

Mark Denman Elementary

May 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:

- **5/4: Virtual Danville Symphony Orchestra concert**
- **5/10: Asynchronous Day**
- **5/24: Asynchronous Day**
- **5/27: Bingo Night, 4:30—6:00 pm**
- **5/31: Memorial Day, District Closed**
- **6/4: Technology returned to MDE**
- **6/11—Last day of school**

Hello, Mark Denman Families!



April has been a month full of activity at MDE. Grade level teams are re-examining the curriculum. We recognize that some students have struggled this Covid year and we are creating plans to address those needs for the 2021—2022 year. The goal is to meet as many of the student needs within the general education classroom. To further support the students, we ask parents to send their child to summer school; particularly if your teacher has recommended your child. Summer school forms were included with progress reports. We will send a second form in the mail to parents who did not respond to the first letter. Please complete and return the letter to the MDE office to register your child .

We would like to congratulate Mrs. Craig and Mrs. Walter for winning the Golden Ruler

Award for 2020 and 2021. These amazing staff members represent some of our finest educators.

Thanks to everyone who attended our STEM Family Night with the University of Illinois. If you were unable to attend the event, we will post the activities on the Facebook page and Class Dojos to complete at home with your families, if you desire.

At the end of the school year, we will collect technology. The date for the tech collection will be Friday, June 4. More information about the grade levels impacted and the tech drop times will come soon.

Finally, we will have our last family night of the year. The event will occur on May 27. It will be a Bingo Night and an in-person event.

Thanks for hanging in with us through this unique year. Let's finish strong by completing our assignments, logging on to class, and attending school daily. As always, if you have questions, concerns, or celebrations, feel free to contact us.

Ms. Richardson, Mr. Musselman and
Mr. Hightower



Kindergarten

Our school year is coming to a fast end! Your child has grown, matured and learned many new things in Kindergarten. Most children are beginning to read and sound out words. We can now count to 100 and we know our letters and sounds!

This month, we are working on long vowel sounds with a silent "e" at the end of the word. Our final sight words are: put, want, this and saw. Our final topic in Reading is "Forces and Motion". We will be finishing up Math with Numbers to 100 and Describe and Compare Measurable Attributes.

We have enjoyed working with your child and we appreciate your help and support throughout this crazy year! Education takes place at home as well as school. Continue to work and read with your child over the summer. Good luck in First Grade and have a great summer!

First Grade

Second grade is right around the corner! Sight words are so important for your child's success in reading. 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. Our in-person students have 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 - 11 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.

Making May Memories in Second Grade

This month we will be finishing up our Benchmark Reading series with some fun reading about weather and volcanoes. We will be sending home a letter about a home-school project where you and your child can make a volcano together at home. Then, when we finish up our unit, we will activate them at school with our in-person students. If your child is remote, we look forward to seeing some videos of you activating them at home. In Math, we will work on measurement, looking at graphs and data, and then we will finish up with some geometry and fractions. We also plan to do some studies on planets. We have a lot of learning left to do and we want to have some fun as well. Please encourage your child to do their best and be on their best behavior so they can get the most out of our last time together. We also want to continue to see remote students showing up for live sessions on time and ready to participate. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Third Grade

Welcome May! We look forward to nice weather and sunshine!

Our third-grade students have been reading and studying Our Communities unit in our Benchmark reading series. We are focusing on "What makes a community?". The main standards we are focusing on are being able to "recount or retell" a story and identifying the main idea and details. Traditionally, part of this unit is to study Vermilion County history while focusing on important people and places located in Danville. One of our favorite field trips each year, is visiting the Vermilion County Museum. As you know, our field trips have been canceled due to Covid but we are in luck! The museum has chosen Mark Denman 3rd grade to pilot their new virtual field trip. We owe a big thank you to them for their hard work in preparing these materials!

Fractions it is! We are currently learning about fractions in Math across the grade level. Concept focus is identifying equivalent fractions, ordering fractions on a number line, identifying unit fractions, fractions greater than 1, and parts of a whole. This unit is engaging for all third-grade students because it is a future skill they will use! We encourage all our students to do their best and finish the fourth quarter strong.

Fourth Grade

It's amazing how quickly this school year has come and gone! It's definitely been a year to remember! We appreciate how supportive and patient you've been with us this year as we've navigated new waters! We couldn't have done it without you! As we go into this last full month of school, we will continue to work on Reading and Math to prepare your child for fifth grade. In Reading, we will finish the year learning about the Power of Electricity. In Math, we will continue to review addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and we will be learning about Geometry!

We would appreciate your help in reminding your child to do his/her best this last month of school. We still have so much to do to prepare your child for fifth grade. We need minimal disruptions in the classroom and much effort to be put forth in academics. We would really like to end the year on a positive note!

Thanks for your support throughout the school year! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

Music

Greetings all from Mr. Crow,

So much has been happening the last few weeks. We wrapped up jazz in our school with music by Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Wynton Marsalis. Second through Fourth grades are currently working on a hip hop project that includes beatboxing, scratching and rapping. On May 4th, we will be participating in a live stream concert with the Danville Symphony Orchestra.

Hello from Ms. Sparks,

We have been studying the music of the story "Peter and the Wolf". Each character in the story is played by a different instrument. The students have been learning about the different instruments of the orchestra in preparation for the Danville Symphony Children's Concert. They also made and colored flap books, which tells the key points to the story. Also, we have enjoyed learning basic songs on the "piano" in Chrome Music Lab. Cardio Desk Drumming has become pretty popular as a musical "Brain Break". We continue to review AVID SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) through music with one of our favorite uplifting tunes, "YOU-nique". This is when we remind ourselves of our strengths, goals, and what makes each one of us special and unique. We have discussed Jazz and how it relates to the recent movie "Soul". Next month we will be switching to a new Musical Piece to explore, "Carnival of the Animals" by composer Camille Saint-Saens. Fourth grade students will be gearing up to move on with some preparational work on reading note names, note values, and basic rhythms.

Physical Education

News from the gym

During the month of May, we will continue to work on improving our mile run and we will play different fun games that will keep our students motivated and in good shape. We will also work on speed (60 yards dash) and softball throw.

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



AVID

As we move into the month of May, it is very hard to believe how far we have come. The AVID Site Team is planning and preparing for the next school year. We are exploring new methods for organization, rethinking supplies, and researching opportunities to expose our students to speakers and events that address college and career readiness. In April, our fourth grade classes were able to participate in a virtual college visit with Danville Area Community College. The students learned about many of the different activities and programs that take place at the community college. Mr. Groves also shared information on upcoming summer programs and camps available to our students. Thank you to DACC and Mr. Davis Groves for taking the time to give this experience to our students.

Community Involvement at MDE

From February through April, Lead 4 Life worked with the fourth grade students. Javae and Francinna Wright, co-directors of the organization, taught virtual lessons connected to our Second Step social curriculum. Their lessons encouraged students set short and long term goals, improve their mindset, believe in themselves, and focus on making a positive impact on their community. Lead 4 Life and the one fourth grade class was featured on CI Living. The link to the episode, <https://www.wcia.com/.../go-lead-4-life-inspires.../>, is on the Mark Denman Facebook page. We are glad that our fourth grade students had the opportunity to work with Mr. and Mrs. Wright.



May is Mental Health Awareness month. Focusing on our mental health is just as important as focusing on our physical health.

Parents and Teachers- try and take some time this month to do some self-care. Here are a few strategies for self-care:

- Make sleep a priority.
- Schedule time in your day to just focus on you.
- Do one thing you enjoy every day.
- Take a break from social media.
- Focus on your accomplishments.
- Go on a walk.
- Try out daily affirmations this month.

Children and Students- try out Monday check-ins to gauge how children are doing or try out Friday check-ins and have children practice gratitude and name something good that happened during the week. Implementing breaks can also be beneficial for children to “reset”.

- Monday Morning check ins- ask children how are you feeling? What are you looking forward to this week?
- Feel Good Friday’s- have children name something good that happened during their week.
- Reset Button- designate time for children to decompress and take a quick break.

May 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)

Ingredients: 4 Bananas and 250g / 9 oz. strawberries

Instructions

- Hull the strawberries and chop them in half (or quarters if they are very big). Chop each banana into 5 or 6 pieces.
- Place the fruit in a zip lock bag, squeeze out the air and seal. Place in the freezer for at least 6 hours or overnight if possible.
- Remove the fruit from the freezer and transfer it to a food processor. You may have to let it defrost slightly for a few minutes to break the chunks of fruit apart.
- Blitz the fruit until it is smooth, like the consistency of a smoothie. Pour into a loaf tin or other freezer-proof dish, cover with cling film and freeze for an hour.
- Remove from the freezer and serve in a cone or in a cup.

Gluten, dairy and Sugar – free ice-cream with two ingredients!

Exciting Things We Did Last Month:

April

Igrow Group Connection was about Fostering self-esteem, and Love is a powerful vitamin. PE's gave each of their families a packet that included a Parent-Child activity Flower hand print keep sake and a small flower pot that included dirt and flower seeds for our families to plant.

What May will bring.....

We will continue with our Virtual Visits in May! We are looking forward to our next virtual group with our families which will be a virtual group through our FB igrow page on: May 10th and May 12th. Mondays: 12:00-12:30pm and Wednesdays: 2:30p-3:00pm with U of I extension as the Speakers, this will be the Fourth session titled: Smart Sleep

Ways to relax before bed, how much sleep we need, and what we can do throughout the day to ensure a good night sleep.

Child Development Corner.....

Getting a good night sleep...

Why is getting good sleep so important for my toddler?

Sleep helps your toddler develop into a healthy child, and lets your toddler develop good sleeping habits so she/he can have a good night's rest.

How does this encourage my child's development?

A good sleep helps your baby's brain to restore the resources that were used up throughout the day.

