



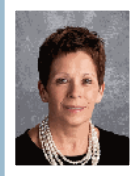
Booth Free School

# Star Tracks

January 2019



## A Note from the Principal...



Dear Parent/Guardians,

Another holiday season has come and gone. The season is always magical and with the hope of some snowfall this time of year, it becomes quite picturesque. As always, the first snowfall is a delight to us all and especially for the boys and girls. Playing in the snow, whether building a snowman, skiing, snowboarding, and making snow angels, is invigorating and brings a sense of joy to us all. It is my hope that the holiday season brought peace and joy to you all as we are certainly blessed to have such giving loved ones. I wish each family only good things – today, tomorrow, and always in this new year.

As with any new year, it brings much excitement and anticipation of what lies ahead in the academic programming in grades K-5. Teachers are looking closely at the curriculum and are planning accordingly. They will be using mid-year assessments as well as their students' previous daily work performance to gauge where students are in their academic skill development. We are in full swing and moving ahead!

In grades 3-5 students will be given the Smarter Balanced Assessments during the first two full weeks of May starting the week of May 6<sup>th</sup>. Students will be assessed in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. This assessment will be provided through computer adaptive testing technologies to the greatest extent possible to provide meaningful feedback and actionable data that our teachers can use to help students succeed. Students in grade 5 will also be given an assessment in science. That assessment will take place at the end of May. Our students are well prepared to take these assessments as they have access to so much technology through computer and Chromebook use. They are ready to tackle their assessment tasks with much confidence.

Should you have any questions or concerns about the testing as we get closer to the testing period, please

feel free to contact either your child's teacher or me to discuss expectations. You may also visit the State of Connecticut Educational website for further information. The web address is <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Student-Assessment/Smarter-Balanced/Find-Information-about-Smarter-Balanced>. The assessment link will lead you to information about the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium or you can visit the Smarter Balanced website directly at [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org).

In closing, learning is so important and experts say that any learning must be a joint venture between school, parents, and children. Research indicates that children do better in school if parents place a high value on educating and reinforcing on-going learning. I thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's education. Together we make the greatest impact!



Sincerely,  
Cathy Colella  
Principal



## JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

1/2/19	Winter Recess Ends, School Resumes
1/8	Student Leadership Conference
1/9	PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM
1/14	Board of Education Meeting/Business, 7 PM
1/21	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - School Closed
1/28	Board of Education Meeting/Education, 7 PM
1/28-2/1	Kindergarten Registration Week

# The "Antiques Roadshow" Comes to Kindergarten

*I spy a Walkman, a Cabbage Patch Doll, a train, and a stocking to hang on the wall...*



But that's not all! This month the kindergartners traveled back in time to explore some fun artifacts that date from 10, 20, even 80 years BKB (Before Kindergarteners were Born). Thanks to some parents, the kids got to touch, see, and hold items as they



played detective, wondering, "When was it made this way?" We enjoyed from the past. Best of all, we noticed who can resist a teddy bear?



was this made? What can it do? Why learning about and playing with toys many items are truly timeless. After all,

## Second Graders Write Gingerbread Stories

Second graders have listened and read many versions of the Gingerbread Man. They were able to choose whether their character would be chased by three different would run to three different used the same repetitive phrase, writing, others chose to make such as "Run, run as fast you Be on the lookout for these be hung in the downstairs hallway. Read to find out how these gingerbread stories end!



gingerbread character would be characters or if their character places. While some students as the original story in their up their own repetitive phrase can. I'm the gingerbread girl". adventurous stories which will



### Kindergarten Registration 2019-2020

Registration for Kindergarten will take place the week of January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. Children turning five years of age before January 1, 2020 are eligible. When you receive a registration packet, please fill out all forms and deliver them to the school office. Packets are also available in the office should you need one. A copy of your child's Birth Certificate and proof of residency should be included. A Kindergarten Readiness Program will take place in the Spring. Should you need or desire further information please contact the school office at (860) 354-9391

# Grade 4 Budding Poets!

Our BFS fourth grade students have been inspired by the author's craft in Sharon Creech's novel, Love That Dog. In the story, a fifth grade boy is persuaded that poetry is not "just for girls!" Our hero discovers that poets are powerful wordsmiths who use rich language and imagery to capture the imagination of readers. Mrs. Russell's fourth graders crafted and modeled their own poems after some of the famous poems in the novel. Here are two of their many wonderful efforts:

## So Much Depends Upon...

By Cameron Schell  
Inspired by William Carlos Williams

So much depends  
upon

a tiny deer  
laying  
in the tall grass

standing, staring  
at the clouds  
moving slowly

trying to stay up

*Cameron shared a peaceful but  
an powerful image.*

## So Much Depends Upon..

By: Juliana Quaranta  
Inspired by William Carlos Williams

So much depends  
upon...

A big dog  
With  
A small heart  
Who broke many others  
When he decided to  
Close his eyes

A single tear rolled  
Down my cheek  
And how I close my eyes  
Remembering  
My puppy is gone

*Juliana wrote this poem in  
remembrance of her dog.*

## So Much Depends Upon...

By Anders Somoroff  
Inspired by William Carlos Williams

So much depends  
upon

a man  
splattered with blood

flying through  
the air

jumping thousands of feet  
into a land of horror.

*Anders wrote this poem in honor  
of his great grandfather, a World  
War II paratrooper.*



## 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>





# Notes and News from the Nurse...

## Welcome Back!

As winter approaches, illnesses increase and potential child to child transfer of viruses and bacteria rises. Here are some tips to keep your child healthy this winter:

The CDC recommends that each child receives a seasonal flu vaccine. It is not too late to do this.

- It is also recommended that you teach and encourage your children to take everyday preventative actions against germs such as: cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your elbow when you cough or sneeze, wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol based rub, avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth, and try to avoid contact with sick people.
- Keep your child home when they are sick for at least 24 hours after a fever is gone (without fever reducing medicine).
- Please call the school and notify the nurse of your child's symptoms so that disease tracking can be monitored.
- Avoid crowds when sick.
- Your child needs good nutrition, plenty of fluids, and rest to keep a strong healthy immune system.
- Exercise and activity are also important for a healthy immune system. As cold weather approaches, please send your child with appropriate clothing to continue to get a nice dose of fun and fresh air at recess during the school day. Inappropriate outdoor weather gear can put unnecessary stress on body systems.



Please call your school's Health Office @ 860-355-0428 if you have questions.

## Cold Weather Fun:

Children spend a lot of time outside during the winter months. Whether your child is waiting for the bus or building a snowman, be careful when sending him/her outside. Cold temperatures can be especially harsh on children. Children should be dressed in several layers of clothing to keep them dry and warm.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends dressing young children in one more layer of clothing than you yourself would wear. Make sure you send your child out with a hat that covers the ears (50% of body heat is lost through the head), and wearing waterproof boots



with enough room to wiggle the toes. Here at school unless it is too wet or less than 20 degrees, your child will go outside at recess time and will need snow pants and boots to enjoy the snowy outdoors.

## Be Burn Aware!

Please help yourselves to information on burn awareness provided by Shriners Hospitals which is in the health resources area in the front of the school. It is an important time of year to make sure you have functioning Carbon Monoxide and smoke detectors in your homes. Having these alarm systems and reviewing your escape plans with your children is an important way to keep them safe. Check out this link for more information: <https://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org/shc/beburnaware>



## **Non-Food Celebrations and Events**

As there are a growing number of students with obesity issues and life threatening food allergies in this country and our community, we would like to remind parents of our Region 12 food policy. As we continue to celebrate important events at school we will find ways to recognize these occasions through non-food ideas. You can find suggestions on the school nurse website (<https://sites.google.com/a/region-12.org/test-site/home>) or contact your child's teacher for assistance. Feel free to contact me, Sandi DiBella, school nurse at 860-355-0428, with any questions or concerns.

You may access the policy #6142.101 through the district website at [www.region-12.org](http://www.region-12.org), go to Board Policy, on the left side go to Instruction - Series 6000, go to 6142.101 #3.

Here are some examples of how we encourage healthy habits here at Booth Free School by eating healthy lunches!



## Art with Mrs. Manley



Have you wondered what happens in makerspace? Often, students come in with a project in mind, "I want to make a bed for my special stuffed animal." or, "Can I sew today? I want to make a pillow for my mom." Sometimes, I provide students with challenges. This was the case for Kindergarten students a few weeks ago. I prompted the class with "Make a creature than does something." This open-ended challenge allowed for freedom to explore many possibilities. Students could work individually or in groups, and had access to all kinds of cardboard pieces and paper tubes, along with various craft supplies. During the first week, they "shopped" for supplies and started brainstorming what their creatures could do and might look like. In the following class, adults assisted with cutting cardboard, twisting wire, and hot glueing. Between the high levels of focus and engagement, it was no surprise that the imaginative creatures were cleverly innovative!



# Booth Free School Fire Prevention Poster Contest Winners 2018



The Roxbury Fire Marshal's Office is proud to announce that Booth Free School had two first place winners for the Fire Prevention Poster Contest for 2018. Bruna Libanio was awarded first place for the fifth grade class, and Jane Light has been awarded first place for the fourth grade class. Their award winning posters will be sent to Litchfield County to be judged with other winners from the county. If their posters win at the county level, they will go on to the state level. Each winner also received a gift card and a certificate.



Congratulations Bruna and Jane, and thank you for promoting fire safety!



## 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.*





# BFS Cultures Around the World, Discovering Brazil!

On Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, Booth Free School celebrated Brazil at this year's Cultures Around the World. This was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about a new culture while working in multiage groups. Students rotated through stations as they learned about various aspects Brazil. In one station students created Brazil flip books, and in two other stations they played Bingo and participated in a Secret Buddy activity. The day's events culminated with a whole-school activity. It was a spectacular school event.





# Words from the Library from Mrs. Gordon



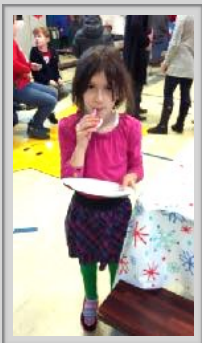
Happy 2019! I hope everyone had a joyous and restful holiday break!

Congratulations to everyone who participated in the Library's reading challenge. It is always exciting to see our students actively participating in their education outside of school. With that in mind, I have some exciting news for Booth Free School students, before the end of school each grade will have the opportunity to visit Roxbury's Minor Memorial Library, receive their very own library card and select a book to borrow from the library's extensive collection. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about their community, take on a new responsibility and broaden their reading horizons. Hopefully, the children will be able to make use of their new cards over their school breaks!

As we begin a new year, I am checking our library inventory and I ask that families please take a moment to check their homes for any overdue library books. Just remember, any books with missing barcodes, spine labels and/or black marker on the front and back inside covers are books from the free cart and are yours to keep!

Stay warm!

## Booth Free School's Annual Santa's Breakfast & Holly Jolly Boutique Secret Shopping



Booth Free School's Annual Santa's Breakfast and Holly Jolly Boutique Secret Shopping was held Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a wonderful way for our community to start the holiday season. Booth Free School thanks the PTO for their support and recognize the chairs, Yvonne Gamelin, Santa's Breakfast, and Donna Laskowski and Brenda McGuire, Holly Jolly Boutique and all their volunteers.





## School Closing Reminders:

Now that we have begun to experience a taste of cold weather, it is a good time to review school closing procedures. When snow or ice creates unsafe driving conditions, school may need to be closed early, school opening may need to be delayed, or school may need to be closed for the day.



School closing information is available on our web site ([www.region-12.org](http://www.region-12.org)) or may be heard over one of several radio or television stations. The Region-12 Notification System will also be activated for delayed openings and closings, and also when the decision to dismiss school early is made, so please be sure we have your correct telephone numbers.

The following stations broadcast our closing and delays:

WTIC AM 1080/WTIC 96.5 FM, WINE 940 AM/WINE 95.1 FM, WLAD 800 AM/WLAD 98.3 FM, WHCN 105.9 FM, WREF 850 AM, WKSS 95.7 FM, WZBG 97.3 FM, WVIT -TV 30, WTNH - TV 8, and WFSB – TV 3.

## Delayed Opening Times for a 2 Hour Delay:

*Please see our district website for additional scheduling information. For a delay, please be aware of the following:*

- *Students should wait at their bus stop 2 hours later than the normal pick-up time.*
- *Students in K through grade 5 may arrive at school at 10:40 a.m.*
- *School will begin at 11:00 a.m.*



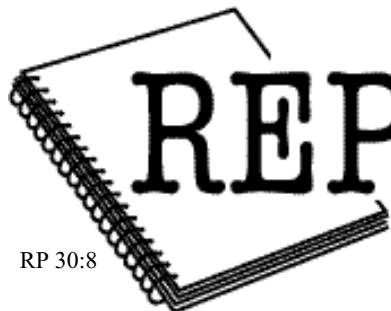
### Student Council News

During December, our student council members demonstrated their entrepreneurial spirit. Our members observed which items at the school store attracted the most buyers. Next, they reviewed our supply catalogue. Then, members suggested items for restocking our shelves, such as squishy balls, car pens, and slime. As a result, the school store offered a greater variety of new items which quickly sold out.

Student council members are developing observation and analysis skills, as well as number sense and social skills.



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 is January 9th.



# REPORT to PARENTS

RP 30:8

## Raising Responsible Children

Raising a child means more than helping him or her grow up healthy and happy. It's important that, by the time they're ready to leave home, children have learned to be self-sufficient and responsible. Those kinds of lessons take an entire childhood to learn, but they're among the most important legacies you can pass on to your children. Here are some ways to start:

**Make them Calendar Girls (and Boys).** Give your child his or her own calendar. Have children mark when a test or project due, or when a sports or group activity is scheduled. Each child's calendar should be posted in a visible spot, and get them in the habit of checking it every day—either adding new events and deadlines or crossing off things they've completed.

**Keeping Track.** As tempting as it is to bail out your children if they forget their lunch or homework or put off an assignment until too late, those mistakes can be excellent tools to teach responsibility. If your child needs to borrow lunch money, make sure it is paid back from his or her own savings. If the project is due the next day, fight the urge to step in and help get it done. Children only need a few such lessons, and some serious follow-up discussions from their families and teachers, to realize that it's not worth it to be irresponsible.

**Helping Others.** No matter what your child's situation in life, there always are others in greater need. Get your child involved in helping those less fortunate by working through community, school, or religious groups that focus on community service. Show that you believe in what you're teaching by volunteering yourself as well.

**Pet Smarts.** Taking care of the family pet is an

excellent way to learn responsibility. Children quickly learn the consequences if they forget to take the dog out, forget to feed the cat, or let a caged pet stay out unattended. Your children need to know that their pets depend on them.

**Get to Work.** Assign weekly chores to everyone in the house, rotating them so that, eventually, everyone has a turn at doing the dishes, putting away laundry, and taking out the trash. Divide the jobs by age, with older children doing the harder jobs, and make sure to never list anything as a "girl" job or a "boy" job.



**Save for the Future.** Financial responsibility is easy to teach if you start when your children are young. From their very first birthday money, teach them to set aside a certain amount for the future. A good rule of thumb is to put half away for savings and save half for spending, either on things they want right away or things they'd like to buy in the future.

**Consider Matching Funds.** If your children are saving for something that's a big-ticket item, consider setting up a matching

fund, where, if they earn the first half, you'll chip in the second. Even though it sounds like the same concept as saying you'll split the cost with them, it's actually more effective to have them demonstrate to you first that they've worked and saved enough to pay for their share.

Finally, remember that the only way to teach your children responsibility is to model the behavior yourself. Make sure they know that they can depend on you to follow through on promises. Help them see that you value your contributions to your job, your community, and your family.