

Afton Central School Elementary Newsletter

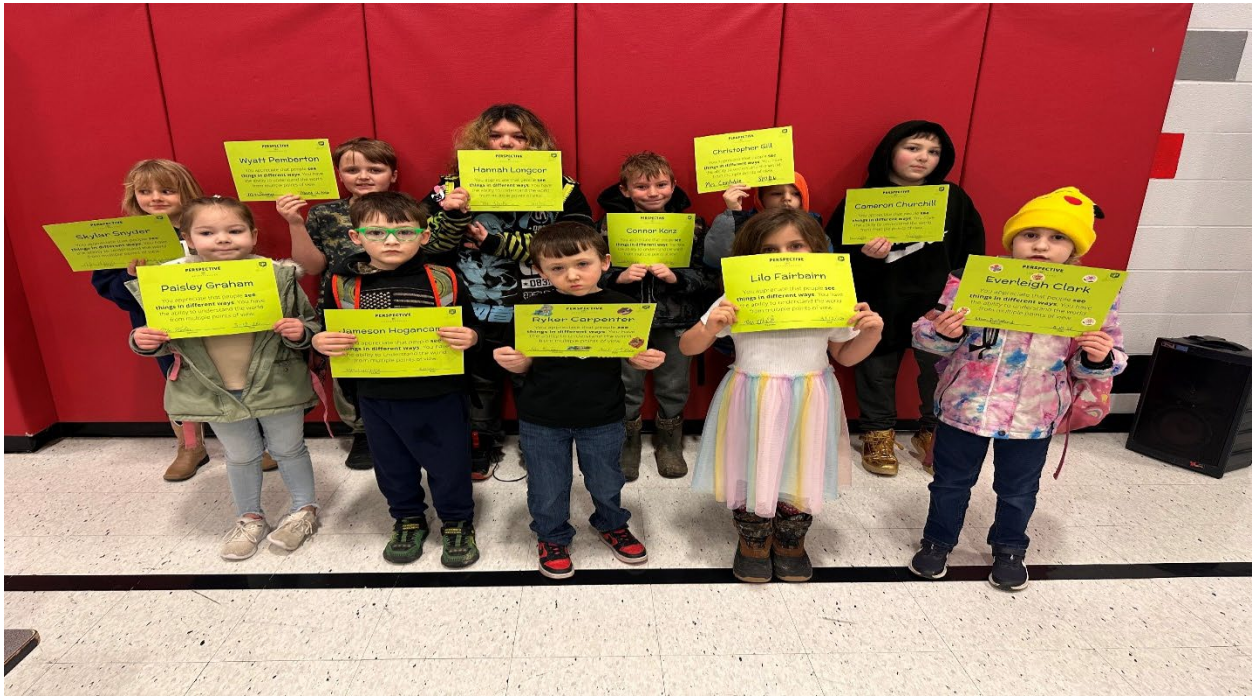
March 2026



Important Information:

- Spring/Pre-K milestone picture day will be on Thursday, March 26, 2026. No pre-registration forms will be sent home, students will get a code to buy pictures if interested.
- There will be a half day of school for students on Friday, March 27, 2026. Lunch will be served through the lunch line, before dismissal.
- Our next Bright Knight's Ceremony will be held on Friday, March 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., in the Auditorium.
- The next guest reader event will be held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 8:20 a.m. Please email pwagner@aftoncsd.org if you're interested in reading.
- The third marking period ends on Thursday, April 2, 2026.
- There will be a half day for students on Thursday, April 2, 2026.
- There will be no school on Friday, April 3, 2026 – Good Friday.
- There will be no school Monday, April 6, 2026, through Friday, April 10, 2026 – Spring Recess.
- Report cards will be sent home on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten will be going on a field trip on Friday, April 17, 2026.
- BOE meeting, Monday, April 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Board Room. This meeting will be combined with the Special Meeting for the BOCES Administrative Budget Vote.

KNIGHTS OF THE WEEK



P2 for Families

Welcome to the **P2 for Families 1-1-3**. You'll find 1 quote, 1 video, and 3 questions to help you and your children discuss The Positivity Project's character strength of the week.

Character Word: Perspective.

Definition: You understand that how you see things and how someone else sees things might be a little different for each person.

Below is the link to a 3-minute video clip to watch as a family.

<https://youtu.be/1pxVxyt1FRM>

After watching the video, discuss the following questions together.

1. Think about a time when you and a friend didn't agree about something. How could perspective (seeing your friend's side) help?
2. How would your perspective of the world change if you had the ability to fly like a bird?
3. Is it okay to have a different perspective than a friend?

"Perspective is like ice cream. There are so many different flavors, and everyone has a favorite."

– MELISSA, AGE 8

RTI



Our academic MTSS (formerly RTI) providers: Kim Buckler and Peggy Wagner work closely with our classroom teachers, counselors, and administration to meet the needs of the whole child. As academic MTSS providers, they may help by:

- Pushing into the classrooms at different times of the day to help support

math and reading.

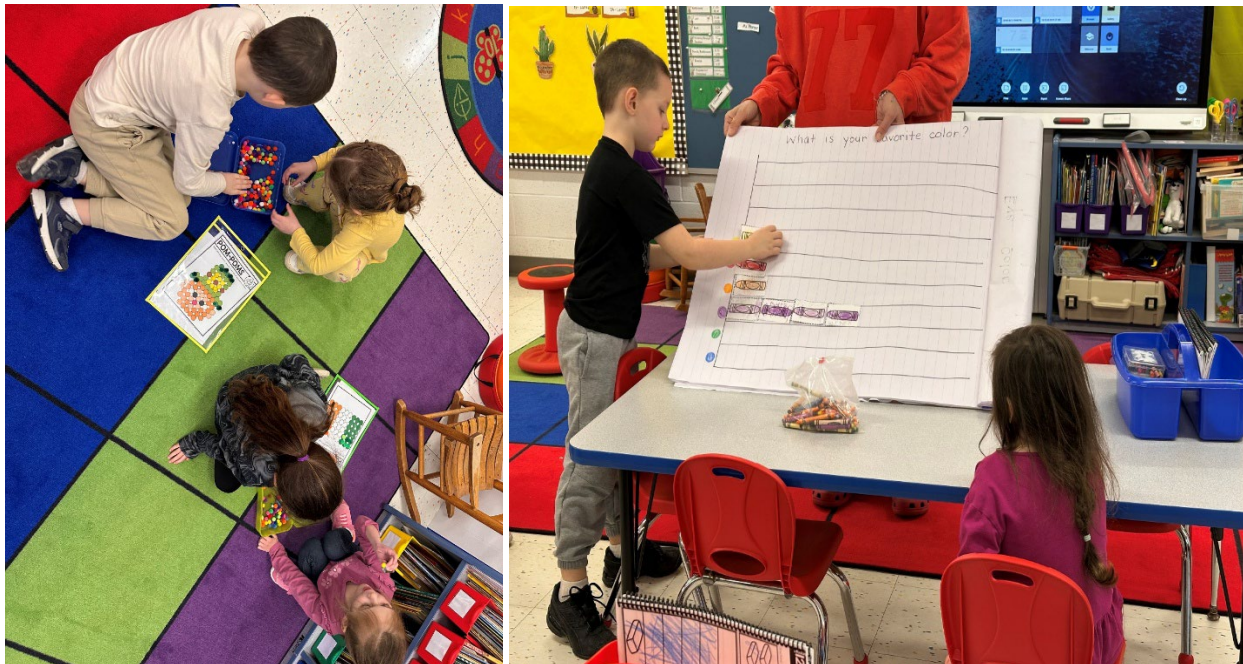
- Taking groups of students to their rooms to do math or reading that works on a specific skill. This also allows for a quieter place to work and provides students with extra support in areas of need.

If your child needs to officially be entered into academic MTSS based on assessments or classroom data, you will be contacted by the classroom teacher.

PRE-K

March kicked off with the Read Across America spirit week. We enjoyed learning about Dr. Seuss, reading many of his books which allowed us practice with rhyming words and writing about the places we would go. In ELA we also practiced writing names with a rainbow name writing activity and the letters of the alphabet with a cover the rainbow task. St. Patrick's Day gave us the opportunity to practice syllables, more rhyming and reading a St. Patrick's Day reader. Coming up will be spring activities before the break. In math, we have been making graphs and looking at the data. Giving us the chance to revisit sorting and number sense. Estimating is the other part of the unit we are now in for math. The students had St. Patrick's Day centers to practice number sense (counting, id) with a color and reveal number coloring page, a roll, count and cover the number with gold counters and a number id and represent the amount in a ten-frame using golden cubes. Science and S.S. have been making Oobleck, learning about Dr. Suess, St. Patrick's Day, how rainbows are made and Spring. The Moana play was a highlight, and the students loved it. What a great job our MS/HS students and drama club leaders did in the preview. Be sure to come out and support them on March 27 at 6:00 or March 28 at 2:00. I hope that your child is sharing with you at home some of the things we are doing at school. Please remember to read and complete the weekly reading logs and practicing name writing and the letters in your child's name as well as counting and number id at home to support your child's growth in these areas. Have a nice spring break.

-The Pre-K Team





KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten has been having a great time this month learning about seasons, weather, and getting ready for spring. The themes that we focused on during our Positivity Project time were a love of learning, perspective, and identifying and appreciating the good in others.

During ELA time, we learned new high-frequency words such as *is*, *little*, *she*, *was*, *for*, and *have*. The kids have been reading and writing sentences with these new words. We have been continuing to work our way through the alphabet with a focus on 1-2 letters per week.

For math, we finished our unit on teen numbers. We spent time discussing how teen numbers are 1 group of ten and some extras. We practiced saying these numbers the "Say Ten Way." An example would be, "13 is 10 and 3." We have begun working on a new unit about shapes. We have been learning about solid (3D) and flat (2D) shapes and their various characteristics.

-The Kindergarten Team







1ST GRADE

The first grade has been very busy this month. We have started our 4th math unit, working on place value and adding and subtracting numbers greater than 10. We have read many stories about animals this month in ELA, including how animals help each other, how animals can help people, and how animals survive in the wild. We enjoyed hearing about all the amazing things animals can do! We have enjoyed learning more about animal habitats in science and are looking forward to learning more about plants and animals as we move into the springtime.

Please keep an eye on the weather, as it warms up we will begin going outside more.

Please make sure your children have a coat and proper shoes when it is muddy. Thank you for all of your support!

-The First Grade Team



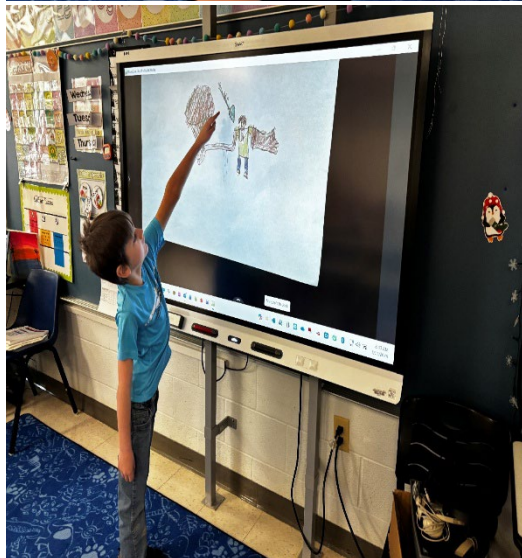
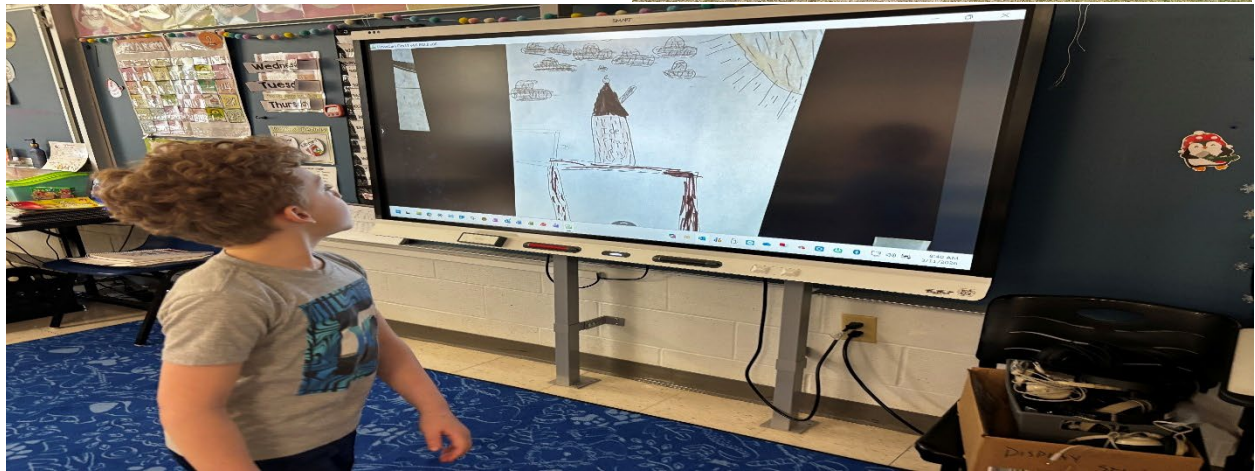


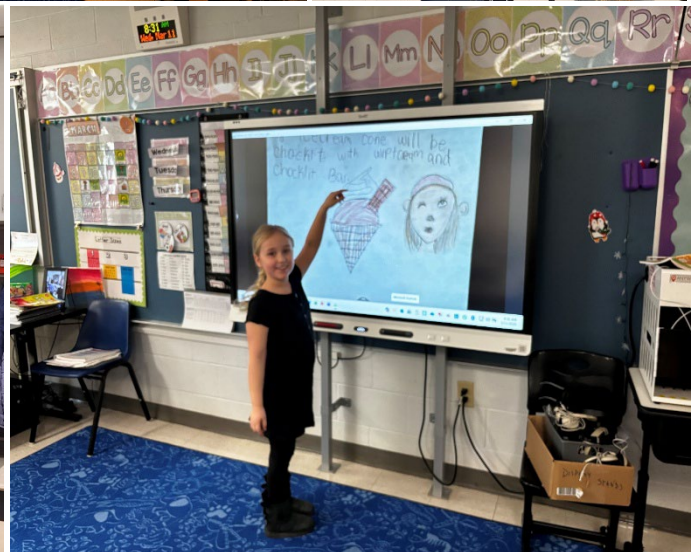
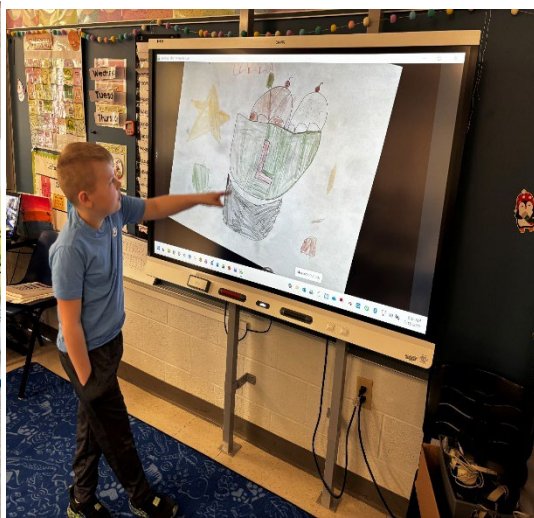
2ND GRADE

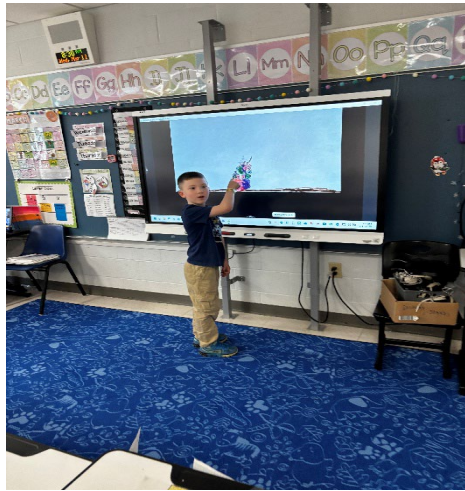
Second grade, students have been working hard across all subjects! In reading, we are focusing on identifying the main idea and supporting details, while also building our vocabulary with new words. During writing time, students are practicing expressing their ideas clearly in complete sentences. In math, we are learning double-digit addition and subtraction and working on solving problems step by step. In geography, we have been learning about maps, practicing reading them and we have been exploring different places around the world and learning about how people live in various environments. Thank you for supporting your child's learning at home!

-The Second Grade Team









3RD GRADE

Third graders are continuing to work hard this quarter. We are continuing to work on Area in math; knowing our math facts is huge to understanding and applying to area. In science, we are continuing to learn about animals, food webs and food chains. Students will be making their own food chain this week. In small groups, we are beginning some state test preparation. Students will get to see the layout of the test and work on some examples and stories from past tests. This week in ELA, we will be learning about different kinds of energy. We encourage students to continue to read at home as much as possible, study math facts nightly and practice their spelling words. We incorporate all these things daily into our class work. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

-The Third Grade Team

4TH GRADE

This month has flown by! We began math this month with multiplying two- and three-digit numbers by a single digit, and two digits by two digits. Students are getting practice regularly with this. We had to move on to division last week. We are currently dividing two-digit numbers by a single digit, with remainders. The students are really grasping this and working hard! In ELA, we continue to read passages about animals and animal adaptations. Most recently we read, "Anansi and the Birds," and discussed how the character traits of Anansi (the spider), the birds, and the owl in the story affected their thoughts and actions, which affected the events in the story. Please ask your child about the story. It was a favorite so far, and one we could relate to in some way. In Science, we are more than halfway through our Earth's Systems Unit. We have learned about Earth's structure, the spheres of our Earth, tectonic plates, volcanoes, natural hazards, and weathering, both physical and chemical. We are also putting in practice of reading and writing skills to get us ready for the State ELA test next month. We enjoyed Sweethearts and Heroes coming back to our school and doing another fun and engaging circle time activity with us, and we also enjoyed the sneak peek preview of Moana. It was nice to get back outside again when we had warmer, sunnier weather. We hope the warm, sunny weather comes back and stays so we can get outside a whole lot more. We are ready for it!

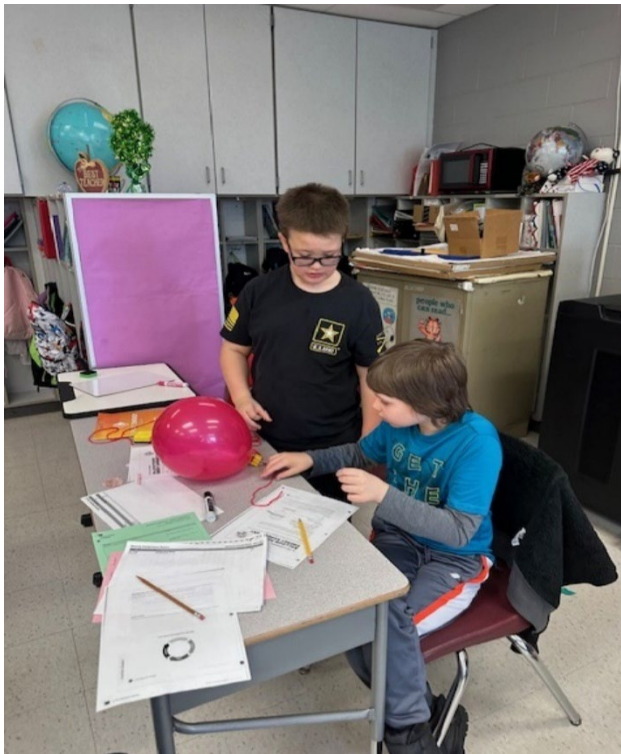
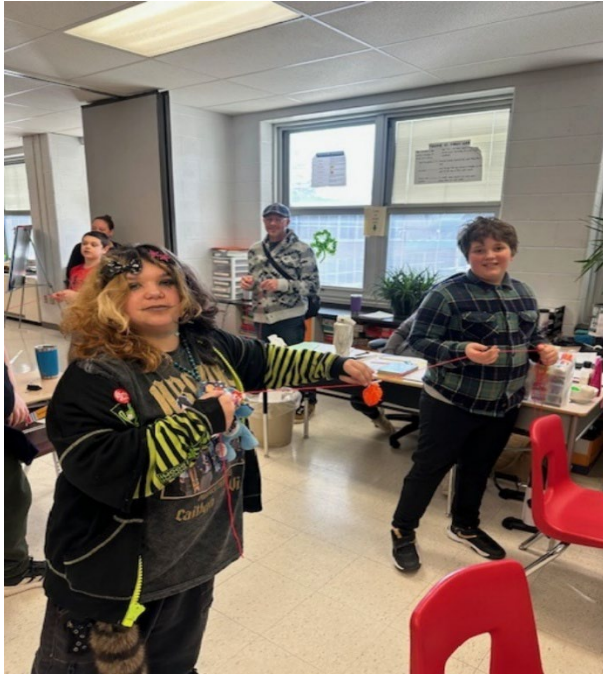
-The Fourth Grade Team

5TH GRADE

Greetings fifth grade families! We have finished up Unit 2 in Math, where we were learning about how to multiply and divide by powers of 10. We taught the shortcuts of how to shift place values to avoid doing the long multiplication or division when working with those numbers. We will be moving forward to fractions in our future units. In ELA we have concluded our novel, Esperanza Rising, and we had a unit assessment. We performed a puppet show with puppets we made of characters, and we are now working on an essay to help us prepare for the state test. In Social Studies we are working on geography centers, where we are learning map skills, water and landforms, and basic geography of the United States. Finally, in Science, we are learning about fossil fuels and energy. We conducted a lab to show how an inflated balloon holds potential energy, and when it is released, it

shows kinetic energy. Check out our pictures and ask your child about it! Enjoy your spring break!

-The Fifth Grade Team



12:1:1

This month the students learned about Saint Patrick's Day and read an article called "Why is This River Green". They learned that every year in Chicago the river turns green on Saint Patrick's day by people putting orange powder in the river that turns the water green, and

they use boats to mix the powder up to make the whole river green. The orange powder is a secret mixture where only the people who made it knows why it starts off orange but turns green when it hits the water. The students also had the opportunity to see the first act of our school play Moana Jr.

-The 12:1:1 Team

EXTENDED STUDIES

POOL

In aquatics class this month PreK is still working on the elementary back stroke but instead of focusing on the arms they have been learning how to do the legs. The kick they are learning is the whip kick. They have learned the cue words bend duck whip to help them get the movement down. They are learning how to do the kick on their belly first and then we will take it on to their back when we put it all together next month with the arms and legs. The kindergarten and 1st grade students have been learning how to dive. They have learned the sit dive and will have the opportunity to do the kneeling dive if they feel comfortable to do so. The students have been learning about safety hands and how to dive safely at the right angle. I am really encouraging them to keep their chin tucked and to put their face in the water. The 2nd-5th grade students are also working on diving. They have learned the sit dive and kneeling dive and will get the opportunity to try the compact dive and the standing dive if they feel comfortable. They are also focused on safety hands and diving at the correct angle. All the students have been doing a great job this month trying something that might be out of their comfort zone and might challenge them to conquer some fears. I have been very impressed. I hope everyone has a great spring vacation and gets to enjoy time with family.

Community open swim

Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm. The fee per session is \$2.00 per adult and \$1.00 per student. Children under 5 years of age are free. Everyone is welcome! First graders and under must be accompanied by an adult. Also, please note that small children (kindergarten and under) must have an adult in the water with them.

-Mrs. Sheldon

STEAM

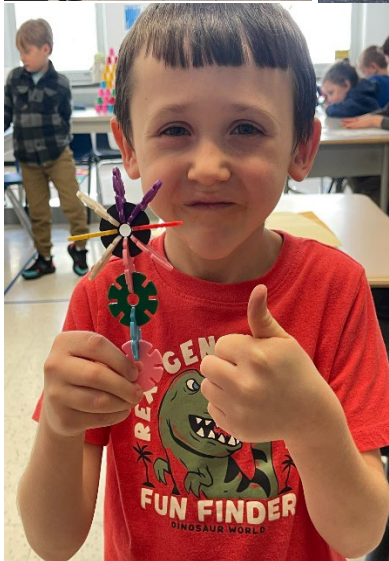
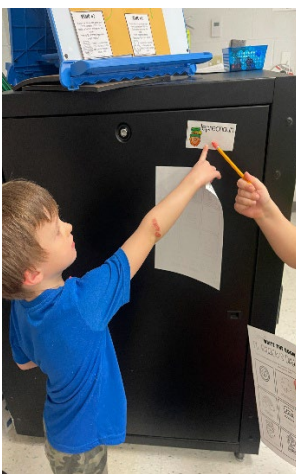
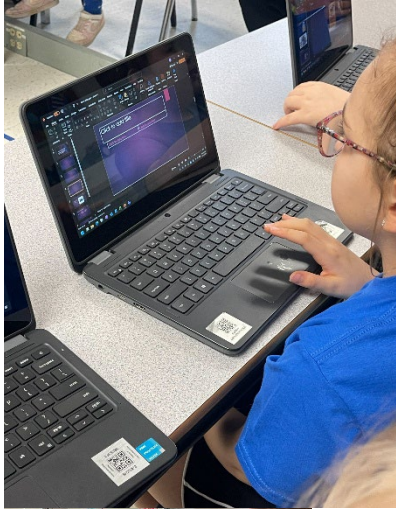
Hello Afton Families!

Happy Spring! Our young engineers and scientists have been hard at work—building robots, designing catapults, and creating warm, insulated homes for furry friends. They've also completed slideshows and explored their hypotheses with great curiosity and creativity.

And guess what? Some students even think a leprechaun may be visiting us here at Afton Elementary! 🍀

We are having so much fun in STEAM class—bring on the warm weather!

-Ms. L





PARENTS! Connect to Afton Elementary School using Artsonia to receive important updates on your child's art classroom activity.



Use your camera to scan this code.

You can also browse to www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code

R4XYCH5P