Appleview Elementary ~ March 2018

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Mr. Mike Birely, Principal ~ mike.birely@spartaschools.org

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

Dear Appleview Families,

Appleview Elementary supports a district-wide program called "be nice.". This program is an anti-bullying campaign that raises student awareness surrounding the issue of bullying and treating people with respect and care in our community. The word "nice" is an acronym for:

Notice value-

Students are encouraged to increase their awareness of the value in themselves, others and their community by paying attention and listening to the people around them with an eye out for what is good, right, and valuable.

Invite respect-

Students are taught the simple act of asking or offering someone to do something that can show respect for themselves, others, or the community.

Challenge apathy-

Apathy causes us to ignore other people and to ignore the negative effects that our actions can have on other people. Students are taught to challenge apathy and replace it with empathy, which is the ability and willingness to share and understand another person's experiences and emotions.

Empower good-

Students are encouraged to notice the good in themselves and others and to give that goodness power, allowing it to come to the forefront and refusing to disempower others.

I want to encourage each Appleview family to have conversations around what it means to "be nice." at school and in our Sparta community. We all have a role to play in making Appleview a safe and caring environment and together we can continue to make our school a great place for kids to learn and grow.

Sincerely,
Mr. Birely

MARCH CALENDAR

March 1: Fourth Grade Music Program
March 2: Fifth Grade Flex
March 3: Retro Bowl
March 9: Last Day of Trimester 2, Fourth Grade Flex Friday
March 12: PTC Book Distribution
March 16: 2nd Trimester Report Cards Go Home, 3rd Grade Flex Friday
March 23: 5th Grade Flex Friday
March 29: Spring Break Begins
April 9: Return from Break

Attendance:

We have a number of students who arrive to school late or leave school early on a regular basis. In order to foster student responsibility and minimize classroom interruptions, it is important that students regularly arrive to school on time and not get picked up early.

Spring Break will begin on Thursday, March 29 and students will return to school on Monday, April 9.

Parking Lot:

The traffic in the parking lot is certainly more difficult to navigate during the winter months. 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 out of the car.

· Do not leave your car unattended in the pick up/drop off lane.

· Pull forward in the pick up/drop off lane so that traffic doesn't flow out onto E Spartan Dr.

· 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.

M-STEP:

In last month's newsletter, I previewed our state assessment called the M-STEP. The state continues to release updates and resources to support educators, students, and parents in preparing for the upcoming test. Please consider spending some time reviewing the following resources with your child:

- The following link will take you to sample item sets released by the state of Michigan: https://wbte.drcedirect.com/MI/portals/mi/ott1.
    - The state requires the use of the Chrome internet browser for all M-STEP access.
    - Click on "Sample Item Sets", select the appropriate grade, and then have your child go through both the Math and ELA questions.
    - Practice is especially important for our 3rd grade students who have not taken the M-STEP before. We will practice at school as well, but any additional exposure will be beneficial.
- Encourage your child to continue practicing their keyboarding. 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).

Nurse Amy Roelse

887-7506 ext. 1025

http://spartaschools.org/other/nurseinformation/

Spring Break Safety Tips –

Always wear sunscreen while you are outside. Our skin has not seen sunshine for a few months. Your skin is your first line of defense against infections so you want to keep it as healthy as possible. You can get a sunburn in the shade or in cloudy weather too.

If you are traveling, please remember to stop and walk around for a few minutes every couple of hours. This will help to increase your circulation and prevent long distance travel complications.

Never swim alone. You should always have a partner while swimming just in case of emergency.

Remember to drink plenty of fluids to stay well hydrated.

Have a safe and fun spring break!

ART ROOM NEWS

We are keeping busy in the art room. All grade levels completed a one-point perspective drawing of some sort. They focused on drawing and using the horizon line and vanishing point to assist them in drawing lines and angles in their pieces. We also talked about the word perspective, parallel lines, horizontal lines and vertical lines.

In third grade, the students just finished their one-point perspective landscapes. They look amazing. Look for them to come home next week. Currently they are busy working on a 3D lion mask. These will be hung in the lobby and outside of their classroom during March's Reading Month: "It's a Jungle Out There, So Read!"

I am also looking for parent volunteers to help with a salt dough map project. I am doing this with the third graders but need help with mixing dough, passing it out, and helping students. I'm not sure of all the details yet, but I plan to start sometime after spring break. If you can help, please email me: sandy.davis@spartaschools.org. I'll send out more information later.

Our fourth graders also completed a one-point perspective landscape that included a building. These will be coming home next week. Some of the Bug's Perspective artwork was on display at the 4th Grade Music Program and some are in our lobby. Currently, they are drawing parrots and toucans using Youtube "How To Draw" programs. They are choosing one to draw on 12 X 12 sheets of tag board and will color them in with chalk/oil pastels. We have some great artists! These will be hung out by their classroom and in the lobby for reading month.

The fifth graders completed a cityscape using a one-point perspective. These will go home next week as well. Now they are learning about the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. She is known for her love of nature and wanting everyone to see the beauty in it. She is most famous for her larger than life flowers. The students are drawing huge flowers on 12 X 12 sheets and coloring them in using colored chalk/oil pastels. They are learning how to blend colors and add shades and tints. They are looking magnificent! These will be hung out by their classroom and in the lobby for reading month.

Artistically,
Mrs. Sandy Davis

News from the Gym
Mr. Shuneson

THANK YOU to all our families who were able to help us raise over $4,600 in our Jump Rope for Heart event in February. We had a great time jumping rope at the end of February and I'm proud of the many students who took the heart healthy challenges to exercise more, drink more water, and eat more fruits and vegetables.

We will be starting our floor hockey unit in March. The students will be working on controlling the ball or puck with their foam 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.

Music Notes
Mrs. Freds – Mrs. Toothman

This month will not only be one to make more wonderful music together, but also one to celebrate wonderful music we've shared with one another, as in the fourth grade performers! You rocked at your show last night, and we are so proud of you as young musicians! :)

The fifth grade students will be preparing their symphony music to be performed during the April 24th field trip to the Frauenthal in Muskegon! We will be playing, singing, and moving to famous pieces of jazz music, so it's sure to be a day to look forward to.

The third grade students will continue their growth in melody, harmony, rhythm, and movement, and will be demonstrating these skills and concepts with a number of songs for the season. They are doing a great job, too!

Have a great month and we hope you can take some time to enjoy music with your child!
Mrs. Freds & Mrs. Toothman

Curriculum Update:

This month's curriculum update will focus on our building-wide spelling program. All students at Appleview Elementary participate in a spelling program called *Words Their Way: Word Study in Action Developmental Model.* Words Their Way aligns students' spelling development into appropriate research-based stages. The developmental research on which Words Their Way is grounded shows how learners become aware of and construct knowledge about the relationships among printed words, spoken language, and meaning.

As part of this program, students complete spelling inventories a few times during the school year. The results are used to determine where a student falls in the spectrum of spelling strategies and categorizing unknown words. How your child spells words with certain patterns provides the teacher clues as to their current spelling level and places in which they may need extra practice. Students are then able to be placed into strategic spelling groups to meet individual spelling and reading needs.

Students also complete a variety of activities on a weekly basis that you may be familiar with. Examples of these activities include: student partner word sorts, blind word sorts with an adult, sentence writing, independent word sorts, and practice tests. Please continue to support your child with any spelling activities they may complete at home and touch base with your child's teacher with any questions you may have regarding Words Their Way.

Food Service

Sparta Area Schools Foodservice offers breakfast every morning. The price is $1.55 k-5 and $1.60 grades 6-12 or 30 cents for a reduced price student. If your child qualifies for free lunches then they are qualified for free breakfast. Parents may apply for free/reduced price meals at any time during the school year. If you have applied earlier and your financial situation has changed you may reapply. Applications are available in each building and at spartaschools.org. Applications may be filled out online at lunchapp.com. Student meal account balances can now be checked online through Powerschool. Parents will need their login ID and password for each student in the district. Parents can follow the link to Powerschool on the district web site – www.spartaschools.org. Parents can also go to https://mm/spartaschools.org/mealmagic/mylunchaccount and sign up to check balances and track history. Deposits can be made online at payschools.com or follow the link on the district website to Pay Schools.

If you have any questions about the breakfast and lunch program, please contact our food service director at foodservice@spartaschools.org.

The Digital Culture of Kids Today

Sparta Area Schools will be hosting a parent presentation from Protect Young Eyes (PYE) to help families better understand the digital world our kids are experiencing daily. PYE wants to give busy parents and tech-savvy kids the information and tools they need to use technology awesomely. The Protect Young Eyes team, led by Founder Chris McKenna, presents around the country, and is featured regularly on local news, podcasts, and radio stations for their in-depth research. Please click on this link for specific information about the parent event coming up on March 19.

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.