



Charles E. Walters School

Parent Newsletter

Erin Gibson


Assistant Principal

Brian Foster

Principal

Eileen Wilson

Assistant Principal

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		December			1	2 CEW Winter Wonderland 10am-2pm
3	4	5	6	7 Hanukkah Begins BOE Meeting/LHS/ 7PM	8	9
10	11	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Half Day Parent Teacher Conferences </div>		14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 BOE Meeting/LHS/ 7PM First Day of Winter	22	23
24	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> Winter Recess – Schools Closed </div>					

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Kindergarten December News



Children are working on sound symbol relationships and letter formation of lowercase letters. We will be finishing our lowercase letters by the end of December. Please review these letters and sounds with your child.

We have been reading independently from our book baggies and listening to books to promote a love of literature. In Reader's workshop, we will continue to learn about "Reading Superpowers" and word attack strategies.

Students will continue to orally tell their stories and attempt to write the sounds they hear in words. We encourage the students to say a word slowly, like a turtle, and stretch it like a snake in order to write the sounds they hear.

In Math, we will be comparing numbers to 10, modeling, counting, writing, and finding ways to make and order 10. The children will also study greater than, less than, same as, and compare sets and numbers to 10.

Students will be learning about various holidays and traditions.



C.E.W. Does it R.I.G.H.T.

Respect

Integrity

Good Behavior

Helping Others

Teamwork

Helping others is the theme of the month.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be held on December 12th and 13th in the afternoon - and in the evening on the 14th. Students dismiss at noon both days. Conferences are 15 minutes in length. Report Cards can be viewed through the Parent Portal only. Please try to log on to your Parent Portal prior to conferences.

Mark Your Calendar

December 12 & 13

Half Days - Dismissal at Noon

December 25 - January 1

Schools are closed



Reminders:

- *Please read nightly with your child.
- *Please learn to zipper, button, tie shoes and put on mittens and gloves!
- *Please check and empty your child's book bag every night!

Please be sure to review and reinforce skills over the winter recess and read every day! Please practice your sight words daily.

1st Grade December News



Reading:

Students are growing as readers and being exposed to a variety of books. We use decodable books to practice word solving skills and fluency that have known phonics patterns. In shared reading students are reading a book as a class and working on identifying important vocabulary and story elements such as characters, setting, problem and solution. In first grade we are practicing retelling our stories using transition words first, then, next and last. We will continue to practice our word lists and reading our independent level books in school and at home.

Social Studies:

The children will explore the various holidays that take place this month, including Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. They will also discuss customs, celebrations, and traditions within their own families. Students will also be starting Unit 2: We are Family. In this unit students will learn Families are similar and different, Families grow and change over time. In every family, members have rules and responsibilities and help one another.

Math:

Our first grade students will continue with addition and subtraction concepts up to 20. Students will apply addition, subtraction and problem solving strategies to solve story problems. We will continue with math talks and exploring different ways to show a number.

Writing:

We will continue with *Informational Writing: How-Tos*. This unit of study helps students write procedures for completing a task. Our first grade writers will write instructions that illustrate steps in sequence, reread and revise and use words such as "first, next, then, and last. Children love to be experts and write steps for all the things they know how to do.

Science:

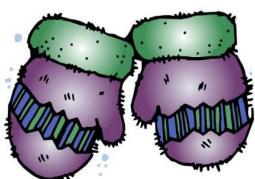
This month the students will be working on the changes in season. We will be discussing winter and the students will be able to identify and use new vocabulary words. Students will also be investigating snow through different activities.

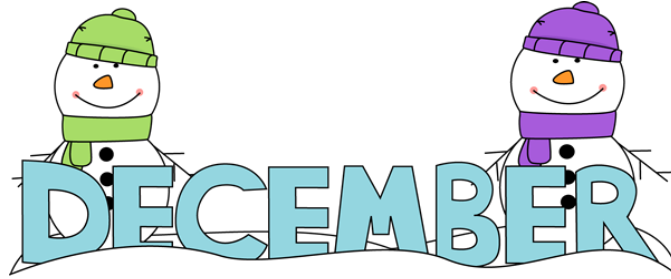
Health:

Burr! It's cold outside! Students are learning about proper attire for the winter weather. Students are also learning about the importance of sleep and how it affects your day. Lastly, we are learning about how we feel when we are being safe.

Foundations:

Students are continuously learning trick words and they are becoming accountable for identifying and spelling decodable words with special patterns. We are noticing and sounding out words with digraphs, bonus letters, glued sounds, and the baseword/suffix-s. Students will be introduced to the complex glued sounds of -ang, -ing, -ong, -ung, -ank, -ink, -onk, and -unk.





Second Grade Newsletter

Reading

In reader's workshop, students will continue studying characters and their traits. They are learning the words and actions match the traits. As the unit ends, we will start our non fiction unit.

Writing

In writer's workshop, students will finish learning about narrative writing. They will start to work on writing about nonfiction topics. They will be using checklists and partnerships to revise and edit. They will also make their writing stronger by adding interesting leads, comparisons, and illustrations that really teach a reader.

Math

In math, students will continue to work on solving 2-digit and 3-digit addition equations. Making a model (drawing) to regroup ones and tens is a helpful strategy. Using flashcards to review simple addition facts is also very beneficial. Students will apply problem solving skills and the concepts we have learned to solve a variety of word problems.



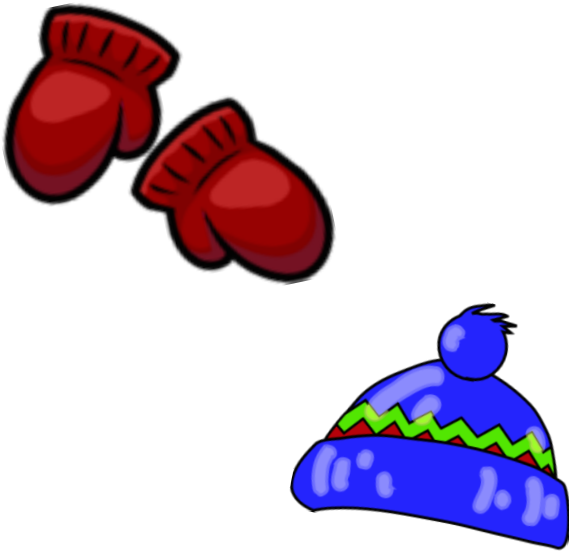
Science

We will be finishing the Mystery Science Unit on the properties and states of matter. Students will be engaging in hands-on activities in the classroom.

Social Studies

In social studies, students are learning about what a community is and comparing and contrasting rural, urban, and suburban life. We will also discuss holidays around the world and how other cultures may celebrate.

3rd Grade December News



Math:

We will be continuing our work on using different methods of solving multiplication problems as well as continuing to develop strategies for solving multi-step word problems. All classes will work on developing math fact fluency through the use of flashcards, culminating with Math Madness Competitions.

Social Studies:

We will begin learning about countries, starting with the United States. We will learn more about government, geography, flags, seals and symbols as well as culture.



Reading/Writing:

We will be working on nonfiction units in both of these content areas. In reading, students will navigate nonfiction texts utilizing a box and bullets structure; this will allow us to determine the main idea of a text through the use of supporting details. Additionally, we will work on collecting information on a variety of topics for use in the creation of non-fiction books.

Science:

Students will continue to learn about weather and climate through our Mystery Science Program. This unit develops the idea that by paying careful attention to clouds, wind, and other weather clues around us, we can predict the daily weather and make sense of why places on earth look and feel the way they do.

4th Grade December News

Social Studies:

Students will be learning about famous explorers, including Henry Hudson, Samuel de Champlain, and Giovanni da Verrazzano, who have impacted the geography of New York State through exploration and discovery. Then, we will be learning about how the 13 British colonies were formed and what life was like during that time.



Math:

Students will use the strategies they learned about multiplying by 1-digit numbers and apply those strategies to multiplying by 2-digit numbers.

Health:

Students will be continuing to learn about managing stress, conflict resolution, and their growing and changing bodies.

Science:

Students will explore energy! Students will investigate how energy is stored, how it can make objects move, and how collisions transfer energy between objects. They will also construct devices that convert energy from one form into another, such as heat into motion and electricity into light.

Reading:

Students will be learning how to use non-fiction books and articles to research different types of extreme weather. Students will compare and contrast two different types of extreme weather.



Writing:

Students will be learning how to write a persuasive essay. Students will choose a topic that they are passionate about, and learn how to support their viewpoint with relevant reasons and examples.

Physical Education

Special Areas



What's happening in primary Physical Education?

For the month of December, the students will be working on many different units. We will begin the month with Jump Rope skills, following that we will move to Yoga and Team Games. Students will learn many valuable skills such as teamwork, communication and competition. With the excitement of the holidays the students will be engaged in high energy competitive games.

Happy Holidays!

~Mrs. Yovino & Mrs. Ammirati



What's happening in Secondary Physical Education?

Well it is the holiday season and what better way to celebrate the holidays than with, "Scooter Highway". For the rest of the month until our break we will be working on scooter highway in the gymnasium. During class students will be learning the basic rules of driving on roads while having fun visiting many different centers. Some of these centers and activities will include ropes, cargo nets, game centers, and fitness centers.

-Mr. Riccio & Mrs. Ammirati

MUSIC



Kindergarten will be working on identifying the same/ different patterns in music to associate big beats like quarter notes and small beats like eighth notes.

2nd Grade will continue using ostinato in music. Students will also be working on understanding rhythmic phrases and preparing rondos. Students will also be working on building their solfege vocabulary.

3rd Grade will be working on labeling different instrument families. students will use a variety of songs to understand the timbre and physical characteristics of each instrument. students will also begin to prepare canons/rounds Students will also be working on building their solfege vocabulary.

4th Grade will be working on labeling and understanding extended form within a piece of music. Students will be using a variety of pieces as well as instruments to introduce this topic. Students will also be reviewing their music staff note names.

Orchestra students will be continuing to work on playing notes on the D string but will also be adding their A string notes to their musical vocabulary. Students will also continue their belt test songs in preparation to using the bow in January. Please continue weekly practice at home

-Ms. Saladino

K-1 - Students will be introduced to the Story of the Nutcracker . Students will be enjoying this classical ballet by Tchaikovsky through movement games, instrument playing, and melodic studies. Students will enjoy the parachute games, partner dances, and singalongs that accompany this unit. Students will also focus on musical activities related to snow and holiday themes.

2-3- Students will review aspects of the Nutcracker Suite. Students will be introduced to famous winter music such as Linus and Lucy. Students will perform movement activities to learn the form of this piece. Students will also be exposed to various holiday music related to Christmas, and Hanukkah.

4th grade- Students will continue to learn about The Nutcracker Suite. Students will be enjoying this classical ballet by Tchaikovsky through movement games, instrument playing, and melodic studies. Students will hear the story of the Nutcracker and also the story of the Nutcracker in Harlem- which will feature a jazz version of the Nutcracker by Duke Ellington. Students will compare and contrast the two stories. Students will be playing the bucket drums along with the Nutcracker in Harlem story.

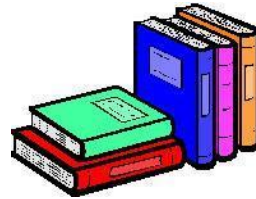
Band:

Students will be focusing on learning the note names on the staff. Students will identify the different letters on each line and space, as well as various rhythmic values. Students are encouraged to practice their note naming flashcards in addition to their practice sessions. This will build their confidence in the program.

-Mrs. Pilocane

Special Areas Cont'd

LIBRARY



Hello everybody!

In the IC Library, our students had a fun month of learning how to navigate Sora, picking out new books, and getting more comfortable with the book check out process. We also moved away from looking at nonfiction text features to dive deeper into the story elements that make up fiction books. Additionally, we read books that focused on Thanksgiving and Native American heritage.

In December, we will be continuing our exploration into fiction books. Second grade students will be closely reading picture books to identify elements like characters, setting, and theme. Third grade students will be learning how to recognize and explain story elements that they discover in books they have previously read, and fourth grade students will be using story elements as a guide to create their own stories.

Have a great month!

Kindergarten

In November, we finished the first series in our Mo Willems author/illustrator study, *The Knuffle Bunny!* In December, we will kick the fun up a notch by introducing our next two series, *Gerald & Piggie* and *The Pigeon!* We will discuss the different characters and settings in these series and compare them to each other by asking what is similar and what is different? Students will get to vote on their favorite character in our author/illustrator study and when we return in the new year, we will do a guided drawing of them!

1st Grade

For the past several weeks, we've had our detective hats on as we worked our way through a wordless picture book trilogy, written by Aaron Becker (*Journey, Quest, Return*). In December, we will be working on four major story elements, we will review characters and setting, while putting an emphasis on problem and solution in each of our stories. We will explore these story elements with a series of books by Hans de Beer, *The Little Polar Bear*. Get your passports ready because Lars is going to take us on a journey all around the world! He will show us new places, introduce us to new animals and plants, and we will explore all of the things he shows us through a Google Earth virtual tour.

Special Areas Cont'd

ART



Grade 2:

This month, second graders will be continuing with the element of art, color. They will create a step-by-step drawing of an Among Us character and color it using two primary color crayons to create a secondary color of their choice. This time, students will be introduced on how to properly use watercolor paint and brushes for the background.

Grade 3:

This month, third graders will be continuing with color theory. We will dive into color while learning about the art movement, Pop Art. The students will understand basic color schemes: primary, secondary, and complementary colors as seen in Pop Art. They will also look at and produce art in the style of Wayne Thiebaud using a basic color scheme.

Grade 4:

This month, fourth graders will continue with color theory while learning about the art movement, Pop Art. We will review the color wheel as well as what colors are primary, secondary, and complementary. Students will produce artwork in the style of pop artist, Roy Lichtenstein. Using onomatopoeia, we will learn how to create block/bubble letters and create drop shadows to make it more three-dimensional. Students will decide what color scheme to use to best represent their sound word.

Ms. Kim Leahy
Art Teacher
CEW and Ridge Elementary

Wellness Corner

Ms. Indelicato – School Counselor

Ms. Harmon – School Social Worker

Ms. Castelli- School Psychologist

Mr. Zipper- TA

The school year is in full swing and believe it or not the holidays are upon us!! Our Longwood Character Adventure is on Saturday, December 9th at 8am-12pm at the Middle School. This is a *SPECTACULAR* event that everyone thoroughly enjoys!

Also, do not forget CEW's own Winter Wonderland on December 2nd from 10am-2pm. Another event that the children are sure to enjoy!

Parent conferences are on December 12th and the 13th. Children have half days on these dates! Be sure that you have scheduled your appointment with your child's teacher!

Have a safe and happy holiday Season!



CEW DOES IT R.I.G.H.T.!

Happy Holidays!



HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION

December 2023

As the days get shorter and colder we are now getting ourselves completely ready for the Winter Season to begin. In these winter months we want to ensure that our children stay healthy & warm. Please be sure that you send your children to school dressed appropriately for the weather. Items such as coats, boots, hats & gloves may be needed. The students will be continuing to go outside for recess weather permitting so we recommend warm layers.

December 5th - 11th is National handwashing awareness week, with the cold and flu season upon us it is always good practice to teach / show our students how to wash their hands PROPERLY.

**Wash your hands: When they are dirty, before eating & after using the toilet!
Cough or Sneeze into your arm - NOT- your hands**

**How: Wet your hands, Soap-Lather-Scrub for TWO "Happy Birthday" Songs!!
Rinse and Dry your hands**

December it is important to remember safety with our toys and gifts. Be sure to read all warning labels and age recommendations as some items contain small parts or other items that may not be appropriate for all ages or abilities.

We wish you a Wonderful, Safe, Happy and Healthy Holiday Season



FUN SNOWMEN FROM YOUR HEALTH OFFICE!!!!

MATERIALS

- [White glue](#)
- [Watercolor paper](#) (or white poster board/cardstock)
- [Small beads](#), [sequins](#), and/or [googly eyes](#) (optional)
- Watercolor paints (either in a [palette](#) or [liquid watercolors](#) if you have them)
- Salt (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

Draw your snow picture

Create your snow picture by squeezing the glue out in your desired design or picture. We made snowmen, snowflakes, snow-covered Christmas trees, and more.

Note: Toddlers and young preschoolers might find it easier to squeeze the mini glue bottles. If your child doesn't want to squeeze at all, you can provide a pot of glue and a paint brush and let them paint the glue on.

Decorate your snowman

Press the beads, sequins, and googly eyes into the glue to decorate the snowman, Christmas tree, snowflake, or abstract design (optional).

Let dry

Let the glue dry completely. Ours dried overnight but it might be more or less time for you depending on how enthusiastically or thickly the glue was applied.

Paint with watercolors

Paint around and over the glue picture with watercolor paints. We found it easier to paint the paper with water first (in sections) then apply the watercolor paint.

If you like a more snow-like effect – in a night sky for example – then sprinkle salt over the still-wet watercolor paint.

Let your painting dry completely

Let the paint dry, then brush off any salt. Then admire and display your wintry picture!

