



October 31, 2014

# Ms. Hahn's Classroom Newsletter

## Math

This past week students learned about area using tetrominoes shapes. Tetrominoes are like the pieces in the game Tetris. You can play a free version of Tetris at <https://www.freetetris.org/game.php>.

Tetrominoes have an area of 4 square units. Children also created new tetromino shapes using squares and different sized triangles.

Next week the students will continue the geometry unit. They will learn more about the attributes of different shapes.

## Art

With the upcoming Harvest Festival, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students have been hard at work making art pieces that are inspired by the changing seasons and autumn colors. Students have been creating a variety of art pieces both individually and collaboratively. I am greatly looking forward to displaying all of their art for the PCCS community to see.

## Writing

This week the students continued their animal research project. Our focus this week was planning the research report. Children learned to start a paragraph with a topic sentence and include supporting details. We also looked at mentor texts to write the introduction paragraph. Next week they will write the first draft of the research paper.

## Reading

This week the students listened to the book Butternut Hollow Pond and practiced visualizing. The students read more from the book Chocolate Touch. Next week they will be writing an apology letter to Susan or John's mom while pretending to be John. The students will also read more chapters Chocolate Touch.

## Illinois Habitats

The students went outside to enjoy the nice weather on Monday. We went to observe and study the wetlands near the soccer field. We discussed different metaphors about the wetlands. Ask your child how a wetland is like a baby cradle or a bar of soap. We also looked closely at a cattail plant to see how it is adapted to live in the wetlands. The students also learned about the beaver and its adaptations for the wetlands. At the end of the week, the students compared the prairie, wetlands, and the forest.

## Music

Mark your calendars! The Fall Harvest Festival Concert for grades K-4 is coming up on Wednesday, November 12th! K-4 Students have been preparing American Folk songs and dances in class to get ready for this exciting event. These past few weeks, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades have been staying busy practicing their concert song "Lil' Liza Jane." This song and dance will be featured at the Fall Harvest Festival on November 12th.

This song helps reinforce pitch accuracy, steady beat, and instrument playing techniques for the xylophones. These are skills we will continue to work on throughout the year. This past week, we have been working on some fun Halloween books, songs, and instrument parts. Students also got the chance to play a fun Halloween game called "Who is in the Forest on this Halloween Night" using their Piano and Forte voice levels.

## New Teaching Assistant Monday

On Monday Mrs. Schaefer will be working in the office and Mrs. Steinbeck will become the teaching assistant in the classroom. Mrs. Schaefer and I are working closely with Mrs. Steinbeck to make this smooth transition for the class. I have included her introduction below.

Hi my name is Tammy Steinbeck and I'm really looking forward to being the new Instructional Assistant in Ms. Hahn's class. I started substitute teaching this year at PCCS and have been in this class a number of times so the kids are familiar with me by now and I'm getting to know them as well. I am not, however, new to PCCS. My husband and I have 3 sons, Luke is a seventh grader in Mr. Zamier/Mrs. Stewart's class, Ty is a 3rd grader in Ms. DePaz's class, and our oldest, Ben, graduated from PCCS two years ago and is currently a sophomore at Grayslake Central. All of this means that we have been part of the PCCS community for 11 years. During this time I have assisted in all of their classrooms numerous times, chaperoned field trips, and even served on the PSO board at one point. I love this school and am very happy to be a full-time part of it.

I have a degree in marketing from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater and an MBA. I spent most of my business career in various marketing type positions, the last corporate job I had was with Walgreens in their headquarter offices. I then took a brief break to be a stay-at-home mom, which turned into 10 years. What can I say, it was my favorite job of them all! My hobbies include photography and photo editing, reading, running (very slowly!), and watching sports. Here's the bad news for some of you, I am a very proud Green Bay Packer fan. The good news is that I also like the Bulls, Blackhawks, and Cubs - so I'm not all bad.

As I mentioned, I'm thrilled to be a part of Ms. Hahn's classroom. I look forward to getting to know your children and you as well. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tammy Steinbeck

## Highlights from Parent Handbook

Pants, skirts, jumpers or shorts must be at *mid-thigh or longer in length*, and in good condition (no holes or tears). **Leggings and yoga pants may not be worn as pants.**

Sleeping apparel or pajama pants cannot be worn, unless approved by administration. (page 50)

Students should also dress appropriately for the weather as we go outside every day, if possible. In general, it is a good idea to have layers at school, as the weather changes throughout the day. (page 31)

## Upcoming Events

**Green Challenge Assembly-** Tues., Nov. 4

**Early Release-** Wednesday, Nov. 5

**Town Hall PSO-**Thursday, Nov. 6 7:00 PM

**End of Trimester-**Friday, Nov. 7

**Veteran's Day Assembly-** Monday, Nov. 10

**No School-** Tuesday, Nov. 11

## Thank You Parents!

Thank you also to **parents** for helping plan the Halloween Party. I want to thank Helen Trage for organizing the party. There were many parents helping including the following families: Chen/Myhre family, Anderson family, Carrera family, Clifford family, Virk family, Smith family, Russ family, Retter family, Choi family, and Foster family. The students had a great time despite the chilly parade.

