

Applevue Elementary ~ March 2024

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Office Hours:
Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:00pm

Dear Applevue Families,

As we watched our third grade music performance this week, we were reminded how fortunate we are to have the opportunity to work in a place with such great kids, families, staff, and facilities. We really are blessed to have all that we do as a school community, and we appreciate the trust that you offer our school with each of your own precious kids. We want to encourage everyone to continue to extend grace and understanding to one another as we work as a community to raise our kids.

We also want to thank everyone who recently attended our Parent Teacher Conferences for Applevue. Our staff always appreciates the opportunity to visit with our families and work in partnership to help our students grow and succeed. Please continue to reach out to us if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress at school.

March is reading month and you will find a link to our calendar of events within this newsletter. Please support your child with any reading-focused activities at home during the month, and encourage their participation in the multiple events taking place at school. Most importantly, please continue to make time on a daily basis for your child to read at home.

Take Care,
Mr. Birely
Mrs. Lehner

MARCH CALENDAR

March 1: Last Day of Trimester 2

March 8: Report Cards Go Home

March 28: Spring Break Begins

APRIL CALENDAR

April 8: Return from Break

April 26: Progress Reports Go Home

Kick off reading month at

Schuler Books

2660 28th Street SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49512



& support **Sparta Education Foundation**

Purchase items in house or online during

March 3-9, 2024

and 20% of your purchase will be donated to the SEF.

Simply mention SEF Book Days during checkout in the store or use code SEFBOOKDAYS during online checkout at

<https://www.schulerbooks.com/>



**Spring Break will begin
on Thursday, March 28
and students will return
to school on Monday,
April 8.**

Technology Resources for Parents

The following snippets are provided by Protect Young Eyes (PYE) to help support families as they make decisions regarding appropriate use of technology for kids in their home.

What's the right age to give my kid a social media account? This is a great question that parents of elementary and middle school students often have. Age is important (the law says age 13 is the minimum!), but what other factors should parents consider? [This blog post from Protect Young Eyes answers these questions and many others.](#) Are you a parent who is concerned about internet safety? Then don't miss this post.

We've been brain hacked by our technology! The world's largest social media platforms have vast knowledge about the human brain. They know that the smartphone is the new slot machine, giving its users a rush of neurochemicals with every post, notification, like, and comment. The Snapstreak is a perfect example, preying on teen anxiety. Would you like to be better informed about these kinds of risks? Just text the word "protect" (no quotes) to the number 66866 to enroll in the Protect Young Eyes bi-weekly tech updates.

Parking Lot:

The traffic in the parking lot is certainly more difficult to navigate during the winter months and can get quite messy as spring approaches. Please be considerate of the following as you pick up/drop off your child at Appleview:

- Park in a parking space if you are leaving your car unattended, waiting for someone to run in and out of the building, or if your child needs more time to get in/out of the car.
- Do not leave your car unattended in the pick up/drop off lane.
- Pull all the way forward in the pick up/drop off lane so that traffic doesn't flow out onto 12 mile road.
- Be careful of students entering or leaving the parking lot. Many of our students are not as tall as your car and may be difficult to see.

What's Brewing in the STEM Lab?

February was an exciting month in the STEM Lab. In connection with our Kids Heart Challenge, our 3rd graders learned about how the heart works and how important it is to take care of your heart. We did various exercises to get our heart rate up then found our pulse to see how many times our heart beat in a minute.

In 4th grade we finished up our Animal Adaptation Projects. Each student made a 3D model of an animal with three specific adaptations to survive. We also started learning about the human eye and how the eye works. We learned about the different parts and functions of the eye. Students will be dissecting a sheep's eye ball to see the parts up close.

Our 5th graders spent a few weeks learning about the brain and the digestive system. We learned how our brain and sensory nerves work together to allow us to do different things. We tested this by trying to catch a dollar bill that was dropped between their fingers. We also simulated what happens to food when we eat, what happens when it enters the stomach, small intestine, and how it leaves the body as waste. Ask your student how this process works.

The STEM lab is in need of toilet paper and paper towel tubes and cardboard egg cartons, please donate if you are able.

ART ROOM NEWS

Thank you, parents, for stopping by during conferences. It's always nice to be able to share with you your child's artistic abilities. We are keeping busy in the art room.

Geers' Class: The students just finished making all kinds of art pieces related to Valentine's Day and winter. Now that reading month is approaching us, they are using their fine motor skills to create "Jungle" themed art projects. These will be displayed by their room and in the lobby. They just finished creating snakes and toucans.

In third grade, students are learning about perspective by creating a one-point perspective landscape. We had to take some time to learn how to use a ruler to draw a straight line. They were introduced to the Element of Art: space, perspective, horizon line, and vanishing point. These are looking pretty good.

Our fourth graders were focusing on the Elements of Art: shape and space, as they created Japanese Notans. They learned how to create shapes to show the positive and negative space in their artwork. Now they are drawing and coloring jungle themed pieces for their music program and reading month.

The fifth graders are keeping busy. Mrs. Ley, Mr. Kuzniewski and Mrs. Utter's classes are creating Kimmy Cantrell inspired masks. Mrs. Frazier, Mrs. Albaitis, Mrs. Cavner and Mrs. Swihart's classes are learning how to weave using a cardboard loom. When they finish we will switch the projects around so all students have an opportunity to create both projects.

We completed our annual 2023-2024 Yearbook Cover Contest! They were amazing! After our school wide vote, these are the winners.

1st Place Cover: Rose Penland (Mrs. Albaitis)

2nd Place Back Cover: Ethan Cell (Mrs. Barr)

The Inside will feature....Elora Shaw (Mrs. Groll), Sage Makepeace (Mr. Kuzniewski), Joe Chapa (Mrs. Barr), Katelyn Wilkinson (Mrs. Groll), Aubrey Dewys (Mrs. Kilpatrick), Kensley Graham (Mrs. Kilpatrick), Sarina Root (Mrs. Swihart), Sophia Jasperse (Mrs. Frazier), Jacob Cell (Mr. Davis), Jonas Bradford (Mrs. Ley), Betsy Elliot (Mrs. Utter), and Elliot Carter (Mrs. Barr).

Artistically,
Mrs. Sandy Davis

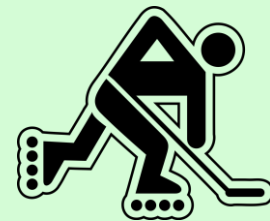
News from the Gym

Mr. Shuneson

THANK YOU to all our families who were able to participate with us in our "Kid's Heart Challenge" event in February. We had a great time learning some new jumping skills in February and I'm proud of the many students who took heart healthy challenges to exercise more, drink more water, and be kind! If your child earned some prizes for the event they will receive them either right before or right after spring break!



We will be starting our floor hockey unit in March. The students will be working on controlling the ball or puck with their hockey stick, passing the ball or puck, scoring with the ball or puck and finally defending the goal. We will be playing many different "lead up" games during the month as we work on all the various skills associated with the exciting game of floor hockey.





March Music Notes



Fourth Grade had a great field trip to the Grand Rapids Symphony a few weeks ago! Now we are on to preparing for our "In the Jungle" performance on Thursday 3/21.

5:45 pm arrival: Mrs. Shelner, Mrs. Zdanciewicz, Ms. Taylor, and Mrs. Barr

7:15 pm arrival: Mr. Davis, Mrs. Kilpatrick, and Mrs. Groll

Fifth Graders have been playing their ukulele for about a month now. We are just getting into being able to play lots of familiar songs! Mrs. Van Wyk is offering a free after school ukulele club to any 5th graders who are interested, beginning on March 4. To sign up, see the form that was in Friday folders last week, or email Mrs. Van Wyk adria.vanwyk@spartaschools.org

Third Grade is excited to perform our music program "Kidflix" on this coming Tuesday 2/27. Performance times are 6 pm (Hall, Haney, Glynn, Finholm), and 7:30 pm (Frederickson, Ignasiak, Beuschel, Hurley, Singleton). After the performance, we will focus on interactive musical activities and games, and learning to read notes on the music staff.

Geers' friends are singing, playing musical instruments, and games along with their Links. Look for details soon about a performance in May!

Counselor's Corner

March is reading month. Reading is a wonderful pastime for children and adults, but often screen time and gaming overtake this. Although there are many benefits to our technological world, there are also disadvantages. While digital devices can provide endless hours of entertainment and they can offer educational content, unlimited screen time can be harmful. Today's parents are the first generation who have to figure out how to limit screen time for children. Research shows that too much screen time can lead to obesity, problems sleeping, educational problems, and violence. During the month of March try a few of these tips to limit screen time:

- Enjoy a screen-free night once a week
- Limit digital devices during family meals
- Avoid having screens in bedrooms - not only can this affect sleep, but it is difficult to monitor content
- Keep family fun night or family times screen-free
- Try a digital-free weekend

The following article [How Exercise Impacts Emotional Regulation](#) offers more ideas of what to do when your child turns off the screen. Encourage your child to enjoy this opportunity to step away from technology, grab a new book, and immerse him/herself in the world of reading!

Reading Month

It's a Jungle Out There, So READ!

Please see the calendar below for fun jungle themed activities for March.

Reading Month Calendar

M-STEP State Assessment:

The Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP, is a state mandated test that includes summative assessments designed to measure student growth effectively for today's students. English language arts and mathematics will be assessed in grades 3–5, science in grade 5, and social studies in grade 5. As of this time, the testing will be conducted online in April and May. Each classroom teacher will help support and prepare our students for this assessment. In an effort to help prepare our students for success, please consider the following:

- Encourage your child to practice their keyboarding skills on a regular basis. Because the M-STEP is a computer-based test, students will be typing paragraphs and page-long essays as part of their testing. Each Appleview student has an account on Typing Club. To access Typing Club, students should go to <https://kent-intermediate.typingclub.com> and enter their username (firstname.lastname) and password (student number).
- Parents and students can preview the test by following the directions below:
 - *The M-STEP Spring Preview must be used in Google Chrome. Copy and paste this link into Chrome https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117-350540--00.html.*
 - *Click on the Sample Item Sets link and follow the links to the sample M-STEP tests.*
 - Remember that you don't have to get the answers right! In fact, you will not get the results anyway!
 - Practice how to take the test and answer questions.
 - Be sure to read the Test Instructions by clicking on the ? and then 'Open Help'.
 - Go through the 'Tools' section and practice using the different tools provided on the screen.

While we will be exposing our students to practice items at school, any additional support you are able to provide at home will certainly benefit your child. Additional information regarding the M-STEP can be found at: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117---,00.html.