

Pilot Publications

January 2019

Happy New Year!!!

I hope you all were able to enjoy break with your child (ren). They were all looking forward to the time off in December.

We are starting our One Book One School activity. Please see the information that went home today about this wonderful all school activity that we do each year. Also notice the fun Literacy Night that we have planned after reading the book.

Today you are also receiving, with the newsletter, an informational paper for parents about math and a website called www.youcubed.org

This is a great website for students, parents, and teachers alike.

With the weather getting colder, please make sure that your students are dressed appropriately for the day. If you are in need of assistance, we have coats, boots, shoes, mittens/gloves, hats, and scarves. Please let the office know if you are in need of any of the items mentioned and we will get them to your student.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Edwards
Machesney Elementary
Principal

Take Note:

Please remember if you are picking up your student(s) from after school activities to follow the drop-off/pick-up procedures. The procedure is to go to the north entrance and follow the lane around the parking lot to the front of the building circle.



Upcoming Events:

- 1/8 - PTO meeting 6:00
- 1/9 - Card Club-Group 2
5th & 6th Gr 2:30 LC
- 1/10 - Wellness Club-
Group 1 2:40—Rm 23
- 1/10 - Battle of the
Books-Teams Battles
2:45 pm LC
- 1/11 - Midterms Sent
Home
- 1/16 - Card Club-Group 1
4th Gr 2:30 LC
- 1/17 - Wellness Club-
Group 2 2:40—Rm 23
- 1/17 - Battle of the
Books-Teams Battles
2:45 pm LC
- 1/18 & 1/21 - No School
- 1/23 - Card Club-Group 2
5th & 6th Gr 2:30 LC
- 1/24 - Wellness Club-
Group 1 2:40—Rm 23
- 1/24 - Battle of the
Books-Teams Battles
2:45 pm LC
- 1/24 - RAK Meeting—
2:45- pm Gym
- 1/29 - Chess Club—2:30-
pm Room 15
- 1/30 - Card Club-Group 1
4th Gr 2:30 LC
- 1/31 - Wellness Club-
Group 2 2:40—Rm 23
- 1/31 - Literacy Night—
One School One Book
6:00—7:30 pm
- 1/31 - Book Fair 6:00—
7:30 pm

Machesney Elementary

8615 N. Second St.
Machesney Park, IL 61115

* * * * *
Phone: 815-654-4509
Fax: 815-637-7421

▶ We Soar Above and Beyond!

Safety First!

- Please remember that it is a law that you may NOT talk on a cell phone in a school zone. This includes our parking lot and circle driveway. This is to ensure student safety. Please put down the cell phone while in school zones!
- Smoking is NOT allowed on school property. This includes the parking lot and circle driveway.
- Visitors: please enter through the front door and sign-in in the office. You will need to bring an ID.
- Breakfast and supervision starts at 7:35 a.m. Please do not drop off your students early unless they are in the Kids Care program through the YMCA.

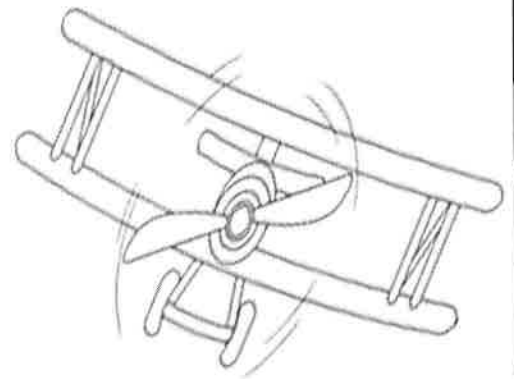
ATTENTION PARENTS OF CURRENT 5th GRADERS!!!!

A physical exam and immunizations are required next year for ALL incoming 6th grade students.

Physical exams and immunization documentation must be turned into school on or before the first day of student attendance or your student may be excluded from school per the State of Illinois. Appointment notes will no longer be accepted per district policy. Please don't wait! Please call your child's medical provider and schedule your child's appointment now. Physical exam forms dated after 8/15/18 can be accepted for next year. Physical and immunization documentation forms may be turned in to the main office anytime this school year and will be placed on file for next year.

The Little Free Library located in front of the school is continuing to be used by students, families, and the community. We are very excited to have this opportunity for our community. All are welcome to come take a book of your choice and leave a book, if you are able. We are stocking the Little Free Library weekly with more books of all levels from board books

to chapter books and even some magazines are in the library. We hope that you take advantage of this and spread the word in the community. Please come to the Little Free Library during the summer as we will keep it full all summer for our students. KEEP READING:)



Do you remember how excited your children were about maths* when they were young? How they were excited by patterns in nature? How they rearranged a set of objects and found, with delight, that they had the same number? Before children start school they often talk about maths with curiosity and wonder, but soon after they start school many children decide that maths is confusing and scary and they are not a “math person”. This is because maths in many schools is all about procedures, memorization and deciding which children can and which cannot. Maths has become a performance subject and students of all ages are more likely to tell you that maths is all about answering questions correctly than tell you about the beauty of the subject or the way it piques their interest.

Given the performance and test-driven culture of our schools, with over-packed curriculum and stressed out students, what can parents do to transform maths for their children? Here are some steps to take:

1

Encourage children to play maths puzzles and games. Award winning mathematician, Sarah Flannery reported that her maths achievement and enthusiasm came not from school but from the puzzles she was given to solve at home. Puzzles and games – anything with a dice really – will help kids enjoy maths, and develop number sense, which is critically important.

2

Always be encouraging and never tell kids they are wrong when they are working on maths problems. Instead find the logic in their thinking – there is always some logic to what they say. For example if your child multiplies 3 by 4 and gets 7, say – Oh I see what you are thinking, you are using what you know about addition to add 3 and 4, when we multiply we have 4 groups of 3...

3

Never associate maths with speed. It is not important to work quickly, and we now know that forcing kids to work quickly on maths is the best way to start maths anxiety for children, especially girls. Don't use flashcards or other speed drills. Instead use visual activities such as <https://bhi61nm2cr3mkdggk1dtaov18-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/FluencyWithoutFear-2015.pdf>

4

Never share with your children the idea that you were bad at maths at school or you dislike it – especially if you are a mother. Researchers found that as soon as mothers shared that idea with their daughters, their daughter's achievement went down.

5

Encourage number sense. What separates high and low achievers is number sense – having an idea of the size of numbers and being able to separate and combine numbers flexibly. For example, when working out $29 + 56$, if you take one from the 56 and make it $30 + 55$, it is much easier to work out. The flexibility to work with numbers in this way is what is called number sense and it is very important.

6

Perhaps most important of all – encourage a “growth mindset” let students know that they have unlimited maths potential and that being good at maths is all about working hard. When children have a growth mindset, they do well with challenges and do better in school overall. When children have a fixed mindset and they encounter difficult work, they often conclude that they are not “a math person”. One way in which parents encourage a fixed mindset is by telling their children they are “smart” when they do something well. That seems like a nice thing to do, but it sets children up for difficulties later, as when kids fail at something they will inevitably conclude that they aren't smart after all. Instead use growth praise such as “it is great that you have learned that”, “I really like your thinking about that”. When they tell you something is hard for them, or they have made a mistake, tell them: “That's wonderful, your brain is growing!”



** I use maths, rather than math, partly because I am from the UK and we say maths there and partly because maths is short for mathematicS, it is a plural noun. Mathematics was chosen to be plural to reflect all the many parts of mathematics - drawing, modeling, asking questions, communicating, etc. Math sounds more singular and narrow (Do the math, usually means do a calculation!), and I prefer to keep the idea that maths is a multidimensional and varied set of mathematical forms and ideas.*