

ELROY ELEMENTARY NEWS

Happy New Year Elroy Families,

This first semester has certainly been one of the most unique and challenging for all of us. At Elroy, we have spent considerable time working together as a staff to learn together and give our students the best possible experience in remote learning. As we begin our virtual schedule, we are once again adjusting and quickly reiterating how to best instruct students. One of the questions I have heard often in recent weeks is "How do I help my child at home who is struggling?" I want to share just a few ways that can help our child in this new model, and no matter what happens this year:

- **Model.** Model good work habits. Simple examples of doing work while sitting upright, not multitasking or checking your phone while working will really help our students. Each day, encourage your student to get up and shower, have a good breakfast, and get dressed in clothing they would wear at school. Be willing to model asking for help or support, and encourage your student to ask for help if needed.
- **Milestones.** Celebrate Milestones. Check Canvas with your child together, and look for the good things to celebrate. Celebrate a good test or quiz. Let them know you are proud of them for attending their classes and staying engaged, not missing a class for the week, or turning in all their assignments.



COUNSELORS C.O.R.N.E.R



Happy New Year! 2020 is behind us and hopefully 2021 is off to a great start for your family. We are excited to be learning virtually in January, even though it has its challenges. Here are some tips to help Virtual Learning go smoothly! (From USA Today Online Learning Tips for a Successful School Year)

1. **Set up a workspace.** Create a quiet, comfortable workspace free from distractions and clutter.
2. **Schedule Brain Breaks.** Get up and move throughout the school day. Repeated physical activity during the school day can improve your child's attention and reduce anxiety.
3. **Manage your time.** Create a consistent schedule for classes and online work. Be sure to schedule in those brain breaks, meals and snacks. This will help everyone in the family feel less stressed.
4. **Provide Positive Feedback.** Many children miss receiving reinforcement and reassurance from teachers and counselors. Building a reward system can help maintain motivation. After kids complete a task or finish a class, consider praising them.
5. **Be flexible** You may need to adjust your schedule as you go. If some class activities or subjects are more difficult, consider setting aside another time to work on that assignment. Try working with your children on more challenging tasks during the times of the day when they are most alert and engaged. Encourage your child to continue working on the things that come more easily when you are not readily available.

6. **Help kids stay in touch with their friends.** School is much more than a place to learn. It serves as a place for kids to socialize and hone their networking skills. Social ties that students have among each other have a positive effect on academic achievement. Implementing social interactions into the routine will help a kid stay connected.

- **Moments.** Step into the high and low moments this year. Acknowledge that both will happen, our students (and us as parents), will hit the wall at times, and have breakthroughs. Be there for both, allow for both, with empathy. Thank you for your constant engagement and support. I appreciate working with you, more so this year than ever before.

Keep focusing on the future. It will be more wonderful than we can imagine.

Dr. Pagan



PATHS LESSONS



This month, PATHS lessons will focus on Goal Setting and Being a successful online student for all grades as well as Study Skills for 5th Grade, Friendship Skills for 4th & 2nd Grade, Respect for 3rd Grade, Self Control for 1st Grades and Different types of feelings for Kindergarten.

Small Group Counseling

Small Group Counseling is happening virtually for the month of January. If your student is interested in joining a small group online, to learn new coping skills, work through grief, or learn to make friends, please email me at any time.

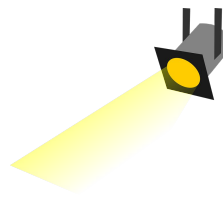
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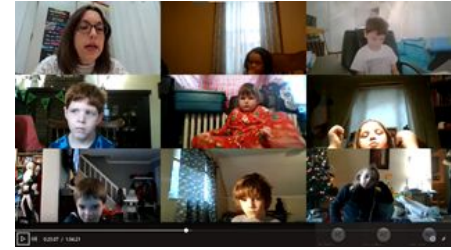
SPOTLIGHT ON FIRST GRADE



First Grade has been rolling right along this fall! In our Reading Street curriculum we've just finished learning all our long vowels using the vowel-consonant-"magic" silent e pattern. We love using our Foundations Phonics as well, and we're having fun learning all our "green glued" sounds: all, am, an, ang, ing, ong, ung, ank, ink, onk, and unk! We have been listening to stories about different December holidays: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.

In Math we have focused on learning addition and subtraction up to 20, while learning about number bonds, math drawings, and the "easy" number of 10! We just finished our Science unit on Weather by learning about all different types of severe weather. We made rain gauges, thermometers, puddles, and clouds! We're excited to learn more about our Chromebooks and we have already had fun with a few "live" classes!

We will miss in-person school in January, but we look forward to learning a new way to have class too! We have special rewards and themed days to help keep us motivated and make our year more enjoyable. We finished off December with a holiday shirt day and a pajama day! Look out 2021, here come the Fantastic First Graders!



Happy New Year! I hope you had a relaxing break and that you were able to spend time with your families and friends, even if it was virtually. I have some exciting news! Our school was funded by Donors Choose to receive a classroom set of 'Colors of the World' crayons created by Crayola. A former chemist from MAC cosmetics helped to expand Crayola's 24 pack of skin tones. Gone are the days of using two or more crayons to mix your skin tone. The sides of the boxes even have swatches to help you decide what skin tone is correct for you! I have a fun project, where we will read two different stories, *Crazy Hair Day* by Barney Saltzberg and *The Colors of Us*, by Linda Katz. Each story highlights the idea of expression and imagination. I can't wait to get started!

K-Rainbow Fish



2nd Grade Concentric Circles
Inspired by Wassily Kandinsky



2nd-Concentric
Circles



3rd- Keith Haring
Figures



4th- VanGogh Flowers

1st- Piet Mondrian



5th- Hand
Illusions