

Dragon News



November 2016

Cortland Elementary School Newsletter

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Mrs. Jennifer Hilliard, Principal

Mrs. Katie Algrim, Assistant Principal

Mrs. Hilliard's Corner

Dear Cortland Families,

It is hard to believe it is November already! This year is going fast! It is getting colder outside and I want to remind families that we do go outside for morning and afternoon recess as long as there is no precipitation and it is about 0 degrees with the wind chill factor. Students will be needing boots and snow pants in order to leave the blacktop once we have snow in the fields. If school is ever called off due to inclement weather a Skylert message will be sent to families or you can check the district website. Don't forget to update your phone number and email address if they change so that you continue to receive our messages!

Speaking of the district website, there are many great resources available on the 1:1 portion of the district website. MyOn, Tumblebooks, Reflex Math, etc. can all be accessed online and are great resources which can be used to supplement learning at home. Please check out the Tech Bits & Bytes videos to learn more about these resources. You can access the Cortland website through the district website too & that's where I you can check for new events on the calendar and find information to contact staff.

Thanks,
Mrs. Hilliard

Upcoming Dates

November 3 Early release
12:00 Noon
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 4 No School
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 7 Book Fair Begins

November 8 PTO meeting @
6:30pm

November 11 No School - Veterans
Day

November 17 Dental Day

November 23 No School

November 24 No School
Thanksgiving

November 25 No School



Reading News You Can Use

It's that time of year again... Report cards and conferences always bring some strange-looking graphs and lots of talk about reading fluency. But what does that really mean? Here are some FAQ's to help clear up what's important and what's not important about reading fluency:

Q: What does it mean to read "fluently?"

A: Fluent reading sounds like the way you speak when having a conversation. It's reading at an appropriate rate and using a voice with expression and emotion. It is NOT reading as fast as you can.

Q: Why is good fluency important for readers?

A: Fluent reading is a good indicator that the reader can easily identify the words in a text AND understands the message of the text. If a student is unable to read fluently, it usually indicates that s/he is struggling with reading.

Q: So fluency tells me everything I need to know about my student's reading?

A: No, but it can be effective as a screener in the elementary schools - like taking someone's temperature. It can be a good way to check and see if there might be an underlying problem. It's also important to know that there are always a few students who have poor fluency, but also have good reading comprehension. And there are also a few students who have good fluency, but struggle with reading comprehension. Fluency is just one piece of the puzzle!

Cortland Reading Specialists
Kate Hoffman and Vicky Aburto

Specialists' Smatterings

Art

Art with Mr. V

Students have been reviewing fundamentals of art. We have added new concepts and techniques that we used in our work. Our next unit of study will be nature. Students worked to develop their skills of observation, drawing and painting.

The last unit of study was design. Students distinguished the use of repetition and variety in the design. They learned to create a pattern and texture. Older students learned to create three-dimensional effects through lines, angles and perspective. We are currently in different stages of projects while some students drawings have begun our unit of nature.

Please ask your child about art, they may surprise you with what they have learned.



Valenzuela

Mr

Music

All of our class have explored rhythms using classroom instruments. We have chanted, sung or played rhythmic and melodic ostinatos (short repeated patterns). We are awaiting the arrival of our recorders for grades 3, 4 and 5 by preparing or reviewing our music reading skills. Third grade will be attending the Kishwaukee Symphony Kids' Concert on the morning of Thursday, November 17 at the Egyptian Theatre.



Miss Coulter

P.E.

Third through fifth grade students are working toward their fitness goals. They can see their fall fitness results and goals on the PE Google classroom webpage.

If you haven't joined the PE Remind messenger group it's easy to do. Text @cortlandpe to the number 81010 for weekly updates on what is happening in PE class.

In the month of October students challenged themselves with the Cortland Ninja Warrior challenge, the German folk dance, D'Hammerschmiedsgselln, balance stations, jumping stations, multiplication facts through physical movements and fitness activities.

Information will be sent out soon for all fourth and fifth grade students who would like to participate in the after school archery club. We use equipment that was purchased through the National Archery in Schools Program and the class is instructed by a certified NASP instructor.

Thanks
Tim Strohecker
Bill McGuire
Shay Sticka



Specialist Classes of the Month

Each month our specialists award classes that have been following our PBIS Matrix. This month's winning classes are...

ART - Mrs. Huff and Mrs. Martha

LIBRARY - Mrs. Aska and Mrs. Roschmann

MUSIC - Mrs. Bock and Mrs. Gineman

P.E. - Mr. Jackson and Mrs. Magana

Nurse's Notes

We'd like to remind everyone that Onsite Dental will be here on November 17. Please be sure to complete the form that was sent home if you would like your child to take advantage of this free service. Extra forms are available in the health office.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day! We are all busy and it's easy to skip this important meal. Please be sure to have your child eat something for breakfast! Grab at least a quick bite on their way out the door! Bananas, apples, bagels with peanut butter or cream cheese (make up the evening before) or granola bars all are great things that can be eaten "on the go". Breakfast is also served here at the school - this cost can be taken out of the student's lunch account.

Breakfast feeds the Brain!!!!

PTA Ponderings

Book Fair is just around the corner. November 7-11 are the days that families and students will be able to purchase books from the fair. If you would like to volunteer to help please email Susan Bivens at susan.bivens@d428.org or Shawn Rosenbach at shawnrosenbach@gmail.com. We are looking for volunteers during the day to help students purchase books with money that their parents have sent with them. We will also be open during the evening of Tuesday, November 8th from 3:30-7:00 and will need help then also. This is the night of our November PTO meeting. Let me know if you are able to help in the morning 8:30-12:00, afternoon 12:00-3:30, evening 3:30-5:30, 5:30-8:00.