



# JM Hill In The News!

**Kindergarten-** Since our last newsletter, kindergarten had a visit from the Monroe County Environmental Center. They did a wonderful presentation on birds from our backyard. We watched a slide show, saw birds that have been preserved and made log bird feeders. We send a big "Thank you" to them. Kindergarten ended the month of February and began March with a celebration of the beloved author, Dr. Seuss. We participated in school-wide activities that celebrated his books such as Crazy Sock Day for the book *Fox in Socks* and pajama day for the book, *I'm Not Going to Get Up Today*. We did quite a bit of rhyming too! The Cat in the Hat came to read too. We are working hard on beginning and ending sounds. We are also learning to add and subtract!

**Second Grade-**February found Second Graders honoring two famous Americans - George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In addition, we recognized the many and varied contributions of notable African Americans. The students created a booklet of their accomplishments. Some of them participated in a Reader's Theater about the life of George Washington Carver.

Academically, the children are working hard learning about mastering 2 digit subtraction with regrouping, choosing the correct operation to solve word problems, and identifying and naming fractions. The students are learning about family traditions, using context clues, and summarizing stories.

We ended the month with a review of our J.M. Hill school rules. To encourage our students to be good to each other and to participate in their learning, we enjoyed a school assembly focusing on our SWPBS program, School Wide Positive Behavior Support Program.

**Third Grade-** Even though February had 29 days, we "leaped" right through it! We spent part of the time celebrating Black history Month. The children learned about many famous people who made contributions to our country and society.

We also found ourselves celebrating another famous American, Theodor Seuss Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss! The children participated in a variety of activities for the week of his birthday.

Since March was right around the corner, we started our PSSA Boot Camp! We are "marching" right through all the skills the children will need to be successful in both reading and math. Parents, please make sure your children get a good night sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and be on time during testing. It begins March 12 and ends March 20.



We are now exploring our solar system and are learning about planet Earth, the moon, the stars, and the 8 planets, minus Pluto of course!

**Fourth Grade**-During the month of February, fourth graders continued to work on lots of comprehension skills to further prepare for the PSSA tests in March. Students read biographies and discovered the accomplishments of important people.

Math skills that were emphasized this month included solving long division problems, working out and explaining word problems, locating ordered pairs on a coordinate grid, finding missing values in equations, and reading graphs. The extra math time was spent concentrating on PSSA practice.

Mrs. Adams also continued her guidance lessons in each fourth grade classroom

**Fifth Grade**-During the month of February the fifth graders worked on PSSA boot camp to prepare for upcoming state testing. They continued to work on answering open-ended questions effectively. To celebrate President's Day, we had classroom discussions about United States presidents. We are reading various novels to increase our comprehension abilities and to foster our love of reading!

We welcomed Middle Level Elementary PDS students from ESU into our classrooms. We look forward to working with them during this semester.

To celebrate the fifth graders 1000<sup>th</sup> day in school, we participated in many exciting activities. We began a list of 1000 words that can make a difference, wrote stories 1000 years in the future and/or past, tested our estimation skills in creating a chain of 1000 paperclips, and participated in various physical activities for 1000 seconds. The students thoroughly enjoyed the day's activities!

**Ms. R. Miller**-In Miss Miller's Class we continue to talk about the season of Winter, including what we can do in the winter as well as appropriate clothing. Miss M our student teacher has been teaching a lot. We have completed some frog activities, including one of our favorite stories "Froggy Gets Dressed". We even got to make our own frogs to retell the story and dress him appropriately for the weather. We have completed a lot of counting activities and some of us are even adding. We also read "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom" and we do letter activities to practice letter naming, letter sounds, and even words that start with a specific letter. Some of us even spell out some 3 letter words for each letter.

Miss Miller even traced the silhouettes of our own faces. She had a contest to see who in the school could guess our faces. Mrs. Arnold and Miss Martha in the



office won! They guessed us all correctly! It's cool to see our side profile and it's so easy to tell who is who.

We continue to work in centers to help build our socialization skills as well as good sportsmanship, turn taking, and playing nicely with our friends. We also are encouraged to be as independent as possible. We have to unpack, pack up and zip up as independently as we can. So if we don't know how to zip our coats yet we must practice, practice, practice!

This upcoming Month, we will talk about St. Patrick's Day and complete some fun activities. We will also move into a lot of Spring Activities! Finally!

**Music-** The kindergarten classes finished the concept of high and low and are now working on loud and soft. First grade students worked very hard in the month of February practicing and presenting their musical "Snoozy Snowflake". They presented two shows to the school and their family and friends. They did an "ICE" job! We are very proud of them! Second grade students worked on melody and learned that notes can move by going up and/or down and by repeating. The third grade students have started to play their recorders. So far they have learned two notes and are just about to begin a third. They will be doing a program called "Recorder Karate" where they can learn songs at their own pace and earn colored beads for when they have mastered a song. Fourth grade students have started to play the acoustic guitar. They have learned two chords so far and can play numerous songs with those two chords. Fifth grade students are working on some basic keyboard playing skills. All classes also sang songs for Valentine's Day and President's Day. The song of the month was "It's a Small World".

Chorus was scheduled to start on February 29 but due to the snow day, will now start on March 7. Approximately 20 chorus students represented J.M. Hill by singing at the Big Brother/Big Sister Telethon on Saturday, February 4. It could be seen on Blue Ridge Cable channel 13. The small group of students did a wonderful job in representing J.M. Hill!

**P.E./Health-**The upper grades have been practicing badminton skills and playing games. The lower grades have learned various folk dances. In Health, the upper grades have been studying the muscular and skeletal systems. The lower grades have been studying ways to prevent getting a cold and what you can do if you get one.



## A note from Mrs. Arnold...

PSSA's are right around the corner! Things you can do to help your child: be sure they eat a healthy breakfast, be sure they get a good night's sleep, be sure they arrive to school on time!

Due to an unseasonably warm winter, we are lucky to have had only one snow day this year. This has definitely helped with seamless instruction, and will be beneficial in starting the summer vacation on time!

## Upcoming Events...

- 3/9-No School
- 3/12-Budget meeting-7:00 Admin
- 3/16-Family Game Night-6:00-8:00
- 3/19-Board meeting-7:00 Admin
- 3/23-4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance-3:30
- 4/12-PTO Meeting

