South Fayette Elementary School
Board Report
August/September  2019

Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten

The first few weeks of school have been exciting for the South Fayette Kindergartners! The children are enjoying their classroom experiences and are having a lot of fun getting to know each other as they adjust to school. They are settling into their daily routines and new responsibilities. It is wonderful to see the children working so hard to develop these new self-help skills!

The students are having a blast celebrating the beginning of the year with our ABC Kickoff. Each day we have been participating in an activity relating to each new letter. Some favorites have been Bubble Day, Dance Day, and Game Day! Soon the students will begin learning their first set of new sight words: “I”, “like”, “the”, “and”. They are also working hard in math as we learn how to count, read, write, and represent numbers 1-5! We are building our understanding of number sense so that we can set a strong foundation in math. Wow, big topics for kindergarteners! We are looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Submitted by: Mrs. Katie Caprio

First Grade

Welcome back to school! Our future is so bright we have to wear shades! First grade year is a transitional year. For most students, this is their first year going to school all day, eating lunch at school, having recess, and going to specials. The first few weeks of school are mostly about learning the rules and procedures of first grade and becoming acclimated to the schedule.

In Language Arts class, we have begun to review short vowel words. Students are reading stories in their reading books and learning how to identify the characters, setting, and main idea of each story. We recently read The Storm, by Raul Colon. Through this story, students learn to identify how characters are feeling. For example, the little boy was feeling afraid of the storm. Students are also working on nouns and proper printing techniques.
In Math class, students practiced subitizing. Subitizing is the ability to look at a group and identify how many. For example 3 fingers, 6 dots on a dice or 8 tally marks. We also began our daily Number Talks. During Number Talks students try to solve a problem and then share what they were thinking. Students will learn that there are many ways to solve a problem.

In Science class, students are learning about weather. Each class went on a weather walk and identified how to observe weather using your senses. Next, students will learn about thermometers, clouds, the water cycle, and storms.

Each Wednesday, first graders discuss what it means to #bethekindkid, and on each two hour delay day, a lesson on Dignity and Respect will be taught. This month we concentrate on how to be a pal during recess. Students are taught about the Buddy Bench, sharing, and the appropriate way to handle a disagreement.

Submitted by: Mrs. Norene Sarnowski

Second Grade

Second graders have just been starting to attend Learning Lab. They participated in a “working together challenge.” The students will participate in an Escape Room type challenge where they have to solve puzzles to figure out the lock combinations. Second graders are looking forward to an exciting and challenging year in the Learning Lab!

In Language Arts, we are working hard on phonemic awareness, short vowels, long vowel sounds, and blends. We read a story called, My Family. We compared and contrasted our families to Camilla’s family in the story.

We are learning all kinds of awesome strategies for adding numbers this month. We are learning how to break apart numbers to add two-digit numbers which is also called expanded form. We love working on IXL and Splash Math on our ipads, and we are getting so much better on completing our basic facts.

We have been participating in getting to know each other’s activities as well as learning about Dignity and Respect. Students listened to Rainbow Fish and Chrysanthemum and talked about people’s differences.

Submitted by: Mrs. Rebecca Colangelo

Learning Lab

Learning Lab is off to a great start this year! First and second grade students began coming to the Learning Lab on their regular schedule beginning on Tuesday, September 3.
To kick off the year, second grade students are taking part in an “escape room”-type challenge where they must use teamwork and problem solving skills to figure out various clues and unlock building supplies for their first engineering project. So far, teams have used great collaboration skills to find success.

In first grade, students are starting the year using their imaginations and pretending to be one of the “Three Little Pigs”—they must construct small houses using sticks, straws, and note cards that are strong enough that the Big, Bad Wolf cannot huff, and puff, and blow their houses down!

Kindergarten students will come to the Learning Lab on the scheduled 2-hour delay days.

Ms. Unger is looking forward to an exciting year in the Learning Lab, with many new projects and activities planned for students!

Submitted by Ms. Melissa Unger

**Physical Education**

**Fall into Fitness**

During Physical Education class, first and second grade students will participate in fitness activities and games that focus on the five key components of physical fitness. They are flexibility, muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and body composition. The students will be building muscles and elevating their heart rates and breathing rates by performing exercises such as planks, kettlebell swings, jump rope, agility ladders, push-ups, and resistance band activities. Students will also be playing fast-paced movement games that will require students to leap, jump, skip, shuffle, gallop, hop, bear crawl, crab walk, and run. Some of the students’ favorite games so far have been Locomotor Madness, Rock, Paper, Scissors, and Pacman. In September, the leaves are falling but heart rates are rising in PE!

Submitted by: Mr. Wes Chappel