



Booth Free School

Star Tracks

June 2019



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,



It is hard to believe that our school year is coming to an end! Monday, June 17, 2019 will be here before we know it! It has been a terrific year filled with many opportunities for all students to actively engage in academic skills expected at their grade level. It is always my hope that students will go far beyond our expectations and reach for the stars!

Although summer is traditionally a time for rest, relaxation, vacationing and excitement, please continue to immerse your child in reading, writing, and math activities. Our demanding curriculum requires us to move forward as soon as the school year begins again on August 29, 2019. Your support of academics over the summer is very important in the retention of all the wonderful skills and growth your child has made this school year. Participating in the Governor's Reading Challenge and reinforcing reading, writing and math in your own way, will keep your child actively engaged in the process of learning.

Reading can be supported in a variety of ways. Keep plenty of books and magazines around your home and in your car. Books on tape provide a wonderful way to pass the time on a long drive. Our Summer Reading list will be available on our website and at our public library. Please help your child to keep track of all the books read throughout the summer. This list must be sent to school at the onset of the 2019-2020 school year for the Governor's Reading Challenge recognition. The staff and I are once again looking for 100% participation. This year's Governor's Reading Challenge theme is A Universe of Stories, Connecticut Reads 2019.

Writing is an important skill, so keep your child writing this summer. Postcards, grocery lists, diaries, vacation itineraries, reader response journals, letter writing to friends or relatives and/or a summer activity journal are all practical applications of written expression.

There are many ways to keep math on your child's plate during the summer reprieve too. With this in mind, we will also be participating in the 2019 Commissioner's Summer Math Challenge: A Journey Through Mathematics. To assist students in retaining math learning during the summer, the Summer Math Challenge, sponsored by the CSDE in partnership with Metametrics is offering a free math skills maintenance program based on grade-level standards. The program is targeted to students who have just completed grades 1 through 8. It is designed to help students retain math skills learned during the school year. Families enroll online and receive daily emails from June 17th through July 26th, with fun activities and links to educational resources. To register your child, please visit the State Department of Education Website: <http://www.ct.gov/sde/summermathchallenge>. To assure readiness for our kindergarteners, we will be providing parents with math activities to do during the summer months as they are not included in the math challenge. With practice, they too will be ready for the rigors of first grade.

Additionally, there are many other activities that can keep our mathematicians sharp. Keep those flash cards handy and using them in the car or at home can be helpful. Use measurement when building or making something new such as a garden, tree fort and/or adding a new deck to your home. When shopping, ask your child for help by asking him or her to total costs and then to determine the change they would receive back from the dollar amount given. The key is to create situations that show real application of the skills.

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We all use reading, writing, and math skills on a regular basis. When children see a real use for those skills it becomes important and applicable to them, thus causing students to retain the knowledge.

I extend a thank you to the Booth Free School community for its support and guidance during the school year. It has been a great year, and I look forward to the 2019-2020 school year.

I wish the students, parents/guardians, and the staff a wonderful and pleasurable summer.

Sincerely,
Cathy G. Colella
Principal

JUNE DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6/4 Grade 5 Middle School Orientation at Shepaug
- 6/4 Grade 1 Field Trip to Beardsley Zoo
- 6/6 Grade 1 Animal Fair
- 6/7 Grade 3 Field Trip to Institute of American Indian Studies
- 6/7 Grade 5 Field Trip to New Britain Museum of American Art
- 6/10 Grade 5 Aloha Day, 12:00-2:30 PM
- 6/14 Students Dismissed at 12:45
- 6/17 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL – 12:45 Dismissal

Our Kindness Tree!

Thank you to Ben's Bells and volunteers!



Kindergarten LOVES Recess!

“What’s the best thing to do at recess? A recent kindergarten poll gave many insights. From scooter tag and slides to swinging and running, one thing we can all agree upon is that kids LOVE to move!”



Grade 1: Who Doesn't LOVE Learning About Animals?

Young children are fascinated with the world around them, showing intense interest and curiosity about animals and their lives. Through the use of nonfiction, students have been encouraged and challenged to learn more about an animal of their choice and to document their findings with note-taking and graphic organizers. We have spent the last couple of weeks researching and writing about their appearance, diet, habitat, and life cycle. We have also added one new component to this assignment – The Inquiry Process. Each student came up with questions or “wonders” about the selected animal. This enabled them to find new learning in addition to the information already required. Students began their inquiry by comparing fiction and nonfiction books about animals, using a Venn diagram. Kiddos listed things they wanted to know about their animals. They revised their question list, and then researched the animal. After several sessions of research, students revisited their original questions and evaluated the information they had gathered. Finally, students revised and edited their work and prepared to present their findings, with a digital written report and project of their choice, to an authentic audience – their peers. They are also going to show off their animal expertise on to parents and the rest of the school Thursday, June 4th from 9:30 – 10:30 at our Animal Fair in the BFS Gym.



GRADE 3 HAS GRIT!

Wow! It is unbelievable that this school year is coming to an end! Our third graders have worked so hard in each and become quite the and perimeter and are now create centimeter robots! I am perseverance through many their “grit” will serve them well



every subject. In fact, they have mathematicians at finding area applying their knowledge to extremely proud of their challenging tasks and know that in future endeavors.

Grade 2 Learns about Roxbury



As part of the Social Studies curriculum, the 2nd graders learned about their community as they worked on their Senior Center projects. These projects were presented to the senior citizens of Roxbury. The students each interviewed a Roxbury senior citizen and then created a presentation that included the information the students learned about the senior's lives and growing up in Roxbury. Each student shared the most interesting thing they learned about their senior citizen, the most interesting thing they learned about Roxbury, and one piece of advice the students received from the senior citizen they interviewed. Additionally,



students created a bound book and a picture frame that they presented to the senior citizens at a celebration on May 30.



Grade 4 visits Flanders Nature Center!

In addition to our wonderful spring concert and fantastic field day, the 4R All-Stars had an amazing visit to the Flanders Nature Center! Through a series of experiments, students learned about the impact of slope and vegetation on erosion. Students of the slope, the more vulnerable decrease or even prevent erosion,



realized that the greater the degree the land is to erosion. In order to healthy vegetation with strong roots needed to hold in place. We also impact erosion



systems are the ground noted the

might have on stream life if we are not mindful of our environment. The Flanders Nature Center program was a great reminder of our responsibilities as global citizens.



Grade 5 Learns about the American Revolution!



5th graders went to Putnam Park in Redding to learn about life during the American Revolution. They met with a colonial surgeon, weaver, cook, potter, soldier, merchant, and shanty singer. Students had the opportunity to see and use genuine artifacts from the colonial period. The highlight of the trip was witnessing a real musket being fired! It was an excellent experience for students to get a glimpse into life as a colonist during the American Revolution.






Notes and News from the Nurse. . .

What's Bugging You?

A friendly reminder to our families that ticks are out and about and vigilance is important.

TICKS – We need to BLAST tickborne disease out of our lives. The BLAST message stands for the simple things we can do to prevent tick bites and tickborne disease.

- B stands for Be Aware of your risk and Bath each evening if you've been outdoors.
- L stands for Look for ticks and the rash every day.
- A stands for Avoid tick infested areas when possible & Apply repellent whenever spending time in areas where ticks may be. Tuck pants into socks when possible and wear light colors.
- S stands for Safeguard your yard and consider spraying your yards for ticks. There are many simple landscaping techniques that can be used to safeguard your yard and make it less tick friendly.
- T stands for Treatment. Treat your  pets with a veterinarian recommended treatment to keep ticks off your pets. Also, seek early Treatment if you or a loved one are bitten by a tick. Early detection and treatment can save families from a great deal of suffering.
- For more information on BLAST go to Newtown Health District website <http://www.newtown-ct.gov/health-district/pages/tick-information-test-results> for the Tick Info & Test Results webpage. For more info on ticks, www.cdc.gov/ticks
- A Slick Trick for Ticks- when you remove a tick with tweezers, sometimes the head breaks off and remains embedded in the skin. Here is a simple, painless method for removing ticks without leaving any parts behind: Moisten a cotton ball with a little water and rub it on a bar of soap. Cover the tick with the soapy cotton ball and rub gently counterclockwise. After one or two circles, sometimes more, you will find the tick intact on the cotton ball. Finish by washing the bite site with more soap and water and apply antiseptic.

Booth Free School Spring Community Walk

April showers bring May flowers has been our theme for this spring, but luckily May 2nd also brought a warm breeze and sunshine for our community walk.

Our walk is a teaching moment for our students. The importance of living a healthy lifestyle which includes daily exercise and quality nutritional choices is emphasized at our elementary schools. And then we get to "walk the walk", briskly getting our heart rates up. A secondary benefit to this wonderful event is a sense of community, conversation, sharing, smiles, and laughter. Booth Free School was joined by our First Selectman, Barbara Henry, Officer Bill Cario, Reverend Dave Peters, and some parents.

We were treated to a beautiful array of colorful spring blooms. This was a wonderful way to begin our day!





Recognizing Our Amazing Paraprofessionals!!



The Booth Free School Faculty and Administration wish to recognize all of our paraprofessionals for their hard work and dedication to the Booth Free School staff and students. They reflect a caring tone, exhibit a guiding manner and perform assigned duties responsibly and skillfully to support growth and development within our students and our school. They provide an incredible service and support mechanism in the daily lives of our students.



2019 Teacher of the Year Congratulations Dr. Emily Rhew!

The Booth Free School Community is pleased to announce the 2019 Teacher of the Year, Dr. Emily Rhew, Special Education Teacher at Booth Free School. This recognition speaks to Dr. Rhew's love and passion for her students, for teaching, and to the tremendous impact she has had on her students' lives every day. Her nomination was supported by the endorsement of her educational ability to improve students' capabilities as well as her collaboration with staff. Dr. Rhew is a shining example of what teaching excellence is. She believes in challenging her students and fostering responsibility and independence. She is a dedicated and selfless teacher; giving her time, energy, and effort to constantly make sure her students succeed.



Dr. Rhew was celebrated at a ceremony at Booth Free School on Thursday, May 9th. She was joined on stage by her husband, Anthony Rhew, Principal Cathy Colella, Director of Pupil Personnel Services Allyson O'Hara, Director of Curriculum & Instruction Teresa DeBrito, and Superintendent Megan Bennett. Dr. Rhew shared her excitement for the moment and expressed feeling humbled by the nomination and award.

Dr. Rhew will join other Teacher of the Year winners from districts around the state at a ceremony in Hartford. Additionally, she will welcome Region 12 teachers back to school at convocation in the fall 2019.

The district is proud of the selection of Dr. Emily Rhew as the 2019 Teacher of the Year. She embodies professionalism and care for children. We all thank Emily for sharing her talents with staff, students and families. It is inspiring to be a part of her masterful practice every day.





Field Day 2019

Our 1st Combined Field Day with Booth Free and Burnham Schools

We had laughs and smiles all around as students, staff, and parent volunteers from both Burnham and Booth Free Schools took part in our first combined field day. Combining our schools allowed for complete volunteer coverage of every game station. More importantly, we were able to provide a fun setting for students to make new friends and socialize with their future Shepaug classmates.

Relay races, water games, a terrific cookout, and special games for the 5th graders made for a wonderful day. We couldn't have enjoyed all of this without the awesome support of our volunteers. Thank you for helping us.



Booth Free School's Spring Art & Music Show

"Music from Around the World" Our Band, Chorus and All-School Concert

The students at Booth Free School worked hard preparing for the Spring Concert, "The World of Music" which happened on May 16th. The band played two original songs written by fourth and fifth grade students. The fifth grade band played two challenging pieces. For one of them, they showed off their improvisational skill. The chorus sang three songs, all of which challenged them in different ways. Kindergarten sang "Paddy Works on The Railway" and kept time with rhythm sticks during the chorus. First grade sang "Funga Alafia" while playing percussion instruments. Second grade sang both the melody and bass line for a song called "Haida." Third grade accompanied themselves on recorders and sang a song in Spanish called "De Colores." They also played recorder for one of the chorus songs. Fourth grade helped to write their own percussion parts for a song called "Tongo." They sang the song, and then accompanied themselves on xylophones djembes, and hand drums. Fifth grade sang "Three Little Birds," and accompanied themselves on ukulele. The students sang two songs as a whole school: "Jambo" and "Inanay." The students showcased their musical abilities in a variety of ways, and I am proud of what they have accomplished. ***Congratulations to all of the students at Booth Free School!***

Magnificent Works of Art on Display

The students were the curators of the art show this year. All chose work they felt was their best. As a result, there was a wide variety of choice in subject matter and in the use of different techniques, tools, and materials. Visitors gained further insight into the artist's thinking by reading the artist statement that accompanied each work. The works were organized by subject matter - portrait, landscape, still life, non-objective, and graphic design.



Words from the Library from Mrs. Gordon



And just like that, it's June! The school year may be winding down but things are only winding up in the library!



Be on the lookout for summer reading lists, reading activities and fantastic happenings at the Minor Memorial Library. I am putting together a calendar of events to inspire you and your children to read all summer long. I'm excited to announce that 2 book borrow days will be among those events! I will be inviting all families to stop by for a monthly summer book borrow day, where you and your children will be free to take out as many books as you need to tide you over! I encourage everyone to take advantage of these extra library days so the books don't feel quite so lonely over the summer!



Last call for book reviews! On June 17 one lucky student will be coming home with a wonderful library gift basket!



Congratulations! Booth Free School is one of only eight elementary schools in the state to be officially recognized by the Governor as a Governor's Summer Reading Challenge performing School!!! Way stars! Let's 2018 Top-Elementary to go BFS impress the new Governor with a repeat performance this summer! Remember, this summer's theme is "A Universe of Stories".

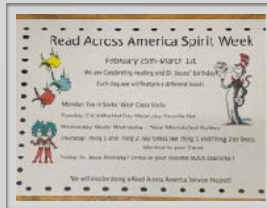


Students will be bringing home reading pamphlets in the next couple of weeks.



Finally, as we get ready to bid a fond farewell to the 2018-2019 school year, I'd like to take the opportunity to share some of our brightest library moments with everyone!

Have a happy, safe and booktastic summer!!!!



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

A PTO Thanks!



Thank you PTO for the wonderful staff luncheon held on May 23rd. It was a super event and enjoyed by the entire staff. The staff and I wish to also extend special thanks to the PTO Chair, Brenda McGuire, and to all of the volunteers for providing an elegant elegant occasion and for providing the coverage necessary in order for the entire staff to attend this luncheon. We are certainly lucky to have such a supportive PTO. Your constant generosity and volunteerism is always appreciated.



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.

Honoring our Volunteers!

A big thank you to all our volunteers!



Dedicated hearts like yours
Are not so easy to find.
It takes a special person to be
So generous and kind.
To care so much for all of us
Is a quality all too rare.
Yet you give your time and talents,
For Booth Free School to share.

So THANK YOU for being a volunteer,
We're grateful for all you do.
We hope you know how appreciated you are,
Not just today, but the whole year through.



Student Council finished our year by posting inspiring messages around our school. Students were greeted by a number of posters around the building to encourage their thoughtful completion of end of year assessments. Thank you to all of our student council members who served for the 2018-2019 school year: 3rd grade: Frank Mariano, Grady Hughes, Colin Perrin and

Brianna Johnson, with alternates Jade Santos and Ryan Bonomo; 4th grade: Juliana Quaranta, Jane Light, Jake McCauley, with and alternate Gabe Granata; and 5th grade: Skyler Santos, Wyatt Ongley, Wylden Abraham, Maya Krett and alternate Eliana Quigley.



Thank you PTO for your support during the 2018-2019 school year!

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.



sandwiches • salads • fruits • milk

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FOR SITES NEAR YOU, CALL/LLAME **211**
TEXT CTmeals TO **877877**
www.CTSummerMeals.org

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Report to PARENTS

Exercise Kids' Minds During the Summer

If students laze away the days of summer without using their minds, they can lose up to a month of learning—especially in reading and math. Stem the summer slide and keep your child engaged with these fun, brain-friendly activities.

Devise a plan. Tell your child that reading and learning activities will be an important part of their summer. Assure them that they'll still have lots of time for play.

Teach mini-lessons. Transform everyday activities into learning opportunities. Children can count change, read directions for a trip, write a shopping list, or calculate a recipe's measurements.

Gather activity books. Give children their own activity book with crossword puzzles or number games customized for their specific age group. Set a "due date" to keep them on track, but let them work at their own pace.

Initiate a writing project. Have your child keep a summer journal, write letters to family members or friends, or craft a play to perform with siblings or neighbors. Or, start a family cookbook with your favorite recipes, instructions, and shopping lists.

Strategize screen time. Educational computer games or apps can engage students' minds, but make sure your child is spending enough time away from the screen. Assign a daily block of time for family members to turn off phones, computers, and the TV, and instead play a board game or read together.

Designate daily reading blocks. Set aside at least 15 minutes a day for your entire family to read. (That means parents, too!) Find reading recommendations by grade level on the American Library Association's book lists (see Web Resources). Organize a summer read-a-thon with goals for each family member, or sign your child up for your library's summer book club.

Go global. Set aside several nights during the summer to have an international evening. Together, cook a meal with recipes from a different nation. Learn basic words in that country's language. Find the country on a map, and together examine a book or article with information on what life is like there.



Sneak learning into family trips. If your family is able to take a vacation during the summer, include stops at zoos, children's museums, or historic sites. Have your child help you plot out the journey using maps and keep a journal along the way. Older children can tally up miles, keep track of expenses, or compute gas mileage.

Get moving. Build physical activity into your child's summer days. Even if he or she can't participate in a local sports league or community-based team, encourage activities such as jumping rope, playing catch, and taking family walks.

For more resources, look to your child's school and your local library or community center for ideas to keep kids' brains buzzing during the dog days of summer.

Web Resources

The **American Library Association** compiles grade-level book lists.

www.ala.org/alsc/publications-resources/book-lists

The **National Summer Learning Association** offers activities, tools, and links.

www.summerlearning.org/?page=activity_resource