

Franklin Avenue

November/December 2019



A Note From Dr. Talleyrand

November and December have flown by! All of our students are looking forward to the Winter Concert, Class Parties, the Whole School Sing-A-Long, and of course Winter Recess!

At each grade level our students have been honing their metacognition skills. Metacognition means *thinking about your thinking*. Students are asked throughout their learning, “*how did you solve that problem; how do you know; what steps did you take to arrive at your answer.*” Questions like these help students better understand and apply their thought process to other problems or scenarios they may encounter in the future both inside and outside of school.



Important Reminder

Drop off begins at 8:45 a.m.
School Begins at 9:00 a.m.

Allergy Information

Remember to send in safe snacks with your children.
[Click here](#) to read more about safe snacks in school.

Food Donations

Please [click here](#) to read more about donating food to families in need.

Contact Info to Know

Dr. Kristin Talleyrand, Principal
845-620-3967

Fiona Burke, Nurse
845-620-3970

Main Office
845-620-3966

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, December 18th - Pajama Day
- Thursday, December 19th, wear Blue for Trustworthiness
- Friday, December 20th
 - Winter Concert 9:30 a.m.
 - Winter Class Parties 2:00 p.m.
 - School Sing-A-Long 2:30 p.m.
- December 23, 2019 - January 1, 2020- No School- Winter Recess
- Thursday, January 2, 2020- School Reopens
- Wednesday, January 8, 2020 - PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.

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English as a New Language

This month was filled with thankful thoughts and the growth of our English expression. We explored an American holiday, Thanksgiving, how it started and how we celebrate it today. We discovered that the importance of spending time with family and being thankful for what we have, is shared among our cultures. A theme of questions, how to ask and answer them, permeated all of our grades Kindergarten through 4th. Questions are not only important in our everyday conversations and greetings, but are crucial to unlock understanding in both fiction and non-fiction texts in our lessons. This skill was woven into the continued quest to build our academic vocabulary. We are so very proud of the progress our students have made.



Physical Education

Grades K-2 have been working on kicking and throwing a ball correctly. We have played many games that incorporate these skills like...kick pins, bombardment, and targets. We have also had a chance to play games with many skills like running dodging and tag.

Grades 3-4 did soccer and football units. In these units we learned the basic skills like striking a soccer ball with different sides of the foot and we also played lead up games like 4 goal soccer and team goalie.

In the football unit we learned to throw and catch a football. The lead up games we played are zone football, capture the football, and receiver. We also had a chance to play some fun games like "Biggest Fan, Rock, Paper, Scissors" and "Capture the Hut". Bowling, volleyball and ropes will be in the near future, not necessarily in that order. Remember to get 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

The best way to get in touch with Mr. Donnelly and Mr. Driscoll is through the school email.
Donnellyw@pearlriver.org
Driscollk@pearlriver.org

Music

Last week we had the chance to sing as an entire school for the Thanksgiving Feast. And just as quickly as it came, it ushered in, as it always does, the holiday season. Now we are preparing our songs for the winter concert (which will be Friday, December 20th at 9:30 am). And what a concert it's going to be!! We'll be singing holiday and seasonal songs from around the world, as well as some truly lovely songs which will transport you to peaceful winter places (something we can all use right about now!). We can't wait to see you all there!!





Winter Concert Information

[Click here](#) to read more information about the Winter Concert. Winter Concert is Friday, December 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Speech & Language

In speech and language, we have been utilizing household items to practice our speech sounds. Generalized activities have helped students to recognize that their speech sounds surround them and follow them throughout their daily activities. Through generalized activities, students have improved their sound awareness and have also improved their metacognition in relation to articulation and fluency in everyday situations (Am I thinking about my sound while I...?). Some activities in our sessions have included students becoming "Sound Hunters" during a shared read aloud. Students' auditory discrimination and sound production are practiced together. Students enjoy thematic, language enriched stories to target their goals- Just another activity you can carry over into your nightly reading! In addition, students have utilized the holiday gift-giving season as another mode to target their sounds. Through collection of toy catalogs, store fliers, newspapers, and online websites, students have "filled up stockings" or created wish lists that contain their individualized sounds. Students catch a thrill searching through exciting, colorful materials while they actively think and hone in on their goals as opposed to being provided word lists to practice. See if you can continue to add to these lists or even create your own holiday lists with the items in your household.

Art

November has been an exciting month in the art room.

Kindergarten created the most adorable great horned owls. They used paper and paint to make a three dimensional owl. Students painted them using watercolor paint.

Grade one used clothes pins to make a flat puppet with a moving mouth. Students worked with simple supplies to make a character that talks.

Second grade finished a project using cardboard. They made safari like animals that stand on a surface. Students then primed the cardboard with black paint. After, they applied Cray pas to create the patterns and color on the sculpture. The second grade did a fantastic job using their imaginations.

In third grade, students studied and practiced the art of paper quilling. They learned how to make a coil, teardrop and eye shape. Once the shapes were made, they were arranged and connected to create a hanging sculpture.

Fourth graders looked at different types of corn as their inspiration for their next project. Using colored pencils, students shaded and designed an ear of corn that reflected the corn in the inspiration photos. Afterward, we applied real husk to the top to give a Trompe-l'oeil effect of making the corn appear realistic.

Academic Intervention Services

Our literacy, math and enrichment groups are moving right along this school year.

In first grade, our literacy students are starting to read! They are using all their strategies (picture clues, finger-tapping, little words in big word) to decode. They practice their individual trick words, on rings, each day. We have reviewed many sounds, using our new Orton Gillingham program. The children especially love Center Time, where they participate in word work, word games, listen to books on CD and write! We are excited to see our readers develop! In second grade, students are also reviewing sounds, using the Orton Gillingham program. They participate in fun, fluency activities with timers, while also practicing their trick words. They read wonderful picture books from our Fountas & Pinnell literacy intervention program, applying all the strategies they have learned to decode words. The second graders also enjoy Center Time, where they play phonics games and complete word and writing activities.



Both third and fourth graders continue to practice decoding and fluency, while reading our wonderful Fountas & Pinnell readers, at their instructional levels. Fluency and reading with expression is encouraged and practiced daily. Comprehension strategies and writing are the major focus this year. Students have explored in great detail main idea, predicting and sequencing. The students use various graphic organizers to apply those strategies, when reading in context.

Our second grade math students have delved into place value. Soon, we will explore addition and subtraction, with and without regrouping. Students are reminded to practice their addition and subtraction facts, at home.

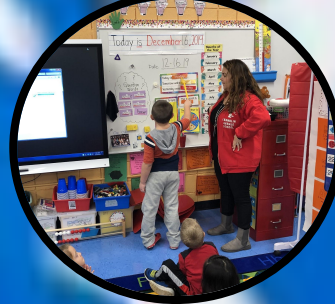
Our third grade math groups have explored place value in depth, and are now reviewing adding and subtracting, with regrouping. We will begin multiplication review soon. It is important for the students to know their basic facts, so the third graders will progress from basic addition facts to multiplication facts soon.

Our fourth grade math students have reviewed place value with greater numbers, and are currently reviewing addition and subtraction, with greater numbers. It is very important for the children to be fluent, with both their addition and multiplication facts. The children have been graphing their own multiplication fact assessments, so they can see their progress and focus on the specific facts that still need memorizing. Problem solving is a strong focus this year in AIS.

The second and third grade enrichment groups are participating in a unit on creative writing, with a focus on personal narratives. Students mapped out what's in their hearts and are using that map to free write. Using picture books as models, the students will participate in fun lessons, that inspire them to create exciting leads and powerful endings to their narratives. As the unit continues, students will be guided on adding voice, details, colorful words, figurative language and more, to the body of their writing. Over time, they will select a writing piece to revise, edit and then publish.

Finally, our fourth grade enrichment group is enjoying their Nonfiction Unit. We have explored the features of non-fiction writing and looked at samples of published non-fiction writing. The students have brainstormed their passions and identified topics they are "experts" on. With guidance and mini-lessons, the students will write on these areas and over time, pick one favorite, to write more in-depth on and eventually publish.

We are wild about learning in AIS this winter!

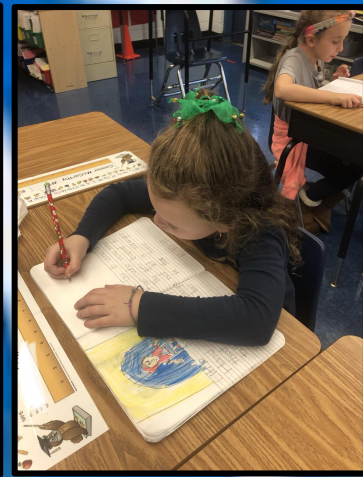
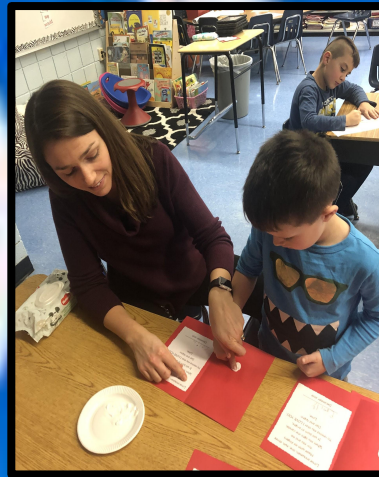


Kindergarten

This month, we are reading fiction and nonfiction stories and poems discussing different holiday traditions and customs. The students are demonstrating an understanding of the organization and basic features of print by following words from left to right, top to bottom and using the pictures on the page as clues. The children continue to work on recognizing and naming all upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet as well as the sounds. They have started reading and writing high frequency “red” words and identifying them in literature.

Kindergarteners are using a combination of drawing, dictating, and labeling when writing. They are learning to communicate with others by putting their ideas down on paper. When writing, it is encouraged that children use “red” words and begin to phonetically sound out unknown words by using their knowledge of the letters and sounds.

In math, Kindergarteners are working in Module 2 with two and three dimensional shapes. The children are sorting and classifying different attributes of flat and solid shapes. Students will also identify, analyze, create, compare and compose a variety of different shapes. We will soon be moving on to Module 3, measurement. Throughout this module, children will continue to work with numbers using units of measurement to talk about comparing height, length, weight, and capacity.



First Grade

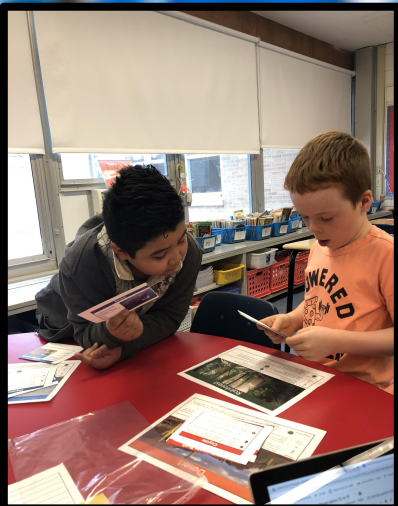
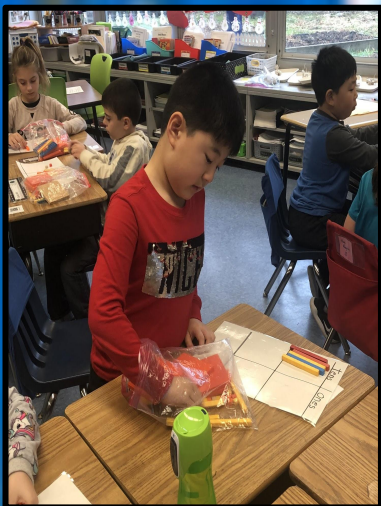
The first graders had a wonderful time at the Thanksgiving Feast. They enjoyed all the delicious foods. We want to thank you for your hard work and for volunteering to help us at this celebration.

The children are excited about the upcoming holidays and are sharing stories and traditions celebrated at home with their families. We are also reading many stories about the ways different cultures celebrate the holidays. It is fun to notice the similarities and differences between others and ourselves. They are writing about their own family traditions which they are excited to share with you over the winter break.

In math, we are continuing to review addition and subtraction strategies. The students are practicing how to solve problems with multiple addends and looking for partners of 10.

In science, we studied the phases of the moon. The students recorded the daily changes of the moon for the month of December.

We want to wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday!



Second Grade

We have been writing and illustrating narrative stories that magnify a small moment. The students have been working on revising and editing skills as well. In reading, we are focusing on strategies for sounding out words quickly and independently while building reading stamina. In reading comprehension, we are comparing and contrasting information given in reading passages.

In social studies, the children are learning about being good citizens and our government. The students have been reading about the job of the president and the White House. They really enjoyed the virtual tour of the White House and all of its colorful rooms.

In science, the students have been building structures out of different materials such as clay and toothpicks while exploring the concept of assembling and disassembling. The students are also exploring the concept of reversible and irreversible changes brought on by heating and cooling.

In math, the children have been learning about place value, counting, and comparison of numbers to 1,000. Please continue to help your child gain fluency with their math facts. Knowing these facts will help your child when learning new concepts.

The second grade team would like to send our best wishes to you and your family during this holiday season.

Third Grade

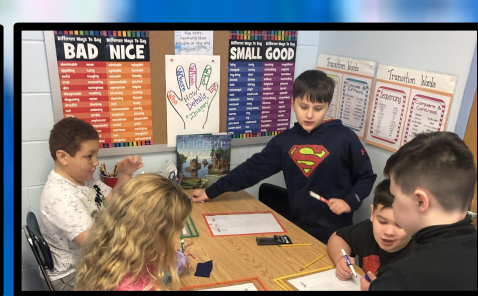
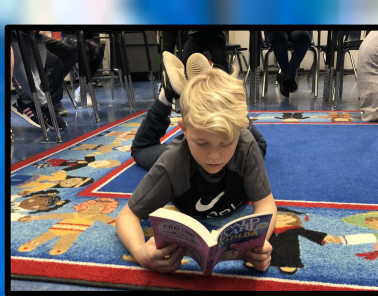
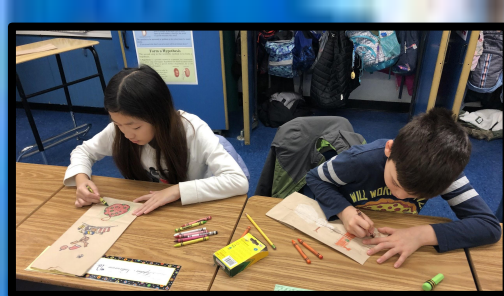
Third graders are busy, busy, busy! In math, we are wrapping up work with standard algorithms to add and subtract with regrouping. We have learned when to estimate and when to find exact answers. Next, we will return to a study of multiplication and division. Please continue to practice multiplication facts at home. Fluency with facts enables children to focus on problem solving.

Social studies and science continue to be subjects that captivate the students. In social studies, we are learning about our neighbor to the north, Canada. We are understanding Canadian culture through the lens of history. In science, children studied forces and interactions. Our present unit is centered on the relationships in ecosystems.

In ELA, we are working on different reading units in each class, depending on student interest. In writing, we are working on opinion writing. The children have come so far in writing since September. Please remember to have your children read each night at home to support fluency and comprehension.

Thank you for all you do at home to support the children and the work they are doing in school.





Fourth Grade

The 4th graders have been working diligently in both Social Studies and ELA to learn about the Haudenosaunee. We've read their beliefs, watched videos and are creating wampum belts which are a Native American tradition on storytelling. The students are researching the Haudenosaunee and are getting ready to present their findings. We also finish reading Eagle Song that provided insight into the life of the Haudenosaunee today. We are currently reading Love That Dog. This novel allows the students to learn about poetry through an endearing story about a boy who learns to love poetry.

In December, we will be celebrating "The Hour of Code", during time dedicated to learning about computer programming in an age of technology. The Hour of Code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week. The 2019 Computer Science Education Week will be December 9-15. Our students have been learning about coding using manipulative, and programs like code.org and scratch.org. Students are enjoying code.org, an online computer science resource. This resource provides students with the learning experience of writing code. It affords them the freedom to choose topics they would like to learn more about while providing questions to ensure comprehension and fun activities as an extension. The children are encouraged to continue using the websites at home.

In math, we are working on multiplication and will learn strategies of double digit multiplication. We are also learning long division using various strategies to solve problems. Please have your child practice their basic facts every night as it is imperative for the division process. Practice, Practice, Practice!

We have begun the second phase of our science unit on magnetism and electricity. The investigations will enable the students to explore the workings of simple and complex electrical circuits using components such as a D-cell, motor, light bulb and switch. The students are enjoying discovering which materials are conductors and insulators and applying the information learned to their daily lives.

We would like to wish you a very happy and healthy holiday season and we will see you in the New Year.

Related Service Providers

[Click here](#) to read the School Psychologists Newsletter

[Click here](#) to read the School Social Worker Newsletter

[Click here](#) to read the School Social Worker Newsletter in Spanish

