



*"Working Together=
Learning for All"*

WILL L. LEE ELEMENTARY

JANUARY 2023

Principal, Mrs. Heidi Mangune

Dean of Students, Mr. Mike Gibson

Office: 586-727-2509



Welcome Back!!!

With a New Year ahead, I would like to encourage all of our families to take 20 minutes out of their night to read as a family. Promoting reading and a love of reading is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child. On that note, I wanted to take a moment to talk a bit about the books that your child should be reading at home. At school, we assess to determine a student's **independent** and **instructional** reading levels. These are two very different levels. An **independent reading text** is one that your child can access very quickly and read with very few errors. Think of an independent level as the highest level you would ask a child to read without help. These are the books that we would send home with your child. They are used to build stamina, fluency, and increase their love of reading. An **instructional reading text** is a level that requires additional instruction. The text is a bit challenging for the student and requires support from the teacher. These are not books we would send home with your child. These are books we use in the classroom in guided reading, small groups, or one on one conferences. Please feel free to ask your teacher, Interventionist specialist Mrs. Walters, or myself for any clarification on this information. Happy Reading!

Please be sure your children wear the appropriate clothing for outdoor recess during the colder months of the school year. Students go outside for recess, weather permitting, after lunch on a daily basis. Students go outside for recess as long as the temperature and wind chill registers 15 degrees or above.

The 3rd grade students and staff have been hard at work preparing for the M-STEP. The students are assessed in English Language Arts and Math. The test window is mid April-beginning of May. Please do your best to avoid scheduling appointments or vacations during the testing windows.

February 8th is spring **COUNT DAY!** Please be sure your student is in attendance that day!

-Mrs. Mangune



All classroom/teacher requests for the 2023-2024 school year
MUST be received no later than **Thursday, June 1st, 2023.**



Update from Our Dean of Students...

Welcome back!

We are excited to see all of our families and students. We hope that everyone was able to relax and recharge as we venture into the second half of the school year. Getting back into a routine can be tough after some extended time off. Teachers will be reviewing True Blue behavior and what that looks like with our students as they return to class.

This month our PBIS moral focus is encouragement, and our assembly will take place on Friday, January 27th. As we all know, a lot of things are not easy and life throws constant curveballs at all of us. Encouraging others can motivate them to do their very best and helps build confidence. We will be focusing on being positive and encouraging others throughout the month of January here at Lee. We are asking our families to do the same at home. Encouragement is more than just saying something positive, it's also about providing guidance and feedback. Your support and guidance at home is instrumental to their success here at school. Thank you for all your efforts as we partner with you to provide the very best education possible.

Lee attendance numbers for December will be released soon. As you know, we are really pushing stronger attendance in the district. **Did you know that students who miss 15 days of school per year will miss a year of school before their senior year?** It is imperative that our students are in class as much as possible so that they can get the very best educational experience.

We are here to support you. Please reach out if there is anything we can do to help.

- Mr. Gibson

Lee Newsletters are housed on the **Lee Elementary** website and e-mailed to families.

Please check the school website for the most up-to-date information. www.richmond.k12.mi





We want to welcome back all of our preschool families as we return from the holiday break!!

We are excited to see what 2023 brings and I know our staff is excited to see everyone again. We have our winter social coming up in February! The flyer is attached to the newsletter. It will be held on Tuesday, February 7th. More information and reminders will be coming home as we get closer to the event.

The PBIS moral focus topic for this month is encouragement. We will be discussing what this means with our students at school, but you can encourage their efforts at home too. The PBIS assembly will be held on Friday, January 27th this month.

We also want to make sure that our families are keeping an eye out for our preschool round-up flyer! That will also be sent out soon to our community as we prepare for current and incoming preschoolers who will be enrolling for the 2023-2024 school year!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me in the office.

- Mr. Gibson

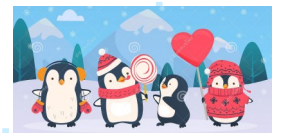


Stay tuned for information regarding our upcoming

KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL

Round-Up....

Coming MARCH 2023!!



Physical Education News

Hello, families and friends at Will L. Lee,

Hope everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing winter break. Since returning to school, we have been working really hard at getting students back in the swing of school, re-learning "how we roll" in gym class, and getting them moving and having fun! Students have been great learning our classroom rules and procedures, and we will be focusing on learning motor skills and playing games. We are really excited to see our little ones grow and learn!

Mr. Barnes



The A.B.C.D. Rules of Physical Education

A. Act safely



B. Be prepared and Be Positive



C. Cooperate



D. Do Your Best



Mrs. Boettcher's Technology Newsletter

In the Computer Lab students are increasing their typing skills with two fun and challenging typing program. In the younger grades the students are using Typetastic to become aware of key location. In grades 3 and 4 the students are starting to work on speed and accuracy in typing words using Nitrotype. Both programs are web-based and free! All students spend time at least once a month working on their typing skills.

Typetastic keeps kids engaged because they're playing games while learning geared to kindergarten and first grades typing skills! Because the games are so colorful and fun and visually appealing, the students want to play the games! And the more they play, the better they become at typing!

Nitro Type provides students practice typing by racing their car through the streets of a fictional town, either competing against themselves, anyone online at the time, or classmates they've selected. They can race as an individual or a class team. It is designed to improve typing skills rather than teach. Students can race as a guest.

Here are some guidelines I share with my students for each grade level

Kindergarten: Just learning key location and becoming familiar with the keyboard.

Grades 1-2: Should know where the keys are on the keyboard and begin to use 2-handed typing. Speed 7-12 wpm with 70% accuracy

Grade 3: Speed 10-15 wpm with 75% accuracy



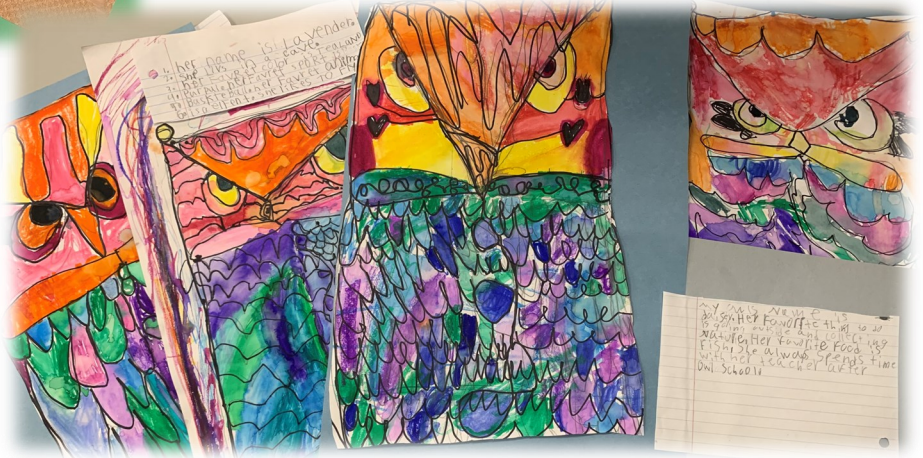
ART

Art students have been working on drawing skills!!!

3rd graders learned about face mapping and are creating self portraits (the hair step is next)!!



2nd graders learned about continuous line contour drawing and drew an owl then wrote a story about their owl



1st graders and Kindergartners learned about drawing with shapes and drew Corduroy the Bear



MUSIC



Kindergarten and First Grade have been working on identifying high and low, which is often confused with loud and quiet. They danced with scarves to “The Blue Danube” and “O Mio Babbino Caro” waving it high to show high notes and low for low notes. They also played Fairies and Monsters. They flew like fairies when they heard instruments playing high, and crouched and snarled like monsters when it was low.



Second and Third Grade have been working on rhythms and dynamics. They made a list of candies on the board and played four corners. Students chose a corner, one student would yell out a candy, and the students were out if they were in the corner with the rhythm that matched the candy. They also have been learning about dynamics. They took notes on the Italian words used in music to indicate how loud or quiet to play or sing. They are practicing a song called Missus Tong that demonstrates multiple music opposites like loud and quiet.



ART + SCIENCE = PROGRESS

Mini #3 is in full swing! Students in grade kindergarten through third grade have completed the Built It unit. This unit involves various build challenges for each grade level.

Kindergarten – Build It Unit (Keva Planks and Legos)

Students in kindergarten explored and built with Keva Planks (they look like Jenga pieces) to build strong structures that would not collapse. They built towers, buildings, bridges, and designs. Students were then introduced to Legos by participating in build challenges where they could use Legos only or incorporate Keva Planks as well. During this unit there is also focus on independent learning as well as collaborative learning. Students worked very hard to be a good team member throughout the challenges. They are about to complete their second unit in STEAM which is the research unit where students will research a specific topic using various forms of media in stations.



First Grade Build It Unit – (Toy Cars, Lego Cars, and Ramps)

Students in first grade learned about pushes, pulls, gravity, and energy during their Build It Unit. Students explored with toy cars and made ramps to experiment how the cars performed on the ramps. They then applied what they learned, designed a Lego car, built the car, and tested the car on the ramp. Students helped each other as they shared tips on how to get the cars to go down the ramp as far as possible without falling apart.



Second Grade Build It Unit (Paper Airplanes & Lego Challenges)

Students in second grade explored with paper airplanes to learn about gravity, drag, aerodynamics, and thrust to determine how different types of paper airplanes performed. Students tested the paper airplanes in the classroom, in the hallway, and outside. They all agreed that flying them outside was the best! Students then applied what they learned about paper airplanes and designed and built an original paper airplane. There were great conversations about what worked well and what did not with the focus on why they thought things worked or did not work. There were also some predictions about what would happen if the paper airplanes were folded differently. Students also participated in Lego Build Challenges throughout this unit that were timed, had criteria, and were completed through collaborative teamwork.



Third Grade Build It Unit – (Catapults and Trebuchets) –

After learning about catapults and Trebuchets, students worked in collaboration with a partner to design and build a catapult out of Legos. There were several different designs that were used by students from simple lever catapults, to those that used tension and release methods using rubber bands. This process was challenging and students often had to modify or completely change their design in order to make their catapult operational. Students presented their catapults to their classmates and engaged in a question and answer session after presenting. Students used constructive criticism while evaluating the work of each group.



CHILDCARE UPDATES

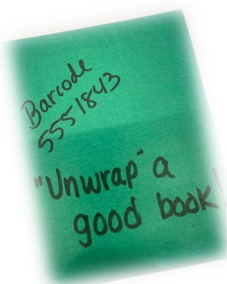
Childcare has been enjoying the mild weather playing outside on most days. The students have been joying pizza party's and movies on the ½ days.



Fun with FRIENDS!!!!



Lee Media Center News



Students that wanted to participate in a mystery book checkout got to choose a newly added wrapped book to checkout. The rules were simple, choose a wrapped book, check it out, then they got to unwrap their book to see what they got for the week! All wrapped books were newly added title's to our library. I will bring it back in February and March so all students get a chance to participate.

If you receive a library notice for an overdue book, it's usually just a reminder to get the guardians help in locating the lost book. If the book is lost, a replacement copy is appreciated. But you can also pay the fine for the book replacement. If you have any questions please reach out to Stephanie Nichol at snichol@richmond.k12.mi.us



Please keep in mind that the Spring Bookfair is coming up **March 6-10**, and we will need volunteers to help it run smoothly. Keep an eye out for the sign up genius!!



Be sure to join the PTO Facebook page for school activity updates, happenings around town & district announcements!!

Will L Lee Parent Connection



1/18-1/20: Half Days of School (11:15am Dismissal)

1/20: End of 2nd Quarter & 1st Semester

2/2: Groundhog Day

2/8: Spring Count Day



IMPORTANT Lee School Reminders....

School starts at 7:50am!

- Students who arrive after 7:50am are considered Tardy
- Students who arrive after 8:20am are considered absent for the first half of the day
- Students who leave prior to 2:20pm are considered absent for the second half of the day



Students should NOT be on campus prior to 7:40am, unless they are in childcare or receiving breakfast, as we do not have staff monitoring the school grounds until then.

- Students who eat breakfast at school may enter the building at 7:30am through the cafeteria doors
- Students not having breakfast should NOT be dropped off or arrive at school before 7:40am, this is for their own safety!!

Students go outside each day for recess, unless it's raining or the "real feel" temp (temp and windchill factor) is below 15 degrees.

- Please be sure to send your child with weather appropriate clothing (coat, hat, gloves, boots, snow pants, etc.) each day
- If you need assistance ensuring your child has these items, please don't hesitate to reach out to the front office!! We are here to help!

Please DO NOT allow other parents/visitors into our building once you have been granted access. While it may seem rude to shut the door on someone, we all understand this is for the safety of your children and our staff. Each visitor should be stating their name, and their purpose for the building visit, upon ringing the buzzer.



Richmond Community Schools

Preschool Winter Formal Social Event

**When: February 7th
from 4:00-5:30pm
Where: Will L. Lee Cafeteria**



Students and families are encouraged to
dress up for our winter wonderland themed
event

For more information call 586-727-7552 ext 6009

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education amendments of 1972, Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title II of the Americans with Disability Act of 1990, and Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act of 1977, it is the policy of the Richmond Community School District that no person shall, on the basis of race, color, religion, military status, national origin or ancestry, sex (including sexual orientation), disability, age (except as authorized by law,) height, weight, or marital status be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to, discrimination during any program, activity, service or employment. Inquiries related to any nondiscrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent, 35276 Division Road, Richmond, MI 48062, (586) 727-3565.