



## R.E. KRUG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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

It's hard to believe that we are at the mid-point in the school year! It seems like only last week that we were welcoming our cougars back to in-person instruction!

As we move into the second semester, our students are learning about many notable African Americans for Black History Month. Additionally, each class will be creating an informational page that will be displayed in the circular hallway of the school to create a "Museum in the Round". Individual classes will be learning a fact-a-day, while others have been reading stories and non-fiction texts about topics related to African American history.

Upcoming Dates	
2/21	President's Day District Closed
2/23	Parent-Teacher Conferences
2/24	School Improvement Day – ½ Day for Students
2/25	Institute Day – No School for Students

In December, students had the opportunity to learn about holidays in other countries during our annual "Holidays Around the World" Day. Students spent the day traveling from room to room getting their "passports" stamped, as they learned about some of the customs and traditions in Mexico, Israel, Ecuador, Norway, Japan, Philippines, Italy, and Turkey.

Parents, thank you for all of your support in getting students to school every day. Our goal is to have every student in school every day. Attendance is an essential component to a student's academic success. Often, the number of days that a student misses each semester can add up without parents realizing, so it is important to make every effort for your children to attend school consistently. Please know that it is our expectation that students attend school every day, unless they are ill. In the case of an illness, parents **must** call the office to excuse the absence. Starting in February, students who have perfect attendance each month will have the opportunity for 30 minutes of game time as a celebration.

All parents are invited to share their thoughts and opinions via the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. We value your input as partners in your children's education. You may access information and the survey via the following link: [survey](#)

All of the schools in the district are participating in a reading challenge beginning January 24th. Any book finished between January 24<sup>th</sup> and March 22<sup>nd</sup> can be logged through a Google or paper form provided by each student's school library. Trophies will be awarded to the **K-2nd, 3-5th, 6-8th, & 9-12th** grade groups with the highest percentage of books read per student. Students can talk to their school librarian with any questions!

# Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we are working on moving toward becoming first graders! We have many of our foundational skills (letter sounds/names, sight words and numbers) and will continue to build on these skills.

During the third quarter we will be using the numbers 1-10 to work on adding and subtracting within 10. Additionally, we are continuing to work on our year-long goal of counting to 100.

In Language Arts we are continuing to work on learning the names and sounds of letters. We are also working on reading words using the sounds and spelling words too! This quarter we will continue 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.

In science we are working on learning about weather, including the seasons.

In social students we are looking at ways we can work and learn in the classroom.

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



We made maps of our community which included important locations to us! Each student got to choose places that were special to them and their family. Then they told us about why they chose those locations.

In 1st grade we are working on identifying the beginning, middle and ending of a story. We are using words to describe these elements such as "first, next, then and last". Many students are working on blending sounds and syllables together when reading in small groups! Students are really starting to feel like they are readers which is so exciting!

In math, we have been working on subtraction. Students are doing a great job of drawing a model to help them solve problems. We are going to start working with new strategies such as number lines, making a ten, and doubles for addition and will go back to working on subtraction as the quarter progresses. Keep practicing number recognition up to 120!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE

Second grade students worked on two Nostalgia Projects during second quarter, Ms. Buckingham's class discussed what makes a hero, then created a themselves as superheroes. Ms. Torres's class learned about their family holiday traditions, then shared with one another to compare and contrast family holiday celebrations.

Moving forward, in third quarter in Language Arts, we will be focusing on using illustrations and text features to better understand what we read. We will also learn how to gather ideas from different sources to create a biographical sketch on someone who did something special to help the U.S.

In Math, students will learn to use strategies based on place value/operational understanding to solve addition/subtraction problems with up to four 2-digit numbers.

In Science, we will begin using information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly. We will compare multiple solutions designed to slow or prevent wind or water from changing the shape of the land.

In Social Studies, we will focus on "Making a Difference" studying different heroes that work to make our world a better place.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

During the second quarter third grade students participated in a Nostalgia project based on the book, *The Keeping Quilt*. Students created a paper quilt piece that represented their family's culture and beliefs.

During the third quarter we will participate in a nostalgia project based off the third grade text, *Knots on a Counting Rope*, during which students will research the meaning of their names with members of their family, then create a piece of artwork that represents the meaning of their names.

In Language Arts we will be deep-diving into texts. Students will practice using and defining literal and non-literal language and applying those meanings to grade level texts. We will also work with non-fiction texts focusing on text features and how they enhance our reading.

In Math it's multiplication time! Students are going to hit multiplication and division hard! Please encourage your student to practice multiplication facts every night at home. Dreambox and IXL are great ways to practice these skills.

In Science we will learn all about weather and climate. In Social Studies students will create a Black History month tri-fold on a person of their choice and learn about the branches of government.

## 4<sup>th</sup> GRADE

Before winter break, the fourth-grade students wrote informative essays as part of a Nostalgia project during which they identified holiday traditions that are unique to their families. They completed a graphic organizer, then wrote essays which celebrated their traditions and stories.

In math, fourth graders have finished up multiplication. They learned different strategies to multiply a 4-digit number by a 1-digit number. They also learned how to multiply 2-digits by 2-digits. During the third quarter, students will work on strategies to solve division problems. We will also begin our unit on fractions.

In Language Arts, students have been reading fiction and nonfiction texts about how cultures interact with nature. Next, we will begin our unit on natural disasters and their impact.

During second quarter we continued learning about waves and their properties in Science. We will begin learning about changes to land, which will connect to the books we are reading in Language Arts.

We finished our unit on the Midwest Region in Social Studies. We began learning about different types of landforms and how they change. We will continue to learn about the other regions in the United States during third quarter.

## 5<sup>th</sup> GRADE

In fifth grade Language Arts we continue to focus on the District 131 focus standards: citing evidence from the text, determining theme and main idea, and understanding the meaning of words as they are used in a text. Please help by **reminding your child to read at home EVERY DAY!** Ask them about what they are reading or take time to read together.

In Math, we explored multiplication, geometry, and volume. As we move on this year, **please continue to practice the basic multiplication facts with your child.** This skill began in third grade and is used in so many ways. There are many apps available to practice with or simply quiz them out loud.

In Science we continue to explore our world and the matter that it is made of. We will be moving on to space science, taking us away from Earth and into the solar system!

In Social Studies, we continue to focus on U.S. history and will also explore Black History and Women's History coming up in February and March. We have been learning about many real-life superheroes in shared reading as well.

During second quarter, Mrs. Frer's class focused on a Nostalgia Project centered on culture and food! It ended with students presenting information about a recipe from a Spanish-speaking country and a cookbook to take home before break.

Moving into third quarter, we will have the engineers from EEI, Inc. joining us for our annual Engineer Week competition. Students will explore momentum and gravity as they create a zip-line in class. Final judging to determine our winners will take place on February 24!



Happy New Year!!! On behalf of the Life Skills team, we would like to thank you for participating in our Bike Bald gift program. We were very excited to see the pictures many of you shared on Class Dojo. As we continue the third quarter, please remember to provide toileting supplies, a change of clothes, and face masks daily. This quarter we will be focusing on MAP and state assessments (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) and physical science. Lastly, forms are being sent home for those who qualify for Special Olympics. Please contact Mrs. Colton if you have any questions.