

Hello Pirate Parents!

We hope the beginning of 2021 finds you happy and healthy!

We are off to a great start here in the new year! It is so good to see our Pirates in-person and in our Google classrooms :) I know our teachers have amazing things planned in the upcoming weeks for our Pirates to continue to grow academically, socially and emotionally.

As the new year begins, we have a fresh start and may make 'resolutions' or set goals for self-improvement. Children need to be encouraged to set goals that are attainable. Smaller goals may be easier to achieve, raise children's confidence, and better prepare them to take the steps to reach a larger goal. Ideas to consider for possible resolutions/goals:

- Gradually increasing independent or family reading time
- Mastering math facts
- Improving study habits
- Increasing responsibilities around the house

When supporting your child to reach goals, your praise is a most positive reward for continued success!

Our Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for next week and will be held virtually. You should have completed and sent in the Parent /Teacher form, which was posted in your child's Google classroom a couple weeks ago, indicating your selection of day/evening and any special subject teachers you would like to speak to. \*You will receive an email invitation to participate in a Google Meet with your child's teacher at a specific time on a specific date. Just click on the link provided in the email at the given time. Conferences will be kept to 15 minute intervals. If you require additional time after that, kindly make that arrangement with your child's teacher.

Conferences will be held:

-Tuesday, January 12th      6:00pm-8:30pm

-Wednesday, January 13th 2:05-3:50pm

- Thursday, January 14th 2:05pm-3:50pm

\*\*Please note, there is no instruction after 1:30pm on conference days.

\*\*\*School is closed on Monday, January 18, 2021,

in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

From Mrs. O'Donnell's Desk: The middle of the year is an important time. Teachers and students have been working hard, and we want to make sure our time together is as impactful as possible. It's important to understand where students are in their learning, and where they may need more support. To help us tailor instruction to each child's individual needs, students will be taking two mid-year diagnostic assessments this trimester. The iReady Math Mid-Year Diagnostic will be administered in January, and the Exact Path Mid-Year Reading Diagnostic will be administered in February to all grade levels.

#### What You Need to Know and Do

You may be tempted to help on the test. Please know, this test is not for a grade. It helps teachers give your student the best instruction possible. Think of it this way—would you help your student with a vision test? No, because hints won't help the eye doctor help them. As with any diagnostic assessment, hints on the test now could negatively impact your student's instruction later.

If this is the second time your student is taking the test, you're probably asking, "Why are they taking this again?" Knowing how your student is progressing will help teachers know to best support them for the rest of the school year. It may take more than one session for your child to complete the entire assessment. It's important students take their time and do not rush.

You can access more information regarding the [Exact Path](#) and [iReady](#) programs by clicking on the links here. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming diagnostic assessments, please reach out to your child's teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Friday Free Food Pick Up: a reminder that if you are interested in one week's worth of free breakfast, lunch, and fruit for your child, please contact Mrs. DeRiggi, our Kitchen Manager at 732-505-5860 Ext 320060, this way she can be prepared with enough supplies. General pickup is on Fridays at Door 14 from 10am-12pm, however Mrs.

DeRiggi will be ready at 8am should you need to arrive earlier. This is available to every family.

In the classrooms...

Mr. Rielly's technology classes have been learning about computer coding. Third graders have been using block coding, while fourth and fifth graders are beginning to type code themselves using basic javascript and python coding. For more information and activities please visit [code.org](http://code.org).

Hello my little artists! On Monday, January 11th, I will be returning to teach art and I can't tell you how excited I am to see all of you! I have some neat lessons planned for all of you. I will be posting materials needed ahead of time in your child's classroom. A supply list is provided in my classroom if you still need/want to purchase specific supplies. A variety of media will give your child the best options and choices of what they can use for art lessons. Most art projects will be taught with the choice of media, whether it be watercolor paint, tempera, oil pastel, or a combination of a few. If you have any questions, please contact me at [sbowes@trschoools.com](mailto:sbowes@trschoools.com). I can't wait to see all of you! ~ Mrs. Bowes

The third graders are just beginning to learn about area and perimeter. The multiplication we have been studying will help us with our area. We're so happy we are becoming multiplication experts. ~Mrs. Sclafani

Happy New Year to all our 5th graders! We are so impressed with the wonderful literary conversations that we had during our reading of the novel "Wonder." We are looking forward to watching the movie and then comparing the movie with the novel. In our next unit, we will be focusing on the theme of courage and exploring some important historical figures who positively impacted the world with their courageous actions. In math, we are continuing working with fraction computation. It is very important that all students are comfortable with their multiplication facts in order to ease math comprehension. In science, we continue to explore some foundational concepts in chemistry. Keep up the great work, 5th graders! ~ Mrs. Gawalis

Mrs. Gottlieb's class has learned a new technique to help them blend. It is called tapping. The students learned that tapping will help them sound out a word and build their hand muscles for writing. Mrs. Gottlieb is so proud that many of her students can read our January sight words already. Keep up the great work!

Happy 2021! The second grade students are enjoying another Poppleton book study. Please ask them about Poppleton's adventures. We have been brainstorming to identify personal and school goals for the new year. The students enjoyed making their "sandwiches." They will use these when we create paragraphs. In math we will be creating three digit numbers using digits, words, expanded form, and base ten blocks.-  
The Second Grade Teachers

As always, thank you for your support and cooperation!

Have a great remainder of the week and weekend!

Sincerely,

Ms. Colleen McGrath, Principal

Mrs. Dina O'Donnell, Supervisor of Instruction