LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS 🐆

**Kindergarten**

Greetings from Kindergarten! The first few months of school have been full of learning and fun in Room 21! 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 various 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! The kiddos 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! They’ve also worked very hard to learn our classroom routine. In Language Arts, we have begun our study of the alphabet and are just about finished with introducing all letters. We have been working hard on learning the letter sounds through interactive Fundations activities. Each week, we take time for handwriting and they learn proper formation of the focus letters of the week. 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 have been learning about clapping syllables, rhyming words, how to segment and blend sounds in 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 *Pancakes for Breakfast*. They have enjoyed many different themes and big books through our new reading series, *Reading Wonders*.

The kiddos have also used the brand new laptops and are quickly becoming experts at logging in and using a program called Earobics. This program builds phonological and phonemic awareness skills that are essential for early reading success. They also enjoy having time on the educational website starfall.com.

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 and seasons. 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. It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all! 😊

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 0-10 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! We look forward to learning more about numbers this year!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

A few of our favorite memories so far…

- Fall Festival: The Kindergarteners enjoyed rotating to many fun stations, such as crafts, face painting, relays and the obstacle course! A special thank you to Ms. Miller and all volunteers who helped to make this a fun and enjoyable day for all!

- Thanksgiving Feast: In early November, they learned all about the First Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims and Native Americans. Then, the kiddos spent lots of time practicing songs and poems for our Thanksgiving show and they did an amazing job! After our performance, we enjoyed a delicious feast with our families and classmates. It was a wonderful day!

As you can see, we have been “busy bees” in Room 21! We have lots more to learn this year and can’t wait to make many more memories together!

1st GRADE – Rooms 1, 2 & 4

“November is a month that is gloomy and grey. The leaves are off the trees and the birds have gone away. Children are bundled, just waiting for snow…there’s a chill in the air wherever you go. There are times in November, you sometimes say…summertime seems such a long time away.” This is a fun November poem and, oh, so true. Summertime does seem so far away, doesn’t it?

Can you believe we are almost at the middle point of November already? Parent visitation and conferences are right around the corner, followed up with our first report cards. Whew! When do we have time to take a breath?

We had a fantastic kick off to the start of the school year, way back in September. It is always nice to get back into the swing of school and meet new friends and teachers, while reacquainting ourselves with old ones from last year. Our transition from kindergarten to first grade was quite smooth.

We send out a warm welcome to Mrs. Gerhard, as she joins our first grade team. She rounds out the team of Mrs. Stalker and Mr. Murray. We work closely together and our children will have many different times to spend with a variety of classmates in other classrooms when we do some activities. First grade is the place to be!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

At this point of the year, we are all fully embedded in the school year and all that encompasses first grade. We are learning rules and responsibilities as well as learning the routines of being a first grader. There is so much to do and learn each day. Do not be surprised if your little first grader comes home tired. It is a long and busy day.

We are excited to be using our newly adopted reading series this year called Reading Wonders. There are so many wonderful genres of literature that your child is being exposed to each week. The teachers love how each story has a companion non-fiction selection paired up with the reading selection of the week. The boys and girls are eager to read each day.

This series offers plenty of challenge and reinforcement for our young learners. We especially love the inter-active piece with our Smart Boards. Speaking of Smart Boards, we get to use them daily, not just for reading, but so many other ways as well. Gone are the days of sitting still at a desk. We are up and moving around and keeping busy with so many activities to challenge our first grade minds.

Your child has been given a specific password and log-in code to use at school on a laptop or at home for individual practice for Reading Wonders. There are a plethora of games and activities as well as the stories from the series for your child to revisit and enjoy.

Thank you for all that you have done to help make the transition from kindergarten to first grade. Looking at papers in the Red Alert Folder and Loomis Folder, reading and signing the Library Log each evening, in addition to supervising spelling and math homework is greatly appreciated. We are a team in this first grade journey.

We have enjoyed so many activities already this year, including the Back to School BBQ, Fall Festival, Costume Social, Movie Night, and of course, the Pajama Drive that is taking place right now. There are so many other things for us to look forward to in the future. Loomis is truly a great place to learn! Have a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends.

2nd Grade – Rooms 3, 5 & 6

November certainly went by in the blink of an eye! There were so many wonderful events going on at Loomis.

Our new reading series, Reading Wonders, is well underway in our classrooms. While rigorous, we can see the children working hard and developing new reading skills and strategies each week. Thank you for your support as we navigate through this new component of our reading program.

In math class, we have been busy practicing addition and subtraction, odd and even, comparing numbers, and diving into place value.

Our science classes are engaged in hands-on lessons with balancing and weighing. It’s fun to work in teams to solve science problems and to share materials!
Creativity was on display as the second graders tried to sneak their individual turkeys passed Thanksgiving with our “Turkeys in Disguise” project! Check out the “turkey-riffic” display in our hallway complete with the children’s reason as to why they should not be eaten! We appreciate all the family support with these fun-filled projects and hope that they serve as a springboard for togetherness and conversation with your child.

The highlight of the month for the second grade class was their Thanksgiving Program. We spent a few weeks practicing songs and poems to present to family and friends. On the day of the show, we loved dressing up as “perky pilgrims” and performing on the risers. We enjoyed all the songs, but our favorites were probably “Albuquerque Turkey” and “Turkey Talk.” Ask any 2nd grader to perform them for you! Thank you to all the parents who helped planned our fabulous feast in our classroom after the show. The children gobbled down their lunch and were stuffed and happy!

On the heels of our great show was the annual Pajama Day assembly. For three weeks the children of Loomis donated pennies, pajamas, and books for those in need. It was a heartwarming sight to see all the Loomis kids in their jammies giving to others.

We look forward to speaking with many families during our upcoming conferences. We value this chance to meet with you to discuss your child’s progress. Working together we can help every child achieve more.

**December Delights:** Caring & Sharing Tree, Toys for Tots, Disney Day, Report Cards, Polar Pal research projects, Holiday Shop, Winter Break, and much more!

**3rd Grade – Rooms 10, 11 & 12**

Happy November! It’s hard to believe we are already almost three months 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 exploring our new reading series, Reading Wonders! We have completed the first unit in our anthology. 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 Math, we are working hard on gaining new skills and refreshing those from last year. We have completed Topics 1 through 3 in Envision math. We have been working hard writing numbers, rounding, and adding and subtracting three digit numbers. Each week we are working on new multiplication and division facts, so we can be math superstars.

In Science, we have learned all about sound! Do you know how sound is made and how it travels? If not, ask a 3rd grader.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

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.

Third Grade has celebrated this holiday season by recognizing all of the things we are thankful for. Step into the third grade hallway, and you will see our thankful writing pieces and our colorful turkeys. The turkey fun didn’t stop there though. We also researched famous people and created turkey biographies.

Third Grade loved seeing our families visit during American Education Week! We enjoyed sharing our classrooms and showing off all of our new skills.

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 the wonderful and creative Thanksgiving snacks.

4th Grade – Rooms 14,16 & 18
The 4th graders have been busy working on Pennsylvania activities. The culminating unit is being completed with the children designing on the computer, a brochure of Pennsylvania’s history, geography, government and economy. Friday, November 14th will be PA day for the students. The whole day will be dedicated to activities implementing knowledge acquired on the great state of Pennsylvania. We will finish up with a special presentation of the PA Hall of Fame in December. In science, each class is working on a different unit. Mrs. Burns’ class is working on electric circuits, Mrs. Lovitz’s class is working on land and water and Ms. Nassib’s class is involved with animal studies. The classes will rotate so each group will have the opportunity to work with the three teachers and their special units. The hallways are decorated with puppets of famous people. The students read a biography, and then presented information to the class along with a visual. They did a fabulous job. In closing, the students continue to broaden their horizons of writing by working on various genres. For Thanksgiving, the students endeavored to persuade a relative to change the menu for the big feast. Let’s see if they can convince others with their views of persuasion. Other classes wrote descriptive paragraphs about the beauty of the fall season. We are all looking forward to the events of December.

5th Grade - Rooms 13, 15 & 17
The fifth graders have stepped up to the plate of being responsible educated leaders this year. They hit the ground running by signing up to be school safeties. Many have volunteered to give up some of their before school time or recess time on the playground to help keep our playground safe. Some are keeping our hallways quiet and safe at dismissal time too. This forces these students to be more organized and to plan ahead.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

Our trip to Philadelphia scored a homerun with the fifth graders. This trip was educational and fun too. Thank you to all the parents who worked so diligently to organize this day and to those who made the trip safe by being a chaperone.

A rookie in our line-up of learning is our new reading series, Reading Wonders. We have completed Unit 1. This rigorous series has more informational text and the students find the selections more interesting. With continued practice, they are becoming better readers.

Another rookie this year is the use of the Khan Academy as a supplement to our math program. This is a self paced program so students can review concepts they need clarification on, or they can learn new concepts.

The team is off and running with their educational goals in Social Studies and Science, 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. In science we got to explore micro-worlds. They learned to use microscopes and to become observant scientists. Thanks to a grant from Mr. Soda’s company, we have a digital microscope so the whole class can share slides on this more powerful microscope.

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!

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. We are sure to win the MVP award for leadership and learning.

Musical Notes From Mrs. Mongan:
Our instrumental music lessons are off to a fantastic start this year! Almost all of our beginner musicians are already to the point in the book where holiday music is listed. This is about 2 weeks ahead of schedule. Thanks to all of our parents who have been encouraging our young musicians to establish a good daily practice schedule. The results are being heard by everyone!
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

Our second year musicians are doing well also so we were able to begin our advanced ensembles earlier than usual this year. Because of this, all of our Loomis second year musicians were invited to participate in the MN district wide “Select String” ensemble or the “Elementary Tiger Band”. Each group meets weekly after school at Paxon Hollow MS with other advanced students from each of the MN elementary schools. Congratulations to all involved!

Tiger Band & Select Strings will have a concert on Thursday, Jan. 22, at Paxon Hollow MS to showcase our hard work. We encourage all those who aren’t participating in the concert to come out and support your friends as they share their talent with everyone. Admission is free and our District Choir, under the direction of Mr. Peters, will also perform that evening so it should be a great concert for all!

For those students who aren’t performing on Jan. 22, we will have your concert on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 7:30 PM. This performance will also be held at Paxon Hollow MS and will be a combined concert with our friends from Worrall. This will be an exciting evening so please put the date on your calendar now and tell your family & friends. We always like to play to a packed house! For concert updates, please check our page on the Loomis school website, Instrumental Music.

As many folks know, our MNHS band won first place at the Cavalcade of Band this year. Congratulations to all of our former Loomis students on a job WELL done. It takes a lot of effort, talent and heart to be the best in your division. We are very proud of all of our MN musicians! Also, please vote daily for our high school band on the following website: https://www.univest.net/band. If you have any trouble following this link you can go to the high school webpage for the link.

Music Notes From Mr. Peters:
What a fabulous beginning of the year we’ve had in the music room!

K have been discovering the joys of playing on drums, and learning about all types of sound that surround us.

1st grade has been working very hard to learn how to read rhythms and find their beautiful singing voices. Everyone recently became explorers last week as we explored the Orff instruments for the first time. We are now working hard on our Holiday show tunes!

2nd grade students have started to learn about folk music and folk dances. We recently learned a dance that is over 100 years old, called Alabama Girl.

3rd grade students have been working hard on creating their very own holiday show. We are learning songs on the Orff instruments and have even begun learning about acting to enhance the show this year. Stay tuned for more information about the show which will be available later this winter on the website.
LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

4th grade students recently completed a unit about the blues. Students learned about the origin of the blues, and how it has influenced a variety of genres of music. They even had the opportunity to improvise over the 12 bar blues and wrote their own blues as a class.

5th grade students created have been doing a wonderful job this year and have learned some fun canons about weather, frogs, and transferred them to instruments too. We are now going to begin an interdisciplinary lesson with Art, as we discover how art can be interpreted musically.

Art News from Mrs. Trigone:

We need wrapping paper tubes!!
As you wrap your holiday gifts, please save your wrapping paper tubes for the fourth grade students who will be creating paper mache rainsticks when we come back after the winter break.

Art Display
Congratulations to 12 first and fourth graders who had artwork chosen to be on display for the next month in the board room of the Gauntlett Center. You represent Loomis well! Look for these projects if you have a chance to visit: Mondrian, desertscape, Matisse, and contour line shoe drawings.

Art Students of the Month
Congratulations to these outstanding artists who also show Leo’s character traits:
Grade 2- Ella Braunstein and Juliana Colucci
Grade 3- Santino Fortebuono and Victoria Salamon
Grade 4- Adriana Bieg and Shawon Sarker
Grade 5- Domenic Cancelliere and Emma McGuinn