



## Classroom Updates:

Mrs. Shaske, Mrs. Bruce & Miss. Donahue We are looking forward to our play presentation on Laura Ingalls Wilder's travels next Wednesday, at Muskego High School. In preparation for the play experience we have been researching the pioneer time period by reading Trueflix online nonfiction texts about the Oregon Trail, Westward Expansion, and Life in the West. Other pioneer books have been collected and studied on what it was like during this historic period from our library. Eventually, students will create their own pioneer nonfiction selection about a topic of interest from a pioneer's point of view and historical context. Another grade 4 & 5 literacy opportunity was presented today - Battle of the Books. Students form teams and read 22 books from different genres. They battle fourth grade students by answering questions about the events, themes, and characters in the texts. View the Battle of the Books information packet that was distributed on Friday, March 8th to learn about this unique & exciting literacy opportunity.

Please review the Forward Exam schedule linked to this newsletter so you can be certain that appointments do not conflict with the test schedule. We appreciate the support you can provide in ensuring that your child is well rested, and energized on test taking days.

Human Growth and Development will be starting the week of April 15th. Parents will be able to view the curriculum, and ask questions the week prior. More information to come in the April Newsletter.

## Math Updates: Identifying and drawing geometric attributes.

Students need experiences with figures which are symmetrical and non-symmetrical. Figures include both regular and non-regular polygons. Folding cut-out figures will help students determine whether a figure has one or more lines of symmetry. This standard only includes line symmetry not rotational symmetry.

Example:

For each figure, draw all of the lines of symmetry. What pattern do you notice? How many lines of symmetry do you think there would be for regular polygons with 9 and 11 sides. Sketch each figure and check your predictions. Polygons with an odd number of sides have lines of symmetry that go from a midpoint of a side through a vertex.



### Common Misconceptions:

Some children may think that there can only be one line of symmetry for an object. Encourage them to try folding shapes in more than one way. Giving students multiple copies of the same shapes could help avoid confusion. Coloring one side of the line one color and the other side of the line a different color may aid in seeing multiple lines. In essence the student is seeing if the shape can be folded into 12 halves.

Geometry Town Project: To learn the lengthy standards of Geometry standards, students will be creating an aerial view of their own landscape. Each person will complete this task incorporating all for the Geometric features noted below. You can see their project summary here: [Geometric Attributes Town Drawing](#).

Tools/  
Resources

- 4.G [Lines of symmetry for triangles](#)
- 4.G [Lines of symmetry for quadrilaterals](#)
- 4.G [Lines of symmetry for circles](#)
- 4.G [Finding Lines of Symmetry](#)

## Social Studies: Upcoming States Project...

The STATES FAIR culminating event will take place in the IMC on Friday, June 1st from 1:00-3:30. A note pertaining to the exhibit requirements for your child's display will be sent home during the first week on May. It is never too early to collect objects, maps, graphics that pertain to your child's state. Our classes are learning how patience and perseverance are important NED traits to apply when reading, rereading, paraphrasing, and researching. We look forward to seeing parents, students, grandparents, and Linden Heights residents to stroll through our States Fair.



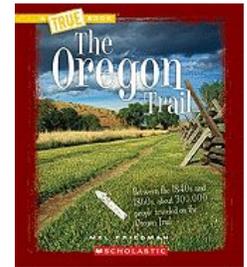
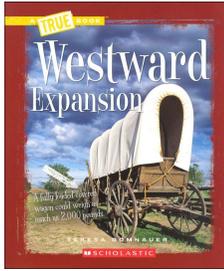
## Reading: Shifting Our Literacy Gears from NONFICTION...to...Mystery

After finishing our nonfiction selections during the next week, we will shift our literacy guided reading groups to the mystery genre. Plot, figurative language, and suspense features will be emphasized in our close reading of the chapter books. In addition, students will continue to apply questioning skills, vocabulary acquisition strategies, and discussion talk moves when analyzing their text. View the link provided to peruse the discussion techniques the students have used in their realistic and nonfiction genres. [Talk moves for discussion groups](#).

During our Language Workshop sessions the mentor text by Donald Sobol [Encyclopedia Brown Cracks the Case](#) book will be used to study mystery genre features such as mood, tone, suspense, onomatopoeia, red herring, alibi, and sleuth. Comparing and contrasting this mystery to a former nonfiction text, [The Mary Celeste](#) will encourage deep analysis about the similarities, differences in text structures, purposes. Looking forward to becoming close reading sleuths!

## Writing: Pioneer Days | Informational Text

During the month of February your child will continue to conduct research by using the Cornell Note taking method and examining reliable sources. Your child will research a pioneer days topic of his/her choice. Next, your child will create a nonfiction book that includes a diary entry from a pioneer's point of view, a historical events timeline of the period, and facts summary of a pioneer topic that your child selected to research. In addition, an opinion will be inferred by your child about the traits that assisted people that lived during the historical time, events, noted in the summary.

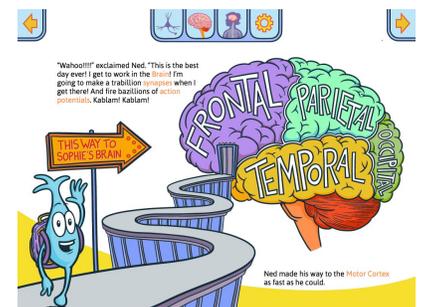


We look forward to TRAVELING BACK in time to LEARN about the people that shaped our country through research using primary/secondary source eyes of our fourth graders.

## Steps to Respect | Science: The Human Brain

The students are learning about optimism and flexibility during Growth Mindset lessons with Mrs. Ohme.

Neuroplasticity, defined below is a focus during her lessons. We will be discussing how taking on new learning challenges "grows" our brain's capacity. Our classes will have the opportunity to reflect on statements they can say to themselves to promote a growth mindset. These statements can also encourage optimism & flexibility when encountering new learning challenges. The fourth graders also had fun creating their own neuron characters to promote the growth mindset stances of optimism and flexibility.



neu·ro·plas·tic·i·ty  
n(y)ŏrō | plā | stisədē/  
noun

1. the ability of the brain to form and reorganize synaptic connections, especially in response to learning or experience or following injury.

## NED: I Got Caught Doing Something Good

Liam Pooler earns a NED award for doing his best to make up his school work with a positive attitude.

Colton Strick earns a NED award for encouraging others with patient words during small group work in literacy & math.

Jaelynn Gonzalez earns a NED award for doing her best when giving evidence from the text for her literature discussion ideas.

Maia Garcia earns a NED award for never giving up when finding evidence from the text for her Mary Celeste.



Did you . . .  
**N**ever give up  
**E**ncourage others  
**D**o your best.  
... this week?

## March Birthdays:



|           |                                                     |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Birthdays | Adeline G - (1/2) March 1st<br>Diego LR - March 6th |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|