



Principal's Page



MARCH 2020

Mrs. Heather Nuneviller, Principal

Mr. Philip Leddy, 5th Grade Principal
Mr. Jerry Rogers, 6th Grade Principal

Dr. Jen Rinehimer, 7th Grade Principal

March Madness Prodigy Tournament

The 5th/6th grade students will be participating in a **Prodigy Math Tournament** throughout the month of March. This is an opportunity for every student and classroom to get involved by actively doing Math. As students participate, they will increase their level of stars and earn pets. Classrooms will have the opportunity to earn prizes, both within the building and at the International level. Parents/Guardians can link student accounts to their email to receive feedback on their child directly from Prodigy. When students sign-in to Prodigy, they have the opportunity to add a parent account. Parents can also encourage their child by setting goals and sending in-game prizes. Prizes will go to the class with the greatest number of questions answered accurately. There will be weekly winning classes, a GRAND Champion classroom, and three GRAND Champion students.



Reading Olympics

Students who are members of the 5/6 and 7/8 Reading Olympics teams will be participating in competitions this month. Sixth grade will compete in the Middle School competition being held at Pope John Paul High School on March 3rd. Fifth grade will compete in the Elementary competition being held March 18th at Perkiomen Valley High School. The 7th/8th grade Reading Olympics competition will be held on March 3rd at Pope John Paul High School. This competition gives students a chance to show their knowledge of the books on this year's list. The list contains 46 books and most team members read at least 10. That's a lot of reading! Our teams will compete with teams from around the county in an attempt to win the coveted blue ribbon. We wish all of our teams good luck!



Upcoming Events

- 3/3-4 7th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 8
- 3/3 6th Grade Reading Olympics
- 3/3 Middle School Reading Olympics
- 3/10-11 6th Grade Math Placement Testing for Algebra 7
- 3/18 5th Grade Reading Olympics
- 3/31 End of 3rd Marking Period (tentative)
- 4/3 Middle School Spring Play
- 4/8-13 Spring Break
- 4/16 Home & School Meeting
- 4/20-22 ELA PSSA Testing
- 4/24 Spring-Ford 5k
- 4/27 MATH PSSA Testing
- 7th Grade Movie Night/Open Gym
- 5/6 Ice Skating Party
- 4/28 In-Service Day
- 4/29 MATH PSSA Testing
- 4/29 Middle School Orchestra Concert

PSSA Testing Schedule Announced

Again this year, all students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 in all Pennsylvania school districts will take the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) ELA and Mathematics Assessments. The assessments are designed to provide information about the quality of our school programs, the progress of our students, and data for curricular and instructional planning purposes.

The entire ELA and Mathematics Assessments take approximately six to seven hours to complete and will be administered **April 20, 21, and 22, 2020** for ELA and **April 27 and April 29** for Math. The assessments consist of both multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions requiring written responses. The results of the assessments will be reported to us and forwarded to you when they are received from the state.

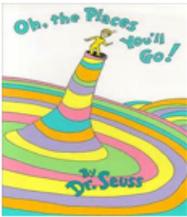
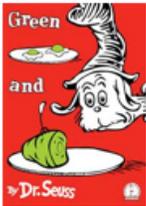
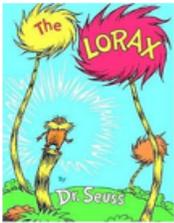
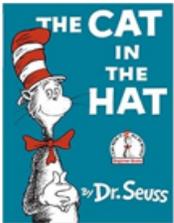
All students in Pennsylvania in grades 4 and 8 are also required to take the PSSA Science Assessment scheduled for **April 27** through **May 1, 2020**. This test will take approximately two to four hours to complete and consists of open-ended writing prompts and multiple choice items.

This test will have an impact on future course programming for your child. In all grades 5-8, students who score at the “basic” or “below basic” levels of proficiency in mathematics and/or ELA portions on the PSSA test will receive additional academic assistance. In grade 7, the ELA support will be in lieu of a World Language class. By offering academic support for those students experiencing difficulty in mathematics and/or reading, we hope to provide students with the necessary support and assistance which will lead to a more successful academic school experience in the middle school.

Please be sure to encourage your child to do his or her very best on all of these assessments. It is very important that your child attends school and arrives on time daily to fully participate in the test sessions.

The tests will be administered the first two hours of school. Please be mindful of the testing schedule and avoid scheduling any appointments or trips during the testing window. As always, a good night’s sleep and healthy breakfast will help to ensure that your child will perform up to his or her ability.

March Spirit Days.....Read Across America Week

Monday March 2 nd	Tuesday March 3 rd	Wednesday March 4 th	Thursday March 5 th	Friday March 6 th
 <p>Reading takes you places! Wear something from a place you have been or a place you would like to visit.</p>	 <p>Reading makes you think! Wear your college gear.</p>	 <p>Switch up what you read! Wear green today!</p>	 <p>Reading enables you to make positive changes! Wear your favorite cause shirt.</p>	 <p>Reading makes you wear different hats! Wear your favorite hats.</p>



5th Grade News



March 2020

LETTER FROM MR. LEDDY

Dear Families,

March is an interesting month. The thrill of a new year and winter break have faded as we strive to regain the routine necessary for academic success. This is an excellent time to reinforce the persistence, drive, and grit students need to achieve the greatest results. Teachers have planned many exciting lessons and projects to keep students learning right up until spring break.

I have been visiting classrooms and am impressed with the level of student engagement and quality of instruction. I recently observed a lesson in one of our science classes where the students were able to communicate with real world geologists via video conference. They prepared questions and gained insight into the problems and challenges faced on a daily basis in the field. I found the stories about spelunking and far off destinations extremely engaging! This was just one example of the robust teaching and learning that are going on here at Spring-Ford Intermediate Center. If you have an interest in sharing experiences within your professional career as they relate to our academic curriculum please contact me directly.

Thank you to all those who attended and helped make possible our bingo night which was an amazing event! The students and their families all had a chance to play several rounds of Bingo, with multiple winners per round, and many opportunities for prizes! This was another great example of the school community that supports and encourages our youngsters to be their best!

Finally, the faculty and staff take the safety of all who enter our building, our students especially, very seriously. I also want to emphasize that safety is a priority, we run fire drills and emergency procedure drills every month at different times of the day so that our students and staff know what to do in an emergency. We spent some time in February focused on school safety and conducted a drill utilizing the "A.L.I.C.E." method. ALICE is an acronym for Alert, Lock-down, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. It's not designed to be sequential but rather to be utilized dynamically in each unique situation. This method offers teachers options to lock down or evacuate. Our training of students emphasizes the importance of listening during all emergency drills, and our students have done a terrific job.

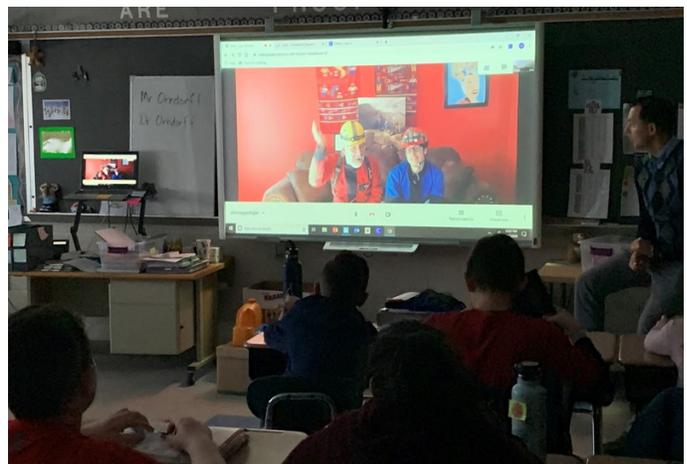
Best Regards,
Philip Leddy

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



We have many after-school clubs and activities here at the 5/6 center. Mrs. Ahlbergh's LEGO club is designed to engage students in designing and building structures with LEGOs. Students can work on their own or share and create building ideas as a group.

CLASSROOM INNOVATION



To complement their Weathering and Soil unit, students in Mrs Megill's Science class were treated to a video conference with real world geologists from Blacksburg, Virginia. A video call such as this gives our students the opportunity to hear from a variety of specialists and allows them to collaborate in incredible new ways!

From the Desk of Mr. Rogers.....



6th Grade News



March Edition

LETTER FROM MR. ROGERS

Hello 6th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families.

As we move into March, I would like to reflect on where our 6th grade has been and where we are now. Last year, the class of 2026 came into our building wide-eyed and probably a bit nervous about what was in store for them in 5th grade. They learned the routines, they worked on the academics and worked their way through one of the most difficult transitions they have faced in their young lives. I am extremely proud of the growth and development of our class as I now see seasoned veterans of the 5/6 building who continually face and conquer challenges they encounter every day at this point in their lives. I feel so privileged to be able to work with your children each and every day here and I hope you are excited for the future with your children.

One of the changes we have made this year in our building is the addition of LiveSchool. I have mentioned this in past newsletters and our building has really seen the benefit of a positive behavior approach. We still have negative behaviors at times, as any school building will. However, we have seen an improvement in this area as we focus on positive behavior and strategies for behavioral improvement. I would like to thank you all for your support as we transitioned into this approach. If you have not been checking LiveSchool, I would encourage you to do so as we move toward the end of the school year.

Again, I enjoy working with the class of 2026. They are a wonderful group of students and individuals and I am so excited to see their accomplishments in the remainder of 2020 and beyond!

Think Spring.



Lessons Learned

During March, our 6th Grade students have the opportunity to participate in this years' Pi Day Competition. **March 14** marks the annual Pi Day. This is a day dedicated each year to celebrate the mathematical sign of pi. This mathematical symbol is used to determine the ratio between a circle's circumference and its diameter. Pi is an infinite number, meaning that it goes on indefinitely. The most recent calculation was 2.7 trillion digits in length! To keep it manageable, Pi is often rounded to the number **3.14**. This is the date that it is celebrated on, and coincidentally this same date is known to be the day of Albert Einstein's birth.

To help recognize the importance of math, and to show our love for math, the 6th grade students at SFIS, will be able to show their knowledge of Pi and what it stands for in their math classrooms. Students will then move on to participate in 6th grade team competitions. A final showdown will take place between the teams to see how many digits students can memorize this year. With the help of administration, Mrs. Holly Smith, Mrs. Barb Crist, Mrs. Dana Starkey, and our other celebrity teacher judges, this will mark an annual exciting event!!



Our Math Specialists have created 2 websites to offer resources to help you and your child review information learned in class.

Mrs. Holly Smith created a 6th Grade Math Site at:

<https://sites.google.com/spring-ford.net/gr6mathholly/home>

Mrs. Dana Starkey created a 5th Grade Math Site at:

<https://sites.google.com/spring-ford.net/sfisgr5-mathstarkey/home>

Guidance Update

Our guidance counselors, Mrs. O'Drain and Mrs. Noecker, have been working hard over the past few weeks ensuring they meet and have a discussion with every student in 6th grade. With over 650 students, this is quite an undertaking! These meetings will continue over the course of the next few weeks.

This is an effort to show outreach to the student population and to let our students know that they have adults to turn to if they are having difficulty in any area of their school life. Thanks to Mrs. O'Drain and Mrs. Noecker for their efforts!!



From the Desk of Dr. Rinehimer.....



7th Grade News



March 2020

Letter from Dr. Rinehimer

Hello 7th Grade Students, Parents, Guardians, and Families,

Welcome to March and some quick reminders for the beginning of spring. The 7th graders are doing a fantastic job of getting involved and managing their time with after school activities. This month spring sports will begin and coaches have set up meetings for each sport to discuss requirements and timelines. If your child is interested in going out for a spring sport please keep close tabs on the website for start dates and encourage them to listen to the announcements. We also have so many other opportunities for students to participate in clubs and activities. There is something for everyone and still plenty of time to join.

Students are also doing a great job in the classroom. There is still a quarter and a half left of the school year. I encourage you to keep up with the routines that are working and continue to help your children to stay focused on their school work including homework, classwork and studying. Please have your student check grades on skyward on a weekly basis. This is an important habit to develop and eliminates surprises at the end of a quarter.

Announcements, Activities and Clubs are posted on the website, along with information about upcoming events. The students are working hard, but if there are ever any questions or concerns I encourage you to contact your child's teacher.

Warmly,

Jennifer Rinehimer



March Madness Spirit Days

[First 4 Games]	[NCAA Round 1]	[Sweet 16]	[Sweet 16]	[Sweet 16]	[Sweet 16]	[Finals]
Tuesday March 17	Wednesday March 18	Thursday March 19	Friday March 20	Thursday March 26	Friday March 27	Monday April 6
Favorite Hoodie Day	Warm Up Gear	Mismatch Day	Spring- Ford Spirit	Gear Up or Dress Up!	Twin or Opposite Day	Team Jersey Day!
						