We had a wonderful 2018 Literacy Week January 22-26th. Many thanks to our parents, friends, and community members who supported this endeavor. Our Read Aloud Day on January 23rd was a huge success. The Plew Literacy Team worked hard to plan the special event. And, PLA provided a delicious, healthy breakfast.

With the arrival of February, we watch for the groundhog’s shadow and of course, our teachers and students are working hard on our grade level standards. The state assessment testing begins in March with writing on March 6th.

Our students will be ready to shine. We appreciate your support with homework and nightly reading.

Lastly, I want to send a huge “shout out” to our PLA for funding the replacement of rolling gates on our bus ramp. The old gates were a safety hazard, so this addition is just another safety support. In addition, before the winter break the PLA also funded the acquisition of 20 chrome books. Thank you, PLA, for all you do for our students and staff.

~Carolyn McAllister

Notes from Our Assistant Principal, Mrs. Peterson:

On Tuesday, January 23, 2018, we celebrated literacy week with a school wide read aloud day. We hosted 37 guest readers from the community. The books that they read were as diverse as the occupation of the reader. Mr. McAllister read a chapter from a childhood book about aviators and ‘brought some artifacts from his military days. Mr. Jacobson read a book entitled, The Librarian of Basra and discussed some of his travels in the Air Force.

Mrs. Schumacher, a local artist read a book about Matisse. The readers modeled the richness of language and facilitated rich discussions with the students about the book and various careers.

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MILE CLUB RULES

1. No Food/Drink at PE—Water ONLY
2. Athletic shoes must be worn on the track.
3. Students must travel to nurse/restroom with a class buddy, NOT a visitor.
4. Parents must supervise non-Plew students at ALL times.
5. Do not pick up students.
6. Strollers need to be pushed on the outside of the track.

~Coach Bristol

P.E. NEWS

4th Grade Chorus has started! Rehearsals in February will be the 6th and 20th at 7:30 am in the music room. Open to ALL 4th graders!

~Coach Bristol

P. E. (continued)

Mark Your Calendars!! Field Day Dates and Times are as follows: ***Tentative***

DATE: March 13th
Kindergarten
1st grade
2nd grade
TIME: (KG-2nd)
9:00-10:00
Break for Lunch
12:10-1:10
1:15-2:15

Grade levels will move through 3 “zones” throughout the day. Each zone will last approximately 1 hour.

Students (KG-2nd) will break for lunch from 10:30-11:55 and then continue field day from 12:10-2:15.

DATE: March 14th
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade
TIME: (3rd-5th)
9:00-10:00
10:10-11:10

Grade levels will move through 3 “zones” throughout the day. Each zone will last approximately 1 hour.

Students (3rd-5th) will break for lunch from 11:30-12:45 and then continue field day from 1:00-2:00.

If you would like to make a donation to the concession stand this year, PE will be accepting the following items:

Pickles
Popsicles (Flavor-Ice)
Water

~Thank you!

CHESS CLUB (3rd—5th Grades)

Chess Club is off to an amazing start...over 30 students showed up for the first meeting. Students will meet bi-weekly through May 8th in the Media Center. We have all ability levels. Chess Club begins promptly at 7:30 am.

If you are a chess player with a passion for teaching others the game and possess patience, we would love to have you join us! This might be just the place for a Grandpa to plug into our school and students.

Mrs. Crist along with Mr. Boyer, a mentor, will be conducting the meetings.

Shawna.crist@okaloosaschools.com

Meeting dates
Jan. 16 and 30
Feb. 13 and 27
Mar. 13 and 27
Apr. 10 and 24
May 8
Counselor’s Corner

Last month during PAWS time, we went over our Child Safety Matters lesson on digital safety and how to be an UPSTANDER at school.

Please ask your child to do the motions with the following safety rules:

- **Know What’s Up**
- **Spot Red Flags**
- **Make a Move**
- **Talk It Up**
- **No Blame/ No Shame**
- **I love working with the students and teaching them that Knowledge is Power!**

~ Heather McClaren, Guidance

If you are interested in proc-toring for our upcoming FSA tests, please email me at Heather.McClaren@okaloosa.schoo ls.com

With statewide testing we have a great deal of information available to students and families at the FSA Portal (http://fssassessments.org/) under the Students & Families TAB on the left side.

Here is our Plew FSA testing schedule:

- **March 6 Writing Grades 4 & 5**
- **April 10 & 11 Reading ELA Session 1 and 2 Grade 3**
- **April 16-May 11 (4 days total for grades 4 & 5 and 2 days Grade 3)**
- **May 1 & 2—Grade 5 Science**

ART NEWS

Grades 3-5

*Google Doodle* completed entry form needs to be post marked or emailed by March 1st if you are participating.

Also, if you are in need of another form, please let your child know, and one will be sent home.

~ Mrs. Wilbourne
Art Teacher

Plew Gardens

Hello Plew Families!

Take a walk around the school and if you see a “Play in the Dirt, Adopt this Garden” sign located in a garden you and your family would be interested in caring for, please snap a photo with your phone of the garden and email to plewgar dens@yahoo.com. We would also be happy to meet with you at the school, if you prefer.

Remind your child to use the paths when walking through the gardens and also to not pick up rocks, flowers or ornaments.

Also, We keep the black gate nearest the kindergarten ramp open until dusk if you would like to work on the gardens. If you are coming on Saturday, there is a key available.

~ Melissa Rohde
PLA Beautification Chair, Plew Gardens

“Plant Dreams, Pull Weeds & Grow A Happy Life!”

SUPPORTING PLEW

BOX TOPS are an easy way to raise funds for Plew. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents. Send them in with your student anytime!

We raised over $3000.00 last year and the money goes to the PLA to purchase items for your students.

Thank you!

~ Peggy Barnes

From the SLP


~ Anita DeVuyst, M.S., CCC/SLP
MEDIA CENTER NEWS

We continue to have a large number of our books returned wet due to lunchboxes and water bottles. Please review our rules about keeping books high and dry! Once a book is wet, it cannot return to our collection. Mold and mildew soon follow...

Many of our students are reading and excited about a new genre - Graphic Novels. Graphic novels are books written and illustrated in the style of a comic book. The format is what makes the story a graphic novel, and usually includes text, images, word balloons, sound effects and panels.

Graphic novels powerfully attract and motivate kids to read. Graphic novels can dramatically help improve reading development for students struggling with language acquisition for various reasons...illustrations provide contextual clues to the meaning of the written narrative, acquire new vocabulary and increase English proficiency, and clues to emotional context.

If you are moving, please don’t take our treasured titles with you!! And if you have outgrown titles, remember our Perused Pages (used book) sale at the end of the school year. We would love to have your gently read books for our students.

The notion that graphic novels are too simplistic to be regarded as serious reading is outdated. Often they actually contain more advanced vocabulary, actively engage readers in the process of decoding and comprehending a range of literary devices and can help students develop critical reading skills. Readers who are skilled at understanding and being critical of multiple formats will excel.

We are growing our collection of graphic novels...read one today!!

If you are an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves.

~Neil Gaiman

IMPORTANT...PLEASE READ...

There is probably no one that dislikes fundraising more than myself, however, I know it is a necessary evil in our school system. I have sold everything under the sun and for every team/sport my girls have ever played.

This fundraiser doesn’t require you to spend any more than you already spend...honest!! This is a VERY easy way to help our library purchase new books and keep current. SAVE and SEND to school your Coke product caps (Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fanta, Powerade). Each cap is worth 5 cents to us and sometimes they offer to double our donations. Maybe it seems like nothing to you, but those caps add up quickly. All we ask is that you send them to the Media Center rather than placing them in the recycle/garbage bin...simple! If you buy your soda in a cardboard carton, there are codes on the boxes. Dasani water has a code on the shrink wrap on the bottom of the package.

~Shawna Crist, Media Center
Hello, Plew Family! The PLA remains busy at work since returning from break.

- A special thank you to Jennifer Gesch, Deanna Cheatwood, and the PLA Hospitality Committee for planning and donating food for the Literacy Day Brunch in January. The Community Readers enjoyed quite a spread before they were escorted to their classrooms to read their stories.

We also have a new **BACKPACK PROGRAM**. Stay tuned for more details; but, for now, a heart-filled thank you to Kristen Radliff. She ran into some roadblocks at the beginning of the year; but, instead of allowing her frustration with the system to get her down, she changed the program to remove the roadblocks and make it better! If you are interested in donating to the backpack program, please see the attached list for requested food items. Our backpack program sends over 20 bags of food home on Friday afternoons to Plew families in need of a helping hand. This food supplements meals over the weekend. We feel strongly that no one in the Plew Family should go hungry.

- **Copy Room Volunteers.** This person(s) makes copies or laminates projects for the faculty whenever it’s convenient during business hours—one hour a week or one day a week—however it fits with your schedule.

- Finally, per the by-laws, nominations for next year’s PLA Board is open this month. If you would like to nominate someone for the position of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer; please place names in the PLA NOMINATIONS bucket in the front office.

**CURRENT NEEDS:**

- **Spirit Store Coordinator.** This person(s) would be responsible for ordering merchandise (Nichole Reed already has the companies and catalogs), and setting up Plew’s Spirit Store at your convenience (typically once or twice a month in the morning before school).

- **Beautification Chair.** This person(s) is responsible for coordinating the garden volunteers (Plew Planters), ordering pine straw and mulch twice a year, and miscellaneous garden maintenance.

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**Food Pantry Donations Needed**

Please consider donating to Plew PLA the following items:

- Pop-top cans of Soup, Tuna, or Chicken
- Fruit Cups
- Flavored Oatmeal
- Easy Mac-N-Cheese
- Peanut Butter (Up-to-go)
- GoGO Squeeze Apple Sauce or Yogurt
- Canned Vegetables
- Snacks
- Monetary Funds are also appreciated.

Make checks payable to Plew PLA and put “HarvestHands” on Memo line

The Backpack Program is now HarvestHands: We send over 20 bags of food to Plew families each Friday with extra food to help with weekend meals.

**Thank you to those who have donated so far!**