

FOREST FORUM 4/8/10

Spring is in the Air

Welcome Back! We hope you were able to enjoy the beautiful spring weather with your family over this past vacation. Spring weather is variable and we ask that you make certain your child is appropriately dressed for outdoor line-up and recess. Layers are a good way to provide needed warmth in the morning while allowing for warmer temperatures in the afternoon. Please make sure all clothing is labeled as many children leave their clothing items on the playground area!

Learning a New Way to Read and Write

Mrs. Rashkin's 5th Grade class recently had a unique and interesting opportunity. Mrs. Shea, a BOCES vision teacher, joined the class to introduce them to the Braille alphabet. Braille is a writing system which enables blind and partially sighted people to read and write through touch. It consists of patterns of raised dots arranged in a 3x2 configuration. Each cell represents a letter, numeral or punctuation mark. Some frequently used words and letter combinations also have their own single cell patterns. The students used a Perkins Braille, a machine that allows one to write in Braille, and created special nametags for their desks. A mini research activity on Louis Braille (1809-1852), who was blind and ultimately became a teacher of the blind, was completed. The students LOVED learning about this process and asked many insightful questions.

Newspaper Learning

The daily paper is a wonderful way to practice literacy skills. Grab the paper, and depending on the age of your child, try some of the following ideas...

Cut out several pictures and their captions separately. Mix them up and Match them to improve comprehension. Look at the pictures in isolation and have your child create a caption. This builds main idea and story topic skills.

List items in the paper (car ads, puzzles, weather forecast) and ask your child to find and circle them. This helps to build research and organization skills.

Find the names of countries, states, or cities. Copy them onto index cards and then go find them on a map, helping to develop spelling and map skills.

PTA Updates

Thank you to the PTA for our most recent Assembly, Journeys Into American Indian Territory. This program was for Fourth Grade only and was directly connected to the Social Studies curriculum. This program was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

- 4/9 International Day Committee Mtng. 7PM
 - 4/14 PTA Exec. Bd. 7PM
 - 4/28 PTA General Meeting 7PM
- (all meetings held at the Forest Road School)

PBIS Updates

The PBIS team is introducing our "From the seeds of Tolerance, Grows Acceptance" slogan as our guiding principle for the next few months. We will be tying our theme to the upcoming International Day Celebration with many classroom activities targeting diversity. We will be looking for parental participation during the school day for various tasks so please be prepared to join us. More information to follow.