



Booth Free School

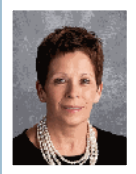
# Star Tracks

November 2018



## A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,



The teachers have just completed their Parent-Teacher Conferences. I am pleased to report that 100% participation took place. The staff and I are fortunate to have you as our partners in the learning process. These conferences have given the teachers an opportunity to share the progress of your child(ren) and to help you gain an understanding of the expectations for future learning and improvements. It was also a time for teachers to gain assistance from you in establishing goals for home and for school.

The teachers look forward to seeing you again on November 14<sup>th</sup>. On that day parents and guardians are invited to attend our Visitation Day event. This will give you an opportunity to see your child(ren) engaged in the academic setting. Please try to find time in your day to visit with us. It is a wonderful opportunity to see our curriculum in action!

Physical Education teacher, Mr. Morgan, began the Intramural/Fitness Club on October 10<sup>th</sup> for grades 4 and 5 students. Students are excited and buzzing about this program. The intramural program will run throughout the year on Wednesday mornings from 8:10-8:45 a.m. It is a great opportunity to develop and to strengthen friendships, cooperation skills, and sport specific skills.



Mr. Morgan plans to have students participate in floor aerobics, hockey, basketball, volleyball, movement games, and soccer. Each session has a fitness component. Overall health and wellness can improve with participation in the Booth Free Intramural/Fitness Club.

Although last month's newsletter announced our 100% participation in the Governor's Reading Challenge, I now have additional information to share. I am pleased to inform the school community that we had impressive results with a total of 1142 books read. The Booth Free students were certainly engaged this past summer in reading many, many selections. I am proud of their efforts. Thank you parents and guardians for all of your efforts in encouraging our young readers to read during the summer months. It is a wonderful

and worthwhile activity to engage in, not only in the summer but all year long. The staff and I are looking for 100% participation rate which I am confident we can reach again next summer.

As I look ahead, I want to remind parents and guardians that the marking period will end on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Report card distribution will take place on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Your efforts at home are so helpful. Keep reading to and with your child(ren). Review papers that come home and remember to contact your child's teacher should you have a question or concern. Working together will result in your child(ren) becoming successful learners.

Sincerely,  
Cathy G. Colella,  
Principal



## NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- 11/5 Board of Education Meeting/Business 7 PM
- 11/6 Election Day - Professional Development for Staff, No School for Students
- 11/12 Veteran's Day - School Closed
- 11/12-16 American Education Week
- 11/14 Parent/Guardian Visitation Day, 9:30-11:30; 1:30-2:30
- 11/14 PTO Meeting, 6:30
- 11/19 Board of Education Meeting/Education 7 PM
- 11/19-20 Roxbury Senior Center Project
- 11/20 Lyman Pie Pick up
- 11/20 Spelling Bee and Pie Feast, 1:15 PM
- 11/21-23 Thanksgiving Recess - School Closed

# Kindergarten

## In Pursuit of the Perfect Paintbrush

How can we build a paintbrush with lots of different functions? What kind of structure would it need? The kindergarteners sought to solve this problem as they explored our first STEM unit: Exploring Design. Using favorite fairy tales as a spring



board, we created pipe cleaner beanstalks that could support the weight of a golden egg. Then we designed houses of straw, sticks, and bricks to test which kept our little piggies the safest from Big Bad...leaf blower! Finally, it was time

to engineer a paintbrush that could paint both spots and stripes of different sizes. I think we impressed Mrs. Manley with our creative designs!



# Grade 2

## All About Matter

Second graders have been very busy learning all about matter. Students completed a Mystery Science activity in which they had to create a hat to help shield themselves

from the sun. The scenario given was students stranded on an island and all they had were materials



learned about the different properties of the materials which ranged from being absorbent to flexible to soft. While each hat was unique, students chose to solve a particular

problem such as sweat absorbency or covering their face from the sun. The



creativity and scientific thinking of these second graders were amazing.

### Student Council News

Our student council members are manning the Booth Free School Store every Friday morning. It is a real life opportunity to practice math skills and marketing as our cheerful student council members run the enterprise.



Members then review the popular so we can restock our council promotes recycling!



sales and determine which items are shelves. Coming soon...student

# Mr. Morgan

## What We Are Doing in Physical Education

I hope that your child has come home talking about all the fun activities we have done in Physical Education. Our first month of school centered largely around rules/routines/fitness/and cooperation.



The majority of games we played emphasized teamwork, sharing, and helping others. We will re-visit these themes throughout the year.

Our past few weeks have worked on the manipulative skills of throwing and catching. We use a variety of size and shape balls to ensure everyone is successful.



The older students progressed to open skilled games while our younger students played a variety of lead up games. If the weather cooperates, our 3-5th students will be using footballs to play “3 step football”, “4 down football”, “QB Challenge” and also get to try their hand at flag football. On top of that our 5<sup>th</sup> graders also found time to practice 8 different track and field events and show off their talents at the Shepaug track. We have some excellent runners, jumpers, and throwers.

Our younger grades will be taking part in some easier toss/catch challenges. Our “clown school” will provide many different ways for students to practice these skills in a fun, safe environment.

Once we get closer to Thanksgiving; students will get to participate in some heart raising/out of breath ‘turkey themed’ games. as we continue to improve upon



Want to keep the focus on FUN our current fitness levels.

## The Women’s Center of Greater Danbury’s Visit to Booth Free School

The Women's Center of Greater Danbury visited our classrooms. They offered a variety of programs to our students. Each program was presented with age appropriate language and materials. In Kindergarten and grade 1 students learned about care and kindness and respectful boundaries of self and others. In grade 2 students learned about empathy and identifying others feelings. Grade 3 focused on bullying and mean behaviors and grades 4 and 5 learned about personal boundaries, empathy awareness, and taking care of oneself.

Our partnership with the Women's Center has been long standing. Their presentations were informative and provided our students with facts and strategies that promote the development of positive relationships.

# Notes and News from Nurse DiBella. . .

## Handwashing

Kids think healthy at Booth Free School! October brings us all back together sharing pencils, balls, computer keys, and door knobs!!! Each class at Booth Free School took part in a hand washing review. The white boards came in handy for a fun segment on “Germie the Germ” for the lower grades and rapping to “Squirmie Germie” for the upper grades. Students reviewed how and when to wash their hands, proper use of hand sanitizer, and proper cough/sneeze etiquette. The upper grades did a fun experiment with fake germs and a fluorescent light to show the important of thorough hand washing. There are a lot of good soap suds working hard at Booth Free School and plans to STAY HEALTHY!!!



## Attendance and Tardiness

Our district policy (#5113) makes reference to the need by law to have all children attend school regularly during the hours of our school day. Time lost from class tends to be irretrievable in terms of opportunity for instructional interaction. The Board of Education requires that accurate records be kept of the attendance and tardiness of each child. Your child’s teacher takes attendance daily at the onset of the school day.



Aside from illness, it is important that your child attends school regularly and on time. Arriving on time to school helps your child develop the important life skill of being punctual for commitments. Learning experiences that occur in the classroom are considered to be meaningful and essential components of the learning process.

### **ATTENDANCE REMINDER!**

**All attendance calls, regardless of the reason, should be made to the health line at 860-355-0428. You may leave a message on the confidential line with the reason for absence.**



## Reporting Illness

If your child is displaying signs of illness, for example: fever greater than 100 degrees F, severe congestion, sore throat, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes and/or eye drainage, they must stay home from school. Please report your child absent as soon as possible and report symptoms to the school nurse for monitoring purposes. Thank you for your diligence with these important matters. Feel free to contact staff with any concerns regarding your child’s health or school experience.



## International Walk to School Day

On October 3, 2018, Booth Free School took part in **International Walk to School Day**. This is a global event which takes place every October. There are many wonderful benefits to being involved in walk to school. First, it’s FUN! Walking together brings a sense of joy and invigoration. Walking is a chance for children (and adults!) to get the physical activity they need. Replacing car trips to school with walking reminds everyone how we can reduce air-polluting emissions.

Walking to school is a way to provide education on safety, reminding children how to walk safely, and reminding motorists to be alert. Lastly, walking to school together boosts a sense of community. We were lucky to have a beautiful crisp fall morning for this event. Students, staff, our new Superintendent of Schools and our new School Resource Officer as well as parents, grandparents and many community members joined together and enjoyed a brisk, fun-filled walk to school.





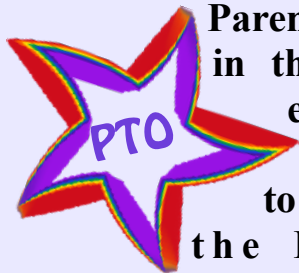
THANK  
YOU



## To the PTO for our fabulous Book Fair!!!



A special thanks to Deana May who  
chaired the event and made it a  
success!



Parents are our partners in the important job of educating all our children. I urge you to attend and support the PTO, become a member, volunteer, and take part in helping your child to grow academically. PTO meetings will be held each month at 6:30 p.m. The next scheduled PTO meeting will be November 14th. We hope you plan to attend!

## Visit Our Website!

Our web address is [www.region-12.org](http://www.region-12.org). Once you are at the district's home page you can visit Booth Free School's website. The staff will be adding information regularly. Please use it as an additional resource for information gathering.



# Words from the Library from Mrs. Gordon



The school year is well underway, and I have had the pleasure of getting to know each unique and amazing student at Booth Free School. The Library's "take what you need" policy in combination with a continuous batch of reading incentives appear to have motivated some of the less than enthusiastic readers and inspired others to challenge themselves to read more. Ultimately, my goal in the school library is to open your children up to the many wonderful ways reading can enhance their lives, with the hope that as fluent readers, they have the fundamental access to the information and knowledge that will make them successful in all of their endeavors!

I know that for some of you it is hard to imagine your zealous Fortnite player or budding social media star putting down the controller, remote or phone long enough to willingly engage him or herself in reading but trust me they do! (I have pictures to prove it!) I get it, reading at school is expected and demanded, basically, it's unavoidable. It seems only natural that many of our children run for the television, game controller, refrigerator or literally anything but their lovingly stocked book collections or hand-picked library treasures, to avoid another second of "enforced" reading! So, how do we get our children to read at home? How do we support emerging readers outside of school? And how do we ensure that our young students actually read for the expected 20+ minutes a day (outside of school) without feeling like we are subjecting them to a trip to the dentist or round of immunizations?



Have no fear, as your friendly Booth Free School book/reading officiate and a proud mom of 6 well-read boys I have tips, tricks and advice a plenty! Hopefully, you too can use a bit of my hard-won experience, to encourage, inspire or challenge your young readers!

- Whatever you do, keep an open mind  
Just because you love/d historical fiction or fantasy or non-fiction books about animals... doesn't mean your child will. Books look very different today than they did when we were traversing card catalogues in search of reading gold. Graphic novels, interactive books and magazines, e-books and even audio books offer our children new and stimulating exposure to a world of literature, information and fluency! Yes, some of it looks different, sometimes even silly, perhaps frivolous but trust me, these new resources are actually invaluable! If you don't believe me, check them out for yourself! The Booth Free School library is open to parents and guardians as is the OPAC system which allows you to browse every book available at our library and each library in the region.
- Visit <http://svslibrary.region-12.org/prischool> check out all of the amazing resources available to our families! Once you exhausted all of those resources check out the region's main library site at <http://svslibrary.region-12.org/home>
- Use your child's interests to your advantage  
If your child is mesmerized by a video game, card trading game/fad, movie series, cartoon, music star utilize their passion to motivate their reading. Insist that they read the back story, directions, lyrics, script etc. of that which they claim to love. A simple rule in my house, if you cannot read and comprehend what you playing, watching, listening etc. to you are not ready for it.
- Implement an all house reading time  
Seriously, I mean an ALL house reading time, a scheduled period of time where everyone stops what they are doing, gathers in a common area and reads. Some of the greatest bonding experiences I have had with my family stem from our "all house weekend reading hour". Sometimes we read together other times individually but no matter how we do it, we always end up talking about what we read! Also, simply, studies show that children who see their parents read are more likely to want to read themselves.
- Lastly, Be inventive/ Be creative  
When a child insists on being in the kitchen when you cook, read recipes and food labels with them; if they want a pet, read about pet breeds, pet care and pet facts; if they love games, read rules and hints with them. For households, like mine, ones with televisions on more often than need be, turn the volume down a bit and enable closed captioning, the results are amazing. Remember, words are quite literally everywhere, call attention to them wherever you are and you may find that between all the signs, games, magazines, advertisements, comics and closed captioning the 20+ minutes a day will happen with minimal effort.



**Happy reading!!!**



# Fire Prevention Day

## “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - Fire can happen anywhere!”



Fire is everyone’s fight! It is a national effort led by the U.S. Fire Administration to lower the number of home fires and home injuries in America. Along with USFA, each fire community is speaking out with a unified message of fire prevention and safety to the public. A great way to assist in accomplishing this goal is to teach our youngsters how to stay safe and prevent fires happening in their homes.



Across the country firefighters conduct fire prevention programs for elementary school children. Region 12 is no different. Booth Free School recently participated in a fire prevention program sponsored by the Roxbury Fire Department. This program annually occurs during Fire Prevention Week in October. This year’s theme “*Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware-fire can happen anywhere.*” provided our students with a powerful message that is designed to make children safer at home and at school.



Through three simple calls-to-action, this year’s theme identified basic but essential ways people can reduce their risk to fire and be prepared in the event of one. Students learned to look for places fire can start, listen for the sound of the smoke alarm and learn two ways out of each room.

Through this program our local fire fighters hope that our children will carry the fire safety message home and that parents discuss fire safety with their children and create appropriate actions in the case of fire. “Look. Listen. Learn. Be aware - fire can happen anywhere” works to remind us all that fires can happen anywhere and that there are important steps people can take to remain safe.



## November: A Time for Tradition

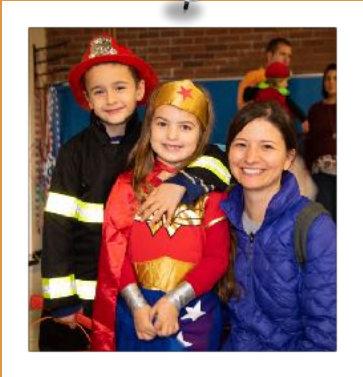
The annual Booth Free Spelling Bee/Pie Feast will be held on November 20th. The students and staff look forward to a fun afternoon of competition and scrumptious pies, which are provided by many of our dedicated volunteers. Our students are preparing for this event. This is a great way to kick off the Thanksgiving season.



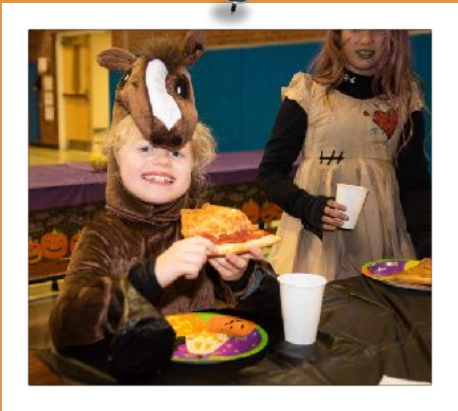
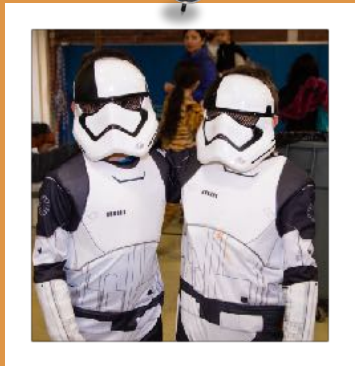
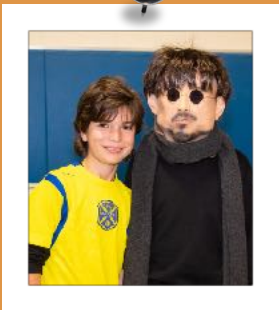
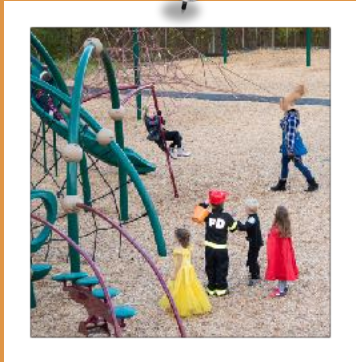
## Cold Weather Reminders

As the cold weather is upon us, the staff and I wish to remind everyone about the need for jackets, mittens, and hats. Unless it is too wet, the students will go out at recess. When the snow arrives, students will also need snow pants and boots so that they can enjoy the snowy outdoors.





## A large, stylized orange pumpkin graphic with a green stem and leaves. The text "Booth Free School's Halloween Party!" is written across the center of the pumpkin in a black, serif font. A small fly is flying near the stem.





# Notification Service:



The Regional School District #12 Schools have a Notification Service to enhance parental communications. This service will allow us to send a voice message to ALL of our students' parents on ALL of their contact numbers within minutes, if an emergency occurs at a school. The notification service will also assist the schools in reducing the recourses needed to pass along key information regarding school events or reminders.

**The district will be utilizing this service for :**

- Emergency Notification
- Inclement weather - early dismissals due to inclement weather
- Rumor Control
- Early-Release Reminders

**Your child's school may be utilizing this service for:**

- Attendance
- Report Card Reminders
- Grade level information i.e. field trip reminders
- Notification of Open House/Parent Teacher Conferences/ Parent Visitation Day
- Art Shows and Concerts

The ability to deliver a message is only as successful as the contact information we have for our families, so please make certain we have the most up-to-date direct dial numbers. If this information changes, please let your child's school know immediately.

**Important:**

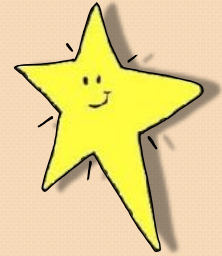
1. The service will leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine.
2. If you have such things as Telemarketer Zapper or Privacy Director on your telephone lines, you may not receive the call.
3. The service does NOT call extensions. If you have a direct dial number at work, you should provide your child's school with the direct dial number not a main number plus an extension.

# Good Character Traits:

(Referenced in Board of Education Policy #0210.3)

Region 12 is dedicated to strengthening the character of our students by encouraging a consistent set of ethical values that direct and guide behavioral choices. These universal values, which transcend political, religious, cultural, and the Golden Rule encompasses economic differences, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Therefore, good Character Traits are essential to the learning process. We work throughout the year in developing the following:

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship



Good conduct is synonymous with good citizenship. Students are expected to exercise good citizenship at all times while in school, attending school-related activities and after school activities conducted at the school. This includes showing respect for the rights of others and regard for personal and school property. Students should strive to contribute to the climate of the school by being courteous and well mannered.

Booth Free School also utilizes The Second Step Program to promote social skills necessary to be a caring community. Additionally, grades three through five have access to a second program, Steps to Respect when needed.

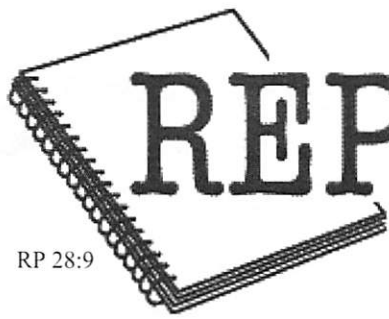
It is our hope that the power and influence of the school-family partnership will provide consistent messages to our students regarding the development of positive student behaviors and thus, improve student learning.



## Principal's Weekly Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>A.M. Booth Free</b>	<b>A.M. Burnham</b>	<b>A.M. Booth Free</b>	<b>A.M. Booth Free</b>	<b>A.M. Burnham</b>
<b>P.M. Burnham</b>	<b>P.M. Burnham</b>	<b>P.M. Booth Free</b>	<b>P.M. Burnham</b>	<b>P.M. Booth Free</b>



# REPORT to PARENTS

RP 28:9

## Writing Is a Life Skill

**T**he three R's—reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic—have not always gotten equal attention in school, but that's changing. New programs and tests, like the revised writing-oriented SAT, stress that children need to know how to express themselves clearly and creatively.

While your children will learn *how* to write well in school, the best place for them to practice their skills and develop a love for writing is at home. Here are some ways to make writing part of their home lives, both during the school year and in the summertime:

**Add writing to your list.** Making time for your children to write is as important as making time for reading.

**Have the tools on hand.** While it's important to always have school supplies available at home, sometimes all it takes to get children interested in putting pen to paper is letting them choose a fun pen and a special notebook, or giving them their own special time on library or home computer word processing programs.

**Write in front of them.** Children learn what they experience. Make sure they see you writing—whether it's a letter to a friend, a thank-you note, a journal entry, or a letter to the editor. Ask them to add a few lines or even write their own.

**Praise their work.** Make a big deal of their writing successes. When they've written something creative, fun, or thought-provoking, send copies to their grandparents and put the original on the refrigerator or bulletin board for everyone to admire.

**Make a book.** If your children enjoy photography, have them collect some favorite pictures and write captions for them, or have

them write short stories that tie them together. Help them make title pages (featuring their name in big letters as the authors), add a few staples, and they've made a book.

**E-mails are OK; IMs aren't really writing.** This technologically-savvy generation writes more than ever, thanks to computer instant messages (IMs) and e-mails. In fact, the accepted use of symbols and lack of proper grammar may not help children's efforts at creative writing. While IMs are quick and fun, they do nothing to help children become better writers. E-mails are better because they allow time and space for children to express themselves. Encourage them to send e-mails to you or to other relatives.

**Pay attention to song lyrics.** If your children enjoy music, look up the lyrics of their favorite songs. Talk about what the songwriter was saying, and encourage them to try writing their own lyrics about things that are meaningful to them.

**Use the Web.** Check out a wonderful Internet site geared for children and chock full of writing games and ideas: [www.writingfix.com/forkids.htm](http://www.writingfix.com/forkids.htm).

Another suggestion is that when you're reading a story or watching a movie together, pause and ask your child a "what if" question—*i.e.*, "What if the Mom came home while the Cat in the Hat was still in the house? Tell me everything you think would happen then." Then ask your child to write about it.

Writing is much more than a school subject; it's an essential life skill. People who know how to clearly express their opinions, ideas, creativity, and knowledge have a real edge. With your help, your children will be among them.

