

News to Use

November, 2009

Dear Builta Families,

Please subscribe to the district E-news so as not to miss any communications. Thank you if you have already subscribed!

WE CONTINUE TO NEED YOUR HELP WITH ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL.

Questions you may have:

Why is it essential that we practice safe car drop-off and pick-up procedures?

We must practice safe procedures to keep our Badgers safe.

Why are there parking and stopping restrictions on the south side of AppleValley between Jonathon Way and the entrance to Builta's front circle drive?

The congestion created when cars are parked or stopped AND cars are traveling east and west on Apple Valley at that location creates a potentially dangerous situation for our Badgers.

Why are drivers asked to drive SLOWLY in the front circle drive and the car line?

We must practice safe procedures to keep our Badgers safe.

Why are drivers asked to move as far forward as possible in the car line?

This increases the number of students that are getting into cars at the same time AND it more quickly decreases the number of cars lined up on the street.

Why are children to exit cars only when Builta staff are present?

When staff members are not present, there is no open door for students to enter the building.

Why must children exit cars from the passenger side only?

There are cars driving in the lane to the left of the driver.

Why is it essential that we practice safe car drop-off and pick-up procedures?

We must practice safe procedures to keep our Badgers safe.



Thank you for following safety procedures so our Badgers will be safe.

Randy VanWaning

STUDENT SERVICES

BUILTA BITS FOR NOVEMBER

- Stop Walk Talk – Implementation of the district’s bully prevention curriculum
- Veteran’s Day observance

STOP-WALK-TALK

At Builta’s Curriculum Night we reviewed our approach to Responsibility Education and informed parents of School District 204’s implementation of a Bully Prevention Curriculum. We refer to this curriculum as “Stop-Walk-Talk” since this is the actual strategy that students are being taught to use in response to conflict situations or situations where someone is engaging in bullying behavior- behavior that is disrespectful.

All grade 3, 4 and 5 students in the district will be taking a survey before beginning the curriculum. Builta students will take this survey during the first week of November.

Staff have prepared lessons that will be used during November to teach the Stop-Walk-Talk strategy to students. We feel teaching this strategy will help maintain the positive climate that has developed at Builta and will increase students’ skills in problem solving and self advocacy.

Through ‘Stop-Walk-Talk’ students are taught what situations are disrespectful or bullying behavior and when it is appropriate to use a designated stop signal. For example: teasing, calling someone names, gossiping, excluding students, continuous pushing or constant poking are examples of when to use the strategy. Accidentally bumping into someone or politely declining an invitation to play are not examples of when to use the strategy. Students are taught how to respond if they receive disrespectful behavior and how to respond if they receive the ‘Stop’ signal. Students are taught how bystanders contribute to a problem and what they can do as bystanders. And as always we are instructing students about making choices that are respectful. Staff will positively reinforce the use of the strategy as well as continue to use our building’s correction procedures.

Here are the basic steps:

1. ‘STOP’ signal.

At Builta the Stop signal is the sign language sign for ‘stop’ Our stop signal requires that they look directly at the other student, make the hand signal for stop, and use a firm voice to say, “stop”. They are encouraged to use the ‘stop’ signal if they receive bullying behavior or disrespect or if they see someone else receiving this type of behavior.

2. ‘Walk’

If a student gives another student a stop signal, but the problem behavior continues the students are taught to ‘Walk’ away or ignore the behavior. When it is not possible to walk away, such as on the bus, the students are taught to ignore the behavior by looking the other way and not responding to them further either verbally or nonverbally (through gestures).

3. ‘Talk’

Finally, if students have tried to solve the problem themselves by using the stop and walk and it continues, they should talk to an adult. Staff will be asking students about the problem, if they used the stop signal, and tried walking away. Students will be praised for using the steps or reminded about using these steps before talking to an adult. Then the adult will address the problem behavior with the other students

RECEIVING A STOP SIGNAL- Students will also be taught what to do if they receive a stop signal. They are to immediately stop what he or she is doing, take a deep breath, count to 3, and then go on with their day following our school rules. Students are taught that they should stop what they are doing regardless of whether they agree that they deserved the stop signal or not. By following these guidelines students show respect for themselves and others.

IMPORTANT EXCEPTION- One important exception in the “Stop-Walk-Talk” sequence is when a student is in danger such as falling on the playground or fighting. In this case students are instructed to immediately tell an adult.

By encouraging students to use “Stop-Walk-Talk” students should feel that they have a tool to deal with problem behavior, will help one another out, will get into trouble less often, feel safer at school and better able to focus on learning during their day.

VETERAN’S DAY OBSERVANCE



TO BUILTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FAMILIES:

AN OPPORTUNITY TO:

EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION

RECOGNIZE THE SACRIFICE OF OTHERS

RECOGNIZE THE PRECIOUSNESS OF OUR FREEDOM

PRACTICE CITIZENSHIP

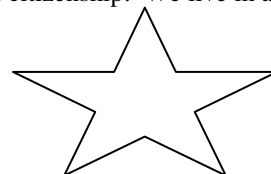
This week your son/daughter will bring home a handout of a STAR that can be decorated and returned to school. These will be hung in the office hallway at Builta in honor of Veteran’s Day. Please participate with your children. Together find a way to recognize and express our appreciation.

Here are some additional ideas to consider:

- Write a thank you note to a service person(these will be sent by our school).
- Write a poem about freedom or sacrifice or citizenship...
- Write about things we can do because we are free.
- Draw a picture or take a picture of things we can do because we are free.
- Write a letter to a person who has made a sacrifice for you.
- Write a letter or create a greeting card to a community servant or to a service person(these will be sent by our school).
- Recognize someone you know who is serving in the Armed services or in community service by writing their name in the star and decorating it to honor them.

We hope you will join us in taking time to think and talk about Veteran’s Day and citizenship. We live in a great country!!

Miss Witvoet



GIFTED RESOURCE

What are some good books that are richer in vocabulary? Generally speaking classic literature has a higher level of vocabulary and the British children's classics are even higher level. Here are a few classics to get your child started.

The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling

A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle

Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery

Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving

The Swiss Family Robinson by Johann David Wyss

Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Kooi

Gifted Resource

ELL



ELL students are working on becoming better writers, in the content areas as well as in free writing.

During November, we will be working on writing in sentences, while still concentrating on using strong, specific words. You can help at home! When you are reading to your children, talk with them about different ways authors write sentences. When you are talking with them, ask them to reply in complete sentences. As always, discuss with your children what they have been learning in science or social studies, and encourage them to use the vocabulary words from the unit.

We'll also be talking about **TTQA** this month. That stands for **Turn That Question Around**, a prompt we use to encourage students to begin answering the question with a complete thought. For example, if the question is, "*Where should we go after school?*" the answer should start out something like, "*After school we should go.....*" This helps students write a clearer answer in a complete sentence

Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart.
~William Wordsworth

Pat Russow, ELL

READING IMPROVEMENT

In September we talked about helping your student improve comprehension by creating mental images. Last month we talked about helping your student improve their comprehension by using their background knowledge to make personal connections to their reading – text to self, text to text, text to world. This month we want to talk about how to help your student infer.

When you infer you elaborate upon what is read, drawing conclusions, and going beyond what is written on the page. **“Meaning is found between their ears – not between the lines. An inference is when you spill your thinking on the book. It is a personal discovery about what the author didn’t write. An inference is the opposite of a reference because a reference is a source right there in front of you. An inference is information you have to put together yourself.”**

How to Teach It?

Cartoons provide excellent examples of the need to infer.
Play the game 20 Questions
Use daily life experiences based on putting clues together.

Encourage your child to talk and think about their own response to what they read. “What do you think?” “What struck you about this?”
Stop to think and reread. Make connections. Recap what has happened so far.
Infer the meaning of phrases and vocabulary by using clues, visual evidence and their understanding of the story.

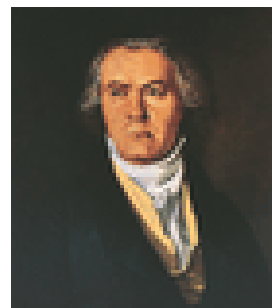
Predicting involves inferring about what will happen next– use the title, illustrations, etc. Students confirm/dismiss old predictions and make new ones as they read. Writers give clues but readers have to “amass the evidence” and draw conclusions for themselves.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Beresheim
Mrs. Meis

MUSIC

The Badger musicians have been very busy this past month! Looking forward to November, they will all be practicing Citizenship throughout the school day. All of the kindergarten classes have been singing their hearts out, while moving to the music. This month we will also continue to work on using the right words to describe music, such as fast or slow, high or low and loud or soft. The first graders will be increasing their music vocabulary with words to describe tempo in music. New words will be Largo, Andante, Allegro and Presto. Our second grade Badgers will be working on form or patterns in music. Ludwig Van Beethoven will be our composer of the month and we will be able to recognize several of his compositions. The third graders will be singing some ballads (a song that tells a story) this month and will even compose their own lyrics to complete one of their own. Patriotic music will be the highlight for the fourth graders this next month. This unit ties in wonderfully with Veteran’s Day and our Citizenship Theme for November. The fifth grade students will be reviewing composers from other years and discovering new ones. This will expand their understanding of some new forms of music as well. Opera will be discussed and many stereotypes of this music will be explored. As always, Badger Book Time is an activity that we all look forward to every week. It is very interesting to see what all of our Badgers are reading!



Mrs. Schmitz

ART

The Badger artists continue to create new and exciting art projects. Kindergarten artist will continue to focus on the elements of design and learn more about space. First grade will be finishing a mixed media project and begin learning about the concept of symmetry. Second graders will also be moving on to a symmetry project as well. The third grade learned about the artwork of Tony De Carlo and created their own interpretation of his artwork. Fourth grade artists finished landscape drawings and will be learning about still life drawing. Fifth graders have just finished learning about value in painting. Our badgers are doing a great job demonstrating citizenship in the art room as well as in other areas of the school.

Miss Nemchauskey

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

At the end of November we will hold our 11th annual Builta Turkey Trot!

The Turkey Trot is an annual tradition at Builta and the students look forward to it each year. This is an activity that encourages teamwork and cooperation in order for the students to carry their "turkey" through a big obstacle course set up using the entire double gym.



We will also be doing a scooter unit in the month of November and working on some cardiovascular activities. We always review scooter safety and various ways of moving on the scooters to utilize the big muscles in our legs...the hamstrings and quadriceps, we also use the smaller muscles...the gastrocnemius (calf) muscles.

The students will also be participating in some other holiday themed activities that correspond with our fitness components.

As Badgers we continue to emphasize the importance and fun of reading, as well as, our Badger Keys to Respect.

If you are looking for a few good books to share over the Thanksgiving break...check into the local library!! Simply click on the link below to be connected to the Children's Page at the Fountaindale Library.

http://www.fountaindale.lib.il.us/children/recommended_books.php

Have a GREAT Thanksgiving!!

Miss Wills
Mrs. Ganger

LMC

Accelerated Reader

We are continuing a goal-oriented approach to Accelerated Reader. The LMC staff, with the advice of classroom teachers, have set individual reading goals for students in grades 2-5. We will be adding 1st grade students as the year progresses. When students meet their individual goals, they will have their pictures taken and printed to add to our LMC bulletin board so that we all can see the progress of our students. Also I am challenging the entire school to earn 8,000 points by May 21. We will be able to see our joint progress as the year goes by.

Accelerated Reader provides the practice component for our reading curriculum. In addition to making reading practice fun and exciting for every student, AR gives continuous feedback so that teachers can be sure that every student achieves maximum success. However, the name is somewhat misleading. Accelerated Reader is for **all** students. The goal oriented approach is based on the fact that all students can achieve at their level, and that they can all improve their reading skills through practice. This is not a program for gifted students only. Everyone succeeds with the appropriate book choices. Read to Succeed!

Technology



- We now have a subscription to Tumble Books, a database of children's picture books which are presented with animation and sound. Hearing books read aloud as the words are highlighted is a proven way to build fluency. The database is available now here at Builta and will be available for home use very soon. Watch for news of this great new resource.
- Builta students are currently being assessed for technology proficiency. This pre-test will be used to guide instruction in our newly adopted Technology Curriculum. Our students will begin learning information literacy skills in kindergarten and progress through the sequence of skills up to 12th grade. It is our goal to ensure every child's success as citizens and workers in the 21st century.

New Books

Our hottest new book is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days*, the 4th volume in this popular series. Another series that has begun to attract interest is *39 Clues*, a series of adventure books published by Scholastic. The main characters are a brother and sister who are looking for 39 clues worldwide.

For the younger students, *The Gingerbread Girl* by Lisa Campbell Ernst and *Scaredy Squirrel* by Melanie Watts are proving to be very popular.

Mrs. Scott



KINDERGARTEN

What a colorful month it was both outside and inside the kindergarten classrooms during October! We have been busy learning our letters and the sound that each letter makes. We especially focused on letters M, S, R, T and P. Thank you for continuing to read with your child every day.

In math we have been exploring shapes, patterns, counting forwards and backwards, number concepts, and even money. We are learning that math is everywhere! Our social studies focus for October was Columbus Day,

feelings, fire safety, and friendships. October is the perfect time to study pumpkins and the coming of Fall. We have been busy learning about our five senses and eating healthy through the use of the nutritional pyramid in science.

During the month of October the kindergarten students discussed trustworthiness. We discussed making the right choice for behavior, even when nobody is watching! We can show trustworthiness by telling the truth, no matter what. We are busy building a community of respectful learners in kindergarten.

Miss Fisher, Mrs. Hansen and Mrs. Johnston

1st GRADE

Literacy

Our reading anthology is titled, Catch a Dream. Some of the comprehension skills that will be worked on are: making predictions, comparing and contrasting, and using schema (prior knowledge) to understand story content. We will work on retelling stories using a beginning, middle, and end. The decoding strategies introduced earlier in the year are reviewed continuously.

We continue to discuss and read examples of the six traits of writing. We will be engaged in learning the elements of a personal narrative and writing our own personal narrative.

Math

In math this month, we will work on counting up and back by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. Counting pennies, nickels and dimes in combination will reinforce our counting skills.

The students will use number lines and number grids to solve simple addition and subtraction stories. They will also work on odd/even numbers, telling time to the half-hour, and using standard and non-standard units of length to measure objects.


Science/Health

In mid November, we will begin to study our solar system. In first grade, the focus is on learning the names of the planets in order, and learning a few facts about each planet. Our first field trip of the year will be to the planetarium at Waubonsie Valley High School in December.

Social Studies

First graders will continue studying fall and the harvest season as Thanksgiving approaches.

Our school-wide focus for November is citizenship. The students will learn qualities of a good citizen as we build our community of citizens. Families are an important part of each student's learning community. Our first graders



will work with their families at home to create turkeys which will be displayed on our 1st grade community of learners' bulletin boards.

Recess

Please remember that all students go outside daily for recess. Please make sure that your child is prepared appropriately. Please label outerwear with your student's name, since many students have similar items.

Mrs. Bruce Ms. Gawlik Ms. Swanson

2nd GRADE

In Social Studies, the children have been introduced to what government is and how our country's government is special. We have talked about one of our nation's most visible symbols, the flag, and designed flags that represent our classroom. This unit of study lends itself to the November focus of our Responsibility Education, which is Citizenship.

In the upcoming month, we will be studying the life cycle of living things. We will observe the life cycle of a mealworm as it changes from a larva to a pupa and into a beetle.

The reading theme this month will be Our World. These stories take us around the world and help us to make connections. We will be reading some non-fiction selections which can be challenging, yet exciting, for second graders! It is essential that you continue to read with your child for at least 15 minutes each evening. Children become fluent readers by modeling those who read to them. Take turns reading with your child and ask them questions to help improve their comprehension skills. This is a great way to develop their vocabulary, too!

In Math, we began making change. This is fun to practice when you are shopping with your child. We also focused on change-to-more and parts-and-total number stories. Continue to work on telling time with your child since this is an important skill that every second grader should know.

Second graders are reading books that present good examples of "Slice of Life" writing, and during November we will be composing our own slice of life paragraphs. We are using photographs of events in our lives to help us visualize the event about which we are writing. Watch for these paragraphs to be coming home in December!

On Fridays, you should be receiving your copy of the Second Grade News which keeps you up to date on what's happening each week and what may be needed for future activities. If you have concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to call, send a note or e-mail.

Mrs. Gulick Miss Lipe Mrs. Sidhwa

3rd GRADE

Your third graders have really been hard at work doing lots of independent reading during the first quarter of school. Not only are they becoming better readers, but they will become better writers and spellers. Our current reading theme that will continue into November is "What a Team!" The stories explore the "tools" people and animals can use to work together to accomplish goals. Students will discover that cooperation can make a difference in relationships and are encouraged to apply that concept to their own lives. Please continue to find ways to read for pleasure with your child.

How our government was formed and how it works will be the focus in Social Studies the first half of the 2nd quarter. We will be looking at our national symbols and what they mean. How many different ways can we all show that we are good citizens? Our Power Paw theme for the month of November is Citizenship. We continue to talk about Rights and Responsibilities as citizens of the Builta community.

The last half of the 2nd quarter we'll start a new Science unit, "Matter Matters." Your students will learn about the three states of matter and their properties. We will also explore the difference in physical changes and chemical changes.

Multiplication is something all the kids are looking forward to learning and that is what they will be doing come mid November. Interestingly enough, they will learn those facts more quickly than any others. Accelerated math students will be working with decimals and big numbers in the coming weeks. Students are really beginning to progress with Otter Creek math fact memorization. We will continue with subtraction practice until the end of the semester. A few students who have already finished O.C. subtraction levels will soon start multiplication.

We appreciate your efforts in joining us for conferences. Your students' successes are truly a team effort.

Mrs. Fischer, Miss Hull, Mr. Jastrow, Ms. Wood

4th GRADE

Fourth graders at Builta Elementary will be very busy this November! Our students kicked off the all school monthly theme of Citizenship. A person of character is a good citizen, does his or her share, helps the community, plays by the rules, and respects authority and laws. We are all good citizens of Builta Elementary when we follow the Badger Keys to Respect.

All fourth graders will be studying Mystery Powders over the next two months. Using the scientific method, and loads of hands-on experimentation, we will discover the true identity of each "mystery" white powder. Social Studies will take us through the Northeastern Region of the United States. We are excited to explore social studies outside our classroom with a visit to Naper Settlement on November 23rd.

We will continue our study of Decimals and Their Uses in Math this month. Math Acceleration will be covering Division and Fractions. Remember to keep practicing your facts at home!

The Six Traits of Writing are also being enhanced this month as we learn to use different words and styles to express ourselves through our writing. Biographical Sketches are the focus, and students are busy researching and using the writing process to create a sketch of a famous person of their choice.

As always, students will be reading books at their level on a daily basis. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home on a daily basis.

Ms. Grundner

Mr. Lyngaas


Ms. Petruzzi

Mrs. Venkat

5th GRADE

The fifth graders continue to work diligently since the beginning of the year. They have settled into their routines and are delving into new curriculum daily.

Reading: We continue to focus on different reading skills and strategies using our Harcourt text and other resources to support those skills. Students should continue to read nightly for a minimum of twenty minutes, or 100 minutes per week. Remember that reading for pleasure is very important everyday for everyone!



Writing: **We continue to travel down memory lane in our Memoir Unit of writing. In addition, we are also studying the structure of good paragraph writing.**

Science: We enjoyed our visit to the Morton Arboretum and are continuing to study small life forms.

Social Studies: In Social Studies we'll be concentrating on what it was like to be a colonist in the New World.

Math: Math concepts that will be covered in *Everyday Math* will learn about fractions and estimation.

Math Accl: In accelerated mathematics, students will also learn about fractions and estimation.

Character Focus: The focus for the month of is Citizenship. We will be discussing how to demonstrate citizenship in daily life.

Upcoming Events

Parent/Teacher Conferences November 4th in the evening.

Parent/Teacher Conferences on Nov. 10th. No School

No School November 11, Veteran's Day

Thank you for your continued support!

Ms. June Green

Ms. Savana Joiner

Ms. Julie Mandru

Mr. Steve Niezgoda

