



Fort Report

September/October 2019



Welcome to the first of the 2019-2020 Fort Reports. Fort Reports are intended to give families general information about initiatives, programs and events that are common among our PK-grade 2 students. I hope you will find them to be a good supplement to the newsletters and updates provided by your classroom teachers. Fort Reports come via email, as well as, being accessible on our school website and generally are sent on or near the first of each month. Given how busy the start of the school year is, this first report will include updates from September and October.

September featured a smooth transition for both staff and students. PK and Kindergarten students eased in at a bit of a slower pace while our experienced first and second grade students seemed to pick up where they left off. Emergency protocols have been practiced, routines have been established and students are experiencing a predictable schedule and expectations. For parents, there is room for improvement on timely student arrival and departure. Please be sure to review your grade level's program

times and early release dismissal times carefully.

Regression in skills is not uncommon over the summer so assessing students in core content areas is a must. On the academic front September's focus is on review, conducting diagnostic assessments and identifying baseline learning skills in students. With that information we are able to establish individual student learning goals and map out our trajectory for getting our students there. Formal assessments happen at intervals that are timed to align with report cards, units of studies and at junctures where judging the effectiveness of instructional design is appropriate. October parent teacher conferences are the ideal time for teachers to communicate this information to you so please plan to schedule one.

October is notable for a formal launch of both Rtl and explicit teaching of our SMART Plan which includes both student and learner expectations. Response to Intervention (Rtl) is a daily feature in all K-2 classrooms. This structured learning routine provides small groups of students intensive intervention in 3-4 discrete skills. Imagine teachers delivering 20 minutes of whole group instruction followed by 15 minute "doses" of targeted instruction in areas that align with various components of reading acquisition and you have visualized Rtl.

Our SMART Plan guides behavior expectations for students in all areas of our school as well as identifying expectations for students as learners. Students are taught explicitly what **s**aying kind words, **m**aking safe choices, **a**lways being responsible, **r**especting our school and **t**rying your best looks like as both a friend and a learner. Students are recognized for their compliance and modeling of SMART expectations with SMART stickers. Look for the SMART sticker your child has earned and be sure to ask some specifics about what s/he was doing to earn it. Formal recognition of SMART students occurs weekly on a rotating basis. Monthly SMART

assemblies begin in October and historically students have enjoyed the varied skits, music and videos that reinforce their learning. Please help us create these positive behavior traits in your child and check out our SMART Plan resources under the parent resources tab on our school's website. You'll find a SMART Plan parent matrix, too.

Early release days are dedicated to parent conferences. Each teacher determines his/her own schedule for parent conferences so please be sure to contact your teacher directly to schedule a conference time. In view of the number of families who choose to conference and the limited time allocated for parent conferences, only one conference per family will be scheduled. Please plan to arrange for childcare during your parent conference to make the most out of your time together.

Under "housekeeping" items, the following are worth noting:

~ We are in need of both daily substitutes and lunch monitors. Lunch monitors work two hours each day and substitutes work full days. Please contact Ms. Pearson,, Ms. Tucker or Ms. Sacco for more information and/or to help.

~ Please be sure to place your child's teacher's name tag on the dashboard of your vehicle. (And for added ease please put his/her name on it, too.) This goes a long way in helping to make our afternoon dismissal move more efficiently.

~ Please check your child's backpack every day and our school website at least weekly to stay current on school and academic affairs.

Wishing you a happy fall...

Your partner in education,
Ms. Pearson



Shout OUTS!

Special thanks to our amazing PTO who has sponsored: staff welcome bags, an opening day staff breakfast, PK/K informational tea, an ice cream social...and all in the month of September! This group has big plans and lots of energy. Please join knowing the impact they make on students and staff. Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 in our school's cafeteria.

This month's SMART students include:

Kindergarten: Ethan H., Ryan M. Max M. Leila B., Ethan G., Macie, C., Alivia R., Grace B., Elliot A., Elise L., Maureen M., Anthony F., Abigail H.

1st Grade: Joseph S. Michaela C. George A., Mattea P., Teresa S., victoria C., Teresa B., Nora C., Michael T., Dylan R. Helen M. Kayseli A., Anthony W. Hannah M., Niah R.

2nd Grade: nicholas C., Michaela C., Arianna D., Bryce O., Alice V., Sunday R., Miabella P. Sophia S., Zarah R., Claire C., Jacob D., Malak C. Aili C. Niah R.



Early Release Days: October 4, 11, 18, 23.
(Please see calendar for early release times.)

No School Days: October 14/Columbus Day
October 2nd: Walk to School Day
October 10th: PTO meeting/6:30
October 18th: Spooky Social/6:00-7:30

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