



Booth Free School's Star Tracks



March 2019

A Note from the Principal. . .

Dear Parent/Guardians,



This school year is flying by! March is here and it is a busy month with lots of activities scheduled. Watch for information sent home to you by your child's teacher or by our school office.

Report cards will be sent home on Friday, March 15th. This report card signifies that two-thirds of this school year is complete leaving us with one-third remaining. We have much to do and with your support I am confident that all our goals for the year will be met. Report card time is a good time to set specific goals with your child and to recognize their strengths and help them to build areas of weakness. The staff and I are always so proud of our students and recognize how hard they work. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Following the report card distribution will be Parent Teacher Conferences. They are scheduled for March 21st and 22nd. Scheduling information will be sent home within the first week in March and you will receive confirmation of date and time. The staff and I look forward to seeing you then.

Our Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Megan Bennett will present the school budget for the 2019-2020 school year on March 4th at Shepaug at 6:30 p.m. Budget workshops will be scheduled after the March 4th presentation. Information about the budget workshops are forthcoming. There will a budget hearing on April 1st followed by the Annual District Meeting held on May 6th with a referendum the following day on May 7th. The administration worked hard to put forth a very thoughtful budget that is sensitive to the economic challenges facing us all. It is also a conscious commitment to the vision of Regional School District 12 and represents an effort to support the district goals and objectives.

As a reminder, students in grades 3-5 will take the Smarter Balanced Tests during the first two full weeks of May from May 6th – May 17th. The students in grades 3-5 will be tested in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics and it will once again be technology based. Grade 5 students will also be tested in the area of science on May 22nd. As is the Smarter Balanced, the science test will be technology based. Please keep the testing schedules in mind as you plan activities for your family. It is important to have all our students in school during this time.

Specials during the testing cycle may be rearranged to accommodate our testing schedule. Art, music, physical education, computer, and library will be placed into a schedule to ensure every child has their special classes. During this testing time, the teachers will also continue to instruct in all the areas of the curriculum to maintain students' academic growth.

Lastly, the school community and I are continuing our celebration of reading this month in honor of Dr. Seuss and his contribution to children's reading. Throughout the month we hope children will remember him by reading his many books and other good books of interest. Of course I can't wait to read one of my favorites, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!* There are many to choose from. I hope that through this month's continued emphasis our students' love for literature deepens. The following poem expresses particular significance especially in the month of March. Enjoy it and find time to read it with your child.



Sincerely,

Cathy G. Colella
Principal

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

3/4	Board of Education Meeting/Business
3/7	Grade 2 Trip to Senior Center
3/8	Grades Close
3/13	PTO Meeting, 6:30 P
3/15	Report Cards Sent Home
3/15	Talent Show, 6:30 PM
3/18-3/19	Garden Club Project
3/18	Board of Education Meeting/Education
3/20	Grade 5 to Shepaug for Career Fair
3/21-22	Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:45 PM
3/26	Ben's Bells Tile Making
4/2	Spring Photos with Lifetouch

Kindergarten: “Kind”ergarteners

Every Valentine’s Day, our regular kindergartners turn into KIND-ergartners and celebrate their friendship with a party. Thanks to the work of some dedicated parents, children created fun “love bug” crafts



a n d r e a d some lovely books, too.

Passing out cards is always a highlight, with joyful faces eagerly peeking in to see the special surprises prepared with care. However, the best part was the kindness game, where children picked a secret heart and gave compliments and mystery bags to their chosen friend. Words like, “I like the way you help me draw pictures,” and “You are sweet to help me pack my backpack,” and “You always make us laugh,” and “Thanks for sharing your toys with me at recess,” made everyone’s day just a little sweeter.



Grade 2: Research Projects

Recently, second graders worked independently or with a partner to research a country. Students



were able to choose areas of interest to research ranging from sports, to food, to holidays. In

each section, students were



required to include an opening sentence, write at least three facts, and finish with a concluding

sentence. They then created a final copy using

Google Presentation. Students

added maps, diagrams, labels, the country’s flag, a glossary, and pictures to support each section. Some students were even able to add slide animation to their presentation. What a fantastic job done by all!



The Sharing Hearts of Booth Free School

The Student Council of Booth Free School asked their schoolmates to make valentines for the seniors in our community. On February 13th, the colorful valentines were delivered to Ms. Linda Wahlers, Director of the Roxbury Senior Center. The cards arrived just in time to greet members of

the Center who would be attending a cooking class. Ms. Wahlers was delighted with this kind outreach from the children of our school.



Our students also spread some sunshine to the veterans in our state by making additional valentines for veterans. The cheerful notes were sent to the Connecticut Veterans Administration in West Haven for distribution to our local heroes. Our students are reaching out to our community, showing their appreciation for their kindness and service.

PE With Mr. Morgan

Physical Education classes have been inside for the the winter months. During this time all students are exposed to activities in floor hockey, gymnastics, scooter exploration, bowling, and badminton/volleyball. We also add a fitness component to every class as well. We hope to get outside to the fields once the weather allows.

Our fourth grade students recently completed the "Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment." The assessment is required per the Department of Education for all 4th grade students. We have also let the third and fifth grade students take part in portions of the fitness assessment.

Our fitness assessments use criterion-referenced standards. This means that a student can compare his/her



scores with standards (age and gender based) that have been identified for good health. This type of system prevents students from being compared to other students participating in the assessment.



Students are encouraged to be self-aware of their health related fitness and to take responsibility by setting personal fitness goals. When students focus on continually improving their fitness level, a positive lifelong impact can be achieved. A healthy student is better prepared to learn and perform in all aspects of life.

Older students continue to be invited to our weekly morning fitness class (also known as intramurals). Every Wednesday morning at

Booth students arrive to school at 8:10. We head down to the gym

and take part in a bonus class that incorporates movement, sport skills, cooperative games, and fitness challenges. This is the perfect way for students to start their day.

The 20th Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts

Region 12 Elementary Schools proudly recognized six students at the Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Festival on February 5th. Art teacher, Jane Manley, and Music teachers, Jennifer Doiron and Jacob Bartfield, recommended students from the fifth grade who have excelled in the areas of visual or performing arts and of citizenship and cooperative schools.



Wyatt Ongley and Quinn were recognized. Students filled evening with caricaturists, painting as well as a special High School Chamber Choir. The room filled with young artists and musicians who shared a common connection to the arts was inspiring to all.

Hurley from Booth Free School and their guests enjoyed a fun-balloon sculptors and face performance from the Ledyard



Notes and News from the Nurse. . .

Go Red for Women!

On February 1, 2019, Booth Free School joined thousands of hospitals, small businesses, multinational corporations, and many others to help raise crucial awareness and significant funds in the fight against heart disease and stroke in women. The staff participated in "Go Red" by giving a donation and wearing red to school. Most women don't notice the symptoms of heart disease until it is too late, and it is the number one killer of women. For more than a decade The American Heart Association has led the fight to protect women's hearts through research and education. The more women are aware, the more lives can be saved. Kudos to staff for participating in this important fundraiser.



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



A Warm Welcome to Mrs. Sarah Jackson!

The Booth Free School community welcomes Mrs. Sarah Jackson who is the long-term substitute for Mrs. Testani, while she is on maternity leave taking care of her little girl, Olivia Grace next few months. Mrs. Jackson has visited several times prior to Mrs. Testani's leave and herself with the classroom routines and procedures, and has gotten to know all of the students in the classroom. She and Mrs. Testani will continue to work closely together to ensure the success of all students. *Welcome Mrs. Jackson to our Booth Free family!*



Testani, for the Mrs. Jackson has familiarized curriculum, and procedures,

Good Character Traits:

(Referenced in Board of Education Policy #0210. 3)

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



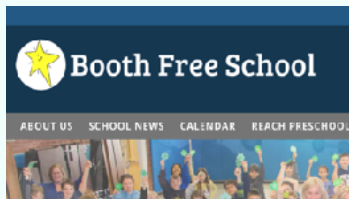
Good conduct is synonymous with good citizenship. Students are expected to exercise good citizenship at all times while in school, attending school-related activities and after school activities conducted at the school. This includes showing respect for the rights of others and regard for personal and 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.

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



6th Annual Regional Elementary School Dance



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 March 13th.



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

Report to PARENTS

Eliminate Bullying

The latest research shows that one in three children is directly involved in bullying as a perpetrator, victim, or both. Many of those who are not directly involved witness others being bullied on a regular basis. Parents, as well as schools, have the power to help reduce bullying. Here are some tips on how you can help.

Talk with and listen to your kids.

Spend a few minutes every day asking open-ended questions about who they spend time with at school and in the neighborhood, what they do in between classes and at recess, who they have lunch with, and what happens on the way to and from school. If your children feel comfortable talking to you about their peers before they're involved in a bullying event, they'll be more likely to get you involved after.

Be an example of kindness and leadership.

When you get angry at a sales clerk, another driver on the road, or even your child, you have an opportunity to model effective communication techniques. Any time you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you're teaching your child that bullying is okay.

Learn the signs.

Most children don't tell anyone that they've been bullied. Learn to recognize possible signs of victimization, such as frequent loss of personal belongings, complaints of stomach aches, avoiding recess or school activities, and getting to school very late or very early. Talk to your child and the teacher about what is going on at school and find ways to observe your child's interactions to determine whether your suspicions might be correct.

Create healthy anti-bullying habits early.

Help develop anti-bullying and anti-victimization habits in your child as early as preschool. Coach your child on what not to do—hitting, pushing, teasing, or being mean to others. Help your child to focus on how such actions might feel to the child on the receiving end. Equally important, teach your children what to do—kindness, empathy, fair play, and turn-taking are critical behaviors and skills for good peer relations. Children also need to learn how to say "no" firmly if they experience or witness bullying behavior. Role play with your child about what to do if other kids are

mean. They can, for example, get an adult right away, tell the child who is teasing or bullying to "stop," or ignore the perpetrator and find someone else to play with.



Establish household rules.

Make sure your child knows that if he or she is bullied physically, verbally, or socially, it's safe and important to tell you about it—and that you will help. Kids also need to know what bullying is (many children do not know that they are bullying others), and that such behavior is harmful to others and unacceptable.

Teach your child how to be a positive bystander.

Although it's never children's responsibility to put themselves in danger, kids can often effectively diffuse a bullying situation by yelling "Stop! You're bullying" or "Hey, that's not cool." Kids can also help each other by providing support to the victim, not giving extra attention to the bullying behavior, and/or reporting what they witnessed to an adult.

Efforts to effectively address bullying require the collaboration of school, home, and community. Bullying is a serious problem, but if we all work together, it's one we can impact.

Web Resources

Education.com's **Bullying Special Edition** explores cyberbullying, action steps to take if your child is bullied, and more.

www.education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing

Check NAESP's **Bullying Prevention resource page** for top resources, including articles, sample policies, and videos.

www.naesp.org/bullying-prevention-resources

Guest Editors: Shelley Hymel, Amanda Nickerson, & Susan Swearer