

February

News from Mrs. Curvey:

February has always seemed to me like a promise that spring is right around the corner. I sure hope she keeps her promise! Because it has been so cold, we have had many days of inside recess. In an effort to provide the students with more than just movie watching every day, we have a rotation for them to follow. One day of inside recess, a couple of classes will watch a movie while the other classes are on the stage engaging in building with Legos, coloring, drawing, and creating. Then, the next day, the classrooms that had previously watched the movie will then go to the stage and those who were previously on the stage will come watch the movie. If you or a family member/friend have any Legos, Lincoln Logs, Tinker Toys, or Duplo Blocks that you are looking to get rid of please consider donating to Gilson Brown. We will gladly use them during inside recess.

5 essentials

At this time, 20% of our families have taken the 5 Essential Survey sent to us by the state. If you haven't had the chance to do that, yet, please log on to altonschools.org and click on the survey. Information from this survey does help guide our planning for the future of our school and your children. Thank you to those who have already been able to take the survey.

Recess

Parents, I cannot stress enough the importance of your children coming to school dressed prepared for outside recess. When the wind chill and temperature are above 25 degrees, we WILL go outside. Therefore, it is imperative that your child comes to school prepared for twenty minutes of outside recess. Please be sure that they leave the house with their winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves to help them enjoy twenty minutes of fresh air. A hoodie, under these conditions, just isn't enough to provide them the comfort and warmth that they will need outside for twenty minutes.

Party With the Principal

February 6th is our first Party With the Principal celebration. If your child has moved up a reading level in first grade or has increased a level on Word Wall Karate in Kindergarten, then he/she will be hanging out with me for a little celebration! Keep encouraging your child to read and practice word wall words to build the vocabulary necessary to succeed to the next level!

Valentine's Day

Thursday, February 14th is Valentine's Day. While there are no classroom parties that day. However, your child may bring Valentine's Day cards as long as they have one for every member of the class.



News from 1st Grade

This month has many areas of study and focus! We will go back in history to learn about the great presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. February is Black History Month so we will also focus on important African Americans both past and present as well as read a variety of multicultural books. This month also has Dental Health Month, and Valentine's Day.

The Alton School district does not hold Valentine's Day parties. But if your child would like to bring in Valentine cards, please send them to school by February 14 (beginning of the day) and make sure there is one for everyone in the class. We will be sending home a list of all the students in your class.

As our first graders develop into stronger readers, we are working on several comprehension strategies to help them understand more difficult text. We will continue to make connections to stories and will focus on visualizing and adding detail in their retelling of stories and recalling information. As always, reading on their own each night and for longer periods of time will help students make progress.

In math we are deepening our knowledge of subtraction and working with larger numbers. We are also teaching first graders the relationship between addition and subtraction and comparing numbers. Vocabulary words your child needs to know are greater than, less than, fewer, and more.

Look for progress reports to come home Friday, February 8. Please sign after reading them and return to school.

News from Kindergarten

We just finished celebrating 100 days of school at the end of January! We are moving into the very busy month of February. We will begin by learning about Groundhog Day, shadows and hibernation. Next we will move on to Kindness during Valentine's week, as well as dental health. We will conclude the month by studying our past presidents (Washington, Lincoln) and reading multicultural books to learn more about famous African Americans.

You may have noticed that your child is bringing home books on his/her reading level. Please be sure they are reading them multiple times to improve fluency and expression; as well as, using the comprehension cards in the bag. This will help your child increase their reading level. The kindergarteners are working hard on consonant/vowel/consonant words, reading, and writing 2 sentence stories independently.

Addition and Subtraction to 10 are our new Math skills during this month. Please continue to practice writing numbers 0-20 with no reversals.

The weekly Monday note is an excellent reference for skills to practice and work on at home. Remember Homework Journals and Reading Bags are due on Fridays. As always, your help is greatly appreciated!