**ART NEWS FROM MRS. SIEGEL:**

**Second graders** created 2 clay bird ornaments. These mini bird sculptures were formed from a ball of clay, a beak was pinched out, the clay was smoothed with water, texture was added with a pencil, and up to 3 holes were added to later glue in feathers. The birds were then fired in the kiln, glazed, and re-fired. Wiggly eyes and feathers finished off the birds. Students really worked on their fine motor skills for this project!

**Third graders** created another landscape, this time of birch bark trees. They masked off some trees with tape, water colored a sky, traced the trees, and took off the tape to reveal the white trees. Students were to use 2 colors for the sky (2 primaries or a primary and a secondary color), but were to be careful not to make a brown. Salt was added to the wet paint to add a fancy texture. Ebony pencils were used for shadows, and black paint and a cardboard piece were used to scrape on the tree texture. Students also made a mini version for a tree ornament! Neatness and following directions were important!

**Fourth graders** reviewed how to cut out a symmetrical shape on the fold. They cut out an ornament shape and drew dividing lines. They then transferred this shape to a piece of metal tooling foil and added lots of textures with lines and shapes. Students chose 3 to 4 colors of permanent markers to color the ornament. Coloring neatly and symmetrically was stressed. Most students were very excited to work with this new art medium!

**MUSIC NOTES FROM MRS. NIMMER**

The birthday composer for the month of December was Beethoven. All students learned about the life and music of this famous composer. Did you know that Beethoven was completely deaf by the time he wrote his 9th Symphony? It is one of the most amazing symphonies ever written...and he heard the whole thing in his head!

The **2nd graders** took a "beat test" this month. They had to demonstrate a steady beat on the bells while singing a song we had practiced in class. We followed a map to the orchestral piece called "Sleigh Ride." We heard the bells, slapstick, and ratchet in this piece. We also began working on our concert music for our March concert.

The **3rd graders** have been studying the story and music of the famous Nutcracker Ballet by Tchaikovsky. We followed listening maps to The Dance of the Sugarplum Fairy and The Russian Dance. We also watched a unique movie called Nutcracker: The Untold Story. This video includes the side of the Nutcracker story that we don’t usually hear, combined with music by Tchaikovsky, poetry, storytelling, and dance.
The 4th graders have learned three notes for the recorder: B, A, and G. We were able to put these three notes together to play the song *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. We learned more about brass instruments this month, and got to hear a live demonstration of the trumpet and the trombone. We even got to see and hear how mutes can change the sound of brass instruments. The 4th graders also learned some Spanish this month with our song *Feliz Navidad*.

**BUSY BODIES: MISS LOOK**
All of my second, third, and fourth graders have been working very hard during their tumbling unit.

All of the grades start each class with a warm up that includes a cardiovascular activity, an upper body exercise and then they proceed to their mats to finish the warm up with some stretching that may include yoga poses, and core focused exercises.

A focus for the third and fourth graders has been tripods and headstands. Both grades have been practicing in class for an evaluation taking place before the holiday break. I have seen lots of great progress, the extra practice and persistence is paying off. Great Job!

During the unit all of the classes will be using the traversing wall, cargo net, climbing ropes and the spring boards. Lots fun and challenging areas to improve on.

Congratulations to this year’s Elks Club Hoop Shoot winners Carson Awe, Madelyn Daharsh, Colin Jeanty, Taryn Christopher, Sydney Fauske, Caitlyn Kappell, Jack Scott, and John Neumann.

They will be shooting free throws at the high school over the holiday break with the opportunity to represent Quinney and Kaukauna at the regional shoot off. Good Luck to all.

**PLAY BY PLAY WITH MRS. STRATTON**

3rd grade graders are finishing up the in-line skate unit where they all learn to in-line skate. They continue to work on the control along with stopping. 3rd grade will get the end the unit by skating in the hallways!

We are moving back to gym B in January for tumbling! This unit is always a favorite, as it includes the climbing ropes, cargo net, traversing wall, and much more! We also have to say goodbye to Miss Weyers. We will miss her so much! We all know what an amazing PE teacher she will make!

**LIBRARY NEWS WITH MRS. WOLF**

Library Catalog:  
http://library.kaukauna.k12.wi.us/
Library Web Site:  
http://kaukaunasd.libguides.com/eq-ndlc/home

Second Grade: These students are learning about the award winning author and illustrator, Tomie dePaola. They “met” Mr. dePaola in a video in which he talked about being a writer and an illustrator. He even painted a picture of his most famous character, Strega Nona! Second graders enjoyed hearing the book, Strega Nona. They also shared two holiday stories, *The Magic Dreidels* by Eric Kimmel, and *Wake Up, Santa Claus!* by Marcus Pfister.
Third Grade: Third graders are working very hard to learn about Google Drive. Some classes are learning how to import images into a Google Doc or Slide presentation. Others are creating bibliographies or a research title page using a Google Doc. All are getting faster and faster logging into their Google Drive accounts!

Fourth Grade: Fourth graders practiced being good digital citizens by learning how to create citations for the resources they use in their school work. Destiny, the online catalog, creates citations for books and web sites. Fourth graders also learned about Citation Machine. It is a free citation generator that can be used to cite all kinds of resources! Fourth graders also heard the book, *Christmas in the Trenches* by John McCutcheon. Some students also looked for more information about the World War I Christmas Truce using the online database, Britannica Elementary.

When should you wash your hands?
- Before preparing food and/or eating
- Before and after caring for someone who is sick
- After using the bathroom or changing a diaper
- Before and after treating a cut or wound
- After blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
- After touching animals or animal waste
- After touching garbage

Remember children learn by example. So make hand washing an important part of your daily routine. More information on hand washing can be found at the following Center for Disease Control and Prevention website: 
http://www.cdc.gov/features/handwashing/

COUNSELOR’S CORNER

“Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Celebrate Diversity
Each one of us has individual qualities and characteristics that make us special. Let us learn more of one another...in knowledge there is understanding; in understanding there is respect; and where there is respect, growth is possible”
Author Unknown

In January, the counseling program will focus on academic success, character education, and diversity.

January Classroom Guidance Lesson:
During the month of January, Mrs. Wydeven will be visiting all of the Grade 2-4 classrooms to teach lessons in the area of diversity.
• To treat everyone with kindness, fairness, care, and respect.
• To not judge people because of where they live, the family they come from, the color of their skin, how they dress, their abilities, whether they are boy/girl, etc.
• To include everyone. It hurts to be left out!
• To learn about others' differences, be more open minded and accepting, and that diversity makes our community/school a great place.
• To celebrate and stand up for diversity! If we see someone being bullied or hurt because of differences, we will try to help or seek adult assistance.
• To understand, respect, & accept differences in each other to help us work, play, and get along better together!

Our school community will place a special emphasis on FAIRNESS, this month’s pillar of character.

→ Play by the rules
→ Take turns and share
→ Be open-minded; listen to others
→ Don't take advantage of others
→ Don't blame others carelessly

We follow the GOLDEN RULE at Quinney School: TREAT OTHERS HOW YOU WANT TO BE TREATED.

READING MATTERS FROM MRS. LUEDEKE

Strategies for helping your child pick “just right” books

IPICK method: When picking out books with your child have them think through the questions in the IPICK acronym created by The Sisters, Gail Boushey and Joan Moser.

I choose a book
Purpose- Why do I want to read it?
Interest- Does it interest me?
Comprehend- Am I understanding what I am reading?
Know- I know most of the words.

Rule of Thumb Method: To use this method, the reader opens the text to any page in the middle of the book, reads it silently, and puts down a finger at each unknown word. If the reader uses all five fingers, the text is too difficult. This method was created by Jeanette Veatch.

Goldilocks Method: The Goldilocks approach is a series of six questions. Answers of “yes” to the questions below indicate a “just-right” book. This method was created by Regie Routman.
1. Is this an interesting book that you want to read?
2. Are you familiar with the content, author, series, genre?
3. Can you tell another person what is happening in the story and/or what you’re learning?
4. Do you sometimes need to reread a part to understand it?
5. Are there just a few words per page you don’t know?
6. When you read are most places smooth and some choppy?

Happy Reading!