

# School 81 NEWSLETTER

Fall 2022



Stephanie Adams  
Assistant Principal

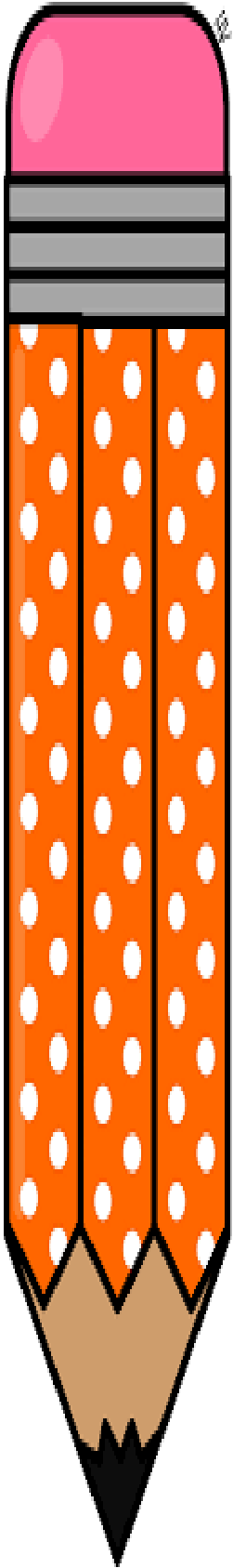
Nicholas Klaich  
Principal

Ryan Shepherd  
Assistant Principal



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**School #81**

**Nicholas Klaich, Principal**

**Stephanie Adams, Assistant Principal**

**Ryan Shepherd, Assistant Principal**

**140 Tacoma Avenue**

Dr. Tonja Williams  
*Superintendent*

December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents/ Guardians of School 81,

We hope everyone has a wonderful upcoming Holiday/ Winter Recess with family and friends. A few highlights from the Fall are found below:

- **Congratulations goes out to our Grade 3 to 8 Honor and Merit Roll Students.** We are very proud of your hard work and accomplishment in the first quarter of school.
- **We had over 450 parent signatures at our Fall Open House** signing in to meet with a teacher. Thank you for your continued support of School 81 and your active involvement in your child’s academic success.
- **Our Positive Behavior Support Team** has worked diligently to make the return to school a positive one for all students this school year. We have offered a ROAR store of select prizes where students can “purchase” items with their ROAR tickets (earned for being good throughout the day). Our lunch room has had random Friday prizes such as books, popcorn, candy, art notebooks, sketch pads, posters, small prizes.
- **District Field Trips** have begun for grades K to 6 to locations such as Tift Nature Preserve, Theatre of Youth, Penn Dixie, Science & History Museum and Burchfield Penny.
- **Thank you to all that have donated to our Annual Giving Tree.** All donations go back to School 81 students or students in need in WNY.

Please continue to look for the **monthly flyer of dates sent home each month with your child from School 81** as well as your email for updates in December and beyond.

**December dates - Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> – Gingerbread House** – students are able to buy gifts at a low price for family members/ friends.

**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> - Pre-K Holiday Workshop**      **Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – Winter Concert-** K and 1 students with select instrumental.

**Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pajama Day at School 81**

A reminder with challenging winter weather, **please continue to drive safely at our morning arrival/ dismissal.** Please do not block our bus lane and respect the right of way of all pedestrians. Reminder that we do share our driveway with the North Buffalo Ice Rink. Do not block the entry way to the ice rink during arrival and dismissal. **There are many parking spaces available daily in the ice rink lot.**

Happy Holidays & thank you for your ongoing support of School 81.

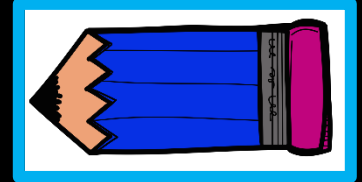
Mr. Klaich

Dr. Adams

Mr. Shepherd



# FROM THE DESK OF: Mr. Shepherd Assistant Principal



## Parental Academic Involvement

We know students achieve best when there is a partnership with both school and home. Below are some electronic tools that are being used here at School 81 to improve communication.

- **Infinite Campus Gradebook**, is an electronic grading system that you as the parent/guardian can access through the Parent Portal via your phone or computer. This offers parents the opportunity to progress monitor their child(s) ongoing academic performance. Email [jaorengo@buffalschools.org](mailto:jaorengo@buffalschools.org) Mrs. Orengo can assist you with parent portal sign up and challenges that you may be experiencing.
- **Remind**, is a communication tool that helps teachers connect instantly with students and parents. Send quick, simple messages to any device.
- **Class dojo**, is a behavior management tool for the classroom. Each student has a profile – complete with their own avatar – to which teachers can assign positive and negative points (or '**dojos**') throughout the lesson.

**Please contact your classrooms teachers if you are interested in finding out more about these tools and what may be available from your child's classroom.**

Thank You!!!

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

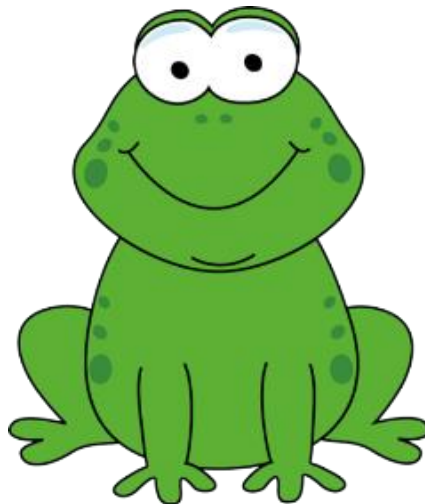
Please know I can be reached at 816-4060 X1310 during the day or anytime by email-@  
[rshepherd@buffaloschools.org](mailto:rshepherd@buffaloschools.org).

Mr. Shepherd

# Pre-K

Our Pre-Kindergarten class is growing and learning at School 81. We have completed our “Welcome to School” Theme, “Family” Theme and “Community Helpers” Theme. Using literature within our themes, we are learning new vocabulary, songs, and comprehension skills. We are learning to isolate and use beginning sounds in words, songs and writing. We practice clapping to syllables, rhyming and blending sounds. We write and draw using different materials in all subject areas. We continue to learn and develop our social and emotional skills using our second step program. In math we are learning to identify quantities, identify and write numbers to 12, composing shapes and matching quantities. Our center time incorporates social studies and science and reinforces skills taught and gives the students time to practice skills independently and work in small groups.

Our raising a reader program is a great success. Please continue to read to your child nightly and return the bags every Monday. Thank you for all your support and please reach out with any questions or concerns by remind app, email or written notice using your child's communication folder.



# Kindergarten

Parents,

Thank you for all of your support this year! We are off to a great first few months and our students have really risen to the occasion academically! Their progress has been undeniable and it is because of the hard work of all those involved. They are well on their way to achieving all of their Kindergarten goals. The entire curriculum is being covered and most students are exactly where they need to be and possibly even further along than we expected. I know at times this may seem like a great struggle, but please be rest assured that we are doing everything we can to set our students up for success and will stop at nothing to make this happen. We are extremely confident that our students will be more than prepared to make the transition to first grade next year. Please continue to have your children working on and completing all of their Seesaw activities as most of you have been doing. This is an extension of the classroom and it is imperative to improve their growth, achievement, progression and reinforcement. We also wanted to give you an update on where we are in our curriculum after the first four months and give you an idea on what we are doing for the rest of the year. Once again, thanks for all that you do and without your dedication, this would not run as smoothly as it does each day. You all are amazing and much appreciated!!

## **Reading/ELA**

Letter recognition/sounds  
Letter writing  
Sight word recognition and review  
Rhyming words  
Beginning, middle and ending sounds  
CVC word blends with short vowel sounds  
Syllables and blending  
Oral sentences  
Oral vocabulary and sensory words  
Parts of speech (nouns, verbs, adjectives)  
Informative, Narrative and Opinion writing  
Book review, comprehension, understanding characters, plot, setting, conclusions, prediction, inferencing, etc.

## **Rest of Year Focus**

(In addition to the continuation of the above skills along with others)  
Decoding and Segmenting  
Independent and Peer Group Reading  
Word and Sentence Writing

## **Math**

Introduced and reviewed numbers 1-10 (oral and written)  
Counting sets of objects up to 10  
Putting objects in groups up to 10 (classifying)  
Introduced flat and solid shapes  
Basic addition and subtraction  
Skip Counting by fives and tens  
Counting by ones to 100

## **Rest of Year Focus**

(In addition to the continuation of the above skills along with others)  
Number Bonds  
Addition and subtraction  
Teen numbers  
Decomposing teen numbers

## **Social Studies**

Rules/routines/procedures/Laws  
Different types of families  
Citizenship  
Jobs and different types of work  
School and Community helpers  
Symbols of our country and state (flags, monuments, heroes, pledge)  
Technology  
Days of the week, months of the year  
Tracking time (weather, seasons, timelines)

## **Rest of Year Focus**

African American History  
Women's History  
Needs and Wants  
Life long ago (jobs, clothing, homes, tools, etc.)  
Important people in history  
Maps and Location (absolute and Relative)

## **Science**

Push and Pull  
Matter  
Living/Non-living things  
Things that make plants grow and what seeds are  
Sinking/Floating  
Sunlight  
Earth's weather

## **Rest of year focus**

Plants  
Animals (habitat, what they eat, how they move, needs)  
Life Cycles of Plants and Animals  
Environment

# First Grade

Dear Parents and Guardians of 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Students,

The first couple months of school have flown by! We celebrated Halloween with a costume parade and A LOT of candy! We did the twist on the 50<sup>th</sup> day of school, while drinking floats! And Ms. Reedy's and Mrs. I's classrooms thoroughly enjoyed our field trip to Tift Nature Preserve.

## What First Graders Should be Doing:

- Reading Daily
- Practicing basic math addition facts
- Writing upper and lowercase letters and numbers
- Practice writing 1<sup>st</sup> and last name
- Finding pages in a book up to page 200

## Looking Forward:

We will continue to go outside, if possible, before the weather changes. Please make sure your child is dressed properly for the weather in case we have playground time.

Please make sure supplies are replenished, we use a lot of supplies in first grade. Each child needs their own set of headphones, so send in a pair if your child does not have any.



# Second Grade

**Can you believe that it is already November?**



**ELA:** We are learning how to read a variety of informational texts. We are using key details from the text to compose a short paragraph. We are implementing the Step Up to Writing Method! The children are becoming great writers! It is important to have your child read each night for 20 minutes and to discuss what your child has read. They can summarize the main idea or make connections to their daily lives. Please check their take home folder each night!

**MATH:** We are in Module 3: Place Value. In this module, students expand their skills with and understanding of unit by bundling ones, tens, and hundreds (up to a thousand) with straws or sticks. They solve simple problems that require an understanding of place value as a system based on repeated groupings by 10.

## **How can you help at home?**

Ask how many ones, tens, and hundreds are in numbers that you and your child come across. Help your child begin to compare numbers by asking questions about "more than", "less than", and "equal." Please have your child practice their addition/ subtraction facts each night. We will be learning about Changes in Matter in Science and discussing the importance of Government in Social Studies.

We have our fieldtrip to Kleinhans' Music Hall on 11/29. Please make sure to sign and return your child's permission slip.

## Third Grade

In 3rd grade, the students have been learning many new skills and concepts. In Math, we have been spending most of our time learning our multiplication facts. It is very important that the children have their multiplication facts memorized, in order to prepare them for harder math to come. In Reading, we are learning to find text evidence in order to answer comprehension questions. The students are being asked to write and answer questions about what they have read. These skills will be very helpful on the NYS ELA exam. In Science, the students are learning about electricity and magnetism. In Social Studies, we will be learning about different types of resources and why they are important.

We would like to remind all parents that our students are assigned homework Monday – Thursday. We are also asking that all students read 20 minutes each night and study their multiplication facts daily. Please send your children well rested and prepared for school each day.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Ms. McCool  
Mrs. Joseph  
Ms. Peart  
Mrs. Minichello

## Fourth Grade

Hello to all our 4<sup>th</sup> grade families! We've been very busy this year and continue to work hard each and every day. It's hard to believe we are already into the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of our school year. We've been practicing our multiplication facts, learning about different genres in our reading classes and exploring our world in science and social studies. Please remind your child to come to school prepared each day with all of their materials. iPads should be charged each night and brought back to school each morning. December is a busy month, and we have many fun activities planned including our school's Gingerbread Shop and Candy Canes Sale. Please remind students about the importance of work completion so they can benefit from these incentives. As always, we appreciate your support! Please contact us with any questions or concerns! We wish all our families a happy holiday season!

Mrs. Golding, Mrs. Williams,  
Mrs. Benintende, Ms. Holmes



# Fifth Grade

## **WHAT ARE WE LEARNING:**

**Math** – Module 3: We are going to be starting addition and subtraction of fractions.

- Students should work on the apps, Zearn and First in Math at home.

**ELA** – Unit 4: Realistic Fiction/ Vocabulary Words/Spelling Words/Grammar

- Weekly Homework continues to be given out on Monday and is due on Friday before Spelling/Lesson Test

**Science/SS** –

- SS: beginning Topic 2- The United States and Canada
- Science: Mixture and Solutions beginning after Christmas Break
- *Good Things*: Students have been working really hard on their social studies projects.

## **HOMWORK:**

School approved learning sites:  
Some platforms that your child can use in order to reinforce Math and ELA objects while at home include:

- Lexia
- Zearn
- MobyMax
- First in Math

## **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Dec 16th – Progress report grades close  
Dec 23rd – Classroom Holiday Celebrations  
Winter Recess – Dec 24th – Jan 2nd

## **NOTES FROM THE TEACHERS:**

It is very important that students are coming to school with fully charged devices. iPads are used throughout the day each day for the following things:

- Bathroom sign-out
- Nearpod activities
- Accessing Schoology
- All learning platforms

# Sixth Grade

Greetings 6<sup>th</sup> grade families! We hope you had a restful snow day/Thanksgiving break! We are currently in Quarter 2 for the school year. In ELA students will begin reading Percy Jackson which is a novel by Rick Riordan. In Math, students will be working on Module 2 including Number Sense and Operations. In Science students will be working on Thermal Energy. And lastly, in Social Studies students will be learning about Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome. The students have also begun working in the Global Scholars program with other learners across the globe! Please keep the following things in mind as we continue through 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:

1. Ipads should be charged at home,
2. Check Parent Portal for current grades,
3. Use DOJO and Remind for important information,
4. Bring all supplies including books and binders each day, and
5. Replenish school supplies.

As always, please reach out to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers with any questions or concerns. We can be reached via e-mail or phone. Our school website has each teacher listed. Thank you for your continued support and Happy Holidays!

Miss Costanzo – Science/Social Studies  
Mrs. Dmoch – ELA  
Mrs. Koscielski – Math  
Miss Scirri – SPED

# Junior High ELA

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

I hope you have all had a wonderful start to the school year! We have been working to prepare all student for the rigor of high school English.

It is essential that all students stay organized to achieve good grades. Each student should keep all ELA notes and worksheets in his or her ELA binder and notebook. Students must complete all homework assignments completely. Be sure to ask for help if you need it.



Seventh grade students have learned the proper symbols to edit a sentence for grammar and punctuation. They have been working on how to properly write an eight sentence short response paragraph by including text evidence and citations. In this unit students have made inferences from textual evidence about the differences in perspectives from informational text. They finished reading Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*, and they have studied the history of the Sudan Civil War with Salva Dut's incredible journey. In their end of text assessment, they evaluated how characters' setting affects the story's conflict and theme.

Eighth grade students have continued practicing their eight-sentence paragraph format with proper text citations. In this unit, they have explored the struggles of being a refugee in Thanhha Lai's *Inside Out and Back Again*. They have examined how word choice, or diction, contributes to meaning and tone in literary and informational texts. They have also introduced high level transition words into their writing. To finish our module students are writing a research paper based on local refugees to compare those experiences to Ha's journey in our book.

Parents, please feel free to contact me at the email below with any questions or concerns that you have. If you would like to receive free homework text messages, please subscribe to the Remind program. A letter went home with each student.

Mrs. Ward-Pitman  
eaward@buffaloschools.org

# Junior High Math

## 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**MATH**  
1 + 1 = 2  
MAKES YOUR  
LIFE ADD UP!

### Fall Newsletter

*Mrs. McCarthy*  
*Math 7/8*

In 7th and 8th grade math class we need to work very hard to be successful.

#### **Each student needs to always do your best by...**

- \*coming to class prepared with pencil, paper, notebook, calculator, protractor and ruler
- \*handing in all completed assignments, in pencil, **on time** and to the best of their ability
- \*staying focused in class and complete all information taught
- \*doing your best in class and try to participate at least twice each day
- \*spending about 20 minutes each night reading the notes to review the material taught in class
- \*marking your notes by the section of information that you might have a question about and then ask the next day in class for clarification
- \*raising your hand and asking a question if there is something that you do not understand
- \*studying each day and preparing for each test
- \*always acting in a responsible and polite manner
- \*looking on parent portal weekly to check on your math grades

**You will be successful**, if you always do your very best! Work hard. You can achieve great things! Happy Holidays!

## Home and Careers

In November, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders sewed stuffed felt turkeys for Thanksgiving.

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders have been learning about various countries and cultures around the world. So far, we've explored Mexico, Italy, Kenya, and Japan. The students have also cooked dishes from each country.



# Speech Department

Our students are off to a great start working to improve their speech-language skills! By now, you should have received your student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

The IEP indicates the level of speech services, speech-language goals, and other important information relevant to your student for the 2022-2023 school year. You should have also received a copy of your student's progress monitoring for the first quarter. If you have any questions regarding the IEP or your student's progress, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Our speech therapy sessions have been targeting articulation (correct speech sound production, speech intelligibility), expressive language (responding to question forms, formulating sentences/expanded utterances, using correct grammar, implementing grade level vocabulary), receptive language (auditory comprehension of sentences/stories, following directions, understanding grade level vocabulary & concept vocabulary), pragmatic language (topic maintenance, turn-taking, problem solving, social interactions), and fluency (identifying and using strategies for smooth speech).

Please reference your child's most recent progress report for current data and recommendations and make note of information regarding upcoming CSE meetings. We are looking forward to a great rest of the school year!

Mrs. Schiller, Mrs. Campbell-Cook, & Ms. Nicholson