LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS 🎍

**Kindergarten**
The Kindergarteners rang in the New Year with lots of learning and fun! They returned to school in January with smiles and were eager and ready to jump back into our routine! 😊

The kiddos have made so much progress already and are using their new skills to help them develop into beginning readers and writers. They have also learned many different word families—the “-ap”, “-at”, “-ot”, and “-op” family—just to name a few! We have continued to practice the skill of “tapping” to segment and blend sounds together to read and write words and they have made great progress through daily Fundations lessons. How exciting it is to see them using this skill more and more each day! We have also learned many sight words and the kiddos are noticing that these words are everywhere! One of their favorite sight word activities is giving one of our “words of the week” a high five on the way out our classroom door! We’re always learning—that’s for sure! Not only are we working on learning how to read and write, we’ve also had time to listen to many great stories!

During December, we read various versions of *The Gingerbread Man* and compared and contrasted these enjoyable books! The kindergarteners are working on their retelling skills and are also doing a great job identifying story elements. We have explored many weekly themes in Reading Wonders including community workers, living things, and the seasons.

In Math, we have previously learned all about shapes and solid figures and recently returned to number concepts! The kindergarteners learned to identify, show and write numbers to 20 and are now working on numbers up to 100! We will be learning how to identify and write these big numbers, and will continue to work on our counting skills. Through use of our Smart Board, tens frames, manipulatives and the hundred chart, we will learn many ways to represent numbers!

We also recently took time to learn about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and read stories about his life and why he is remembered today. We talked about fairness and equality and took time to write about how we can help bring positive change to the world...what an important message for us to remember!

Although February is a short month, it sure is full of fun holidays and celebrations! We started the month by learning about the tradition of Groundhog Day. We made a class graph of our predictions and soon found out that Phil did indeed see his shadow with the message of “6 more weeks of Winter”! We learned about two important Presidents who we honor over President’s Day—George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. The kiddos learned many facts about these two Presidents through reading various early learner biographies. We also
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

celebrated the 100th Day of School and did many fun activities such as making a gumball machine craft with 100 “gumball” dots, made a 100 piece snack mix by counting groups of 10, and created a portrait of what they think they will look like when they are 100 years old. We ended the month with Valentine’s Day and exchanged cards and kind words with our classmates.

We are looking forward to warmer weather and having time outdoors as well as much more fun and learning in Room 21!

1st GRADE – Rooms 1, 2 & 4

As you know by now, Mr. Groundhog saw his shadow, and that means 6 more weeks of winter. Thank goodness, we are not having the same amounts of snowfall as last year. Last year at this time, we were up to our in ears in snow and missed so many days of school. Let’s hope for a short six snow free weeks of winter weather. Alas, I wrote this too soon, as we had our blast of snow and are in single digit temperatures. Yikes. Let’s hope that is all. We are keeping active in first grade and are busier than ever as we have been doing many district-wide assessments. We are all proud of how hard our students are working as they pave the way to the road to second grade.

We enjoyed learning about animals in winter, presidents, teeth, and Chinese New Year, and more February is the shortest month, yet packed with things to learn about. We took our BIG reading assessment and are now in our fourth anthology, which is a hard back book. Boy, are we sure feeling like a second grader now. We will continue with the same spelling routine as before and the stories will become a bit more challenging. Continue to read at home each night to build fluency and especially comprehension skills. Talk with your child when you read and find out about the story. Who was the main character? What was the setting? What was the genre? Yes, we do know that word, even in first grade.

We enjoyed celebrating the 100th Day of School and loved looking at each classmate’s collection of 100 items. Valentine’s Day celebrations and the Caring Quilt assembly were surely a highlight of the month. A huge thank you to all those who helped out. We could not have done it without your support.

Even though we passed the 100th day mark, our time in school is by far finished. There is still so much to learn. Don’t lose steam and keep up the active pace that we have throughout the building.

As always, we are grateful to our wonderful first grade parents providing your support of all that we do in school, and your special follow up support at home. We are a team and want to give your child the best.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

We are looking forward to spring and warmer weather. Best of all the Loomis Fun Fair is right around the corner. Come out and show your support for our school.

2nd Grade – Rooms 3, 5 & 6

The second graders have been hard at work! In January we were immersed in a month-long study of that fine black and white bird, the PENGUIN! Our super science lessons about this flightless bird were both fascinating and fun-filled. You will be amazed at how many cool facts your child knows about penguins. The highlight of the month, of course, was our annual Penguin Parade. Penguins of every size, shape, and style waddled their way throughout the halls of Loomis. Our rookery was rockin’ to the sounds of the boys and girls singing their special parade song. We are sure that he/she will sing it for you again if you ask...Here they come, down the hall, penguins on parade! Black and white, tall and small, penguins on parade!

Another highlight in January for the super second grade is the annual Hobby Show. A vast array of hobbies and collections were shared with parents and students. Rocks, coins, Legos, seashells, sports cards, action figures, books, video games and much more were on display for everyone to enjoy. The collections revealed a bit about the personality of the owner and allowed a chance to hone the students’ public speaking skills when asked questions about their hobbies/collections.

In reading, we recently finished up our third unit in our Reading Wonders. The students have been exposed to many genres of literature and have been honing their reading and writing skills. They have also been encouraged to go back into the text to use text evidence in their answers and are making progress with this skill.

February was full of fun events! That rascal groundhog, Phil, saw his shadow and we have 6 more weeks of winter! We celebrated the 100th Day of School by singing a special song over the loudspeaker and doing some fun math and reading activities based on the number 100. Each class enjoyed creating a class Caring Quilt which was donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation at our annual Caring Quilt Assembly. It is always exciting to see the finished product and we are grateful to all who helped plan, prepare, or sew these amazing quilts. We know that these quilts will make a sick child feel special. All classes Valentine’s Day with a pizza party lunch and the highlight is always the giving and receiving of cards. Thank you to our wonderful homeroom parents for organizing the parties. It was a heart-warming day!
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

All students have been introduced to First in Math, an on-line website which students use to practice math. It’s a good way to sneak in some extra math and the kids enjoy seeing who the “Player of the Day” is and encouraging each other to keep playing.

Thank you to the PTO for planning fun events for everyone to share in. We recently enjoyed another great Pizza Bingo Night, Valentine Social, and Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebee’s, and are eagerly awaiting this year’s Out of This World Loomis Fun Fair on March 7th. We know our Loomis families always enjoy spending time together and having fun!

We ask parents to continue to help your child dress appropriately for winter weather. Hats, scarves, and gloves are important to have for those cold mornings and chilly lunch recesses.

The second grade teachers thank all the parents for their support and enthusiasm with all our special projects and events. We look forward to the next few months full of learning and adventure. We couldn’t do it without you!

3rd Grade – Rooms 10, 11 & 12

Happy February! We can hardly believe that the New Year has passed and that it’s 2015. We hope you all had a wonderful holiday break.

We had such a great time together when we returned to school from our break, when we celebrated “Third Grade Day!” We enjoyed talking about our holidays, gift-giving and New Year’s resolutions. We played games and even enjoyed an indoor snowball fight! We also loved our book exchange and sharing with our peers. Thank you for sending in such great books!

We are also 100 days smarter! On the 100th day we loved parading through the building dressed up like we were 100. It was great to see all of the creative ideas our classmates had!

In Language Arts, we are wrapping up Unit 3. We have been exploring different verb tenses, point of view, opinion, cause and effect, and so much more. We are enjoying reading different fiction and non-fiction stories in Reading Wonders.

In Science, third grade is wrapping up our investigation of rocks and minerals. We had a great time using our senses and exploring. Mr. and Mrs. Straka, who are paleontologists, came to visit us at school, and we learned so many new things about rocks and minerals. We were even able to dig for fossils and see Mr. Nixon, their triceratops skull!

Third graders love giving back to the community! We participated in an afternoon of service on Friday, January 16th in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We decorated Valentine’s Day bags that were filled with crafts and goodies created by the others students at Loomis. We hope that these bags put a smile on the faces of the lovely folks who received them. Thank you to our wonderful homeroom moms for organizing wonderful Valentine’s Day fun!
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)

Third Grade is really enjoying the month of February by showing how much we care. We have been working on some Top Secret Missions to spread kindness and caring. We also loved sharing our quilts at the Caring Quilts Assembly. It was wonderful to see all of the quilts the other classes created.

4th Grade – Rooms 14,16 & 18

WOW! It’s hard to believe how fast this year is flying by! Fourth Graders have been exceptionally busy sharpening their skills across all our content areas. They all should be very proud of their hard work and their many accomplishments.

In Math, we moved right along from Multiplication to Long Division, which is a new and challenging concept for most. Recalling their math facts quickly is such an essential part of gaining speed and confidence with this topic, as well as our future topics. Our next “stop” will be exploring the world of Fractions.

The students tied up their studies of Pennsylvania with an assortment of culminating activities. Our young historians demonstrated their learned knowledge and technological talents by creating a Pennsylvania Brochure using Microsoft Publisher. Our entire Loomis family was also extremely impressed with their research and performance during our annual PA Hall of Fame in December. The costumes, props, and speeches were just spectacular. We have since delved back into our Science Units – rotating between Land & Water, Electricity, and Animal Studies.

Along with our academics efforts, the fourth graders have also found the time to make a difference in the lives of others with several service projects. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, we made tissue paper flowers and heart chains during Loomis’s afternoon of service. These crafts, among others, will be given to a local nursing home to lift the spirits of those less fortunate. The students also participated in designing a caring quilt for a child in need through the Make-A-Wish Foundation. This inspiring tradition of Loomis is one of the many reasons why Loomis so special!! Thanks SO much to all of the family members who cut the material, organized the art work, and sewed these beautiful quilts! We appreciate you!

5th Grade - Rooms 13, 15 & 17

The fifth grade class has been busy these past three months. We’ve accomplished many academic goals, enjoyed being of service and had some fun times too. We have been investigating motion & design in science. The students are enjoying building cars out of K’Nex in order to understand force and friction, as well as their impact on the world we live in.

In Social Studies we discovered how the Renaissance in Europe spurred explorers to discover new routes to Asia. From this exploration the Americas were discovered. The students learned about several explorers who came to America and what their impact was on our life
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (cont’d)
today. Did you know we wouldn’t have pizza if the explores hadn’t taken the American
tomato back to Europe?

Fractions are all the rage in math this month. Can you believe students are doing pre-algebra
already? We have been working on dividing decimals and exponents also. Do you still know
how to do these mathematical operations?

We have really been enjoying our new reading series (Reading Wonders), and having great
group discussions in Language Arts. The students are becoming more critical readers and
writers. They are making more inferences and examining how and why a writer writes.
During our day of service for Martin Luther King’s Day, we discussed what a hero was
according to Dr. King. A hero is anyone who serves. Classmates discovered how others have
served in their communities. Many have helped elderly neighbors, worked with scouts or
religious organizations to serve the needs of others, and/or given their hair to Locks of Love.
We spent the afternoon making Valentine’s crafts to be delivered to a nursing home in our
community.
We have also had some fun with some after school activities. We thank the PTO for the Pizza
Bingo Night. Everyone had a grand time socializing with each other. We want to thank Ms.
Miller for organizing the Minute to Win It Night. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the
camaraderie of the evening. We look forward to learning more, serving more and enjoying
fun times together.

Musical Notes From Mrs. Mongan:
The world of instrumental music has been very busy this past trimester. In December our
second year string players accompanied the high school orchestra on a one day tour to
provide holiday music to local residents. The ensemble first went to visit Don Guanella
students in Secane, then to a senior citizens group in Media, and ended the day with a great
performance at Martins Run retirement center.
Later in December all instrumental students performed holiday music for their peers in the
hallways at Loomis School, as well as providing great sounds of the season as students
entered assemblies on the last few days before winter break. It was a busy time for our
instrumentalists.
And it didn’t end with the closing of 2014. In mid-January our advanced second year
students who participated each week after school in either Tiger Band or Select Strings
performed a wonderful concert on the evening of Jan. 22, along with our District choir. The
concert was wonderful! The students played with great expression and confidence. It was a
sparkling evening for all!
Not to leave the first year students out of the fun of performing, we held a recital on Tues.,
Feb. 3rd, for all beginning instrumentalists and any second year student who wasn’t available
to participate in the advanced ensembles. This was a new idea this year and we shared the
evening with our friends from Worrall School. Rather than have a traditional concert of 2
large ensembles, band and orchestra, we used a recital format so each instrument had their
like instrument group to perform with. Students played along with professional song tracks
and it was great. The evening ended with our own version of a flash mob to “We Will Rock You.” And the kids did ‘Rock Us’. Congratulations to all on successfully executing this new type of concert for MN elementary music.

By now you might be thinking we are exhausted and finished for the year. FAR from it! On Feb. 10th we had 2 fifth grade students, Sun Mun & Sam John, represent MN in the PMEA District 12 String Fest held at Kennett HS. The music was very challenging but our students worked very hard and did a fantastic job. The next event was Feb. 24th when a few of our second year students performed with a few of the Culbertson students at the MN School Board meeting. This was another chance for folks to hear how well our young musicians play.

As we come into the final trimester of the school year here is what is yet to come:

- PMEA District 12 Band Fest, held at Upper Darby HS. On March 24th. Matt Dickerson will represent Loomis School. We wish him well.
- Tiger Band & District Choir performance of the National Anthem at the Wilmington Blue Rocks game on Sat., May 2nd.
- Combined concert of all four MN elementary schools on Tues., May 12th. The concert will be held at MNHS due to the size of the ensembles. Every musician who has taken an instrument this year will be a part of this exciting evening, bringing the total to approximately 250 students.
- MN Arts Gala, Saturday, May 16th. More information about this wonderful fundraiser will follow as we get closer to the event.

As you can tell, the MN Elementary Music program is alive and thriving, thanks to the support of our families. Please continue to come out and support the kids at their performances, as well as encouraging them at home while they practice. Your kind words go a long way in wanting us to succeed and be great musicians!

Happy Spring!

Music Notes From Mr. Peters:
The music room has been very busy this trimester! We’ve been singing, dancing, and composing music on a daily basis. Students may have also told you about a new face in the music room, Ms. Klein. Ms. Klein is a student teacher from West Chester University who will be with me until the second week in March. She’s already begun teaching segments of each class and you should be proud of how well behaved and respectful the students have been.

5th grade students recently completed a unit learning how to play the Appalachian Dulcimer and are now beginning a unit on Beethoven. We recently listened to Beethoven’s 5th Symphony and are beginning a long project in which the students will be composing their own motif’s on the Orff instruments! The students had some wonderful things to say about the symphony and I was encouraged at how excited the students were upon hearing the music.
4th grade students are beginning a unit on Japanese music. Students are learning the traditional folk song Sakura, and also about the traditional Japanese drumming known as Taiko. They will also be writing a Haiku and then in small groups composing music to make the Haiku come to life. It’s a very exciting unit that will have your students speaking in Japanese.

3rd grade students have been working very hard as they learn the recorder. We are finally getting some good sounds and have begun learning our first songs. We are using nice warm air, and our fingers are growing accustomed to where the holes are located!

2nd grade has been having a fun time learning a traditional folk song and dance called “Aiken Drum.” Students may have also informed you about “Captain Peters” who recently made an appearance and taught the students the poem Bobby Shaftoe. We’ve been using Cpt. Peters’ treasure to compose rhythms and will soon be creating a sound story using unpitched percussion instruments.

1st Grade students have been actively engaged in learning about the piece The Carnival of the Animals by Camille Saint-Sans. Students have been listening and using their imaginations to determine what animal each movement attempts to represent. We’ve been learning about the instruments of the Orchestra, and have even had a chance to play a Double Bass! Next week Ms. Klein will be performing for us on her Cello.

Kindergarten students have been learning how to keep a steady beat while we sing some fun folk tunes and have already begun learning the rhythm syllables!