

# Hemenway Happenings

Notes from Principal Liz Simon

**January 2020**

Hemenway Tigers Respect Themselves,  
Hemenway Tigers Respect Others,  
Hemenway Tigers Respect Our School,  
Hemenway Tigers PERSEVERE!



## Mark Your Calendars

Wednesday January 1, 2020

- Happy New Year...We wish you a wonderful, happy, healthy New Year!

Thursday January 2, 2020 Welcome back!!!

Wednesday January 8

- **PTO MEETING 6:30** Our PTO meetings are held in the Hemenway Cafeteria...We look forward to your participation and getting to know you as we work collaboratively to support our students, teachers and families!

Monday January 20 Dr. Martin Luther King Day

- No School

Saturday January 25 Around the World Fair

- Join us as we visit countries from all over the world that are represented by our wonderful Hemenway families. Learn about our families' rich traditions, customs, dance, music, food and much more!
- Each child will get a passport book and visit the country booths to learn about different cultures throughout the world!

Monday January 13 Hemenway School Council

- Hemenway School Council 5:00 pm Principal's Conference Room.

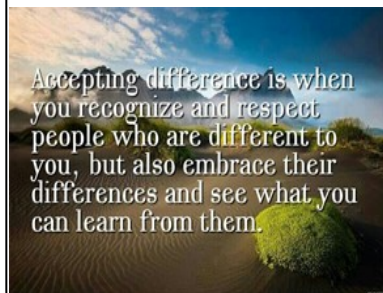
Friday January 31 Report Cards

- Report Cards will be sent home in your child's backpack!

## STRIPES

### Character Theme of the Month:

The character theme for January is Acceptance, teachers will be incorporating acceptance of other people into their classroom lessons: "I will accept others for who they are. What can I do to make sure that my words and actions respect everyone's differences."



# STRIPES



## *Curriculum Highlights*

### **Kindergarten:**

January is another fun-filled month in Kindergarten!

We are beginning our second unit in Foundations where we will be making and breaking CVC words and focusing on all three sounds in each word. A CVC word is a made up of a consonant, vowel, consonant and we will be teaching the students to tap and listen for each of the sounds. We will be using the sound cards, white boards and magnet boards as well as our fingers to tap and show the sounds. We will also work on uppercase letter formation learning two letters a week.

In writing, we will continue launching our writer's workshop and "growing" our writers to be more independent and to increase their writing stamina. Now that we are working with CVC words in Foundations we are going to be asking our writers to really work on stretching out their words and writing down all of the sounds that they hear. We will also be asking them to begin to edit their final pieces and use checklists to make sure they have included all of the components in their writing.

In reading, we will continue to become super readers as we learn finish learning our "reading super powers." Our students will continue to work on accountability by bringing their book bag back and forth from home and school each day.

In math, we will be continuing on with our measurement unit making comparisons of lengths, and weight and using items in our room for nonstandard measurements.

Our kindergarten scientists will be doing our "push and pull" unit in science. This unit is very fun as we will use cars, ramps, and balls to learn how things move by exhibiting a push or a pull action.

### **Grade 1:**

Happy New Year!

In reading, students will finish up reading nonfiction books. We will then begin to learn about the characters in our books. Students will pay close attention to the actions of characters in their books. We will be learning about how the characters act and feel. Students will bring their characters to life by acting out different parts of their books to show certain characteristics that they portray. We will pay close attention to certain characters across many books in a series. For example, students may study Fancy Nancy or Elephant and Piggie and will be reading lots of books about these characters. Students will transfer these skills to their own just right books in their book bags as well!

In writing, our first grade authors will continue writing all about books. In November and December, first graders were reading nonfiction and writing "How To Books." Now, they have a chance to write their own nonfiction books about topics they are experts at. They will include real facts in their books to teach their readers. One way to support your child with this at home would be discussing topics that your child is an expert at.

# STRIPES



## Curriculum Highlights

### Grade 1 [continued]:

In math, we are starting our measuring unit. This is a very hands on unit. First grade mathematicians will learn to compare the lengths of objects using words like "greater than" and "less than." We will use objects such as paper clips, and cubes to measure and compare lengths.

In Social Studies we will be learning about United States symbols, leaders and events. We will learn about specific holidays such as, Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents' Day. We are excited to be back in school and learning new things together!

### Grade 2:

Second graders are persevering in all areas! In reading second graders are finishing up their nonfiction unit at the beginning of the month. They have been focusing on key words as well as comparing different types of nonfiction books. They are moving into a unit all about fairy tales, folk tales and fables! This is an engaging unit where students learn about the different types of characters and plots in these texts!

In January, second grade authors will be working on writing an informational book about a topic they are an expert on. Our writers will be brainstorming, planning, and writing all parts of an informational text such as a title, table of contents, introduction, chapters, illustrations, and more. They will also work on collecting more information through research to add to their books.

In Math, our second-grade mathematicians are continuing work on a unit focused around addition and subtraction. They are learning many new strategies to solve two and three-digit algorithms. Some strategies include: mental math, open number lines, place value charts and breaking apart the numbers into hundreds, tens and ones.

This month we are beginning a new Social Studies unit where students will learn about maps and globes. They will learn the purpose of an atlas and use it to study our continents and oceans!

Second graders are finishing up the Zones of Regulation Curriculum by reflecting on how and when they use tools to help them regulate their feelings. We will begin the Second Step Social Competency Curriculum this month focusing on developing our interpersonal skills.

### Grade 3:

Happy New Year from the Third Grade team!

In Reading, we will continue our Character Studies unit. The students will finish up their book club books and we will read a new fiction read-aloud. The students will practice comparing and contrasting characters from different books.

In Writing, we are working on persuasive essays about things that the students would like to change at Hemenway. Authors will focus on including multiple pieces of evidence and plenty of examples to support their thesis statements.

# STRIPES



## Curriculum Highlights

### **Grade 3 [continued]:**

In Math, we are beginning our second unit on Multiplication and Division. Our mathematicians will be working on learning strategies for multiplying by 6, 7, 8, 9, and multiples of 10. They will practice solving multi-step problems and drawing accurate models to represent a given math scenario.

In Science, we will begin our unit on Weather and Climate. The class will track the weather as we move through the winter months. They will also learn about the tools that meteorologists use to study weather, as well as the weather and climate in different areas of the world. Our third grade scientists will work together to build a system that could prevent damage from extreme weather, such as flooding.

### **Grade 4:**

Reading: This month, fourth graders will begin a unit on reading history! We will explore the history of immigration in the United States. Then, students will exercise their research skills as they learn about Ellis Island and Angel Island.

Writing: This January, students will write literary essays about short stories. Our fourth grade authors will gather evidence and formulate an essay!

Math: Fourth grade mathematicians will begin this month by studying patterns! Next, we will delve into fractions. We'll learn about fraction equivalence, addition, subtraction, and multiplication. Social Studies: In Social Studies, students will continue their study of the geography, history, and cultures of North America. For the next month, students will continue their focus on Canada. Towards the end of January, we'll begin our study of Mexico!

Science: Our fourth grade scientists will learn about energy. This month, we will focus on circuits and electric energy.

Social-Emotional Learning: Our fourth grade students graders will continue the Second Step, social competency program. Fourth graders will hone their skills in being assertive, respecting differences, and understanding complex feelings.

### **Grade 5:**

Writing - Our fifth grade authors are writing compare and contrast literary essays! We are learning to read texts closely, develop a strong thesis statement, then support that claim with a variety of evidence from more than one text.

Reading - Do you have an issue you are passionate about? This might be: Are extreme sports worth the risk? Should we ban plastic bags? Should animals be kept in zoos? Should schools serve chocolate milk? We are researching such debatable issues using a variety of texts - books, videos, websites, and magazine articles - to be able to engage in arguments from evidence.

# STRIPES



## *Curriculum Highlights*

### **Grade 5 [continued]:**

Math – Our fifth grade mathematicians will learn about adding and subtracting fractions using a variety of strategies, including computations and models. We will apply our knowledge to word problems.

Science – Fifth grade scientists will continue the study of matter and interactions this month, describing all matter by its unique set of properties. We are also studying the changes that can be observed in matter, such as ice melting, sugar cubes dissolving, or vinegar and baking soda producing gas. We'll classify these changes as phase changes or chemical reactions. What other unique properties does matter have? Size, shape, mass, conductivity, solubility, reflectivity, and a response to magnetic forces. We are investigating these properties with many hands-on experiments!

Social Studies - We are looking closely at the original 13 colonies, learning about their climate, geography, economy, why they were founded, and who gets to participate in their government. Students are creating billboards encouraging people to come to their colony and experience the great features each has to offer!

### **ESL:**

In January, we will be administering ACCESS. This is an assessment that is used to monitor students' progress in learning academic English, and it is administered annually to students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 who have been identified as English learners. We are eager to see how much students have grown in the past year!

The next Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting for parents of English learners will be on February 6, 2020. Your input is valuable, and we hope many Hemenway parents are able to attend!

### **Art:**

This month in Art we had thoughts of gratitude in mind! We discussed ways we can show gratitude and how we are lucky to be able to express ourselves freely through Art. Students also began expanding their repertoire of materials to include more paint, yarn, collage, and even sandpaper!

Topics of Art this month included trees, snow, and winter skies! Many classes have completed their Elements of Art packet and are beginning "Choice Art" with Mrs. DeZago. Rather than guided lessons, they will be given more open ended opportunities to explore and create Art of their own inspiration.

If you have not seen your child's artwork come home yet, check out one of the many bulletin boards and displays around the school. We try to give students the opportunity to present their Art and having it displayed for their peers is a great way for all artists to shine! Artwork will be coming home soon after winter break!!

# STRIPES



## *Curriculum Highlights*

### **Library Media:**

In library media, older grades will continue our digital citizenship curriculum: the next unit is on Social Media. Students will learn social media and how to best match interests while staying connected with friends. We'll discuss risks like advertisers soliciting information, spam, push notifications and oversharing online. Students will reflect on what they are sharing on the Internet and what social media works best for them, if any, at this age.

Younger students will be learning about the season of winter and explore its impact on weather. Students will have an opportunity to engage with online interactive activities related to weather to test their learning.

In addition, we'll be reading books related to: January holidays and the SEL theme of the month: Acceptance, and respecting the differences of others.

Finally, all grades will be supported with their science and social studies curriculum with additional resources whenever possible.

# *Happy Learning!!!*