

# The Shorewood Scribbler

## A Note from the Principal

Welcome to our first edition of the Shorewood Scribbler for the 2016-2017 school year! The school year is off to a great start, and I am excited to be an official member of the Shorewood family. Many of you may have noticed some of the changes around Shorewood Elementary School for the start of the school year.

- We have welcomed many new staff members!

Colleen Connolly, Principal	Sherry Cristofori, Preschool Teacher
Carole Zurales, Assistant Principal	Lauren Boburka, Kindergarten
Ashley LaMorte, Instructional Coach	Shar Strode, Nurse
Kevin Elliott, Social Worker	Jane Devine, Teaching Associate
Sara Lawson, School Psychologist	Laure Bruns, Teaching Associate
Shuo Zhang, Preschool Teacher	Alison Szymaniak, Teaching Associate
Angie Bithos, Teaching Associate	
- Troy 30c has adopted a new science series called Stemscopes. This series is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards.
- Our main hallway has gotten a facelift! We now have tile in our main entrance hallway with the TROY design in it.
- The pavilion has been built and is being enjoyed by students and staff members. This was able to happen because of the hard work and dedication of those who participated in the Boosterthon last spring.
- We had our first ever "Dinner with Dad" event with over 400 dads and students participating! This event kicked off our MENTors program.

Even with these changes, one thing remains the same. It is the sense of community when you walk through the doors of Shorewood Elementary School! The students have an energy and eagerness to learn, the teachers have high expectations and are committed to each student's growth, and the families are dedicated. All of these things contribute to the positive and nurturing school community that is Shorewood Elementary School!

Colleen Connolly  
Principal



A goal without a plan is just a wish.

This is one of my favorite quotes! This fall, students will be working with their teachers to set goals in the areas of reading and math. Setting goals is an essential part to student growth. Having students be a part of the goal setting process allows them ownership in their learning.

## Third Annual Fall Fest

Who: Anyone! Friends and Family of the Shorewood Community

When: Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Time: 11:00-4:00

Where: Shorewood Elementary School  
210 School Road, Shorewood

There will be no parking at Shorewood Elementary. Parking and shuttle service will be available at Home Depot (621 Brook Forest Avenue). Shuttles will run every 15 minutes. What will there be to do??? There will be fun for everyone in the family! We will have free games and activities, as well as a special games and activities to pay to play and food for purchase!

# Pre K Setting Goals

## **Social, Self-Help, and Interpersonal Skills**

Much of students' learning involves social interactions, and children must learn how to manage their behavior. Skills of independence help children have the confidence they need to achieve in school activities.

- Getting along with other children and adults, developing good relationships with teachers, helping others and developing caring attitudes, and playing and working cooperatively.
- Following classroom rules, turn taking during activities with other children, taking responsibility for passing out, collecting, and organizing materials, learning self-direction, self-help skills to promote a good self-image and high self-esteem.
- Taking care of personal needs, such as dressing, and knowing what clothes to wear, eating skills, health skills, grooming skills, and doing things for themselves.
- Knowledge of self, family, and culture, sense of self-worth, persistence, cooperation, self-control, and motivation to learn helps grow confidence and independence.

## **Academics, Language and Literacy, and Approaches to Learning**

As academics plays a more central role in preschool curriculum, there are some key areas of knowledge that preschoolers can work on. There is a great emphasis on helping preschool children learn literacy skills, to enhance their academic skills.

- Numbers and prewriting skills, shape identification, letter recognition, sounds, and rhyming, as well as ways to handle a book.
- Name and personal information, colors, sizes, shapes, and positional words; such as under, over, and around.
- Effective social skills to develop a positive relationship with others, self-regulation, attention and behavior, positive attitude toward learning, self-motivation for learning, and listening skills.
- Ability to set goals and develop and follow through on plans.
- Understanding, accepting, and following rules and routines.

## **Music and the Arts**

Brain research supports the use of music and the arts to encourage learning in all areas.

Preschoolers can learn about music and the arts in many ways:

- Varied materials (e.g., crayons, paint, clay, markers) to create original work, different colors, surface textures, and shapes to create form and meaning, art as a form of self-expression.
- Music activities, varieties of simple songs, movement to music of various tempos.
- Dramatic play with others, acting out scenarios of everyday life.

## **Wellness and Healthy Living**

When children are not healthy, they cannot achieve their best. Helping children learn healthy habits will help them do well in school. Healthy habits include the following:

- Good nutritional practices, trying new foods, a balanced menu, and essential nutrients.
- Management of personal belongings, and ability to dress oneself appropriately.
- Personal hygiene, such as washing one's hands and blowing one's nose independently.

# Welcome to Kindergarten!

In Kindergarten, we will be introducing students to the process of goal setting. When students know exactly what it is they are trying to achieve, they are able to be more successful. At the beginning of the year, we focus on setting routine and procedural goals which set the foundation to transition into academic goals later in the school year.

We begin the year with setting goals regarding classroom routines and procedures. Here are some of our classroom goals:

- Raise your hand to speak
- Stay in your assigned spot at your table and the carpet
  - Ask for permission before leaving the classroom
  - Follow directions the first time you are asked
    - Walk quietly in the hallway
- Be responsible with your supplies and classroom materials

We will then transition to academic goals. Here are some of our academic goals for trimester I:

- Identify all uppercase and lowercase letters
  - Produce all letter sounds
    - Count to 30
  - Recognize numbers 1-20
- Recognize flat and solid shapes
- Print first name correctly
- Read and write heart words

Students will set individual goals based on their own progress. We will guide students through the process of setting their goals. An example of a student's goal would sound like "My goal is to count to 30." Once students meet their goals, we will help them set new goals to motivate them to continue to grow. As we progress through the school year, the rigor of our curriculum will increase and your students' goals will become more challenging. We encourage you to have conversations with your child about his/her goals at school. Please celebrate with your child as they achieve their goals.

Thank you for your support at home!  
The Kindergarten Teachers

# First Grade News

Welcome back to another great school year. The children have settled in to their new routines and are ready for a super first grade year. We are hard at work getting to know your student and putting goals and expectations into place for student success. In the first trimester, the goals that we will work on are classroom behaviors, speaking, listening and building stamina in reading.

In first grade, the children are still learning how to be a student. Our first goal focuses on classroom behaviors. We would like the children to work quietly at their seats, raise their hand to share thoughts and ideas during group discussions and be a problem solver. In addition to these, each of the teachers has outlined classroom behaviors for their students. You can view these on our First Grade website.

Our second goal focuses on speaking and listening. The children will participate in many classroom discussions and have opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas. During these discussions the teachers will be looking for students to ask and answer questions in complete sentences, speak clearly when presenting information to the group and listen when someone else is speaking.

The final goal that we will work on in trimester 1 is for the children to build stamina in reading. In the classrooms the children read independently each day. They will also read in small groups and with a buddy. We would also like the children to read at home. Our reading goal is 50 minutes a week. This goal is on the homework packet that we send home weekly. This goal will help the children build their stamina and become confident readers.

The teachers will work with the children throughout the trimester to help them understand the learning goals and be able to build upon them. We look forward to a great year together with lots of learning!

The First Grade Teachers

# 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE

Wow! This first month of school has just flown by! The second grade students are settling into their routines, learning new skills, and making new friends! A good way for us to get to know students and for them to get to know themselves is through goal setting. As adults, we set goals for ourselves often and create action plans that help us succeed. This year, the second grade team will meet with each child to help them set academic, social, and/or behavior goals that will not only help them grow and learn, but will help them see their achievements in a concrete way. Some examples of the goals that you may see your child set are:

- ❖ I will pause at punctuation while reading.
- ❖ I will choose good fit books.
- ❖ I will ask for help when I am stuck.
- ❖ I will practice my math facts until I become fluent

Apart from the students' individual goals, some of the goals that we will continuously work on throughout your child's second grade year include:

- ❖ Becoming independent thinkers
- ❖ Learning to work cooperatively
- ❖ Following directions and asking for clarification when confused
- ❖ Learning how to organize their belongings
- ❖ *Learning responsibility*

We look forward to seeing all of the progress our second graders will make this year!

The Second Grade Team

## **Third Grade News**

**We are off to a fabulous start in third grade! The students have been working hard on learning the new routines and procedures this year. We have also been working hard on building a classroom environment that includes kindness and respect for each other. We do this through a variety of activities in each classroom that include superbucks, Kindness Counts, our behavior chart, and individual classroom reward systems.**

**We have also been working hard on setting goals for the school year. Our first goal was to build our stamina with reading. We then began to look at other components of reading including fluency, comprehension, and providing text evidence among others. We will be meeting with students and individually conferencing with them to set reading goals. By conferencing with them, it allows them to celebrate their successes and look for areas of improvement. They will know exactly where they are in the learning process and will be motivated to achieve their goals. We will continue to meet with them and set new goals throughout the year.**

**We will also be working on setting math goals. This will again mean meeting with students individually to share with them their areas of strength and where we can look for ways to improve. We will be looking at the areas of Numbers and Operations, Operations and Algebraic Thinking, Measurement and Data, and Geometry. We will be providing students with specific skills and strategies to work on in their growth area.**

**We will keep you informed by sending home their goals in October. This will allow you to participate in your child's progress by being actively engaged at home. Please use the websites provided on the Student Links page for more practice and continue reading with your child at home. We look forward to working with all of you this year!**

**Mrs. Petrovic**

**Miss Strid**

**Miss Wills**

## **NEWS FROM FOURTH GRADE**

**MRS. LAS MRS. LARA MS. MCGUIRE**



**We are off to a great start in fourth grade. The students are working hard getting routines and procedures down and following directions carefully. We spend a lot of time reviewing routines in anticipation for all the collaborative learning that takes place throughout the year.**

**Both students and grandparents thoroughly enjoyed comparing and contrasting education today to education in years past while practicing their speaking and listening skills. Be sure to keep an eye out for the thank you letter that will be coming home to thank the grandparents for donating their time. Thank you again for all of the grandparents who were able to participate and make it a memorable learning experience.**

**Your child, along with their fourth grade teacher, have been conferencing and setting goals for both reading and math. Goal setting is an important component of your child's active engagement in the learning process. It allows for reflection and room for growth, while also taking a moment to celebrate one's own accomplishments. By being an active participant in the goal setting process, your child will be invested and motivated to achieve their goals. This will be an ongoing process that will allow for new goals to be set as the year progresses.**

**Please continue to keep yourself updated on classroom homework and announcements by looking at your child's planners and/or classroom calendars, and our webpage. We look forward to partnering with you and your child this year.**

## Goal Setting in Ace

Teaching students to set personal goals begins with teaching them to believe in themselves. Many students arrive in our classrooms with a limited view of their own abilities. Before we can teach them to set high goals for themselves, we have to remove those limitations from their thinking. We have to teach them to believe in themselves, and believe in their talents and ideas.

So, how can we encourage our students to set realistic and self-driven goals? Start by showing them how others have overcome obstacles and achieved their goals. Seek out inspirational stories of people who are important to your students, and share those stories with them. Biographies often detail the amazing accomplishments of great people. In our classroom we love to explore these as well as the importance of our own ideas and thoughts.

We will be setting goals each trimester. You will be able to find your child's goals in their homework binder. Please encourage your child to reach their goals and help them in any way possible. Goal setting is a lifelong skill that will become very valuable to your child.



## Goal setting for the 2016-2017 school year!

As this new school year begins with it comes many new adventures for our children...including new goals for the year! All of us have the same goal in mind for each of our children, SUCCESS. The way we meet these goals is by having students create learning goals. First, we have them reflect with us on why learning is important. Then we have the students collaborate with us in determining what actions they can take to accomplish these goals. Finally, we help write down the goals and students commit themselves to following through with these goals! We reflect on them and check for individual achievement as the year continues.



Goals are better met when ownership is taken of the needs involved in meeting them. It is important for our children to "own their goals". This will help them to understand and work to meet and exceed them.

The ELL students have academic and language goals to meet each year. Each student's ACCESS scores are used to develop an understanding of the growth they have made towards language proficiency, as well as where we are headed. MAP data points us in the direction instruction needs to follow for academic growth. Our goals are based on data, the continuum of learning and the progress of our abilities as second language learners. Through the use of these tools together we plan for our success. This is how we plan to achieve and exceed in reading, writing, listening and speaking, as well as the Common Core State Standards. Together we discuss and plan where we will focus our attention, and the changes we can make to achieve our goals. We decide and document our plan of growth and how we will obtain the tools to successfully meet our goals. Classroom support, individual and small group instruction is provided to meet these goals with the collaboration of classroom teachers.

Parent involvement is also key to our children being successful. Have your child create goals at home, too. First, have them reflect on why helping as a family is important. Then help them in determining what actions they can take to accomplish the family's goals. Finally, have your children write down the goals and commit themselves to following through with these goals for your family!

I look forward to helping your family reach many academic and social goals this year!

Arlene Roderick, ELL Specialist  
Troy Shorewood School  
815-577-7312, extension 1138  
<http://aroderick-ell.weebly.com/>



## Troy CCSD 30C

Dr. Todd J. Koehl  
Superintendent  
5800 West Theodore Street  
Plainfield, IL 60586

*Where the future begins!*

Office: (815) 577-6760, X-----  
Fax: (815) 577-3795  
Email: [tkoehl@troy30c.org](mailto:tkoehl@troy30c.org)  
<http://www.troy30c.org>  
Twitter: @troy30c

---

*The Troy CCSD 30-C learning community will achieve excellence and will conquer the challenges of the future.*

---

September 22, 2016

To all our families—

It rained yesterday, and today is cooler and dryer. This is the fall weather pattern of the Midwest that I so enjoy. Beautiful sunrises and sunsets populate our days which are shorter and lead to such good family time. I hope you have the opportunity to reflect on those things that are most important: family, friends, and freedom.

We have had an excellent start to our school year, and we attribute that to your preparation and guidance joined with the preparation and commitment of our staff. As we move in to the school year, please know that the safety and health of your child is our primary concern. In that light, please make sure that we are aware of any changes in your child's health or safety needs. Never hesitate to contact your school with concerns about health or safety. Attendance at school is critical to success, and we love to see our students at school. If we have good communication, then we will achieve the goal of good attendance which leads to school success.

I want to share with you a great opportunity to honor a teacher. The Joliet Area Chamber of Commerce graciously organizes the annual Joliet Great Teachers Award. This is an opportunity for parents, students, community members, and other educators to nominate the best and brightest in our teaching ranks. The process for nomination starts with you, and we have made the form available online. To find it, please go to the district home page at <https://troywebs.troy30c.org/> and look under the Latest News section of the web page to find the link.

If you have a teacher that has inspired you, your child, or your family, please take the time to fill out the form and send it to the Joliet Chamber offices by 4:00 p.m. October 14, 2016. The address of the Chamber office is on the form. Those you nominate will be sent the Great Teacher application packets which will be reviewed by a team of educators upon submission. The Great Teachers will be selected from these applications and honored at a celebration event on February 2, 2017. We know that we have great teachers in Troy 30-C, so please take the time to nominate one to honor their work and the impact he/she has had on your life. I can guarantee that each will be deeply humbled by your actions.

It is great to be in Troy 30-C. We have the right combination of students, parents, and staff to create the environment for student success. We are off to a great start with the momentum to carry us through the year. Please feel free to contact us with questions, concerns, and suggestions that you have about the education of your student.

Sincerely-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dr. Todd J. Koehl".

Dr. Todd J. Koehl, Superintendent

---