



The WinGrin News

3rd Grade Survival Guide Edition

Welcome Back!

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Amberly Elementary School. This year your child will have two teachers to help them on their journey through the third grade, Mrs. Winstanley and Mrs. Grindall. Mrs. Jessica Winstanley has a Bachelors degree from CMU focusing on science and language arts. Her Masters degree is from Walden University with a focus on integrating technology. This is her 5th year teaching third grade at Amberly. In her free time she loves spending time with her husband Rob and son Bryant. Mrs. Grindall is returning to Amberly again this year. She earned her Bachelors and Masters degrees from WMU in science education. This is her tenth year teaching. She enjoys spending time with her husband Will and her son Tanner in her free time. **Mrs. Grindall will be working with the students on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. Mrs. Winstanley will be in the classroom on Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays.** We look forward to working with the wonderful families that help make Amberly an excellent school.

We hope that everyone is returning to school after an enjoyable summer break. In the weeks to follow we will be informing you of what is happening at Amberly and especially of the activities of Room 20. If we fail to answer any of your questions or concerns as the year unfolds, please feel free to call us at school between 8:00 am and 8:30 am, and again around 3:45 to 4:00 pm. Emails are also an excellent form of communication. We get emails very quickly and try to answer as soon as possible; however, we are working with your children during the day and are not free to respond to emails during this time. If you do not receive a reply immediately, do not worry. We will respond to your email as soon as possible. If there is an emergency, or you need to give a message to your child before the school day ends, please call the office and they will make sure your child gets the message. In this first newsletter we will be including some information that you might want right away. Many more letters will follow through out the year. Classroom newsletters will generally be sent home in your student's binders on the first Monday of the month. These will include information about what we have been learning in class, important dates, and other relevant information for you as a parent.

Amberly Office Phone: 323-5900

Amberly Attendance: 323-5996

Classroom Phone: 323-5920

Amberly Fax Number: 323-5990

Email Addresses: jwinstanley@portageps.org and kgrindall@portageps.org

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Volume 2, Issue 2

September 4, 2008

School Hours:

- ◆ Students enter building @ 8:36
- ◆ Instruction begins @ 8:43
- ◆ Third Grade Recess @ 10:50
- ◆ Lunch @ 11:20
- ◆ Afternoon Begins @ 11:46
- ◆ School Dismissal @ 3:42
- ◆ Half Day Dismissal @ 11:57

Important Date:

- ◆ Sept. 2: First Day of School for 2008-2009 School Year, half day!
- ◆ Sept. 4: APT BBQ 5:00 - 7:00 pm
- ◆ Sept. 11: Amberly Open House 6:30 - 8:00
- ◆ Sept. 12: Fundraiser Kickoff
- ◆ Sept. 15: Parent Night 6:30 - 7:30pm
- ◆ Sept. 25: Picture Day
- ◆ Sept. 26: Fundraisers Orders Due



Materials Needed for Third Grade

We are sure you all received your third grade supply list in the mail this summer and were able to take advantage of all the wonderful back-to-school bargains.

Here are a few reminders.

Planner: Cash or check made out to "Amberly Elementary" for \$3.50 in a sealed envelope marked *Planner Money* to cover the cost of grade level supplied student planners.

The reason that many of the items on the supply list are noted as "do not label" is that we will be collecting many of these supplies to distribute back to the students throughout the school year. Since the desks are small there is not sufficient space for all the supplies and the textbooks. We are asking that no large notebooks, such as trapper keepers, be brought to school because of the lack of desk space. A one-inch binder will be sufficient for their class organizer. In addition to the items listed in the school supply list, if possible please send with your child the following items...

- ◆ Some kind of backpack or sports bag to carry materials back and forth from school daily.
- ◆ A small non-breakable water bottle to get a good long drink on hot, humid days of late summer (we will use the bottles the first and last month of the school year as long as they are absolutely leak and spill proof. Water bottles that become a distraction will be sent home.)
- ◆ One note regarding pencils. We know that there are many special kinds of pencils out there as well as many bargain pencils. Unfortunately, it has been our experience that these pencils do not hold up under the daily use. They do not sharpen well in our sharpeners and will often be used up before they are even put to paper. Therefore, we strongly suggest you purchase Ticonderoga or PaperMate brand pencils. Thank you.



Don't Forget to Turn in...

ENROLLMENT FORM

- Check information and make any corrections
- Sign bottom of sheet
- Return by Friday

EARLY DISMISSAL FORM

- Fill out
- Return by Friday

FREE AND REDUCED MEAL APPLICATION (we encourage you to complete, if applicable)

- Return by Friday

SURVIVAL GUIDE ATTACHMENT/CONFIRMATION & EMAIL NOTIFICATION

- Sign
- Return ASAP

PLANNER MONEY

- \$3.50 in envelope labeled with Child's name and "Planner Money"
- Return by Wednesday if possible

Student Planner

Your child's planner/assignment book, completed daily, indicates work for which your child is responsible. It also indicates future due dates and projects in progress. Please check the binder each evening. This shows your child you are interested in their work and that you expect it to be completed. Parents are to initial the assignment book each evening to signify that the child has completed the assignments. You can also jot down quick questions or notes to your child or to us.

Binders

Your child's planner/assignment book and take home folder will be stored in their one inch binder. It is critical that the binder come to school each morning and go home with your child each night. This is the place where your child will write down assignments, bring home homework, study lists, newsletters and other important notes. Please check the planner and binder each night.

Lunch and Milk Tickets

Please send money to school in the morning to purchase lunches or milk. Since we will be sending the money to the office first thing in the morning, put the money in an envelope with your child's name and what is to be purchased on the front. For example, "Bryant Winstanley, 5 lunches and 2 milks." With the lunch schedule there will not be time to purchase lunch in line at lunchtime, however, you can prepay for as many lunches as you want. Some families do this by week, month, quarter, semester, or the year. What ever works best for your family is fine. The prices for meals this year are:

- Breakfast: \$1.20
- Lunch: \$1.80
- Student milk \$0.45

There is a new lunch provider this year. Each day the students will be able to choose from 5 choices for lunch. They have the choice of hot dog, chef salad, or the chartbuster sack lunch each day in addition to the two choices on the menu calendar. The Chartbuster Sack Lunches are different each day of the week. They are:

- Monday: Pizza Dunkers Fun Lunch
- Tuesday: Taco Fun Lunch
- Wednesday: Pita Pizza Fun Lunch
- Thursday: Breakfast Fun Lunch
- Friday: Nacho Fun Lunch

Free and Reduced Lunch

If you are interested in applying for free or reduced lunch for your child, please let us or the secretaries in the office know and we will send home an application. If you have any questions about this program, please contact the office at 323-5900.

Informational Third Grade Meeting and Amberly Open House

- On Thursday, September 11 from 6:30 - 8:00 we will be having the Amberly Open House. This is more of a social gathering for your whole family to see the teachers, classrooms, and other areas of the building your child will be involved with this year. We will be going over any classroom questions or concerns at Parent Night.
- On Monday, September 15, we will be having an informational Third Grade Meeting for PARENTS/GUARDIANS ONLY. We will start at about 6:30 and should be done around 7:30. At our informational meeting we will try to cover such topics as homework, testing, discipline, responsibilities, assignments, and conclude with a question and answer period. We hope you will be able to send at least one parent from your family to join us. We will meet in our room, room 20. We hope to see you at both events.

Classroom Expectations

Morning Routine

Your child can enter the building at 8:36 in the morning. The tardy bell rings at 8:43 and we start the class schedule as close to that time as possible. It is very important that your child be here and in his/her seat ready to listen and learn at this time. The day's events are gone over and any special instructions are outlined at this time.

Discipline

Discipline is usually handled positively in the classroom through redirection, reminders, or rewards and humor for good choices. However, if these strategies do not work and choices that compromise personal learning or the learning of others continues, the student may be removed from the group to work independently for a time or lose recess for an individual conference or to complete work. If necessary, a home contact will be made or your child will be referred to the principal.

Homework

Homework is most effective when you support it from home. Please establish a quiet place for homework and stock the area with supplies so it is ready for use. Your child will have homework in all areas of the curriculum. Homework should take approximately 30 minutes to complete. It will not be new material but an extension of the classroom work or work not finished during class time. Unless otherwise noted in the planner, homework should be completed and turned in the next day. If it is not returned or completed, then your child may be kept in for recess. To help establish a homework routine, please review and initial your child's plan book each evening. There is a place to communicate with us in the planner any concerns you have or to write your child reminders. It is important that we work together to help your child develop a good routine and habit of homework completion.

Building Expectations

Attendance

Attendance is important. It helps teach your child responsibility toward their commitments and helps your child stay on top of what is happening in the classroom. Many lessons completed in the classroom cannot be easily made up. In third grade a lot of new material is learned and missing instruction can very quickly cause a student to fall behind. Please try to be aware of this when you are planning vacations or making appointments. Having tried to make appointments outside of the school day, we know how difficult this can be. We appreciate the effort. **If your child will be absent, please call the school attendance line at 323-5996. The office is the official record keeper and must be notified. Emailing or calling us in the classroom is not enough.** Children arriving after the tardy bell or leaving early must be signed in or out from the office. When leaving early, please wait in the office and the office staff will call for your child. If you know ahead of time that your child will be gone, please inform us as early as possible.

Transportation

If your child will be leaving school on another bus or with another person, the school office requests advance written notification. If there is a change in your child's after school routine please call the office at 323-5900 to let them know. They will call down to the classroom at 3:30 to inform your child of this change. It is very important that you call the office, because if you call the classroom or email us we may not see the message in time to tell your child about the change. To reduce student anxiety, please write any changes in after- school plans in the planner when possible.

Medication

If your child takes medication during the day, please fill out the medication authorization form. These forms may be picked up in the office or they can be found online at http://www.portageps.org/schools/elementary/amb/information/forms/Medication_Prescriber.pdf Also, please know that a student may not consume any medication, even cough drops, in the classroom. All medications must be in the original container and stored in the office.

Release of Information

- A parent/guardian with legal custody must sign a release of information for any school staff member to complete forms regarding a student or discuss student progress with any outside agency. Teachers will not be able to share information regarding student progress with tutors, counselors, doctors, etc. unless a release of information is signed annually and placed in the student's records.
- Joint legal custody for parents is assumed unless the school is provided with a court order restricting legal custody of a parent.
- A stepparent or grandparent has no legal independent right to student records unless the stepparent or grandparent is the legal guardian. Teachers will not be able to share verbally or in writing student progress information with a stepparent or grandparent unless a release of information is signed annually by a parent with legal custody and placed in the student's records.

Sign in at the Office

If you are visiting us at school for any reason you must sign in at the office and get a name tag. It is very important for us to know who is in the building at all times for the safety of all the children.

Birthdays

We love birthdays and would certainly like to help each and every child celebrate their special day. We ask only a couple things. Please let us know a couple of days in advance (a note is fine) if you are planning on sending in a treat (23 students) and if possible whatever the treat might be...please keep it simple. We don't spend a lot of time celebrating, but enjoy the time we do squeeze in. Also, if your treat requires plates, napkins, spoons, forks, etc. make sure you include them. We do not have many extras in the classroom. As always, please be conscious of allergies and avoid sending in foods that contain nuts of any kind.

Specials Schedule



Monday: Music @ 1:00 - 1:30; Guidance @ 1:40 - 2:10

Tuesday: Gym @ 12:30 - 1:00

Wednesday: Art @ 11:50 - 12:50

Thursday: Gym @ 12:00 - 12:30

Friday: Library @ 11:50 - 12:30; Music @ 12:30 - 1:00

Parking Lot

Please follow all picking up and dropping off procedures that have been outlined in the "Put Safety First" document. If you need a copy of these procedures please see the office or go to the following web site and open the adobe acrobat reader document



(http://www.portageps.org/schools/elementary/amb/information/forms/Safety_First.pdf). These procedures are for the safety of your child as well as all the students here at Amberly. If you have any questions, please contact the office and they will be happy to help you.

Snack

Snack time will be at about 2:00 on most days. This is a working snack and will be eaten while we get ready for science or social studies. We will not be providing a snack, so if your child desires one please send in a neat and easy snack with them in the morning. Snacks will be placed in the students' desks first thing in the morning. Those who do not put their snack in the desk will not be able to eat it that day. This is done to avoid the time consuming process of students searching through their bags for their snacks at snack time. It is not a good idea for the students to store food in their desks for longer than one day because it brings out the ants.



Web page

Please check out the classroom web page. During the year we will be posting important information, newsletters, and assignments, like spelling lists, on the web for your convenience. We are always looking for suggestions for improvement. Feel free to let us know what would be helpful for you. The web address is: <http://teachers.portageps.org/jwinstanley/>

Curriculum Overview

Language Arts

Our language arts curriculum combines reading, spelling, writing, and vocabulary. We will focus upon narrative, persuasive, research, and comparative writing. We will be writing in all subjects focusing on developing our writing skills such as content, organization, style and conventions. Your child will be given a spelling list each Monday to take home. He/she is to study the words with someone at home daily. A pre-test will be given on Monday and the final test on Friday. If your child receives a 100% on the pre-test, they will take a challenge test on Friday. We will be doing a lot of reading this year as well. Students are encouraged to read books at home as well as at school. We use the Accelerated Reader program and each child is encouraged to earn at least 10 points each quarter.



Math

We will be using the Everyday Math program again this year. It is a conceptual approach, not the typical skill and drill. Students will be working in their workbooks daily. The workbook pages will not be torn out, as we often refer back to completed pages. You will however be able to see the type of math that we will be doing through the Home Link assignments. These will come home with your child a few times a week and must be returned the next day. Math homework and home links can be challenging, but practice is important. We will also be using Mighty Math worksheets to learn and review math concepts we are learning. It is also important to review basic addition, subtraction, telling time, and money skills. Some of the main concepts that we will be working on this year include: problem solving, telling time, money, multi-digit addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, fractions, lines, shapes and angles, measurement in metric and US standard systems, and graphing.

Science

Our science curriculum covers four main areas including plants, vertebrates, weather and the water cycle, and matter. We will be doing many hands on activities, as well as reading from our text book. The students will be doing a large research project on vertebrates this year as well.



Social Studies

Our social studies curriculum this year focuses on the regions of the United States. The students will be learning about the five themes of geography and how each region shows the themes in a unique way. We will also be studying economic concepts through the use of an excellent program through Heifer International called "Read to Feed." Our students will be studying social studies with Mrs. Jensusius this year. She is another third grade teacher at Amberly. We will be sharing students for science and social studies. Her students will come to our room for science and our class will go to her room for social studies.

We are looking forward to a great year!

The WinGrin Class: *Tentative Weekly Schedule*

This is a *tentative* schedule and times are subject to change based on what we need to accomplish in each subject each day.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:45 - 9:15	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work	Morning Work and Fluency Fridays
9:15 - 10:10	Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading	
10:10 - 10:50	Language	Language	Language	Language	
10:50 - 11:46	Recess and Lunch	Recess and Lunch	Recess and Lunch	Recess and Lunch	Recess and Lunch
11:46 - 12:00	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Art (11:50 - 12:50)	Read Aloud	Library (11:50 - 12:30)
12:00 - 12:30	Math	Spelling		Gym	
12:30 - 1:00		Gym		Spelling	Music
1:00 - 1:30	Music	Math	Spelling (12:50 - 1:15)	Math	Math
1:30 - 2:00	Snack (1:30 - 1:40); Guidance (1:40 - 2:10)		Math (1:15 - 2:00)		
2:00 - 2:10		Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
2:10 - 3:10	Keyboarding/Cursive Spelling (2:10 - 2:45)	Science/Soc. Studies	Science/Soc. Studies	Science/Soc. Studies	Science/Soc. Studies
	Science/Soc. Studies (2:45 - 3:20)				
3:10 - 3:30		Keyboarding/Cursive	Keyboarding/Cursive	Keyboarding/Cursive	Clean Room, Pack up and dismissal
3:30 - 3:42	Pack up and dismissal	Pack up and dismissal	Pack up and dismissal	Pack up and dismissal	

Return this Page by Friday

In order to reduce paper consumption, please provide your email address so we may email class newsletters and/or for contacting you. Newsletters will generally be sent home with students in their binders, or emailed to parents/guardians the first Monday of the month. Please let us know if you prefer a paper copy or are unable to receive them by email.

Parent's Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Please Check if Applicable:

I would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter.



Two of my child's strengths are: _____



I have read and discussed the "Survival Guide" with my child.

Parents Signature/ Date

I have read and discussed the "Survival Guide" with my parent.

Student's Signature/ Date

Additional Comments (Use back if necessary):