



R.E. KRUG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Ms. Sheila Conrad, Principal
240 Melrose Avenue
Aurora, IL 60505
krug.d131.org • (630) 299-5280

First Quarter Parent Newsletter

We are so happy to be able to spend every day with our students this year after returning to in-person instruction! Our staff has been working hard with students to get them settled in and moving forward in their academic growth. We are asking that all parents work with us this year as partners in learning by having all students read independently at least 20 minutes per day, even on weekends. It is very important that students read independently to practice and reinforce the skills they are learning at school each day.

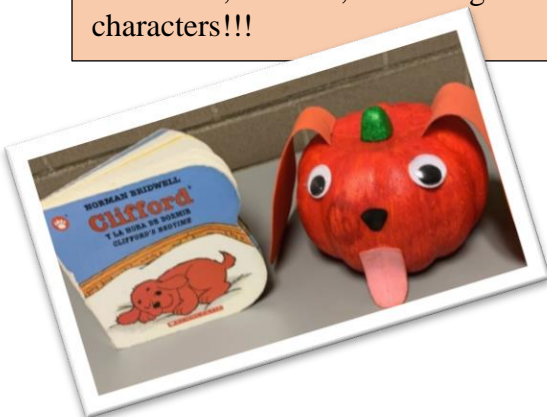
In addition to working on academics during the first quarter, we have had several school-wide events and activities, such as Hispanic Heritage Month, Read ALOUD Illinois Day, and National Walk to School Day. As we go into second quarter, we will be recognizing *Dia de los Muertos* and learning about different holidays around the world.

Thank you to all parents and family who met with teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 28 and 29. If you did not have the opportunity to meet with teachers, please contact the school to schedule a meeting.

Upcoming Dates	
11/11	No School Veteran’s Day – District Closed
11/17	Half Day for Students – School Improvement Day
11/24 - 11/26	No School – Thanksgiving Break
12/17	Half Day for Students – School Improvement
12/23 – 1/05	Winter Break – No School

Storybook Pumpkin Gallery

Thank you to all the families who participated in the 3rd annual Storybook Pumpkin Gallery! Families were invited to decorate a small pumpkin to represent a children’s book that students have read or had read to them. The pumpkins that were submitted were wonderful, creative, and brought to mind so many loved book characters!!!



Hispanic Heritage Month



Every year National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from September 15 to October 15. This year, Krug students spent a week in September learning about Hispanic History and culture. Students created beautiful Papel Picado to decorate the hallways, learned about famous Hispanic people and places using QR codes around the school and created virtual presentations tied to Hispanic Heritage that were shared with other classes during Fiesta Friday. Students also had the opportunity to play Loteria and participate in a family Pinata contest. Thank you to all the families who participated. The pinatas were amazing!!!!



Read ALOUD Illinois Day

On Friday, September 17, students in several classes had the opportunity to meet virtually with an author. Classes had a 20-minute virtual session with the author during which students listened to readings and had the opportunity to ask questions. Our first graders in Mrs. Barilla's and Mrs. Lower's fourth grade classes met with Mita Bordoli, the author of *Bumani's Banana Tree*. She shared her book and how it is based on her life growing up around animals. She talked about the importance of caring for both the environment and the animals in it. Mrs. Barilla's first grade got to meet Karla Clark, who shared three of her books with students and talked about the importance of being brave. Students had the chance to share a time when they were brave with Ms. Clark. Fourth grade students in Ms. Ulrich's class met with Lisa Sukenic, the author of *Miles from Motown*. Our fifth grade students in Mrs. Frer's class visited with author Marlene Brill.



National Walk to School Day



On October 6 students and staff celebrated National Walk to School Day by walking around the school grounds first thing in the morning.

Dual Language Program

Our Dual-Language Program has expanded to include first grade this year! This year our Kindergarten and first grade students will have the opportunity to have academic instruction presented in *both* English and Spanish. Dual-language classes also provide social learning opportunities that occur in an environment that values the languages and cultures of all students.

Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we are working on becoming life-long learners. We have learned our classroom rules and are doing a great job becoming part of our school community.

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Math:** We are working on recognizing and writing the numbers 1-10 and will begin to work on introducing addition and subtraction concepts. Additionally, we are continuing to work on our year-long goal of counting to 100.
- **Language Arts:** We are working on learning the names and sounds of letters. We are also focusing on beginning to track text with our finger while we read and memorizing high frequency words. Additionally, we are focusing on building our reading stamina to be able to read 10 minutes independently! This quarter we will begin to practice writing sentences with the focus of using "finger spaces" between words. Our initial focus will be writing high frequency words and then we will move into using those words to write sentences.
- **Science:** In science we are working on learning about animals in a pond as well as an introduction to plants and their parts.
- **Social Studies:** In social studies we are looking at ways we cooperate as part of a community as well as how we can get what we need and want.

Keep up the great work on homework and thanks for partnering with us!

1st GRADE

We are excited about how students are showing their knowledge of both languages! They seem to be getting more comfortable switching back and forth between classrooms and teachers!

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** We will continue to work on retelling stories with important elements, including characters, setting, main events, and topic. We will also continue to work on letter names and sounds- please keep working on these at home!

- **Math:** We are working hard to write addition sentences and learning about the Commutative Property. We are also heavily focused on number recognition to ensure we can name numbers up to 20 and count to 120.
- **Social Studies:** We will continue to focus on asking and answering questions about our community and places on the map.
- **Science:** We are talking about the seasons and will begin looking at the phases of the moon.
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Reading Interventions started recently. During this block of time, all students receive extra reading instruction based on their specific reading needs.

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** We are working on answering questions such as who, what, where, when and why about what we have read. Students will also be practicing their narrative writing.
- **Math:** We will focus on number patterns to 1,000. This will include understanding place value and patterns such as counting by ones, fives, tens and hundreds. We will also be comparing values of numbers.
- **Social Studies:** We will continue to learn about communities.
- **Science:** We are focusing on properties of matter.



What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** In third grade we read our first fiction chapter book together. We focused on character motivation and asking and answering questions about a text. Our next unit will start with non-fiction as we focus on text features.
- **Math:** In math we have covered the topics of rounding and multiplication. We will continue to work on multiplication and division. Please have your student practice their multiplication facts and skip counting at home.
- **Social Studies:** In social studies we have covered landforms and bodies of water. Our next focus will be economics.
- **Science:** In science we have tackled the life cycle of plants. We will move on to life cycles of animals with a focus on bats. Our next invigorating unit will be weather.

4th GRADE

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** We have been reading different texts about how researchers and scientists do their work. The students have been practicing using point of view and author evidence to understand texts.
- **Math:** The students have been working on place value, addition, and subtraction. We will be moving on to multiplication. We will start with a review of basic multiplication facts before moving on to multiply 3-digit and 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number.
- **Science:** We have been working on our first unit, Plant and Animal Sensing and Interaction. This includes looking at the internal and external structures of plants and animals. We have explored the function of these structures and how they support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
- **Social Studies:** In social studies, the students have been learning all about Illinois. They have learned about the geography, economy, and government of Illinois. We will be learning about the Midwest Region next.

5th GRADE

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** We continue to work on finding evidence in a text to help us answer questions. Please help by reminding your child to read every night at home. When you read with them, ask them questions about the book and have them show you the part of the story that helped them form their answer.
- **Math:** We continue to work on multiplication and place value. Please help your child use our math learning apps at home during the week. They can log in to IXL and Dreambox from home to practice skills they still have not mastered in school.
- **Science:** We are continuing to explore life science.
- **Social Studies:** Mrs. Frer's class is examining history around the time of the Civil War and Ms. Freese's class is exploring the state of Illinois.



We are at the end of First Quarter and everyone seems to be adjusting well to the routines and procedures that are in place to ensure a safe and successful school year.

What we will be working on during the upcoming quarter in each of the following subjects:

- **Language Arts:** This month in reading, we are focusing on learning sight words and reading 2–4-word sentences. We are also exploring making text predictions using words and pictures.
- **Math:** We are focusing on number counting 1- 100, decomposing numbers 1 – 20, and patterns.

- **Social Studies:** We are focusing on building friendships, learning about our community and Fire Safety.
- **Science:** Students are especially excited about science! We have been learning about Fall, weather changes/patterns, and the life cycles of pumpkins.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Life Skills staff via Class Dojo.