

NOVEMBER PAWPRINTS

“KINDNESS AND ACCEPTANCE”



Principal's Message

November, 2017

Well, I cannot believe that we are already into the month of November. We have really had a wonderful first two months of school with many exciting activities to bring our school community together.

The PTO has been hard at work and continues to bring many exciting activities to our students and families. The Tiger Tracks in early October was a huge success and incredibly fun for parents, staff and students. That large fundraiser really helps to support so many PTO plans and initiatives throughout the school year! PTO is now offering the Scholastic Book Fair to students and families with a Donuts for Dads morning which is always so much fun!! Earlier this month we began our after school clubs which are also organized by Dionna, a PTO volunteer. It's shocking to think that the Holiday Workshop is just around the corner!!

Parent/Teacher conferences will begin on November 29th and continue through December 20th. If you have not set up your parent/teacher conference please reach out to your child(ren's) classroom teachers to set up a date and time. The conferences are a great time to learn about the progress your child is making, their strengths and areas of focus for instruction, as well as talk about what you can do to help support at home. We look forward to this opportunity to meet with parents each year, but please know at any time if you are interested in an update on how your child is doing academically or socially, never hesitate to contact their teacher.

Suggestions for a home and school connection...

1. "Let's see what you brought home today."
2. "Show me what you have for homework."
3. "Describe a book you enjoyed today."
4. "Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."
5. "What did you do at recess today?" "Who did you play with?"
6. "How did you show kindness to someone today?"

We wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday break. School will be closed on Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th so that we can celebrate with family and friends.

Fondly,
Michelle



The Kindergarteners have been very busy this month. They are learning their classroom rules and routines in addition to making new friends. In language arts, the children have been learning about parts of a book the common types of texts (e.g. storybooks, poems, nursery rhymes etc.) and the role of an author and illustrator. In math, the children worked with sorting and counting different objects as well writing their numbers.

Notes from First Grade

Help your child become
a better **READER**
Questions to ask your child while reading
fiction text.

- Who is the main character?
- What is the setting in the story? Does the setting change?
- What was the problem in the story and how was it solved?
- Did the character change during the story? How?
- How are you like the main character? How are you different?
- What do you predict will happen next in the story?
- Why do you think the author chose this title for the story?
- Do you like the title of the story? Why or why not?
-Can you think of a different title for the story?
- Which character from the story would you choose to be your friend? Why?
- Which part of the story was the most exciting? Why?
- Did you like the end of the story? Why or why not?
- Which parts in the story could really happen? Which parts could not really happen?

fun-in-first.blogspot.com



Second Grade News

The second graders we have moved into our series and fiction writing literacy unit. Students are studying character traits and beginning to understand that readers choose to read series because they are predictable and follow the same characters through many adventures. In writing, we have been having fun imagining new adventures for the fictional characters that we read about.

In math, we have been learning about geometry. In second grade, students are learning to identify polygons and name them based on the number of sides and their attributes. We have been building arrays to explore the idea of area. We are wrapping up the month with our Monster Glyph Project, which celebrates all we've learned about shapes.



Third Graders

Did you know that the Native Americans who lived in South Windsor were called the Podunks? We learned this and many other facts about Native Americans on our field trip to the Wood Memorial Library in October! We visited a Podunk home and learned about the types of foods the Podunks ate that came from their environment (deer, bear, the three sisters, wild berries and nuts, fish from the Connecticut River). We also learned how they made their tools from things in their environment (rocks, plants, sticks) and used plants for medicines. The Native Americans never wasted anything and they were very hard workers because they couldn't just go to a store to buy what they needed. We will continue to learn more about different tribes who lived in different regions of the United States as we further our study of Native Americans.



Fourth Grade Bikers

In October Fourth Grade had Bike Week, and we learned how to ride a bike. On Monday we learned how to do the ABC quick check. The ABC quick check is when you check if your bike is safe to ride. A stands for air. You need to check the tires if it has enough air. B stands for breaks. Check the brakes if it is working. Stroll the bike forward and squeeze the handle breaks. C stands for cassette, chain and crane. The cassette has gears. There are 2 gears on each handle. If you are going uphill then you would change gears into gear 1 or 2. Just to make biking easier. If you are going downhill then you would change it to 6 or 7. If you are going on a nice level surface you would want to change gears to 3, 4 or 5. We were also taught to spot. Someone would hold up their fingers and ask us how much fingers they're holding up.

On Tuesday, we learned some new hand signals. When we put our left hand straight out, that means we are turning left. If we put our right hand out, it would mean we are turning right. If we put our left hand out to a 90 degree angle it means we are going to stop. A yield sign means to slow down and see if there is any traffic, if there is not then you can keep going and you won't have to stop at all. We also did a track around the black top. We had to go around the cones and tennis balls and stop at the right spots.

On the final day, we went to ride our bikes around Cornerstone. While we were riding we stopped for lemonade and to watch little kids play little kid instruments like drums, xylophones, and egg shakers. We also did our hand signals while we were riding. We learned what to do if we had a flat tire. We fixed tires by taking the tire off the bike. Then, we took the inner tube out. If there is a hole in the inner tube, we would we patch it up with rubber cement. Then we patched it. Then we would put it back on the bike.

Our bike ride was super fun and we learned a lot of new things such as hand signals. When you reach fourth grade I hope you all have a fun and happy time too!

Sincerely,
Piper, Inabah, and Sarah
{fourth graders}



Fifth Grade News!

By Kamary Laurent and Travis Willcox

Fifth graders have been busy!
In Science, we have been learning about Newton's Laws of Motion. We have learned about Newton's First Law: The law of Inertia: "Objects in motion, stay in motion. Objects at rest stay at rest unless acted upon by an outside force." Newton's second law states "that a force can slow down, speed up, or

change the direction an object is moving in." And finally, Newton's third law that states "that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. Forces work in pairs." Friction is the force that slows or stops things.

In Math, we learned about the volume of rectangular prisms. We learned the formula for volume is $V=l \times w \times h$. (Volume is length times width times height). When we answer a volume question we label it in cubic units.

In Humanities, we learned about the importance of character traits, the conflicts the characters have to overcome, and the themes of the stories. In Mrs. Rempel's room we read a play about "The Headless Horseman and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow". We took turns reading the different parts, and we discussed the way to find evidence to support our inferences. We are busy writing narrative stories as well.

On October 31, 2017, we are going to the Bushnell to see a performance about Marian Anderson! We can't wait to tell you all about it!

Fact Fluency Fun

By: Julie Ratajczak
Math Coach/Intervention Teacher

Fact Fluency isn't just memorizing facts off of flash cards anymore. Fluency is using reasoning strategies and relationships within facts to help build automaticity, such as to help with 8×6 if you know $8 \times 5 = 40$, then is just one more group of 8. Starting in kindergarten we work on our facts, using tools, such as ten frames and counters, and games. Games are a great way for students to work on facts, you can differentiate them, it keeps children active, they promote discourse, and kids like them!

It is really easy to practice fact fluency at home. Grab a deck of cards and play addition, subtraction, or multiplication compare. Similar to the game of War, flip two cards each, then add, subtract, or multiply them. Another activity is flip two cards or roll two dice and have your child say a story problem (+, -, or x) with those numbers. My new favorite game, also gives me something to do with all the leftover egg cartons I have at the end of the week! I write the numbers 0-11 mixed up on the bottom of the egg carton spots. Then put in 2 of anything small, like dice, cubes, and pieces from a board game. Next is the best part...shake shake shake! Open it up and either add, subtract, or multiply the two numbers

your pieces land on. This is another way to practice facts, while they move around a little too.



The most important thing while practicing fact fluency is discuss strategies your child uses and have fun!



Spotlight on Reading From Room 7

By: Ms. Mayer-Special Education

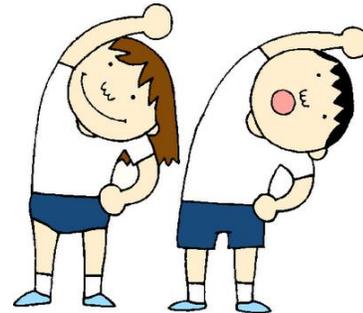
Reading is one of the most complex skills that human beings learn to do in their lives! Proficient readers are able to efficiently tackle new text by reading with accuracy, good expression, and with the correct speed. They do all of these things while also understanding what is written on the page. There are many ways you can help your young reader to become a fluent reader who loves books and stories!

1. Model fluent reading: Read aloud to your student on a regular basis. Old favorites that are reread often can be perfect for this task.
2. Try choral reading: Read a piece together with your student. They will hear the

inflection in your tone and attempt to copy your pace.

3. Put on reading performances: You can perform poetry, music, Dr. Seuss stories, and more!
4. Tell them what they are doing well: Be specific in your praise, "I love how you made your voice loud when you saw the exclamation mark!"
5. Allow your student to reread texts that they find interesting and/ or comfortable: Lower level texts and picture books can play an important role even to our older readers!
6. Listen to audio books or stories online: itunes, storyonline.net, starfall, and many other apps have great read aloud available and many are free!
7. Encourage a literate life: Provide your young reader with lots of opportunities to see and hear print. Read magazines, recipes, signs, notes, and stories together!

How do you encourage a print-rich life in your home?



Physical Education

By: Lauren Beeler, Physical Education Teacher

Grades 3, 4 and 5 in Physical Education spent the month of October and November practicing and completing the Connecticut physical Education Fitness test. The test has some high standards in the Pacer test (endurance), Sit and Reach (Flexibility), Curl-up (Abdominal strength), and Push Ups (Upper Body Strength). All PRS students did extremely well, and I was so proud to see the effort they were putting into the tests.

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

Visit our Website:

www.southwindsorschools.org/prs

Important Dates

Nov. 7 Professional Development Day -
No School for Students
Nov. 13 9:00 Veterans Day Celebration
Nov. 29 Conferences Begin
Nov. 22 Early Dismissal
Nov. 23-24 Thanksgiving Recess - No school
Nov 27 Report Card Distribution
Dec. 2 Holiday Workshop
Dec. 6 Conference Day
Dec. 13 Conference Day
Dec. 20 Conference Day
Dec. 22 Early Dismissal
Dec. 25 - Jan.1 Winter Vacation
Jan. 2 School Resumes

