



Forest School Newsletter

April 2013
Volume 8 - Issue 2

Dates to Remember

Friday, April 12th: Celebration of Excellence
(9:30 AM - Gym)
Monday, April 15th - April 19th:
No School - Spring Recess
Wednesday, May 8th:
Staff Development - Half Day of School
Monday, May 20th: Spring DRA's Begin
Thursday, May 23rd: Spring Concert
(1:30 & 7:00 pm)
Monday, May 27th:
No School - Memorial Day
Thursday, May 30th: Grades 2 & 3 to WHHS
Monday, June 3rd: First Grade to Ansonia Nature
Wednesday, June 5th:
Staff Development - Half Day of School
Monday, June 10th:
First Grade to Ansonia Nature
Monday, June 17th:
First Grade to Ansonia Nature
Thursday, June 13th: Field Day
Wednesday, June 26th: Half Day of School
Thursday, June 27th: Half Day of School
Friday, June 28th: LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
(Half Day)

Music News



The Forest 4th grade chorus will present their annual Spring Concert on Thursday, May 23rd. There will be an assembly/concert for all the students at 1:30 PM and also a 7:00 PM performance for parents and friends of the family. If you are not able to attend the evening concert, you are welcome to come to the daytime concert. You are in for a real treat!

Helen L. Smith
General Music Teacher PreK - 4th
Forest Elementary School
Washington Elementary School
President, CTAOSA

Principal's Corner

As the warm weather approaches and our days grow longer students can get distracted from their school work as well as there surroundings and well being.

Please remind your child of the importance of the last semester class work and homework. With extended daylight hours it is often tempting to put off homework and extend outside play. You may wish to try a schedule that best suits your family.

Congartulations to Mr. Alvarez. He has been chosen as Forest School's Unsung Hero for this year. Mr. Alvarez is a paraprofessional in our English Language Learner (ELL) department. He joined our staff this year and quickly became a significant part of the Forest School Community. Always smiling and time for everyone, you will catch him multi-tasking his day away serving our Forest families.

And lastly, Forest School wishes to thank the Exxon Corporation for the award of a Five Hundred dollar (\$500) grant to our school. This money will be put towards our upcoming enrichment programs scheduled this year.

Sincerely,
Thomas J. Hunt



Kindergarten News

The Kindergarten classes are working very hard in all subject areas as the end of the year quickly approaches. In math we are working on addition and subtraction. The students are grasping this concept by using math stories and manipulatives. Many students have reached the goal of counting to 100. We will continue to reinforce this concept in class. In Language Arts we have learned 22 sight words, which has helped us tremendously with reading and writing. By year end, we will know a total of 36 words. In May, the teachers will be administering the DRA (Degrees of Reading Assessment). This is to test your child's reading skills. Please continue to read with your child on a daily basis. Your children learned multiple reading strategies that will help them decode unknown words. Happy Spring!

Mrs. Carey, Ms. Cooke & Mrs. Smith

PreSchool News

As we welcome the spring season in preschool we recently completed a unit of study with the theme city and country and the bulletin board outside our class has artwork that goes along with that unit. Our afternoon class recently visited Stop and Shop. On our tour of the store we identified many of the foods they sell and saw how the store works. Both classes enjoyed turning our dramatic play center into "Forest Mart" for last month by writing grocery lists, using play cash registers, play food and bagging up their items in our mini store. Our current unit of study is titled "Let's Move." In this unit we are exploring how we move alone, together, and also how different animals move. We have been practicing moving in the dramatic play center for this unit by doing movement stations. Both classes continue to explore vocabulary related to each unit by matching it to our interactive word wall.

Mrs. Erika Johns, Miss Mary Zwack & Mrs. Kathy Scott-Gloster

First Grade News

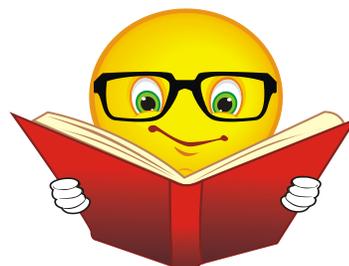
We are working hard in becoming star readers in and out of the classroom. We have moved from the short vowel sounds to working with the long vowel sounds. The students have been busy learning and applying their spelling and sight words to reading and writing. We are still working with story elements in fiction books and text features in nonfiction books as a way to strengthen their comprehension. The children have become wonderful authors by writing "small moment" stories and "how to" books. We will be creating "all about" books after researching different kinds of animals!

We have been keeping very busy in math. We have been learning about addition and subtraction with bigger numbers, place value, and comparing numbers and 2D and 3D shapes. Keep up the good work and remember to practice those math facts!

In Science, we explored the changes of the seasons. Soon we will be exploring life cycles of plants and butterflies. In Social Studies, we have been learning about different holidays and family traditions.

First grade is such an important year for the children. Please remember to read with your child every day. To help your child strengthen his/her comprehension skills, ask your child who the characters are, where the story takes place, and what the story is about. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and support. Let's continue to work together to make your child's year a great success!

Mrs. Soto, Miss Cooper, Miss Giaquinto, Mrs. Bergeron, Miss Tamburro



Second Grade News

Math- Students are currently describing and classifying shapes and solids based on their attributes such as the number of faces, flat surfaces, edges, and vertices. Next, they will be studying measurement. Students will get an understanding of how to use specific tools such as yard sticks, rulers, measuring tapes, and paper clips to measure the specific attributes of an object. Also, please continue to review addition and subtraction math facts as well as counting money. Quick recall of addition and subtraction facts is very important in upcoming grades. A website called www.mathfactscafe.com is great for practicing math facts.

Reading- We will be working on identifying text features to help students better understand the key facts of a story. These text features include captions, bold print, italics, headings, a glossary, an index, diagrams, maps, amazing fact boxes, footnotes, and definitions.

Science- Our new science unit is entitled Nutrition Expedition. We are learning that carbohydrates, proteins, and fats convert energy to keep us alive and help us grow. Also that food will either come from a plant or an animal and crop growth is influenced by sunlight, rainfall, and soil quality. For our next unit, we will be discussing the life cycle of plants.

Social Studies- Currently we are completing our unit on goods and services and continuing to discuss the importance of history related holidays.

**** Please encourage your child to read each evening and bring in healthy snacks such as fresh fruit, veggies, dip, and cheese and crackers.**

Thank you for all that you do!

Mrs. Kirwood, Mrs. Muttitt, Miss Schmidt, Miss Pouslen, and Ms. Swinton

Third Grade News

The third grade had a busy second trimester! Students prepared for their first Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs). We are all very proud of how hard they all worked. We want to thank parents for their support in helping our students prepare at home and ensure they had plenty of rest. During this trimester we also took a fieldtrip to the Peabody Museum in New Haven. The students enjoyed studying dinosaurs, birds of Connecticut, Native Americans, and many other exciting topics. We would like to thank all the chaperones that attended this trip with us. Moving forward, we are studying nonfiction text in our newest reading unit. We encourage you to read nonfiction texts with your child in any subject they find interesting. We find that the more students enjoy a topic, the more excited they will be to read about it. Currently in math we are studying measures of capacity and telling time. Please continue to work with your child at home as these are difficult concepts for third graders. As always, if you have any questions please let us know. We hope to see you all at Family Math Night on April 24, 2013.

Miss Barletta, Mrs. Butler, Ms. Delaney

School Uniforms

Students are to be in full uniform each day as outlined by West Haven Board of Education policy 5114(h) in conjunction with attire compliance adopted on May 7, 2012.

Once again it is important your child is in uniform each day. Should you need assistance, please contact our school Social Worker.

Fourth Grade News

We have been working hard this semester preparing for the Connecticut Mastery Tests. We would like to thank you for all of your help and support ensuring your child had plenty of rest.

As we enter into our last trimester, we will be preparing the students for their transition to Carrigan. We will continue to work on fractions, conversions of measurement, exploring angles and angle measurement in Math. In Reading we are finishing up our unit on Mythology. In Science we will be exploring Food Chains and Webs. Please ask your child daily about what we are learning in school. A strong home-school connection is what we strive for to continue your student's success.

Finally, during the last trimester the fourth grade has many activities. We will be instituting a strike system after April vacation. Your student will enter a contract for behavior and school expectations in order to participate in our many end of the year activities. More information will follow with a detailed explanation of our strike system.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Tortora, Mrs. Velleca, Mrs. Piscitelli & Mrs. Luzietti



Box Tops For Education

The Box Top Coordinators would like to thank everyone for helping make this year so successful.

To date we have collected \$1513 dollars. We are just \$276 dollars away from reaching our Box Top School Goal of \$1789. Dollars.

Every 10 box tops gives you a raffle ticket towards the monthly raffle and a chance at our grand prize. The lucky winner of our grand prize will be the proud owner of a new bike.

So Remember Send In Your Box Tops!!!!!!!

Thank you,

Miss Mary Zwack - Mrs. Erika Johns and Mrs. Kathy Scott Gloster

Food Service

If your income changes during the school year you may be eligible for free or reduced lunch. Please feel free to contact the office for a lunch application.



As always, please be reminded that if your child is absent, please call our ...

“ATTENDANCE LINE”

203-931-6809

Please leave a brief message stating the child's name, room number and reason for absence.