

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

January 31, 2020



NEWS



A LOOK AHEAD

Happy Friday Owasco families!

In our last letter we briefly discussed various elements relating to our curriculum, classroom instruction and the role of assessment in education. Whether we're talking long-term or short-term educational programming great schools all have the following in common:

- ◇ Clear, aligned and rigorous objectives (what are students learning and why?)
- ◇ High quality instruction (how are students learning?)
- ◇ Purposeful practice (how do students create permanency?)
- ◇ Intentional assessment that informs (how well are students truly learning?)

If there was a magic formula that prescribed the perfect learning plan every school in the nation would adopt and implement it. And if we were just producing widgets it would be that easy. However, the hard but wonderful reality is that we're working with children and we're producing learners.....and they are as different year to year, day to day, and place to place as it comes. That what makes it challenging but also what makes education so amazing. I believe that you, as partners with us in educating our children, need to have as much information as possible so we can support each other fully. To achieve that we need to establish clear and transparent lines of communication.

Owasco Elementary has been identified, along with 125 schools across NYS, as a TSI (Targeted Support and Improvement) school. Essentially we have been targeted for two reasons. First, we have failed to meet the state expectation of >95% participation rate in 3-6 NYS assessments. Second, our students with disabilities (SWD) have not met minimal performance criteria for NYS grade-level assessments. The original common core rollout around 2010 was widely controversial because of the aggressive timeframe and the linking of teacher evaluations to student scores. Additionally, people were not fans of more testing that may or may not be valid and reliable. Since then NYS has backed off considerably and has now incorporated the Next Generation Learning Standards after considerable participation and vetting by educators across the state. Teacher evaluations are no longer linked to the state assessments either. This is good news across the board.

With our Year 1 designation as a TSI school we were granted money from NYS to address our low performance. Our school decided to use those funds to create grade level teams (called PLC's or professional learning communities). These teams meet every week working on curriculum alignment, best-practice instruction, creating common assessments and looking at data. These are the four pillars that we have already identified above and that are necessary to challenge and grow every learner at Owasco. We believe this is a strong part of how we're addressing our second identified deficiency.

The progression of identified schools is TSI year 1, TSI year 2, CSI (comprehensive support and instruction) year 1, CSI year 2. If we have failed to adequately improve in our identified areas by year five the state can come in and determine a new path of progress. This typically includes large-scale faculty/staff/administration reassignment and a overhaul of the program. We will not get to that point:)

Enough talk about that. I hope you all have a safe and wonderful Super Bowl weekend. I am rooting for the Chiefs but am really just happy I don't need to stress throughout the game like I do with every Buffalo Bills contest. Next year hopefully!

Yours, Jeremy Moore Owasco Elementary Principal

2/2 - Groundhog's Day and

Super Bowl **LIV**

2/3 - OPT Meeting 6:30-7:30

2/4 - Student Banking am

2/10 - New Teacher Training

2/11 - Student Banking am

2/14 - Valentine's Day

Walkers/Riders:

**For all students eating
breakfast doors open at
8:10am. For all others
doors open at 8:30am**

Will Punxsutawney Phil see his shadow?
(Punxsutawney Phil's predictions (1887-2018))



Mrs. Reynics—"Who are you rooting for in the Super Bowl.....the 49ers?"

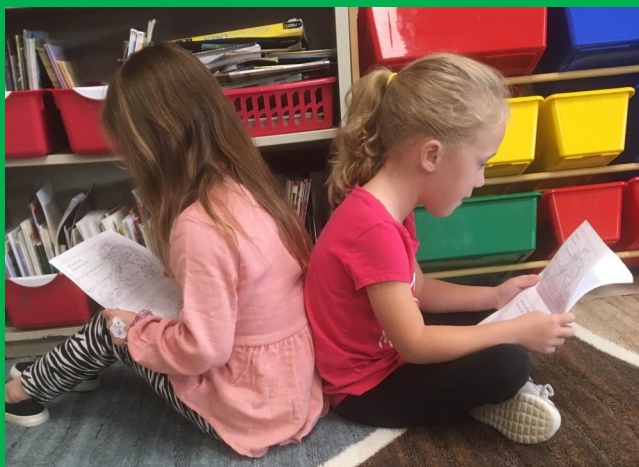
1st grader—"No, I'm going for the Chiefs!"

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

Kindergarten - In math we've been learning about **same/more/less** and have played some games to help us further our understanding of this tricky concept. **Alanna and Emma** (right) are building number towers and creating sentences to tell which has more and which has less. In ELA we just finished learning all about Frits and his love for fishing. We continue to work on blending sounds to decode new words. We even listened to a nonfiction piece titled, "Fun Fish Facts." Ask your child to share a fun fact with you.



"And guess what...I had to get an icepack for my chin. And guess what...we're doing Groundhog activities all day and it's going so good! And guess what... this lego man has his hat on backwards! See ya Mr. Moore!" Aria (Kindergarten)



1st grade— In ELA we're working on CVC words with endings -ing & -ed. Memory words: **boy, two, over, before, about, girl.** We continue to work on building reading confidence with books that students can decode independently. **Please continue to read with and to your child, every day to model good reading strategies and promote a love for reading!**

In Math, we continue to work in module 2-addition and subtraction within 20, focusing on teen numbers. We are learning about the math symbols + and - and working with the terms **counting on** and **counting back**. We continue to use the term "**make a ten**" to help group numbers for easier understanding when working with larger numbers.

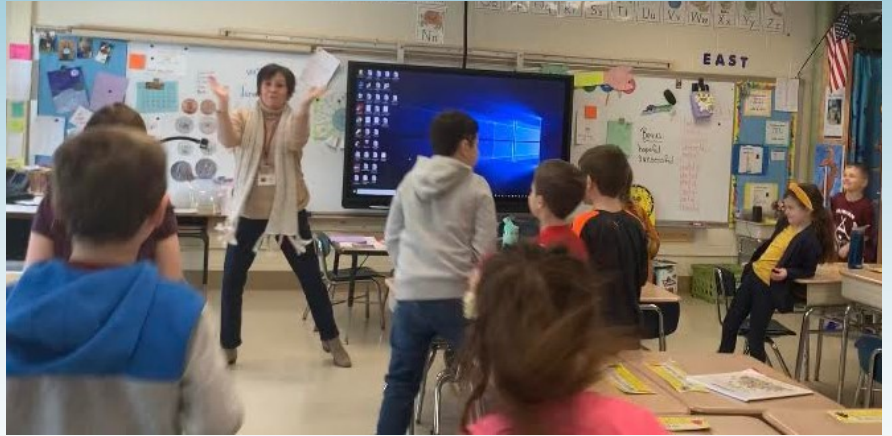
Owasco Elementary Newsletter

2nd Grade has been working in ELA on NOUNS and VERBS to form complete sentences. (Below right) Mrs. Murphy's class sing and dance "oh a verb is an action you can do!"

We are looking for that groundhog and learning about how the



sun makes shadows! In Math this week are counting money and identifying change (coins)!



Chinese New Year began January 25th. Students in Mrs. Murphy's 2nd grade read articles about many interesting Chinese customs from the meaning of dragons, to the **color red**, to **favorite foods**. **Students made paper lanterns (left) and charts comparing and contrasting the Chinese New Year traditions to those celebrated in the US.**

3rd Grade— ELA: Students are really enjoying the new frog unit in ELA. They are learning about frogs and other animal adaptations. Students will also learn about many types of frogs and their unique characteristics. The exciting part is that many of our lessons will be incorporated into our science lessons.

Math: We are revisiting multiplication in our new Math Module. This module builds directly on students' work with multiplication and division from our Module 1. Students will learn about properties of multiplication and will problem solve using all four operations, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Science: (Right) Students tested the effectiveness of style & material of various roof types.

"Rain data" was collected and compared. **Students then predicted the best type of roof for various environmental conditions.**



	Absorbed	Material	Type of Roof
B/J	39ml	Clay	flat
C/b/c	38ml	wood	Gabled
N/c/	38ml	wood	Gabled
D/A/A	24ml	Clay	Gabled
E/A	34ml	wood	flat
E/A/L	71ml	wood	flat
M/c/s	28ml	wood	Gabled

Owasco Elementary Newsletter



4th Grade— In Mrs. Carbonaro and Mrs. Querns' class, we will be taking a bite out of our BIGGEST math unit for 4th grade...FRACTIONS! Get those baking pans out of the cupboard and start making some brownies. Your child will be using "the brownie pan method" to visually represent fractions.

In Social Studies, we will be digging deeper into the Colonial Day trades and students will be selecting a trade in preparation for our Colonial Day at the end of February. Be on the look out for more information coming home in the next few weeks!

Start those engines! In ELA, we have been racing around the track, practicing the RACE strategy and are nearing the finish line.



Restate the question

Answer

Cite

Evidence

5th Grade: ELA- Module 2b Max Axiom and the Scientific Method and the components of a graphic novel.

Social Studies- Topic of pre-13 original colonies; research and on-line quiz

Science- Students are preparing for a project based learning activity in which they create a science related question and use Animoto to create a Mystery Doug video of their own.

Math-Equivalent, and adding and subtracting fractions. Making like units pictorially.

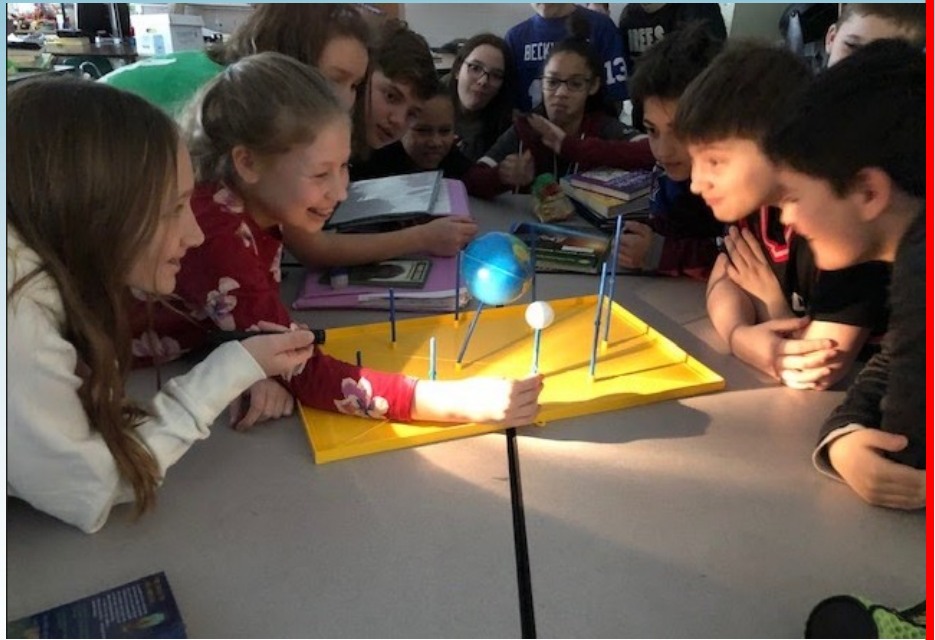


This week fifth graders like Nolin and Ben (left) led a "Souperbowl" can drive that culminated in Jersey Day on Friday. Students collected over 220 canned good, and after everything was counted Owasco predicts a San Francisco 49'ers victory!

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

6th Grade— 6th grade science has been exploring Lunar phases and the moon's effect on tides.

Since we cannot travel to space to make our observations, we have worked with several models (computer, 2D, and 3D models) of the Earth-Sun-System to develop our understanding of the patterns associated with the moon. Next week we will explore solar and lunar eclipses, a brief look at the other planets in our solar system before we review for our end of the unit test.



“If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful at all.” Michelangelo



see some of their colorful and playful works in the main hall (above). I love the contrast between the first and second polar bear with the “puppy-dog” v. the “angry eyes.” Look too how one young artist created texture in the mammoth through use of patterned negative lines.

Skillful Owasco art teacher Chelsea Hamilton (below) giving one of her 5 minute demos/mini lectures to some eager fifth graders. You can

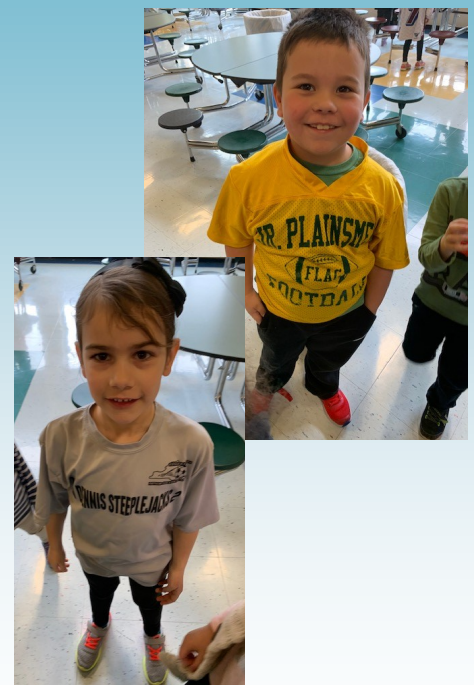
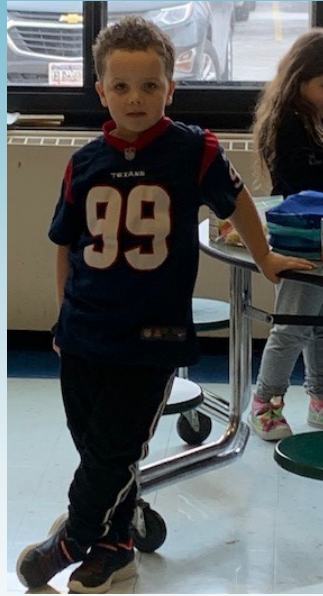


Owasco Elementary Newsletter

Word of the Month

Loyalty is the quality of staying firm in your friendship or support for someone or something.

Here loyal fans Maddox, Gracy, Hunter showing their support on Jersey Day!



Teacher: Mrs. Eve Major—1st Grade

Favorite Childhood Book: [I Can't Said the Ant](#) by Polly Cameron

Currently Reading: [Girl, Wash Your Face](#) by Rachel Hollis

Best Advice ever given: "Treat other the way you want to be treated" said and lived by my mom <3

Hobbies: Traveling and spending time with friends and family

What's the one or two highlights from teaching this year? I love watching my students grow everyday. Not only growing academically but also socially. Seeing children work together on a project using teamwork and respect is very rewarding.

Mrs. Major is a respected veteran teacher at Owasco Elementary and a positive member of our 1st grade team. Her students share that she is "my favorite teacher" and that "she smiles all the time."



Owasco Elementary Newsletter

OWASCO'S BEST



Last week: Corissa, Jason, Isabella, Jeffrey, Issac, Jacob, Mathew, Emma, Kevin, Natalie, Zoey, Mrs. Homyk and Ms. Carbonaro. This week: Harper MacKay, Sydney Socci, Owen Casler, Elliott Conrad, Austin Peryea, Josiah Czyz, Justice Slaughter, Joseph Plis, Londyn Humphrey, Carter Bulla, Alex Janas, Eli Coleman, TJ Piscioti, Noah Testa, Maggie Palmer, Mia Muntz

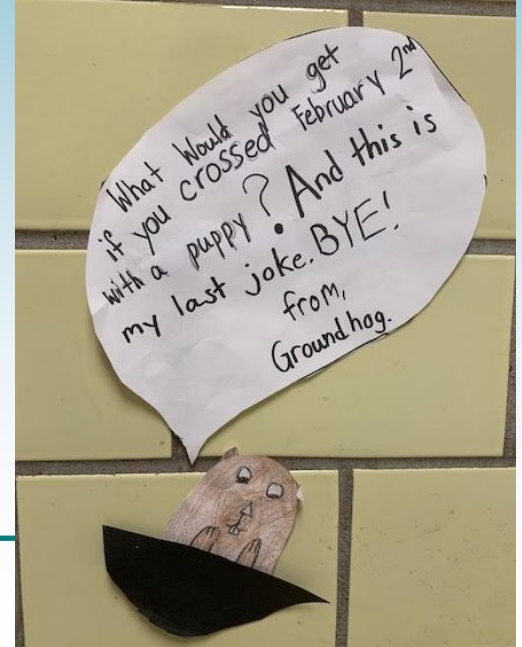


Owasco Elementary Newsletter

AROUND THE SCHOOL



For those who didn't know Owasco was lucky to have the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, on loan. For the last two weeks he has been wandering the building, popping up here and there and telling jokes to the kids. Our friends Amaris, Gianna and Delaney shared the punch lines with K-2 at the end of each day!



Thanks to everyone's generosity we were able to donate much needed nonperishable food (below) items to the local food pantry. (Right) we used some **regrouping** and **number bond** strategies to quickly tally our total. **#criticalthinkingskills**

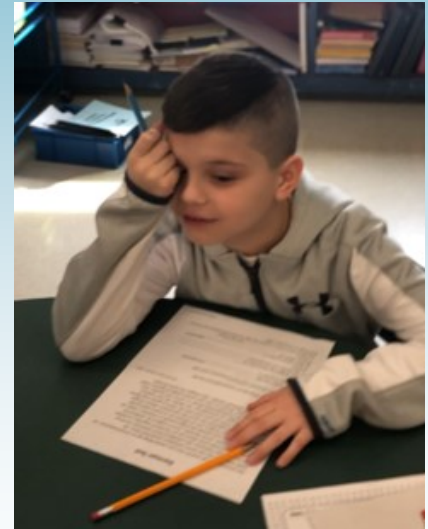
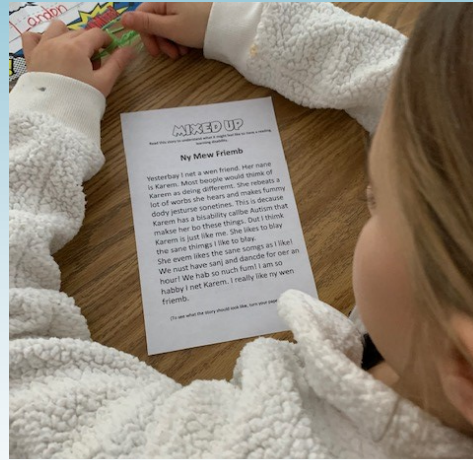


Can Drive Results
winner

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{KC} \\ 90 \end{array} + \begin{array}{r} \text{SF} \\ 128 \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{r} 90 + 10 + 118 \\ \vee \\ 100 + 118 \\ \vee \\ 218 \text{ total cans} \end{array}$$

Owasco Elementary Newsletter

AROUND THE SCHOOL



3rd graders participated in Disability Awareness Day on Thursday as part of Auburn's advocacy initiative. Students were able to experience some of what their peers do on a daily basis through challenges in fine motor skills, dyslexia, processing and sensory issues. The hope is that students can understand what it's like without quite walking the proverbial "mile in their shoes."

A big thanks to teachers, parent volunteers and Sara Douglass (below) from ARISE.

