

MARY F. JANVIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



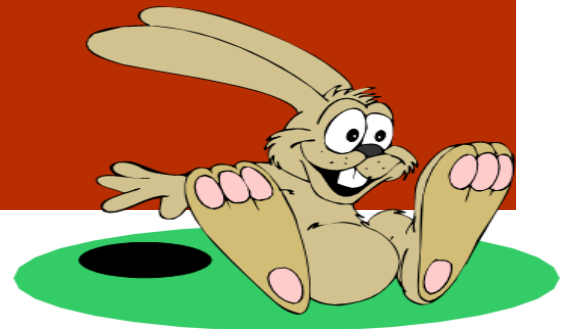
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**April 2022
Journal**

The Janvier Journal

Mr. Kobik's Corner



Spring has arrived! The flowers are blooming, the grass is growing, and April showers certainly have been falling. While the early Spring can be marked by chilly winds and gray skies, we know that the bright sun and warmer weather are on their way. Of course, the school year is not over yet and there is still much learning to do and achievements to recognize. Student of the Month, the Weekly Character Sticker Award, and our Lunchroom Champions program are just a few of the ways that we recognize positive decision – making among our student population. Throughout March, positive behaviors towards the targeted character education trait of “Honesty” were encouraged through character lessons that emphasized the importance of the children being honest with their teachers, adults in their lives, and other students. During April, similar short lessons and reinforcement that promote the character trait of “Citizenship” will occur with an emphasis on the students learning to recognize that a big part of being a good citizen is to be a “team player”. Our school’s Character Wall continues to grow as the children hang their “bricks” which show that they have made great choices towards demonstrating strong character. The children are enthusiastic towards our school’s character education program and are learning that good character should also occur outside of our school’s walls. As a full community we can promote this concept by recognizing our children’s good character when it is demonstrated at home, in the store, or during an extracurricular activity. Identifying our children being responsible, respectful, gracious, kind, trustworthy, honest, and cooperating with others is certainly something that makes us all proud and the children need to be praised when they demonstrate these qualities. Of course, we should also remember that our children generally learn appropriate values through their observation of those around them. In effect, one can state that values are caught and not taught. Positive role models have a great impact on our children’s lives and during the past few weeks, each of our school’s grade levels

had the opportunity to interact with students from our district’s Caroline Reutter School and with school district personnel who served as guest readers during *Read Across America* activities. You will find articles about this event in this edition of the *Janvier Journal*. Also in this edition, you will read of learning that is occurring in our Related Arts classes of Computers, Music, and Physical Education as well as news from the Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 2nd Grade Teams. Our K-2 Speech Therapist provides an update from Speech Therapy and our school’s Reading Specialist shares tips and games for you to use at home to assist your child in practicing their letter sounds, letter names, high frequency words, and phonics skills. I hope that you find this edition of the *Janvier Journal* informative. The Mary F. Janvier staff continues to appreciate all of the support that you have provided and we wish you an enjoyable Spring.



Hi, I am Mrs. Fasanella, the Reading Specialist at Janvier! Please see the tips below for practicing letter sounds, letter names, high frequency words, and phonics skills at home.

Hoop Game

Get 2 hoops, trays or plates and place a letter card or phonics pattern on each of them. For example: “s” and “j” or “ay” and “ai.” Have a variety of objects beginning with these 2 sounds. Ask your child to select an object and say the name of it. Repeat it several times and then ask your child to place it on the correct hoop.

Sound Hunt:

Encourage children to hunt around the

house or outside for objects beginning with a certain sound. You can also post high frequency words for students to find around the house on Post-Its.

Sound Game:

Show a variety of objects or words to your child. All of the objects have the same initial sound except one. Ask them to identify the object or word that does not have the same sound.

Letters/Phonics Patterns in the Mud:

Encourage children to write letters/phonics patterns in different ways. Write them with a stick in the mud, with their finger in sand or salt, a straw in paint. This is not only great for their sound/letter correspondence but also

for handwriting. For example, if the phonics pattern is “ow”, “ou,” you would write words such as “cow” and “loud.” You can also practice this outside by using chalk.

Please check out my school website for more ideas and videos from me: <https://app.oucoursesystems.com/>



What's Happening In Speech

Spring has sprung in Speech Therapy! Our Preschool Speech Therapy students are working hard to meet their speech and language goals including expanding their vocabulary, following directions, expanding the length of their phrases, using regular plurals and much more! Some Spring activities we have been doing include our flower dot marker activity as well as Spring vocabulary. This Spring, the Preschool students will focus on vocabulary units such as Earth Day, Easter, Spring, and Camping. Kindergarten through 2nd

Grade students are working on speech sounds, producing smooth speech, and language goals like vocabulary and pronouns. Speech students have been using words like “flower” or “grass” to practice cluster sounds and words like “umbrella” or “butterfly” to practice multisyllabic words. Students working on language have been discussing April vocabulary words such as “rain”, “caterpillar” and “birds”. They are also discussing why these words relate to April. Students have been creating

flowers as they take turns working on their skills!



Read Across America Day In The Library

What a wonderful time we had in March celebrating Read Across America Day! All Janvier classes had a special visit from the Cat in the Hat and he showed us just how much fun reading can be! Each student received a special Cat In The Hat costume provided by the Janvier PTA. Sixth Grade Reutter students joined in the fun by providing a reading of their favorite Dr. Seuss book for our Janvier 2nd Grade students. In Kindergarten and 1st Grade, special guest readers visited the classrooms to read their favorite story.

Read Across America Day was a huge success for the Janvier and Reutter students, and I want to thank everyone who made our celebration possible!



Activities In Gym Class

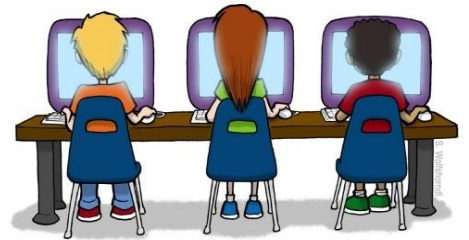
We started off Spring in Gym class with jump rope! This is an activity that is not only great for your health, but super fun to do! The students are working on seeing how many jumps in a row they can complete, as well as working towards finishing 100 jumps!



Learning The Keyboard In Computer Class

Our students are continuing to do fabulous in Computers class. Kindergarten is continuing to become familiar with the keys, creating capital letters, and using the spacebar while typing sentences in Google Docs. In 1st and 2nd Grade, we are focusing on home row. We are reviewing what keys and fingers make home row and how to type using the correct fingers on the keys. The students are enjoying using the program typingclub.com as

it shows them videos and models how they should be typing. In 2nd Grade, they are trying to improve their words per minute each week while keeping track of their progress in Google Sheets. Keep up the great work friends!



Learning About Folk Music and Nursery Rhymes In Music Class

Janvier Music classes in April focus a lot on creating and performing across all grade levels. In Second Grade, students are preparing for a concert! We are preparing a program that has exciting music and a feature of every single class. In First Grade, students are learning about Folk Music. We have discussed the relevance of the music, similarities and differences between folk music and other genres of music, and how to perform folk music. We have created and performed folk music using singing, dancing, and by playing xylophones. Lastly, we have talked about making creative, artistic decisions that directly impact the mu-

sic we are making. In Kindergarten, students are learning about Nursery Rhymes. We are singing songs such as Mary Had a Little Lamb, The Itsy Bitsy Spider, and Jack and Jill. Similarly to First Grade, we are also making creative artistic decisions about certain fairy tales. For example, each Kindergarten class has created music to go along with the story The Three Little Pigs. We have discussed a lot of things students make decisions about, such as how fast or slow the music should go, how loud or soft the music should be, and what type of instrument best captures each moment of the story. Kindergarten students have also experi-

enced playing on the xylophones.



Kindergarten Learns About Teen Numbers

Kindergarten is starting to explore teen numbers this month! The students have participated in a variety of activities to get them familiar with counting to 20, and building different teen numbers using counters, cubes and ten frames. Going forward the students will begin learning to decompose teen numbers and how to write number bonds. We are also learning about holidays and celebrations during Reading this month. The children have been reading informational books that teach them about

different holidays and ways people around the world celebrate. One of the holidays we've talked about is Earth Day which is coming up on April 22nd! Kindergarten is looking forward to learning about how we can take care of the Earth!!



What's Happening In First Grade

The month of April holds great fun for the students of 1st Grade! This month, with the help of our parents, the 1st Grade Team is putting together a surprise Egg Hunt for the students outside on the playground. We hope that this activity brings them joy and laughter before our Spring Break. The students will have the opportunity to interact with friends from other classes and enjoy the fresh air together! Speaking of fresh air, Earth Day is also this month. When we return from Spring Break, the students have another opportunity to enjoy time outside together. 1st Grade will be connecting with nature by learning lessons outside, planting seeds in our

school's garden, participating in an Earth Day scavenger hunt, and much more! The teachers of 1st Grade are so excited to share these experiences with your children and we hope they have a wonderful time and lots of fun this month!



Learning Measurement In Second Grade

We have been measuring maniacs the last few weeks in 2nd Grade! We have taken the opportunity to use several different tools to measure items around the classroom and even went outside to measure objects in the garden. The students have learned that there are 12 inches in a foot, and 3 feet in a yard. We have also been discussing how different tools are used to measure different objects. For example, we wouldn't use a meter stick to measure our pencil, or even measure in centimeters if we wanted to see how long our classroom is. Those

lessons have brought up class discussions as to why when we measure the same object using different units of measurement that we will never get the same number. Within the upcoming weeks we will be solving word problems involving lengths that are given the same unit and comparing the length of objects expressing the difference of length. If you get a chance, try to build a lego structure or something made out of items around the house, and then measure the item using the appropriate tools. Measuring can be fun, so have fun with it!

