

ILE Update

January 2010

Happy New Year!

Wow! It's 2010 already and there are so many new and exciting things going on in ILE! In December, a school-wide Spelling Bee was held to determine our regional representative. The next school-wide ILE activity is coming up quickly! January 11-15 is science week at Mills Lawn and we will have several visiting scientists in the building to help teach lessons on light and energy. The week culminates with the PTO's science "light" night on Friday, Jan. 15 from 6-8 p.m. In addition to fun, hands-on science activities for families, there will be light sculptures created by the students on display.

Morning News

Everyone is enjoying the return of our morning news program and this month, sixth graders Molly Brown and Lake Miller will take the anchor posts! Reporters from all grades are visiting classrooms and recording on-site news that is being used in morning broadcasts. We hope to expand our roster of morning anchors to include students from other grades and also to recruit more help to film events and write scripts!

Class-Wide Enrichment

In November, Mrs. Shelton helped extend learning about prehistoric Native Americans in Ohio. Many students enjoyed "hunting" prehistoric animals with arrows that the fifth and sixth graders had created as part of their geometry studies. Mrs. Shelton enjoyed accompanying the fourth graders on their field trip to Sunwatch! Also in November, Mrs. Shelton worked with all the third grade classes as they studied their community.

And finally, Mrs. Shelton helped to plan the sixth grade field trip to the Cincinnati Museum Center so the students could enjoy this rare opportunity to see an exhibit and IMAX film about Egypt. The kindergartners continue to enjoy weekly visits from "Senora Shelton" and her Spanish speaking puppet, Pedro.



Second Grade Pull-Out

Twelve second graders have been meeting weekly with Mrs. Shelton as a pull-out group since December to learn thinking and problem solving skills. They are having a great time getting to know Dudley the Detective and his friends and solving a wide range of puzzles and mysteries! This group will continue to meet through January. Participation is based on teacher recommendation.



Third Grade Pull-Outs

Currently, there are two third-grade pull-outs. One small group is exclusively for language arts and the students are reading "The Little Prince," by Antoine de Saint Exupery. This pull-out group will be finished in mid-January and be repeated to serve a second group of third graders. Additionally, a different group meets weekly to explore math through games and problem solving activities.

Fourth Grade Pull-Out

The fourth grade pull-out group continues to read the Swiss Family Robinson and the menagerie of animals encountered on their island. It is our goal to complete the reading this month and close out this exciting learning experience with a trip to the Boonshoft's "tree house." This group includes students identified in various specific academic subjects as well as those recommended by their teachers.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Math

The sixth graders have been applying math concepts in some real-life, practical ways. They designed their "dream houses" on grid paper and calculated the square footage and costs involved in building the homes. They especially enjoyed being creative with room design and decoration! In December, they learned about fractions by recalculating favorite recipes to serve in varying amounts. Then, the students prepared one of their dishes and brought it in to share! The end result was a full-color cook book that they brought home for the holidays!

ILE Extras

ILE Extras are enrichment opportunities for all students, regardless of gifted status:

RECESS: While non-academic, the activities are enriching and help students develop social, emotional and problem-solving skills. Mrs. Shelton allows up to 12 students on a first-come first-serve basis to enjoy recess time in her room--as long as they working on an appropriate project that has prior approval.



LEGO LEAGUE: Thirteen students will be participating in the Mills Lawn Lego League beginning Thursday, Jan. 7, thanks to the many parent volunteers who have made this possible! This Spring will be a practice season, culminating in a schoolwide exhibition (date to be announced!) Our goal is to prepare the students for the official competition that begins in early fall.

CHESS CLUB: Chess is always an appropriate recess activity! In fact, one day per week ILE recess time will be extended 15 minutes and dedicated for chess playing. We will even have a parent volunteer (Thank your Mr. Dietrich) to help students polish their game. A chess club tournament is planned for later in February. Watch for more details!

Gifted Identification Updates

Fall testing and identification is complete. Those who were identified have received letters letting to inform them of their status. Beginning this week, students with superior cognitive identification will meet with Mrs. Shelton and their homeroom teachers to receive enrichment/acceleration booklets and contracts. Students who are identified with specific academic abilities will have the opportunity to participate in pull-outs for enrichment.

From the Teacher: *I hope that each month I am promoting a better understanding of Interest Learning and the program offered here at Mills Lawn. ILE is designed to serve the families of Mills Lawn in three tiers; (1) programs that benefit the entire school, (2) pull-out programs for students who demonstrate high achievement in the*

classroom, and (3) math enrichment according to state guideline for students identified as gifted in math. If you have any questions or concerns about ILE, please stop by, call me at 727-7217, or email me at wshelton@ysschools.org.