Pre-K

Boo! Are you ready for all the fun “surprises” that take place in learning this month? Our little “pumpkins” are growing and learning each day. We are enjoying their sweet smiles, too.

It’s all about the pumpkin this month. In science, we will learn to understand the process of growing, measuring, cooking and tasting the “Great Pumpkin.”

The pumpkin theme will continue with our math curriculum, using pumpkins to help us understand the concepts of big and small, short and tall. The students will enjoy counting and sorting the salty and sweet treats.

We will enjoy the “batty” ways of learning vocabulary words, letter recognition and creating some “batty” books, too.

We appreciate all the generous donations and support from our parents. Your generosity has given our children the opportunity to learn and develop reading and math skills with the new materials and supplies.

Please remember to join PTA. We can all make a difference by joining!

Happy Fall, Y’all!

Kindergarten

We are enjoying getting to know our new friends. Please go over the school rules at home.

 This month we learned about our sky and what belongs in the day and night sky, counting and number recognition and how to be an author and illustrator.

We have our wonderful Boosterthon school fund raiser coming up. Please come and support your student. It will be on Oct. 3.

Please make sure you are working with your child at home on the following: yellow homework packet, name writing/scissor skills, and reading at home each night. Thank you for supporting your child at home!

First grade

The first-grade team is so proud of the growth we have seen within our students. The little seeds that were planted in Kindergarten are now growing more and more each day.

We are all excited for the Boosterthon on Wednesday, Oct. 3. This year funds from the run will be used to purchase Science Enrichment Kits which will be used by every student at FAWE. Please watch for more information about this exciting event in your student’s folder.

**Reading:** Please encourage your student to read each night with you at home. This gives your student a chance to practice the skills they are learning within our Reading Units of Study resources. You can read along with your student and then ask questions about the story. Such as: Who were the characters? What is the setting? What will happen next? This will build confidence in reading and give them a sense of pride when you are reading with them.

**Math:** Students are continuing to gain fluency for adding and subtracting within ten. We are moving into word problems that support this standard.

**Writing**: Students are writing small moment’s stories in class. They are having fun writing about something that has happened to them. Please encourage your student to tell you about their day or an event that happened to them over the weekend. They love sharing stories with you and this helps them in planning for their story writing.

**Science:** Students are learning about being a scientist and how a scientist works with their tools. Ex. Hand lenses, microscope, journal. We will begin our study of Sky and Earth very soon. Students will learn about the sun, stars, moon, day and night, gravity etc.

**Social Studies:** Students are developing class and school rules. We are SAILING on campus and in our classrooms. It is exciting when a student is rewarded with a Splash Buck for good choices and we love it when our entire class earns a Class Splash Buck. We have been visiting the Splash Buck Cart to trade our bucks in for rewards and after earning 10 class bucks we are rewarded in our classroom with a special reward by the teacher. Please encourage your student to SAIL at FAWE.

A few reminders:

Please check folders and planners nightly for important information.

Please write a note or call the office with any change of dismissal for your student.

School starts at 7:30.

Second Grade

 We are continuing to work on positive relationships within our classrooms. Students are working hard to be a good citizen around campus and set an example for our younger friends. As this quarter starts to wrap up, students are building stamina and improving their reading using a variety of strategies that we have been teaching (scooping the word, looking for a word inside a bigger word, vowel teams, etc). In Writing, we are working hard on the conventions of grammar, including capitalization, punctuation, and spelling. In Reading, we are

shifting into describing how characters respond to events. Students were excited about being scientists and diving into the Earth’s Surface. We are starting to look at Weather Patterns and how weather can affect soil in our Science Unit. In Social Studies we have learned about ‘Rules and Responsibilities,’ ‘How to make a Difference,’ ‘What is a Good Citizen,’ and diving into making safe choices with ‘Technology.’

We are excited about our first in-house field trip with Hightouch Hightech. We are going to be looking at rocks and minerals. We are beginning to prep for our annual Boosterthon. Please keep look for information about Boosterthon.

Reminders: Please continue to read nightly. Snuggle up with a good book, ask questions, make predictions, and share connections! Also, Spirit Day is on Fridays. There are school shirts on sale in the front office or students can wear blue or green shirts OR the previous year’s Fun Run shirts.

Thank you for sharing your children with us. We love working with them each day!

Third grade

We are very pleased with the progress students are making this year. They are adjusting well to being a third grader. We remind all parents to check their child’s Daily Planner every night. Be sure your child reads every night and has completed any homework assigned for the evening.

**ELA:** In reading, we’ve been learning how to think deeply about our fictional characters and pay close attention to what we are learning from them and about them. We recently finished a novel study based on the book called, Stone Fox. We hope your child shared the story with you. Mid-month we’ll be shifting our focus to informational reading. We’ll be identifying the main idea and the supporting details and using non-fiction text features (headings, photos, captions, glossaries, and graphics) to find information and deepen our understanding of topics. For writing, students will be writing a personal narrative with details and a clear event sequence. They’ll plan, draft, revise and edit to improve the quality of their writing. We’ll look forward to celebrating our learning once we’ve “published” our final drafts.   Students should be reading 20 minutes nightly. Please return library books daily so students will have reading materials for independent reading time.

**Math:** We are moving from rounding in the tens, hundreds and thousands to adding and subtracting numbers. It is very important for them to add/subtract quickly. This will build a solid foundation for them to begin learning their multiplication facts.

**Boosterthon:** This year’s main fundraiser is the FAWE Boosterthon Fun Run!

Once our program begins Monday, Sept. 24 family and friends anywhere in the world can support our school by giving pledges toward the number of laps students will run on the day of the Fun Run: The third grade will run from 8:50-9:50 a.m. Wednesday, Oct 3.

We want to thank all of our parents for their sponsorships and donations. Your generosity has given our children the opportunity to learn and develop their reading and math skills and science with the proper materials and supplies.

Fourth grade

Thank you to everyone that joined us for Curriculum Night/Open House on Sept. 6. As discussed, please have your child complete their nightly reading and reading log and continue to review multiplication tables.

Some general reminders:

* Fridays are Spirit shirt days…your child can wear any FAWE shirt, or a solid blue or green shirt.
* Children can bring a water bottle and a light snack each day.
* Boosterthon FUN RUN kick off is Monday, Sept. 24. Please look for information coming home and ask your child about the “Team Huddles” we will have each day!

A few extracurricular activities were discussed in class the last few weeks giving your child an opportunity to participate if they would like. Information was handed out by their teacher for those interested.

* Green Team applications went home. This is an opportunity for your child to help our campus REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. Thank you to our New Green Team Members.
* Chorus applications were due on Wednesday, Sept. 11 and try-outs are Monday on Sept. 14 for 4th grade. Results will be posted on Friday, Sept. 21 on the music room door.
* Academic Games is an opportunity for students to participate against children from other schools in different subjects. (Dates vary according to subject). Parent assistance with driving to and from meets is required. Please let us know ASAP if you are interested. We will send information home to you.

Fifth grade

Science Fair information has been handed out to your student. We have printed all district information as well as made a practice packet for your child to fill in all parts of the scientific method and have encouraged them to speak with their teacher through the process for assistance. Science fair project ideas are available in the classroom library as well as FAWE library. Please ask your child to show you their packet. It’s yellow.

K-kids will begin shortly. Those that were interested in applying met with Mrs. Weber regarding responsibilities.

We encourage your children to continue building on their math and reading skills through the completion of iReady computer lessons weekly in school as well as individually at home each night. Reports of your child’s progress will be sent home quarterly.

Please consider sponsoring our classrooms. We greatly appreciate your support.

Gifted

The start of the 2018-2019 school year has been great and we have all enjoyed getting to know each other better. Time has been spent reviewing our rules, procedures, and expectations. We have also begun doing introductory lessons that will lay a solid foundation for the rest of our year together.

Third grade will begin their first reading unit of study where they will be reading Stone Fox and studying story elements and how to refer back to text to answer questions. In writing, we will dive into the writing process, will focus on place value, rounding, and estimating in math, and will learn about the practice of science and what being a scientist involves. These lessons will move quickly and will extend into more complex lessons and standards in the weeks to come.

Fourth grade and fifth grade are working on their Space PBL. Please feel free to discuss this project with your children and support their research efforts at home. Fifth grade is working on long division and fourth grade is comparing multiplication and division.

**Friendly Reminders:**

* Planners need parent initials each night for communication purposes.
* Timely arrival and daily attendance are *essential* in your child’s success.
* Students need to be following our school dress code daily.
* Please continue to encourage your child to give best effort in school both academically and with regards to behavior and positive attitudes.
* Students can and should take time to practice math facts each night to speed up their fluency.
* Nightly reading should be built into your at-home routines. (30 minutes)
* Once we complete diagnostic screening (8/20 through 8/24), students are encouraged to complete iReady reading and math lessons at home every week.  Statistically, students who take a small amount of extra time each week to devote to these programs perform better and grow at a faster rate than others.  We **strongly** recommend 3 short at-home sessions (15-20 min) each week alternating between reading and math.  For example, 20 min. of reading one night, 20 min. of math another night, 20 minutes of reading a third night on nights that will work best with your child’s/family’s schedule.  Again, this is not mandatory, but will really benefit your child.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to ask either your child’s homeroom teacher, the teacher the question pertains to, or both teachers and we are happy to chat.

Art

Our students are off to a terrific start in art. All of our grade levels are working on standards-based lessons for our annual Square One Art Keepsake Program. Square One provides students, parents and loved ones the opportunity to purchase quality keepsakes with their students’ art printed with their student’s art. There are several exciting, new products this year. If you would like your child to make a separate work of art outside of school, please contact me at brownl@martin.k12.fl.us for the special program paper.

Although we are working hard, drawing and painting this nine weeks, completed art will not be coming home. Please remember that art work is kept at school to display in shows or in our front office.

I would like to thank the Carter family for your generous donation of paper to our art program. The amount and variety of paper you provided allowed me to significantly reduce the amount of our art budget allocated to purchasing paper. Instead, we were able to buy other art materials for our students. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Also, thank you to the Forman family for adopting the art studio. Our art classroom serves over 600 students. Every dollar donated benefits our school as a whole by increasing opportunities for all of our kids to be creative. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the arts.

Music Room

**Over the past few weeks:**

**Kindergarten:** Ask your student to sing our class hello song, *Hello Everybody.* We are now working on finding our singing voice/head voice and learning to sing lots of fun songs! They had a blast meeting Froggy and Ducky! Ask your student to sing *Five Little Ducks, Frog in the Middle, and Shoo Fly*.

**1st** and **2nd Grade:**

 Ask your student to teach you our hello song, *Hello There* (1st grade) and *Hello My Friends* (2nd grade), and *Jump Jim Joe.*

**3rd, 4th,** and **5th Grade:** Ask your student to teach you about the folk dance we learned a few weeks ago (3rd-*Heel & Toe Polka* 4th and 5th –*Sasha*). And I am sure you all have been enjoying the Boom, Snap, Clap hand game! The students also did a mini unit studying rondo form. They worked in groups of 3 and created movement to go with *Viennese Musical Clock.*

**K-5th Grade:**

I am currently finishing a patriotic unit with all of the FAWE students. We have been learning about the history of *The Star Spangled Banner* and singing with our head voice. The students are excited to sing our National Anthem at our upcoming Boosterthon Fun Run on Oct. 3!