

OCTOBER PAWPRINTS

“KINDNESS AND ACCEPTANCE”



Principal's Message

October, 2017

I am very pleased with how this school year has started with such a positive vibe. We welcomed approximately 140 new families to our school this year! Amazingly 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/October!

Meet and Greet August 29th
Tears and Cheers August 30th
Ice Cream Social September 8th
Open House September 14th
September Tiger Time celebrated our summer fun pack work September 15th
Room Parent Meeting on October 5th
Tiger Tracks Jog-a-thon October 6th
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...

Veteran's Day Celebration on November 13th at 9:00 am
Parent/Teacher conferences begin on Wednesday, November 29th
Math Morning for K-2 on October 10th
STEM Night on October 19th
Scholastic Book Fair October 30th through November 3rd
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 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. So far the students are very excited about it! We are going to create a bulletin board where we can tally tickets and certificates earned by class.

We had great interest from our upper classmen 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, Principal Assistants, 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.

Enjoy our first edition of the 2017-2018 Paw Prints!

Upcoming dates for your calendar...

October 9th No School for Students
November 7th No School for Students
November 23rd and 24th Thanksgiving Break

Fondly,

Michelle Dixon



NOTES FROM KINDERGARTEN

"It all starts with kindness."

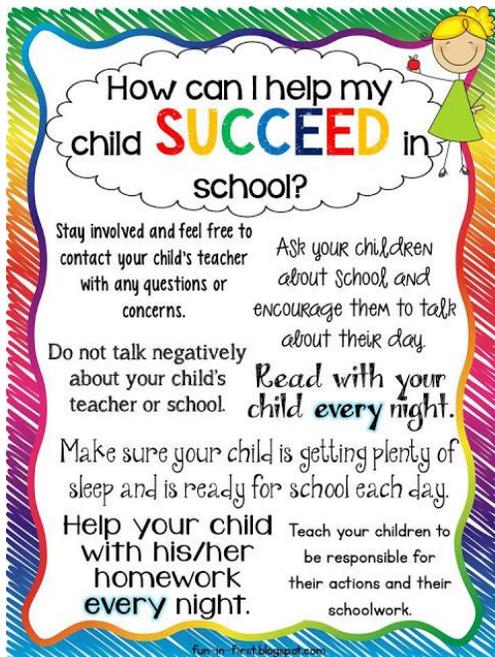
Does your child listen the first time?
Celebrate that!

Do they make eye contact when spoken to?
Celebrate that!

We have been learning all about our community at school. I am working on following the class rules, routines, and learning the expectations. I am practicing what it looks like, sounds like, and feels like to be ready for learning.

- **Some of the highlights to think about:**
 - Do I know my letter names?
 - Do I know the sound they make?
 - Can I write numbers 1-20?
 - I can hunt for letters!
 - I can practice writing my letters.

First Grade News



Second Grade News

The second graders have transitioned into the new school year beautifully! Routines and expectations have been put into place, and a strong community has been built within the grade level.

Academically, the second graders have been busy learning how to write personal narratives with details. They are using their five senses and feelings to enhance their writing, which allows the audience to understand more of their experience. Math has been filled with brand new strategies for solving word problems, such as sticker notation, the number line, and splitting. The students have also been learning how to write their very own word problem! In reading, the students have been learning about beginning, middle, and end, and how to identify the problem and solution within a story.

This has been a fun start to the school year and with each day, it keeps getting better and better! This is going to be an awesome year!

Third Graders and the 40 Book Challenge!



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 Writers



Fourth graders have been working hard as writers! Students first read a variety of personal narratives and observed how authors write about special moments in their lives, slowing down the moment for their readers. Then, the students brainstormed ideas they could write about. Students worked to use thoughts, words, actions, and sound effects to help their reader feel like they were in the world of their story. One objective we stressed was fabulous beginnings. Here are some terrific examples:

I waited, I waited, and I waited. "Is he done yet? I'm getting nervous! I mean what if my teacher said something bad about me?" exclaimed my worried sister.

"I am not going to win!" I said nervously to my mom. I just entered the Foodshare art contest but I already regretted it.

**Click ,click ,click
I'm going up Bizarro, when the ride starts to go up the
hill I scream " I want to get off, I want to get off!"**

Off to a Great Start in Fifth Grade!

by Ethan Burke, Oscar Chan, Kayla Slupek, and Violet Wanievski

Even though the school year just began, we are getting busy learning all the new routines in 5th grade! We have also been learning many new things in the curriculum. We also focus on finding kindness in each other and in everyday activities.

In math, we are working in our first unit on multiplication and division. We are learning how to solve both multiplication and division problems in different ways. Our favorites are the Box Method and Partial Products for multiplication and Hangman or using multiplication for division. Yes, you can use

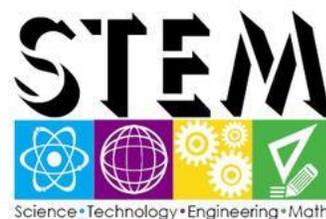
multiplication facts to figure out division problems! We have worked with arrays. Finally, we are realizing how important it is to know our basic multiplication facts! Practice makes perfect!

Our Humanities unit is all about changes - changes in characters and changes in the government. We have focused on how and why characters change and how they react to change. We have also read about how our government first started and the changes that took place in our early history. We learned about the three branches of government and what responsibilities each of them has. We also studied the Constitution and read the Preamble.

We are also learning about how to properly use commas in our writing. In word study, we are learning about words that have the k sound that is spelled with ch, for example, character and chaos.

One of our favorite parts of the week is STEM. We are researching robots and making projects out of them. We are using an app called Poplet, where you make tiny boxes and you can write and insert pictures in them.

As you can see, we have been very busy!



STEM Lab: We Belong Here

Please join us on Thursday, October 19, 2017 for our second annual STEM Night. Drop in anytime between 6:30-8:00. We will have tables set up by grade level so students can showcase their current STEM modules. Families should feel free to visit all tables, and enjoy the hands-on STEM activities. Don't forget to grab an engineering bag for more STEM fun at home.



Greetings from the English Learner (EL)

Department!

We are so excited to be starting a new school year and welcoming in our new friends from Wapping. This year, we have 45 EL students who represent a wide range of languages - over 21, in fact! Our five most common languages spoken by ELs this year are Arabic, Korean, Hindi, Malayalam, and Polish. It's amazing to consider that we have a global community of learners here at PRS, and how each student brings their unique cultural and personal background to the classroom!

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

Visit our Website

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



Important Dates

Oct. 9	Columbus Day - No school
Oct. 10	Math Morning for K-2
Oct. 19	STEM night
Oct. 30	Scholastic Book Fair begins
Nov. 1	Donuts for Dads
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
Dec. 1	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