

# Classroom NEWSLETTER

Seneca Elementary School | Where Your Future Begins!

**Mrs. Durych's | Grades K-2**

Week of September 16, 2024

## Classroom Highlights

This past week, we've had lots of fun in the classroom! We've been learning about how clocks work, and we've been practicing telling time by looking at our daily schedule. The students have been learning addition and subtraction with our friends Patty Plus and Mini Minus, which has been exciting and fun for everyone.

In Social Studies, we took an adventure outside! We walked to the post office to get our mail and then headed to the general store, where we practiced using our manners. As a reward for being polite and following directions, the students received a special treat! Once we returned, we drew maps of our local area, including the school, post office, store, and the roads that surround our school.

## Language Arts & Math

We've been hard at work with our capital letters, making it all the way to the end of the alphabet! This week, we focused on W, X, Y, and Z, with lots of hands-on fun. The students made letter formations with Play-Doh, drew letters in the air, stomped them outside in the grass, and even used their feet to "draw" the letters in the dirt!

We also started reading stories from our Wonders curriculum, with the first one about a boy who moved to a new school and brought a special friend to help him feel less anxious. The students have been practicing recognizing words and taking turns reading aloud. We've also been working on proper letter formation while writing, making sure to use the lines on our paper correctly.

## Upcoming Dates & Events

Mark your calendars for these important dates:

- **Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> & Friday October 4<sup>th</sup>: Parent – Teacher Conferences**
- **Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 – 6PM: Open House**

SPECIAL NOTES: Teachers will be calling to schedule individual conference times with each family.

At the Open House, we'll have light snacks, including fruit, cheese, cookies, and beverages. Come and see all the wonderful things we've been doing in class!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

This week's spotlight is on **Wesley** for his outstanding efforts as our line leader! The line leader has an important job: they lead the class by lining up at the door, turning off the lights, standing quietly, and being ready to transition to the next activity. Wesley has done a fantastic job in this role! He's also been very gracious in sharing the coveted duty of turning off the lights, showing great teamwork and kindness to his classmates. We've also enjoyed his sense of humor, which has brought a lot of joy to the classroom this week. Great job, Wesley!



Your children are excited to share their story creations from school! At home, try asking them to tell you a story or make up a simple math equation using our friends, Patty Plus or Mini Minus. This will help them reinforce what they're learning in class.

Also, having a grade-level book available for them to read at home can make a big difference. Just 10 minutes of reading each night will help them recognize more and more words. When they come across words they don't know, gently help them sound them out. This small daily practice goes a long way in building their reading confidence!



This week, our first graders have had a blast with watercolor painting! They began by painting a sun with a bright blue sky and then moved on to their own creative, free-form masterpieces. The students truly enjoyed the freedom that watercolor provides, and we can't wait to showcase some of their beautiful artwork at our upcoming open house.

Next week, we plan to take our painting outdoors with easels, allowing the children to embrace their creativity as budding artists in nature!

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## Fun Facts & Brain Boosters

**Did you know?** Combo classes, where students from different grade levels learn together, offer a unique and enriching environment for children! These classes create a family-like atmosphere, allowing students to build strong relationships with their teacher and classmates over more than one year. This continuous bond fosters trust, confidence, and a deeper connection to learning.

In combo classes, peer mentoring naturally occurs. Older students often guide and support younger ones, while younger students are inspired by the older ones. This dynamic helps advanced younger students stretch their skills and allows older students to reinforce their knowledge by teaching others. It's a win-win for all, as collaboration and community thrive! Additionally, students gain essential social and leadership skills, helping them to grow both academically and emotionally.



## ...IN THE CLASSROOM?

Next week, we're introducing something special to our language arts lessons: a weekly tea party! During this time, students will learn how to set up a tea party, practice using good manners, and engage in meaningful conversations. We'll sit around the table, discussing the lessons we've learned, stories we've read, and sharing personal highlights from outside of school. It's a fun and creative way to practice speaking in full sentences while connecting with each other. We can't wait to get started!



## Reminders & Friendly Notes

As we embrace the changing seasons, we'd love to continue spending time outdoors, no matter the weather! The students are learning a fun verse:

***Whether the weather be fine or whether the weather be not,  
We'll weather the weather no matter the weather,  
Whether we like it or not. ~Author: Anonymous British~***

To help us enjoy our outdoor adventures, please ensure your child brings a raincoat and rain boots so they can jump in puddles and stay dry. With temperatures dropping, hats and mittens will also come in handy to keep everyone warm.

Additionally, we have a fun project coming up! We're planning to make ice skates out of empty Kleenex boxes and "skate" around the classroom. If you could save and send in two empty Kleenex boxes, that would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you for all your support and encouragement! I'm looking forward to another great week of learning and fun together.

Warm regards,

*Mrs. Durych*

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