



Booth Free School

Star Tracks



December 2018

A Note from the Principal...



Dear Parent/Guardians,

The holiday season is here once again! It is a time when teachers work hard keeping students focused on their classroom instruction as students are often preoccupied with family holiday traditions and festivities. However, as I visit the classrooms and observe the activities I am quite pleased with the performance of the professional staff and their receptiveness of our students. Your children are engaged in wonderful learning experiences and their successes are recognized. I encourage you to continue to promote the importance of school especially during this time of year.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many family members that visited during Parent Visitation Day held on November 14th. It certainly was a wonderful opportunity for all visitors to see the Booth Free School community in action.

The third graders wish to recognize and thank the Bridgewater Grange for their donations of dictionaries. Each student was given a dictionary of their own, a very useful tool to be used in the classroom. These dictionaries will be given to the students to take home at the end of the school year. The Grange is so generous and their yearly donation of dictionaries to the district's students is much appreciated.

You will receive your child's report card on December 14th. This report card is an important part of the Regional School District 12's commitment to fostering effective communication between home and school. Grading is a tool for all to use in pinpointing strengths and weaknesses in your child's understanding of the grade level standards. It can help to clarify expectations and will provide a shared language for discussing your child's learning. Most importantly, it can help us improve student performance over time and provide for the ongoing conversation between teacher, student, and their family. This communication between home and school is essential in supporting the progress that students make toward demonstrating their academic

ability with the curriculum taught in our district.

In closing, I wish the students and families of the Booth Free School community a wonderful holiday season. It is my hope that it is a safe and joyous one shared with family and friends. As always, happiness and good health in the new year!

Sincerely,

Cathy G. Colella,
Principal



DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

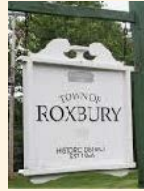
12/1	Santa's Breakfast/Holly Jolly Boutique
12/3	Board of Education Meeting/Business, 7 PM
12/4-5	In School Holly Jolly Boutique
12/4	School Photo Re-take Day
12/7	Grade 5 Field Trip - CT Science Center
12/12	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM
12/14	Report Cards Go Home with Students
12/17	Board of Education Meeting/Education, 7 PM
12/20	Cultures Around the World
12/21	Snow Date for Cultures Around the World
12/24-1/1/18	Winter Recess
1/2/18	School Resumes

Grade 1

Our Community



First graders have investigated what makes Roxbury special by exploring roles, places, and people in our community. They have learned the importance of creating a positive learning environment by purpose and necessity of rules and expectations. Students have developed an understanding of map skills and are working together to create a map of the main street in our town.



Grade 3

Culture of Kindness



Students have really embraced a Culture of Kindness. Reading with our Kindergarten Buddies showcased true kindness compassion. This caring culture leads to productive learning, which is quite apparent as the third graders are pushing themselves in every area. They are busy learning multiplication and division, writing detailed pieces about special memories in their lives, and "closely" reading a text to truly capture the deeper meaning found within.



Grade 4

Inquiry Skills



Our fourth grade students are developing shared inquiry skills. We read a short story twice and then students individually respond to a focus question. Next, we gather in a large group to share our thoughts respectfully listen to the thoughts of their peers, and then have an opportunity to rethink, or add, to their original response. We have some great work occurring in fourth grade. Where else will you find a group of fourth graders reading Tolstoy's short story, "The Two Brothers"?



Grade 5

Narrative Writing

Fifth graders have been working on their narrative writing and how perspective impacts a story. After exploring several texts and how point of view impacts how a story is told, students wrote stories from the perspective of a nearly becoming a turkey. Some wrote about Thanksgiving meal, while others wrote about being grateful for friends. These stories are outside of the fifth grade and read them the next time you are at BFS!



THE BFS GIVING BOARD

The 2017 Holiday Giving Board is up in the Booth Free School lobby!

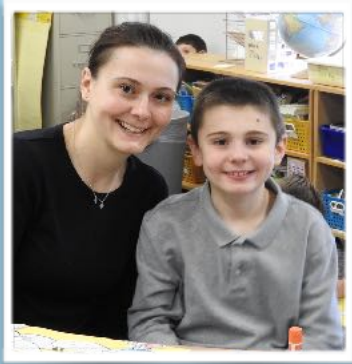
Each year our school community—families and staff—help those in need by purchasing an item from the tree. This year we are supporting a family from a neighboring town. The recipients of these gifts are three children ages 2-10.

If you would like to participate:

- Choose a holiday light from the board;
- Register your choice on with Laura in the school office;
- Deliver your unwrapped gift (attach the bulb to the gift) to the school office no later than December 19th.



THANK YOU AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Parent Visitation Day!

Visitation Day at Booth Free School was a huge success once again this year. The students were excited to see not only their parents, but many grandparents as well. It was a wonderful way to spend a cool November day. Thank you all for sharing in our day!





Notes and News from the Nurse...

A Note about Lice:

This is a reminder that lice are ever present among children. It is a good idea to check your child once a week for any signs of lice. There is no need to panic if you discover lice. There is helpful information on this website <http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/index.htm>! Please call the school nurse office with any questions or concerns at 860-355-0482.

Cold Weather Fun:

According to The American Academy of Pediatrics, "the available research suggests that recess may play an important role in the learning, social, development, and health of children in elementary school". The students at Booth Free School go out for recess every day unless it is raining or there is some unusual circumstance.



Please be sure to send your child with the appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather. A warm jacket is important with gloves or mittens in the pocket to use as needed. When the ground is snow covered children LOVE to play in the snow.

They must have snow pants and snow boots to put on to play in the snow to prevent being wet for the remainder of the school day. Thank you for your attention to appropriate outdoor gear, they truly love being outside in free play and they need to be prepared to do that.

'Tis the Season for Healthy Holidays!

The holidays are all about sharing, but germs are not for sharing. People can be contagious before they know they are sick so avoid sharing forks, spoons and drinking utensils. Family gatherings, airports and travel stops, shopping malls, are all places germs like to mingle. To protect yourself make sure to wash your hands often and get a flu vaccine.

Eat healthy and be merry. Holiday foods can be high in calories and low in nutrition. You need to battle germs and boost energy. Eat a rainbow...eat five or more fruits and vegetables a day and choose whole fruit instead of juice to **feel full** longer and avoid added sugar. Don't give your exercise routine a

holiday! Exercise gives you energy and burns calories.

Get some ZZZs...getting 8 1/2 to 9 hours of sleep a night can help strengthen your immune system and give you more energy.

Have a healthy, safe, and wonderful holiday season!!!

We encourage healthy habits here at Booth Free School!

Students enjoying healthy lunches!





The Tradition Continues....

Booth Free School's 43rd Annual Spelling Bee and Pie Feast



The 43rd Annual Booth Free Spelling Bee and Pie Feast was held on Tuesday afternoon, November 20th. It was a fantastic event! A great big thank you goes to PTO Chair, Millie Johnson and to the volunteers for orchestrating such a grand event. The students, staff, and parents/guardians enjoyed the delicious pies, cider donuts and apple cider. I wish to extend a thank you to our judges: our new Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Megan Bennett, Roxbury's Town Clerk, Mr. Peter Hurlbut, as proxy for First Selectman, Mrs. Barbara Henry, and Reverend David Peters of the Roxbury Congregational Church. Lastly, we wish to thank Mrs. Tierney and her first graders for the beautiful table centerpieces. They were really spectacular!



The following students are recognized for their participation in this year's Spelling Bee program. They were selected to represent their grade level and were identified as top spellers.



In our very first Grade 2 Spelling Bee held earlier in November, all Grade 2 students participated:

Special Recognition: William Hodge



**43rd Annual Spelling Bee Participants
Grade 3: Ryan Bonomo, Frank Mariano,
Brianna Johnson**

Alternate: Grady Hughes

**Grade 4: Rose Baker, Jane Light,
Jacob McCauley**

Alternate: Anders Somoroff

**Grade 5: Wyatt Ongley, Wylden Abraham,
Antonia Kearney**

Alternate: Eliana Quigley

Winner: Jane Light



Words from the Library from Mrs. Gordon



Season's Readings!

As the end of the year rapidly approaches I can't help but look back in amazement at all that we have accomplished in a few short months in the library!

The library "fall into reading" incentive/challenge was an enormous success with the entire school; and if you doubt that BFS students are reading consider the 20+ completed challenge sheets I received from each grade (that's 4 books/chapters per sheet)!!!

The 5th and 4th graders took the fall reading challenge to new heights turning in nearly 70 sheets in one month! 5th grade is currently reading A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue

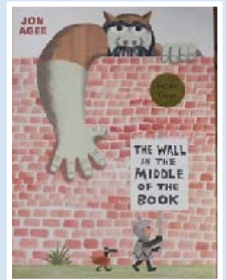


Park as part of a region wide collaboration which will culminate in a 3 school book talk! I am slowly reading The Phantom Tollbooth

by Norton Juster with 4th graders. However, the clever book often loses class time to the puzzles,

puns and wordplay it inspires. Currently, 3rd graders are engrossed in the fragile and wondrous world of Kate DiCamillo's The Miraculous Journey Of Edward Tulane.

While Second grade has begun the fantastic and thrilling adventure known as The Spiderwick Chronicles by Tony DiTerlizzi and Holly Black. As for First graders and Kindergartners, they act as if the library is the most wonderful and magical place in the world (which it is)! Among the



plethora books I've read with the students so far are the award winning titles, Do Unto Otters, The Recess Queen, The Giving Tree, Each Kindness, The Wall in the Middle of the Book, In My Heart, and Last Stop on Market Street.



Regardless of their grade, the students of Booth Free School have made my first few months in the library simply extraordinary! Every week, I'm blessed with students that come to the library equally ready to listen, participate and explore. So, with the holiday season upon, allow me to

thank you all for the opportunity to share my joy of reading and books with your children, I look forward to sharing many more exciting and wondrous book adventures with each of them in the new year! Finally, let me share with you all the no fail gift list I use for my children every year.. Simply, *something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read!*

Eat, Read and Be Merry!

Student Council News

Student Council conducted a food drive during the first weeks of November. The generous contributions from our Booth Free School families were shared with needy families in our area. Thank you to everyone!

With an eye towards creating a greener environment, the Student Council invited Mr. Lavaway to a meeting to discern precisely what types of items could be recycled at school. Mr. Lavaway inspired the students to create a video which explained the types of recycling we can do. On November 15th-America Recycles Day-Student Council hosted a school-wide morning meeting and shared their inspiring video. Please check it out at

<https://youtu.be/SxRAESe4RPA>



A Musical Note from Mr. Bartfield

The students at Booth Free School have been growing as musicians since the start of the year. The Kindergarten through second grade students have worked on developing their overall musicianship through singing and movement activities. They have also played both pitched and non pitched percussion instruments. Everything they do in music class helps build a foundation of melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic understanding. Kindergarten students are and sing in tune among other have been working toward an eventual class performance, in which the class sings a song while playing a variety of instruments. Second grade students are learning to hear the difference between tonic and dominant chords, which is reinforced by singing the bass line to a song and playing it on the xylophone. Third through fifth grade started the year by working on chants. Everyone had the chance to compose their own chant. The fifth grade students even notated their chants, and performed them as a class composition using percussion instruments. Third grade played their class chant on the djembes, a type of West African drum. Fourth grade has worked on improvising using the pentatonic scale, and fifth grade has learned the 12-bar blues progression, and played it on the xylophones. Most recently, third through fifth grade students have been learning to read music in a functional way, by sight singing using solfege syllables. The Booth Free School students will continue to build on all of these skills throughout the year.



Roxbury Senior Center Holiday Festival Ornament-Making

On November 19 and 20, the students at Booth Free School had the privilege of creating holiday ornaments with friends from the Roxbury Senior Center.



Virginia Mavuli, along with Richard Burmann, and Tori Baldwin, provided instruction and guidance to students in making pour-



using liquid grades 2-5 for painted ornaments acrylic paint, and assortment-filled



for those students in K-1, craft ornaments. These beautifully display during the Senior biggest fundraising event, on

finished decorations will be on Center's Holiday Festival, their Saturday, December 1, from 2-6

pm at the Roxbury Town Hall. Any donation during this event will help offset costs for future programs at the senior center. This fun experience of making the ornaments together and knowing their beneficial purpose, was the perfect



combination for community-building for all involved.



Principal's Weekly Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Burnham	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Burnham
P.M. Burnham	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free

Visit Our Website!

Our web address is 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.





Important!



Parking Safety Information!

The Roxbury Senior Center generously shares their parking lot with Booth Free School. When using this lot, please park in the spaces furthest from the school, leaving the spaces closest to the center open for the seniors. Remember to enter the lot slowly as this is a serious safety concern for the seniors entering/leaving the building as well as for families in the lot. Everyone's safety is a top priority!

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:

- Trustworthiness
- Respect
- Responsibility
- Fairness
- Caring
- 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.



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 resources 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

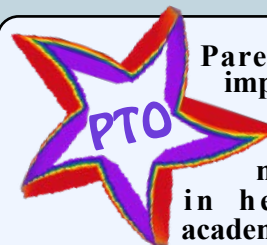
Your child's **school** may be utilizing this service for:

- 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.



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 December 12 . We hope you plan to attend!

Report to PARENTS

So Many Activities, So Little Time

Students who are involved in extracurricular activities—from chess club to cheerleading to chorus—tend to have higher self-esteem and stronger connections to school. But an overloaded schedule with too many activities can have the opposite effect, leaving your child—and you!—stressed. Keep these tips in mind for managing your child’s activity load.

Aim for 3 activities.

Though every child is different, psychologists often suggest involving a child in no more than three activities at a time: one social activity (like Boys’ Club or a church group); one physical activity (like gymnastics, swimming, or basketball); and one artistic activity, such as an art class or music lessons.

Limit involvement.

To avoid burnout, keep involvement in any one activity to just a day or two a week, unless your child absolutely begs for more. Check with them periodically to make sure they are still eager to attend; if not, scale back.

Broaden their horizons.

Although following your child’s interests is important, introduce your child to something new, whether it’s a new sport, a musical instrument, or a group like Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts.

The secret to keeping enthusiasm high is to start slowly and gauge your child’s interest before committing beyond the first few sessions.

Be supportive, not critical.

No matter what your child is interested in, remember that your job as a parent is to be supportive. The point of activities is to expand your child’s interests and abilities, not to transform him or her into a child prodigy or the next sports superstar.

Schedule downtime.

Children need time to ponder, explore, and play—but an overloaded schedule prevents that. Make sure that when the day is over and the homework is done, there’s still time for your child to be a kid.



Change it up.

Specializing in one activity—especially a sport—at a very young age can be harmful. Pediatricians discourage the kind of repetitive movements that come from concentrated effort in one sport. Plus, kids who dedicate themselves to a single sport early can burn out later and may regret not trying other sports.

Watch for signs of stress.

The stress of trying to keep up with too many planned activities can take a physical toll on your child. Watch for signs of stress, including stomachaches and headaches, difficulty paying attention, a drop-off in interest in activities he or she used to enjoy, and increased “clinginess” with a parent or other close adult (e.g., teacher, babysitter). If you notice any of these signs, chances are your child needs to cut back on activities and de-stress.

Decompress at home.

Make sure there’s room in your schedule for family time. Children need to have meals with their parents, hear bedtime stories, share chores, and play games. Extra-curricular activities can help children learn and grow, but remember that what your child needs first and foremost is to feel special and loved.