



PENN VALLEY PAW PRINTS

Fall - 2024

News from the Office

Dear Penn Valley Families,

I hope this newsletter finds you well! As we wrap up our first marking period, I'm excited to share some updates and important information with you. Our school community has been bustling with activity, and I'm thrilled to see the enthusiasm and growth in our students.

Highlights from Our School

Doc's Delightful Visits

Our beloved school therapy dog, Doc, continues to bring joy to our classrooms. His visits never fail to put smiles on our staff and students' faces, and it's heartwarming to see how much they enjoy petting him.

SWPBIS Success

Our School Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Support plan (SWPBIS) is off to a fantastic start. Students are demonstrating responsibility, respect, and safety. A big thank you to everyone who completed our SWPBIS survey – your feedback is invaluable!

PTO Update

It's not too late to join our PTO and support our school! Recently, the PTO sponsored an exciting assembly on positive character traits, which was thoroughly enjoyed by our student body.



News from the Office

High School Building Initiative

I encourage you to stay informed about the new High School building initiative. This project will significantly impact our current elementary students as they progress to high school. Please attend meetings and complete surveys to stay involved.

Arrival/Dismissal

We've noticed an increase in late arrivals and early departures. Please remember students should be in class, ready to learn when the bell rings at 9:00 AM. The doors open at 8:40 AM for students who want to participate in the free breakfast program. Early pick-ups disrupt the learning day.

Reminders

1. Volunteer Clearances are required for school activities. Register using App Garden on our website under the Volunteer Clearance icon.
2. Parents/Guardians of students in Grades 1-5 need to register on PowerSchool to view report cards.

As we approach the holiday season, I want to express my gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Together, we're creating a vibrant and nurturing learning environment for our students. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season!

Warmly,
Ms. Hidalgo

News from the School Counselor

Community Service Project



Penn Valley's fourth grade classes joined forces with The Giving Tree to complete a community service project this fall. The students utilized materials donated by Giant Food Stores to create Full Belly Bags for local community organizations. The belly bags contained mac and cheese, applesauce cups, oatmeal, cookies, granola bars, and a special note from the students. Additional bags were donated by Penn Valley families. A total of 307 Full Belly Bags were delivered to The Giving Tree. Student leaders of this project were Selena Ford, Olivia Mason, and Charlotte Klimas-Iannocone. Great job, fourth grade!

Career Activities

Students in Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grade will be completing career exploration activities through the computer based program Naviance. Two activities will be completed at each grade level. These tasks help students start to identify their areas of interest, careers within their community, how to develop a resume, and how what they are learning in school can help them in selecting a future career. The students' responses will be maintained in the Naviance database so that the students can review their answers as they get older.



News from the School Counselor

Food Pantry

Penn Valley partners with Manor Elementary School to provide food baskets for any family that has a need. Look for the blasts from Ms. Hidalgo to sign up. If you are fortunate to have an abundance of food items, you can drop them off in the lobby of Manor Elementary or at Penn Valley.

Support Opportunities for Your Child

Penn Valley has resources available for your child. Please contact Mrs. Johnson at 215-949-6800 X14850 or ajohnson@pennsburysd.org if you would like more information about any of these programs.

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Bucks County – Trained High School students serve as "Big" Brothers and Sisters to elementary school students referred by school counselors or teachers. They meet weekly at the elementary school in a supervised setting.
- Family Services Association of Bucks County – Penn Valley has a partnership with Family Services to provide counseling for children directly in the school they attend. Students are eligible if they have Medical Assistance.
- Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania – The Pennsbury School District has a contract with The Council of Southeastern Pennsylvania to support the Student Assistance Program at all levels. In the elementary schools, the Council is offering six to eight week group and individual counseling sessions for students. Contact Mrs. Johnson if you would like more information.

News from the Math Specialist

MATH CLUBS HAVE BEGUN!

Penn Valley hosts two morning math clubs. 24 Challenge Club is a math game club open to students in grades 3-5 that meets every Thursday morning from 8:15-8:45. To play the game, students must use all four numbers on any given game card along with any of the four operations to make the number 24. The first student to make 24 wins the card to gain points. The student with the most points earned wins the round.

Our second math club is Math Olympiads where students explore topics and strategies in depth and learn how to become proficient problem solvers. Club members will enter five worldwide contests between December and March. Math Olympiads is open to 4th and 5th grade students and meets Friday mornings from 8:15-8:45.

PUZZLE TIME

Can your family solve this math puzzle?

BASKETBALL MATH!

mashupmath

$$\text{Basketball} + \text{Basketball} = 16$$

$$\text{Basketball Hoop} + \text{Basketball} = 13$$

$$\text{Sneaker} = \text{Basketball Hoop} + \text{Basketball Hoop}$$

$$\text{Basketball} + \text{Sneaker} = ?$$

News from the Math Specialist

FACT FLUENCY

Fact Fluency is an important skill to help your child be successful in math. Students who have a strong foundation and understanding of their basic facts can focus their energy on problem-solving and be more proficient mathematicians. Don't forget to help your child practice their math facts every night. This is an important foundation for many skills.

Penn Valley Expectations

- Kindergarten- Addition & Subtraction Facts to 5, Doubles Facts to 10
- 1st grade- Addition & Subtraction Facts to 10, Double Facts to 20, Friends of 10
- 2nd grade- Addition & Subtraction Facts to 20
- 3rd Grade- Multiplication Facts 0s through 10s
- 4th Grade- Multiplication & Division Facts 1s through 12s
- 5th Grade- Maintain Multiplication & Division Facts 1s through 12s

SUMMER MATH CELEBRATION

Penn Valley students who turned in their summer math packet celebrated their hard work over the summer with some outdoor fun and a treat.



News from the Math Specialist

MATH CHALLENGE

The Math Challenge program is a free school-wide math enrichment program for elementary students consisting of series of challenging and interesting math problems. You can visit Penn Valley's website under News & Information to access Penn Valley's Math Challenge page or go directly to [this link](#).

Congratulations to the following students for going above and beyond and practicing their problem solving skills on the first few math challenges of the year!

Math Challenge 1: Place Value & # Riddles

Delilah Gottlieb- K Sheedy
Logan DeCinque- 1st Rapciewicz
D'Angelo Seip- 1st Zuczek
Sharin Phillips- 1st Zuczek
Priyal Patel- 4th Klacik
Rubin Curevac- 4th Klacik
Avery Ainscoe- 4th Peters



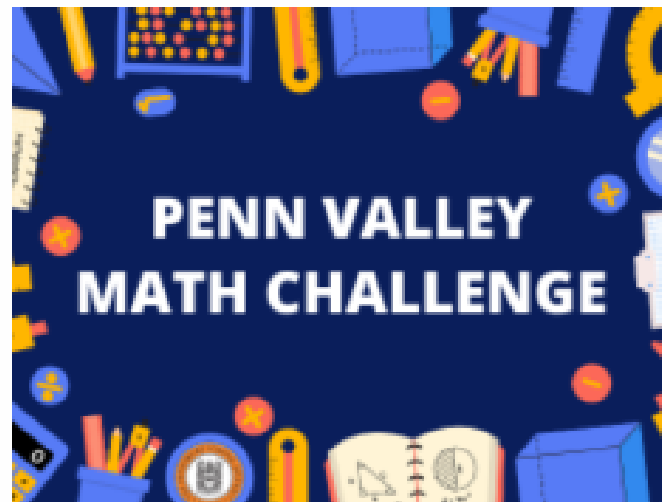
Math Challenge 4: Problems with Cards

Delilah Gottlieb- Kindergarten Mrs. Sheedy
Amar Hamza- 1st Grade Mrs. Johnston
Alperen Yilmaz- 1st Grade Mrs. Johnston
D'Angelo Seip- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Sharin Phillips- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
James Donahue- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Logan DeCinque- 1st Grade Mrs. Rapciewicz
Lexi Boyle-Yelton- 3rd Grade Miss Surdy
Rubin Curevac- 4th Grade Mrs. Klacik
Kyle Sorrentino- 4th Grade Mr. O'Donnell

News from the Math Specialist

Math Challenge 2: Logical Reasoning

Delilah Gottlieb- Kindergarten Mrs. Sheedy
Amar Hamza- 1st Grade Mrs. Johnston
D'Angelo Seip- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Sharin Phillips- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Henry Revinski- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Craig Fletcher- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Owen Flaherty- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Alex Ontaneda- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Logan DeCinque- 1st Grade Mrs. Rapciewicz
Melissa Richardson- 3rd Grade Mrs. Zubrzycki
Carter McGlynn- 3rd Grade Mrs. Zubrzycki
Jaasiel Aguilar- 3rd Grade Mrs. Zubrzycki
Cameron Sharble- 3rd Grade Mrs. Zubrzycki
Priyal Patel- 4th Grade Mrs. Klacik
Rubin Curevac- 4th Grade Mrs. Klacik
Luke Revinski- 4th Grade Mrs. Klacik
Kyle Sorrentino- 4th Grade Mr. O'Donnell
Mia Ontaneda- 4th Grade Mr. O'Donnell
Blake Fusaro- 4th Grade Miss Peters
Avery Ainscoe- 4th Grade Miss Peters



Math Challenge 3: Halloween

Delilah Gottlieb- Kindergarten Mrs. Sheedy
Autumn Schaefer- Kindergarten Mrs. June
Amar Hamza- 1st Grade Mrs. Johnston
Alperen Yilmaz- 1st Grade Mrs. Johnston
James Donahue- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Sharin Phillips- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Craig Fletcher- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Owen Flaherty- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Alex Ontaneda- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
D'Angelo Seip- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Owen Flaherty- 1st Grade Mrs. Zuczek
Logan DeCinque- 1st Grade Mrs. Rapciewicz
Melissa Richardson- 3rd Grade Mrs. Zubrzycki
Lexi Boyle-Yelton- 3rd Grade Miss Surdy
Mia Ontaneda- 4th Grade Mr. O'Donnell
Hunter Coyle- 4th Grade Mr. O'Donnell
Rubin Curevac- 4th Grade Mrs. Klacik
Blake Fusaro- 4th Grade Miss Peters
Brayden Roach- 4th Grade Miss Peters
Avery Ainscoe- 4th Grade Miss Peters

Thank You To All Who Supported our
PBIS Team's Annual Pumpkin Parade



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Kindergarten

Wow! Our Kindergarten students sure have grown during the first marking period!

The Kinders have learned all the school rules! They are great at showing the silent signal, love eating in the cafe, and giving the silent hello to all the friends they have made at Penn Valley.

Our classes loved learning about Fall, exploring the pumpkin, and participating in their first Halloween parade! A special thank you goes out to all the parents who donated snacks and helped out with the Halloween party.

We are looking forward to sharing their growth with you at conferences!



First Grade

1st Graders are Making Their Mark!

1st Grade has made a smooth transition into the daily routines this year. We are steadily moving along in our Into Reading Series. Some of the strategies we have learned so far are sequencing events, character feelings, and context clues. We also covered phonics by reviewing short vowel sounds, and grammar by learning about nouns and verbs.

In math, we have been working on addition strategies. We are learning about the different tools we can use to solve number stories. We completed our unit in Social Studies. We covered topics about what we can learn from others and who works in our school. The next few weeks we will focus on Science. Our unit will be Sound and Light.

October was busy! We had a Fire Awareness Assembly during Fire Prevention Week. We also had a visit from the Long Orange Line PHS Band! Halloween was a success! Thanks to all of our parent helpers that made the magic happen! Please remember to read your 100 Step Challenge and record the number of books you read on the 100 Chart! We are looking for more students to reach 100 steps! Continue to practice your math facts and turn them in for an opportunity to win a prize!



Second Grade



Second grade has been busy learning and growing! We have spent a lot of time getting to know one another and building our classroom and grade level communities. In reading, we've enjoyed some great stories, including Clark the Shark, The Great Puppy Invasion, and Picture Day Perfection. Students have learned about author's purpose, creating mental images, and character traits. In math, students have practiced strategies for adding and subtracting within 20. We have also discussed place value and how to show numbers in different forms. In writing, we've spent several weeks reviewing complete sentences, subjects, predicates, end marks, and the different types of sentences. Currently, students are writing narrative stories that include a topic sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence. In social studies we learned about maps and the three types of communities. Soon we will begin our science unit on solids and liquids. We have also learned many new energizers to get our bodies moving when we need a movement break. We are excited to continue learning this year!

Third Grade

Third grade has had a very productive first marking period! We quickly learned and adjusted to our daily routines. We have been growing in academics and behaviors with the use of the philosophy of Responsive Classroom by participating in daily Morning Meetings, Quiet Time, and the use of R & R (Reset and Return), along with logical consequences, closing circles, and team-building games and activities. We continue to work hard on our 100-Step Challenge. We have been moving along in our reading series learning some new Spanish words, along with some interesting characters such as Judy Moody, Marisol McDonald, and Scaredy Squirrel. We are tackling the fun-filled reading and language arts learning program called Waggle.

In social studies, we strengthened our geography skills as we explored globes and maps, the geography of several locations throughout our country, such as Roseburg, Oregon, and Las Cruces, New Mexico. We also learned about the seven continents. We are enjoying the TCI learning platform with all of the interactive student activities. We celebrated Diwali by creating beautiful Rangoli drawings and learning about the cultures and celebrations of this feast along with the Day of the Dead, Rosh Hashanah, and Hispanic Heritage Month. We also learned through NOVA about the importance of digital citizenship. We supported the Penn Valley Pink Out in October in honor of breast cancer awareness.

In math, we have been having loads of fun exploring the many different strategies and properties involved in multiplying and dividing. Students continue to strengthen their math skills using IXL. Thank you to all of our awesome volunteers who made our Halloween parties a huge success! We look forward to the Turkey Bowl and celebrating Thanksgiving with our families as we enter the new marking period! We will be having a feast of thanksgiving by hosting a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Feast consisting of jelly beans, Hawaiian Rolls (toast), pretzels, and popcorn. We appreciate the support of our students' families!



Fourth Grade

Fourth grade has had a great start to the school year. We are learning to demonstrate our best character as we understand the expectations of being a responsible, respectful and safe fourth grade learners. We love participating in our Morning Meetings together as we greet, share and get to know one another.

Our fourth grade teammates have worked hard to grow independently as they move throughout their day. Increasing our reading stamina and finding ways to enjoy reading is our goal each day. Whether we are reading to find information, be entertained or persuaded, our fourth grade friends are exploring new genres and meeting characters each week. In math, fourth grade friends are polishing up their basic math fact skills. Each week our goal is to improve our fact fluency from the week before. We have worked on adding, subtracting and even multiplying larger numbers! Learners have practiced different strategies to find partial products and even multiply two-digit and three digit numbers using basic facts. Fourth graders are learning the importance of taking their time, lining up numbers and showing our thinking in their math notebooks, step by step. Fourth grade writers are growing more and more confident each day. Using our editing eyes and new grammar knowledge, our sentences are becoming more detailed and accurate. Be sure your fourth grade writers check they have capitalized letters and have correctly punctuated each sentence they write.

Fourth grade learners know they can do hard things and they are rising to the challenge each day. They have learned that productive struggle is something we work through with a positive outlook. Keep up the great work, 4th grade, and continue doing amazing things! We are proud of you!



Fifth Grade

This marking period, 5th graders have enjoyed getting to run for Student Council officer positions, apply for the school safety positions, meet our 2nd grade buddies, and lead our first All School Meeting.

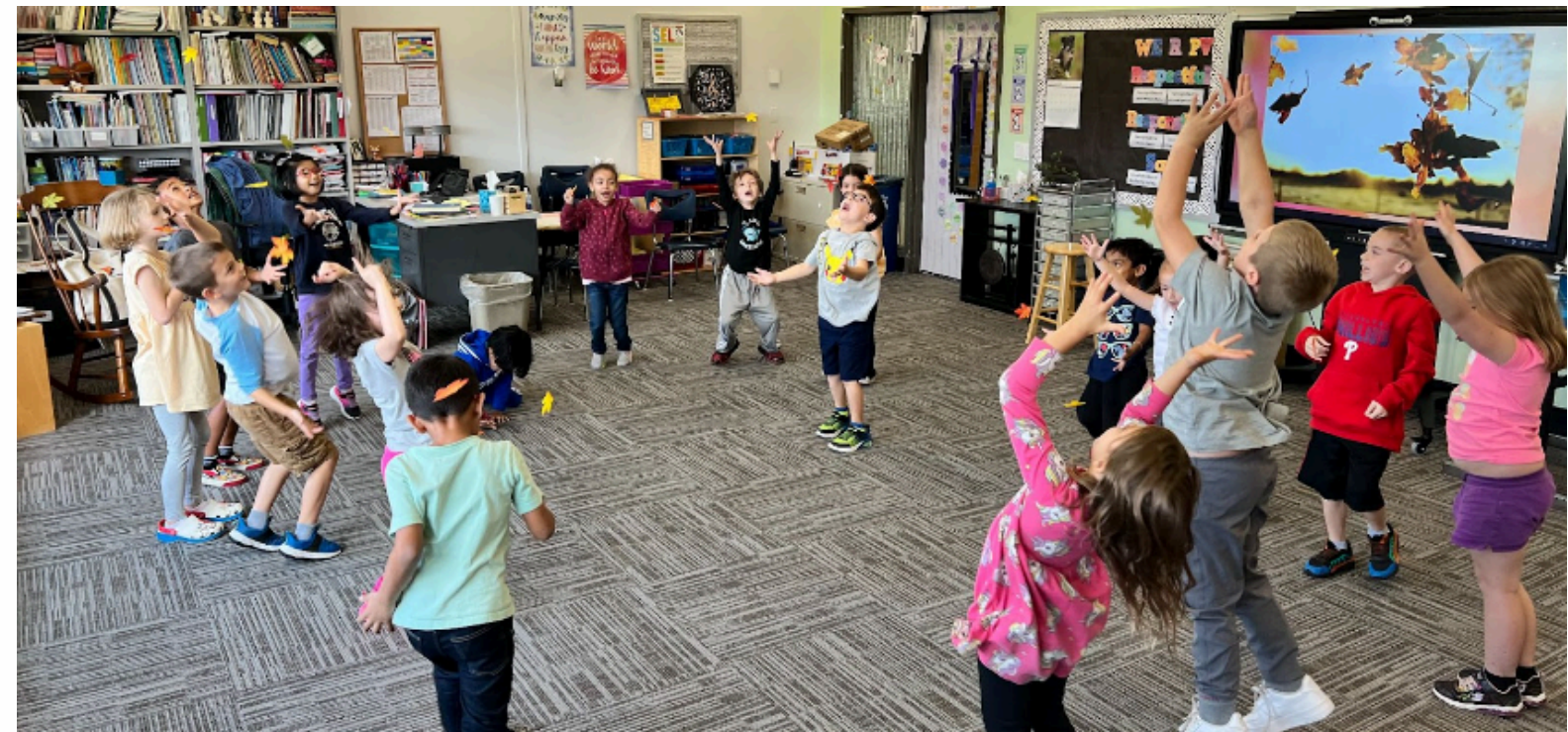
In reading, we have been working on our independent reading skills. We have set nightly reading goals and have been working on choosing a “just right book.” We have completed our Inventor’s at Work module. Students have developed vocabulary and writing in response to reading as we have studied the characteristics of great inventors.

In math, we have learned exponents and powers of 10, understanding whole number place value, decimal place value to thousandths and comparing and rounding decimals in topic 1. In topic 2 we learned mental math, estimating sums and differences of decimals, using models to add and subtract decimals and adding and subtracting decimals. Finally, in topic 3 we have learned multiplying whole numbers, multiplication of 3-digit by 2-digit numbers and problem-solving strategies. We have also been focusing on the quality of our math work by utilizing the acronym “EWS.” E=equation with a variable, W= show work, S=sentence with a label. We have seen such an improvement in our math skills and are so proud of the students for taking on this challenge.



Music

Since school began, your student has been reviewing musical skills and concepts previously learned and I am getting to know all of them, both musically and personally! In the next few months, students will be engaged in singing folk songs, playing classroom instruments, playing musical games, reading and writing music to reinforce the new solfege pitches, rhythm patterns, or musical skill.



All Penn Valley students are beginning to prepare special songs to share at our upcoming Holiday Sing on Thursday, December 19th. There will also be special performances by the band, strings, vocal ensemble, chimes club, and 5th grade chorus. We are excited to welcome 5th grade parents to see our performance. More information will be coming home in December!

Art

Penn Valley students have embarked on some new art adventures that celebrate the changes that fall brings.

Fall is a great time to explore different textures in nature. The **kindergarteners** are touching smooth leaves, bumpy tree bark, and rough sticks. We are using our observations to make watercolor paintings of trees.

The **first graders** are reviewing the art concept of “texture” that we learned last year in kindergarten. We are creating an up-close view of a fall scarecrow, complete with some feathered bird friends.

In **second grade**, we are learning about leaves. We observed that leaves have lines on them called, “veins.” We discussed how people have veins too. We are drawing veins on our paper leaves using construction paper crayons.

The **third graders** are working on apple trees that show highlights and shadows in our paintings. We are also discussing and celebrating the pollinators that we can thank for our food.

This week in **fourth grade**, we are painting a birch tree landscape with skies inspired by Dutch artist, Vincent VanGogh. As we painted, we listened to the song, “Starry, Starry Night” by Don McLean.

The **fifth grade** is studying the art element, “form.” We are filling in our pumpkin drawings by blending different tints and shades of oil pastels in order to make them appear round and real.

Physical Education

It has been a fun, productive and busy start to the school year. Team building, decision making, communication and sportsmanship have been a huge focus in class. Students have been showing off their throwing, kicking and rolling skills in many games taught so far this year. In addition students have been working on their cardiovascular endurance and muscle strength during warm-up activities in class.

Turkey Bowl is scheduled for Friday, November 22nd. Turkey Bowl is a school-wide event where the 5th grade students compete against the teachers and staff in a friendly game of bowling, throwing, and dodging a ball.

Look for more Physical Education information in the next issue of the PawPrints. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's Physical Education teacher, Mr. Behe tbehe@pennsburysd.org or Mr. Kennedy skennedy@pennsburysd.org.



S.P.A.R.K

This year has started off with lots of fun and excitement in the world of STEM. Here's what we've been working on since the beginning of school.

Kindergarteners have been learning all about matter. Each experiment with solids and liquids has gotten them one step closer to their engineering design challenge of building a device that can float in water while keeping an object dry.

First grade knows all about forces. They have been experimenting with pushes and pull, friction, and speed. Students have now begun their engineering design challenge of creating a device that uses forces to make a task easier or more fun.

Second grade is currently learning how animals and plants adapt to their environment for survival. Now that they are familiar with the 4 types of adaptations: locomotion, protection, camouflage, and food, they will be moving on to learn about 5 different types of environments.

Third grade has begun learning about our 6 simple machines. After being introduced to each simple machine, they have had the opportunity to build one and test it out to see if it works. They are also learning about Rube Goldberg machines and will get a chance to create a virtual machine online at the end of this unit.

Fourth grade is learning all about how the human brain takes in information and responds to that input. They are also going to be starting their 5 senses explorations to better understand which part of the brain controls each of our senses as well as testing their memory skills.

Fifth grade is working with the exciting world of robotics. They first worked with a virtual robot online. Now they are starting to code our classroom VexCode IQ robots. Some of the programs they are testing out on their robots are: moving, turning, playing sounds, and changing color. This is all leading up to their end of the unit robotics challenge, The Robot Ninja Warrior. Each group will program their robot to make it through the obstacles in the big arena.

Library

Recess Readers is back. Recess Readers is offered to students in second through fourth grade once a week. Students can choose to come to the library to read during recess. The choice is made each week and does not require a long-term commitment.

Students interested in Reading Olympics met on November 13 and will begin reading the Reading Olympics books. We will meet again in December and meet weekly beginning starting December 18th. The competition will be in March or April.










Library Statistics

The PV Library provides books for all students in kindergarten through fifth grade and includes almost 10,000 books. Students have already checked out 3,000 books this school year!

The ten most popular titles are:

1. Diary of a Wimpy Kid 
2. Rodrick Rules 
3. Dog Days 
4. Diper Overlode 
5. Jessi's Secret Language 
6. Karen's School Picture 
7. Badger vs. Bobcat 
8. Bud, not Buddy 
9. Dog Man: Grime and Punishment 
10. I am Invited to a Party! 

We have also added lots of new books including:

- Uncle Fred is a Knucklehead 
- Taylor Swift 
- Amulet 
- Wings of Fire 
- Who Was Kobe Bryant? 
- Surprisingly Sarah 
- Things in the Basement 
- Search for a Giant Squid 
- Evil Spy School 
- Sunny Makes her Case 