



FOREST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

January 2018 Newsletter

Principal Corner....Greetings Forest Families!

I want to take this opportunity to wish all our Forest families a happy and healthy new year. I hope your winter break was relaxing and filled with memories to cherish with family and friends. Our students have transitioned back into their academic routines, and believe it or not, the end of the second quarter is quickly approaching. The last day of 2nd quarter is January 19 and report cards will go home with students on Friday, February 2nd. Please be sure to contact your child's teacher should you have any questions about their progress.

We are entering our winter assessment window where students at different grade levels will complete a variety of assessments. All students in grades K-5 will complete the FAST assessment in reading. In addition, our 2nd - 5th graders will take the MAP Test in reading and math on January 30th and 31st and February 6th and 7th. We will use these assessment results, as well as classroom formative assessments and observations to guide our instruction and monitor our School Improvement Plan (SIP) at our mid-year SIP Review on February 27th. This information will be shared with families via our website, parent teacher conferences, and the March PTO meeting.

Looking forward to great things in 2018! Thank-you for your support and partnership!
Mrs. Jackson

Important January Dates

January 9th: PTO Meeting
January 15th: No School MLK Day
January 19th: Purple Pride Day
10:00 Assembly
January 22nd: No School
January 23rd: Family Band Night @ RMS
January 30th & 31st:
MAP Testing Grades 2-5

Important February Dates

February 6th & 7th: MAP Testing Gr. 2-5
February 8th: Kindergarten Registration
Night
Classroom Picture Day
February 12th: Author Visit, Mary Bleckwehl
February 13th: 6:00 PTO Meeting
February 14th: Valentine's Day
February 15th: 5th Grade DARE Program begins
February 16th: PJ Day
February 19th: No School-President's Day
February 23rd: Culture Night



FREE PRESCHOOL

NO COST TO FAMILIES!

Why: 90% of brain development happens in the first five years of life. We help get your child ready to be successful in kindergarten.

Where: At the following elementary schools: Meadow Lake, Forest, Northport, Lakeview, Neill, Noble and Sonnesyn. Busing options are available.

Who: Children who are 4 years old by September 1, 2017.

What: Classes that meet Monday-Friday each week for two hours and forty-five minutes.

When: **RIGHT NOW!** Call or email to sign up today!

Email: cp_preschool@rdale.org

Phone: 763-504-5330

**We are ready to help you find just the right place for your 4-year-old.
Please take advantage of this amazing opportunity!**

Math Corner

What do you picture in your mind when you are presented a math problem to solve?

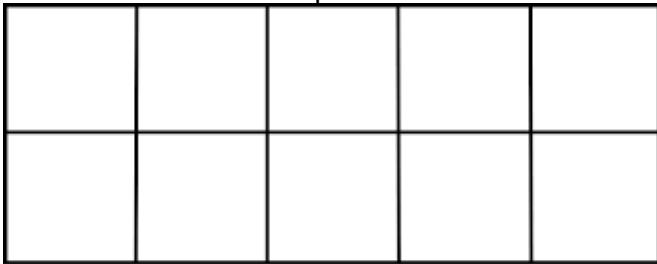
Not sure? Give it a try....

Allison has 5 bracelets. Each bracelet has 7 beads. How many beads does Allyson have in all?

Research shows that when we work on math our brain uses both the ventral and dorsal pathways, both which are visual. Our brain wants to process math visually, it wants to see math. We do it naturally from the time we are young children, our fingers are some of the first math tools we use.

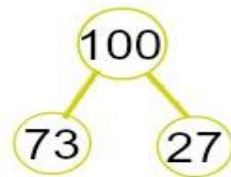
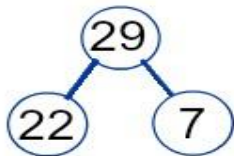
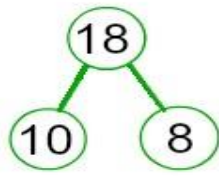
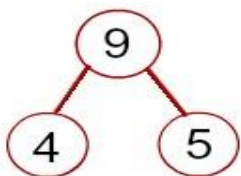
Some of the ways we support our students at school in making math visual is the use of models such as;

Tens Frames which help children see ten.



Number Bonds which help children see part/whole relationships and support addition and subtraction.

Number Bonds



Arrays which help children see multiple groups of the same number which supports multiplication and division



$$4 \times 6 = 24$$



$$6 \times 4 = 24$$

Here are some activities to support making math visual at home.

- Encourage finger use
- Ask children how they see math problems
- Encourage drawing in math
- Point out math visuals in your daily activities
- Check out [Arthur Season 19 Episode 2: Sue Ellen Adds It Up](https://www.youcubed.org/episode-2-sue-ellen-adds-it-up) For more information check out [youcubed.org](https://www.youcubed.org)

Source:

Boaler, J., & Chen, L. (201, April 13). Why Kids Should Use Their Fingers in Math Class: Evidence from brain science suggests that far from being “babyish,” the technique is essential for mathematical achievement. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved January 16, 2018.

Literacy Corner.....Comprehension Strategies

The sole purpose of reading is to make meaning. The Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment in Reading (MCA-III Reading) and our School Improvement Plan (SIP) both focus on reading comprehension. As a result, during the remainder of the school year, our literacy tips will include strategies you can work on at home to help support your child's reading comprehension.

<u>Minnesota ELA Anchor Standard 1</u>	How You Can Help at Home
<p>Kindergarten With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.</p> <p>First Grade Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.</p> <p>Second Grade Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.</p> <p>Third Grade Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.</p> <p>Fourth Grade Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.</p> <p>Fifth Grade Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly & when drawing inferences from the text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read with and to your child every day from a variety of genre, including literature, informational text, poetry, etc.• Ask questions before, during and after reading. Ask your child what questions they may have.• Ask your child questions before, during and/or after reading, such as:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Who/what is this story about?○ Where did the story take place?○ How do you know?○ What details are the most important to the story?○ What events happened first, second, third?○ Show me where the author says that.○ Why do you think that? Can you give examples from the text that support your thinking?

PBIS Corner

Have you seen the Snowman Hanging in our hallways? Classrooms went on a scavenger hunt this week to different areas of our school where teachers re-taught our school-wide expectations. They were able to find different parts of a snowman's body and work as a class to build a snowman. We will be randomly selecting one classroom for a hot chocolate party!

Our next school-wide assembly is on January 19th at 10am. This is also Purple Pride day at school, so it will be very purple in our gymnasium. Our focus for the month is "Act Responsibility" so we will recognize one student from each class who exhibits that expectations consistently. We will also hand out our golden awards. Parents and families are always welcome at our assemblies. We hope to see you there!

FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND PBIS

Did you know students are more likely to demonstrate appropriate school behavior when there is consistency between expectations at home and at school?

When a child has a challenging behavior at school, partnership between school and family is important. Family involvement is a key feature when developing positive support plans for students. School-wide positive behavioral interventions and support is a schoolwide approach to helping all children learn to self-manage behaviors. However, parent involvement is really important in all aspects of PBIS.

When parents are involved, outcomes for children are better. In addition to volunteering as a chaperone on a school field trip or helping out in the classroom, parents can also participate in PBIS activities and planning. The following suggestions are more ways that parents can be involved in their child's school:

- Teach and Reteach PAWS Expectations
 - PAWSitive Attitude
 - Act Responsibly
 - Work Hard
 - Show Respect
- Put a copy of Forest School Wide Behavior Matrix on the fridge
- Celebrate with your student when they bring home a PAWS ticket. Have a family movie night or go out to dinner!
- Focus on and encourage the positive choice your child is making!

Nurse Notes

BRRRR....It is cold outside!

Every child is expected to go outside for recess everyday unless the temperature is below zero/wind chill is below -10. Please make sure your child has hat, mittens, snow pants, and boots every day at school. A note is required from your health care provider if your child needs to stay indoors for health reasons.



REMINDER..... (763-504-7910)

Thank you for calling the attendance line to report your child's absence each day that your child will not be in school. Please make sure you leave a reason for your child's absence on the message line (illness, appointment, vacation, etc....). Please also report any communicable illnesses to the health office or the attendance line (strep throat, pinkeye, head lice, pneumonia, ringworm, impetigo, influenza, Fifth's Disease, etc...)

Please remember that your child cannot come to school if they have vomited within the last 24 hours, even if they are feeling better. They also must remain home for 24 hours after their fever has resolved and for 24 hours after antibiotics have been started for a communicable illness.

From our Specialist Team!

Media Center

Attention Forest Wolves! I am excited to share that we have an author visit scheduled for “I Love to Read” month in February!



Mary Bleckwehl, author of *Henry! You're Late Again!* and *Henry! You're Hungry Again?* will be here at Forest meeting with students and reading her books all day on Monday, February 12. Mary is a mom of three and has also been an elementary teacher. She will explain the writing process and answer student questions. Her newest book will be published in January and is titled *Claire's Hair: A Story of Hair, Heart and Humor*. She will have copies available for purchase (\$15 school price for hardcover) and will sign the book for students. Look for more details coming soon!

In January our media focus will be research: answering questions and using good sources. We will have a variety of activities but each media class will spend part of the time practicing the skill of using information sources and skimming for the facts we need. I would like to complement this with a focus on stories and how we find the books that speak to each of us.

Mrs. Bailey
Media Specialist

Physical Education

Students in PE are working hard in January on their basketball and volleyball skills. They are also continuing to work on their throwing and catching fundamentals. Fitness continues to be an area of focus and also demonstrating sportsmanship. Keep working hard and having fun improving your skills Forest Wolves!

Mr. Seiffert & Mr. Doohar
Phy Ed Teachers

Music

January is all about African drumming at Forest! Our school district has three sets of drums that travel between schools, and Forest's time is from January until March! It's a really good thing the music room is at the end of the hallway by the gym, or the drumming would get to be a bit much! Since Africa is a big continent, we use drums that would typically be found in places like Ghana and Liberia, so we practice West African drumming. Through drumming, students learn so much more than rhythms and songs. It is a total cooperative exercise that requires self-discipline. Students' voices are also amplified through improvising on the instruments with simple games about their favorite foods or even playing their name on the drums. And it is great fun - a real motivator as they return to school and routine after a long break!

Mrs. Lutz
Music Teacher



Art

As it's still chilly outdoors, inside most classes in the Art Room have been warming up painting fabulous artwork... or will be these next couple weeks, and it's so much fun!

Students really enjoy working with paint and I find it's a rather *quiet medium* because they really are trying their hardest to do their best work! 😊 Lessons have ranged from kindergarteners soon to begin self-portraits with a pet and first graders self-portraits with a friend, second graders-dinosaurs, third graders-Van Gogh style sunflowers, and fifth graders-Chinese brush paintings.

These lessons will be completed within the next month and displays of some of the students' beautiful artwork will be displayed around Forest.

Stay warm everyone!
Mrs. Wendy Wold
Art Specialist
Forest & Sonnesyn
Wendy_Wold@rdale.org



Annual Family Band Night

Reminder: Family Band Night is coming on Tuesday, January 23rd
RMS Auditorium, music begins at 6:30. Please register to participate.

All current beginning band students and their family members who play or played a band instrument at one time are invited to come. Detailed information was sent home with all 5th grade band students in November.

Visit this link to complete the **online registration** for participants:

<https://goo.gl/forms/56voLYXBYAMraiiu2>

Visit this link for **music packets** for all instruments:

goo.gl/HyNdAu

Contact your Forest band director with any questions:

Lucy Davis [763-504-7351](tel:763-504-7351)
lucy_davis@rdale.org



Forest Elementary Orchestra Students...From Ms. Nimchuk

Dear Parents of Forest Elementary Orchestra Students,

We are about 6 weeks away from the spring concerts for orchestra! The Spring Festival will be **Saturday, March 3rd** at **Cooper High School**, 8230 47th Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428. There will be rehearsals approximately **1:30-4:30pm**. Students will return to the high school in concert dress for the **performance that evening**. This concert brings the Robbinsdale Elementary orchestras together with the High School Chamber Orchestras.

Thursday, March 8th at **Forest Elementary School** there will be a concert performed for the school at **2:30pm**. Forest Orchestra students will return to Forest by 6:00pm to perform the same music at **6:30pm** for their families and friends.

More specifics will be sent in the coming weeks. Please plan ahead for these important events! Remind your child to practice and bring their instrument on orchestra days.

Students can find videos of each piece they will perform on Ms. Nimchuk's website.

4th Grade: <https://nimchukorchestra.weebly.com/4th-grade-spring-music.html>

5th Grade: <https://nimchukorchestra.weebly.com/spring-concert-5th-grade.html>

Future Dates to Remember:

4th Grade Orchestra Dates:

Thu. Jan. 25

Thu. Feb. 1

Thu. Feb. 8

Thu. Feb. 15

Fri. Feb. 23

Fri. Mar. 2

*Sat. Mar. 3 – Spring Festival

* Thu. Mar. 8 – Spring Concert @ Forest

5th Grade Orchestra Dates:

Wed. Jan. 24

Wed. Jan. 31

Wed. Feb. 7

Wed. Feb. 14

Wed. Feb. 22

Thu. Mar. 1

* Sat. Mar. 3 – Spring Festival

Thu. Mar. 8

* Thu. Mar. 8 – Spring Concert at Forest

