

JANUARY 2023

SIS NEWS

L.J. STEVENS INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

A MESSAGE FROM MRS. ORELLANO

Welcome back! I hope that your Winter Break was an enjoyable one! We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday, January 10th. I have enjoyed serving as Assistant Principal thus far and am optimistic about all that lies ahead of us for the remainder of the school year. Mrs. Dennis has graciously asked that I begin creating the monthly SIS newsletter for students and their families, and I hope this mode of communication will help to keep you in the loop in a concise and effective way.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at corellano@209u.net.

Happy New Year!
Mrs. Orellano
Assistant Principal

IMPORTANT DATES:

- 1/9 No School (Teacher Institute)
- 1/10 School Resumes; WE-PTO Meeting @ 4 p.m. via Google Meets
- 1/13 Midterm Grades available electronically
- 1/16 No School (MLK Jr. Birthday)
- 1/17 School Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- 1/23-27 Career Week
- 1/30-2/3 Stock up for Summer (more information to come)

209U COMMUNICATION

Wilmington CUSD 209U uses the Blackboard Connect System to inform parents of emergencies and non-emergencies. The Blackboard Connect System calls parents/guardians automatically. If you receive an emergency call, you should see a 411 prefix on the caller I.D. If the message is non-emergency it will say, "Wilmington Schools" on the caller I.D. Please be aware: If you are using a privacy blocker on your phone, Blackboard Connect will not register. Do not hang up immediately; the message is on a loop and will begin again. Sometimes power outages, flooding, or weather develop suddenly. Emergency information regarding District 209U schools is announced over the following radio stations as soon as a decision is made:

Joliet - WJOL - AM 1340

Joliet - WBUS - FM 100.7

Kankakee - WKAN - AM 1320

Kankakee - WONU - FM 89.7

Wilmington - WKAT - FM 105.5

Chicago - WGN - AM 720, FM 98

Chicago - WLS - AM 890

Television Channels - 2,5,7,9

Kankakee - WVLI - FM 95.1

Morris - WJDK/WCSJ - FM 103.1 & FM 95.7

Or visit the following: www.EmergencyClosings.com or www.wilmington.will.k12.il.us.

OUTSIDE RECESS POLICY

SIS STUDENT HANDBOOK PAGE 20

The policy regarding inside and outside recesses is one which is sound from a health standpoint. The consensus among many health authorities is that children who are dressed properly for the weather benefit from frequent, brief periods of outdoor exercise even in quite cold weather. These children generally contract fewer colds than those kept indoors in cold weather. This also helps the children perform better in the classrooms. Our policy at the elementary level in regard to inside or outside recess will be governed by temperature.

1. At 15 degrees or above, the children will go outside to play; at below 15 degrees, the children stay inside for recess. Wind chill and precipitation are also determining factors.
2. ALL students are expected to participate in outdoor recesses since none are expected to go out in inclement weather (as explained in the conditions above). Should some special health problem make it impossible for a child to go outside during recess, a note describing the condition or reason is necessary on a day-to-day basis. Any student who needs to stay in for a period of longer than three days will need a doctor's excuse.
3. Children should be reminded to wear boots, gloves, hats, coats, etc. so they may dress according to weather conditions. On days that the temperature is borderline, students may go out for a shorter time than scheduled.

ITEM DROP OFF

Beginning Tuesday, 1/10/23, visitors who are solely dropping off items (i.e. lunchboxes, backpacks, classroom items, etc.) for their student, will be asked to leave the items on the table in the vestibule. Thank you for understanding!

SECOND TRIMESTER NEWS

Second Grade:

In reading, we will be focusing on the following skills and strategies throughout the second trimester:

- *Sequence of Events
- *Inferring/Predicting
- *Text Features
- *Comparing & Contrasting
- *Main Ideas & Details
- *Figurative Language
- *Cause and Effect
- *Summarizing
- *Point of view
- *Story Structure

These skills and strategies will be practiced, in a variety of genres, within our reading series and through engaging instruction and activities within the classroom. Students are encouraged to read for at least 15 minutes each night to help with fluency and build reading stamina.

In Math, we are learning to add and subtract two-digit numbers. We will also learn to add and subtract three-digit numbers. Students will learn a variety of strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems. Students are not expected to master each strategy. The goal is for them to be exposed to a variety of strategies and choose the strategy that works best for them. It is important for students to master their basic addition and subtraction facts. Please practice these facts with your child at home.

Third Grade:

What a wonderful first half of the year we've had so far! Students have learned multiplication strategies and are on their way to mastering one-digit multiplication in order to move onto division. The multiplication ice cream reward party is just around the corner! In writing, students are learning how to write expository pieces while considering their topic, audience, and purpose. We are working on varying our sentence beginnings and lengths, while elaborating with sensory details to create imagery for our readers. In reading, while learning numerous skills and strategies, we will utilize informational text, narrative fiction, and narrative nonfiction. For science, students will begin a life science unit on animal and plant life cycles, inheritance, variation of traits, and adaptations. To build social studies skills, students will learn about communities and their economies, governments, and leaders. We'll also be collaborating to help our neighbors in Wilmington through a service project titled, "Stock Up for Spring." The third grade teachers would like to thank you for your continued support and hard work. Please continue to encourage your child to read and study their multiplication and division math facts daily!

SECOND TRIMESTER NEWS CONTINUED

Fourth Grade:

Students are continuing to take the skills learned in the first trimester and build upon them using the new concepts introduced in the second trimester. In reading, students will work to analyze and evaluate text, make inferences and predictions, and continue to work on summarizing text. In historical fiction stories, we will also discuss the author's word choice. In narrative nonfiction text, students will identify similes and metaphors. Students will also have vocabulary strategies such as Greek and Latin Word Parts that can help determine the meanings of words.

In math, students will continue to work on multiplication fact fluency as well as be introduced to new concepts. Fourth graders will be moving on to fractions. Students will be working with fraction equivalence and comparison, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Multiple strategies will be presented, and then students choose what method is best for them when working with fractions.

Finally, students will also be learning new concepts in social studies and science. In the second trimester of social studies, students will continue practicing their map skills as well as begin to study the Midwest region of the United States. Besides learning about the importance of this region, students will be expected to know the capital and location of each Midwest state. In the second trimester of science, students will begin to explore electricity and what it means to be an engineer. Students will 'Think like an engineer' to find solutions to energy problems. We are looking forward to another exciting trimester of growth, curiosity, and excitement!

Fifth Grade:

Reading: Fifth grade will continue to work through the second half of HMH Into Reading modules, starting with Module 6. Our focus skills for the next few modules are: author's craft, central idea, making inferences, text structure, literary elements, visualization, point of view, ask and answer questions, theme, figurative language, and more. We continue to mix genres and text structures in order to expose students to as many as possible. It often opens up a new literary type for students who may be reluctant to try reading something new.

Science: Fifth grade students will continue our second major unit in Science with Physical Science. Students will learn all about matter. We will study the three states of matter. We will also explore the properties of matter such as magnetism, electrical conductivity, thermal conductivity, solubility, and more. The unit will wrap up with physical and chemical reactions.

Social Studies: We will continue our studies of the history of the United States. The focus for this trimester will be the events leading to the Revolutionary War, fighting for freedom, and the development of Democracy. Weekly Geography will continue to be assigned each week.

Math: In Go Math, fifth grade will begin focusing on developing fluency with addition and subtraction of fractions, and developing an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases. (Unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions.) In addition, fifth grade continues extending division to 2-digit divisors, integrating decimal fractions into the place value system, and developing an understanding of operations with decimals to hundredths.

SECOND TRIMESTER NEWS CONTINUED

Music:

2nd Grade:

Holiday music for their program, study composers Tchaikovsky and Bach with various activities and listening exercises; continue to focus on rhythm with classroom instruments and percussion activities.

3rd Grade:

Holiday music for their program, study composer Tchaikovsky with various activities and listening exercises; understanding folk music and how it is used in dancing, singing and playing of musical instruments; studying about Japanese world instruments.

4th Grade:

Instrument Families - woodwind/brass - watching videos of professional groups perform and listening exercises of the woodwind and brass instruments; learning about the composer Scott Joplin and his influence with ragtime music with various activities (ex: cup game with a Joplin rag); continued exercises and activities with rhythm; patriotic music for the February program.

5th Grade:

Studying the composer Mozart and Tchaikovsky with various activities and listening exercises; instrument families - brass/percussion - watching videos of professional groups perform listening exercises of brass and percussion instruments; studying about spirituals with history and songs about the underground railroad; studying about the composer Beethoven with various activities and listening exercises.

5th Grade Band:

Continue small group lessons to learn basic rhythm and melody concepts of playing; also learning responsibility by learning to take care of a band instrument and how home practice is extremely important at this time; hoping to begin full band with everyone together at the end of January!