



Claude Chester School

1 Harry Day Drive ~ Groton, CT 06340



December 2019

Dear Families and Friends of Claude Chester School,

We had an amazing first semester of learning! The growth our students demonstrated was so incredible in all subject areas as well as in social, emotional and behavioral learning. I am very proud of their efforts. In addition to your child's Report Card, you will find:

- A grade level specific Family Compact that was made from the Parent Survey you completed in October.
- Another copy of how to sign-up for the Parent Portal which is something that you will need to do before Trimester 2. A paper Report Card will not be coming home for Trimester 2 and 3. You will be able to access it through the Parent Portal as well as see your child's daily attendance.
- A copy about the Report Card structure from Susan Austin, Assistant Superintendent.

If you have questions about your child's Report Card or any of the enclosures please contact their teacher.

I hope you take a moment to read through this Newsletters which will also be posted to the CC website. In addition to all of the great grade level news and specific specialist news, it has on page 2 a lot of Important Reminders.

We have had so many wonderful enrichment activities already this year and more to come. Some activities so far have been when Fitch High School students came to CC to work with our students in grades K-5 during the Hour of Code. CC students learned how to move figures and robots using basic computer codes. Coding helps develop and enhance math skills, executive functioning, and problem-solving. It was a wonderful partnership experience and opportunity for our students. NESS (New England Science and Sailing) will also be coming to CC to support NGSS Standards (Next Generation Science Standards) through hands-on experiments and the Science Center of Southeast CT will be coming for STEM activities for Kindergarten and Grade 1 students. In addition, we have partnered with Grasso Tech National Honor Society. A group of 15 students came and will continue to come this year to CC to work with students in classrooms, out at recess, and in the CC Garden.



Amazing artwork made during the Before School Paper Mache Club with

Claude Chester has many "Thank yous" to express. Thank you to the PTO for helping to fundraise and supporting the Book Fair. Thank you to Union Baptist Church for generously taking time to donate and help to organize and distribute the Breakfast Bags during the Thanksgiving break. We are so grateful to be part of such a giving community!

I hope you have a wonderful, safe Holiday Break and a Happy New Year!

Jamie Giordano



IMPORTANT SCHOOL REMINDERS

- o If you have a **DISMISSAL CHANGE**, please remember to send a note confirming any dismissal changes before noon (AM preschool by 10:30am; PM preschool by 2:00)
- o **ARRIVAL** - The earliest students can be dropped off in the morning is 8:30am to go into the cafeteria. If you drive your child to school, drive to the designated area in the back loop where a staff member will be waiting to greet your child. If there is no staff member, please do not drop off your child. See the CC Handbook for more details.
- o **TARDY** - If your child arrives late to school, please walk them in and sign them into the school.
- o Please call the school if your child is going to be absent and follow up with a written note otherwise it will be considered an unexcused absence. Please see the enclosed information about Attendance and the District Handbook or CC Handbook for the full policy.

School Matters!



***IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PARKING LOT SAFETY**

Please help us keep all students safe at CC by observing the posted no parking areas and using the designated parking spaces.

- There is a designated student drop-off area in the morning between 8:30am-8:50am.
–Please drive to the **BACK** parking lot (upper playground area). You will see a marked sign.
- Please do not drop your child off in the morning until you see a staff member there.
- Please do not drop your child off in front of the building unless you park in a designated parking spot and walk them across the street.
- There are also designated No Parking areas which are for the Buses.
- Please do not park in the Bus Lane or alongside the Bus Lane – it blocks traffic, and it is very unsafe for your child to walk across the lane.
- Please be mindful of your speed as pedestrians are always walking across.

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal for our students.

Kindergarten

We have learned a great deal in Kindergarten so far this year. Please continue to work on letter and sound identification and sight words! In math we have focused on numbers 1-5 and are moving on to 6-10. Please count with your child at home! Touching while counting each object is a helpful technique that we practice each day. We are coming into a very busy time period learning all about story sequencing using our gingerbread unit. We will be reading different versions of The Gingerbread Man and discussing many different comprehension topics. In science we are learning about weather and the different seasons. Dressing for the season is an important part of our science curriculum. Please help your child choose appropriate clothing for winter! We do go outside most days. Your child's hats and gloves need to be labeled.

We will be making **family gingerbread houses** on Thursday, Dec. 19th from **10:00-11:00**. Please try to attend! This is a special time with your child. Each child needs to send in 1 can of white frosting by Friday, Dec 13th for the house. We need thick, stiff frosting, not the whipped kind. We will also be sending a candy donation list soon!



On Friday December 20th (our shortened day) we will be reading The Polar Express.

Please send your child to school in their favorite pajamas that day. **No slippers** please! Please look for the rest of the details about spirit week!

1st Grade

Hello First Grade Families! We have come to the end of the first trimester. We have been making such progress!

In Reading Workshop, we have been working on developing good reading habits! We are reading independently, with partners, and in small groups. The first graders have been building stamina to read for longer periods of time. Some of our reading focus has been on practicing many strategies to solve unknown words, using our SNAP words to help us, and discussing story elements for comprehension. Please continue to read with your child each day to strengthen these important early reading behaviors.

In Writers' Workshop, we have completed our unit on Small Moments. We learned how to write narratives that are true about things that we have done or things that happened to us. We learned how to write in small steps by breaking our larger stories up into snapshots, and then adding details to bring our stories to life. We now have moved onto writing "How to" books. This unit allows the students to become the teachers, learning how to write books that will teach their readers how to do something fun and interesting. We are practicing using capital letters at the beginning of sentences, writing complete thoughts, using spaces between our words, using correct letter formation, including transition words such as next, and ending our sentences with punctuation.

For Phonics, we are working on all of our letter sounds, consonants and vowels, as well as blends, and digraphs. We are also working on noticing and using spelling patterns and memorizing our SNAP words, words that we know in a snap! We are working on identifying these words in reading and spelling them correctly in our writing.

First graders have been mathematicians! We have been building numbers, learning the relationship between addition and subtraction within 20, learning how to write equations, and working to solve story problems. To improve our fact fluency, we have been noticing patterns in counting on and back by adding or subtracting 1 or 2, becoming knowledgeable of the ten partners and doubles facts. We have explored many mathematical tools such as the number line, ten frames and math racks.

In Science we took a field trip to the Mystic Aquarium! This field trip allowed the students to explore and learn all about different marine animals, their lives, and habitats. We learned that Jellyfish are not really fish, and so we call them Sea Jellies! The students really enjoyed their time at the aquarium, and we hope that they shared their favorite parts with you at home.

The First Grade Team,
Mrs. Nystrom and Mrs. Robillard

2nd Grade

We have been very busy building a sense of community in our classrooms. We are practicing daily routines, learning how to use materials appropriately and most importantly, getting to know each other! In September, we shared our Hopes and Dreams for second grade and then developed our classroom rules together. We want to build a strong foundation so we can have a year filled with learning and fun! Second grade is a special time for reading and writing! The focus of our Reader's Workshop has been taking charge of your reading! This means working hard to solve tricky words and paying attention to authors craft. We are also building our stamina as independent readers, challenging ourselves to see how long we can read each day! We have just begun our second reading unit on non-fiction or informational text. We are looking forward to learning about interesting topics!

Writer's Workshop started off with narrative writing. We studied master authors for inspiration and ideas. Then wrote our own narrative stories about small moments in our lives. Just as we have moved on to non-fiction in reading, we have done the same in writing.

Our classes have completed the first mathematics investigation called Coins, Number Strings, and Story Problems. This unit lays the groundwork for the mathematics we do all year. The focus is counting by 1's as well as groups of 5 and 10, identifying coins and their values, counting coins with a value less than \$1.00, using what we know to add and subtract, developing fluency with addition and subtraction facts, and understanding and solving a variety of story problems. We are in the middle of our second math investigation on geometry.

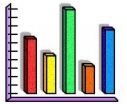
Science in second grade consists of three units. Each class spends a trimester working on a topic. Ask your child which science unit they are studying in class, Solids and Liquids, Insects and Plants or Pebbles, Sand and Silt! We are off to a great start and looking forward to a wonderful year of learning!



3rd Grade

This term in third grade we have been building expectations and routines in all areas of school. In Literacy we have focused on creating productive reading habits and strengthening reading stamina. Our reading work has focused on realistic fiction and mysteries, with the skills of retelling, predicting, envisioning, and character traits.

In Math we focused primarily on concepts of multiplication and division for most of the first term. Students should be fluent in all multiplication and division facts by the end of the year, meaning they should be able to quickly and accurately answer any one-digit multiplication fact they are given. You can help them practice at home. We have recently moved on to graphing and are learning key concepts of bar graphs, pictographs, and line plots.



Our first writing unit focused on using small moments from our own lives and building them into fully developed narrative stories. We are now working on writing persuasive speeches, focusing on a thesis statement about something students have a brave and bold opinion about.

In addition to our core subjects, we will have the privilege of working with the Food Corps program and learning about the garden. In Health, students have focused on hygiene, nutrition, safety, and general self-care.

Please remember as the weather gets colder to wear warm outerwear each day. This includes a thick jacket, hat, gloves, and appropriate footwear. We do go outside for recess twice every day unless weather is severely inclement.

4th Grade

Wow! It is hard to believe that it's already almost 2020! Your children have been so busy adjusting to the social and academic demands of fourth grade.

In writing, fourth graders spent a majority of this term working on realistic fiction stories. This was different and more challenging for students, as they have been writing narrative stories for years. In this first writing unit, students had to base their story on a true event from their lives. They were asked to choose a small moment event from their lives, then adjust it using a fictional character, and possibly changing the details as they saw fit. The published products came out great! We are so proud of them!

Our reading unit this term has focused on characters within fiction text. We finished our first novel, The Tiger Rising, by Kate DiCamillo, and we spent a significant amount of time developing written responses to questions analyzing characters, building interpretations by looking at various story elements, and determining theme. Students have also been building their reading stamina. Keep up the great reading work, fourth graders!

In math this term, we explored multiplication, arrays, factors, and multiples. Students learned about prime and composite numbers, and looked for patterns with those numbers within the 100-chart. Students who do not have their multiplication facts memorized would benefit from practicing these at home.

Our exploration into science and social studies will continue in the new year. This school year, fourth graders will explore soils, rocks and landforms, environments, and circuits and magnetism. In social studies, students will study the regions of the United States, the 50 states, and the American Revolution. We are excited to begin our journey into science and social studies!

Thank you for your support up to this point in the year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any point with questions or concerns. It is easiest to contact either of us through the Remind app or via e-mail.

Yours in Education,
Mrs. Biederka & Mrs. Voland

Hundreds Chart

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

5th Grade

We have had a very busy trimester in 5th grade! In math, we completed units on multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers, order of operations, and volume. Students are now beginning to learn about fractions. In reading, students participated in book clubs with classmates and learned about theme. They are now reading non-fiction texts and learning about text structure. In writing, students celebrated finishing their personal narratives by having an "Author's Tea" in which they shared some of their writing with classmates. They are currently researching a Native American tribe of their choice in order to write a research paper and complete a project. In social studies, students studied early Native American people and their survival. Students focused on text features and comparing and contrasting in their Social Studies textbook. Students have begun to learn about European explorers and will focus on main idea and details, as well as cause and effect. Science classes just finished a unit on mixtures and solutions as they learned about properties of matter and how different substances interact. We are beginning a unit on Earth's movement in space and how this relates to day and night, the seasons, and the moon's phases. Please continue to encourage your child to read 20 minutes every night and to return their homework on time. We are looking forward to a fantastic second trimester!



News from the Art Room!

It has been such an exciting first trimester in the Art Room! Every grade level, K-5, has their art class for 40 minutes each week. So far, students have been either learning, reviewing or building upon a variety of art skills, techniques, and processes from basic to complex. They have been using markers, glue, pencils, crayons, oil pastels, and paint, along with many other media. Students are learning about artists and their work, art vocabulary, and how and why artists do what they do. They are using inspiration and imagination to fuel their creativity- and the results so far are amazing!

Kindergarten Art focuses on basic skills necessary for art. This is done through the use of "art centers". Students move through a variety of centers, each targeting a different skill.

These skills must be developed before they can be put into practice. As students begin to develop skill, additional centers that are more challenging and/or focus on new ones are added. First through fifth grade art builds upon the previous year's learning. You will see your student's artwork becoming more and more complex as they progress to more layered learning. All students will have their artwork showcased at the end of the year Claude Chester Art Show.

Looking forward to trimester two!

~Mrs. Kohary~



News from the Media Center

It's been a busy first trimester in the Library Media Center. Kindergartners have been learning about book care and have also been doing an author study of Dan Santat and Eric Litwin books. 1st grade has been learning about sequels and series books and practicing alphabetical order. 2nd grade spent a lot of time learning how to log into our Chromebooks. They did a great job with that and now we are learning about how to behave safely and respectfully when we are on computers. 3rd graders were introduced to the library catalog and had a lot of fun looking up books! We are now working on learning the different categories of the Dewey Decimal System. 4th graders have become master users of the library catalog. 5th graders have been working on a collaborative creative project using Google Docs and Google Slides.

Students have been doing a great job remembering their books on library day. If they do forget they are still able to select a book during library time, and I hold it aside for them for 1 day giving them time to return the old book. With vacation coming up it's a good opportunity to look around for any library books that might be missing. Slips for missing books have been printed and sent home this week. Please help your child look for any missing materials.

It's been a great first trimester, and I'm looking forward to 2 more great ones!

Miss Fargo



With Winter fast approaching, it's almost time for our annual string festival concert! Our returning 5th grade strings students will be performing alongside the other returning strings members from all of the Groton elementary schools! Following their performance will be some selections from the middle school and high school string programs. It is going to be an incredible night filled with amazing talent and wonderful music! Please come show your support on December 19th at Fitch High School at 6:30.

We hope to see you there!

-Leo Kasle Orchestra Director – S.B. Butler, Charles Barnum, Claude Chester



Congratulations to the our PUPs!



Septembers PUPS

Respect- Treat others with respect,
be tolerant of differences, use good
manner, use kind words and actions

Charlie Marshall-Worthy
Sophia Thomas Shaymae Likbiri
Beau Doyle Raphael Manuel
Connor Rodriguez Zoe Serrano
Robert Cabanban
Andre Gonzalez Pothier
Xavier Gonzalez Pothier
Jowell Toro Sanchez Mia Vazquez
Zyasiah Henton Ruldahe Andre
Jayana Johnson Alysia Brown
Tyler Young Elijah Lopez



October PUPS

Responsibility- Do what you are
supposed to do, always do your best,
use self-control, think before you act,
be accountable for your choices

Karter Hinkson Nathan Mandile
Caden Lee-Fry Krisha Patel
Jannette Perez-Estronza
Skyla Fernandez Peyton Beeney
Sophia Collazo Mackenzie Butler
Katelynn Mitsko Elise Peterson
Elise Peterson Unity Claxton
Yanelkys Aguilar-Quinones
Danasia Knight Madison Tousley
Shwet Patel Brandon Duyan
Mylah Tira Deriel Perez Soto
Tamarian Blackman Marley Newman
Carmiana Prieto Canales Isaias Trabal



November PUPS

Fairness- Play by the rules, take
turns and share, be open-minded,
listen to others

Marie Rosos Claire Nicolas
Raelynn Fitzpatrick
Z'yeinn Johnson-Rivera
Amari Nicolas
Anabella Velasco
Ezabela Periolan Carlee Robbins
Leo Haro-Saavedra
George Wyeth Brandon Soriano
Kevin Pinelo Lemus
Robian Velazquez
Michaela Victorino



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December 19—Kindergarten Gingerbread day
(10am-11am)

December 20— Early Dismissal

December 23-January 1—No school

January 14—Early Dismissal

January 20—No School,

Martin Luther King Day

January 27—PUPs to Bridge

February 11—Early Dismissal

February 17 & 18—No School

February 24—PUPs field trip to Bridge



SPIRIT WEEK 12/16-12/20:

Dec.16—Silly Seasonal Socks

Dec. 17—Candy Cane Day!
Wear Red & White

Dec. 18- Winter Wonderland—
Wear Scarf, Mittens, Hats

Dec. 19-Mix and Match Holi-
day colors

Dec. 20—Polar Express
Pajama Day! (NO SLIPPERS
PLEASE.)

