



# BEAUMONT GRADE LEVEL NEWS

## Monthly Report September 2011

### Kindergarten

The start of Kindergarten is always so much fun! We all enjoyed getting to know our teachers and classrooms as well as meeting new friends and learning classroom routines and rules! We visited many special area classes in the building too, and enjoyed playing outside on the playground.

In the classroom, we began reviewing the alphabet letters and numerals with two of our favorite books, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and Chicka Chicka 123. We enjoyed many activities and created lots of projects related to those books. As the month progressed, we started learning about Fall.



With the changing season, apples became a big part of our classroom theme. We read many factual and whimsical stories about apples, including Johnny Appleseed, and we extended the theme into math with graphing activities and science, where we made homemade applesauce right in the classroom! We look forward to an exciting October where many more learning opportunities will be found!

### First Grade

First Graders have been celebrating Johnny Appleseed Week. We have read literature including Steven Kellogg's Johnny Appleseed. First Graders graphed the different types of apples that they had brought to school as well as estimated and graphed the number of seeds in them. We then estimated the number of tiles it takes to fill in both a small and large apple shape. We counted the tiles and grouped them by tens and ones to find the correct answer. We practiced addition by doing "seedy sums". All in all, the First Graders in Beaumont have been totally appled out!



### Second Grade

Second Grade is off to a great start this school year. It has been most enjoyable getting to know each other, families, brothers, sisters and even pets!

We hope that you are hearing about the various books the children are reading...lots of fiction and non-fiction titles in our new Literacy by Design program. Please remember that the ERB testing will take place the first week in October...good rest and breakfast always helps!

In Science, the topic of Balancing & Weighing excites the classes of students as the children compare the weights of a variety of items and see how the fulcrum helps to keep their balance. And of course, Dinosaurs - a topic that delights them all! The children are just so glad that they aren't alive anymore!



If you have any questions and/or concerns please feel free to give us a call. Thank you for attending Curriculum Night. Information will be coming home shortly about our Invent-a-saur-us project and Dinosaur Dig! Paleontologists in the making!

## Third Grade

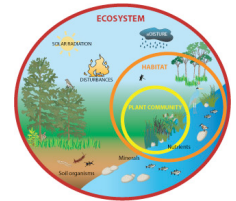


The third grade is off to a great start!!! We are in full swing and having fun! We have completed Theme 1 of our new reading series. We have read some very interesting stories. Please continue to read with your child every night. Yes, your third grader should be reading independently, but they still enjoy and benefit from you reading to them. ☺



## Fourth Grade

Welcome back to school! Fourth grade has had a great start to the year. We have enjoyed getting to know all of our new students. We started the year in science by studying Ecosystems, which includes building an aquarium and terrarium and studying how the organisms and plants need one another and the effect of pollutants. In Social Studies, we began by reviewing geography of the World and more specifically, The United States. In reading, we are all enjoying the book The Landry News. The students are learning how to make connections with the text, visualize, determine importance, ask questions and also are learning how to pick out main ideas and details to support. The children are reviewing how to use Writer's Notebooks before launching into our first writing unit, Narrative writing. This unit will begin in October. We look forward to a fantastic year in 4<sup>th</sup> grade!



## Special Areas & Support Areas

### Art with Mrs. Walsh

Kindergarten students learned that if you look with “art eyes”, art is everywhere. After taking a serious look at our eyes we followed a simple “sports” recipe to draw them: draw a football, within it add a basketball (iris) and lastly draw a baseball in the center (pupil). Now we’re always on the lookout for art! We are beginning a study of the painting of Miro. We became “texture detectives” and searched the art room for different textures. We did crayon rubbings overlapping colors and textures for the first step of our Miro work.

Grade one art students created their own pair of “art eyeglasses”. It’s easy to focus on the art around us through these glasses. ☺ We took a class photo wearing our specs. Presently we are at work creating our own sunshine using the warm colors on the color wheel. We looked at the sun as a symbol in art from around the world.

Students in grade two learn about art through time. We each drew our idea of a time machine to take us back in art time. In addition, we created a character that will appear in all the art we make in our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade art journey back in time. We’re working on “Matisse cutouts” using both positive and negative shapes, pattern, color, line and texture.

After setting up sketchbooks for the year grade 3 students in rooms 15, 16 and 18 looked at Leonardo DaVinci- painter, mathematician, scientist and inventor. We designed and drew our own inventions.

Fourth grade students in rooms 21, 22, 23 and 24 used recycled paper to collage the cover of this year’s sketchbook. We became familiar with the work of artist, Jasper Johns-Abstract Expressionist, painter of the American flag, targets, numbers and maps. Johns’ response to WWII was a patriotic one. Using the elements of art-line, shape and color we redesigned the American flag. We added patriotic words to our flag design in response to discussion about patriotism for the 10 yr anniversary of the 9-11 tragedy. Currently we are working on a collaborative project using Johns’ number design as inspiration.



### **Art with Mrs. Snyder**

Third grade students in Mrs. Jackson's class are studying the work of Leonardo da Vinci. This period in time makes for continuity from the age of the explorers, where students ended the year in second grade. After looking at Leonardo's "Codex", students created and assembled their own sketchbooks. Students are starting a unit to represent areas of study for the year, using hands as the subject matter. The areas of study are the Renaissance, Native Americans and Mexico.

Fourth grade students in Miss Senior's class focused on ORIGINALITY as a creative thinking behavior to produce a new or novel response. Working collaboratively, students were given a grid and three dice - the dice were marked with numbers, colors and patterns. The work of art was created by rolling all three dice. Then each part of the grid was filled in with however the dice landed; for example: two/green/zigzag lines. Students learned that a creative process (in this case "chance") is as important as the product.

### **Music**



There's music in the air! The students at Beaumont have been making music already this year. The students are singing music, listening to music, moving to music and even playing musical instruments in class; learning about the various elements that make music. In addition, they have been learning about the French impressionist composer Claude Debussy. Musical impressionism focused on a suggestion and an atmosphere, rather than on a strong emotion or the depiction of a story. Ask you child about some of the impressionist music we have listened to in music class.

Band, orchestra, and chorus practices have also begun for 3rd and 4th grade students. Please see Miss Hoover's teacher website for information and schedules for the band and chorus. See Miss Cloman's teacher website for information and schedules for the orchestra.

"Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art." - Claude Debussy

## COUNSELORS' CORNER

The counselors of the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District elementary schools wish you and your students a successful and happy start to the new school year! Transitioning back to school from summer vacation doesn't have to be stressful. It's an opportunity for children to reconnect with old friends, make new friends, build greater responsibility and tackle exciting new challenges. To help your child make as successful a transition as possible, here are a few tips and tricks:



1. **Get enough sleep!** Being well rested is a tremendous asset to children as they strive for their best performance at school. According to the National Sleep Foundation, elementary-school aged children require ten to eleven hours of sleep each night. Adults require seven to nine hours of sleep.
2. **Keep a positive attitude and focus on the fun aspects of school.** Children are very influenced by the attitudes of the adults around them. When we express excitement about the new school year and confidence that our children can handle any new challenges, our children will begin to model our attitudes. If your child is anxious, remain upbeat and provide reassurance with personal notes in lunchboxes or backpacks.
3. **Handle rough spots with assurance.** If the first few days are a bit tough, try not to over-react, as children can absorb their parents' anxiety. Many children experience some sadness or anxiety initially, but the teachers and staff at school are trained to help them adjust. Help your child to come up with a few positive strategies to manage difficult situations on their own and reinforce your belief in their ability to cope. Model confidence and optimism.
4. **Organize and prepare ahead.** Having an established household routine can go a long way towards smoothing out some of the bumps in the road. Establishing a schedule for homework, bedtime, morning times, etc., can help alleviate some family stress and establish reassuring predictability for children. Preparing lunches and backpacks for the next day the night before can help to eliminate the "morning crazies".
5. **When in doubt, reach out.** Don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teachers, principal, or school counselor. Staying connected with the school helps your child to see that school and family are linked and that you care about their learning experience. Furthermore, school staff can also offer suggestions and supports to help identify and reduce any problems that may arise.

**Best wishes for a fun and productive 2011-2012 school year!**