Dear Families:

**Smarter Balanced Assessment:** In April and May, third, fourth, and fifth grade students will participate in the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students will be tested in English Language Arts and Mathematics. The assessment is in alignment to the Common Core State Standards, and it is required by the state of Delaware. Your child’s teacher will be providing you with the specific test dates for their classroom. It is imperative that your child attend school each day on time and for the full school day. (This includes Virtual Academy and Zoomers.)

In March, fourth grade students will take the DESSA Social Studies assessment and fifth grade students will take the DESSA Science assessment.

Please note that the Delaware Department of Education policy prohibits students from possessing any electronic devices such as cell phones in the testing setting. Please be sure to talk with your child about this policy. We will remind students of this policy prior to testing.

**Continued on page 2>>**

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**Important Dates**

- **3/11** - PTA Meeting, 6-7 PM
- **3/15** - DeSSA window opens
  (Delaware State Testing)
- **3/20** - District Band Concert, 4 PM
- **3/22** - “Rock your Socks”
  World Down Syndrome Day
- **3/24** - End of Mrk Pd 3
- **3/25** - School Closed
- **3/26** - School Closed
- **3/31** - Dr. Seuss Day
- **4/2 - 4/9** - School Closed
- **4/15** - PTA Meeting, 6-7 PM
- **4/19** - Annual District Art Show, Opening Reception,
  7 AM - 3 PM, Gauger-Cobbs
- **4/30** - Rainbow Day
- **5/6** - PTA Meeting, 6-7 PM
- **5/27** - DeSSA window closes
  (Delaware State Testing)
- **5/28** - Hawaiian Day
- **5/31** - School Closed

**Wilson’s Online Calendar**
**Principal-ly Speaking (Continued from Page 1)**

**Attendance:** The research is very clear about attendance at school. Students who attend school regularly perform better than students who are frequently absent, late, or leaving early from school. As partners in your child’s education, we need your assistance in making sure your child arrives on time each day and stays for the full day. When a child arrives late or dismisses early, not only does your child miss important academic content, but it also is disruptive to classroom instruction. Please do your best to get your child to school on time each morning.

Thank you for your support at home!

Mrs. Birch, Principal  
Natalie.Birch@christina.k12.de.us

Mrs. McKeon, Academic Dean  
Mary.Mckeon@christina.k12.de.us

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**Car Rider Dismissal**

Car Rider Dismissal has been safe for both students and staff. Thank you families for
- displaying your car rider number
- arriving on time
- wearing your mask
- forming 2 lines
- following procedures to exit
  - wait for signal from staff member
  - outside lane goes first/inside lane stays in order as you exit

We love seeing the smiles from students and families as they greet each other!

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Within the next three months, Wilson Elementary students will be participating in three No Place For Hate activities on the topic of anti-bullying. At the end of February, students will be able to answer the question: What does it mean to be an ally? After listening to a read aloud, *Juice Box*, they each will create a drawing on what an ally looks like. These amazing drawings will be displayed all around the school. In the month of March, students will listen to the book, *Say Something*, to learn the difference between teasing and bullying. The culminating project will occur in April. The students will listen to a book, *Onto Otters*, on how we can be an ally to our classmates and to others in our world. Students will then think of examples of what an ally is and express their ideas on their own cut out, traced hand. These hands will then represent leaves on a school Tree of Respect that will be on display in the 4th/5th grade stairwell. Parents, feel free to continue the conversation at home on what it means to be an ally to others!
National Read Across America Day is on March 2

To inspire all of our readers at Wilson, this edition of the Wilson Word has some recommendations for you to explore. To get us started, here are a few of the favorite books of our special education teachers.

Mrs. Roarty
3/4/5 Teacher

Lois Lowry
*Number the Stars*

Mrs. Fraczkowski
K/1/4/5 Teacher

A Bad Case of Stripes
David Shannon

The Wolf’s Chicken Stew
Keiko Kasza

Ms. Brennan
2/3 Teacher
Wilson Elementary is now offering covid-19 antigen testing to our hybrid learners. Only individuals with NO symptoms will be tested. If your child is ill, or c/o symptoms related to covid-19 such as cough, difficulty breathing, headache, nausea, loss of taste or smell, please keep your child home and contact your physician.

If anyone is interested in antigen testing for their child, please visit the Christina School District Homepage to access an online consent form through the "reopening 2020" tab. You will also be able to view a short video of the antigen testing process. If anyone needs a paper form of the consent, please contact me, and I will send home a consent form with your child. Antigen testing is FREE to all participants.

The nursing office now has a schoology page to submit emergency cards for both hybrid and virtual learners. If you have not yet handed in an emergency card, please submit this assignment through your child's schoology account. It is very important for the school nurse to receive all necessary health information for both hybrid and virtual learners. Thank you for taking the time to complete this task!

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.
Healthy Regards,
Mrs. Durbano

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**Home Health Screening Tool**

1. Have you been in direct contact with a person who is Positive for COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks?
   - __No__  __Yes__ - If yes, date of contact__________________
     If less than 2 weeks, please exit the building and contact your supervisor
     If more than 2 weeks, proceed to question #2.

2. In the last 48 hours, have you had any of the following NEW symptoms?
   - __Fever of 100.4 (38C) or above
   - __Trouble Breathing
   - __Muscle Aches
   - __Shortness of breath or wheezing (not asthma related)
   - __Chills or repeated shaking with chills
   - __Loss of taste or smell, or change in taste
   - __Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
   - __Sore throat
   - __Headache
   - __Cough
   - __None of the above

If you answered “YES” to any of the above questions, please keep your student home and call your primary care physician.
Why do kids need school counseling?
• Children learn best when they feel good about themselves and their relationships with others.
• Children who understand their feelings are better able to control their behavior.
• We know that stress can affect focus and learning, but its impact can be reduced with proven self-regulation strategies.
• Schools, parents, and communities that communicate and collaborate provide the most effective support to children.
• Attitudes formed during elementary school shape future attitudes towards learning, self, and society.

Common Social/Emotional Needs
anxiety
anger management
friendship skills
stress reduction
conflict resolution
managing feelings

The link below is my online school counselor’s office. Students can look around and choose an activity or book to use during break time. If a student wants to check in and talk with me, just fill out a check-in form!

Ms. Sparco's Virtual School Counselor's Office

If you would like to contact me for counseling services, or any social/emotional support, I can also be reached via email (andrea.sparco@christina.k12.de.us).

Ms. Sparco
School Counselor
Book Review by Oscar Catanzariti

Catwad by Jim Benton

Do you like to laugh well if you do
You should read catwad!
Catwad is a book with Adventure and laughs

The characters are catwad and blurmp there both cats that do crazy funny things. 1 of the stories is called lemons.

I give catwad 5 stars.

Prepare to laugh!!!!!!
Check out Mrs. Sharp’s Kindergarten class on **Crazy Hat Day** this past January!

**Upcoming PBS Spirit Days**

- **Wednesday, March 31 - ** **Dr. Seuss Day**: Dress up like your favorite Dr. Seuss character
- **Friday, April 30 - ** **Rainbow Day**: Dress in rainbow colors
- **Friday, May 28 - ** **Hawaiian Day**: Dress in Hawaiian attire

*Share pictures of your Wilson Wildcat Spirit: [Wilson Elementary PTA Facebook page](#)*
New Kid in Town by Nova Brack

First, Mows moved to a new town. Next, he met a wolf from the town. They warned him about the big bad wolf! He did not believe them.

He went to see him for himself. He was his! Mows took the wolf to town and he was friends with everyone!
PTA Parent Information Night

Save the Date: March 10, 5 PM
Anyone interested to learn about the PTA and joining the team is invited to participate in this brief virtual session. Look in your email for a Zoom invite.

It is never too late to JOIN the Wilson PTA and connect with our great community!

Virtual Paint Night

The PTA is planning a Virtual Paint Night. Information will be sent out to parents via email. Keep an eye out!

Reflections Program Update

Thank you and Congratulations to the 25 students who participated in the PTA Reflections Program. This year’s topic was "I Matter Because..." We are very excited for you! 13 entries were selected by our Judging Panel and have been submitted to the Delaware PTA! Good Luck! We will share the final results in April/May during our Membership Meeting.

Stay Connected

Upcoming PTA Meetings

March 11, 6-7 PM
April 15, 6-7 PM
May, 6, 6-7 PM

Visit Wilson PTA’s pages online for the latest news and links to our facebook page: www.christinak12.org/WilsonPTA

Turn in ZINGO receipts

We are able to collect 1% of your total.
My book review is about the book *Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine.

In this book Ella has a curse put upon her when she was born that makes her obedient so if someone gives her a command she has to do it. She does not like this curse so she goes on a journey to find the fairy who put the curse on her. Along her journey elves and gnomes give her gifts to help on the way.

There are a lot of things that I like about this book. Some of the things that I like are that there are a bunch of actions that make you want to keep reading the story. I like how it takes place not in this time period so that you sort of feel like you are learning something about someone’s life in the past. There is magic in the story but it is not too much magic.

What I dislike about this book is that they don’t give a lot of detail on what the characters look like. Another thing I don’t like about this book is that the setting is a long time ago so it is sometimes hard to understand what they are talking about but other than that this is a really great book.
We continue to be proud of our students and all that they are learning. Our students continue to do their best in these trying times! We will keep expanding our vocabularies using pictures and sentences. Some of us will keep working hard on improving addition and reading comprehension skills. It is wonderful to see everyone’s smiling eyes while we participate with our classmates.
We are enjoying working with our kindergarteners and seeing all of their growth. It's an amazing time in K!

Thank you to our families who help the students be prepared for school each day! We are doing SO well with our zooming/rooming/hybrid learning! How impressive!

We are so very excited for the spring season to be here, too! Yay! Hooray!

writing Our students have moved from not knowing many letter names and sounds to knowing all the letter names and sounds and now using those to read and write many sentences. WOW! We are learning how to retell stories using key details and how to write a persuasive letter to someone.

math In math, we are finishing our study of shapes and moving to understanding combinations that make 10 by adding/subtracting. We’ve also just celebrated our 100th day of school together!
We are learning about science thru our science unit called: Push, Pull, GO! We are learning about how things move and what impacts that motion or slows it down. We are learning how to gather, reason and communicate about force and motion. This is a favorite unit for us in science. There is SO much hands-on learning and it’s FUN!

Check out this fun activity from *The Primary Brain:*

**Salt Dough Handprint Keepsake**

We are looking forward spring: our **Junior Achievement** program will begin via zoom where we will begin to learn about needs/wants and money; we will have some caterpillars to watch as they go thru metamorphosis to become butterflies, and, 12 chicken eggs are coming in an incubator soon, too! We are excited to come and learn in kindergarten!

Thank you for your continued support at home by making sure your student is being read to each night for 10-15 minutes; limiting their screen time after school (and making sure it’s a G rated game/activity); eating a healthy, nutritious dinner/snacks/meals; and, reviewing the pages that come home from the day’s activities to be sure your student understands what to do, etc. Thank you for all you do! We appreciate you all!

Love,
The K team
Greetings from first grade. Students have been doing a wonderful job with the return to hybrid learning. We take time during SEL and throughout the day to review school and zoom expectations. Continue to review the PBS expectations with your child at home.

**Be respectful.**

**Be responsible.**

**Manage yourself.**

**Follow directions the first time.**
Our writing focus is Persuasive Writing. All students are working on adding their opinion as well as facts to persuade their readers about different topics. So far, they have persuaded their teachers and classmates to visit a farm. We are working on a few power writes such as advertisements and book reviews!

In math we are continuing to work with a new math tool - the number line. Students will practice counting forwards and backwards as well as creating addition and subtraction equations using the number line. Remind students to choose workplaces when they have the opportunity. These workplaces reinforce the skills that we introduce each unit in a fun and engaging way. Our next unit in math requires us to take a (pretend) trip to Antarctica where students will investigate different breeds of penguins. Students will have to measure, compare, and count to 100 and beyond.

Solids and Liquids is our focus in science. Students will be able to observe, discuss and test properties of solids. They will compare and contrast, sort and experiment with their solids. After solids, we begin the processes all over again with the very popular...liquids! We will explore water, glue, shampoo and oil. Please keep the conversation going at home by discussing solids and liquids in your home and all around!

In social studies, we will begin our economics unit. Throughout this unit we will learn about goods and services, scarcity, resources, consumer, producer, spending and savings. Students will learn more about economics through literature, discussion and activities at school.

Continue reading at home with your child. 15-20 minutes a night is great practice for them. Ask your child questions about what they are reading. Here are some ways to help your child with comprehension. Ask: Can you retell the important events in order? Who was the main character? What was the problem in the story? Ask about text and graphic features and point out how those features give more information about a text. Whether they are reading or listening, it is important to spend time each night with a book.
Our second grade students have been exploring measurement using standard and non-standard units of measure. Students learned that using standardized measures makes communication about measurements much easier. We had many very good discussions about the fact that measurements vary depending on the size of the unit. Inches, feet, and yards were introduced. Students made their own inch ruler and had fun determining how tall one of their friends would be if they were twice as tall. Our next unit will focus on place value to 1,000 and give students more opportunities to practice strategies for adding and subtracting two and three-digit numbers.
reading  One of the students’ favorite days of the week is Wednesday because we explore vocabulary through high interest literature. Text talk is a read aloud program designed to teach higher level thinking skills and sophisticated vocabulary to students. It focuses on vocabulary development integrated with comprehension strategies. The teachers have fun clarifying vocabulary words to deepen students’ understanding of text. Ask any second grader to explain the meaning of melodramatic, obedience, or appetizing. They will be able to give you examples of each of these words and many more.

writing  The second grade students are showing growth in their ability to write a paragraph. They have learned to begin with a topic sentence to tell what the paragraph will be about. Next, they add at least three detail sentences to support the topic sentence. Last, they know to end with a closing sentence. Keep up the good writing second graders!

social studies  Our focus in social studies has been on geography and map skills. The second grade students have learned about maps and globes. Map keys, symbols, compass roses, directions, states, oceans, and continents have been explored. We will begin to learn about the engineering design process with our study of bridges next in science.
Third Grade News

Third graders are continuing to work hard and push through to spring! In reading, we are exploring new and interesting texts as well as continuing to focus on our comprehension strategies. It is so important for third graders to get as much exposure to text as possible so please continue to have him or her read at home every night! Along with reading, your student should be practicing his or her multiplication facts at home. By the end of the year they should know these facts fluently. We will be finishing up our Bridges unit on measurement and fractions and moving into a unit on multiplication and division. Students who know their facts will be much better prepared for division. Our next writing unit will focus on informative writing. Students will be doing research and writing multiple paragraphs about a topic of their choice. Ask them what they are writing about!

We have completed our study of Earth Materials in Science and are learning all about maps and globes in Social Studies. Please stay tuned for all the fun coming up this spring!
Fourth Grade News

4th grade is a very busy place this time of the year for both our hybrid and virtual students. Thank you for all of your support with helping your child to learn their Zoom schedule. This is a long stretch of school for us, with minimal days off until Spring Break, so we are hoping to get in a lot of learning over the next few weeks.
We recently finished a writing and reading unit in non-fiction text. Encourage your child to venture into non-fiction reading to give them a broader view of the world and improve vocabulary. Start with a topic that interests your child. Look for books with lots of interesting pictures and graphics. Your child does not have to read the book cover to cover. Use the index and table of contents to jump to the most interesting information. Children are natural learners, curious about the world around them. Non-fiction reading can turn a reluctant reader into an enthusiastic reader. We currently are learning to write a persuasive piece in which we will state our opinion and back it up with 2 supporting reasons. We are also working to improve our written responses by teaching students to answer the question and support their answer with evidence from the story.

Our next few math units focus on multiplication and division of whole numbers and fractions with a focus on the use of ratio tables to do the calculations and geometry where we will learn to measure angles with a protractor as well as name types of angles and triangles. We will also learn to measure perimeter and area.

In Social Studies, will be learning about civics before we get back into another small history unit. Students will learn about the three parts of our government and the jobs that each part does.

In science we are just beginning a unit on Magnetism and Electricity. Students have investigated the properties of magnets. They have investigated electricity and learned how to light a lightbulb and make a motor run. Hopefully we’ll even get to put the two together and make electromagnets this year.

If you are looking for a way to provide at home individualized support for your child, Iready is a great option. The lessons are based on your child’s mid-year diagnostic tests and can be accessed through clever.com. As always, thanks for all of your support. Please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.
Fifth Grade News

In the awesome domain of fifth grade,  
Wonderous progress is being made!  
Although some of us are hybrid and some are remote,  
We're still focusing on growing and on that you may quote.  
In Science we are exploring the relationship between Earth and the Sun,  
Differentiating between rotation and revolution has been so much fun!  
In math class we are continuing our work with decimals and fractions.  
We're also learning how to convert in the metric system through all kinds of actions.  
We're doing liquid conversions, distance conversions, and conversions of weight.  
Your scholars will be experts at converting at this rate!  
In writing we are constructing an essay that's meant to inform us on a topic.  
Soon enough, however, we'll be sharpening our skills of persuasion like why you should like our favorite biopic!  
We are facing unique challenges this year and of that you can be sure.  
But we're facing them the Wilson way and our hearts are pure.  
Our number one priority is developing your scholar's academic and growth mindset.  
With half the year still ahead of us, there is no can't, but there is the POWER OF YET!
One of my favorite hand strengthening activities is hiding treasures in play dough and finding them. Roll out the play dough like a pancake. Place treasures on top, and fold or roll the play dough to get the items inside. Treasures can be coins, marbles, buttons, beads, plastic letters/numbers beads or small plastic figures. If using letters or numbers you can turn it into an academic activity of making words or calculation games. This can be done interactively taking turns and competitively by timing or going head-to-head. This activity gets hands and fingers ready to hold and use a pencil, scissors, or type. Try this activity before writing time. Click here for a recipe or google easy play dough recipes.

Enjoy!

Terri Peffley
Occupational Therapist
Book Review by Ekam Singh

*Dog Man* by Dav Pilkey

Dog Man

Did you want to know about a dog-superhero that Dav Pilkey made? Then Dog Man is the right book for you! You should read Dog Man because Dog man has an exciting twist. Dog Man isn’t just any book, it is a book where you get to flip pages. If you flip quickly, the pages might look like animated cartoons. Dav Pilkey calls Flip-O-Ramas when his pages flip. Dog man saves everyone's day in each Dog Man book.
How To Read With A Beginning Reader

⭐ 15-20 minutes is plenty for a beginner reader.
⭐ Encourage your child to point(track as they read.
⭐ Read a sentence and have your child repeat it.
⭐ Take turns reading a sentence, paragraph, or page.
⭐ Talk about the story as you are reading it.
⭐ Ask questions about the story.
⭐ You can always re-read books.
⭐ Repeated readings help with fluency.

Happy reading,
Miss Gilbert, Reading Specialist

AAP News

Advanced Academic Program students prepared for the Mars 2020 Mission Perseverance Rover landing on February 18th. They learned that the goal of the mission is to seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and regolith (broken rock and soil) for possible return to Earth. The Perseverance Rover was launched on July 30, 2020 and took almost 7 months to travel to Mars.

When we return to school, we'll be able to identify the landing site of the rover, Jezero Crater on our giant Mars Map. We are excited to create our own Mars rovers using our Sphero robots.

Mrs. Rovner
AAP Teacher
Book Review by Francis Rizzo

If You Give a Dog a Donut by Laura Numeroff

By: Francis Rizzo

This book is about a dog that loves donuts and adventures. His adventures include making apple juice, playing baseball, pretending to be a pirate and flying a kite. The little dog has so much energy that it's hard to focus on one thing. He was so busy with all of his activities he forgot he wanted apple juice in the first place.

This book makes me happy and excited for my own adventures.
Ms. Miller, Physical Education

Ms. Wendy
Speech-Language Pathologist

Wacky Wednesday, 8:50 AM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8789760346?pwd=ODlROUtsM3JGZ0Q2QW42TDhH
Meeting ID: 878 976 0346
Passcode: 6MwLbp

Happy Reading!