



Mifflin County School District
LEWISTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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March, 2019

Upcoming Events...



Thursday, 3/14/19—Eddie Eagle Program
Friday, March 29—End of 3rd marking period
Monday, April 8—Report Cards sent home
Friday, April 5—Second Grade Field Trip—Cinderella

From the Principal's desk...

MTSS. What is it and how does it affect my child?

Wouldn't it be great if each individual child received support at school for his or her specific needs? Your mind might go straight to academic needs, like reading and math since that is the backbone of education. But, wouldn't it be exceptional to also include social and behavioral support along with academic support? In the Mifflin County School District, Lewistown Elementary School supports all of these important parts of a child's needs with the goal of helping them become a well-rounded individual.

Lewistown's faculty and staff have been working hard over the past few years to incorporate a new and very specific system to help identify the needs and provide individualized support to our students. This system is called a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and it helps us look deep into each student's academic, social, and behavioral needs so we know what kind of support to give to each child. Under this Multi-Tiered System of Support, the "tiered" portion refers to the amount of support a child is given. Because each child is different, the amount of support he or she needs is also different. As educators, we know that a child's behavior and social skills can have a tremendous effect on academics. As a school community, our goal is to help students become the best well-rounded person he or she can be.

Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) is the part of MTSS that focuses primarily on academic needs. This RtII structure is the new way to think about identifying if a child has a specific learning disability. If a child is not responding to reading instruction – using high quality reading programs that are research-based and tested – we will then consider going further with doing more evaluations to find if the child has a specific learning disability. Before we do that, we meet with the parents to get a broad picture of the child, we look at all the data we have on the child, then decide together, as a team, if we are going to go further with the process in identifying the child with a learning disability.

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is the part of MTSS that focuses on social-emotional and behavioral needs. This piece is included because we know that a child's behavior and social skills can have a tremendous effect on academic success. All children need instruction on the proper ways to behave. The PBIS system allows children to know and understand what behaviors are expected when they are in various parts of the school. We start this during the first few days of the school year by teaching and modeling for them the exact behaviors and procedures that are expected. We also have strategies in place for students that might need extra support and guidance with behavior or social skills. With the PBIS system comes an acknowledgment system in which students receive LES Bucket Filler tickets when they are seen meeting the expectations of respectful, responsible, ready, and safe behavior. Students have the chance to "win" special rewards by placing their tickets into buckets under the "prize" that they want to earn. We also have a school-wide goal with the reward being a whole school PBIS celebration.

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Flash from First Grade

At the end of the month of February, Shaver's Creek Education Center came to visit the first graders at LES.

They came and did an interactive lesson on living and nonliving things. The students learned about five characteristics of every living thing.

The students "went fishing" in the classroom for items they may find in a creek, and then decided whether these items were living or nonliving.

	Living	Nonliving
Fishes	✓	X
Insects	✓	X
Plants	✓	X
Animals	✓	X

They enthusiastically collected data and then drew some of the things in a creek habitat



Second Grade splash...

Second grade is continuing to *spring forward* into learning after enjoying several fun, educational events in February. Students practiced their prediction skills while determining if Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow, displayed the character trait, kindness, on Valentine's Day, and learned about history on President's Day and throughout Black History Month. We are excited and eager to go *in like a lion* into March's lessons and activities.



Kindergarten scoop

March is an exciting time in Kindergarten. This month we are focusing on becoming better readers. We are celebrating Read Across America week and putting all our reading practice into place. We are working on building our reading stamina and challenging ourselves to read for longer stretches of time every day! We are working hard to learn all of our sight words, practice our reading comprehension and asking questions as we read. You can help by practicing sight words and reading with your child every night. Challenge them to read different words as you are driving or walking through a store. You will be impressed with their reading abilities! Keep on reading!

Third Grade News

Third graders were very fortunate to have the Rotary Club generously donate a dictionary to each student again this year! The Rotary Club has donated money and done research to help rid the world of polio. Members were present to give each child their own dictionary and complete a search activity with them. Dictionaries will be staying at the school for students to practice skills in their classrooms. They will come home with each child at the end of the year. Thank you Rotary Club!



I am a **BUCKET FILLER** at home!

Name of Bucket Filler _____ Grade _____

Homeroom teacher _____ Grownup awarding ticket _____



What did your child do? _____

Bring this ticket back to LES and put it in the WHITE bucket.

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Name of Bucket Filler _____ Grade _____

Homeroom teacher _____ Grownup awarding ticket _____



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Bring this ticket back to LES and put it in the WHITE bucket.

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