

# Bethany Community School



## April Happenings

### Read Across America



### Kindergarten

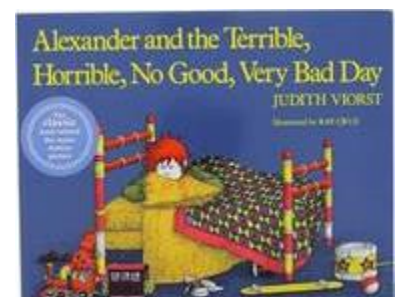
As a culminating activity to our dental health unit, the kindergartners had a great visit from Dr. Maxwell and her assistant Mrs. Rizzuti. After listening to a book about what to expect during a dental visit, the children learned how to properly brush their teeth. They also discussed what they need to do to maintain a healthy smile. The children were thrilled to get new toothbrushes too!

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the Kindergarten classes went on a field trip to the CT Children's Museum in New Haven. The museum is huge and has seven different rooms representing the eight multiple intelligences of Howard Gardner (musical, logical-mathematical, interpersonal, spatial, intrapersonal, bodily-kinesthetic, linguistic, and naturalist). The children had the opportunity to engage in many activities including: playing and making musical instruments, assembling a gear train, writing letters, building with blocks, signing feelings, acting out books, reciting books, and looking through magnifiers. It was such a wonderful and educational trip and it brought out the strengths in all of the children.



### First Grade

The first grade has been preparing for our field trip to Lyman Auditorium. We will be seeing the play, *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, based on the book by Judith Viorst. To get ready to see the performance we are doing some close reading of the book. We are studying cause and effect with this story as well as putting ourselves in the characters shoes. We wrote about a time when we had a really bad day and how we felt.



## Second Grade

Second graders have been reading and analyzing different versions of fairy tales from a wide variety of cultures. We learned that there are countless versions of the beloved tale of *Cinderella*. Each version tells its own story, yet sticks to the main message of the traditional story. Some of the books students have enjoyed



are *Cendrillon- A Caribbean Cinderella*, *Prince Cinders*, *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters- An African Tale*, and James Marshall's *Cinderella*.

In writer's workshop, students have become experts at expressing their point of view through opinion pieces. Each day we are presented with a highly debated topic such as, "Should we have a longer recess?" "Should there be homework?" "Should we have a class pet?" We have worked on brainstorming pros

and cons for each question and learned to organize our thoughts into a graphic organizer using the O.R.E.O. strategy- **O**pinion, **R**easons, **E**xamples, **O**pinion. Students are working hard to choose strong reasons and come up with meaningful examples to further support their thinking.

In math, second graders have been collecting data and representing this data in picture graphs and bar graphs. Students enjoy taking surveys of things such as favorite ice cream and favorite pizza topping and creating their own graphs to represent their findings.

## Third Grade

Old Man Winter couldn't rob third grade of 'Read Across BCS!' Originally scheduled for early March but postponed due to a snow day, our third graders participated in Read Across BCS on Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The students enjoyed having a guest reader from the community come in and read to the classes! It was a wonderful celebration of great literature! We'd like to thank all of the community members who volunteered their time to read to our students. You had such a significant impact. Our third graders are currently working hard in their mystery book clubs. The rich dialogue and use of detective words is impressive. Ask them what an alibi is! We are practicing our persuasion skills in our opinion writing unit and initiated this unit with a debate on rats (are they helpful or are they harmful). It's on to fraction work in math class. We will be working with halves, thirds, quarters, sixths and eighths! The third grade students are also super excited to have access to netbooks in our classrooms and are using them daily.



## Fourth Grade

Our biome bonanza was a huge success! The students were very excited to share their completed projects with peers, friends, and family. Students did a wonderful job presenting the information they researched about their animals and the biomes in which they live. Everyone was impressed with the construction of the animals which went along with the presentations.

Fourth grade classes traveled to the Salmon River to release the salmon we have raised. Students have learned about the life cycle of the salmon. They are able to identify each stage of the cycle including; egg, alevin, fry, parr, smolt, young adult, and adult. Students know that the salmon use their sense of smell to return to their natal stream where the entire process begins anew.



## Fifth Grade

In 5th grade, we have three main topics that we have been working on: reading, writing and math. In reading, we combined some writing by making our research paper. It is based off our historical fiction books, but later on goes into our [own](#) interests. [Some](#) example [topics](#) are Colonial weapons, Colonial childhood, Pearl Harbor, the Civil Rights Movement and many American heroes. In addition to writing an informational paper, we are using, Prezi, Google Slides, poster boards, or Microsoft Publisher. In math, we have been working on dividing whole numbers and decimals. First, we started with dividing a whole number by a whole number, then went on to dividing a whole number by a decimal, and finally a decimal by a whole number. The challenge was dividing a decimal by a decimal, but we got through it! This is what we are doing in 5th grade!

*By Olivia Frankiewicz*

## Sixth Grade

Cosmic Cultures: Revised date! Our next field trip will be Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Air Museum in Windsor, CT. Ms. Wolcott will be supervising this trip. Permission slips will go out prior to vacation.

AMS visits BCS! - On March 26<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Dellinger and staff from Amity Middle School visited our sixth graders to give them a brief orientation into seventh grade. The students asked questions about scheduling, class electives, and more! The middle school also hosted a sixth grade parent information session on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you AMS for all of your support!

Xanadu- On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the sixth graders went to Amity Middle School to watch the school's musical production of Xanadu. Our talented former seventh and eighth graders wowed us! The play was a great success. Congratulations AMS!

DARE: Our DARE classes are coming to an end. Our last class will take place on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The focus of that lesson will be Internet safety. The sixth graders are preparing for the graduation on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to our DARE officers for all of your support!

#### Reminders:

DARE graduation- 5/1/15

Night of the Arts- 5/14/15

NYC Field Trip- 5/21/15 \*more info to follow

Rock Cats baseball game- 5/28/15 \*more info to follow

## Krivda's Korner

From the desk of Diane Krivda, Director of Curriculum and Learning

Art education today is much more than choosing colors and free drawing. Today's art teachers ask students to think critically, observe the fine details of pieces, make inferences on mood, and create individual art work based on shapes, patterns, textures, and yes - colors. Students engage in deep, sustained studies of a limited number of works of art. They analyze the focal point of an image and how the artist brought it to the forefront. Questions such as; "How was the concept of space portrayed in the piece?" and "What time of day is depicted?" are probed and discussed. Students learn to model skills in their own creations. As you can see, art education is a powerful tool to develop and refine skills of observation, interpretation, and expressive capabilities using different media. Mrs. Kevorkian works daily on immersing the children in many art forms and develops an appreciation of art from around the world and different cultures.

The children will have their pieces proudly displayed throughout the school during our *Night of the Arts*, on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Kevorkian is already in the process of showcasing the talent of all our students. Please come and join us that evening from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Additional reading: Elliot Eisner's *10 Lesson's the Arts Teach* <http://www.arteducators.org/advocacy/10-lessons-the-arts-teach>