

The Steward Signal

January 28, 2022

Failure and Perseverance are Partners in Long Term Success

“Failure is only the opportunity to intelligently begin again.” *by Henry Ford*
article by Superintendent Simpson

As we near the midpoint of the third academic quarter of the school year, it is important to recognize that the weeks of late winter and early spring are often the most challenging of the school year. Each grade-level's curriculum is designed to stimulate and challenge students' thinking throughout the year, but it is during these crucial upcoming weeks that many of the building blocks set in place during the first and second quarters are added to and stretched to foster students' growth in intellectual applications. Ultimately, these tasks are strategically designed to optimize children's readiness to exit this school year ready to meet the tasks of the next grade. As a result, this most difficult portion of the academic year is often accompanied by students exhibiting common negative human reactions to problematic hurdles: lower scores, ongoing frustration, desire to leave larger tasks unfinished, procrastination, apathy and/or increased excuses to avoid school or school-related work. It is at this particular time that our children most need our caring encouragement, supportive coaching and stubborn desire to build perseverance as a bedrock of their character.

Left to their own not-fully-developed mode of thinking, most children lack what adults would label “grit and determination” when it comes to the long-term work necessary to conquer mental and physical challenges. This is natural and expected; it is part of what we reference when we speak of “growing in maturity.” *Children need adults* at home and at school to help them develop the toughness and tenacity necessary to one day allow them to pursue and achieve their fulfillment of the American Dream. Thus, during the coming weeks we can expect a certain amount of *extra* adult guidance and structure will be needed, and sometimes may be met with a child-like lack of appreciation on the part of the young ones in our lives we are trying to help. Yet, because we are adults, we can see the “big picture” in a manner that, developmentally, they cannot. Therefore, we must resolve to cooperatively *support each other* in supporting our children/students. We can assure them that forming habits of avoidance or *not* trying is an *unacceptable path* leading to ongoing disappointment, crippling fear of failure and the despair resultant from cyclical underachievement. Conversely, through our continual encouragement, we can guide our children toward the *growth mindset* path to success by repeatedly and frequently sharing that *trying and failing* are acceptable and natural elements of learning and growing. The key component is perseverance; after we fail, we must resolve to try again (only better) by applying the lessons learned from our previous failure. Through this somewhat painful process, students will not only grow in their intellect, but also *in their character*.

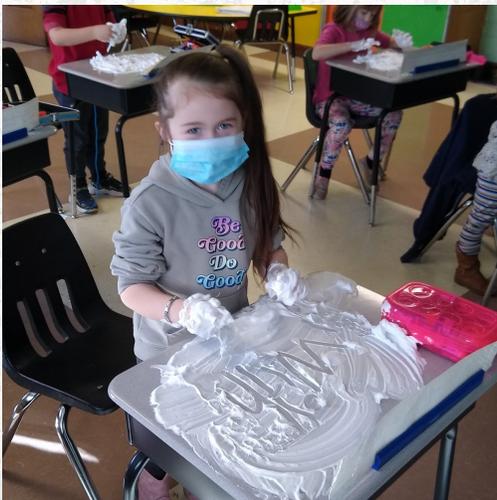
Kindergarten News

by Mrs. Esposito

Our curious minds have kept us busy during this cold winter season. We have been learning about different types of weather and the four seasons. We made it rain in a jar filled with water, shaving cream, and blue food coloring. Most of us were amazed at how real it looked like rain.



We are finally at a point in our reading journey where we are learning how to sound out words we are unfamiliar with. It is so exciting to see their little faces light up when they figure out a new word.



For math, we are focusing on numbers 11-20 and will soon be able to identify different shapes. We are on a constant learning adventure and I know we can accomplish anything!

6-8 Grade News

by Mrs. Odle

Student Council:

The Steward Student Council was not quite as busy during December and January. They focused their efforts on a few smaller activities. In December, the Student Council planned a family skating party at The Rink near Oregon Illinois. Many families were able to attend. The skaters not only enjoyed skating, but also participated in a few games and races during the event. They finished the party with a few fun line dances (without skates on, of course!).

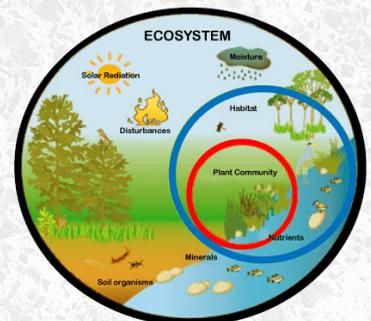
The entryway committee also worked with Mrs. Loeffelholz, our art teacher, to plan and begin a train mural in the Steward School entryway. The mural should be finished in the near future and definitely brightens up the entryway. We send a big THANK YOU to Mrs. Loeffelholz for all her assistance and efforts to make this mural a success. Finally in January, the Student Council planned a dodgeball tournament to help the students blow off some of their winter restlessness. Students competed in three age brackets to see who could dodge the ball the best.

Math:

6th and 7th grade have both started units on algebraic expressions and equations at their respective levels. 8th grade math is making a transition from algebraic equations to how we use them in graphing and finding solutions to systems of equations.

Science:

In science, we are studying how populations of organisms are affected by various stimuli and the influences those stimuli have on entire ecosystems.



1st and 2nd Grade News

by Mrs. Hayes

Reading:

The first and second graders have really been progressing quite nicely with their learning over the past several months. In reading, students have been working their way through the 1,000 sight words! Two students have learned all 1,000 already and several others are on track to have all of their sight words learned in the next couple months. It is very exciting because the more words students know instantaneously, the better reader they become.

Math:

The students have also been working hard in math. The whole class is still working on learning their addition facts by using 2-minute tests called Rocket Math. One student has already moved onto the Subtraction version of Rocket Math and several students are about ready to make that jump to the next series. The students are very excited to know that they are mastering these foundational skills. In our math lessons, the 2nd graders have been learning several new strategies to add multi-digit numbers. They will be starting to learn several new strategies involving subtracting multi-digit numbers in the next month as well. The first graders are working on mastering subtraction word problems with missing wholes or missing parts. They are doing very well.



Science:

We finished up social studies at the end of the first semester and started Science. The students absolutely love all the labs and hands on activities in the science curriculum. We have been exploring the different states of matter during the first chapter.

The students have had opportunities to explore solids, liquids, and gases to discover how these states of matter are the same and different.

Handwriting:



In handwriting the 1st graders have finished lower-case letters and are beginning capital letters. The 2nd graders are about halfway finished learning the lower-case letters in cursive. This was a big step for them and they are all doing really well. In writing, the students are all learning how to use good word choice in their writing. This includes using specific nouns, descriptive adjectives, exciting verbs, as well as adverbs in their writing. Using these extra details in their writing has really helped them become better writers.



Flat Stanley:

In the beginning of November, we read the book Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. In the story Stanley gets flattened by a bulletin board and then travels by mail to visit some friends because it was much cheaper than a plane ticket. We sent out our Flat Stanleys to friends and family around the country and have received mail back from all over the country as well as Japan! It is so fun to see where Stanley ended up and what adventures he had while he was on his trip. Just like Stanley, we will continue to have fun and pursue adventures while learning together through the end of the schoolyear!



3rd and 4th Grade News

by Mrs. Swartz

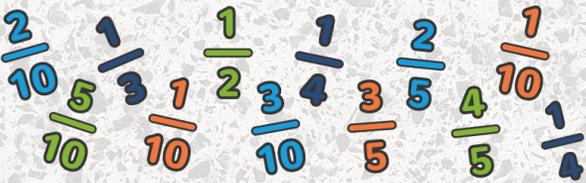
Science:

We are learning about fossils in Science. We are thinking like scientists as we make inferences about characteristics of extinct organisms based on the clues they left behind. We even compared our foot size and stride to Mr. Hayes's foot size and stride to discover how animal footprints give us information about them.



Math:

In math, we are working on fractions. We have mastered the basics including the new vocabulary needed to talk about fractions. Now we are learning about how to identify and make equivalent fractions.



100th day!

Language Arts:

The students wrote an essay about their winter break. We used the graphic organizer and routine we have practiced for two years. They did a great job using those tools to plan and write their essays. This group will take the Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR) test this spring. We have been exploring the computer program they will use when taking the test and practiced the types of questions they will be asked so that the test is not overwhelming for them. They will have to write essays on the computer as part of the test, so we continue practicing our keyboarding skills.

Reading:

Our class continues to love to read! We just finished reading The One and Only Ivan. Since winter break we have practiced comparing and contrasting in nonfiction texts, identifying the theme of a story, and determining the author's purpose for writing.

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, each student thought about their dreams. Be sure to ask them what they would change to make the world a better place.



5th Grade News

by Ms. Kalata

Language Arts:

Students have been working on improving their writing skills by focusing on word choice. Students are incorporating a rich and colorful vocabulary to make their writing more meaningful. Most recently, our class completed persuasive essays on topics of their choice. These essays helped us use previously mastered skills, like organization, as students are continuing to practice writing an introduction with an attention getter and thesis statement, two to three body paragraphs, and a conclusion that wraps up their main ideas. Students did an exceptional job of getting their point across in these essays, and we are going to continue writing more persuasive essays as the year continues.

Social Studies:

Students are going to begin working on publishing a book about the history and geography of Illinois. Parents will be able to order a book, so expect to see a handout home in the next couple of weeks. During the month of February, we are going to read the book Becoming Kareem. This book is about basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and the struggles he faced as an African American during his childhood and career. Later on in the year, we will be able to connect these ideas to the Civil War and the Civil Rights Movement.



Social Emotional Learning:

Our class is going to spend extra time on social emotional learning (SEL) each week. On Friday, January 28th, we are going to begin our discussions by watching Disney's movie "Inside Out." The film's overlying theme is on emotions. Students will be exploring how to identify and regulate the emotions of themselves, and we will be discussing how to better understand the perspective of others. In addition, we will begin writing a journal each day relating to SEL. These journals will help students build better self-awareness and management, increase social awareness, improve relationships, and teach students how to make positive decisions for themselves.



**Friday, February 4th
8:40am**

The Spelling Bee is back after taking a year off. We have over 20 students from 5th grade to 8th grade participating this year. The Spelling Bee will start at 8:40am on Friday, February 4th. **All parents and grandparents are welcome to attend.**

6th-8th Grade News

by Mrs. Stroh

Reading:

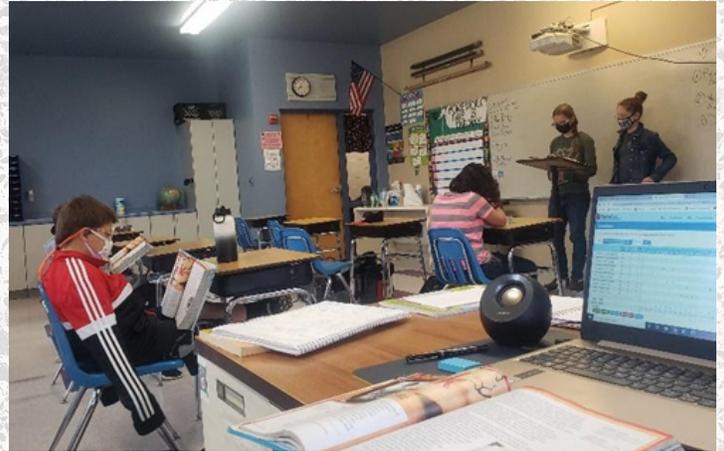
In Reading, we finished out the second quarter in novel study groups. Students read books like "In the Lake of the Woods" by Tim O'Brien, "Anya and Dragon" by Sofiya Pasternack, and "I am Princess X" by Cherie Priest. Students enjoyed reading the books and spending time discussing their novel with their group. In January, students are working on critical thinking skills using short stories. Students are in groups using the strategy of multiple draft reading in order to think deeper about their stories. Once completed, students will be teaching the class about their stories.



Language Arts:

In Language Arts, students are working on voice and word choice in their writing. We worked hard to complete a thank you letter to someone important to us and mailed those out during our winter break. We have also started our speech unit. Students will work on different categories, such as radio play, prose reading, and impromptu speeches, and deliver a speech to their classmates.

These categories will mirror those that speech team members are able to give at upcoming speech meets.



Social Studies:

In Social Studies, 6th and 7th graders have finished up Unit 3. They have been working on ancient cultures in Mesoamerica. We are looking forward to our next unit which will be discussing Ancient Greece and Rome. 8th Graders are finishing up our chapter about World War I. This week, we were able to discuss the effects of trench warfare, and even had the opportunity to simulate trench warfare in the classroom.



Art News

by Mrs. Loefellholz

Kindergarten:

Kindergarten is discovering artist Jim Dine with his heart image collage series! They are using watercolor for the background & ink for the heart centered atop.



1st and 2nd Grade:

1st & 2nd grades just finished learning about artist Charley Harper. The kiddos mimicked his cardinal art style by layering colored paper.



3rd and 4th Grade:

3rd & 4th grades are uncovering the Huicol tribe & yarn painting! Students chose a favorite food or animal & are beginning to glue yarn in a totally new technique!



5th Grade:

5th graders are textile weaving on looms that are easily set up with cardboard backing & a sturdy yarn layout in which to weave.



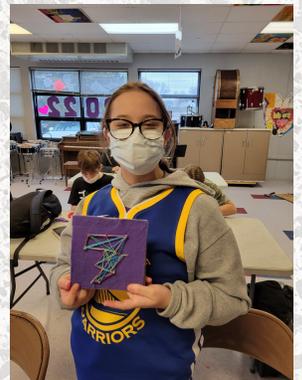
6th Grade:

6th graders are painting their Tibetan peace flags & readying them for display!



7th and 8th Grade:

Lastly, 7th & 8th grades are studying artist Pedro Linares & his alebrijes! They are constructing sculptures with newspaper & masking tape for steady bases & will eventually paper mache & paint. I can't wait to see!



Meet the teacher: Mrs. Esposito



About Me:

My name is Michelle Esposito and this is my 19th year of teaching. This is my first year teaching here at Steward school and I am teaching the Kindergarten class. I grew up about an hour and fifteen minutes away in Crystal Lake Illinois. One of the highlights of growing up in Crystal lake was that I was on a dance team that actually won state. After High School I attended Monmouth College where I received my bachelors degree in education and I was also on the cheer team. After getting my degree at Monmouth College I went on to attend Concordia University to get my masters degree in administration.

We currently live in Stillman Valley and absolutely love it out there. I have truly enjoyed working here at Steward and getting to know the staff and families of my students.

Hobbies with my Husband:

- Golfing
- Boating
- Riding our motorcycle

Family:

At home, I have a husband named Charlie and we have been married for 19 years. We currently have our two children, Dilana who is 15 and loves to play volleyball and Logan who is 11 and loves to play baseball.

Fun things about me:

- I love the outdoors!
- Planting things
- Exercising
- Animals

If I could, I would own every animal that needed a home!





Meet the teacher: Mrs. Hayes

About Me:

I moved to Steward from the south suburbs of Chicago when I was entering 6th grade. I attended RTHS and was heavily involved in band, choir, and theater. After high school, I headed off to NIU to pursue a degree in elementary education. I graduated in 2005 and was hired that summer by Steward School to fill the 1st grade position. I taught 1st grade for 5 years before giving birth to my son, Benjamin (age 11), in 2010. I decided to stay at home until Lizzie (age 9) entered kindergarten in 2018. From 2010-2018 I subbed at all levels at Steward School as needed. In the fall of 2018, I was then hired back at Steward to fill the 1st/2nd grade position. I have been teaching different combinations from kindergarten to 2nd grade for the past 4 years.

Hobbies:

- Reading • Singing
- Swing Dancing
- Playing board games
 - Playing the piano/saxophone
- Hiking with my family
- Anything related to Harry Potter

Pets:

I have always been a cat person and currently have 2 beautiful cats named Jack and Annie. They were named after the main characters in the Magic Tree House Series. We also have a friendly golden retriever named Shadow who is literally my shadow whenever we are together.

Youth Ministry

From 2001-2019, I was an assistant youth director for the Methodist Churches of Steward and then Rochelle with my husband, Matt. We dedicated a large portion of our time to teaching Sunday school and leading youth group activities. These activities included game nights every weekend as well as weekend retreats and week-long mission trips.

I always wanted to be a children's librarian, music teacher or elementary teacher. While I ended up getting my master's degree at Rockford University in Instructional Strategies instead of Library Science, I still find myself following that dream by having an extensive classroom library for my students and my own children at home. I love reading and I hope to instill that same joy and passion into all my students at a young age. I also use my love of music to help students learn key concepts. We sing catchy tunes to remember math facts, days or the week, months of the year, and challenging spelling words.

The past years have taught me that changes and challenges are inevitable, but I must not look at these situations as a negative thing. Rather these times help me to grow and become the best version of myself. I hope that you have found that to be true in your life as well.

FEBRUARY



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

30 31 1 2 3 4 5

Chicken fried rice
stir fry veggies
fruit cup
cookie

Corny dogs
french fries
green beans
ice cream

Quesadilla
spanish rice
corn
fruit juice

Pizza
lettuce salad
bacon bits
pineapple

Chicken strips
potato wedges
baby carrots w/dip
apple slices

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Sb&J sandwich
cheetos
grape juice
go gurt

Spaghetti
garlic bread
green beans
rice krispie treat

Hot dog on bun
baked beans
applesauce
jello

Burrito
chips and
guacamole
pears

11:30 dismissal
no lunch



13 14 15 16 17 18 19

Cheeseburger
french fries
sliced carrots
peaches

Fish sticks
w/tartar sauce
corn
mandarin oranges

Cheesy hashbrown
casserole w/ ham
orange juice
go gurt

Pizza
lettuce salad
bacon bits
pineapple

Grilled cheese
tomato soup
green beans
cookie

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Presidents Day
No School

Pulled pork nachos
refried beans
corn
fruit cup

Grilled chicken
tomato and lettuce
fries
apples

Taco salad
guac and salsa
salad
ice cream

Waffles w/syrup
sausage patty
hashbrown
oranges

27 28 1 2 3 4 5

Chicken patty
potato wedges
green beans
pears

Sausage/egg/cheese on
english muffin
hashbrown
banana

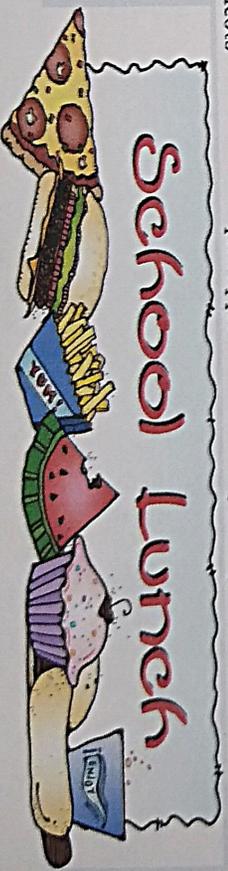
Turkey sandwich
chips
peas
apricots

Pizza
lettuce salad
bacon bits
pineapple

Corny dogs
mac and cheese
corn
pudding

6 7 Notes

Quesadilla
spanish rice
refried beans
peaches



Steward School

Honor Roll

2nd Quarter 2021-2022

Grades K-2nd

Exceptional

(97%-100%. No individual grades below 90%)

George Miller

Camila Lopez

Ronald Becket Kraemer

Amazing

(94%-96%. No individual grades below 85%)

A.J. Hueramo

Ben Burgess

Lucas Mendez

Hannah Gittleson

Levi Mathey

Impressive

(90%-93%. No individual grades below 80%)

Sapphire Bates

Lucas Blusiewicz

Aiden Connolly

Mackenzie Erickson

Finnigan Powell

Ellie Maertz



Steward School

Honor Roll

2nd Quarter 2021-2022

Grades 3rd-8th

Highest Honors

(97%-100%. No individual grades below 90%)

Lizzie Hayes
Ben Hayes
Tilly Gonser
Joshua Pena
Derik Maertz
Morgan DeLille
Brynndyl Mellor

High Honors

(94%-96%. No individual grades below 85%)

Molly Kedzie
Evi O'Rorke
Barbara Palmer
Tenley Ramsey
Sam Overton
Reese Wells
Derek Swartz
Jamie Riddell
Diana Lopez
Ryley Ginn
Braylon Wells
Isaac Gittleson
Raylan Davis
Bryson Wells
Gavyn Foster
Alayna Smardo

Honors

(90%-93%. No individual grades below 80%)

Tyson Pavlak
Janitza Perez-Reyes
Liam Mathey

