

Mark Denman Elementary

April 2021

Theme:

Focus on collaborating about student learning for substantial results.



Mission:

Mark Denman will provide a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment where all individuals will be actively engaged in personal and academic growth.

Special Events:

- **4/7: Report cards go home**
- **4/14: Board mtg, 6:30**
- **4/19—4/30: Cogat testing**
- **4/23: Summer School forms due to office**
- **4/26: Asynchronous Day**
- **4/27: Stem Night w/ University of Illinois. It is a remote, family night**

Hello, Mark Denman Families!



We are in the final stretch of the 2020-21 school year and we encourage everyone to finish strong. For the fourth quarter, 120 additional students joined our in-person sessions. It is exciting to see so many students attending in-person.

At parent teacher conferences, teachers encouraged selected students to attend summer school. You will receive the invitation in your

progress report. We encourage students who need the additional support to attend and return forms to the MDE office.

Our next online family night is Tuesday, April 27, 2021. The University of Illinois will sponsor the event. They are creating hands-on activities to enjoy with your students. Please make sure that you sign up with your classroom teacher so you can have the materials you need for the family night.

Finally, there is a food distribution every Tuesday at Southview, North Ridge, and DHS from 10 am—Noon and 5—6 pm. As always, if you have celebrations or concerns, contact us. Have a wonderful April!

Ms. Richardson, Mr. Musselman and
Mr. Hightower

Mindfulness

Mindfulness is the practice of being aware and present instead of focusing on the past or future. Mindfulness can reduce stress, improve focus, improve emotional understanding, and improve memory. Mindfulness can be practiced for just a few minutes each day. Here are a few exercises to do with children to help them practice mindfulness.

Five senses exercise- Notice 5 things you can see, 4 things you can feel, 3 things you can hear, 2 things you can smell, and 1 thing you can taste.

Rainbow walk- Take a walk and encourage children to find something red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet.

Teach STOP Mindfulness

Stop- whatever you are doing stop and pause.

Take a breath- take a few deep breaths.

Observe- Notice what is happening around you? What do you feel?

Proceed- Continue doing what you were doing or change what was occurring.

Kindergarten

Students will continue working on skills that will prepare them for first grade. Check those book bags and folders each evening. Please complete all unfinished work and homework daily!

We are really concentrating on our sight words and CVC words this quarter. Students should be reading simple books fluently. Your child should be reading and sounding out simple words. Encourage them to do so at home!

We are continuing to work on addition and subtraction facts to 5 in Math! We are finishing up learning our letters this month and then we will move on to long vowel sounds. Our letters this month are: Yy, Vv, Qq, Xx and Zz. Our sight words are: come, here, to, my, of and what. Our themes are Weather and Seasons and Meeting Our Needs and Wants.

Don't forget Monday, April 26 is an Asynchronous Day!

First Grade

Sight word recognition is critical at this time of the school year. These are words that your child can't always sound out, some words must be memorized. All students have had access to the sight word lists on our Google Classroom all year, and our in-person students have also received paper copies of the sight word lists as well. The following skills need to be reinforced at home:

Sight word recognition - words you need to know that cannot necessarily be sounded out; repetition and review to master these; possibly make flash cards out of index cards; know all the words from List 1 - 7 that are posted on Google Classroom.

- Phonics - reading cvc (consonant vowel consonant) words and blends with fluency.
- Reading - reading short stories with fluency.
- Math - counting and writing numbers to 120; By 1's, 5's, and 10's. Using strategies to add two numbers, such as grabbing the big number and counting on, and using strategies to solve subtraction problems.

Don't forget... Please return Summer School permission slips to your child's teacher as soon as possible if one was sent home with your child.

Specifically For Our Remote Learner Families:

- Just a reminder that it is extremely important that your child is logged into Google Classroom at their designated time. AM students are to be logged in at 7:45 & PM students need to be logged in at 11:45.
- Please remember to keep your tablet charged and your school materials ready to go when we have our "live meets".
- Parents: Please make sure that your child has eaten and gone to the bathroom before their "live meet".
- Parents: While your child is logged in, everything they do and say is on camera. Make sure they know the same rules for good behavior in the classroom is what we expect when we are on-line. Sometimes we forget that what we are doing or showing is visible to the entire class.

Hopping into April in Second Grade!

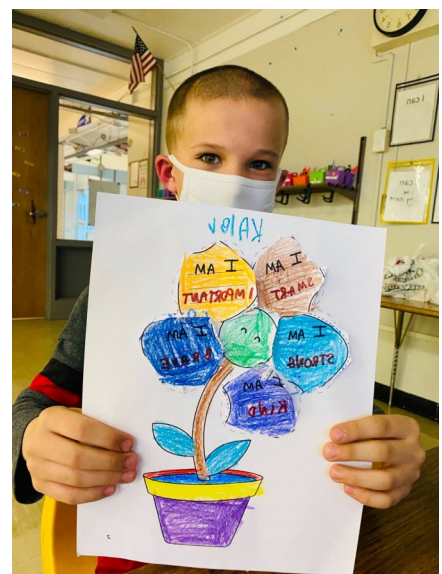
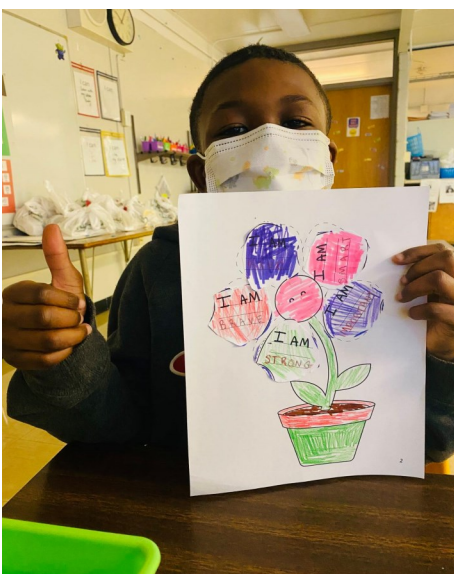
We hope you had a wonderful Spring Break! Now that Spring Break is over we are going to push through this last quarter to prepare for third grade. In our reading series, we will be learning about the different states of matter and how it can change. We will focus on identifying the main topic and its purpose. In Math, we will work on adding 3-digit numbers and subtracting them with regrouping. This is a tough concept for some students, so please make sure your child is practicing at home too. If your child is coming to school in person, it is important that they are bringing their Chromebook charged and ready to go every day. They also should be bringing their light blue Nicky folder home and back every day also. Please check this folder for important information or homework your child may have. If your child is working remotely, please make sure they have all materials right there by them and are ready for class each day. They should be sitting up and participating, not laying down and resting during class time. Also, make sure they are completing their Google Classroom assignments every day. We want your child to be as ready for third grade as possible. If we told you at conferences we were recommending your child for summer school, please get those forms filled out and returned to the school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Third Grade

Welcome back! I hope you had a nice relaxing Spring Break. Thank you to all families that participated in conferences. Your support in your child's education is appreciated.

In Math, we will be moving forward to understanding fractions and equivalent fractions. We will also start discussing communities in our reading series.

Please remember for those students who are returning to in-person, all materials and curriculum need to come to school. This includes their math book, all 5 reading books, paper, pencils, folders, crayons, colored pencils, etc. All students, remote or in-person, should have all their materials every day. It is important to have all our materials, so we can be engaged in or learning and ready to participate. This helps us to be successful in 3rd grade and become prepared for 4th grade.



Fourth Grade

We hope everyone had a fantastic Spring Break! We are back and ready to finish the school year strong! In Reading, we are continuing our study of Earth Changes. Before break, we learned about earthquakes and tsunamis. Now we are going to study volcanoes! We are so excited because the students will be creating their very own volcano and then on Earth Day (April 22) we are going to activate them! Please work with your child on this super fun project! In Math, we are continuing our study of fractions and will be moving into geometry as well as reviewing basic operations!

Continue to review classroom expectations with your student, whether it be in person or online. We want these last couple of months to be wonderful for all our students! We appreciate your help with this! Thanks for all your support throughout this school year! Let's continue to work together during fourth quarter!

Music

In Music Class, we have had a wonderful time celebrating National Music In Our Schools Month. Students drew and colored art work with this year's theme "Music - the Sound of My Heart". We have used boom-whacker instruments as well as rhythm sticks and we've learned cup routines to songs. We have done many body percussion routines as well which sometimes gets us up and moving. Mr. Crow brought in and played his very own unique instrument called a Concertina, which is like an accordion.

We look so forward to continuing teaching Music to both remote and in person students in the 4th quarter. We expect to have students learn about the different families of instruments of the orchestra. In early May, we will have the privilege to watch the annual Danville Symphony Orchestra Children's Concert virtually. We hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break and Easter!

"There is Music in every child. It's the teacher's job to find it and nurture it." - Frances Clark

Physical Education

News from the gym

During the month of April, we will do track and field. We will work on improving our time on the 1 mile run, learn how to throw a disc, and learn the difference between long distance running (1 mile) and short distance running (50 yards). We will also learn the basic skills of baseball.

We recommend you play with your kids outside as much as you can. You can walk, jog, ride a bike or just go to the park and play ball. All these activities are great ways to spend time together with your family and remain healthy at the same time. Enjoy it!

Respectfully,

Jana McKenna, Steven Dale, and Mihai Murineanu

P.E. Teachers

Illinois Assessment of Readiness

The Illinois State Board of Education has allowed additional flexibility for 2021 state assessments. Districts were given the option to test in the Spring or Fall. Danville District 118 has chosen to participate in the Illinois Assessment of Readiness in the Fall of 2021. All students grades 4-8 will be tested. Students will be given tests based on their grade level in Spring 2021. For example, a fourth grade student in Fall 2021 will be given a third grade test. Please feel free to contact your building administrator with any questions.

AVID

As we enter the 4th Quarter at Mark Denman, we will still be putting a focus on our many important AVID strategies that we utilize every day while attending either in-person or remote. This past month, our teachers and students put a strong focus on Costa's Levels of Questioning. Level 1 requires students to gather and generalize information, Level 2 requires our students to process information at a higher level, and Level 3 allows students to apply their knowledge and explain their answers at a more complete level. These levels of questioning are very important to encourage our students to communicate and collaborate information with their teachers and most importantly their classmates.



Community Involvement at MDE

Huge shoutout and thank you to the Hope Chapter #104, Order of the Eastern Star. They donated 26 pairs of shoes with socks, 15 backpacks, hand sanitizer, face shields, and sanitizing wipes! Thank you for donating materials for our students.



April 2021

From Birth to Three

Brandy Kizer Debbie Plush Shannon Roberts Brenda Hays Adrienne Littlepaige



D118 igrow program provides home visiting services that offer family-focused services to expectant parents and families with children up to age 3. We help families locate needed resources, host fun family events, education, support, and free books! In addition to personal home visits and group connections, our family store helps supply baby items and household items for D118 igrow participants .

Call Niah or Katie @ 217-483-2229(BABY)

Corndog
Casserole
Recipe

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER, 2 RIBS OF THINLY SLICED CELERY
- 1/2 CUP SLICED GREEN ONION, 1 1/2 POUNDS HOT DOGS, 2 LARGE EGGS, 1 & 1/2 CUPS MILK
- 1/4 TEASPOON GROUND BLACK PEPPER, 2 PKGS OF JIFFY CORNBREAD MIX
- 2 CUPS SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE

DIRECTIONS: PREHEAT OVEN TO 400, GREASE 12X9 INCH PAN, IN LARGE SKILLET HEAT BUTTER

SAUTE CELERY FOR 15 MINUTES, STIR IN CHOPPED HOT DOGS AND GREEN ONIONS, IN A MEDIUM

BOWL, COMBINE MILK, EGGS, AND CORN BREAD MIX, STIR THEN ADD HOTDOG MIXTURE. TOP WITH SHREDDED CHEESE AND BAKE UNCOVERED FOR 30 MIN UNTIL GOLDEN BROWN.

Exciting Things We Did Last Month:

March

Igrow and the Easter Bunny dropped off Easter Baskets to our families, that included a Parent-Child activity, Easter eggs, books, and a small stuffed bunny. Our families took a picture with the Easter Bunny and they will be posted on our Igrow/Distr.118 FB page.

What April will bring.....

We will continue with our Virtual Visits in April! We are looking forward to our next virtual group with our families, which will be on April 16th starting at 11:00 am Topic: Fostering Self -Esteem and Love is a Powerful Vitamin.

We will also be adding an additional virtual group on April 12 and April 14. Mondays: 12:00-12:30pm and Wednesdays: 2:30p-3:00pm with U of I extension as the Speakers Third session: Healthy Beverages
Families will learn about Healthy Beverages and how to recognize beverages that are better choices for a healthy body.

Child Development Corner.....

How will Gardening help my child...

Why would an activity like gardening be important for my toddler?

Gardening engages all sorts of senses and helps children to develop and recognize them without even realizing. They can feel the texture of soil, seeds, flower and petals. ... As children garden, they develop important motor skills that will help them improve their academic skills such as writing, cutting and typing.

How does this encourage my child's development?

Children can learn new skills, have fun, play and develop self-confidence by spending time in the garden tending plants and growing their own food. Most children enjoy being outdoors and love digging in the soil, getting dirty, creating things and watching plants grow.

