the north (Canada) and our neighbors to the south (Mexico).

The past nine months with your K-9 cuties has been a "paws"itive experience for all. So we wish you a great start to the Dog Days of Summer and a little song to remind you "Who let the dogs out? Who, Whooo, Who, Who?"

Second Grade

Mrs. Bebber, Mrs. Tietz and Mr. Knapp

We would like to thank all the moms and dads who spend so much quality time with their children. It takes a lot of dedication to practice spelling words each week, find the time to listen to stories being read, work on math facts and help get paragraphs written for special projects. Then, of course, there are all the enriching outside activities you provide for your children that further stimulate their development. In essence we're saying "thank you" for your time and commitment. It shows in how well each child has grown during the year and strengthens the foundation for the years to come.

This year we've learned about plants and watched them grow. We've studied the skeletal and muscular systems. We've read about dinosaurs and completed many activities about them. Now we are beginning our life cycle unit on the Monarch caterpillar. What a school year!

We will take our traditional trip to the Elk Grove Village Bicycle Safety Town on May 13. PTO sponsors this trip to ensure that most children 2nd grade and older in Fox River Grove have had the opportunity to learn the official Illinois bicycle safety rules. While at Bike Safety Town the children have the opportunity to practice the rules they are exposed to in the classroom previous to the trip.

We will also be making a trip to the Brookfield Zoo on May 29 as part of our science unit on animal habitats. All parents are invited to join us on the zoo trip. Information will be coming home soon!

At this time of the year we are able to look back and see

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

that we have accomplished many things throughout the year. Each child has shown growth in being able to work independently. They have matured socially in their abilities to interact with others. It has been a successful year so far and we anticipate your child will continue in the same direction this year and in years to come.

Third Grade

Mrs. Savage, Mrs. Beebe, and Mrs. Patterson

In Power Math we concluded our money unit with our annual "Moose Money Garage Sale." The boys and girls brought in many fun items to sell, and they had an exciting morning of shopping.

The emphasis in social studies this quarter will be the study of communities over time, which will include a look at immigration and exploring our own community's history. We are so pleased with the effort the students have been making in learning their states.

Everyone is very excited about the study of rocks and minerals, our current unit in science. We have also begun our health and nutrition unit.

We have some excellent writers to brag about as evidenced by the creative books you will be seeing at open house.

"Breakfast Club" continues to be a big hit with our third graders. Be sure to ask your third grader to tell you all about this "yummy" activity which promotes reading and stimulates discussion among students about what they've read.

We look forward to seeing you all at our spring open house.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Achey, Ms. Blau, Mrs. Gira, and Mrs. Stick

As we move into the last quarter of fourth grade, we are preparing the students for their transition to 5th grade. The children will be visiting the Middle School on the afternoon of May 21st to meet the 5th grade teachers, take a tour of the building, and learn about the curriculum. During this visit the students will have an opportunity to ask questions about what to expect in the fall.

In reading we have just finished the novel *The War with Grandpa*, which the students really enjoyed. We continue using the StoryTown basal on Monday through Wednesday each week, where they can incorporate their knowledge of their spelling and vocabulary. Each class is doing a book report that needs to be completed by Friday, May 1. Various activities were assigned that can be seen at our Spring Social on May 7. We will soon be starting the novel *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E. B. White. Having your child read 15 – 20 minutes daily will

really help them be better readers. Ask them about what they are reading and what they like about the books.

In language we continue learning about the different parts of speech and are in the process of writing our persuasive essay, which will be the last essay of the year. They will be displayed at Spring Social along with their Illinois ABC books, which they have been busily finishing. DOL tests will continue to be on Tuesdays. Spelling lists for the rest of the year went home in their report cards.

In Math we have finished our fraction unit and are now delving into decimals. We will do a unit on metric measurement and then review double digit multiplying and long division. Last we will cover double digit divisors and review many of the concepts learned this year. Keep working on those facts!!

The 4th graders should be working on their electricity project and paper or have the option of taking a test on electricity if they are not doing a project. The project or take home test is due on Tuesday, May 26. The entire school will enjoy viewing them on Friday, May 29 during our Electricity Fair. Instructions went home with each student on April 23rd, but they are also posted on our website. We will finish the year completing the Physical Science unit.

In Social Studies we completed a unit on Illinois, and the students were able to apply information they learned to complete their ABC books. We are beginning to study the Plains states and will move to the western region of the United States.

On Friday, May 22 our students will go to Glacial Park for their last field trip of the year. They will gain knowledge of how McHenry County's landforms, animals, and plants have changed over the years and will be involved in a restoration project. Make sure you check the weather and have your child dressed appropriately for a long day of hiking and send a disposable lunch.

Three of our students were rewarded Mr. Beefy lunches for their great effort in completing the most tests with the highest scores on Study Island. Study Island is a preparation for ISAT testing they can do on our website. It covers reading, math, and science information and skills. They are Emily Schladt, Joe Bajorek, and Justin Trausch. Congratulations!

We hope to see you at Spring Social so your child can share some of the wonderful projects they have done this year. It is hard to believe that there are only a few weeks of school left, and the children will soon be leav-



(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

ing ARS! It has been wonderful getting to know the students, and we wish them success at the Middle School!

Fifth Grade

As we begin to wrap up the school year, we want to take time to thank those who have helped to make our school year so successful.

Thank you to all our parents who have spent countless hours helping their child with assignments, projects and tests. Your diligent efforts to have your child well prepared for the ISAT tests has not been unnoticed. We are confident each and every child did their personal best.

Thank you to the PTO for supplying the entire fifth grade with tickets to see the Cary Grove High School Musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Magical moments were taken home by all.

Thank you to Mrs. Kassel, for many hours of her time, volunteering to help students in the fifth grade with math skills and concepts.

With just a few weeks of school left, it is important to make sure your child continues to be prepared for school daily. Please make sure they have their daily supplies. This would include: pencils, paper, colored pencils, scissors, glue stick and a homework folder.

Please continue to check assignment notebooks nightly. If ever in doubt about an assignment, give our homework hotline a call. Forgotten textbooks? Not a problem! The FRG Public Library has a copy of the textbooks for fifth grade available for use.

Your continued support is always appreciated.
Mrs. Carr, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Szybowicz & Mr. Ostergaard

The Sixth Grade Team

Grammar and Writing

Mrs. Barham and Mrs. Shaw

In grammar and writing this quarter we will be creating poetry booklets. The students will learn 10 different types of poems and then create their own poetry. When completed, each child will have a bound, illustrated book of original poems. We will also be wrapping up the 8 parts of speech: studying adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections. Finally, 6th graders continue working on a spelling lesson each week. Remember, the spelling list is updated each week on the website.

Literature

Mr. King, Mrs. Shaw, and Mrs. Bruns

The students are beginning our last novel of the year, *Tangerine*. All 6th grade students will be working together researching topics presented in the book. We will also have several activities to help students in their

understanding of this story about a young boy who deals with moving, changing schools, and being accepted for his strengths and not his handicap. The students need 17 Accelerated Reader points for 4th quarter.

Science

Mrs. Miller

As the school year winds down, the 6th graders are going to be studying vertebrates. We will be investigating owl pellets and dissecting bullfrogs.

A field trip to the Shedd Aquarium will be the highlight of the fourth quarter. As the weather becomes nicer, it will be more difficult for the children to focus on homework. Encourage your child/children to complete homework and study for tests and quizzes. Remind them that summer break is just around the corner!

Health

Mrs. Miller

The 6th grade students will be writing and presenting information pertaining to drugs – both legal and illegal. We will conclude the 4th quarter by studying topics such as teasing, criticizing and bullying.

Social Studies

Mr. King

The sixth graders will be finishing the year with a flurry. We will investigate the revolutions in America, France, and Latin America and the spread of democracy. The students will study the Industrial Revolution, nationalism, and imperialism leading up to World War I. They will continue to move forward through the Great Depression, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, the rise of Asian nations in the late 1900s, and work our way to present day information.

Math

Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Barham

Students will study Chapters 10-12 including Geometry and Measurement, Integers and Equations and Functions. We will also be taking the last multiple choice unit test at the end of May to continue to practice for upcoming ISAT tests and other multiple choice tests.

All student homework should be done in the math spiral to be seen and checked by parents. Quiz/test papers are sent home to be seen by parents. The students should correct the papers, have them signed by their parent/guardian, and return them the next school day for extra credit points. Students can retake the quizzes and tests to improve their scores (these are averaged). Please contact me if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Computers

Mrs. Slater

The students will learn keyboarding per the technology curriculum to prepare for their middle school and high school classes. We will be using class handouts and the Ultra Key Program to learn basic keyboarding. The daily homework for every student is to practice keyboarding at least twenty minutes each day to improve accuracy and speed. This practice should continue throughout the year.

The students will also learn the basic parts of a computer as well as basic features in Word, Excel, Power-Point and Publisher programs. The students will create a project using each of these programs. We will discuss Internet Safety and do research for projects using the Internet. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at slaters@dist3.org.

7th Grade Team

Spring has sprung, the birds are singing, and students are dreaming longingly of summer. But, we still have one more quarter, and what a quarter it will be. It is our goal as your student's seventh grade teachers to support learning and encourage effective study habits. We provide additional help during daily study halls and are often available after school with prior arrangements. If you have any questions concerning specific assignments, we encourage you to view our team web page, login to HomeLogic, or check our homework hotline.

Literature and Language Arts

Mrs. Bruns & Mr. Merkel

In Language Arts, the students will be wrapping up the 8 parts of speech as well as a unit on correct use of punctuation. Our 4th quarter project will allow the students to use all the knowledge they have gained this year to write a creative short story. Emphasis will be placed not only on creativity, but also sound mechanics. Spelling and vocabulary will continue to be a weekly assignment. Words and definitions are available on the 7th grade web page.

In Literature, our next novel will be *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This is always a student favorite, and even the kids who have read the book before are amazed by how much they missed on their initial reading of this complex story. Don't forget, the students need 21 points to receive an A+ for Accelerated Reader this quarter.

Science

Mrs. Grosse & Mrs. Miller

For the 7th graders science this year finishes up with

a unit that explores the interdependence of life. We'll be studying plants, the environment and how organisms interact, and finally conserving our resources and the affect that pollution has on the world we live in. This is always a good unit to do in the spring since we'll be able to get outside to study the environment first-hand once the weather gets warmer.

Math

Mrs Wagner & Mrs. Slater

7th grade Math

During the last quarter our focus will be on Geometry, Measurement, and Probability. The concepts include areas, volume and surface areas for geometric figures. Seventh graders need to make sure their homework is complete every day. They can re-do homework assignments the next day for a higher grade and to insure understanding of the concepts.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

The seventh grade Pre-Algebra class will spend the last quarter studying geometry and measurement. We will learn about congruence, similarity, transformations, and formulas for volume, area, and surface area. After that, we will start a chapter on linear equations. Next year these students will be in the Algebra Class and will study high school Algebra 1.

Social Studies

Mr. Danley & Mr. King

Congratulations to all 7th grade students for completion of the United States Constitution. All students passed their Constitution tests and are eligible to move on to 8th grade.

In the final quarter of the year, the students will be learning about the events and causes of the Civil War.

8th Grade

Finishing off the 4th quarter can be a challenge for 8th graders and we all need to work together to create a smooth transition to high school for our students. It is a busy semester both socially and academically. We want to encourage students to put academics first. The academic demands are going to be greater during this semester as we continue to prepare 8th graders for freshman year. Students need to continue to come to classes prepared with homework. Pens, red pens, pencils, and paper are always needed for class work. It's important that paperwork gets turned in on time; like permission slips, midterms, and report cards. When students are absent, they should be proactive instead of waiting until the next day to get work. Call the homework hotline and/or check teacher websites on the day students are

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

absent in order to keep up with daily work. Friends can pick up worksheets for each other when a student is absent. Missing daily lessons can put a student way behind. When students are in school, they are expected to keep up with current work, even if they have been absent. Make the end of the year go smoothly by keeping up with daily tasks.

8th Grade Math Classes

Mrs. Wagner

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

The eighth grade Pre-Algebra classes will spend the 4th quarter studying chapters in Geometry and Measurement. We will learn about congruence, similarity, transformations, and formulas for volume, area, and surface area. After that, we will start on linear equations. This completes the knowledge the students will need in order to be successful in high school algebra in the fall.

8th Grade Algebra Class

The eighth grade Algebra class will work hard to finish the Algebra 1 textbook during 4th Quarter. We will study polynomials and factoring, then learn about radical equations and functions, and then apply that knowledge to Geometry. At the end of the year the students will take a comprehensive Semester 2 Final Exam. The results of this exam along with quarter grades from this year will determine each student's high school math placement. These students have worked hard and have accomplished a lot this year. They are well prepared and ready to be successful in high school Geometry next year.

Reading

Mrs. Piecuch

Students will read two novels during the 4th quarter. The first is *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. The second will be *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding. Sparknotes and/or Cliffnotes may be helpful for these books, but students must be careful about what and how much they read if they don't want to know the endings of these stories. Students need 25 AR points in the 4th quarter for an A+ in AR.

Language Arts

Mrs. Piecuch

In language arts, students will be researching a 20th Century invention or event that has significantly impacted society. This culminating project will incorporate all the research skills that the students have learned in their middle school years, and build upon them. The focus will be on choosing a subject, narrowing the topic,

taking good notes, organizing appropriate information, citing sources correctly, and writing an impressive final paper.

Science

Mrs. Grosse

The 8th graders have just finishing up a unit on electricity and magnetism and are now learning about sound and light. We'll then be taking about two weeks to take a look at the types of energy we haven't studied yet and the importance and best ways of conserving energy resources. Our final unit of the year looks at force and motion.

Social Studies

Mr. Danley

Our 8th grade students will be studying the era of the 1950s to present day. Some highlights are the Cold War, Korean War, Vietnam War, Civil rights movement and modern problems in the Middle East. Students will be engaged in some hands-on activities and computer applications as well.

Physical Education K-4

Mrs. McAtee

We will complete the year by working on striking skills, fitness, track and relay activities, and lead up to softball games all leading to fit bodies. Our focus will be on basic skills, eye-hand coordination, and team play.

A healthy lifestyle was encouraged this year through a developmentally appropriate, progressive, and enjoyable physical education program. We stressed agility, balance, coordination and aerobic endurance.

In Physical Education we addressed Good Sportsmanship" by combining all elements of physical, mental, and emotional intelligence. We learned to embrace our teammates by cheering on their individual and collective accomplishments. The girls and boys had an outstanding year.

Middle School Physical Education

Mr. Lewan

All students will be involved in the Presidential Physical Fitness Program. This is a series of tests which measure the students strength, speed, agility, coordination, and endurance. Students will be tested in sit-ups (1 min.), push-ups, 50 yard dash, long jump, pull-ups or flexed arm hang and sit and reach. The Pacer test will measure endurance.

7th and 8th grade will be involved in a games unit playing softball and eclipse ball. Eclipse ball is a racquet

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

ball and paddle sport. It encourages the camaraderie of volleyball, spontaneity of badminton, and the excitement of tennis.

6th grade will be participating in a square dancing unit which is intended to develop creative expression, rhythmic movement, music appreciation, and social skills.

The P.E. department would also like to extend thanks to the PTO for providing scooters. The scooters will assist in enhancing the curriculum for all the grade levels.



Library News

Laura Richards and Penny Cole

Library Lessons

Students in second, third and fourth grade will look up all kinds of interesting words in the dictionary, and find information in almanacs and atlases. Kindergarteners and first graders will continue to enjoy the many wonderful books in the library.

Fox River Grove Memorial Library

Near the end of May, Carol Dolan will meet with the students in both buildings to promote the Fox River Grove Memorial Library's Summer Reading program.

The Final Due Date

ARS and FRGMS library books will be due back in the library by Wednesday, May 29. We'll send overdue notices home with students who have overdue books. If you're not sure whether your child has a book checked out, please contact Penny Cole at the Middle School or Laura Richards at Algonquin Road School.

Musical Notes

Mrs. O'Reilly-Greene



Kindergarten Music

Kindergarten is working with learned concepts every day in music class including hand symbols, introduction to

note-reading, steady beat and a special emphasis on instrumental and vocal sounds, with a unit on the classic tale and music of "The Carnival of the Animals."

1st Grade Music

First grade has been learning about the various ways to use the voice as well as the voices and families of the

instruments. We will do a special unit on the orchestral music of "Peter and the Wolf" and we will be learning some new notes and rests and furthering our music reading skills.

2nd Grade Music

2nd Grade Music had a great blues song-writing unit where we recorded them singing their own compositions. We also learned about the families of instruments. We recently learned a new note- the half note, and are working with the pitches la, sol, mi and do.

5th Grade Music

5th graders have been focusing on the concept of melody and we just finished a project using the computer music program called Finale Notepad to compose a song. We have also been reviewing notes on the staff. We have also started our recorder unit.

Chorus

We are so excited to have hosted the second annual "Festival of Voices." This festival on April 25 featured Wauconda Middle School and Fox River Grove Middle School combining together for a day of workshops, singing and fun!

Our Spring Concert- "A Night on Broadway" is April 29 at 7 p.m.

We are going to see High School Musical on Stage at the Marriot Lincolnshire Theater.

Musical Notes

Mrs. Limpus



3rd grade music

We just finished learning Tititorea from New Zealand in 3rd grade music. The children are practicing playing rhythm patterns with a partner with rhythm sticks. It is customary to throw the sticks to

each other when learning Tititorea. We decided that might not be such a great idea, but we had fun using egg shakers and tennis balls instead to practice that skill.

4th grade music

Students have been learning how to play a 12 measure blues progression on piano, bells and boom whackers. We will also be starting our unit on instruments in preparation for 5th grade band tryouts. Information will be coming home this week about how your 4th grader can join the band next year.

5th grade band

The 5th grade band is busy getting prepared for our Spring Concert, May 6. The concert will be held in the middle school multi purpose room at 7 p.m. The stu-

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

dents are also busy earning their next karate belt levels. We are excited that some of the student's will have their black belts by the concert.

Jazz Band

The Jazz Band has had some extra help the last three weeks. Our guitar players have had Mr. David Rose from Dr. Woods Music Store come in to teach a few master classes during study hall. The students really benefitted from this experience. They will use what they learned and join the rest of the Jazz Band and perform at our Spring Concert. Special thanks to the Fox River Grove Music Parents Organization for sponsoring the master classes.

Middle school band

The Fox River Grove Middle School Band will be busy until the end of the school year. They just had an amazing performance at ARS. The students enjoyed performing for our elementary school. We were also treated to a performance by the Cary Grove High School Band last week. The Fox River Grove Middle School Band will also participate in the Spring Concert. Don't forget to look for us in the Memorial Day Parade on May 25. Finally, we will be performing at 8th Grade Graduation.

ARS Art News

Mrs. Bebbler

4th Grade

Fourth graders studied the life and work of the Renaissance genius Leonardo da Vinci. Da Vinci is known as the Father of Botany for his detailed, realistic renderings of plants. Fourth graders drew contours of flowers, then enhanced the drawings with watercolors. Students marbled paper to use as a background for their botanical paintings. These beautiful paintings were used as the fourth grade magnets this year.

Hearts were the subject of the fourth grade metal tooling project. Students textured a heart and added a patterned border. Sharpies added a glow of color to the aluminum. Repetition of texture and color was stressed in this project.

Students examined photos of castles before designing their own original castles. The castles are being constructed out of slabs of clay. Students were challenged to incorporate at least 2 towers, a door, windows, and unique extras, such as balconies, low walls, and arches into their castles. Bricks, stone and wood textures are being pressed in or added on.



3rd Grade

Third graders created zoomorphic pinch pots-pinch pots with animal heads, legs, and tails. Horses, dogs, elephants, giraffes, bunnies and pigs are just a few of the animals created. We first looked at animal photos and sketched the basic shapes. After forming a sturdy pinch pot, legs, heads and tails were modeled in clay. Students learned how to attach clay pieces by scoring and adding slip. Painting was a real challenge. Clay is not as smooth as paper! After checking carefully for any missed areas, the animals were coated with a tempera varnish.

Third graders next learned about Chinese culture and art. We examined Chinese artifacts, heard Chinese folk tales, and listened to Chinese music as we painted Chinese landscapes.

2nd/3rd Grade

Second and third graders created 3D paper castles. The castles included several main buildings and towers. Doors and windows were added with scraps. Flags on flagpoles added the final touch.

Cupcakes were the subject of our 2/3 magnets this year. Students created their own original cupcakes in tempera paint, then added a border using the same brilliant paint colors.

2nd Grade

Second graders created weavings on colorful cardboard looms. They learned how to warp a loom and weave with wefts of ribbon or felt. Patterns were created by the arrangement of the weft strips.

Second graders used thick black markers on huge paper to draw a detailed house with a background. Swings, birds, trees, clouds, and bikes were a few of the interesting objects included in these drawings.

1st Grade

First graders created their version of the tooth fairy using crayons and watercolors. A wide range of smiles and hair styles gave the tooth fairies personality! Students used tempera paint to create beautiful, colorful butterflies. They first practiced drawing butterflies from photos, then created their own patterns to trace.

K/1

Kindergarteners and first graders listened to the story *Mousepaint*, then created their own mice from Model Magic. Students mixed primary colors to make 3 mice: 1 orange, 1 green, and 1 purple. Wire whiskers and pipe cleaner tails provided the finishing touches.

Students learned about the life and work of the famous Spanish painter Pablo Picasso. His painting of hands with flowers inspired their own mixed media works. Students hands were traced before the flowers were added. Kindergarteners used colored markers,

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

while first graders created their flowers from torn paper.

Students are currently learning about the cave paintings of Lascaux. They are coloring a paper to look like a rough cave wall. Students are examining posters of the animals on the cave walls, then drawing and painting the animals on their papers.

Feature

Junior High Principal Eric Runck



He's been at the job for a full school year now, and Principal Runck couldn't be happier with how things are going.

He's encouraged to see how the staff and students take such pride in their school. The Junior High has implemented programs this year to improve school pride and morale, and it seems to be working! The program has had a positive impact of teachers, staff and students alike.

His biggest surprise has been all the things that the principal at this smaller school does. "When Dr. Mahaffy told me he fills the snack machines, I thought he was kidding!" Principal Runck said.

All joking aside, he looks forward to implementing a "Response to Intervention" program next year, which is a multi-year program to train and implement on a pro-

gram to better respond to students who need intervention first at the classroom level and also who need additional support outside the classroom.

Prior to his teaching and administration career, Principal Runck renovated and build houses. He then taught at St. Joseph High School (Illinois) for 12 years and Urbana High School for one year. His favorite subject to teach was computers — he was a technology integrationist as well.

He served as a Principal at Blue Ridge High School in Farmer City before taking the position of Assistant Principal at Huntley High School for six years. Following his work at Huntley High School, he accepted the position of Principal at the Fox River Grove Junior High School.

On a personal level, he enjoys traveling and camping. Some of his favorite places are Mesa Verde, Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Badlands, Sequoia National Park, Flagstaff and Yellowstone. Locally, he likes camping and boating at Chain O' Lakes State Park.

Having lived in smaller downstate towns and the Chicago suburbs, he likes the convenience of living in this area but could do without all the traffic!

While he does not own an I-Pod, he enjoys listening to music, especially Christian music, Rolling Stones, Led Zepplin and Queen.

He ran the Chicago Marathon in 2005.

He lives with his family in Huntley.