LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS

Kindergarten
Welcome back to all Loomis students and families! We’re off to a great start in Kindergarten and the first two months have been full of learning and fun! In September, the eager kindergarteners explored the halls of Loomis on a special scavenger hunt for our mascot, Leo, who went missing during the first few days of school! By following many paw prints, stopping by many classrooms, and reading lots of clues, they finally discovered that Leo had made himself comfortable in our very own classroom while we were searching for him! We had a chance to find out where many of our special classrooms are for Art, Music, Gym, and Library as well as meet many other Loomis teachers and staff along the way! 😊

We have spent lots of time getting to know each other and the kindergarteners are already working together “as a team”, which is something that we talk about daily! We also worked very hard to learn our classroom routine. In Language Arts, we have begun our study of the alphabet and have already met a few letter puppets (letters A-F). We’ve learned that some letters are vowels and some are consonants. We also have been working hard on learning the letter sounds through interactive Fundations activities. Each week, we take time for handwriting and we have been practicing proper letter formation. The kiddos have worked hard at learning to write their first name neatly and have made great progress! Learning how to use line boundaries, proper pencil grip, and maintain good sitting position takes lots of practice, but we’re off to a good start! Not only have we been busy with the alphabet, we also have been learning about clapping syllables, rhyming words, how to blend sounds to build words, and how to use words to make sentences! Finally, we enjoy our story time and have read many great books, such as *Chica, Chica, Boom, Boom* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?*

In science, we’ve been chatting about the fall season and the outdoor changes that we can observe all around us. We’ve learned about our five senses and how we use our senses to help us observe the weather. All kiddos are working hard to create their own book about fall, which shows their favorite things from this wonderful season! We even had time to go on our very first field trip to Linvilla Orchards, where we enjoyed an educational hayride tour through the orchard and recalled many facts that we learned in September about apples and Johnny Appleseed. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all! 😊

During fire prevention week, we took time to read a few stories about fire safety and we discussed important safety tips and ways to help prevent a fire. To end this fun week, we made an edible fire truck…yum! In Math, we have learned about numbers zero to ten! We practiced counting and recognizing these numbers and have been working very hard on writing our numbers too! We also explored the concept of comparing numbers 0-5 using the words *more, fewer, and same*. The kiddos have enjoyed using cubes, counters and ten frames, but their favorite is using our interactive smart board during our math lessons!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

One of our favorite memories so far was Fall Festival. The kindergarteners enjoyed rotating to many fun stations, such as crafts, face painting and freeze dance! A big thank you to all volunteers who helped to make this a fun and enjoyable day for all!

As you can see, we have been “busy bees” in Room 21! A special thank you to all parents for coming to our Back to School Night in September to hear about your child’s year in Kindergarten. I appreciate your support at home and look forward to a great school year!

A peek ahead to November: Parent/teacher conferences and the long awaited Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast!

1st GRADE – Rooms 1, 2 & 4
Even though the calendar has turned to October, we want to welcome you back to the wonderful world of first grade. We are so happy to be back in school and are enjoying making new friends and reacquainting ourselves with old friends from last year. There are many new families to Loomis first grade, and we send out a huge welcome to each and every one of you. Loomis is a great place to be!

First grade is an exciting time for you and your child. It may be your child’s first full day away from home. The first grade teachers are well aware of this huge transition and work diligently to make school be a wonderful fun and learning experience for each boy and girl. One of our goals is for your child to come home from school happy and excited to return the next day to see what he/she will learn.

Red Alert Folders, Blue Take Home Folders, Wednesday Folders, so many folders to keep track of. We thank you for looking through the folders, emptying them out, and signing the ones that need your signature such as the Red Alert Folder & Wednesday Folder and Library Log. There are so many important notes that come home for you to see. Thank you also, for a prompt return of the folders.

We are enjoying reading in our Library Log and are excited to get a new book to read with our family each night. Best of all, is for us to listen in as the children tell their “swapping buddy” a little sneak preview of the book they will be getting. Thank you for signing the book each night and sharing a little comment for the teacher to see and get a little deeper insight in to how the reading went for the evening. Remember it is fine if your child is just listening and following along. You are being the positive role model and showing how good reading with expression and fluency sounds like.

We are already so busy learning in our classrooms. We are reading in our anthology, applying key Fundations letters and sounds as we tap out words and write sentences. We have learned about getting along and rules in school in Social Studies, and have even finished our third math chapter. We are also working hard in science as we explore the weather. Wow! So much has been happening and we have just been in school a short time.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS  (cont’d)

Remember it is a long day for your first grade child. Allow a play time or rest time when your little one comes home from school. Set a goal for homework and allow your child to help decide how and when to get the tasks finished. Also, get into the habit of a good bedtime routine. Sending your child to school with a good breakfast, really kick starts our day so that minds are ready for action and ready to learn! Also, don’t forget that all important snack.

Please be mindful of the weather and dress appropriately as the weather will be getting cooler now that fall is in full swing. A jacket may be needed on a chilly morning. Again, thank you for adhering to these policies.

We want to personally thank The Carpet Ware House (across from the Marple Sports Arena), for donating carpet squares for our classrooms to use as we scatter about working on various things throughout the day. The boys and girls just love them. Even though we are well into our second month of school, we do not want to miss thanking our wonderful PTO for all the great beginnings to school and, of course, the Back to School B.B.Q is always a treat and can’t be beat! We are looking forward to the Fall Festival and the Costume Social and the many fun events that are yet to come.

We are off and running and ready to “Sail Away on the First Grade Friendship.” Next time you are in the building, stop down the first grade hall and check out our fun bulletin board. It is a hit of the school! The boys and girls enjoy locating their picture on the USS First Grade Friendship.

2nd Grade – Rooms 3, 5 & 6

The month of October is surely going by in a flash! Fall is such a beautiful season and the children have enjoyed the mild weather and the chance to play outside at recess most days.

We have been hard at work in second grade. Our math classes are in full swing as we learn new math vocabulary and focus on addition and subtraction strategies. We recently finished our first theme in our reading anthology and the students worked diligently on their assessments. Reading many different genres is helping us become stronger readers.

One of the highlights of the month was our “Pumpkin Pal” book reports. The boys and girls read a good book of their choice, chose a character from that book, and then decorated a pumpkin to look like that character. They then presented the pumpkin character to their classmates during an oral presentation. It is always fun to see the creativity displayed and both listening and speaking skills polished. Thank you to the second grade families for helping with this project.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)
The second graders are looking forward to a wonderful day on October 29th when they participate in the “Junior Achievement in a Day” Program as part of our social studies curriculum. Visitors from SAP America in Newtown Square lead each class through a series of 5 lessons dealing with the community, economics, production, and decision-making. One of the favorite activities is the “Sweet O Donut Shop” production line! The children learn a lot and have fun too!

Congratulations to Ms. Miller, our new physical education teacher, and her committee of volunteers for planning yet another fantastic Fall Festival for all of us to enjoy. The boys and girls liked the new games that were added this year. From face painting to relay races to cool crafts, it is a great way to enjoy some fall fun! It’s even better when the weather cooperates!

The Costume Social is an event that everyone looks forward to each year. It is lots of fun to see the creative costumes and cool dance moves on display. Thank you to all the volunteers for organizing another great night for our Loomis students and their families.

November Notables: Pajama Drive, Parent Visitation Days, Conference Days, 2nd grade Thanksgiving Show, and Thanksgiving Break!

3rd Grade – Rooms 10, 11 & 12
Happy November! It’s hard to believe we are already one month into school and there is no doubt that the third grade hallway is a busy place at this time of the year!

In Language Arts, we are loving Daily Five, and we can’t believe how many books we have already read! We have completed the first theme in our anthology, Storytown. The Robust vocabulary, genre selections, and higher level thinking skills keep us challenged and engaged! Students have shown lots of improvement in reading and writing.

In Science, third grade was rockin’ with creative and amazing homemade instruments. Students did a super job on their first presentation as well!

In Social Studies, we have been studying geography. We are exploring maps and the globe to find out "Where in the world" we are located! Our third graders are becoming familiar with the seven continents; four major oceans as well as other geographic terms to help them better understand the world we live in. To end our geography unit, our 3rd graders applied what they have learned and created a "pumpkin globe." Thank you homeroom mothers for supplying the pumpkins for this exciting project.

We had a great time at the Fall Festival. Thank you homeroom parents, Ms. Miller, her committee, and the PTO for all the work and planning. Thank you also, parents for a wonderful Harvest celebration after the Fall Festival. Third Grade is looking forward to seeing families visit during American Education Week!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS  (cont’d)

4th Grade – Rooms 14, 16 & 18

The fourth graders have been busy learning about the History, Geography, Government and Economy of the Keystone state. Each week the students visited a new classroom and worked hard to produce creative activities and complete assignments on the various topics. It’s time now to gather our facts and make a brochure of Pennsylvania. PA day is coming and fun activities will be presented for the boys and girls. The final activity will be in December when the students dress up and present information on a famous Pennsylvanian for the Hall of Fame.

Each class also finished up a novel on Ben Franklin, Thomas Edison or Louis Braille. They enjoyed learning about these fascinating men from history. This week each student will present to their class information on a famous person. The boys and girls have made puppets to resemble the character that they read and researched. The long awaited science classes have started and the children are very enthusiastic about their new topics. Mrs. Burns’ class will learn about Electric Circuits, Mrs. Meenan will teach about Land and Water, and Mrs. McCullough will be teaching Animal Studies. All classes will eventually rotate to cover all the units.

5th Grade - Rooms 13, 15 & 17

The fifth grade theme this year is “Building for the Future”. As part of our team building efforts, the fifth graders reflected on how they wished to grow this year. Students set goals for what traits they wanted to work towards. Looking at their goals, we are sure to have a winning team! We also are working as a team to build our number “5” walls to earn an extra reward.

They are learning how to become responsible educated leaders this year. Many have teamed up to be safeties this year. These students are helping to keep our playground and hallways safe.

The team is off and running with their educational goals, too. One of the highlights so far was having the rooms transformed into Mayan Museums. The students brought in different researched projects that depicted the life of the Mayans. Their projects helped educate others about the Mayan culture.

The fifth graders have also been teaching each other through their oral presentations. Each student researched a country they would like to visit and informed the class about the country. They had to have a visual to help the other students visualize the interesting points about the country they were presenting. Many students went above and beyond with power points and even food to entice others to visit their country!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

Many cheers were heard at the Fall Festival. The classes had fun competing in various games. They also got to express their creativity through art projects, music and dance. We especially appreciated all the parents who came out to cheer us on and made this fun day possible.

With the continuation of the team effort that has been demonstrated so far this year, the fifth grade is building a strong foundation for leadership and learning.

News From Ms. Miller:
Leo’s Heroes Physical Education Award:
September:
1st grade: Ava Marconi
2nd grade: Ava Dezzi
3rd grade: Ivan Byju
4th grade: Dominic Cancelliere
5th grade: Louis Leonardo

October:
1st grade: Jamieson London and Vasiliki Gouvias
2nd grade: Matthew Leonardis
3rd grade: Brian May
4th grade: Maggie Keating
5th grade: Emily Cotrufello

Fall Festival- Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped make the Fall Festival a success. A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Pardini for helping plan and organize the festival!

Musical Notes From Mrs. Mongan:
Greetings! Our school year in the world of instrumental music is off to a FANTASTIC start! We have almost 80 students enrolled in lessons this year, which is an all-time high for Loomis School. That’s 77% of the 4th and 58% of the 5th grade taking a weekly lesson and practicing at home on their own each night. What a great energy level these young musicians have! We can’t wait until they start performing for our classmates at assemblies and special programs.

Currently Mrs. Mongan is working with Ms. Wooden at Paxon Hollow MS to create a combined low brass ensemble which will perform holiday music before the middle school evening concert in December. There are also plans in the working stage to combine musicians from Culbertson and Loomis schools to create select ensembles throughout the year. Stay tuned for more details. In the meantime, keep practicing and enjoy the love music creates in our hearts.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS  (cont’d)

Music Notes From Mr. Peters:
We’ve had a wonderful first two months of school in the music room! We are already very busy playing instruments, moving our bodies, singing cannons, improvising, and drumming in every grade.

Kindergarten students have been discovering the joys of playing on drums, and learning about all types of sound that surround us. We’ve also had some fun singing songs that are also books.

1st grade has been working very hard to learn how to read rhythms and find their beautiful singing voices. Everyone became explorers last week as we explored the Orff instruments for the first time.

2nd grade recently learned a folk dance called “The Little Shoemaker” that is over 200 years old! We’ve also learned a fun song about apples that we will be singing on the announcements for Apple Crunch Day. Ask your child to sing it for you!

3rd grade students have really impressed me this year. We’ve learned some tough cannons and students have continued to impress me with their wonderful singing voices. We’re also in the process of learning some challenging pieces on the Orff instruments. Keep an eye out for the recorder letters going home soon.

4th Grade students have been working hard this year and we have already learned a folk song and game from Ghana. Ask your child to sing you the song about Ayele, the girl who gets lost in the market!

5th grade students have been doing a wonderful job this year and have already completed their first group projects. Students improvised melodies, and participated in a fun movement activity that had us dancing like marionette dolls.

I’d like to thank all 4th and 5th grade students who auditioned for the District Choir. It takes a lot of courage to try out and everyone should be proud of their efforts! Students in 4th and 5th grade will have the opportunity to participate in Orff Ensemble this year. Those interested should listen carefully for announcements indicating meeting times.