



SWIS NEWSLETTER

November

2023

Swanson Road
Intermediate
School

From the Principal's Desk

Greetings Swanson Road Intermediate Families,

November is a special time when we all take a moment to think about what we're thankful for. It's a time that reminds us of all the good things in our lives and encourages us to appreciate our blessings.

On behalf of everyone at Swanson I wanted to say a huge thank you for your kindness, generosity, and openness. Your support and commitment to helping your child with their schoolwork, social life, and emotional growth means a lot to us. You play a key role in your child's development, and we're grateful for your involvement.

Maintaining communication between you and your child's teacher is very important. It is a team effort, and it really helps us all work well together. We're excited about the upcoming conferences where we can have some great conversations and honest dialogue.

The team at Swanson is fully dedicated to making sure every child succeeds. Your ongoing positive support is a big part of helping us achieve this goal. We're thankful for your continued involvement and encouragement. Together, we can make sure your child continues to grow as a responsible, honest, hardworking, and compassionate human being. Thank you for being a great part of the team!

As partners in education, I will occasionally share articles, research, and tidbits of information to help provide insights into how we can work together to reinforce student learning, perseverance, and resiliency. I hope you find these helpful resources. Parenting in 2023 can be challenging...we get it.

This month is LITERACY MONTH! We will be having a lot of exciting events to inspire a love of literacy during the school day and beyond. *Please share your enthusiasm of reading by making a concerted effort to **turn off electronics and read as a family every Tuesday, all year. "No Technology Tuesday."**

Again, thank you.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Lopez

From the Principal's Desk cont...

Let's continue to build a community filled with compassion, understanding, and gratitude. Encourage the importance of practicing gratitude and kindness daily. Below are some suggested activities:

- **Thank You Cards:** Encourage your child to create handmade thank you cards for friends, family, or their teachers to express appreciation for their support or kindness.
- **Gratitude Journal:** Start a gratitude journal, noting simple things to be grateful for—like a favorite item, a funny shared moment, something they are proud of, or even a sunny day.
- **Acts of Kindness:** Help them perform acts of kindness, such as helping with chores at home, visiting a neighbor, or calling a family member just to say, 'I Love You.'
- **Create Gratitude Art:** Get creative and make a family collage or a 'thankful tree' with leaves stating things they appreciate.
- **Family Thankful Time:** Dedicate a moment each day to share what each family member is thankful for. It encourages open dialogue and appreciation for one another.
- **Gratitude Scavenger Hunt:** Organize a scavenger hunt where children find items in nature or around the house that make them feel grateful or happy, like a pretty leaf, a favorite book, or a special toy.
- **Saying Thank You:** Teach the importance of saying 'thank you' for acts of kindness received, like a simple gift or someone holding the door open.
- **Helping Others:** Involve them in community service activities, such as packing meals for the less fortunate or collecting clothes and toys for donation.
- **Gratitude Board:** Create a gratitude board in their room where they can pin or stick notes about what they're thankful for, allowing a visual reminder of their blessings.
- **Reading and Sharing Stories:** Read books or tell stories about gratitude and discuss them together.

Encouraging these activities will help children understand the importance of gratitude and kindness in their everyday lives.

Again, thank you for your support. I am truly grateful to be the leader of such an amazing school community. Wishing you a fantastic month filled with joy, gratitude, and love.

Yours in Education,

Dr. Lopez



From the Desk of Mrs. Pitsillides

During the month of October, we have continued to review and highlight our PBIS expectations. Students continue to be excited to earn Blue Tickets for "being caught" following those expectations throughout all areas of the school. Our students love cashing in their blue tickets for classroom prize box items, privileges, and/or the end of the month PBIS special event.

Throughout the month of October, students worked hard to earn 25 Blue Tickets to attend our Game Day event. We had a blast playing classic board games, listening to music, and hanging out with friends.

In our character education program, we worked on **Responsibility** in October. In November we will be working on being **Good Citizens**.

October - Responsibility

To be dependable in carrying out obligations and duties; to show reliability and consistency in words and conduct; to be accountable for your own actions; to be committed to active involvement in your community

November - Good Citizenship

Obedying the laws of the nation and this State; abiding by school rules; and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a member of a republic

*Congratulations to all of our amazing, hard-working, and **responsible**, October students of the month!!!*

If you're eager and able to partner with us in fostering an atmosphere of fun, engagement, and positive reinforcement through PBIS activities, we invite you to explore our PBIS Amazon Wishlist:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1B3BMVLWCRWPY?ref=wl_share

Recess

We feel strongly that students benefit from fresh air and time to play outside. Please send students to school each day with weather appropriate outdoor attire.

Happy
Thanksgiving 

October Student of the Month: Responsibility

Grade 3

Mrs. Caplette	Ellie Piche
Mrs. Chalupka	Nolan Capers
Ms. Clough	Oliver VanderPoel
Mrs. D'Agostino	Mackenzie Kruckas
Mrs. Furmanik	Bentley Forgit
Mrs. King	Cayla Chen
Mrs. Murphy	Ande Correia
Mrs. Murray	Michelle Bailey
Mrs. Scanlon	Ayla Ferrara
Ms .Auger	Valkyrie Kendall

Grade 4

Mrs. Barbour	Sophia Legere
Mrs. Burbank	Jake Banfill
Mrs. Cody	Olivia Gynynor
Ms. Connerton	George Trudeau
Ms. Dyer	Isabella Cetrone
Mrs. Gagne	Jane Hanscom
Mrs. Reno	Lucie Dagilis
Ms Terlizzi	Quinn Shanahan
Mrs. Vessio	Hannah Huchowski

Grade 5

Mrs. Bowes	Hanah Proulx
Mrs. DeRobbio	Allison Rosenthal
Mrs. DiMeglio	Caden Simone
Mrs. Fontaine	Chase Hunt
Mrs. Forgues	Kylee Waters
Mrs. Kane	Mia Baez
Mrs. Locke	Nick Ignachuck
Mrs. Lundy	Gabriella White
Mrs. MacCormack	Rhys Markowitz



Grade 3 News



November in third grade means we have settled into our schedules and routines and are learning tons! We closed out October with two days of awesome Fall S.T.E.A.M. Fun! Students participated in many fall themed S.T.E.A.M. activities in which they heard great stories and then worked cooperatively with their classmates to complete activities that tied together Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. A great time was had by all making bats fly, building supports for scarecrows, constructing parachutes for spiders and creating beautiful leaf art! We had fall class parties to celebrate the season, our classroom communities and friendships!

In November third graders attended assemblies, the Book Fair and recognized World Kindness Week! We continued to practice applying reading strategies to better comprehend text using our new Wonders reading program. We are also spending time each week learning and practicing new spelling patterns and working to apply them in our daily writing. In math we finished Unit 2 Graphing and are now focusing on Multiplication Concepts. Representing multiplication as equal groups, arrays, models, repeated addition and skip counting will help students understand the importance of memorizing their multiplication facts. Please continue to study math facts at home using XtraMath or any other way that works for your child. This work will make math so much easier for them. Classes have been busy learning about Massachusetts, New England and map skills during social studies. During science, classes have been investigating topics such as forces and motion and weather through engaging interactive Mystery Science and Generation Genius lessons! Please continue to check your child's planner and clean out their home folder of important notices and see their wonderful work.

The Third Grade Team looks forward to working together with you as partners in your child's learning as we meet with families for conferences on November 8th and 9th. As always, reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.



Grade 4 News

Fourth graders at Swanson Road Intermediate School are learning all kinds of new and exciting things! Students continue to explore two by two digit multiplication in chapter 3. Soon, we will start chapter 4 in which students learn long division. Both of these chapters require memorization of math facts, so please make sure your child practices nightly.

In unit two of reading, it's all about the animals! The first few weeks focus on nonfiction texts and animal adaptations. Later on in the unit, we will read a drama and discuss how animal characters change familiar stories. We hope you get cozy and enjoy some great books with the colder temperatures approaching!

In Science, students are studying Earth's natural hazards which includes information about earthquakes, blizzards, hurricanes and tornadoes. Students will learn about the impacts of natural disasters and how these negatively affect humans.

And last but not least, in Social Studies, students are moving into their Immigration Unit. Students will be exploring the different waves of Immigration and reasons why groups of people came to the United States.

The Fourth Grade Team thanks you for your continued support of your children and their work here at school! We look forward to another great month here at Swanson Road Intermediate School!



November in Grade 5



Greetings, Parents and Caregivers!

Grade 5 recently enjoyed a fabulous rendition of *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*, held at the Hanover Theatre. A wonderful time was had by all and we are delighted to have been able to share this experience with our students!

Homework: In addition to nightly homework assignments, we ask that your child spend at least 15 minutes reading each night. It is also important to continue practicing their multiplication and division facts.

Curriculum:

In Math we have just completed Chapter 2 on long division. We will be moving on to Chapter 3 which will involve reading, writing, comparing, rounding, adding, and subtracting decimals.

In Science, we will be switching to our next classroom teacher by the end of this month. If you have any questions about Science, please contact your student's home-room teacher.

In Social Studies, we have begun discussing the building of the first colonies. This is an exciting unit which will lead up to the creation of our country!

In Reading, we continue to practice with both fiction and informational texts. Students have been re-reading for text evidence and responding to prompts related to the skills taught in class.

Communication: We look forward to meeting with parents and caregivers during Parent-Teacher Conferences on **November 8th and 9th**. Kindly reach out to your student's teacher ASAP if you have yet to secure a conference time. It is essential that we work together to ensure that each child has a successful year!

Best wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends!

-The Fifth Grade Team



Art News From Mrs. Bieksha

The art room has been in full bloom...literally!! Students in grades three, four and five have been working on a “Flower” unit that has focused on artists Georgia O’Keeffe (1887-1986) and Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890).

Over 200 beautiful dahlias have been donated to the art room throughout the month of October by Frog Hollow Farm in Hubbardston, MA, owned by Melissa Morris. Students have been studying “still-life” arrangements of flowers by directly observing them with their eyes and creating what they see in visual works of art. Concepts involved in this unit include composition, positive and negative shape, overlapping shape, patterning, color contrast, texture and “abstraction” vs “realism”. The artwork coming from this lesson is fabulous! (Both, Georgia O’Keeffe and Vincent van Gogh, would be proud if they were with us today!!) Ask your children about the art media and process that they are using to create their amazing artwork!

“ARTIST OF THE MONTH” for October and November-

The “Artist of the Month” for the month of October was **Alaina Rhoads!**

Alaina is a fourth-grade student from Mrs. Burbank’s class. She is a focused artist who appreciates her time in the art room. Alaina is extremely creative and takes pride in her work. Not only is Alaina an amazing art student, she is a kind and thoughtful person! Congratulations to Alaina!

The “Artist of the Month” for the month of November is **Autumn Phillips!** Autumn is a fabulous fourth-grader from Mrs. Gagne’s class. She is a talented, creative art student with a wonderful attitude! Autumn is an outstanding artist and always brings her warmth, kindness and friendly smile to the art room! Congratulations to Autumn!!





The Reading Team has been busy during the month of October planning for our annual Literacy Month celebrations. We are excited to announce that our theme is Read Your Heart Out! We look forward to sharing our love of reading with your children through read aloud opportunities, dress as an idiom day, buddy reading experiences, our character head optional project and of course, Family Literacy Night on November 30. Enjoy celebrating Literacy Month with us.

Technology News

In November, SWIS students will become engineers! In Technology class in the coming month, we will be focusing on the steps of the engineering design process. We will be using a hands-on approach to learn vocabulary and concepts related to engineering as we problem-solve creatively both as independent thinkers and on teams. Our fifth graders will be jumping into a unit on properties of matter, and they will work together to follow the steps to create their own testing process for different materials. In grade four, students will be researching the impact of natural disasters on Earth and learning how we can both lessen the impact of humans on Earth, and lessen the impact of natural disasters on humans. Our third graders will be focusing on how Earth changes over time, and will be exploring “fossils” hands on. We will be asking questions and looking for answers together to feel empowered as learners and thinkers!



SWIS Support

This month at SWIS the clinical team has been focused on teaching students about Inclusion, Empathy and how to distinguish between: bullying, conflict and mean moments. Your students have been engaged in grade level competitions regarding all they have learned about these subjects. Ask them the differences and see if they can show off the skills they have learned! The winning classes for each grade will receive a motivational reward for displaying their knowledge. We also have had the pleasure of having a special presentation from the Massachusetts District Attorney's office this month. During that presentation a representative from Joseph Early's office discussed cyber bullying and harassment as it pertains to the law in Massachusetts. The students were wonderful audience members and asked some thoughtful questions of the presenter. They ended the presentation with some important contact information that is great for anyone to have in case you find yourself in a position to need it.

988 Crisis Lifeline:
Call or text 988

Worcester County - Youth Mobile Crisis Line:
Mobile community-based resource for youth in crisis and their families
Call 1-866-852-8336 / Text "TEEN" to 839863 / www.teenlineonline.org

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline:
Confidential 24-hour, roll-free suicide prevention service available to anyone in a suicidal crisis
1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255) / www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

The Crisis Text Line:
Crisis Text Line is free, 24/7 support provided by a trained Crisis Counselor
Text HOME to 741741 / www.crisistextline.org

Llamanos y hablemos:
Spanish Language telephone crisis intervention, counseling, referrals, sexual abuse helpline
Call 1-800-223-5001

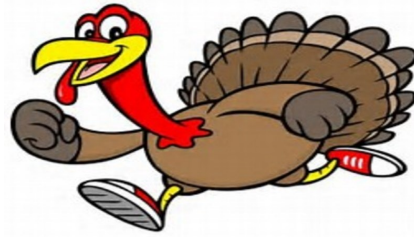
SAMHSA National Helpline:
24/7 treatment referral/information service for mental and/or substance use disorder (English and Spanish)
Call 1-800-662-4357



PE News

November is a very exciting month for Physical Education. We will be introducing our Turkey Trot fundraiser to the students and completing the run. A paper with more information will be/ has been sent home with the students. All donations will be going to Pride 'n Purpose, an organization in South Africa who helps build schools in remote areas.

Mr. Dunn
Mr. Moriarty



NURSING NOTES:

In accordance with Massachusetts State Law, all school children are required to provide documentation of a physical examination prior to entering 4th grade. Any routine health examination completed by your healthcare provider within a year of entering 4th grade is acceptable. Please return the exam form with updated immunizations to the school nurse.

It's helpful at every grade level to get in the routine of sending in a copy of your child's physical/immunization record as soon as it's done each year. This can be done by sending in a hard copy with your child, taking a picture of it and emailing it to kwalsh@auburn.k12.ma.us or faxing it to the school.



SWIS Calendar of Events!



November				
11-1/11/3	W-F	PE Classes Only	Turkey Trot- Running Laps	3-5
11-3	Friday	1:00-2:30	Grade 5 Puberty Talks	5
11/6-11/9	M-F	All Day	Scholastic Book Fair	3-5
11-8	Wednes- day	5-7	Parent Teacher Conferences	3-5
11-9	Thursday	1-3	Parent Teacher Conferences	3-5
11-9-24	Thursday	All day	Veterans' Day - Wear Red, White and Blue	ALL
11/13	Monday	All Day	World Kindness Day	SWIS Community
11/13-11/18	M-F	All Day	Food Drive	SWIS Community
11-17-24	Thursday	All day	Idiom Day - Dress as an idi- om	ALL
11/21	Tuesday		Turkey Trot As- sembly	3-5
11/30	Thursday	5:00-6:00 Gr 3, 6:00-7:00 Gr 4&5	Literacy Night	SWIS Community

