



Booth Free School

# Star Tracks

February 2019



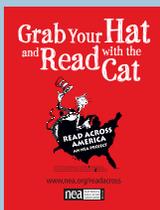
## A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,



During the month of February, we will be preparing to celebrate Read Across America and Dr. Seuss' birthday. Read Across America is a nationwide reading celebration that takes place annually on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Seuss' birthday. Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer and illustrator best known for authoring popular children's books under the pen name of Dr. Seuss. Did you know that Dr. Seuss would be 115 this year? While he is no longer with us, his legacy lives on in the pages of his books.

Dr. Seuss had written and illustrated over 60 books during his career. His first book, *And to Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street* was published in 1937. Other favorites include such books as *Horton Hears a Who!*, *Happy Birthday to You!*, *The Cat in the Hat*, *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*, *Green Eggs and Ham*, *The Lorax*, and one of my favorites and the last book published in 1990, *Oh, the Places You'll Go*. Dr. Seuss's books have been translated into more than fifteen languages and his works have provided the source for eleven children's television specials, a Broadway musical, and a feature-length motion picture.



In preparation of March working on activities to the month of February, celebration in honor of Read Across America. encouraging your child home. Try choosing your favorite Dr. Seuss book!

2<sup>nd</sup>, the teachers are promote reading during with a culminating Dr. Seuss' birthday/NEA Please help us by to spend time reading at

Reading as a family is always an enjoyable experience and reading aloud to your child is the number one suggestion from reading experts across the country. Reading aloud to your child, particularly in an engaging manner, promotes literacy and language development, improves reading ability, and perhaps most importantly, fosters the love of books and reading. Reading aloud to your child requires only a book and your willingness to spend a little quality time with your child. While the sacrifices are few, the benefits are many. Your child will learn to read better, think better, imagine more richly, and become a passionate and lifelong reader. So take time with your child and share the enjoyment of a good book.

Once again, I thank you for your continuous support in helping us to build a caring and supportive school community. Our partnership makes a world of difference!

Sincerely  
Cathy G. Colella,  
Principal



*You're never too old, too wacky, too wild,  
To pick up a book and read with a child.  
You're never too busy, too cool, or too hot,  
To pick up a book and share what you've got.*

*In schools and communities,  
Let's gather around,  
Let's pick up a book,  
Let's pass it around.*

*There are kids all around you,  
Kids who will need  
Someone to hug,  
Someone to read.*

*Come join us March 3rd  
Your own special way  
And make this America's  
Read to Kids Day.*

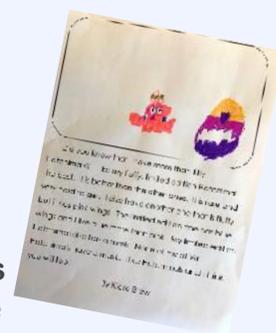
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## FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- 2/4 Board of Education Meeting/Business, 7:00 PM
- 2/5 CAS Elementary Arts Celebration
- 2/5 CT Science Center Program for Grade 2
- 2/6 Grade 4-5 Play Parent Meeting, 8:30 AM
- 2/11 REACH Open House, 2:00 PM
- 2/13 Dental Program
- 2/13 PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 2/15 PTO Regional Dance at WPS, 6:00 PM
- 2/18-19 February Break - **School Closed**
- 2/25 REACH Open House Snow Date
- 2/25 Board of Education Meeting/Education, 7:00 PM

# Grade 1:

## Can We Persuade You?



First Graders have begun writing opinions! In this unit, the goal is for students to be able to make

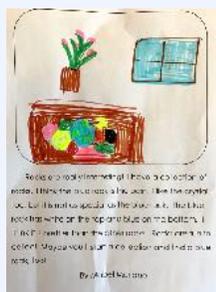
judgements and then defend their opinion in writing. Students began the unit by making judgements about their own collections of toys, shells, cars, or whatever is personal to them. They are learning to review their collections and make choices about which item in that collection is the best; then write defenses for those judgements. This will help children realize that they can use writing to share their opinions, the reasons for them and their insights about all that matters most to them.



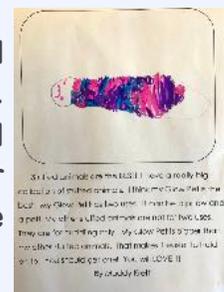
Later on in the month, they will then use these skills to write reviews about anything and everything: toys, restaurants, video games, etc. Essential components of their writing will be that they state an opinion and write a topic sentence,



followed by reasons and explanations for their opinion. Students will try to persuade others of their opinion in their closure. Revision and editing will be addressed. Towards the end of this unit, students will gather their reviews, sort, and create anthologies of reviews.



Finally, children will learn to write book reviews. They will summarize, evaluate, judge and defend their judgements. Students will collect and judge books, then write to tell others their opinions about those books. Within their closure, they will try to convince others to read and be interested in the books they are reading.



## What's Happening in Grade 3?



We have started the New Year with a Bang! Our study of Nonfiction information is well underway. In Reader's Workshop, students have been working hard to identify the main idea and details of a text, hold conversations, and perspective. They are then applying step into the shoes of "expert writer," their choice.



productive analyze an author's those skills in their own writing as they creating a chapter book on a topic of

# Grade 5

## Liquids and Solids

Can two liquids create a solid? Fifth graders have been experimenting with different substances to determine what causes materials to convert between being solid, liquid, and gas. Additionally, they have designed several experiments to determine if matter is conserved when these conversions occur. Most recently, students have used their knowledge of combining materials to design a glue that can hold the most weight. Ask a fifth grader to find out what the recipe of the winning team was!



## ¿Qué Pasa?

### Español News from Señora Granka



Our Booth Free School Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students are continuing to be model student learners during Spanish time!



Students in Kindergarten, First Grade and Second Grade have been learning winter vocabulary words for weather, clothing, animals and activities, and are using this vocabulary to create stories.

Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders are in different chapters, but all are almost at the conclusion of our "Capybara" story. It's been exciting! While reading this story, students were introduced to the country of Ecuador, and learned about the capital city of Quito and the Galápagos Islands (to where the Capybara takes its journey).



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/lorentey/5592629831>



# Notes and News from the Nurse...

## Flu Season is Here!!

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with the flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick.

CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting flu:



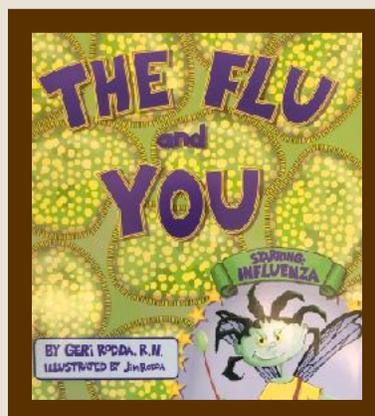
1. Get a flu vaccination each year
2. Call your doctor if you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness and might be recommended for you
3. Practice everyday preventive actions to prevent the flu like:
  - Avoid contact with sick people
  - Stay home for 24 hours after a fever is gone
  - While sick, avoid contact with others
  - Practice good cough and sneeze hygiene
  - Wash hands often with soap and water
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
  - Clean and disinfect contaminated surfaces
  - In case of an outbreak of flu, follow public health advice



There is more information on fighting the flu on the **Region 12 School Nurse Website** under “Important facts and information”.

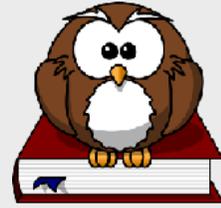
## Here are some examples of how we encourage healthy habits here at Booth Free School:

The school nurse, Mrs. Sandi DiBella, read “The Flu and You” to the students and talked about how to keep from getting the flu:





# Words from the Library from Mrs. Gordon



2019 is off to a wonderful start! A lot of "biblio"tastic happenings in the Library are adding to the New Year excitement. Grades 1, 2 and 3 were delighted by their first monthly visit to Minor Memorial Library. The classes had a wonderful time touring the Library and discovered tons of new material to check out. I encourage all families to take some time to visit the public Library so the children can show off their new library knowledge. I cannot thank Minor Memorial enough for all their support in Staff and BFS administration our field trip endeavors!!!



Keen eyes will notice that that undergone some exciting intermediate level section of in order to help readers in 2nd books that will challenge and reading skills. Additionally, been relocated above the sections. Further an author spotlight has been created in an effort to introduce students to new authors and books. And finally, be on the lookout for new signage, incentives and displays popping up throughout the Library. Please feel free to stop by and take a look!

the BFS library has recently changes. A brand new the library has been created and 3rd grade easily identify strengthen their growing popular book series have bookshelves in their



Welcome to our new Student Council representatives! Third grade students elected Colin Perrin and Brianna Johnson, with Jade Santos as the alternate. Our fourth-grade representatives are Juliana Quaranta and Jane Light, with Jacob McCauley as alternate. Wylden Abraham and Maya Krett will be representing our fifth-grade class. The fifth-grade alternate election ended in a 3-way tie, so the new alternate remains "to be announced."



As a kick-off for our new team, Student Council will be conducting a "Diaper and Baby Wipes Drive" here at Booth Free School. We are working in conjunction with the Roxbury Town Hall's efforts to support the St. Vincent DePaul Homeless Shelter in Waterbury. This shelter has a large number of families with small children who are in great need. More information will be coming home shortly. Student Council wants to reach out to our school community and show how kind and caring we are.



# 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>

## Kindergarten Registration:

Children turning five years of age on or before January 1, 2020, are eligible for Kindergarten. If you know anyone who might have missed this event, please contact our school's secretary, Laura Horrigan at the Booth Free

## 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.



## 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.



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 6:00 p.m. The next scheduled PTO meeting is February 13th.

# Leadership Conference

## Our Leaders of Tomorrow!

Once again, Region 12 had an impressive group of elementary students attend the Connecticut Association of Schools Leadership Conference on January 8, 2019, held at Naugatuck Valley Community College. Quinn Hurley, Antonia Kearney, Wyl Abraham, Diandra Daly, Gabe Granata, and Jake McCauley represented the 4th and 5th grade students from Booth Free School. Burnham School was represented by Lily Bialack, Lyric Tandler. Washington Primary Thomas, Jackie Goldberg, and conference focused on developing decision making, creative problem Elementary Student Leadership (<http://cas.casciac.org>) Students were centered around 21st century leadership skills. The day culminated with an interactive, large group presentation/discussion about bullying in schools. Students and presenters alike shared strategies for dealing with mean behavior, demonstrating direct and effective methods for improving our school environment. The conference left the students filled with enthusiasm and an eagerness to share their new learning with their school communities.



# REACH

## Open House



### Who:

Parents who have preschool age children  
(At least age 3 by December 31, 2019)

### When:

Monday, February 11, 2019 from 2:30-3:30 PM  
Snow date – February 25, 2019

### Where:

REACH Preschool at Washington Primary School

### Why:

Meet the teachers and learn about  
Region 12's preschool program

If you cannot attend, but would like to apply for the program, please go on district website, download form and return it by mail, fax or email.

Mailing address: PO Box 386, Washington Depot, CT 06794  
fax: 860-868-6103  
email: [oharaa@region-12.org](mailto:oharaa@region-12.org)

# Roxbury Community Garden Sprouts New Learning Opportunities

In the spring of 2018, a small but hearty group of Roxbury residents and Booth Free School families came together to clean up, turn over, and plant the unused Roxbury



Community Garden across the street from Booth Free School. Lettuce, veggies, herbs, strawberries, and milkweed for butterflies flourished well into autumn—and the garden was reborn! Minor Memorial Library also joined in the excitement by hosting garden-related programs for children.



With spring 2019 just around the corner, the BFS PTO is proud to announce plans for another exciting season of community growing and learning. Minor Memorial Library has already kicked off the new year with science, bird, and nature programs for children ages preschool through grade 5. The BFS PTO is sponsoring a three-part, schoolwide science and nature enrichment program in April that will utilize the garden as an outdoor classroom. The program will be led by the Audubon Center at Bent of the River and will focus on birds, healthy habitats (including our garden), and the Roxbury community's role in the Shepaug Forest Block Important Bird Area.

And thanks to a \$450 grant from Audubon Connecticut, the BFS PTO will be able to further enhance the Roxbury Community Garden plantings with native plants and purchase outdoor education tool kits



(containing items like pocket naturalist guides, hand lenses, and child-size hand trowels) for our students to use to enrich their curriculum-based lessons. The Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club will also be visiting BFS this spring to help teach the



children about growing plants in the garden. This once unused space is truly evolving into a community garden and outdoor classroom, and we couldn't be more thrilled that Booth Free School is a part of it!

Submitted by the Booth Free PTO Members, Cara Abraham and Jennifer Benner

# 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.

# 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.



## Report to PARENTS

# Fight Flu and Germs

**Y**ou've probably already heard it: the telltale sniffles of flu season, which peaks in January and February. Navigate flu and germ season with these tactics for prevention and care.

### **About the Vaccine**

Though it's best to get vaccinated in the fall, it's not too late to get a flu shot at the start of winter. Everyone age six months and older can receive the vaccine, which is available as a shot or nasal spray. Children are at a higher risk for the flu, since their immune systems are developing. It's especially important to vaccinate children younger than 5 and those with chronic health conditions. Don't forget to get vaccinated yourself!

If you're not sure where to get a flu shot, ask your principal or school nurse for information on clinics or community agencies that may be providing flu shots.

### **If Your Child Is Sick**

Children who can't keep their eyes open, even after having a normal night's sleep, may be coming down with something. Add an "achy" feeling and loss of appetite, and it's likely that the flu is on the way. If, before school, you think your child may be starting to get sick, alert the teacher and make sure an adult is available for pick-up in case your child needs to come home.

Children who are feverish, nauseated, or bone-tired can't learn well, and can spread their illness to others. So, keep them home. Before returning to school, your child needs to have gone without a fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours.

Talk to your child's teacher to find out the best way to make up missed work. Often, a child not quite well enough to return to class can complete assignments at home, making the workload easier to manage once he or she is back in school. Have your child make up the work as soon as possible.

### **Preventing the Spread of Germs**

Keep your family healthy all winter long by practicing everyday disease prevention tactics.

**Stress the importance of handwashing.** Because germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Be sure to stress

the importance of washing hands, using lots of soap and water, and scrubbing until there are bubbles—before meals and snacks, and after coughing, sneezing, or using a tissue. Many brands of liquid hand soap come in fun designs, scents, or colors, and letting children pick their own can be a fun way to encourage hand washing.

**Use the "birthday song" method.** Teach your child to wash his or her hands for as long as it takes to sing the entire "Happy Birthday" song.

**Cough like Dracula.** Children need to learn to always cover their mouths when they cough. Have your child cough into his or her sleeves, not hands, to prevent the spread of germs.

**Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.** Children sometimes absentmindedly put their fingers in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help

your child keep his or her hands away from "germy" areas—eyes, nose, and mouth.

**Trash the tissues.** Used tissues are full of germs. Teach your child to immediately put used tissues in the trash, and then wash his or her hands.

**Set a healthy example.** Model all these healthy behaviors—sneezing into your elbow, washing your hands frequently—and your child will follow suit.



### **Web Resources**

Visit **Flu.gov** for the latest updates on this flu season.

For a round-up of germ prevention techniques, visit this **Centers for Disease Control** page.  
[www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm)

This "Too Sick for School?" quiz from **Parents magazine** will help you decide whether your child should stay home.

[www.parents.com/kids/too-sick-for-school/](http://www.parents.com/kids/too-sick-for-school/)