LOOMIS LEOPARD NEWS ON THE SPOT

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LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN DOING IN CLASS 🎉

Kindergarten
It’s hard to believe that we are already in the month of June! Time flies when you’re having fun! The Kindergarteners have continued to work hard over the past several months and are proving that they are ready for their big transition to First Grade!

The kiddos have worked hard to develop strong letter/sound correspondence and are putting their skills to use! They have also made it through all 47 of our kindergarten sight words and are not only reading, but also writing these words daily! We’ve continued to work hard on developing beginning reading and writing skills. The kiddos are becoming “young authors” and enjoy Writer’s Workshop time where they work on their own stories. If you took a stroll through our classroom during Writer’s Workshop time, you would see them hard at work as this is a time of our day that they really love! They have become much more independent with sounding out words, writing sight words, and using proper sentence formation! It’s wonderful to see the kiddos reading sentences and applying all of the skills that they have worked so hard on this year! Of course we have also taken lots of time to read many great books—both fiction and nonfiction! The kiddos are working on retelling the beginning, middle and end of stories with more detail and identifying story elements.

We have also used our classroom computers as well as laptop computers and the kiddos are now more comfortable with using the mouse and keyboard. They have learned to create their own pictures using KidPix and explore websites such as Starfall.com and abcyta.com! They also login to a program called Earobics, which works on building phonological awareness skills and is paced at each student’s level. Special thanks to Mrs. DeSantis, our Tech Assistant, who has been a wonderful help to us throughout the year.

In Math, we have learned about addition and subtraction, as well as composing and decomposing numbers 11 to 19. The kiddos have discovered that there are many ways a number can be composed. They have also become experts at using counters and tens frames to show numbers 11 to 19 with a group of ten and “leftover” ones. We will finish up our learning with a final unit on measurement! They are almost ready to dive in deeper as mathematicians in first grade!
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (CONT'D)

A few highlights from the past few months:

- Field trip to Tyler Arboretum: The kiddos had an opportunity to tour the Arboretum and used their five senses to make observations throughout the day. It was a fun-filled and educational trip!

- The Wedding of Q and U: The Kindergarteners were dressed in their finest wedding attire as they witnessed Q and U promise to always stick together in every word. We enjoyed the wedding ceremony, a light “meal”, lots of fun dancing, and of course, wedding cake and bubbles! I think it’s safe to say this was one of their favorite days of Kindergarten so far and they will never forget that the letter Q needs “u” to make a sound! 😊

- Field Day: The Kindergarteners also enjoyed their very first Field Day as Loomis Leopards! Special thanks to all parent volunteers and Ms. Miller for your hard work to make such a memorable and fun day for all! 😊

Looking forward to…

- In early June, we are looking forward to a pizza lunch in the cafeteria! We will learn all about the cafeteria—how to buy lunch and go through the lunch line as well as other important cafeteria rules and procedures.

- We will also take a special trip to the First Grade classrooms where we will meet the First Grade teachers, check out the classrooms and have an opportunity to chat with the First Graders who are now experts in First Grade and will share all about what to expect next year!

    Looking forward to a busy and fun-filled last few weeks of school together!

1st GRADE – Rooms 1, 2 & 4

It is hard to believe that this is the last newsletter from first grade. Can you believe the end of another school year is right around the corner? The year has just zipped right by! We are so super proud of our boys and girls and how much we have accomplished in first grade. It seems as only yesterday we were meeting a shy little bunch of children and now are ready to send grown up boys and girls on their way down the hall to second grade.

We have had a wonderful year in first grade learning and growing together. From experiencing a new and challenging reading series, to solving difficult math problems, your first grader has worked very hard and deserves a well-earned break.

But with that said, we encourage you not to let the summer months slip by without spending time in school related activities. There will be required reading and summer math packet to keep your child’s mind active and engaged. Also, look into keeping a journal or having fun summer book swaps with friends.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (CONT’D)

Thank you to all of our fantastic first grade parents who helped us out so willingly this year with your time and talents. We appreciate all that you have done to support us this year and trust you will do the same in years to come.

We are looking forward to many end of the year events such as Field Day and Family Cookout, Talent Show, First Grade Flag Day Program, Big Guy Breakfast, and our favorite trip to the zoo with our fifth grade buddies.

We wish all of you a fun, safe and healthy summer relaxing with your family…that will zip right by as well so enjoy every minute.

2\textsuperscript{nd} Grade – Rooms 3, 5 & 6

The marvelous month of May has gone by so quickly! The second graders are enjoying lots of fun activities and are continuing to work hard learning new skills.

Science is super! We are happily watching our class caterpillars as they grow and change. Chewing and chomping, they got very big very quickly and we were surprised to see them turn into chrysalises so soon. Then we waited for wings! We enjoyed watching the amazing metamorphosis. Reading lots of books about caterpillars and butterflies is helping to make us insect experts. We are eager to show what we know when we visit the butterfly exhibit at the Academy of Natural Sciences on our field trip in June. We are looking forward to walking through the live butterfly exhibit and touring the museum together.

The boys and girls have been hard at work learning a new skill: cursive! Everyone agrees that it is harder than it looks, but with practice, we have seen improvement. It is exciting to see names written in cursive appearing at the tops of papers these days! Perhaps Captain Cursive will stop by for a visit to see how the second graders are progressing with their “grown-up” handwriting. 😊

In math classes, we are working on measuring. It has been exciting to break out our rulers and measure everything in our classrooms.

In reading, we have almost completed our anthology. The stories in Reading Wonders have taken us through many different genres and have engaged our imaginations. Skills such as cause and effect, author’s purpose, and compare/contrast have been practiced to help make us even stronger readers. Second graders are encouraged to keep reading every day throughout the summer.

Go blue! Go white! Field Day was out of sight! We sure enjoyed a fantastic Field Day and family cookout on May 15\textsuperscript{th}. Under beautiful blue skies, we competed in many events and worked together as a team. We offer our congratulations to the Blue Team for winning this year. Remember: If you had fun, you won! Thank you to Ms. Miller and her team of parent volunteers who planned such a great day for us! THANK YOU!
Next up is an annual favorite at Loomis---the Talent Show! The acts are being polished and we look forward to showcasing this year’s talent in our show on Thursday, May 28th.

We also look forward to the annual Big Guy Breakfast. It is fun to entertain all the special “Big Guys” in the lives of our students.

Thank you to all the parents for your help and support this year. We couldn’t do it without you! A big thank you also to the PTO for providing us with so many special opportunities for fun and socializing and for bringing engaging assemblies for us to learn from and enjoy. We hope that everyone enjoys a happy, healthy, and restful summer! ☺️

**Jubilant June:** Field Trip to the Academy of Natural Sciences, Butterfly Release Day, and the Second Grade Super-Sensational Summer Send-off!

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**3rd Grade – Rooms 10, 11 & 12**

Happy May almost June! We hope all of the moms enjoyed Mother’s Day with their families. It’s hard to believe that it is almost the end of the school year! The 3rd grade hallway has been filled with so many fun and exciting things.

In Language Arts, we are wrapping up Unit 5 in Reading Wonders. We are learning all about pronouns, homophones and informational writing. We enjoyed writing about ourselves in our autobiographies. Though we are young we still had a lot to write about. We loved sharing them with our friends and dressing up for the 2nd annual 3rd Grade Oscars. We wore our finest and celebrated the great things that we have done this year.

In Math we are wrapping up our math units. We had fun with Data and Graphing. We created bar graphs, line plots and pictographs. We took silly photos with moustaches on for “I ‘moustache you a question!”

In Science, third graders aren’t just growing, so are our plants! We are learning all about the Wisconsin Fast Plant and bees. In Social Studies, we wrapped up “Governing Our Community” and “How Does Our Economy Work.” Third graders have been gaining credits and debit throughout the year, so we know a little about the economy, we but learned so much more. We had a ball during our auction using the credits that we have earned to purchase items brought in by our peers. We also had the opportunity to go to Bear Country at the Franklin Mint Federal Credit Union. We learned all about how the Berenstain Bears bank and save money. We are looking forward to Township Tuesday to see the work of our local government and police department.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (CONT'D)

We have really enjoyed all of the great assemblies this year. Most recently we had fun going on a safari during the Laser Light Show and learning all about sound and music during Sound of Science. Thank you to the PTO. They were well worth the money. Thank you also to Miss Newton for another great year of Leo’s Heroes. Third Grade loved Field Day! We had such beautiful weather. We loved all of the games and activities that Ms. Miller planned. Thank you Ms. Miller for all that you do. Third grade is looking forward to our Survivor Week to wrap up our school year!

4th Grade – Rooms 14,16 & 18
The 4th grade students have had an opportunity to gain knowledge of colonial life as a child. Our visit to the Paper Mill in Newtown Square was enhanced with household jobs, dancing, cooking and a few history lessons of the development of Marple-Newtown. It was a great learning experience for all. In reading class, the students are finishing the last Unit of the year. As the year progressed, the boys and girls have really improved with our new common core reading series. In social studies, the boys and girls have been assigned a state to research and complete a power point and present it to their classmates. We look forward to the exciting Talent Show and the 4th grade picnic which will be on Wednesday, June 10th at 12:15. All our families are invited to join us for the last get together.

5th Grade - Rooms 13, 15 & 17
The fifth grade has been busy and working hard building for their future. They were very diligent and persistent while taking the PSSA’s. Along the way they were given incentives with the final being rocking to a LASER light show.

To build for the future you have to know about the past. We have been learning about colonial life and had the pleasure of walking to the Massey House, a 16th century farm house. The fifth graders learned about blacksmiths, candle making, colonial games, colonial architecture, colonial cooking, and colonial gardening. Ask your child why the colonist might have said “Sleep tight. Don’t let the bedbugs bite.”

All of the fifth graders have been giving their oral reports on how to improve teaching or what makes a children’s author great. It takes courage and confidence to stand before their peers and present their opinions. These skills will be useful in their future careers.

The students have also been reading many books, and they especially enjoyed book clubs. When asked what their favorite books are, many will answer one of the books they read for book club. Sharing books with friends really does make reading more enjoyable. Some of our students even got to participate in the Reading Olympics book club and shined at the event at Springton Lake Middle School. The STEM group also participated in their event building with K’nex.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING IN CLASS (CONT'D)

The students got to visit Paxon Hollow Middle School to get a preview of where they will be next year. They were entertained by the talented music department and got a tour of the school. Hopefully some are less anxious about going to the new school. They will have an opportunity in August to get another tour, have practice opening a lock for their lockers, and to ask any questions they may have about Paxon. Watch for a letter that will be sent to you this summer with the details and time.

The end of the year will continue to be busy. We will be going on many trips. We just went on a trip to the zoo with our first grade buddies. There is also the trip to Brandywine Park to meet some of the other fifth graders in the district who will be their classmates at Paxon next year.

The year will culminate with our Memory Morning Breakfast to sign yearbooks and remember the years at Loomis. We will be finishing putting together our Buddy Benches for the class gift that will be put on the recess yard. We’ll also have the final fifth grade award ceremony. Parents will come to Loomis to celebrate the students’ promotion and honor them with the end of the year fifth grade party. What a busy time of the year! Congrats to the Loomis class of 2015!

Musical Notes From Mrs. Mongan:
Well the spring has been an extremely busy time for our young instrumental musicians. Back on April 28th we started with an evening rehearsal for our second year band & orchestra members to learn to march for their upcoming performance at the Wilmington Blue rocks. The extra time and effort paid off because on Sat., May 2nd, the MN Elementary Band performed the “Star Spangled Banner” on the field before the Wilmington Blue Rocks minor league baseball game. It was fantastic! We marched in very professionally, played very well, sounded great and really pleased the crowd. Afterward we enjoyed watching the game as one big family. It was a great night for 300 MN students and family members.

The next week gave us no time to sit back and relax. On Tuesday and Thursday that week we held our combined orchestra and band rehearsals with all four elementary schools. It was thrilling to have over 60 string orchestra members playing together and over 160 band members rehearsing later in the week. So much excitement and good music was had that we did it all again the next week, but with an added rehearsal for those second year students who would be playing in the MN Arts Gala. As tired as we were we performed an outstanding concert on Tuesday, May 12th, for all of our friends and family to hear how much we had progressed over the year. It was amazing! The Select String Ensemble, Tiger Band, beginning strings, beginning band, Jazz Ensemble & Drum Line all performed at the concert. Each group was better than the one before. An amazing night for sure!
As if that wasn’t enough, on Saturday, May 16th, The Select Strings, Tiger Band, Jazz Ensemble & Drum Line all performed at the MN Arts Gala. It was a wonderful event and raised almost $10,000 for the MN Tiger Foundation, which gives grants to MN teachers in all disciplines. Talk about hard work paying off!

Our final event of the year is Tuesday, June 2nd, a demonstration of the instruments for the 3rd grade students so they can start thinking about which instrument they may want to learn next year. We find that if students identify with the instruments now and think about it over the summer they are usually very ready to begin lessons come September. Instrumental lessons are optional at Loomis School but most students tend to sign up for these weekly lessons. If anyone has questions about our format, please feel free to email Mrs. Mongan at Lmongan@mnsd.org.

Thank you to all of our parents who have supported us throughout the year by encouraging our students to practice and keep working at their instrument. The results were obvious at our performances! Please encourage your child to continue to pick up their instrument a couple times a week over the summer so that they don’t forget all that they have learned. Thanks again & Happy Summer!

Physical Education News from Ms. Miller:

Loomis Happy Feet Running Club just completed another successful season. We met Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm for five weeks. Over 100 students in grades 1-5 participated. Each week we started with an opening warm up routine led by Mrs. King, then we’d head outside for our jog time, followed by a cool down. The students learned the importance of “pacing” as they jogged. Congratulations to the kids for doing a great job. Also, we would like to thank Mrs. Lauletta, Mrs. Newlin, Mrs. Patrick and Mrs. Peterson for assisting weekly with the club. Also helping run the club was on average 10 members of the Loomis faculty and staff. Thanks to all who helped make this another successful fun filled fitness program.

Thank you to the PTO for providing apples and water for the Happy Feet club!

On May 15th Loomis held its annual field day. The Loomis students were exceptional “good sports” throughout the day. They encouraged each other and played fair. The highlight of the day was the parent and faculty/staff tug o war. A big thanks goes out to the 50 parent volunteers who helped make the day a success. Along with running stations, parents helped blow up 1000 water balloons and a few even arrived at 5:30am to assist with the morning “set up.” Thank you all and we look forward to next year’s field day event!
Musical Notes From Mr. Peters:

1st Grade – We recently finished our unit on the carnival of the animals where students discovered how composer Charles Camille Saint-Saëns used different instruments, tempo’s, and dynamics to convey a variety of animals. You may have recently noticed your first grade student singing some patriotic songs at home and that is because we are getting ready for our Flag Day show on June 11th. The show will begin at 2:00 and will be featuring the entire 1st grade class. Hope to see you there!

2nd Grade – Students recently completed a unit of study on movement in which students discovered how weight, direction, and shape can be used to while moving to music. To highlight this, students were arranged in small groups and asked to combine their bodies to form one animal. We then composed music to accompany the different animal movements as students walked across the room showing appropriate movements for their animal.

3rd Grade – Congratulations to students for completing the third grade unit on recorders! Don’t get rid of them though we will be using them more next year. Our last music class will be our karate belt tying ceremony! All should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I’d like to congratulate the 5th and 4th grade students on an outstanding performance at the Evening of the Arts this past month. The students worked very hard this year and I’m very proud of what they were able to accomplish. A special thank you to the Orff Ensemble’s who sacrificed a lunch recess every week and even came in after school to learn the complicated pieces they performed. Bravo to all!