

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Volume 2, Track 3

CHESTER

Elementary School Newsletter



UPDATES:

12/8: Financial Literacy Event!
Distribution of *The Nickels Dimes, and Dollars* Book and the launch of our Money Wise Program in grades 3 & 4!

12/12 & 12/13: WINTER GIFT FAIR! (See pg. 2 for Schedule)

12/15: Spelling Bee Competition @ 2:15 pm. 18 students from grades 2-5 will compete!!

12/18 & 12/19: Mrs. Provost will teach a Gr. 5 Cookie Decorating Class from 3:30-5:00 pm!

12/19 & 1/2: Hands-on Microgreen Planting Program & partnership with Blandford's Marsy Belle Farms begins! Grade 1 students will engage in this 2 week program first. Additional grade levels will participate at a later date!

12/22: Half day for K-5 students! 12/22 is a Friday, so there is no school for Pre-k students!

12/25-1/1: Winter Break! Students return on 1/2/24!

1/9 PTO Meeting at 4:30 pm! Virtual and In-Person access!

LET'S CELEBRATE:





WINTER GIFT FAIR

December 12

No Pre-K morning shoppers

9:15-9:55 am- Grade 4

10:00-10:40 am- Grade 3

10:45-11:25 am- K

11:35 am-12:20 pm- Grade 5

12:50-1:33 pm- Grade 2

2:20-3:05 pm- Grade 1

3:05-3:30 pm- Pre-K

December 13

8:45-9:30 am- Pre-K

9:30-9:50 am- Grade 4

9:55-10:15 am - Grade 3

10:20-10:40 am- Grade 1

10:45-11:05 am- K

11:40 am-12:00 pm- Grade 2

12:00-12:20 pm- Grade 5



CHESTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S SPELLING BEE CONTEST



12/15/23 AT 2:15 PM

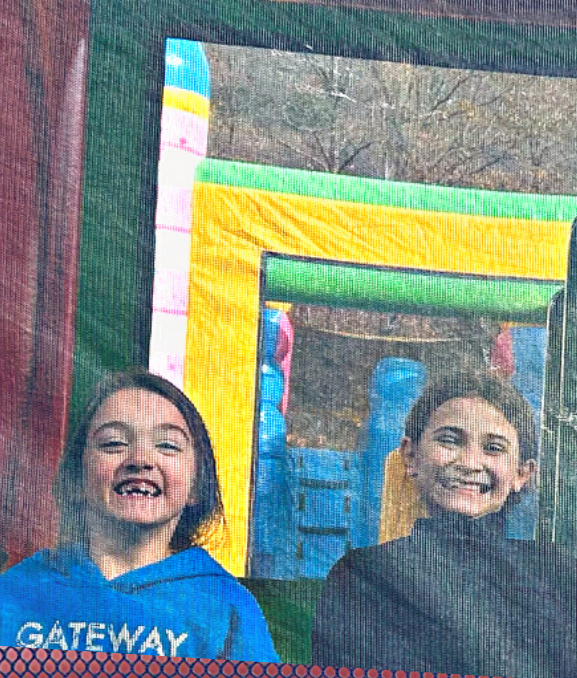
**Students in grades
2-5 will compete
in our first ever
spelling bee
competition!**

**Trophies will be
awarded for First,
Second, and Third
Place Winners!**

**Trophies
will also be
awarded
to the two
students
who display
the Best
Sportsmanship
during the
competition.**





















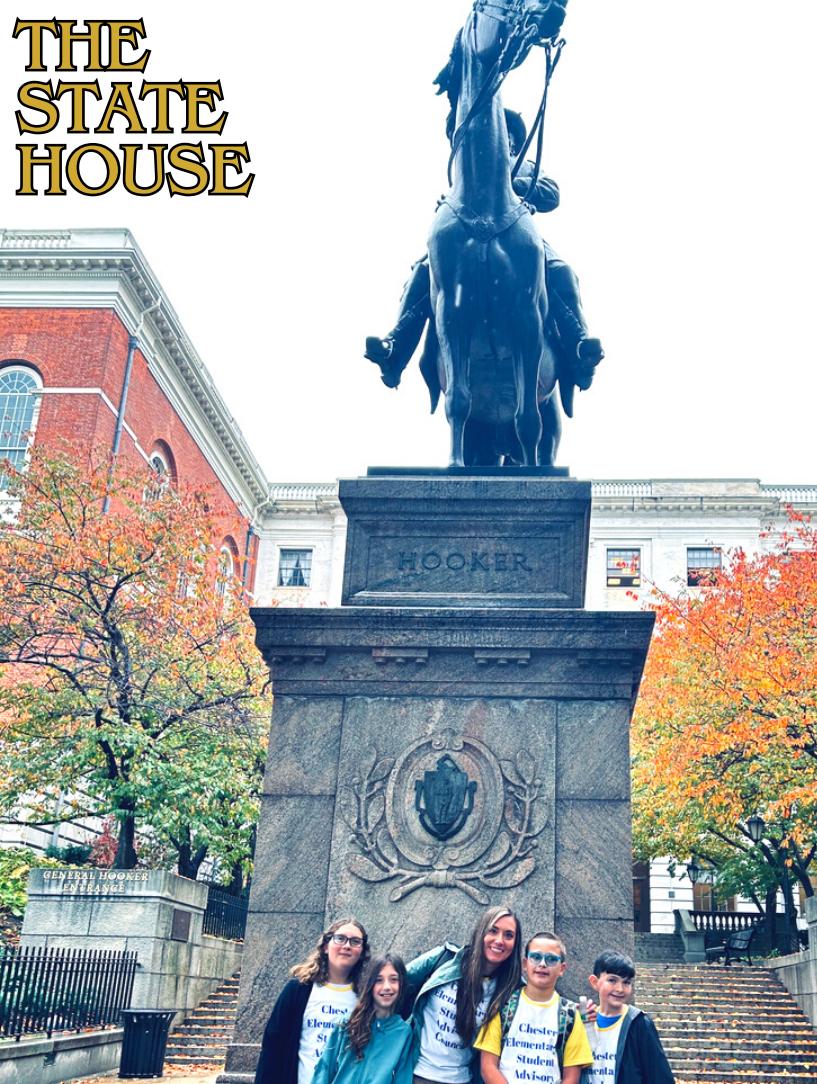


**OUR HYDROPONIC
VEGETABLES
WERE HARVESTED
& ENJOYED FOR
SCHOOL LUNCH
ON 11/17! THE
SOUP FEATURED
OUR BOK CHOY &
SWISS CHARD &
THE SANDWICHES
WERE TOPPED
WITH OUR
LETTUCES!**



Published: 11/1/2023 4:01:42 PM

THE STATE HOUSE





ADAMS • DANE • QUINCY • J. O. ADAMS • WEBSTER • SUMNER • WILSON • ANDREW • CHOATE

THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

1758 - JOHN PEAKE COOK OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO

1779 - JOHN ADAMS, SAMUEL JOHNSON DRAFTING THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION

MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC REPENTANCE ACTION IN THE WITCHCRAFT TRIAL

1779 - JOHN ADAMS, SAMUEL JOHNSON DRAFTING THE MASSACHUSETTS CONSTITUTION

JOHN F. KENNEDY: SPOKE FROM THIS ROTUNDA TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ON JANUARY 8, 1961, HEARTY WELCOMES FROM THE STATE TO THE HIGH COURT AND TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT. HE STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. HE STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. HE STATED THAT THE STATE GOVERNMENT WAS COMMITTED TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

1788-JOHN HANCOCK
OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS TO

PROPOSING THE ADDITION
THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION



JOHN F. KENNEDY SPOKE FROM THIS ROSTRUM
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL COURT ON JANUARY 9, 1961

I carry with me from this state to that high
and lovely office to which I now succeed more
than fond memories of firm friendships. The
enduring qualities of Massachusetts... will
not be and could not be forgotten in the
nation's executive mansion.
Courage-integrity-judgment-dedication-
these are the historic qualities of the Bay

State and the Bay State-the qualities which
this state has consistently seen to this chamber
on Beacon Hill here in Boston and its Capitol
Hill back in Washington.
And these are the qualities which, with God's
help, this son of Massachusetts hopes will
characterize our government's conduct in
the four coming years that lie ahead.

JOHN F. KENNEDY 35th PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES





Grade 2 students studied ancient Greek civilization, which has had a large impact on our modern-day world; it is evident in our language, government, art, architecture & more. Students learned about the city-states of Sparta & Athens. They learned about democracy & Ancient Greek Gods & philosophers too! To culminate this ELA knowledge unit, Mrs. Gagnon & Dr. D transformed gym class into the Olympic games for their students!





was the only one they would encounter as they climbed, because Gobble Mountain was never used as a farm.

After climbing the first rise, one child pointed out a dead bird on a log and everyone gathered around. Higby asked if the students knew about raptors — birds that hunt other birds. One student said he had heard about velociraptors. Higby said dinosaurs are related to birds.

Asked what to do if encountering a bear, which was unlikely with the group of approximately 25, Higby said carrying a whistle in the woods is the best deterrent.

The ascent stopped at an old emery mine. Higby told the pupils that Chester is very famous for its emery, mined for grinding and polishing. He also warned them to look at but not explore the mine, which was dangerous and deep.

He showed them a half-polished emery rock that he had brought with him, and let them hold it. He said what makes emery special is the mineral corundum.

"Otherwise, it's just an iron rock," he said, and demonstrated a magnet sticking to the iron in the rock.

After a break and a snack near the mine, it was time to turn around and hike back downhill.

Overall, the reviews were very positive, with one student spontaneously saying this was the best field trip ever, and others saying that they had never been on such a long hike. Others talked about adventures they had with their families in the woods. Even the doubters were won over.

"I thought it was going to be bad, but I changed my mind," said third grader Ellie Drenen.

"I thought they were an intrepid bunch. They asked really good questions," Higby said at the end of the hike. One thing for certain is the students at Chester Elementary are bound to look at the mountain across the street with new understanding and appreciation.



Second and third graders climb one of several rises on the Beacon trail to Gobble Mountain in Chester.

Reminder Publishing photo by Amy Porter

Kids learn history, geology on mountain hike

By Amy Porter

aporter@thereminder.com

CHESTER — Second and third graders at Chester Elementary School went on a Nov. 1 field trip hike led by local geologist James Higby to Gobble Mountain, which they see every day right across the street from their school.

The field trip had been suggested by a parent, who asked Higby if he would share his knowledge about the woods with the students. For some, it was their first real hike in the woods.

In preparation, Principal Vanna Maffuccio used Title I federal funds to order compasses for the students, and the trip started with a lesson in the classroom by Higby on how to use them.

"The most important thing is to know how to use a compass," Higby said. The students talked about a mnemonic for the

directions on the compass, "Never Eat Soggy Waffles," for north, east, south and west.

He told the students to hold it flat, and wait for the needle to stop moving. He said a compass is a magnet, and asked the second and third graders why it points north.

After several guesses, one student said it was because of the magnetic force in the north pole. Higby nodded and said the earth itself is a big magnet that contains iron, and the compass responds to the magnetic pole in the north.

Faculty members who accompanied the hike — Heather Cabral, Julie Gagnon, Elizabeth Hamaoui and Maddy Scott — made sure the students had water, a snack, comfortable shoes, tall socks and warm enough clothes, although the weather was mild, with temperatures in the 50s. One girl added a crown and butterfly wings to her ensemble.

A Chester police officer was stationed

on Middlefield Road to make sure the group was safe crossing the road to the entrance of Beacon Trail on Gobble Mountain. One student immediately found a garter snake, to the delight of everyone except for a couple of the teachers.

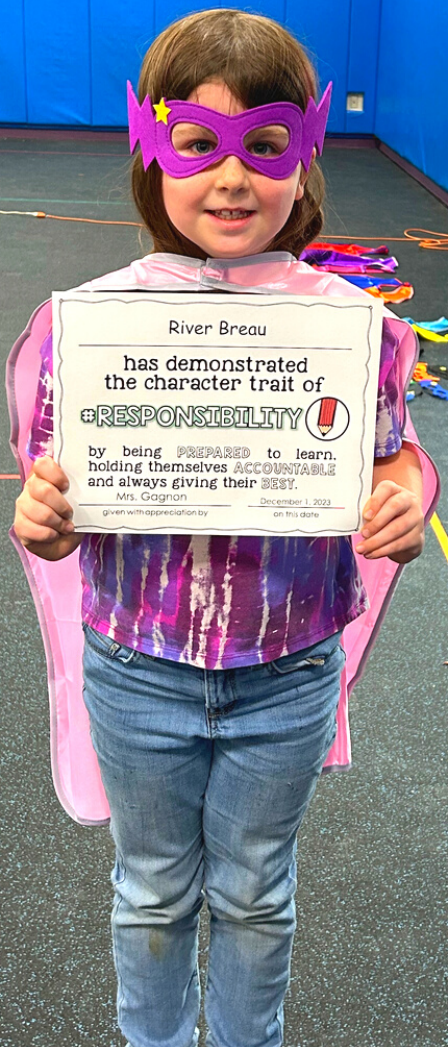
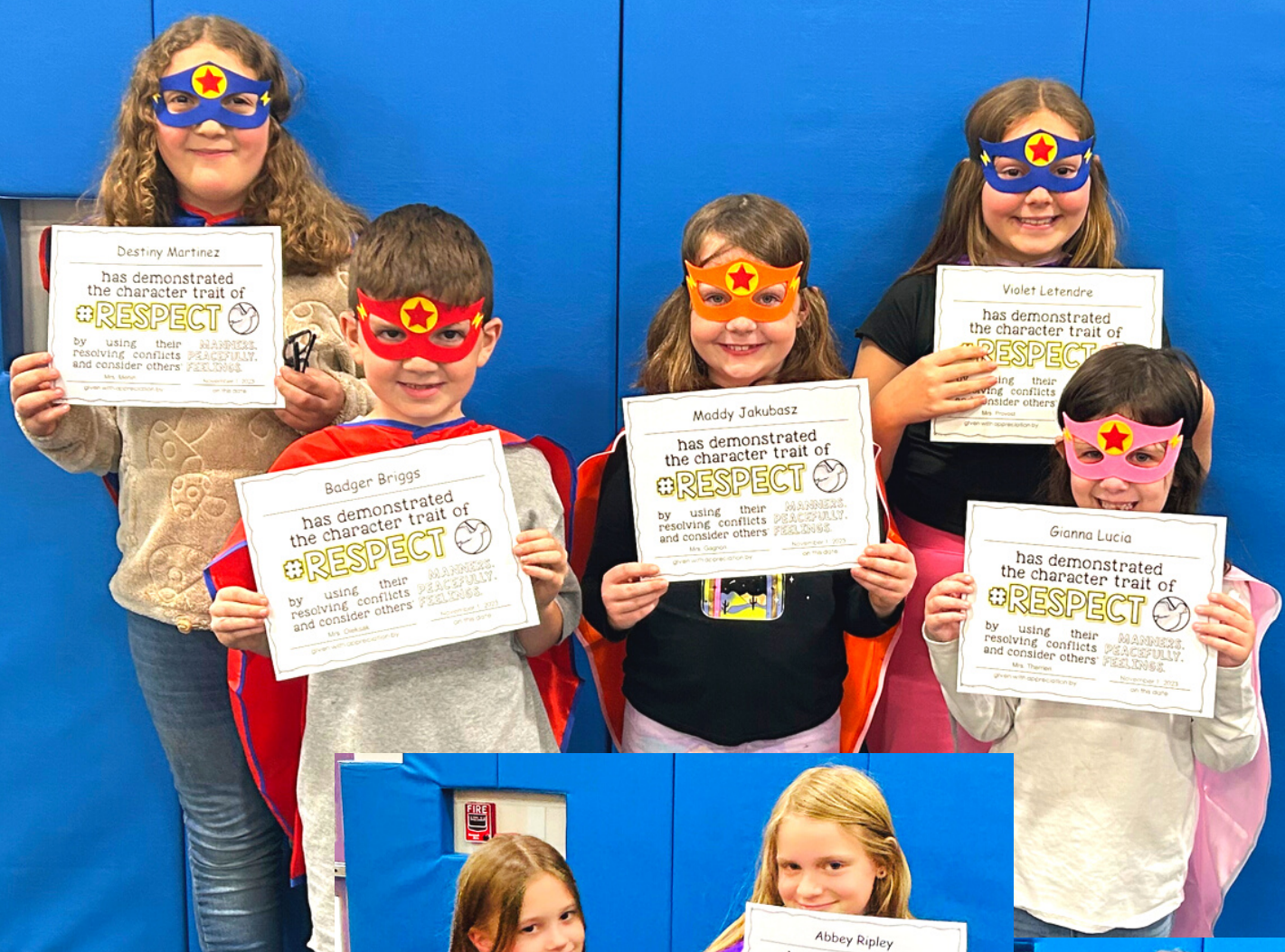
Higby showed them the map of the trail, which looked a little like a snake, and they used their compasses to see in which direction they would be going. He recommended always carrying a map and compass, because trails are not always well marked. He told the group he hoped to bring them about halfway up the 1,000-foot climb, which gets steeper towards the top.

Not far into the trail, Higby pointed out a stone wall, which he said was 150 to 200 years old, older than the trees around it. He said stone walls were built by farmers as they cleared their fields, and this



Above, Abigail Therrien shows geologist James Higby where they are on the trail. Above right, from left, Chester Elementary School second and third graders Logan Swendsen, River Breau, Elliot St. Jean and Daxter Hughes show the compasses they were given by the school for their Gobble Mountain hike. Elliot points north.







After reading "Balloons Over Broadway", a true story about Tony Sarg, the puppeteer who created the first giant balloons in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade, our PreK-2 students & staff organized Chester's very own Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students and staff showed off their balloon floats and their banners while marching proudly through our school!





The Girls on the Run curriculum goes beyond preparing for the 3.1 mile run; it is a positive youth development program that also teaches life skills to girls in third to eighth grades. This ten week program includes lessons that foster confidence, build peer connections and encourage community service while preparing for the 5K event.

On Nov. 15, just a few days before the run, the girls were engaged in a community impact project that they had developed themselves. As a group, they had decided to create cards and posters to support people undergoing cancer treatment. Each card was signed Chester Elementary GOTR.

Adult leaders for the group, which met twice a week from 3-4:30 p.m. were adjustment counselor Maddy Scott, special education teacher Jenna Kakimoto, preschool paraprofessional Mona Thieme and reading specialist Kolby Palmer.

"It was so fulfilling for the girls and us," Palmer said. "Both social-emotional and physical. It's a great program. It's really well done."

Fourth grader Malaney DaSilva agreed. "The best part is being with our friends and making new friends," DaSilva said, adding that she was looking forward to running three miles the following Sunday.

Coordinator Maddy Scott said that the GOTR Western Mass organization had been amazing to work with. "We're all taking a bus on Sunday, provided by GOTR," Scott reported. "The girls will have running buddies going on the bus, too."

GOTR Western Massachusetts reported they were expecting between 2,500 and 3,000 people at the run. In addition to girls, adult leaders and running buddies from the 52 sites from all four Western Mass counties, the run was open to the public and all registration fees went to support GOTR WMA.



Runner Mia Hoffmann is with program coach Kolby Palmer, at the meeting location for Chester Elementary before the race. *Submitted photo*

CHESTER

Chester Elementary school launches 'Girls on the Run'

By Wendy Long
Correspondent

The Chester Elementary School launched its first ever "Girls on the Run" program this fall.

Seventeen girls in grades 3 - 5 took part starting in September, with the culminating event, a 5K run-held on Sunday, Nov. 19 at Western New England University.












**Nurse Amanda teaches
our Pre-K students proper
hand washing techniques
using glitter germs!**



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our Pre-K students proper
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using glitter germs!**



NOVEMBER FOOD DRIVE

