

Principal's Weekly Journal

Principal's Note

January is a month in which we reflect upon the year before and the year ahead. We pause to embrace all we have accomplished and what goals we will set for ourselves and our family for the future. January is also the month in which we celebrate kindness and all that surrounds us in this entity. Mark Twain wrote, "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see". Kindness is the universal language that is comprehended beyond the boundaries where every individual understands and speaks this language. An act of kindness never goes futile as being kind to others instils a positive feeling and makes this world a better place to live. Take advantage of this month and all it has to offer as you share a moment with your children about the importance of kindness and how this little word can make a big difference in so many lives.

Upcoming Events

January 14
PTA Meeting 7:30pm

January 17
Family Game Night

January 23
Winter Concert

February 13
PTA Casino Night

Good News. Good News.

As we look forward to a new year, we are highlighting books of winter and its many wonders: building snowmen, sleigh riding or just having fun in the snow; no matter how cold. Books on winter sports and activities have been showcased letting students gain more knowledge of them, as well as, enjoying many stories about their favorite sport. January we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with many books highlighting his life and legacy.

Reminders

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the absentee line (201-796-6650 x1)

Follow us on



@hiselementary

Telephone 201.796.6650
Helen I Smith School
30Cambridge Avenue

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop (620 BC - 560 BC), *The Lion and the Mouse*

Classroom Close-up



Mrs. Martin's 5th graders are using iPads to complete individual research projects on famous artists. Once they research and gather important information about the artists' life, art style, etc., they will then make a slideshow presentation using Haiku Deck. This is an exciting new way to integrate technology with research and writing.

Mrs. Laurentino's 6th graders have been studying ancient Egypt and are finishing up the unit. They have done research projects and are presenting their information next week in class.

Mrs. Margolis' 5th & 6th grade LA classes are beginning a new Jack London condensed novel this week, *Sea Wolf*. London writes about survival between man, animals, and the environment. The students love his work. Sixth grade Math can be a bit tough, but the students are enjoying figuring out the relationships between, percentages, fractions and ratios. Our entire back wall is full of equivalent. The 5th graders are expanding their knowledge of long division by dividing decimals. Love that little point!



Don't forget to scroll down for notices!!!



Storybook Corner

A Resource for your Family Reading Time **Storybooks That Teach Life Lessons**

- A Bad case of Stripes**, by David Shannon (Scholastic Inc., 2004)-importance of being yourself, regardless of what others think
- A Busy Year**, by Leo Lionni (Knopf, 2004)-Friendship; generosity
- A Valentine for Norman Noggs**, by Valiska Gregory (HarperCollins, 1999)-Treating others with kindness
- Because I Love You**, by Max Lucado (Crossway Books, 1998)-Curiosity; following rules; love
- Big Black Bear**, by Wong Herbert Yee (Houghton Mifflin, 1996)-Manners
- Friends**, by Helme Heine (Simon & Schuster, 1986)-Friendship
- The Grouchy Ladybug**, by Erik Carle (HarperCollins, 1986)--Sharing; kindness
- Hooway for Wodney Wat**, by Helen Lester (Houghton Mifflin, 1998)-Treating others with kindness
- How Leo Learned To Be King**, by Marcus Pfister (North-South Books, 1998)-Treating others with kindness and respect
- Just the Way You Are**, by Max Lucado (Crossway Books, 1999)-Treating each other with kindness
- The Land of Many Colors**, by Rita Pocock (Scholastic inc., 1993)-Appreciating diversity; getting along with others
- The Long, Long Letter**, by Elizabeth Spurr (Hyperion Books, 1997)-Loneliness
- Maggie and the Pirate**, by Ezra Jack Keats (Scholastic Inc., 1992)-Stealing; making friends with others
- Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters: An African Tale**, by John Steptoe (William Morrow, 1987)-Treating others with kindness
- My Many Colored Days**, by Dr. Seuss (Knopf, 1996)-Feelings; emotions
- The Quiltmaker's Gift**, by Jeff Brumbeau (Scholastic Inc., 2003)-Generosity
- Swimmy**, by Leo Lionni (Knopf, 1973)-Teamwork;

