



# Forest School Newsletter

April 2014  
Volume 12 - Issue 2

## Dates to Remember

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>: Report Cards - Grades 1-4  
 Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Spring School Pictures  
 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  
 Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>: Report Cards - Kindergarten  
 Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Folk Dance Night  
     Grade 2, 3 &4  
 Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>: Room 9 to Stop & Shop  
     (9:30 - 1:15)  
 Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup>: Room 6 to Stop & Shop  
     (10:00 - 11:30)  
 Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
     Half Day of School  
 Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>: Celebration of Excellence  
     9:30 AM in Gym  
 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  
 Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>: Grade 3 to Trash Museum  
     (12:00 - 1:30)  
 Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>: 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert  
 Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Staff Development  
     Half Day of School  
 Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>: No School - Memorial Day  
 Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Grade Field Day  
 Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>: Staff Development  
     Half Day of School  
 Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>: Field Day



## Principal's Corner

Can you believe it!!! It is April already! As the days grow longer activities and athletics increase please continue to remind your child of their academic obligations for the remainder of the school year.

A special thanks to the Forest School PTA. Their most recent accomplishments include the Spring Dance as well as our School Book Fair. In addition the PTA and Forest School congratulate Mary Zwack, our PreK paraprofessional as Forest School's *Unsung Hero*.

Lastly, Forest School once again wishes to thank the Exxon Corporation for the award of a \$500 grant. This money will be put towards our upcoming enrichment program scheduled for field day.

Thomas J. Hunt

## School Uniforms

Students are to be in full uniform every day. Students will not be able to participate in any special school events or field trips if not in uniform.

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

## 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. We also completed Lion and Lamb art to add to our board. We read a picture book titled In Like a Lion Out Like a Lamb by Marion Dane Bauer and discussed this is how March weather can be described.

Our next 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.

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

## Kindergarten News

During the months of February and March the students completed Unit 4 of the reading curriculum. They continued to learn a new letter of the alphabet each week. The letters the students learned were Mm, Nn, Ww, Hh, Uu, Ll and Rr. Along with being able to identify the letter, the students learned the sound that each letter makes when spoken in a word, and how to write the letters in their upper and lowercase form.

Upcoming Sight Words: out, there, as, had, from, them, or, these

Upcoming Letters: Xx, Yy, Ee

In Math we just finished our unit on addition and subtraction. At this time, we are focusing on numbers in the teens and counting to 100. Please work on these skills with your children.

We look forward to meeting with you at Parent/Teacher conferences!

Miss Cooke, Mrs. Carey & Mrs. Smith

## First Grade News

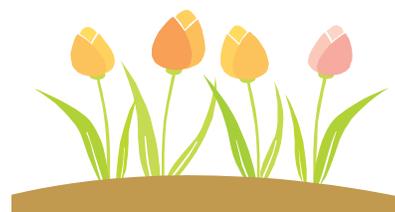
We are working hard in becoming star readers in and out of the classroom. We have moved from the short vowel sounds to working with the long vowel sounds. The students have been busy learning and applying their spelling and sight words to reading and writing. We are still working with story elements 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 2D and 3D shapes. Keep up the good work and remember to practice those math facts!

In Science, 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, Mrs. Kelly, Miss Giaquinto, Mrs. Bergeron & Miss Tamburro



## Second Grade News

**Reading** - Currently, we are working on character change and point of view. Students will be asked to notice what a character is thinking, doing, and saying to figure out character change and point of view. In our next unit, we will learn about text features that authors use to help the reader better understand the text. This text features include the table of contents, index, pictures, captions, headings, and the title. Another strategy that we are learning is how to look for feeling words to figure out if a statement is an opinion or something that you can prove (a fact). Perhaps some real life situations could be used to help distinguish fact in opinion such as the sky is blue is a fact because it can be proven while it is a beautiful day is an opinion because it cannot be proven. The final strategy for this unit is learning about how authors use graphic sources to give the reader information and help the reader better understand the story.

**Writing**- We will write opinion pieces. Our opinion writing includes an opinion statement, three reasons for our opinion, and supporting details. We are learning to use the following transitional words; **for example, also, additionally, another, because, and furthermore** in our writing.

**Math**- Second graders are finishing our unit on Geometry. Students have been describing and classifying shapes and solids based on their attributes. The attributes of the shapes include the number of faces, flat surfaces, edges, and vertices a shape has. Next, students will study measurement. In the unit, students will get an understanding of how mathematicians use specific tools, such as rulers, meter sticks, yard sticks and measuring tapes to measure the specific attributes of an object. They will estimate lengths using units of centimeters, inches, feet, and meters. Also, please continue to review addition and subtraction math facts as well as counting money.

## Second Grade News - Continued

Quick recall of addition and subtraction facts is very important in upcoming grades. A website

called [www.mathfactscafe.com](http://www.mathfactscafe.com) is great for practicing math facts.

**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 we will explore where food comes from. Additionally, we talk about how crop growth is influenced by sunlight, rainfall, and soil quality.

**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.**

Thank you for all your support!

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



## **Library News**

Our Annual Spring Book Fair began on March 26<sup>th</sup> and ran through April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Book Fair was also open on April 3<sup>rd</sup> during Parent Conferences. It was held during school hours in the library. It was a big success. Thank you to all students, parents and the PTA. We had a great turn out with our students during the week and with our parents during the night. The students look forward to this special event every year and, with the help of our wonderful volunteers, it has become a very successful event. All the proceeds are used by the school for the benefit of the students.

### Third Grade News

It has been a very busy time for the third grade. We are working very hard to prepare the boys and girls for fourth grade.

In Math, we are finishing up our fifth unit on area and perimeter. The children are doing a fantastic job! Encourage them to find the area and perimeter of rooms in the house. They will enjoy it, and it will reinforce what we are doing.

In Reading, we are working on theme and lessons learned in stories. We finished up a unit on nonfiction. We learned many important facts about famous people in history and their impact on our society. This unit focuses on life lessons taught in folk tales and fables. The children are enjoying it. Once again, please make sure your child reads every day. We encourage lifelong learning, and this is how to accomplish it.

We also were able to visit the Peabody Museum and the Smart Living Center. Both trips encompassed the skills we have in Science. The children were able to see how to conserve energy and be "smart" about energy conservation at the Smart Living Center. At the Peabody we saw the many different rocks and minerals we studied in Unit 1, as well as some pretty cool fossils! We also took a trip to Southern CT State University to watch a fantastic play that surrounded many of the books the children read. It was an excellent adventure.

As spring approaches, please continue to monitor your child's progress. If there are any concerns feel free to contact us via email or phone.  
Happy Spring!!

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

### Music News



FOLK DANCE NIGHT  
April 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM  
Ages - 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE AND UP

Put on your comfortable shoes! Bring your mom and/or dad or adult and come and learn folk dances from around the world. Adults and students are ALL participants! Students must be accompanied by an adult who is willing to dance with us. Come and join us for the fun!

4<sup>th</sup> GRADE SPRING CONCERT  
May 15<sup>th</sup> - "Music Around the World"  
1:30 PM Concert for School  
7:00 PM Concert for parents,  
relatives & friends

(ALL 4<sup>th</sup> graders need to be at the school at 6:30 PM to get ready for evening concert)

Mrs. Helen L. Smith



## Fourth Grade News

Happy spring! The 4<sup>th</sup> graders have been busy preparing for the new SBAC test, which will replace the annual CMT test. The entire testing is done on the computer. The students have been doing the practice tests with their classroom teacher, Mrs. Tortora (the Reading teacher), and Mr. Heffernan (the Math Coach). We will begin the test in April. Remember, it is important your child gets a good night's sleep, a nutritious breakfast, and arrive to school on time. It is essential to their success on the test.

In Math, we just completed two units on fractions. We learned how to find equivalent fractions, multiply whole numbers and fractions, add and subtract fractions with like denominators, and change improper fractions to mixed numbers and the reverse. We began a unit on measurement. We will discuss units of measurement for length, weight, capacity, mass, and time. Be sure to ask your child how many centimeters equal a decimeter. Also, please make sure that your child studies their math facts regularly if they have not mastered them yet.

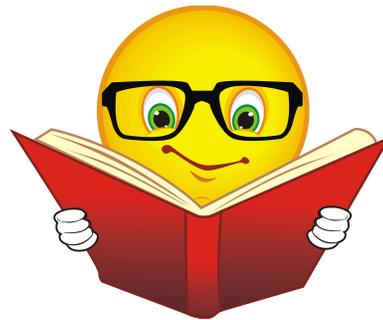
In Reading, we completed a unit on Greek Mythology, which the children really enjoyed. Remember that it is important for your child to read at home on a daily basis. It will increase their vocabulary and comprehension, which will benefit all of their academic areas.

In Science, we are studying the Water Cycle. We completed some classroom activities with a representative from the Whitney Water Center. The children really enjoyed our recent field trip to the Whitney Water Center. The students each made a terrarium and looked at a sample of river water under a microscope. Be sure to ask them what organisms they saw.

## Fourth Grade News - Continued

Lastly, you should have received a letter regarding the behavior expectations for the remainder of the year, as well as, the consequences for not following the expectations. This letter is to be signed by you and your child and returned to your child's teacher. The policy goes into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher.

Mrs. Tortora, Mrs. Piscitelli & Mrs. Luzietti



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.