

March 26, 2021

Herbert J. Dexter Elementary School

Principal's Corner

Greetings Dexter Families,

It is hard to believe that Spring Break is already upon us! I encourage you to simply relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy this time with your loved ones. Spring Break will be over before you know it and we will be entering the final stretch of SY 2020-21. The 4th Quarter is full of rigorous learning and various demonstrations of learning (i.e. Summative Assessments). It is also a time for many celebrations including the "Month of the Military Child."

The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. During this month we will highlight and celebrate the important role military children play in the armed forces community. More information about the special events planned to honor our military children at Dexter Elementary School will be forthcoming when we return from Spring Break.

Until next time...

Principal Dunn

Grade Level Highlights

Here are just a few of the exciting things going on in Dexter Elementary.



Inside this issue

Principal's Corner	1
Grade Level Highlights.....	1-6
Art	6
Music.....	7
Physical Education.....	7
Information Specialist	8
Clubs	9
Upcoming Events	9



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PSCD and Pre-K

Starting the week after spring break, pre-k classes will begin a study on music. Here are some of the topics we will investigate:

What instruments can we play by hitting, tapping or shaking them?

What different styles of music are there, and how do they make us feel?

Who works with music for their jobs, and what tools do they use?

How can we make music with our voices?

This study gives children opportunities to explore music making while they delve into social studies and science. Children will experiment with instruments and create some of their own. This study also provides children occasions to use and grow skills in literacy, math, technology and the arts.



Kindergarten

The end of the year is quickly approaching! We are so happy with all of the gains our students continue to make. Parents, please remember that our kindergarteners are expected to know 100 sight words by the end of the school year (please refer to the sheet sent home.) We are also working hard to make number pairs for the numbers **1-10** (example: How can you make the number **7**? **5 and 2, 3 and 4, 1 and 6**) Keep up the great work. Let's finish strong!

We are currently working on the following skills:

ELA-uppercase and lowercase letter recognition (focusing on the letters Ee, Gg, Dd, Ww, and Ll)and sight words

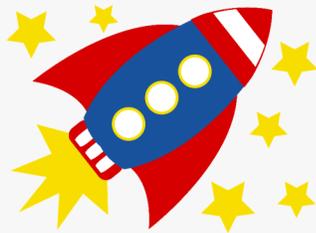
Writing-narrative and opinion writing

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Math-rote counting to 20 and up, counting by 10s to 100, and comparing numbers

Science-motion

Social Studies-Women's History Month (famous women)

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support,

Ms. Alexander and Mr. Miller

Mrs. Allen and Mr. Rodriguez

Ms. Frasier and Mrs. Ramey

"Nothing is IMPOSSIBLE, the word itself says, "I'M POSSIBLE!"-
Audrey Hepburn

1st Grade

First grade is always up to something! :) In reading and social studies, we have been discussing the past, present and future! We've been learning a lot about what happened long ago. In math we are learning about base ten. We can count by tens and then change and count by ones. We know symbols for greater than, less than, and equal to. In science, we are continuing to discuss shadows. We went outside to see our shadows and found other shadows around the school. We know that a shadow is an object that is blocking the light. First grade is out of this world!

2nd Grade

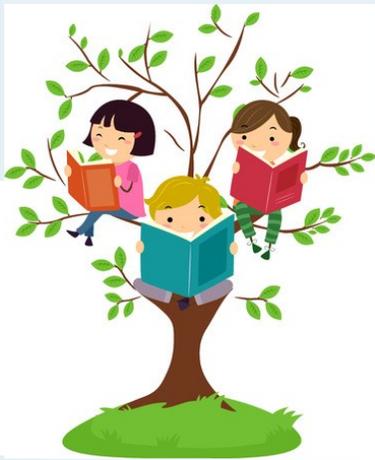
Second Graders have been working hard and having fun learning! Our students continue to collaborate with their

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peers and engage in using higher order thinking skills as they engage in collaborative discussions involving "What if... " questions throughout different subject areas. We just finished learning about data and measurement and loved practicing those skills. In Science we have been learning about weather and are starting to learn about pebbles, sand, and silt. In ELA we have been discussing and learning about different points of view and how important different cultures are, and all that we can learn from each other. After break, we will come back and begin 3-digit addition and subtraction. Yay! Things are great in 2nd grade. :)

3rd Grade

Third grade is working on their kindness projects for their chosen classrooms. One lucky class will have a "garden of flowers" while another chosen class will have words of encouragement on painted rocks. One of the chosen classes will be in for a big surprise from our last third grade classroom (their project is top secret!). The third grade students are excited to show off their artistic skills and can't wait to share their projects with their partnered classrooms.

4th Grade

Fourth grade students are having an awesome semester. We are learning how to write narrative journal entries, summarize stories and identify the main idea and key details in texts. We've conducted science experiments to see what's in our school yard soil and made origami canoes, like those used long ago, by the Native American Ojibwe tribes of the Midwest. Our classes created wonderful bug designs while integrating geometric symmetry with art during math classes. The 4th grade students worked relentlessly to master skills in math including fractions, decimals, problem solving and using money. Our hard work certainly paid off. All students showed an increase on the Math In-

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terim district exam.

5th Grade

5th graders have been busy reviewing different measures of volume and creating a capacity project to model the units that make up a gallon. Presently, we are learning about volume through exploring how solid cubes can be used to build a shape. The students connect their understanding of volume to estimate and find volume of rectangular prisms and combined rectangular prisms.

In ELA, students have been hard at work reading about the American Revolution. Students use key details from the text to write a summary.

In social studies, students researched the temperature and precipitation of a city in Central and South America. They used Google Sheets to create a climograph. They can share this with you using their Google account.

In science, we are finishing our module on Mixtures and Solutions and will be exploring Earth and Sun next.



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Ms. Smith's Class

Jedi Academy kids have been busy. We sponsored Kindness Day by bagging all of the Be Kind to Everyone bracelets for each grade level homeroom and staff. They delivered the bags to each class and reminded everyone to be kind. Mrs. B. and the Jedi Academy are working on learning how to play the keyboard and mastering a simple song.



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Art: Ms. Donaldson

This month students are watching the shadow puppet show presentations from the third, fourth, and fifth grade classes on the morning news, and we are beginning a unit on architecture throughout the school. Students are looking for functional and artistic features in buildings and designing areas for home, work, and play. The third, fourth, and fifth graders are using scales and symbols to produce a blueprint, while we support math through building concepts in area and perimeter. For Kindness Day, we are looking at the art work of a local artist, Alma Thomas, for inspiration on encouraging people around us.



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Music: Ms. Bocanegra

Music classes at Dexter have been all about March Madness! The students have been voting on their favorite songs out of the "Sweet 16" selections. We have been discussing different genres, artists, and styles and what makes a song great. We will have our Musical March Madness champion the first week after spring break. We are excited to find out the winner!

Students are also beginning a new unit of study focused on musical instrument families. During our classes we will be studying each instrument's characteristics, sound, and appearance. Students will learn to identify instruments by name and place them into the correct family.

We will also have our 2nd Annual Dexter Talent Show the last week of school. More information will be coming after spring break.

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Physical Education: Dr. Alderman

K-2 Grades: Students are improving on their locomotor skills turning. Twisting, stretching and jumping during games. Non-locomotor skills striking, rolling, kicking at a target. While displaying good sportsmanship. Sharing, respect of self and others, cooperation, exhibits physically active lifestyle, participation, outside play, and understanding the benefits of physical activity, participates in physical activity outside of school setting.

3-5 Grades: Non-locomotor – transfer weight from one body part to another.

Equipment manipulation – Strike, dribble, catch, and kick a moving object, overhand and underhand throw at a target.

Social Integration – demonstrates appropriate behaviors in the classroom, cooperation in group activities, understands the value of equipment, and demonstrates concerns for others, exhib-

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its physically active lifestyle, participates in physical activities outside of school that are interesting, engaging, and personally enjoyable.

Information Specialist: Ms. Porter

Thanks to all our guest readers during Read Across America Week. We appreciate you taking the time out to read to our classes. It shows our students the importance of reading. If you are interested in reading to a class during the month of April, email me a date and time and I will set it up virtually.

Kathy.porter@dodea.edu

Mrs. Porter

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Storytime After School Reading Club

Why have Storytime as part of your daily routine?

Children of different ages enjoy Storytime, regardless of who is reading to them.

While reading to children, the adult and children are bonding by spending quality time together. Storytime is a time to slow down and enjoy the moment. During Storytime, children improve their listening skills and communication skills. After listening to a story, children can talk about the stories/books which builds cognitive and language skills. The exposure to words that are unfamiliar may prompt students to ask questions and/or use the new words in their own vocabulary. Children's attention span grows as the books and stories get longer. Children can also learn life lessons from books and develop social and emotional skills from experiences in books.

Storytime is very valuable. Please try to incorporate it into your daily routine at home. I think your children will enjoy it.

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Upcoming Events

- **March 26: No School for Students:** Teacher Report Card Prep Day
- **March 29 - April 2: Spring Break**
- **April 1-30: Month of the Military Child**
- **April 12-16: Spirit Week:** Daily Themes and Activities TBA
- **April 14th: Purple Up Day!**
- **April 19th - No School for Students:** Teacher PD Day
- **April 20-April 26 - 5th Grade CCRS Summative Assessments**
- **April 27-May 3rd - 4th Grade CCRS Summative Assessments**
- **May 4-10 - 3rd Grade CCRS Summative Assessments**

Need Special Services for your children?

Do you live on post and suspect your child has a disability in the areas of academics, social, emotional, physical, speech/language, and/or cognitive development?

Please contact:

Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) -if you have a child aged 0-3 with concerns in these areas.

Phone: 706-545-3835

DODEA GA/AL Schools Student Services – if you have a child aged 3-6 who is not currently enrolled in school with concerns in these areas.

Phone: 706-545-7276

Read Aloud
15 MINUTES
Every child. Every parent. Every day.



More than one in three children arrive at kindergarten without the skills necessary for lifetime learning.

Research shows that reading aloud is the single most important thing you can do to help a child prepare for reading and learning.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

The number of words that a child knows on entering kindergarten is a key predictor of his or her future success.

LITERACY SKILL BUILDING

Vocabulary. Phonics. Familiarity with the printed word. Storytelling. Comprehension. Reading aloud builds literacy skills.

INSTILL A LOVE OF READING

Your example demonstrates that reading is important, pleasurable and valued.

WHY READ ALOUD?

BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

From birth to age 3 are critical years in the development of language skills.

KNOWLEDGE GAINED & SHARED

Books are a pleasure, yes, and they are also informative. You and your child can learn something new as you read aloud.

BONDING

Is anything better than sharing a good book?

More than 15% of young children, 3.1 million, are read to by family members fewer than three times a week.

DON'T GOOD PARENTS ALREADY READ ALOUD DAILY? NO

Only 48% of young children in this country are read to each day.

Reading 15 minutes every day for 5 years:
27,375 MINUTES

IS 15 MINUTES ENOUGH TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? YES!

456.25 HOURS

Tell a friend at www.ReadAloud.org