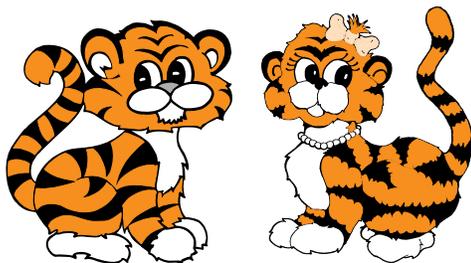


SEPTEMBER PAWPRINTS

**“KINDNESS
AND
ACCEPTANCE”**



Principal's Message

September, 2018

Dear PRS Community,

I cannot express how proud I am of our students, staff and families. We had an amazing opening to the school year despite packing up an entire school in June, moving to our temporary location, unpacking and transforming 350 Foster into PRS! The positivity and enthusiasm for our new space was just remarkable. Thank you to everyone for embracing these changes and supporting us through the process.

This school year we welcomed approximately 100 new students to our school this year! Amazingly all of the students settled in quickly to the routines at school. In addition to working with our students on rituals/routines and academics, we have had many special events so far this September!

Meet and Greet August 28th

Tears and Cheers August 29th

Ice Cream Social September 7th

Open House September 17th

September Tiger Time celebrated our summer fun pack work September 17th

Thank you to all who helped to organize and chair these events and activities!

Here are some of the events that we are looking forward to in the coming weeks...

Room Parent Meeting on October 4th

Tiger Tracks Jog-a-thon October 5th

Scholastic Book Fair October 29th through November 2nd

STEM Night on November 15th

Beginning after school programs on Early Dismissal Wednesdays

More information will be forthcoming for each of these events.

As you may know we are continuing our Kindness and Acceptance are our school theme this year. Students can receive individual tickets for showing kindness and acceptance. The students can put them into a raffle to be drawn on Friday mornings. In addition, classes can earn a kindness/acceptance certificate from a teacher when the entire class works together cooperatively. We also draw certificates on Friday morning and students can earn incentives like a phone call home, extra recess, no homework pass, etc. The students really buy into this positive behavior support plan and get very excited when they earn a kindness card.

We had great interest from our upperclassmen looking for a leadership role at PRS. We have several opportunities for all who express interested in helping make our school a positive and inviting place to be every day! We have selected Student Leaders, Peer Mediators, Tiger Time Committee as well as Afternoon Safeties. There are several other important jobs around the building that we are working to fill!

Regular attendance in elementary school sets up a good pattern for your child's entire school career.

Show your child(ren) that school comes first by trying to keep days off for illnesses and family emergencies. Also, to the greatest extent possible, schedule routine doctor and dentist appointments for after school or over school breaks. Just a reminder that if your child is absent you must provide a signed note to the office for it to be excused. Any absences after 9 you will need a doctor's note excusing the absence.

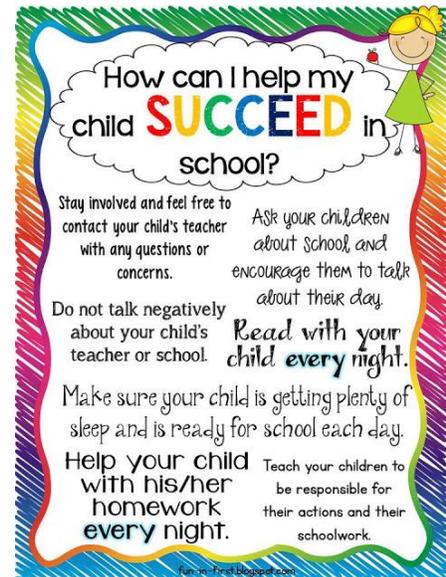
Enjoy our first edition of the 2018-2019 Paw Prints!

Fondly, Michelle Dixon



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, we are building a community of readers. 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. Our goal is to count to 100.

First Grade



Notes from Second Grade

The beginning of the school year for second grade has been busy doing so many wonderful things! They've all transitioned into the new building beautifully, and the expectations and routines are coming along nicely.

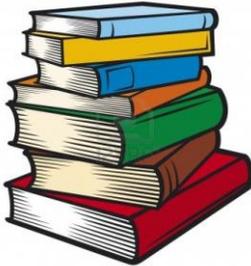
In Reader's Workshop, second grade has concentrated on beginning, middle and end when retelling a book. More specifically, they have been studying the characters (who), setting (when and where), problem, and solution. It was a great way to begin the year, and it will lead the students into the second unit based on series.

In Writer's Workshop, each class used their learning from Reader's Workshop (characters, setting, problem and solution), and created their very own version of the wordless book "Chalk". The students had a lot of fun creating their very own page to go into the class edition of the book. Not only was it a great learning experience, it also was a wonderful way for all of the students to create something together.

In Math Workshop, the students familiarized themselves with many of the math tools. They also dug into addition and subtraction word problems

where they learned many strategies on how to solve the problems.

It's been an eventful first month of school, and there is more fun to come! Second grade rocks!



Third Grade News

40 books? In one year? You heard that right! Third graders are eagerly attacking the 40 book challenge- can they read 40 good fit books in just one school year? That's one book a week! The challenge encourages students to think beyond their typical reading comfort zone and to read books outside of their normal genre. What mysteries will they solve? Whose life story will they hear? What mystical or fantastical journeys will they go on? A reader lives a thousand lives, and third graders are about to tackle 40 of them! Ready, set, READ!



Fourth Grade

Welcome to the Electrifying World of batteries, bulbs, insulators and conductors! Considering all the ways we use electricity, it's SHOCKING how we often take it for granted. Students in 4th Grade are beginning to learn how electricity is transferred. They will build circuits, experiment with open and closed circuits, using simple batteries, light bulbs, electric clips and wires. In these action packed, hands-on investigations students will also explore the difference between conductors and insulators. Most

importantly students will learn tips for keeping themselves safe around this powerful energy source.

Fifth Grade News!

By: Caroline Cavanaugh and Caroline Jacobs

We have been talking about our goals, what makes a good/perfect friend, and expectations for Fifth Grade students.

In Math we are reviewing multiplication facts and some division. Practice is needed to reach our goals and to become stronger for future math lessons.

In Reader's Workshop we have been reviewing how to choose "Good Fit" books for our independent reading. A worksheet shows us how to make sure each book is a "good Fit" in case we are unsure. Also, we have been listening to read aloud stories and practicing how to "turn and talk" with a partner.

Our Humanities Unit includes learning about our Constitution. Why do we have one? What does it mean for our country? We will be able to answer those questions soon!

In each classroom we have classroom rules to keep us safe and calm. We are following the Tribes Agreements; including being respectful of each other and our teachers.



Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile.
- William Cullen Bryant



Happy Fall from the PRS Art Team!

We welcome our students to the art room at PRS!

There are now four art teachers eager to start a new school year with your children:

Mrs. Lynsey Desmond, teaching Wednesdays at PRS and the rest of the week at Orchard Hill

Mrs. Barbara Lee, teaching Tuesdays at PRS

Mrs. Andrea Marshall, teaching Mondays at PRS and the rest of the week at Eli Terry

Mrs. Natalie O'Brien, teaching Fridays at PRS and the rest of the week at Pleasant Valley

As a team, we want to share our love of art with all of the students at PRS. We will be following the art curriculum that has been created for all South Windsor Elementary Schools, with each teacher developing their own lessons to teach a variety of art skills and techniques.

There will be a district-wide art show in April, and PRS will have many pieces of artwork that will be included in this show from all four teachers. Some artwork will be held for this event throughout the school year. You may contact any member of the PRS Art Team by calling the school's main number 860-648-5025, ext. 1523 to leave a message or by emailing us directly.

Enjoy the colors of the season, the PRS Art Team



STEM Lab Updates:

Kindergarteners are exploring the elements of structure and function. They will create beanstalks with 10 pipe cleaners that must stand on their own. First graders are categorizing animal adaptations for protection, camouflage, food obtainment, and locomotion. They will experiment with bird beaks (spoons, tweezers, clothespins) to pick up food (marbles, toothpicks, straws). Second graders are investigating color and texture. They will learn about young inventors and how they use the engineering design process to solve problems. Third graders are learning about balanced and unbalanced forces. They will be exploring the VEX kits to make simple machines. Fourth graders are learning about potential and kinetic energy. They will be creating different crash scenarios to notice what happened to their cars. Fifth graders are learning about the invention process. They will be compiling a list of everyday problems. All grade levels should be proud of their efforts!

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

October 8	Columbus Day - No School
October 15-19	PRS Bike Week-Gr. 4
November 6	No School for Students
November 22-23	Thanksgiving Recess



