

## March 2018 Newsletter

Office Hours: 7:45am-4:15pm

School Hours:  
8:30am-3:20pm

[www.spsd.net/zilwaukee](http://www.spsd.net/zilwaukee)

The  
**Leader in Me™**  
great happens here



**March 2** - Books & Breakfast Family Engagement Event

**March 2 -23** - Reading Month Activities and Spirit Days

**March 5-7** - Hartley Trip for Grades 3, 4, 5

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** - PTCC Meeting - 5:30pm  
Please join us! We would love your input!

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** -Spring Picture Day

**March 16<sup>th</sup>** - Math Bowl (K-8)

**March 21** - Leader of the Month Reception, & Growing Leaders Assembly

**March 23** - Final Round Spelling Bee (Grades 4-8)

**March 26- April 2** - Spring Break - No School

**April 6** - End of MP 3

**April 11** - Schoolwide STEM Fair

**April 11-13** - Early Release Days @ 11:35am

**April 12 & 13** - K-8 Conferences

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss

## Our Vision:

*Growing Leaders Together!*  
Our Mission at Zilwaukee School is to  
**LEAD!**

**L**ive the 7 Habits

**E**xceed Expectations

**A**ccept responsibility for academics and actions

**D**o the right thing when no one is looking

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings, School Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the families who were able to join us on Read Across America Day! We hope that you enjoyed time with your children spent while at breakfast, at the book fair, as well as sharing the love of reading with them. Pictures from our event have been posted on our school's Facebook page.

We have many activities planned for the month of March related to reading. Additional resources to support and engage your children at home will be shared electronically and/or sent home with your child/children.

Our schoolwide service project officially kicked off on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> and will run from through March 23<sup>rd</sup>.



Our school supports the LLS; we are looking forward to making a difference in the lives of blood cancer patients! Students were shown a short video at school, which featured young cancer patients talking about how other youth can get involved in improving outcomes for blood cancer patients and children with cancer. Flyers, as well as coin boxes, were sent home with students on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

We will be hosting weekly class competitions in an effort to promote friendly competition, as well as reach our goal of \$2,000 in donations!

Our end in mind is a \$5.00 donation from each student and staff member. Please feel free to donate coins, currency, and returnable cans & bottles to the cause.

Yours in Education,  
Mrs. Muñoz

## The Leader in ME PARADIGM SHIFTS

	A BREAK FROM TRADITIONAL WISDOM	TOWARD 7 HABITS PRINCIPLES
Habit 1	We are a product of our environment and upbringing.	We are a product of our choices to our environment and upbringing.
Habit 2	Society is the source of our values.	Values are self-chosen and provide foundation for decision making. Value flow out of principles.
Habit 3	Reactive to the tyranny of the urgent. Acted upon by the environment.	Actions flow from that which is important.
Habit 4	Win-lose. One-sided benefit.	Win-win. Mutual benefit.
Habit 5	Fight, flight, or compromise when faced with conflict.	Communication solves problems.
Habit 6	Differences are threats. Independence is the highest value. Unity means sameness.	Differences are values and are opportunities for synergy.
Habit 7	Entropy. Burnout on one track - typically work.	Continuous self-renewal and self-improvement.

## ♥ Welcome to Kindergarten

In Kindergarten we received a reading loft just in time for March reading month donated by The Saginaw Sunrise Rotary Club. We will be choosing a stain, adding carpet to the second floor and decorating it to make it aesthetically pleasing to the children. The club will also be donating \$100 for reading books.

In math we will be working on Data, Data Representation, Deepening and Extending Number Understanding. We are in need of empty paper towel rolls, string, tape, and cardboard for a stem project that we are working on. We are making cat/kitten scratching posts. In Social Studies we are learning about wants and needs. In Science we are finishing what we have been learning about living things and will begin learning about patterns and effects of sunlight. In reading we are finishing up learning about adventures and will begin learning about Going Places. We will continue to learn our letters, high frequency words, amazing words. We are improving our sentence writing skills. We have use of an OSMO until May. Using this technology tool, we will explore numbers, letters, words, tangrams, beginning fractions, and beginning coding. We will also be using a program to work on simple beginning coding using our Chromebooks.

~ Mrs. Gillette



Hi Friends!

PreK Mail Delivery has begun and the children were excited about creating pictures and cards for our building friends. In a coordinated effort with our Leader of the Day responsibilities, the Leader dresses in a Mail Carrier outfit and delivers mail to a designated location. This new event provides a fun and exciting opportunity for our students to show kindness and caring toward others. The children are taking great pride in their drawings and cards for school friends. We have also been the recipients of return mail, so the children are starting to see how their kindness impacts other's acts of kindness. We continue to look forward to the positive benefits that this new event has for our PreK friends and school-wide friends.

PreK Parent/Teacher Conferences have taken place to end the month of February. We would like to thank our wonderful parents and families for being such an important part of our program. Your involvement and support are greatly appreciated, as your children continue to grow and develop into confident leaders.

~Mr. LeRoux & Ms. McLeod

### SPRING 2018 TESTING WINDOW

The Spring 2018 testing windows for the M-STEP and MI-Access assessments will span seven weeks from April 9 – May 25, 2018.

The M-STEP online window is divided into two 4-week grade level sub-windows:

◆ **Online testing for grades 5, 8, and 11:**  
April 9 – May 4, 2018

◆ **Online testing for grades 3, 4, 6, and 7:**  
April 30 – May 25, 2018

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

Second graders are very excited to be focusing on recycling for our sciences fair this year. Not only will they be making usable things from recycled materials, they will also be hoping to bring another great recycling idea to Zilwaukee School. Our school currently is not operating a recycling program for paper. Any time we get rid of paper it is going into the garbage. Second graders focused on what a great thing it would be if they could work together to solve this problem. We are planning to do some research about what happens when paper is recycled and how it is made into new paper. We are also planning to make our own paper from recycled paper so students can begin to understand the process. We plan to conclude our projects by implementing a recycling team to collect paper that is recycled in the building so that we can put it out for the recycling truck instead of the trash!

~Mrs. Bailey-Majchzrak

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Fourth grade is being really busy this month! We are having m-step reviews starting as well as practicing our multiplication facts for our next big math test coming this month. March is also reading month and we are focusing on different story types and genres all month long. We are also working on STEM fair projects that are based on student designs and ideas. These include kid making their own style of lamps and designing animal habits for zoo animals out of recycled cardboard. To prepare for the M Step we are building our reading stamina and working on math strategies. Thank you for everything that you do at home and as always, I'm always available in email and to meet after school if there are any questions.

~ Mr. Hill

## First Grade

First grade will be finishing up our unit on place value in math and beginning shapes, patterns, and attributes. As always, we will still focus on our math fluency and practicing basic math facts. For our language arts units, we are practicing fluency three times a week now! We are learning more words and beginning to read faster. We have started opinion writing and we will soon begin a narrative piece that can answer: who, what, where, when, why. Our focus in social studies is still on maps, globes, and locations. Science will continue to be one of our favorite subjects because we are making air balloon race cars! Our class is split into three different groups, each creating their own uniquely designed race car that we hope will win a race. We will be continuing to make others' days brighter by giving compliments and being kind to one another! I'm so proud of our first graders and all that they are accomplishing!

~Miss Shannon Fredenburg

## Third Grade

Third grade is finally finishing up with fractions! We found that fractions were quite difficult, however found some engaging ways to learn about them. Moving forward we will be headed back to multiplication! March will be a very busy month for us as we continue preparing for the upcoming M-Step test. We will test at the very beginning of May. To prepare for the test we have been building our reading stamina and focusing on math strategies. We have also been practicing using the different tools and answering different questions on our chromebooks. I think the most exciting thing happening this month is our trip to Hartley. The students are super excited, and we are counting down the days! We will be sure to share photos on our Class Dojo story! Thank you for all that you do, and for your continued support.

~Mrs. Hickmott

## 5th Grade

We have been working very productively in our room, getting ready for M-step and our upcoming field trip. Each day we have been working on our math skills, reading fluency and comprehension, and our opinion writing. We are setting goals and making sure we meet them. Our goals are academic and personal, each of the students have been working hard making sure the goals are achievable. Our 3rd-5th grade field trip is March 5th-7th, we will be leaving at 9am on Monday morning and arriving back at school on Wednesday around 11am. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you again for sharing your child/children with me!

~Mrs. Condon

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Classes with Miss Walsh

Hello Zilwaukee Families,

In my classroom, students kicked off semester two by getting ready to write literary essays. We are currently in the brainstorming stages of the essay. This is one of the more difficult tasks of the year and I love that many students are putting in effort. I look forward to reading each student's essay and you should ask your child to share theirs with you when it is complete!

As always, there is a huge emphasis on independent reading in my classroom. Independent reading is a great way for students to grow academically in all subject areas. Students get 3 times a week in my class to work on independent reading, but they should be practicing every night at home as well. As a reminder from my welcome note at the beginning of the year, I don't often assign homework, instead students should be reading at home in place of ELA homework. Most students that read a minimum of 20 minutes every night at home end up scoring in the 90th percentile on state assessments! I have already seen so much growth in reading fluency so far this year and if we push, we can see even more by the end of the school year!

~Miss Walsh



### 7A/7B and 8A/8B:

In February our *seventh graders* completed Unit 3: Proportional Reasoning and Similarity. They have started and will be working on Unit 4: Ratio, Proportion and Percent. In March they will be finishing Unit 4 and moving on to Unit 5: Algebraic Expressions and Equations.

In February our *eighth graders* completed Unit 3: Shapes and Numbers. They have started and will be working on Unit 4: Introduction to Nonlinear Exponential Patterns. In March they will be finishing Unit 4 and moving on to Unit 5: Transformational Geometry.

Please encourage your student to complete any homework assignments and turn them in. We are doing a large amount of our work in the classroom to improve their math competency.

~Mrs. Olivares

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Greetings one and all! The 6th grade is busy, busy, busy! They have begun practicing for the upcoming M-Step assessment. We have programs on the Chromebooks, as well as hard copies to work with. I am also going to begin working with small-groups at their specific reading levels. This is based on their R-CBM and Maze scores. It is designed to begin at their level, and then bring them up to grade-level. I'm excited for them to hopefully develop an interest in reading - perhaps for the first time. They have also created and saved a personal goal, as well as academic goals through the year.

They will be reminded regularly and be held accountable to them and document whether or not they have been achieved.

~ Mr. Gledhill

## From the Desk of... Mr. Allington

I would like to encourage parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and older siblings to read together, especially during March is Reading Month. There are lots of community resources available in the Great Lakes Bay Region of Saginaw, Midland, and Bay City. First, check out the story hours and activities at your local library. Saginaw Public libraries' website is the following

<https://www.saginawlibrary.org/events.html> . This great article from Scholastic has lots of reading ideas <https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/blog-posts/amanda-nehrling/partnering-parents-literacy-activities-and-resources/> .

This month resource room students will hone their writing skills by writing letters and starting their own picture book to publish. Stay tuned for more information on this project, as I hope families will help sponsor and support book publishing costs.

~Mr. Allington

## Mrs. VandeSteege's Classroom News...

In our classroom this month, we are going to be doing lots of science projects. We are going to be doing three different experiments that relate to S.T.E.M. The first experiment is going to see who can build a bridge that can hold the most weight. The second experiment is to build a tower out of paper that is folded in different shapes. After each group come up with their own design they will see who's hold the most weight. The last experiment is building a paper airplane and sees whose plane can fly the farthest with weights put on it. All of this is going to be fun and exciting to see who will win!

## Ms. McFarland's Classroom News:

On February 9, our Zilwaukee SISD programs enjoyed a day of art social with Transitions students. Staff and students all worked together to create beautiful Valentine's day paintings. We were able to synergize with our older SISD students for this wonderful day. We look forward to working with them again!

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies with Mrs. Blondin

Greetings Zilwaukee Families! In honor of Black History Month, students have just completed their Biography Reports on Civil Rights Activists. I want to commend the students that have been working so hard on their projects!

**Seventh graders** have been learning about the Roman Empire and unpacking the contributions that had a significant impact on the course of history. We will continue to learn about the advancements in technology, politics, and literature achieved under both the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire that have been built upon the ideas and technologies of other civilizations.

**Eighth graders** have been learning about the rising sectional tensions and how they affected the nation and its people. We began the unit by comparing the economic, social, and cultural aspects of life in the North and South during the antebellum period. In learning about life during the antebellum period, students will explore the role of race in America, and how it affected both free and enslaved blacks. We will continue learning about resistance movements such as the Underground Railroad, Nat Turner's revolt, and John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry.

## MS Science -Mr. Phelps:

In 7th grade science, students have completed their study of nature's major cycles (water, carbon, nitrogen), and we are now broaching the subject of environmental issues and challenges.

At the 8th grade level, the focus is on animal reproduction, growth and development.

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Davenport**

Happy Spring, Families! Another month of learning and leading in the books! This month I will be working on getting Intent to Return Forms to all students. We need this form filled out and turned in to your child's teacher. This form will help us plan for the upcoming school year!

The Subway cards sales are still going on! Please bring money to me in the office and I can get your cards! We are almost sold out!! The proceeds are going to help put a new sound system in our school.

As a friendly reminder please be sure to update your addresses and phone numbers with your child's teacher or with me in the office. We have had several times where I have had to try to contact parents and I have phone numbers that are disconnected and in the event of an emergency, having the correct information would be extremely beneficial.

Thank you,

Mrs. Davenport

### **From the Desk of Lisa Hodges, TAC**

Friendly Reminder: School Doors open at 8:20am. The first bell rings at 8:30am; students must be in the classroom by the 8:35am.

Students are tardy at 8:36am; more than 20 minutes late is a half-day unexcused absence unless we receive a Dr. Excuse / Dr. Appt. For Middle School students, 20 minutes is absent for the period.

Dismissal is at 3:20pm. Students leaving 20 or more minutes prior to the bell will also be marked absent for the P.M. or for that period. Please encourage your child to be on time to school and classes. Please call when your child is absent. Absent for more than two days requires a Dr. Excuse to be excused.

Students who leave when a sibling has an appointment or sick will be considered unexcused.



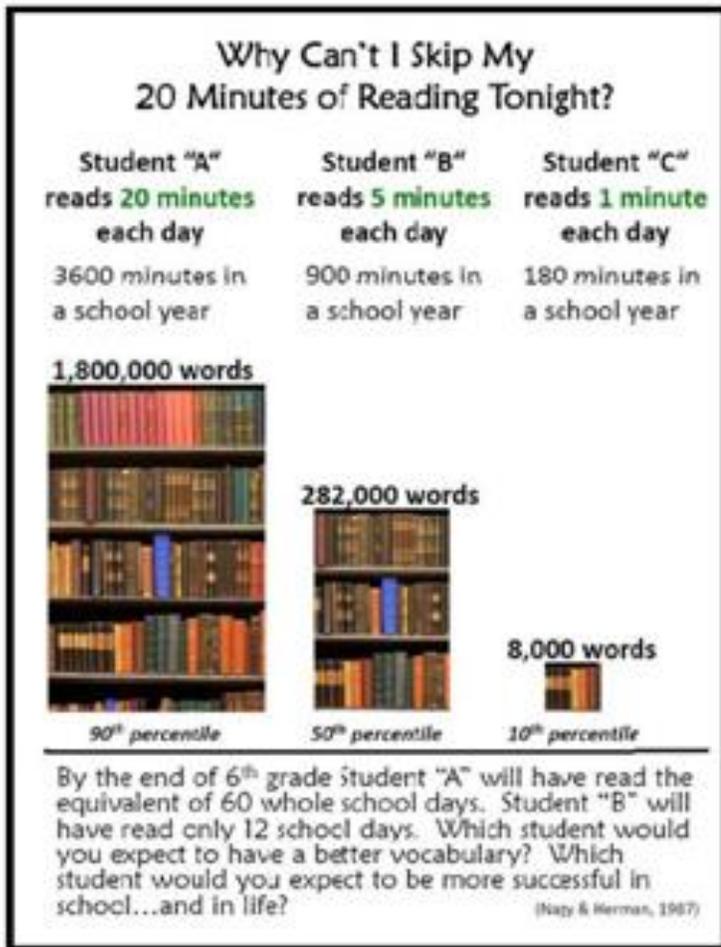
## **Congratulations to our Leaders of the Month for February:**

**Kaetana Coronado**  
**Valente Wright**  
**Adeanna McCloskey**  
**Megyn Rodarte**  
**Sunn'Dai Tillman-Gaines**  
**Robert Ramsey**  
**Brooksie Baker**  
**Amelia Haight**  
**Tyrie Wooten**  
**Juana Valles**  
**Paige Dutcher**  
**Destini Gibbs**  
**Layla Baber**  
**Emma Pena**  
**Jamarius Miller**  
**Makenzie Rupert**  
**Ny'Asia Gomez**  
**D'Marrus Shivers**  
**JhaQwan Vinscon**  
**Andrea Chacon**  
**Alana Mejia**  
**Christian Gonzalez**  
**Silas Smith Jordan**  
**Eliseanna Flores**  
**Ashley Nelson**  
**Allison Knights**  
**Devin Chaney**  
**Armani Santos**  
**Taylor Curtis**  
**Sidney Reif**

**We Are  
Leaders!**

## From the Desk of Ms. Henton, Title I Teacher

We are looking forward to celebrating "March is Reading" Month! We have lots of fun activities and contests to help students get excited about reading. I am sharing this picture as a reminder of the importance of reading at home every night with your children.



## Mr. Pumford - PE

This month in Physical Education we are continue to focus on heart health. We all know someone with heart disease and we are going to continue to explore activities that increase our heart rate and find enjoyable activities that our students can perform outside the classroom as well. Each cluster will be working on something different based on their development level (K-2, 3-5, 6-8). Please continue to promote a healthy lifestyle for you child.

Thank you,  
Mr. Pumford

## Miss McCaffrey's Classroom News!

In our classroom this month we are working on many different and exciting things. The students have learned about healthy heart and dental health the student learned what food and activities are good for your heart and what foods are good for your teeth. The students learned how to properly brush their teeth and what thing can cause cavities we did an experiment where we left two eggs in pop and water to see what would happen. The students played several rounds of the game heart attack where they get a picture some kind of food and they have to tell if it is bad for your heart or good for you heart both teams won a few rounds it was definitely a win-win for the whole class. The students are and will continue to be learning about black history for the next two weeks. We have talked about different people such as Bessie Coleman, Garrett Morgan and Carter G Woodson just to name a few. I look forward to March 1 when we will talk about George Washington Carver the peanut man. The students have planted peanuts and they are growing right now. We might have peanuts by the end of May we will see In Math we are focusing on finishing up with measurement we have used many different tools to measure things like cubes, paper clips, gummy worms and rulers. In the Month of March, we will be focusing on Time in math March is reading month and we will be diving into a few of my favorite books and author, Dr. Seuss. I can't wait to read my favorite book Green Eggs and Ham. Ask your child if they have a favorite book by Dr. Seuss and report back to me we may end up reading that book you never know!

"When a kid  
**graduates**  
it's not only that kid and  
his family that wins.  
Our **community** wins."