Indian Knoll
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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October 2026

A Message from the Principal 👩🏻‍🏫📋💼



Happy Fall Y'all!!! 🎃 🍁

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the families that attended Parent/Teacher Conferences this month. A strong home-school connection is crucial for the success of your child(ren). Our teachers are working hard to meet their needs by challenging them, supporting them, and helping them become critical thinkers in all content areas. Please continue to work with your child(ren) at home. Students should spend time each night completing assigned homework and reading a book.

As the holiday season comes, so do the vacations. However, there is new guidance that is very important for you to keep in mind. Students who go on a vacation that lasts 15 days (3 weeks) or longer, will be DROPPED from school. Families will need to come in and re-register their child after 15 days. If our classes are full, students will be overflowed to another school. Please keep this in mind as you begin thinking about vacations.

From the PTO:
🗓️ The next PTO meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 5:30 (Virtuall).
🦃 Santa's Workshop is scheduled for December 7th-11th. We will need volunteers to support this so please reach out to PTO to sign up!
🍪 Cookies with Santa will be on December 11th from 5:30-7:00.

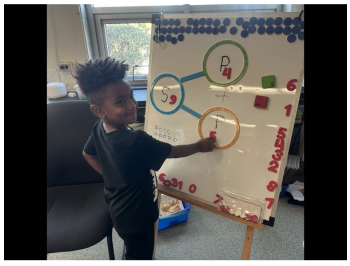
As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Del Toro



Kindergarten

Hello Kindergarten families,
During the month of October we have been assessing our students using KIDS. This assessment uses 14 measures that kindergarten teachers evaluate to assess a child's readiness for school. It is a State requirement.
In the classroom students are working on the following units:
Amplify Knowledge: Students will be working on Unit #2, The Five Senses. Students will learn all about the Five Senses. and they will, also,hear the biographies of both Ray Charles and Helen Keller.
UFLI: Students are working on Phonemic Awareness, blending, letter formation, letter sounds, letter names, CVC words, VC words, and vowels.
Eureka Math: Students are still working on Module #. The focus is on numbers to 10, teaching young students early counting, sorting, and cardinality skills.
Lectoescritura: Students are working on Unit #2. In Unit 2, students will begin to make connections between sounds and letters. They will practice blending sounds to form words and will be taught several of the letters used in reading and writing. (Vowels and syllables with M, P, and S) all in Spanish.



1st Grade

Hello 1st grade families,

We have been working diligently in our classrooms every day.
During UFLI we are working on:
~short vowel reviews
~longer words
~ incorporating the FLSZ Spelling Rule
~Irregular words
We are also writing daily and working on complete sentences.

In Math we are getting started on Module 2-Introduction to Place Value through addition and subtraction within 20.

During Amplify we are currently working on Domain 3- Different Lands, Similar Stories. Students have enjoyed learning about similarities and differences between fairy tales and folktales around the world.

Thank you for your cooperation!

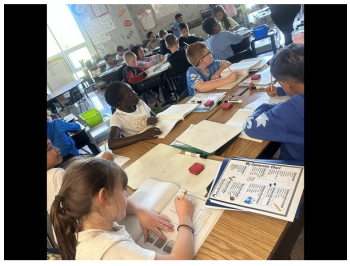


2nd Grade

Hi 2nd grade Families,
2nd grade we are finishing up the 3rd Module in Amplify: Ancient Greece. The kids have been learning all about the contributions that the Greeks have made to our current world (democracy, Olympic games, Olives, Marathons…) In Math we have been working on Place Value, working with Greater than and Less than, organizing numbers in the place value chart and different ways of representing numbers.

In the coming month we will be learning about Greek Mythology. This is a favorite time of year for 2nd graders. We will continue to work on place value in math throughout November.

In Science we have wrapped up our unit on Matter and we are beginning to talk about Plants and Animals. We will be learning about the life cycles of plants and animals, habitats and the relationships plants and animals have.



3rd Grade

Happy Fall families!

3rd grade has finished 2 units in Amplify and we have started on our 3rd - The human body. Students will be learning about how our skeletal, muscular, and nervous systems are interconnected and the importance of keeping our bodies healthy. Students will learn a lot of new vocabulary. We will also focus on strengthening our topic and concluding sentences in our paragraphs. Students will continue to learn words with prefixes to understand how they change the meaning of words. Finally, students will continue practicing parts of speech such as nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

In math, we are in module 2. The concepts that students will learn are: time measurement and problem solving, measuring weight and liquid volume, rounding to the nearest 10 and 100, and 2 or 3 digit measurement addition and subtraction. It is very important that students are practicing their math facts at home every night. This module also allows students to practice elapsed time at home. Have them see what time they are starting a task (shower, dinner, homework) and what time they finish to be able to tell how long it took them.

3rd grade is a very challenging year with a lot of new concepts. It is VERY important that students come to school ready to learn, pay attention and focus on the learning. Distractions and lack of attention will only make the content more difficult. Thank you so much for all your support.



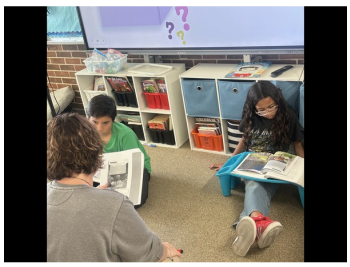
4th Grade

Happy October families! So excited fall is here! So much learning and celebratory fun to look forward to!

4th grade has finished our Amplify/CKLA Personal Narrative unit where students wrote beautiful personal stories that were published on an app called Book Creator based on a core memory from their past! They all got to present them to celebrate in an Author's Chair. Currently, we are now in the middle of Unit 2 of Amplify/CKLA on Empires in the Middle Ages where students are engaged with a social studies topic and informational text in order to gain background knowledge of various aspects of this time period in history: social classes, events that led to the Middle Ages, ways of life, power of the Church and rise of Christianity, etc. Various literacy skills related to non-fiction text are taught, reinforced, and practiced. Students have been working hard to construct informational paragraphs on different social classes in the feudal system where they compare and contrast different social classes. By the end, after all note-taking on each social class, they will construct an opinion paragraph to wrap up the unit on who they would like to live as during the Middle Ages after using facts about each group to come up with pros/benefits or cons of that social class.

In math, we have begun Module 3, which centers on operations and algebraic thinking with a strong focus on building on multiplication and division from third grade. This is our longest unit of 2026 where students apply concepts/skills related to multiplication and division to solve area and perimeter word problems, word problems in general, etc. They will learn various strategies for solving multidigit multiplication problems like 2x1, 3x1, or 2x2 and 3x2. They will also learn strategies for long division, including the standard algorithm for both operations. In addition, prime and composite numbers will be concepts that are taught to support their multidigit multiplication and long division understanding.

In Social Studies, we are still wrapping up our Native American regions unit and discussing conflicts that arose between settlers during the Age of Exploration!



5th Grade

Hello 5th Grade Families!

In math, we continue to work through Module 2. Students apply the patterns of the base ten system to mental strategies and the multiplication and division algorithms. Quiz your child on the difference between a sum and a product. Try to do simple mental math together involving both sums and products. For example, tell your child, "Think of the product of 2 and 3." (The answer is 6.) "Now

think of the product of 3 and 4." (The answer is 12.) "What's the sum of those two products, 6 and 12?" (The answer is 18.)

In amplify, students will learn how large civilizations, such as the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, developed in the Americas before the arrival of Europeans. Students will explore the geography, climate, innovations, discoveries, and overall history of each of these civilizations. Students will be exposed to a variety of complex texts. They will learn about the way of life of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, and will read myths from these ancient civilizations. Students will integrate what they have learned about the civilizations as they review the stages in the writing process and engage in an informative writing piece. They will also collaborate with their classmates and share their ideas as they develop and deepen their understanding of these literacy skills.

In science, students have finished learning all about matter and types of matter as well as their different properties. In Unit 2, students will learn about matter and its interactions in ecosystems. Over the course of this module, students will have the opportunity to:

- Investigate how different types of soil affect plant growth.
- Explore how fox and rabbit populations are connected in a forest ecosystem.
- Observe how moisture affects the way decomposers break down matter.
- Design a compost heap.



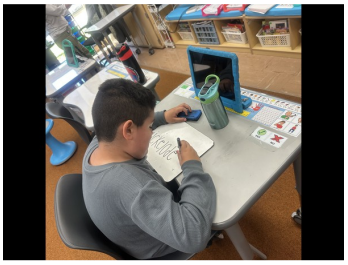
Mrs. McCaffry Cross-Cat

Hello Families! We have had so much fun getting to know our students and also the students getting to know the teacher and related services team! We meet with a member of the team one day each week. We have a Speech group, OT group, Social group, and Library group. Students are gradually learning what elementary school



Ms. Spaniol's Cross-Cat

In October, we began our new unit. We read a fiction book titled "Hide and Seek," where we focused on prepositions vocabulary and worked on sequencing events from the story. After finishing our fiction book, we will read a non-fiction book called "Prepositions," which will allow us to explore prepositions in greater depth.



Mrs. Rodriguez's Cross-Cat

In our class we have been working on adding new sight words to our wall. For phonics we have been working on the -all, -oll and -ull words. For our daily skills we are focusing on STOP, THINK and DO. talking about stopping what we are doing and thinking about the choices we make, making the correct choice and doing the

expectations are and also learning their daily schedules. Students are doing a great job with rotating through their literacy and math centers. TeachTown Curriculum is continuing with the story of Sam and Penny. It will include exploring a book, vocabulary, sight words, and listening skills.

In Math, we are continuing to build number sense and practicing counting skills. For daily skills and social studies/science we are learning about parts of the body and continuing to talk about weather.

Thank you!

In math, we are finishing our number sense and will move on to addition in November. In science, we are beginning to learn about animals, their habitats, and mother and baby animals. This will connect to our recent visit to the zoo.

correct choice. For Math we are still working on number bonds and the commutative property for addition. We will be focusing on word problems for addition. In science we have been working on planets. Each student chose a planet and created a presentation on Google classroom.
Thank you!



Art

In Kindergarten, our little artists have been completing small projects and exploring our drawing and painting center. Students painted a beautiful fall tree using tempera sticks, red and yellow liquid tempera, and bubblewrap! Students created a polka-dot pumpkin inspired by Yayoi Kusama. All artists have been doing a wonderful job following our expectations.

In 1st grade, we started our observational drawing unit. Students are learning how to draw using their eyes and looking closely at details and shapes. Each week, we learn a new drawing technique that they later practice in their mini sketchbook. So far, we have done contour line drawings and echo drawings. Our artists are also learning about origami and how to read the origami steps. I am so proud of all their hard work!

In 2nd grade, we are learning about creating art and design using found and natural objects. They have been creating different shapes, patterns, or designs by organizing different art materials. Students have also used leaves, flowers, rocks, and sticks to create similar designs

In 3rd grade, students have been learning about the creative process. We have been using our sketchbooks by completing various prompts to develop our ideas, creativity, and drawing skills.

Students have learned how their sketchbook can be a helpful tool to brainstorm ideas before they create a project.

In 4th grade, we are learning about innovative art. In our sketchbooks, students have been practicing new and different techniques inspired by innovative artists such as Heather Hansen, George Seurat, and Jackson Pollack. We will also be completing an innovative art project by using technology! Students will soon learn how to code and use LittleBits to create a pixelated animation with our technology teacher, Ms. Silva.

In 5th grade, we are learning about the artistic process. In their sketchbooks, students completed an idea bank as they think, develop, and grow their own ideas for their artworks. Students also learned how to use the ChompSaw! The ChompSaw is a kid-safe power tool for cutting cardboard. Students are extremely excited to have this new tool to further develop their sculpture ideas and skills. They have been doing a great job following our ChompSaw expectations!



Music

KG-Students have been reviewing 4 voices: sing, speak, whisper, shout (think) using songs, chants, and call and response. Students sang solos for the song “5 little pumpkins” and are learning to take turns.
1st-Students have been reviewing reading, playing and clapping quarter notes and rests. We are playing classroom percussion to the story The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything. Students are learning the names of instruments and how to play them. Instruments include triangles, drums, egg shakers, rhythm sticks, tambourines and wood blocks.
2nd grade-Students have been reviewing reading, playing and clapping half notes amd rests. They have played classroom percussion including rhythm sticks and egg shakers. We played a steady beat game where we bounced a ball around the circle to one another to the song Pick a Pumpkin.
3rd-Students have been reviewing reading, playing and clapping tika tika patterns (16th notes). We have reviewed how to hold mallets properly with Mr. Turtle and played a xylophone chordal accompaniment to the song Ding Dong Diggy Diggy Dong.
4th-Students had an amazing time at the Wheaton Symphonic Band concert! We enjoyed experiencing live music and seeing how the instruments are played. Students wrote thank-you notes to the conductor and the performers which were delivered last week. Students are reviewing reading, playing and clapping titika and tikati patterns. We are singing Leatherwing Bat, an Appalachian folk song, which reinforces these rhythms.
5th- Students have been reviewing reading, playing and clapping syncopated rhythms (syncopa). They composed their own song in the STEM lab with Ms. Silva using Microbits and did a fabulous job!

We reviewed mallet hold with Mr. Turtle and played a chordal accompaniment to There Was an Old Woman all Skin and Bones. We will learn how to play E on the recorder to accompany this song as well.



PE

K-5th grades have finished soccer and soccer skills. Now we are working on Throwing and Catching skills and games using different types of balls.

Library



Our library has been buzzing with learning, reading, and creativity! We enjoyed read-alouds celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month and explored a variety of career options through engaging stories and activities during our district-wide Career Week.
Students in grades K–3 kicked off the Monarch Reader's Choice Award Nominee Program, discovering exciting books and sharing in the joy of reading. Our first and second graders also participated in a fun "Just Right" Chapter Book Tasting, sampling different books to find new favorites that match their interests and reading levels.
Our fifth graders brought their love of reading to life by creating READ posters featuring themselves with a favorite book. Each poster includes a QR code that allows students to listen to a recording in which the fifth grader summarizes the book or shares why it is a favorite. These fantastic posters are now displayed throughout the library, giving students a fun way to discover new books and get recommendations from their peers.
It's wonderful to see our students exploring new stories, discovering interests, and inspiring one another to read. We look forward to sharing more library adventures with you!

SEL/Health



Kinder - In kinder we are discovering how everyone is unique. We read the story "The Square Pumpkin". We talked about accepting our friends for their differences.

1st - In 1st grade the students are learning about managing our emotions. We discussed stress, anger, and sadness. We learned calm down strategies and made our own book to practice how to stay calm in difficult moments.

2nd - In 2nd grade we have been working on ourselves and learning how to become the best versions of ourselves. We read the book "The Best You" and created goals to achieve.

3rd - In 3rd grade we have been discussing the importance of not giving up. We learned about the power of saying yet. We talked about strengths and limitations as well as identifying our interests.

4th/5th - In 4th and 5th grade we are continuing to use the Botvin Life Skills Training Workbook. The students are learning from myself and a Dupage County Sheriff Deputy about important social and communication skills.

Upcoming Events



- **October 31st-** IK Trunk or Treat (11:00-1:00)
- **November 3rd**- No School- PD Day
- **November 9th- November 20th-** AAPPL Testing (3rd-5th grade dual students)
- **November 18th-** 4th Grade Field Trip to Medieval Times
- **November 23rd-27th-** NO SCHOOL- Thanksgiving Break
- **December 7th-11th-** Santa's Workshop
- **December 11th-** Cookies with Santa (5:30-7:00)
- **December 21st-January 1st-** NO SCHOOL- Winter Break
- **January 4th-** Back to School!
- **January 12th-14th-** Winter MAP Testing
- **January 18th-** NO SCHOOL- MLK Day



Whitnie Del Toro
Principal, Indian Knoll Elementary School

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