



Meridian Elementary School

Specialist Newsletter

September 25, 2023

LIBRARY – Mrs. Woolington

Happy Fall Ya'll! We started out the school year reading a book called "*Thankful*" written by Elaine Vickers and illustrated by Samantha Cotterill. After reading the book to each class K-5 we talked about things we were thankful for. We made an enormous chain that I will be sharing later that each child told me something they were thankful for. The chain links included everything from family, school and even pizza. I mean who isn't thankful for pizza!? Coming up later at the beginning of 2024 we will be having our annual Scholastic Book Fair which I know the kids absolutely love. The fair gets better every single year and I'd like to thank all our parents and kids for the success.

Why did people stop going to the library?
Answer: It was all booked!

SOCIAL WORKER – Mrs. Dalby

Our District Social Worker, Jessica Dalby, is excited to start her 3rd year as a Meridian Hawk! As the District Social Worker, she works with each grade level, from Preschool to Senior year. She supports students with IEP's and 504's to ensure their social emotional needs are met. She is a Licensed Social Worker and is trained in various aspects of mental health. This year has started off with lessons on emotional regulation, properly identifying your emotions, and how to "grow" your mindset, with many more lessons packed full of tools that students need to be successful in the classroom. She assists with social emotional learning through her individual lessons, group sessions, and quarterly classroom lessons. At times, she partners with classroom teachers, administrators, and parents to collaborate on how to best support students. She also collaborates with outside resources to ensure that the basic needs of our students are being met. She is excited to see what this new school year will bring and the opportunity to work with students again!

PE – Mr. Stogsdill

Parents, Meridian elementary physical education will be focusing on "Playing the Game the Right Way". I have been using this line in hope that students realize the importance of playing well with others. Throughout the year the students will participate in foundational movement skills-- Locomotor and Nonlocomotor movements. We will focus on Teamwork, Cooperation, and Building confidence. Parents please have your child wear tennis shoes, or bring them to change into, on their PE days. and work on them tying their own shoes.

K-2 ENRICHMENT – Mrs. Pfeiffer

Enrichment (or "Kindness Class," as some of the older students call it) is having a lot of fun this year! We are learning about being a good listener and kind kid through songs, puppets, play acting, games, and crafts. We have made listening ears, and are figuring out ways to help us listen to directions. We are spending the first quarter on learning about respect, listening skills, and positive self-talk, before moving into more in depth lessons on listening and our emotions. With it being my third year leading Enrichment, I am seeing skills taught last year being brought forward, and am looking forward to getting deeper into conflict resolution and positive listening with the kids. If you ever have any questions, feel free to reach out!



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ART - Mrs. Hadowsky

What's Happening in the Art Room?

Kindergarten- learning about the different types of lines and shapes and how to use them to draw. Then students will be learning about the artist Paul Klee and learning what abstract art is. Next quarter these little artists will be learning about Picasso.

1st- are reviewing the different kinds of lines and shapes and how to use them to create patterns. The students will also be learning about the artist Henri Matisse and how to create paper cut outs and painting with patterns.

2nd- are finishing up a project with zentangle patterns and color blending. Next, they will be learning about the work of Claude Monet and will do a blended watercolor painting. Soon they will be introduced to the craft of paper mache.

3rd- are getting ready to start their unit on color theory and paint mixing. They will also be learning about the work of American artist Georgia O'Keeffe and will complete several projects in the style of her work.

4th- are just finishing up a blended pattern project and will be starting a unit about the artist Vincent Van Gogh. They will be creating their own version of the Starry Night and create a sunflower painting. Next quarter they will be learn about linear perspective.

5th- will be learning about the Mexican artist Frida Kahlo and how her culture influenced her work. Several projects will be centered around "*Dia de los Muertos*" celebration. Next quarter they will learn to shade using drawing techniques such as stippling, hatching, cross hatching and scumbling to create a more 3-d drawing.

MUSIC – Mr. Anderson

In 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade we have begun learning the musical alphabet, note placement on the music staff, and started new rhythms: 16th Notes, Half Notes, and Whole Notes. With these new rhythms and knowledge of notes on the treble clef, we will progress to reading sheet music. Soon we will begin our songs for the upcoming Christmas Concert which will be Wednesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. in the Meridian High School Gym. In Kindergarten, we are exploring movement and keeping a steady beat. Instrument families will be the next topic for Kindergarten. 1st and 2nd Graders are working on note recognition as well as telling stories with instruments. Soon we will begin our Fall and Holiday activities. Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade will be showcased this Spring during our Spring Concert.

STUDENT SERVICES COORDINATOR – Mrs. Rhodes

Our Student services coordinator, Mrs. Rhodes, works with our students in many different ways. She helps instill restorative practices with our students. Restorative Practices help to work out conflicts by having conversations. Asking questions like "What was I thinking at the time?" "How could I have handled this differently?" and "How can I make things right?". Each quarter we have a behavior incentive plan to help encourage students to make the right choice, each time. Students who have no more than 1 detention and no suspensions are able to enjoy an extra activity. Mrs. Rhodes assists with our Academic Intervention Plans for students who are at risk academically at each mid-term. She also does classroom lessons each quarter to help with social emotional learning and assists students individually as needed.