



# Forest School Newsletter

December 2013  
Volume 11- Issue 1

## Dates to Remember

Friday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards  
Monday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>:  
No School - Winter Recess  
Friday, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
Half Day of School  
Monday, Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>:  
No School - Martin Luther King Day  
Friday, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
Half Day of School  
Monday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> - & Tuesday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>:  
No School - Mid Year Break  
Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards  
Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Parent Conferences  
Half Day of School - No PM Kindergarten  
Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: No Morning Kindergarten  
Kdg. Parent Conferences  
Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
Half Day of School  
Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>: No School - Good Friday  
Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:  
No School - Spring Recess  
Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Staff Development  
Half Day of School  
Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: No School - Memorial Day  
Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
Half Day of School

## Principal's Corner

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Holidays are upon us again. As the school year seemingly speeds along, the Forest staff and students continue to work hard.

A special thanks to all the staff and families that had taken part in our Family Pasta and Math Night. It was a huge success. As we plan for our next family night in January, please know we are improving our event schedule to ensure an enjoyable experience. More information will follow after the holiday break.

Lastly, please know we are still in need of parent volunteers for our Mystery/Guest Readers program. If you are interested in reading a book to your child's class, please contact your child's teacher to set up an appointment. In addition, our School Governance Council will be contacting families to invite them in to be a Mystery/Guest Reader.

I hope everyone has a safe and joyful holiday season.



## Kindergarten News

This month we added new sight words to our word wall. The sight words the students have learned in Unit 1 and Unit 2 are as follows: a, the, I, can, at, like, what, in, to, no, they, are, The students have been practicing “Read to Self” and building “stamina” in order to read for a longer period of time. The students choose new books to put into their book bins and read during our “read to self” time using the “three ways to read a book” strategy. They are really enjoying this. Next, we will be introducing “Read to Someone” and students will begin reading with a partner.

In Math, we will be working on addition and subtraction for numbers 0 - 5. The students will continue to work on counting to 100 by 1’s and 10’s. We are ending the year with some fun activities to go along with some seasonal books “The Mitten” and “Gingerbread Baby.”

Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

Ms. Cooke, Mrs. Carey & Mrs. Smith

## First Grade News

Welcome to the wonderful world of first grade! First grade is such an exciting year, and we are thrilled to share it with your children.

We are learning how to become star readers in and out of the classroom. We have been working on our letter sounds with our focus on short vowel sounds. The students have been busy learning and applying their spelling and sight words to reading and writing. We have also been practicing making predictions before we read a story, checking for understanding during a story and retelling the story after reading. The students are working very hard on using their reading strategies during reading to help decode words that are unfamiliar. We are so proud of the progress they have made so far and are looking forward to their continued success.

Mrs. Soto, Mrs. Kelly, Ms. Giaquinto,  
Mrs. Bergeron & Ms. Tamburro



## Second Grade News

**Math** - Students are learning place value to 1,000. This includes comparing three digit numbers, identifying number patterns, and writing numbers in expanded form, standard form, and word form of numbers. Students are consistently working on addition and subtraction math facts. Please review these concepts and skills with your child.

**Reading** - We are working on identifying the main idea of a paragraph and the supporting details. To figure out the main idea, it is helpful to look back through the story at the pictures, captions, headings, and title to see how they fit together. When reading nonfiction texts with your child, ask what the entire paragraph is about and what are the details that support the main idea? Helpful reading strategies include looking at picture clues, predicting, picturing what is read, wondering, summarizing, and text to self connections. Please continue to review the elements of a fiction story which include character, setting, problem, and solution.

**Language Arts** - Students are writing “How to Books.” Recently, we wrote a “How to Make Pop Corn Book.” The students really enjoyed it. This type of writing can be reinforced at home by having students write recipes. First, they can draw a picture and label the food they wish to make. Second, students can list the material or ingredients needed to prepare the food. Last, students can write the steps necessary to prepare the food and illustrate pictures for each step on a separate sheet of paper. In addition to authoring “How to Books,” we are correcting grammatical errors in a letter. We are also identifying sentences and sentence fragments.

**Science** - We just finished our unit on solids, liquids, and gases. We are now learning about soil.

**Social Studies** - Currently we are starting our unit on wants and needs.

Mrs. Muttitt, Ms. Swinton, Ms. Schmidt, Mrs. Kirwood & Ms. Poulsen



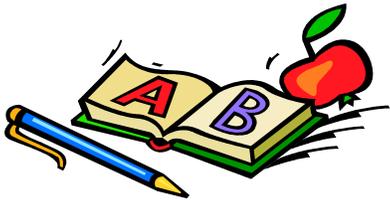
## Third Grade News

The third graders have been very busy this first marking period. Students have been studying multiplication and division in math. We would ask that parents have their children practice their math facts every night. We sent home flashcards for students to cut out earlier in the year, but if you need another set just let us know. We are now working on our third unit in math, which deals with place value. Please work with your child at home with their homework. It is an extension of our class work, and it is important that you are aware of what we are doing.

We just wrapped up our second unit in reading. Please encourage your child to read at home and when possible, expose them to non-fiction. We suggest that you take them to the library and help them choose topics that they have interest in. This will keep them engaged and turn them into life-long readers.

In science, we just finished our unit on states of matter and will be moving on to rocks and minerals.

Miss Barletta, Mrs. Butler, Ms. Delaney, & Ms. Velleca



## PreSchool News

As the 2013 year comes to a close, both the three and four year old preschool classes have been busy with units on school, community, five senses and the four seasons. Our three year old class is learning classroom routines and working on turn taking and cooperation skills throughout the day. The four year old class continues to work on these skills along with letter recognition, counting, number identification and rhyming skills as well. We look forward to exploring our next unit on animals by turning our dramatic play center into an Animal Hospital. As part of our unit on animals we will be going on our first field trip in January to the West Haven Animal Shelter.

Mrs. Johns, Mrs. Scott-Gloster & Mrs. Zwack

## Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders have been busy this marking period. In Science, we studied 'Force and Motion'. We learned about all of the simple machines and examples of each. Did you know that your sink handle and clothes line are simple machines? Ask your children which simple machines they are. We are now studying a unit on "Electricity and Magnetism". The children will be making their own circuits. We will be learning about open circuits, closed circuits, and parallel circuits. Your child will be able to explain the difference between them.

In Reading, we have just completed a unit on text features and are beginning another one. We have been reading non-fiction stories and discussing the text features. We have been reading charts, number lines, graphs, and picture captions and discussing how they add more information to the story. Take your child to the library and let them pick out non-fiction stories that they are interested in and discuss the text features. Remember, your child should be reading at least 20 minutes a night.

In Math, we completed a unit on "Factors and Multiples" and "Place Value". In the unit on place value, we learned how to multiply two digit numbers by two digit numbers and long division. In these units, the children were able to use their factors and multiples charts. However, it is important that they are studying their multiplication facts daily. Also, if they have not mastered their addition and subtraction facts, they should be studying them as well. We have just begun a unit on "Multi-Step Problems". We are finding the answers to problems that require 3 or four steps.

Each night, your child has Math and Spelling homework. Please set a time for them to complete it. Their Spelling list comes home on Monday nights and they should be studying each night. Please sign their agenda, you may write a note to your child's teacher right on it if you wish.

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Mrs. Tortora, Mrs. Piscitelli & Mrs. Luzietti

Music  
News



"The 3rd grade chorus will present its concert "African American Athletes" on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM in the gymnasium of Forest School. The students have been working hard learning songs about tennis, baseball, track, and boxing. We hope you are able to make it!"

Mrs. H. Smith & Mr. D. Pedersen



Cafeteria - Lost & Found

There are many items in our Lost and Found. We have coats, jackets, hats, sweatshirts, glasses, etc. Please come and look if your child is missing anything.



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.

*Merry*  *Christmas*

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  

Buon Natale ~ Felice Anno Nuovo (Italian)  
Joyeux Noël ~ Bonne Année (French)  
Feliz Navidad ~ Feliz Año Nuevo (Spanish)  
Feliz Natal ~ Feliz Ano Novo (Portuguese)  
Vesel Božic ~ Srečno Novo Leto (Slovenian)  
Noeliniz Ve Yeni Yiliniz Olsun ~ Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun (Turkish)  
Sheng Dan Kuai Le ~ Xin Nian Kuai Le (Mandarin)  
Jwaye nowel ~ Bòn ané (Creole Haitian)  
Nollaig Shona Dhuit ~ ath Bhliain Faoi Mhaise (Gaelic)  
Ajmil at-tihānī bimunāsabah al-mīlād wa ḥilūl as-sanah al-jadīdah (Arabic)  
Maligayang Pasko, Manigong bagong taon (Tagalog)  
Wesołych Świąt i Szczęśliwego nowego roku (Polish)  
God jul och gott nytt år (Swedish)  
Kellemes karácsonyt és boldog új évet (Hungarian)  
Chúc Giáng Sinh Vui Vẻ và Chúc Năm Mới Tốt Lành (Vietnamese)  
Krismas mubarak - Naya sal mubarik hu (Urdu)  
Heri ya mwaka mpya (Swahili)  
Καλά Χριστούγεννα και ευτυχισμένο το νέο έτος (Greek)  
मेरी क्रिसमस और नया साल मुबारक हो (Hindi)