

YORK TIMES

Luana Coppus, Principal
November 2011

Dear Parents, Families and Friends,

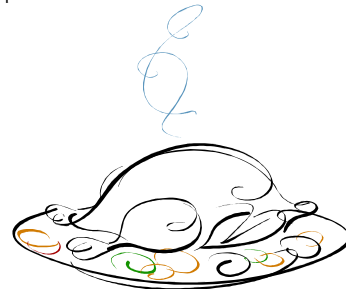
The staff and I appreciate seeing all of you at Parent Teacher Conferences. Good communication between school and home will benefit every student's academic progress. We want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to talk with us about your child. Don't forget that you can keep track of your child's grades and assignments through Progress Book Parent Access. A copy of the letter about Parent Access is attached to this newsletter.

We are now one quarter of the way through this school year. The first 9 weeks ended on October 28 with grade cards going home on November 4. This is a good time to sit down with your child and create a plan for the second 9 weeks. Help your child establish goals and help them monitor progress toward the goals. In doing this you are helping your child build life long skills.

Mark your calendar for November 17 for the 5th grade music program – "Let's Go to the Movies." Mrs. Mira's programs are always wonderful, so I'm sure we will be delighted by this one too.

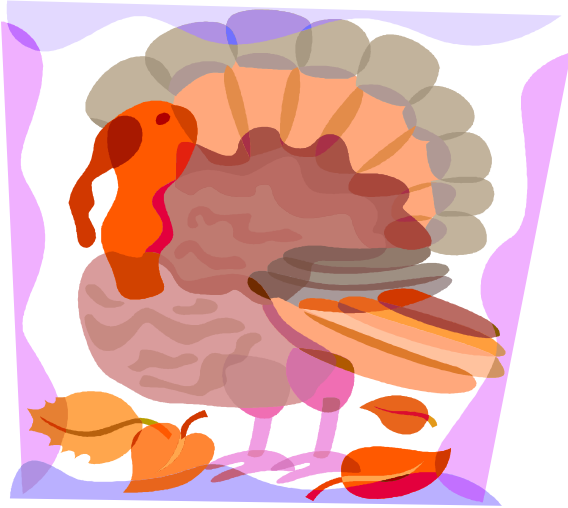
We are hosting our annual "Grandparent's Day on November 22. It is our hope that all the students have a grandparent or a "grandparent substitute" for this fun filled day. The committee will be sending home additional information soon.

We hope that you have a wonderful Thanksgiving.
Mrs. Coppus



A LOOK AHEAD

- November 4** Grade Cards go home
- 7** No School/Teacher Inservice
- 14** PTO Meeting
- 16** After School Choir Practice
- 17** 5th Grade Program
- 21** Picture Retakes
- 22** Grandparent's Day
- 23 - 25** Thanksgiving Break
- 30** After School Choir Practice
- December 2** Mid-Progress
- 7** Santa's Workshop
- 12** Band & Choir Concert
- 12-14** Santa's Workshop
- 21** Christmas Break Begins



REMINDER

No School
Wed., Nov. 23rd
thru
Friday, Nov. 25th

**Classes Resume on
Monday, Nov. 28th**



News from Mrs. Benton's 5th Grade

I know many parents are working hard at home to help their child become a lifelong reader and often want to know strategies they can try with their child. Here are a few manageable strategies any parent can try. Have fun reading with your child!

STRATEGY ONE-Read To Them

The most important thing you can do for your reader is to read to him. Read things that he is interested in and things for just pure enjoyment. Stop and talk with him about what you have just read.

STRATEGY Two-Predict To Make Sense

When the reader comes to something she doesn't know and she is unable to identify the unknown word through a very brief sounding out attempt, ask her to skip the word and go on. If she is uncomfortable skipping words entirely, try covering the unknown word up with your (or the reader's) finger. Then ask the reader to predict a substitute word that would make sense.

STRATEGY Three-Line Marker

Some readers have trouble focusing on lines of text or get distracted when there are several lines. Have your reader use a word or line marker such as a pencil, index card or his finger to act as a guide to help her stay on track with the text as she reads.

STRATEGY Four-Retelling

After your reader has completed a piece of text (a story, chapter, article, etc.) or at any good "stopping" point along the way have him pretend that you were not there listening and have him retell you what he read. Or, actually have him tell someone who was not there listening.

STRATEGY Five-Reading Is Fun

Providing lots of fun poems, rhymes, short jokes, riddles, and predictable books etc. will also help your reader develop fluency and feel good about reading. This will let her hear that she can make reading sound like language and that it can be fun and easy.

For more fun ideas on how to help your child improve their reading abilities, visit <http://www.paec.org/david/reading/parents.pdf>.

Don't Forget to Vote
On
November 8th



News from the Intervention Specialist

Wow, the end of the first nine-weeks is approaching and the third graders have learned so much! We have done a great job of getting to know the rules and routines at York School. I really enjoyed meeting many of the third grade parents at conferences. Thank you for attending and supporting your child. The next unit in Math is measurement and finding area and perimeter. We will be measuring many things around our classroom and comparing units of measure. In reading, we will be starting Unit 2. We will be reading stories about neighborhoods and communities and how members of these communities work together. As always, it is so important that parents take time to ask their child what they are learning in school, and to read with them nightly. We are all setting the path for their success!

Mrs. Hall
3rd Gr. Intervention Specialist

Fourth Grade News

Our fourth grade team of teachers greatly appreciate the time our parents took to attend parent-teacher conferences in October. We also appreciate the time and support that parents give to their children's education on a daily basis. We urge our parents to continue to check the students' assignment books and binders in order to stay informed about what we're doing at school.

In November we will be studying Ohio's history in the 1700's. This leads into a short unit about Native American culture. It's interesting to observe that some of our favorite things have Native American origins. Lacrosse, for example, has recently become a more popular sport for high schools and colleges. This game was played by Native Americans hundreds of years ago. Of course the rules have changed somewhat as the game has evolved over the years.

In science, students will be continuing their study of living things. We encourage our students to take the time to observe what is happening in our environment as we go further into the autumn season and watch the crops get harvested and the trees lose their leaves. We learn that leaves always have the beautiful red, yellow and orange hues in them throughout the year. It is in the fall, when the trees start to go dormant for the winter, that the green pigment of chlorophyll fades and the red, yellow, and orange hues begin to show.

Here are a few "elementary" Thanksgiving jokes to start your holiday season...

What kind of music did the pilgrims listen to?

Answer: Plymouth Rock

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring?

Answer: Pilgrims

Why did the turkey cross the road?

Answer: It was the chicken's day off.

*Mrs. Gittinger
Fourth Grade Teacher*

Title 1 News Update

Intervention Blocks have begun!

All grade levels are having a thirty minute intervention block where students go to a teacher to receive skills specific to their needs.

Currently, all intervention blocks are focusing on Reading skills, with math being added at a later date. Mrs. Paulsen and Mrs. Pleasnick work with students from all three grade levels. Mrs. Paulsen's third grade students are working with a reading program-Voyager while her fourth graders are reading Lili Kiat and the Mystery of the Lost Glasses to work on character, setting and plot; fifth grade is reading Sky Watchers and Discovering the Elements to work on author's purpose and summarizing. Mrs. Pleasnick's third and fifth graders are using a Voyager Reading where the focus is on phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency and comprehension.

Students are currently working on retelling the stories or passages that have been read. Her fourth grade students are working on comprehension strategies and vocabulary while reading Polar Regions.



Math Fun Night!

On October 25th, the Title department as well as all of the third grade teachers, fourth grade and fifth grade math teachers hosted a math game night for students and their parents. It was a fun-filled event with parents and students receiving a packet full of math games to play at home. Look for this event again next school year.



Title Goes School-Wide

A new change this year to York's Title 1 program is that the program is school-wide which enables Mrs. Paulsen and Mrs. Pleasnick to work with students in the classrooms that need help in Reading or Math. Currently Mrs. Paulsen and Mrs. Pleasnick team teach with various third grade teachers and work with students in fourth and fifth grade during an intervention block based solely on student areas of need.

Tips for working with your child at home

This month's tip for working with your child at home is let your son or daughter see you read anything- a newspaper, comic book, recipe book, a book, a letter. Read with your child- find a book that both of you can enjoy- read for 10 minutes every day and ask questions about what you two have just read. While you are reading take turns reading the book aloud- either each page or paragraph. Share the joy of reading with your child.