

Winter Newsletter

PINEWOOD POST

FEBRUARY 2023

Principal's Corner

Pinewood families,

Thank you so much for your participation during our math night event. I hope you were provided with valuable information and strategies that you can use to support your students at home. I also hope you had fun playing the various games and will also enjoy the games with your families while strengthening your child's math fluency skills.

Thank you families so much for your support! We Can Do This TOGETHER!!!!

We are working on increasing our student attendance and decreasing our tardy rate from now until the end of the school year. Student attendance and tardies play a major role in your child's academic success. If your students are chronically absent (not due to sickness) or consistently tardy, they are missing valuable instruction which can impact their day-to-day performance. To support this, we are having a school wide challenge called "It's Cool To Be In School" Challenge. We will post the number of weekly absences and the percentage of student attendance in our

monthly newsletter and on our banners in the front of the school. Our goal until the end of the year is to increase our attendance rate from 90.7% to 98% and decrease our tardiness from 5.46% to 2%. The banner will show our weekly average and the number of students that were absent within the week. We will do the same process for our tardies per week. I am also interested in providing surveys on how we as a school can better support our families with tardiness and attendance and hear solutions on how we can make this a priority.

Black History Month

During the month of February classes will be participating in a door decorating contest in celebration of Black History Month. They will select an African American person of influence to research and share various facts that they have learned through their research as a class. The week of February 27th they will have the opportunity to do a gallery walk through the school to learn about all the contributions that have been made. The class contest winner will be announced the week of February 28th. .



Kindergarten

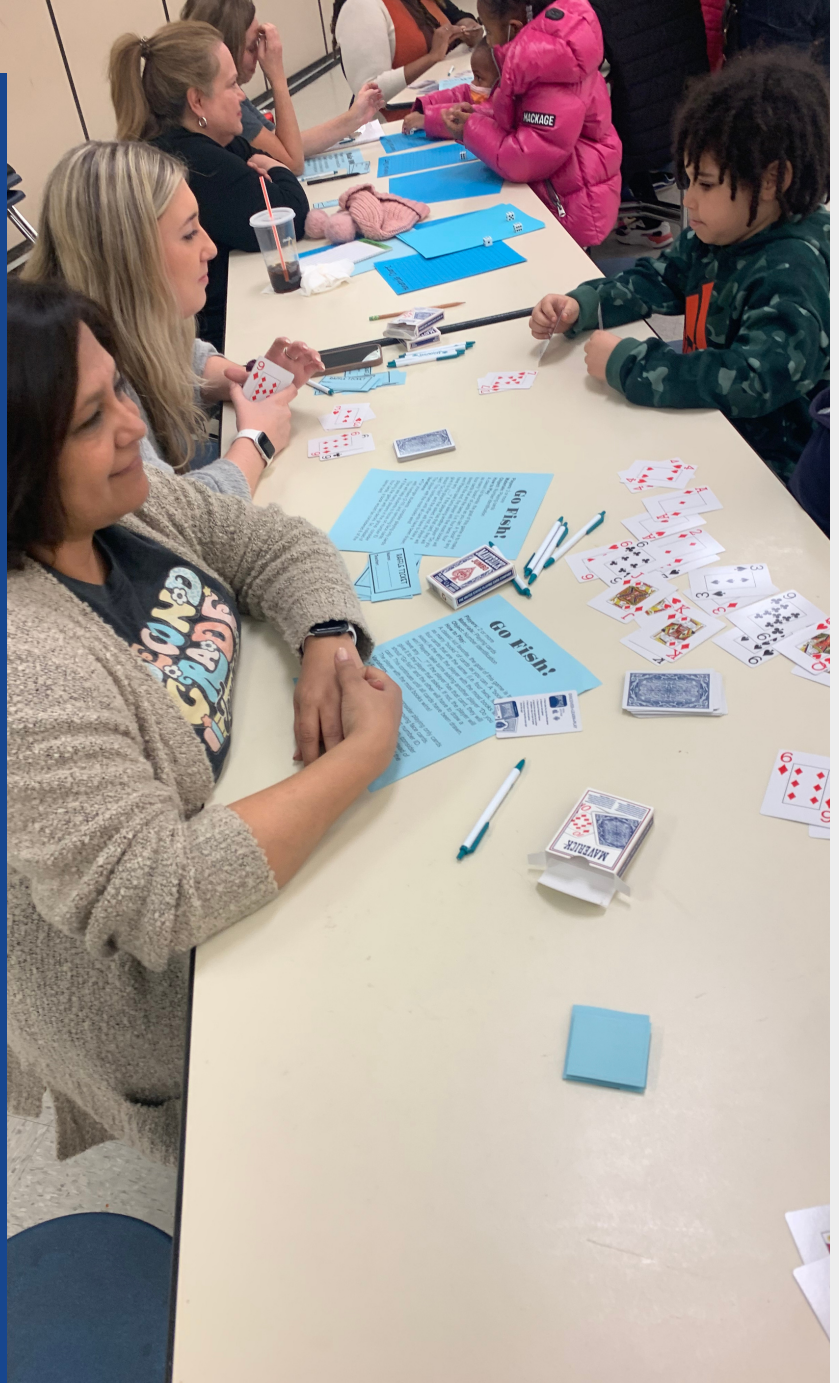
Kindergarten students have been learning about how living things depend on trees. Through this unit, we have been working on their research and note-taking skills. In math, Kindergarten has been practicing addition and subtraction using word problems and equations. In science, students have been learning about how objects move through forces and motion and in social studies, we have been studying the environment of their community and their world. Each morning during our morning meeting, Kindergarten students have been discussing using our bodies and faces to express emotion, manage feelings, and consider the needs and feelings of others. We all had a blast on the 100th day of school (February 13) celebrating 100 days of learning! We made hats to wear all day and we counted 100 different things to celebrate!

1st Grade

Students in first grade are learning all about birds! We have learned that all birds have wings, feathers, and beaks which help them to survive in various ways. We are using non-fictional texts to research, observe, and write about the physical characteristics of birds. In math, we are learning about place value and how important it is to understand each digit's value in a number. Students are beginning to compare two-digit numbers with the terms "greater than", "less than", and "equal to". We have been in our Science units for the past couple of months. We just wrapped up learning all about Earth's materials and how important they each are for us to live. First graders recently began learning about force and motion and how pushes and pulls can affect the motion of an object. First graders are continuing to learn about responsibility and how important it is to follow the rules and do the right thing, even when no one is looking. We are also talking about feelings, and how to be aware of how someone is feeling based on their facial expressions and body language.

2nd Grade

2nd grade students are learning how to research topics and find information efficiently. To do this, we are specifically looking at plants and pollinators. Students have been learning how to take the information they've found and produce a scientific drawing of a flower and its pollinator. In math, students are starting Topic 9 which is building understanding that the 3 digits in a 3 digit number represent the 100's, 10's and 1's. During Math Night, students received a blank place value chart. This is a great way to practice this concept at home! The 100th day of school was Monday February 13th. Students were encouraged to come up with something that represents 100. Some ideas were 100 cheerios, 100 stickers on a piece of paper, 100 pictures glued to a poster board, etc.



***A look into the
classroom***



*4th Grade visited
Discovery Place
at the beginning
of January!*

3rd Grade

3rd grade students are reading the book Peter Pan. Our focus standards are comparing our own point of view to the characters. Students are also asked to list character traits of characters based on their thoughts and actions. In math, we have just finished two-step word problems. Students are being introduced to fractions and equal shares. In Unit 4 of Social Studies students are learning about the past and how it connects to the present. Each morning during our morning meeting, we have been preparing our students how to participate responsibly in a field trip schedule, discussing expectations, and learning how to conduct themselves in a respectful way in public. We are so excited for our field trip to Discovery Place on February 15th.

4th Grade

In literacy, fourth grade students have been reading and summarizing Nonfiction texts about the American Revolution. Next, students will analyze the thoughts, feelings, and actions of characters with a focus on the differing Loyalist and Patriot views. Students will write descriptive paragraphs describing the character in detail. In Math, we are continuing our large Fractions and Decimals Unit. Students have learned about equivalent fractions and adding and subtracting fractions so far. Now, we will be learning how to multiply a unit fraction times a whole number. In Social Studies, we have been learning how groups contributed to change and innovation in North Carolina. Science will be starting halfway through February. In science we will be learning about different forms of energy. We have been discussing how to keep a healthy body and mind during testing. Also, we will discuss strategies for resolving conflicts at home and school.

5th Grade

5th graders are learning how Jackie Robinson and other athletes have changed society. They are reading to find the main idea and supporting details in the book Promises to Keep by his daughter, Sharon Robinson. In math, students are learning how to add, subtract, and multiply fractions and mixed numbers. We have also been solving multi-step word problems. In science, we have been studying ecosystems and living/non living things that work together to create different ecosystems. Fifth grade is learning to practice kind speech, identify unkind speech, and we meet daily to give each other support! Outside the 5th grade hall, we have a timeline showing important dates in the US during the time of slavery. We also created a poster highlighting personal qualities to be an effective leader!

2nd/4th Grade Winter Performance

On December 15th, 2nd and 4th grade students had their winter performance! Students sang songs and played instruments for our students and their families to enjoy. Our students did a wonderful job sharing their music with the whole school!

4th Grade Discovery Place Field Trip

In January, 4th graders took a field trip to Discovery Place! A special thank you to Woodlawn Community Fellowship who sponsored some of our students so that everyone could attend! All of our 4th graders had a lot of fun on their first field trip of the school year.



As we finish out the last two quarters of the school year, we are working together as a school to increase our weekly attendance rate and decrease our tardy rate! When your child is absent or tardy, they are missing valuable instructional time. As a school, we have set a goal to achieve a 95% attendance rate at the end of the third quarter. Currently, our attendance rate is 90%. This means that one in ten students are absent each day! We want to work together with our families to ensure that our students are attending school, on time, ready to learn, every day!

We also hope that our tardy rate is less than 2%. At the current moment, 1 in every 20 students (5%) arrives to school late. Our goal by the end of the third quarter is to cut that number in half.

Math Night at Pinewood Elementary

On January 24th, Pinewood hosted Math Night here at the school. Students were able to learn how to play tons of new math games and everyone received supplies to take and play at home. We had a raffle and 16 lucky students went home with backpacks full of books!

