

Timothy Edwards does such a wonderful job transitioning our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If you haven't already marked your calendars, here are a few dates to remember...



***FEBRUARY  
PAWPRINTS***  
**“KINDESS AND ACCEPTANCE”**

**Principal's Message**

March, 2019

The process of planning for next year's classrooms will begin in May. This process involves many hours on behalf of a team of classroom teachers, special education teachers, the reading consultant, and the school principal. This team works together to create classrooms that are academically and socially well balanced.

One aspect of this planning is parent/guardian input. By completing a *2019 - 2020 Class Placement* form, parents/guardians may provide information about their child that they feel would be relevant concerning consideration for class placement. Examples may include academic, behavioral, psychological, or physical needs. Parent/guardian input will be considered by the team as overall decisions are made regarding next year's classes. Although parents/guardians may have an individual teacher preference, no specific teacher's name should appear on this or any other request.

**Final class placement decision is the sole responsibility of the school principal.**

**The *2019 - 2020 Class Placement* form will be available in the beginning of April. Please call or visit your school office to obtain a copy. The *Class Placement* form must be returned to the school office by no later than Friday, April 26, 2019.**

4/4 Alumni and Counselors from TE will visit students at PRS, 5/15 Students will visit TE, 5/9 at 8:00 Morning Parent Meeting at PRS in Library. Additional information will be shared as dates get closer.

Kindergarten Registration is underway. If you know of any families or have an incoming Kindergartener yourself, go ahead and begin the registration process! Our Kindergarten Orientation as well as visits occur in May.

And for our Primary Families...here is a little tip that you may want to try at home to reinforce reading. Try writing short notes to your child and leave them around the house. Perhaps you could mention good behavior ("Thanks for helping with the dishes!") or write reminders ("Please hang me up. Signed, Your towel!"). Or a note inviting them to do something with you later ("let's go fly your kite this afternoon!") I've seen many parents write a note and put it in their child's lunch box! The kids will enjoy discovering the notes and reading them!

Fondly, Michelle Dixon



In math, we have completed a unit on fractions and telling time. We learned about equal parts of circles and rectangles called halves and fourths. We are working really hard on telling time to the half hour. It can get tricky, but we're getting really good at it! Our first graders continue to work hard in all areas, but as we get ready for second grade, we are also learning to become independent and responsible for our own learning. We are learning how to make responsible seating choices, be a responsible partner, and communicate respectfully with our peers in all settings. Keep up the great work, Grade 1!

The Kindergarteners have been very busy this month. In Humanities, they learned about differing citizens in our community. The students learned how to be good citizens in their own classrooms as well as in the school community. Beyond citizenship, the students learned about informational text and the main idea of a book. They learned about the use of "how to" books and practiced writing one. In math, they completed a Geometry Unit and are gearing up for a new unit called "Bunkbeds and Apple Boxes", which focuses on early number sense. Additionally, the Connecticut Science Center held an inhouse field trip kicked off our new Science Unit Pushes and Pulls. The children loved it!



## Second Grade

Second graders are learning about the characteristics of folktales, fairytales and fables. In this unit, the students will learn how to determine the message, lesson or moral of a story. They will also learn how to recognize a character's point of view by comparing two versions of the same story. The reading lessons from this unit will be integrated into Writing Workshop. Students will write a fictional story which may include a moral or lesson. Specific writing lessons will focus on utilizing narrative graphic organizers before writing, elaborating events, revising and editing.



## First Grade

First graders have continued learning about nonfiction in our humanities unit. We spent some time comparing and contrasting areas around the world with our own. Though there are many differences, we've also found similarities! We have spent a lot of time writing about a topic in which we are experts. We have learned how to take that topic and stretch it out so that we have a lot of information to share with an audience.



## Third Grade

Should 5th graders get to sit in the back of the bus? Should kids be allowed to vote for president? These are some of the many questions 3rd grade students are discussing, debating, and writing about in school, and their answers may surprise you! Students are

reading books and articles with controversy- a town with a beaver, an article about whether or not zoos are really the best thing for animals, and even what a town should do about beavers moving into a local park. Students are learning about effective ways to communicate their opinion, and using facts help make their opinions stronger. Ask your child what topic they have chosen to write about.



## Fourth Grade

In the month of February 4th graders learned about Colonial Boston and the events that led to the American Revolution. They created a scene of a street in Boston along the wharf that included houses, popular buildings, docks, ships, and more. They especially enjoyed creating their colonial characters and being part of a family run business. Students participated in community and family meetings around taxes and issues that led to the Revolution. Next month they will be using this information to write a persuasive essay on whether they support the Patriot or Loyalist point-of-view.



## A Busy February in Fifth Grade

By Kyra Fopma, Piper Hamelin, Ayden Kennedy, Soniya Patel, and Kamron Redding-Hall

The last month has been very busy in fifth grade. We are progressing through units in humanities, math, and science.

We are wrapping up our Human Rights unit in humanities. We read one or more books. We took notes on the books we read. For our final part of the unit, we wrote a persuasive essay about the human rights that were violated. We supported the rights

that were violated with evidence from the book. We also thought of possible solutions for the human rights violations.

In math, we finished our unit on multiplying and dividing with fractions. We had to learn all the math behind the "tricks" that our parents learned when they were learning fractions. We learned the Fraction Bar Strategy and the Open Array Strategy for multiplication. We learned how to Keep, Change, Flip in division. We worked with word problems, too. We just recently moved on to our new unit on decimals.

Our new science unit is on Earth's Systems. We have been learning about water on Earth. We have done experiments to help us learn. We worked on a 5-gallon bucket experiment which helped us to see that even though Earth is made up of about 70% water, the amount of freshwater that we have available to use is very small. Another experiment we worked on is the Water Cycle in a Baggie. We make weekly observations of this baggie of water that is hanging on the window. We are noting the changes in the baggie which helps us to see what happens in the water cycle. We are still working on this unit.

When full day Wednesdays started, 5<sup>th</sup> graders started chorus. Each classroom is a house, just like in the Harry Potter books! We earn house points when we work together and follow the rules. We can lose house points, too. We try not to do that. Ms Duggan is holding auditions for solos. We are getting ready for the concert in March.

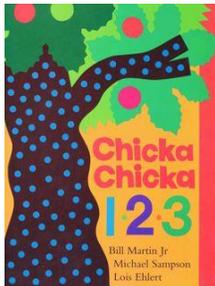
It's hard to believe that we only have four more months of school. We are working hard and learning more and more every day.



## STEM Lab Updates

On Saturday, January 26, 5th graders from all elementary schools participated in the South Windsor Invention Convention. Inventors followed the Engineering Design Process to solve a problem of

their choice. Students were judged on their invention originality, practicality, effectiveness, inventing process, and the need for their invention. The following students were selected as honored inventors and will participate in the Connecticut Invention Convention on May 4, 2019 at the University of Connecticut: Jack G. (The Beeping Remote), Noah T. (The SnoFlipper), Sarah M. (Quick Stopping Stopper), Evan D. (The Taco Tie-er), Piper H. (Stroller's Little Helpers), and Yash N. (The Alarm-O-Pillow). Congratulations to ALL of the 5th graders for their persistence and innovative thinking!



## Math and Literacy Go Hand and Hand

Julie Ratajczak  
PRS Math Coach/Interventionist

Teaching math through literacy is a fun and powerful way for students to learn about all different topics of mathematics. It is a fantastic way to show how math is found in the real world all around us. Also it helps practice and build language skills. Students are listening, thinking, and having to make sense of the story. Mathematics has a lot of vocabulary so incorporating it into stories help build the correct understandings and meanings of these words.

There are math books written for every topic. To focus on counting some good ones are, Chicka Chicka 123, by Bill Martin & Michael Sampson and How Do Dinosaurs Count to Ten, by Jane Yolen & Mark Teague. Telling time is difficult for many students, so books can help introduce or reinforce for example, The Completed Hickory Dickory Dock by Jim Aylesworth. Geometry has a lot of vocabulary, so my favorite book is The Greedy Triangle by Marilyn Burns and The Sir Circumference series.

Math books can be found at the local library, online, or at books stores. They are fun at any grade level and even as an adult!



## A Good Night's Sleep

Marisa Fazzino, NCSP  
School Psychologist

Why is Sleep Important?

Sleep is very important and a lack of sleep can impact a child's ability to function effectively in school. It helps our physical, emotional, and metabolic functioning to be more efficient and has a direct impact on our attention and behavior. Difficulties in sleep can cause children to have challenges with concentration, can be more distracted, and can be impulsive or hyperactive.

Tips to help your child have a good night's rest:

### **1. Establishing a Sleep Routine**

An effective routine is established and consistent. When a child is stimulated (e.g., tv, video games, playing) it can make calming their minds and bodies more difficult for sleep. Establishing a routine that involves screen-free time prior to bed will help them calm so they are able to fall asleep more easily.

### **2. Consistency with Routines is Essential**

Once you create a sleep routine for your child(ren), stick to the routine. If the routine includes taking a bath, then brushing teeth, then reading for fifteen minutes before bed, keep this routine consistent throughout the week and weekend. It is okay to be flexible in the routine! Children thrive with structure and routine, but allowing them to select the order of their bedtime routine or if they would like to play with a toy prior or following a bath gives them a sense of control and ownership in their routine.

### **3. Our Bedrooms are Meant for Sleeping**

Distractions should be kept to a minimum in the bedroom. The room should be cool but comfortable and as dark as possible (a night light for comfort may be helpful for some children). It is also important that the bedroom should be used for sleeping, not watching television or other activities

### **4. Children Should Sleep in their Own Beds**

If your child wakes up in the middle of the night, get them back into their bed as soon as possible. If you

feel that your child requires your comfort to fall asleep, walk them to their room and sit next to their bed until they fall asleep.

Information gathered from:

[https://childmind.org/article/encouraging-good-sleep-habits/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Good%20Sleep%20Habits&utm\\_campaign=Weekly-01-22-19](https://childmind.org/article/encouraging-good-sleep-habits/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Good%20Sleep%20Habits&utm_campaign=Weekly-01-22-19)

Visit our Website

<http://www.swindsor.k12.ct.us/Schools/prs/prsmith.html>

Principal	Michelle Dixon
Secretary	Lisa Lovett
Clerk	Carol Scheuing
Nurse	Colleen Heneghan
Main Number	648-5025



**Important Dates**

<b>March 19</b>	Professional Development Day No school for students
<b>March 20,27, April 2</b>	Parent/Teacher Conf. Early Dismissal
<b>April 8-12</b>	Vacation
<b>April 19</b>	Good Friday - No school