Hancock Elementary School

"Rooted in Community, Reaching for the Stars"

Happy October!

We have had a busy couple of weeks at HES. In addition to learning all about Letterland, kindergarten students are making great strides with being a kind and caring friend. First grade friends are entomologists - discovering which "caterpillars" turn into butterflies. If you would like to know how seeds spread, ask one of our second graders. Our third graders are learning all about the history of Hancock, while fourth graders develop an understanding of sound waves. Staff have also been building new knowledge and skills.



Last week, a team of teachers attended a workshop called **Universal Design for Learning (UDL)**. UDL builds educators skills that lead children to become expert learners. An expert learner is purposeful and motivated, resourceful and knowledgeable, and strategic and goal-directed. We will spend the year looking at our plans and instructional practice to ensure that the children feel ownership of their academic and social/emotional learning. Our goal is to train all teachers in UDL practices over the next two years in order to ensure that all students become expert learners.



We are well into our first **WIN cycle**. WIN stands for What I Need. For thirty minutes a day, students are grouped across grade levels based on what they need to make gains with grade level academic and social emotional curriculum. Some students are working on place value while others are deepening their understanding of measurement. The specialist and I are working with a group to build their collaboration skills.

It has been so interesting to watch the students communicate and persevere through difficult problems!!

Our **Harvest Feast** is fast approaching. Please be sure to invite your family, neighbors, and friends. The Feast will be **October 24th from 5:30 - 7:00**. Please bring your own bowl, napkin, and spoon.

In order for the **Harvest Feast** to be a success, we need your **help**. Jen White has created a https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0849abab29aafc1-harvest to coordinate donations of time, food items and preparation! "Many hands make light work!"

For information regarding upcoming October events such as Halloween and no school days, see the calendar on the back side of the newsletter or the calendar on the hes/conval.edu website.

Have a wonderful weekend.