

**Woodford County Special Education Association**  
**Early Childhood Program**  
**January, 2019 Newsletter**  
**Program Administrator, Maureen Whalen**

Here are some highlights of classroom and program happenings around the county!

- 55 students have been screened
- 20 students participated in a comprehensive evaluation for early childhood special education services
- 100% of parents attended orientation
- 29 parents have actively volunteered in our classrooms
- We have several students in upper grades who volunteer in our classrooms

**Metamora Grade School District #1 Teresa Fandel and Ginny Glas**

STEM experiments are a weekly activity in the Metamora Bright Beginnings classroom. The children participate in hands-on activities. One favorite was the concept of foundations. Would cups and a tray hold you? The children predicted "no"; however, learned the cups would hold even the teachers. On any given day, you will find students engaged with letters, words, counting, and numbers. We emphasize these skills in each learning center. Our students spend time with books every day, in addition to being read to. Children have learned that books are a wonderful source of enjoyment and information!

**Riverview District #2 Susan Messer and Lori Callear**

We had an exciting project for Christmas. The children made picture ornaments by sanding a piece of wood and drilling the holes to hang them with. They also used Modge Podge to seal them with the picture they designed using a special app on the iPad. We used tools, technology, love and a lot of muscle for this project! On a regular basis, our classroom loves science and nature. Our days are filled with checking our electronic weather station, checking and taking care of the bird feeders outside, and watching our fish in the aquarium.

**Fieldcrest District #6 Susan Rutkowski and Amy Stimpert**

We have had a fun and exciting year so far at Fieldcrest Primary Bright Beginnings. We launched a private Facebook group for our classroom families. This group gives our families the opportunity to get a regular glimpse into all of the fun and learning that is taking place each week. Our students have also loved our Friday science experiments.

We have explored and investigated absorption, density, our five senses, chemical reactions, and science tools. Some of our favorite activities have been: snowstorm in a jar, sink or float, creating a volcano, and making a glitter explosion!

Another favorite learning activity this year has been our “counting stews.” We have created a: fall stew, snowman stew, winter stew, and shape stew to name just a few. These math games work on sorting, counting, number identification and matching quantity to number! We are looking forward to a great second semester!

### **Lowpoint Washburn District #21 Amee Meinhold and Renatta Hoefler**

As we reflected back on the first half of the school year, we were amazed at all we have seen, learned and accomplished as a class. We spend several weeks at the beginning of the year getting use to new schedules, new friends, new teachers and certainly new challenges. Our students did a fantastic job learning and working through the new schedules and routines. They have worked hard on learning to resolve conflicts and work cooperatively together. They have make new friendships and have learned to accept others similarities and differences. They have learned to explore and investigate using science skills and observation. They have learned to use dramatic play to create many different role play situations. The students use creative thinking and problem solving to build and construct many kinds of structures, such as, bakeries, soda factories, libraries, farm, and zoos. They have explored with art and writing materials to create books, collages, paintings and play doh designs. They have learned to enjoy working together and figuring out just how much fun school and learning can really be!

### **Germantown Hills District #69 Becky Speerly, Stacey Scott, Amber Wagoner**

This school year, we have changed up the process of small groups. We have created three small groups that focus on literacy, academic tasks, and fine motor skills. The children have enjoyed working in smaller groups and receiving that individualized attention. Also, we have included a speech/language lesson based on the CORE vocabulary throughout the week with Ms. Lori. Within those lessons we work on the CORE board to use with our discussions throughout the week. Our school social worker, Mrs. Schottland, has been working with the children on greetings, personal space, and feelings within the small groups each week. The children have been exploring the concept of winter since we returned from break. We made snowmen and discussed the upcoming snowstorm. The children placed the snowballs in order and added the other parts. They love to talk about snow!

**I want to share that I feel so blessed to have met every child in our program and many of the parents. I truly enjoy spending time in our classrooms and am very proud of our students, staff, and families. - Maureen Whalen**