



JM Hill In The News!

Kindergarten- Kindergarten has been busy exploring Fall, fire safety, and farm and fall crops. We learned about many aspects of the farm. For Social Studies we learned about the many jobs a farmer does; products from the farm and the journey the products take from the farm to our table. For Science we learned about animals and their babies; animal habitats; and the life cycle of crops such as apples, pumpkins and corn. We enhanced our unit on the farm with a trip to Horse Sleigh Farm in NJ where we picked pumpkins, tasted cider, explored a corn maze, learned how corn grows and saw farm animals in their habitats. We are also working hard to model good behavior and earn tickets for School Wide Positive Behavior.

First Grade- The fabulous first graders at J. M. Hill enjoyed the month of October. We observed the changing leaves, shared different signs of Fall and even played in the snow! The first graders have an interest in the world. They love nature and animals. We have been reading about what we see around us. We take a closer look at clouds, animals, and plants

We can make predictions as we read and recognize cause and effect. We are learning about the setting of a story. We are spelling words with the short a and short i sound. We are learning about the naming part and action part of a sentence.

During math we use problem-solving strategies to make groups of ten and to count 10 on a ten frame. We know different ways to show numbers in two parts.

First grade is happy to report that all three of our class's eggs survived The Egg Drop from the top of J. M. Hill. Our eggs did not have any cracks! They were protected with padding, a teddy bear and a book bag.

Second Grade- Second Grade had a very productive month in October! We completed our first unit in Reading and took our first Unit Skills Test! The students have now begun Unit 2. All the selections are developed around the theme, "Zoom In". In this unit the students will be focusing on reading for information, continuing to recognize and use varied vowel patterns, and learn to identify common and proper nouns.

The boys and girls have really been enjoying bringing their poetry folders home on a daily basis and reading the selected weekly poem to you; this will really help to increase their fluency and reading confidence.



Please continue to practice and reinforce math basic facts at home as we will be introducing concepts which build on our basic foundation. In Social Studies we continue to learn how communities work together to acquire goods and services.

The month concluded with an assembly and "egg drop", which motivated the students to continue using their We Will at Hill manners... help others, live responsibly, live respectfully, and improve themselves.

Third Grade- Third grade has been keeping busy! In Science, we have been studying plants and animals. We know all about vertebrates and invertebrates! We are also taking a look at some of the carnivorous plants, plants that bite back! We are learning about Venus flytraps, sundews, pitcher plants, and more!

We are also still working on mastering our cursive letters. 26 letters keeps us very busy! We will soon be finished with lower case and ready to start our upper case. The students are looking forward to writing their names!

Math has us adding, subtracting and.....multiplying! Yes, it is now time for third graders to start memorizing all those facts! We have been working on many different strategies to help them accomplish this task. We are looking forward to division!

Fourth Grade- During October, fourth graders learned a lot about character traits through the stories and novels they read. Other skills they focused on to improve their comprehension were sequencing, visualizing, and determining the author's purpose for writing. Mr. Hatcher's class also worked on identifying common and proper nouns and studied rules to make words plural. They also wrote directions to make an ice cream sundae.

Math students worked on rounding and estimating, calculating elapsed time, identifying two-dimensional figures, determining patterns and rules, as well as reading graphs.

Science classes continued their study of vertebrate characteristics and began studying the characteristics of invertebrates. In Social Studies, students continued to work on map skills.

Fifth Grade- Writing- Fifth graders are writing first person point of view and persuasive essays. They are reviewing the writing process, focusing on topic sentences, closing sentences and correct paragraph structure.



Math- Students are learning about geometric principles, mean, median, mode and range, and numeric patterns. They have begun to identify numbers as prime or composite in preparation for fractions. They are also creating 3-D models of solid figures.

Social Studies- Students are researching explorers and using technology to create PowerPoint Presentations.

Science- Students are learning about the interactions that occur in ecosystems. They are researching biomes and presenting the class with informative posters describing animals, plants and typical climates. Mrs. Husson's class has started a plant unit.

Ms. R. Miller- Miss Miller's class has been doing activities for the season of fall. We have been making patterns using apples, leaves, and pumpkins. We have been counting and sorting leaves by colors and shapes. We have been reading books about fall, discussed what happens in the fall time, and what colors the leaves turn.

We also spent 2 weeks discussing fire safety. We practiced what to do if our clothes catch on fire (Stop, Drop, and Roll), what to do if the room gets smokey (crawl to an exit), knowing 2 safe exits to get out in case of a fire, getting a meeting place, and to call 911 in an emergency.

We continue to practice writing our names and numbers. We also started writing our phone number and addresses. We continue to practice our 6 digit id number.

We will start talking about Thanksgiving and continue fall activities for the upcoming month.

Music- The kindergarten students are still focusing on steady beat. We have done lots of moving and playing instruments to the steady beat. First Grade has finished steady beat and now is beginning to learn to read, write, and say quarter notes, eighth notes, and half notes. Second grade has also finished steady beat and will review the notes learned in first grade and add dotted half notes and whole notes to their list of notes. Third grade will add the triplet to their list of notes. Fourth and fifth grade students are just beginning to concentrate on steady beat.

The song of the month for October for kindergarten through second grade was "Autumn Leaf". The children really enjoyed learning this song and used rhythm scarves to the flowing music as leaves. The third through fifth grade students' song was "Autumn".



Chorus is moving nicely toward getting ready for their December concert. The students are working hard and are looking forward to presenting their concert to their family and friends. Ten fifth grade girls performed some of their favorite songs for the public at the Dansbury Depot Rededication Event on Saturday, October 14. They did a wonderful job representing J.M. Hill! Thank you to Mya, Madison, Devin, Jessika, Stephanie, Nicole, Ashlee, Arsiana, Ana, and Mackenzie.

K-Kids Club is well under way and we have over 25 fourth and fifth grade students as members. We have been working on making cards for service men and women and collecting supplies to send to them. We have also been selling tickets to the Kiwanis Pancake Day being held at East Stroudsburg High School-South on Saturday, November 12

P.E. - The upper grades are involved with football. We are working on throwing and catching skills. The lower grades are working on Foam Ball skills. All grades have been studying the Health Triangle.

Reading/RtII- It has been a very busy beginning of the year for all! Beginning of year Reading assessments have been administered that help us know what students know and what students still need to learn and master. NWEA, Dibels, and Scott Foresman Reading Placement tests are examples of assessments we may use. All of the Grade level teachers, along with Special Education teachers, the RtII teacher, and Reading teachers, have met in groups to look at the data from those Reading assessments (an ongoing process throughout the year).

The results of the assessments help us plan for instruction during EI time. EI, or *Enrichment and Intervention*, is a time during the day when students are grouped in their grade levels, according to needs, and instruction is planned to meet those needs. Some of the skills are 'Progress Monitored', which means a short assessment is done every 1-4 weeks or so to see the progress a student is making on that skill.

Our groups will meet again in November to analyze the data from Progress Monitoring, as well as any data from classrooms. Changes in EI groups may be made then as needed.

On another note, our school's Homework Club will soon begin for grades 2-5. Students may be referred to Homework Club by the teacher if homework is not getting handed in/done or if students are having trouble with it.



If you have any questions about RtII, our Reading Program or Homework Club, please feel free to call Mrs. Lehmann-Deming (Mrs. L-D) or the Reading Department at school.

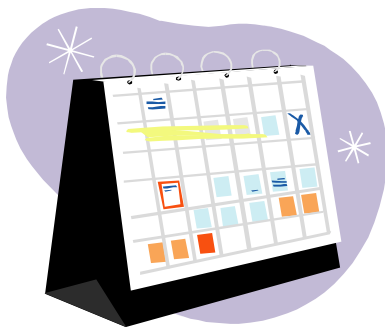


A note from Mrs. Arnold...

The cold weather is coming, so please remember to dress your child appropriately. If they are not, they may not be able to go out for recess!

Report cards will be handed out at conferences. If you are not attending, they will be mailed home.

Please encourage your child to share his/her day with you. By asking specific questions, such as, "What did you do in Math today?", instead of "How was your day?", a meaningful discussion can result.



Upcoming Events...

- 11/9-Budget Meeting 6:00
- 11/10-Texas Roadhouse Fundraiser
- 11/18-4th & 5th Grade Dance 3:30
- 11/21-School Board Meeting 7:00
- 11/22-Conferences 12:00-8:00
- 11/23-Conferences 7:30-3:30
- 11/24-28-Schools closed