



VENITA DENNIS, PRINCIPAL

MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER

**IAR State Testing
April 5-22**

We will be administering the state-required assessment, IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness), from April 5th through April 22nd. Stevens Intermediate School students in grades three, four and five will be tested in ELA and Math. Students need to show growth each year on the IAR. We will review state test results along with other information to help us improve our educational programs. You will receive the results from these assessments relevant to your child's performance the next school year.

You can help your child do his or her best on the assessment by:

- **Making sure that your child attends school on the days of the testing.**
Attendance is vital from April 5th through April 22nd.
- **Making sure your child gets a good night's sleep the night before testing.**
- **Providing breakfast on the morning of testing.**
- **Not downplaying the importance of the test.**
- **Letting your child know that you have confidence in his or her ability to do his or her best.**
- **Advising your child not to worry about the test – just to do the best he or she can, take their time testing, and review their answers carefully.**

Students can receive IAR cash to spend at the IAR store for effort and perseverance!

SPRING PICTURE DAY

Spring Picture Day will be March 22nd. If you have questions, please call the school office at 815-926-1689.



Important Dates

3-7	No School.
3-22	Spring Pictures
3-28 to 4-3	Spring Break
4-4	Classes resume
April 15th-18th	No School
6-3 Tentatively	Last Day of Student Attendance-



**PLEASE REMEMBER
TO TURN YOUR
CLOCKS FORWARD
ONE HOUR ON
MARCH 13, 2022**

Spring Break



Spring Break is March 28th through April 3rd.
Classes resume on Monday, April 4th.

If you are traveling, be safe!

Enjoy everyone!

Weather Preparedness

March is weather preparedness month for State of Illinois schools. During the month of March, we will practice a severe storm drill (tornado). Students and staff are taught what to do in the event of a severe storm.

As we have had many severe/unusual storms pass through in the last few years, I urge you to have a plan for your family at home: have a flashlight available, keep a supply of drinking water, and practice with your children.

Tornado Watch-A tornado is possible. Stay alert. Prepare to take shelter.

Tornado Warning-A tornado is sighted. Take shelter.

Friendly Reminder: Illinois Central is our bus carrier. If you have questions, they can be reached at 815-476-6300.

Teacher Appreciation

I am looking for goodies, snacks, fun items for Teacher Appreciation Week.

My intention is to make baskets for all staff and any donation would be very much appreciated.

Please have your student bring donations to Mrs. Dennis prior to April 29th.

Thank you!

“Without teachers, no other profession is possible!”

Second Grade-3rd Trimester News

*In Math we will continue to practice our addition and subtraction facts. Students are expected to master basic addition and subtraction facts by the end of second grade. Students are encouraged to practice math facts at home to help with mastery. Our topics of study are: Money (counting basic coins) and Telling Time (to the 5 minute); Measuring length in inches, feet, centimeters, and meters; Data (making and reading graphs); and Geometry and Fractions.

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

*Sequence of Events *Inferring/Predicting *Story Structure

*Comparing & Contrasting *Author's Purpose *Cause and Effect *Main Ideas & Details *Summarizing *Fact & Opinion

*Understanding Characters

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 minute each night to help with fluency and building reading stamina.

*In Science, our topic of study will be physical science. Lessons will include the following:

Structure and Properties of Matter: matter, liquids, solids, properties, color, texture, cooling, heating, changing

*In Social Studies, we will be learning about Black History Month and Women's History Month in March. We will learn about Casimir Pulaski. Students will learn basic map skills and how to read a map key.

2nd Grade behavior Expectations include:

*Respect Others *Respect Property

*Respect Yourself *Be there, be ready

Third Grade-3rd Trimester News

Students have been working hard to master their multiplication facts in third grade! At the end of the multiplication challenge, students will move on to division facts. Third graders will also be learning about fractions, shapes, measurement of time, length, liquid, volume, and mass in the third trimester. Some of the reading skills we will focus on are the theme, author's purpose, point of view, story structure, the sequence of events, and text features with historical fiction, informational texts, fables, and trickster tales. Students will learn to write informative essays by researching topics, analyzing information, and explaining true information. Students will continue to build their writing skills by responding to literature and writing friendly letters. After the life science unit, we will learn about the scientific method and conduct simple experiments in our classrooms. We will end the school year by learning about the weather and climates. Finally, the third-grade teachers are planning a walking field trip to the Mar movie theatre with students in May! Please continue to encourage daily reading and math fact practice at home! We appreciate the support and continued dedication you have given throughout the school year!

Fourth Grade-3rd Trimester News

It is hard to believe we are entering the third trimester of the 2021-2022 school year. During the third trimester, students are working on their independence, organization and pacing, as well as preparing for life as a 5th grader!

In Reading, students will continue working on class novels. Novel studies are a great way for students to apply some of the reading strategies they have learned throughout the school year. It's also important for them to read and discuss texts as a group and practice being good listeners to understand one another's viewpoints. Fourth graders will continue practicing important comprehension strategies like finding main ideas and details, summarizing, understanding theme, text structure, and point of view, as well as finding problems and solutions within a text. The main goal is for students to become enthusiastic, independent readers who can use their skills to learn new material in all subjects. Fourth graders are encouraged to continue reading at home and utilize our new IReady reading program. In addition, fourth graders are learning a lot about the writing process. It is very important for children to learn that writing effectively can help them be better communicators. Although grammar and spelling are an important part of the writing process, more than that, we want to build their confidence as writers and get them open to freely sharing their thoughts and ideas. Fourth grade students will continue learning to write for a variety of purposes, collaborating with one another, and learning to give each other support and feedback.

In the third trimester of Math, students are expected to have their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts mastered. All 4th graders have access to a math fact website called: www.reflexmath.com, and are encouraged to use it at home if needed. Math facts are important because they are the building-blocks for higher-level math concepts. During the third trimester, students will learn to compare fractions, multiply fractions by whole numbers, relate fractions and decimals, learn the properties of geometric figures and angles, and investigate measurement. In math, multiple strategies will be presented, and then students are able to choose which method is best for them when solving problems independently. Fourth graders are encouraged to continue working on important math concepts at home by utilizing their individualized IReady math program.

Finally, students will also be learning new concepts in Social Studies and Science. In the third trimester of Social Studies, students will learn about the geography, history, economy, and people of the midwest, west and northwest regions of the United States. Students will participate in a state float parade at the end of the school year. This is such a fun, culminating activity and something students always remember about 4th grade. In the third trimester of Science, students will begin to explore life and Earth science. They will listen to stories about animals and use text evidence to construct friendly arguments. They will also learn about some of the processes that shape the Earth including weathering, erosion, wind, water, and even some natural disasters. Students are encouraged to think like scientists and engineers and also to consider careers with science backgrounds.

Fifth Grade-3rd Trimester News

Reading: Fifth grade will continue to work through Unit 3 of our Journeys reading curriculum. Stories found in this unit follow along with our Revolutionary War topics. Our focus skills for the next few stories are as follows: conclusions and generalizations, domain-specific vocabulary, text structure, sequence of events, explain historical events, main idea and details, compare and contrast, and text and graphic features.

Math: Our GoMath curriculum focuses on developing an understanding of the multiplication of fractions and of division of fractions in limited cases. This includes unit fractions divided by whole numbers and whole numbers divided by unit fractions. Following multiplication and division of fractions, students will move on to our last three units of the year. These units will cover: algebraic patterns and relationships, representing and interpreting data, graphing on a coordinate plane, converting like measurement units within a given measurement system, understanding concepts of volume, and classifying two-dimensional figures based on their properties.

Science: Fifth grade will continue working on Unit 3: Earth Science. Students will focus on Space Systems: Stars and the Solar System. We will read and discuss Gravity on Earth, Revolution of Earth, Sun, and Moon, Seasons, Earth's Orbit and the Night Sky, and Moon's Motions & Phases. Students will support an argument that the gravitational force exerted by Earth on objects is direction down. Students will also support an argument that differences in the apparent brightness of the Sun compared to other stars is due to their relative distances from the Earth. Lastly, students will show examples of patterns that include the position and motion of Earth with respect to the Sun and selected stars that are visible only in particular months.

Social Studies: Fifth grade will continue their study of US history. This trimester will focus on the events of the Revolutionary War, fighting for freedom, and the development of our democracy.

IAR/ISA Test Prep: Fifth grade works very hard to dominate the upcoming statewide assessments. The IAR (Illinois Assessment of Readiness) and ISA (Illinois Science Assessment) will assess fifth graders' knowledge of literacy, mathematics, and science concepts and skills.

3rd Trimester Music News Spring 2022

All grade levels will be celebrating Music In Our Schools Month in March with some type of writing activity (poster, essay, etc.)

2nd/3rd grades will continue to work on rhythm with body percussion and bucket drumming and melody with their solfa hand signs and patterns. A few short videos about composers and their music will also be studied.

4th/5th grades will be doing jazz music units in March and April along with bucket drumming units.

All grade levels will be studying the instrument families with games, activities and videos. **This activity will help in recruitment for 5th grade band next year with 4th grade classes this year!

PE-3rd Trimester News

From Mr. Fisher:

For the 3rd Trimester, PE at SIS will focus on team building skills during small sided gameplay of activities/sports played around the world. Students will learn how to be a positive member of a team and how to work together with others to accomplish a common goal. Students will also be working on their cardiovascular endurance by performing exercises and stretches that increase growth in their major muscle groups and joints. Finally, students will be going outside when the weather turns nice and working on muscular strength and endurance while working in individual activities.

From Mr. Strong:

3-5 grades are working really hard on new units like badminton and yoshi ball and old units like multicultural games and baseball. We look forward to getting back outside for PE in the spring months. We had a lot of fun learning from our student teacher Mr. Headrick and we welcome Mr. Micetich as a student teacher from February 22-April 1st. I look forward to a strong finish to the school year.

Headphones-

Each student at SIS needs a working set of headphones. We use the headphones daily for computer work. 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes will be using headphones for testing in April and May.

Please check with your student(s) to see if their headphones are still working.



April Dates:

- April 4 School Resumes
 - April 5 WE-PTO via Google Meets @ 4:00 p.m.
 - April 7 Young Rembrandts
 - April 14 Young Rembrandts
 - April 15 No school
 - April 18 No School
 - April 20 Early Dismissal at 11:25 a.m.
 - April 21 Young Rembrandts
 - April 28 Young Rembrandts
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- May 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
 - June 3 Last Day of Attendance. Field Day (Tentative)
 - June 3 Early Dismissal @ 1:50 p.m. (Tentative)