JANUARY

2024

CARRINGTON

PRINCIPAL : KAREN RENNA

VICE PRINCIPAL: KRISTEN GWIAZDOSKI

IMPORTANT DATES

1/10 - 12:00 DISMISSAL

1/15 - NO SCHOOL -
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY

1/19 - 2ND MARKING PERIOD ENDS

1/29 - 2/2 - BOOK FAIR

2/2 - REPORT CRADS DISTRIBUTED

2/7 - 12:00 DISMISSAL

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski

Happy New Year! I hope 2024 is off to a great start for everyone. It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of the second marking period on January 16,2024. Students are participating in midyear testing in Math and Reading. The results will help us set new instructional focus areas and to provide support in areas where needed. Please encourage reading every night to increase comprehension and fluency. Don't forget to check Parent Square for updates regarding school and any communications from your child' s teacher. Please also remember to have your child dress appropriately for weather conditions including hats, scarfs, gloves, and ear muffs. Students will go outside for recess as along as the weather permits. We ask for your continued support with following the health guidelines but also keeping in mind that school attendance is very important to academic achievement. As a reminder students should not bring cell phones to school or use electronic devices (watches linked to phones). This causes distractions from learning and safety issues. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in following Board of Education policies.

READING DEPARTMENT

Happy 2024! We hope you had a wonderful, restful holiday vacation. We are very excited to welcome back Mrs. Cancellaro as our new reading tutor. She has started pulling small groups of students to help push us even closer to our goals . She will make a wonderful addition to our team!

January is a very busy month as teachers and students in grades K – 5 prepare for the middle of year benchmark testing. It will start on January 17th and run to January 31st. At the end of testing, we will be sending home your child's test results. Their small group instruction may change based on students' testing data. To help your child be successful, we highly recommend READ! READ! READ!

Did you know that this month is full of special days? Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday is on January 15th. We have that day off to celebrate him! There are a lot of books on Literacy Pro families can read together to learn why we celebrate Dr. King. For those who love to read recipes, Bake a Chocolate Cake Day and a National Spaghetti Day are in January. There is also Write Your Name in Morse Code Day, Save the Eagles Day, Penguin Awareness Day, National Draw a Dinosaur Day, and even a Winnie the Pooh Day! If you are interested in technology, training your pet, or world peace, January has a special day for that too. What wonderful ideas these days can give children to find books and share them with someone special. When children find a topic they are interested in it encourages them to read more. You can use these ideas to help your child grow as a reader. Remember we want our students to love reading and become life-long readers.

We are always available to answer any of your questions or concerns. Please stay safe and enjoy the 1st month of the new year.

Sincerely,
The Reading Department
Ms. Johnson - Literacy Facilitator
Mrs. Mute - Reading Teacher
Mrs. Cancellaro - Reading Tutor

NURSE'S NEWS

Nurse: Tina Hauser, RN

With cold and flu season upon us here are some recommendations to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses

Recommended precautions include:

1. Staying up to date on vaccines, including Flu
2. Washing hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds
3. Sneeze or cough into your elbow and not into your hands or wear a mask if desired
4. Staying home when sick or symptomatic
5. Staying well hydrated and dressing appropriately for the weather

Just a reminder for parents of Kindergarteners and 6th grade students to submit a copy of your child's physical if you have not done so already. This is a state mandate.

Please update the nurse's office with any changes of contact information or health concerns.

PRE - KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Mauceri & Mrs. Promotico

Happy New Year to all our Pre-K families! This month we will continue to explore the study of Clothing and the Four Seasons. As we move forward with our unit on clothing, we will discuss how it pertains to the weather and people's career choices. This month, we hope to sneak in a mini-unit on polar animals as well. Our classroom will transform into exciting new learning centers to support our new study. We will open a "Laundromat" in our Dramatic Play and bring some "Snow Fun" to our Sensory Tables. Our library is filled with Winter-themed children's books and books about clothing. The children are encouraged to continue their fort building in blocks and we even have our own indoor "ice-skating" rink and Hot Cocoa Station! Hopefully Mother Nature will send us a little snow to go outside and play! Research shows it is imperative that children get physical exercise each day for their body, mind and spirit. Therefore, we will try to go outside as much as possible this month when the weather allows. Dress your child accordingly with winter coats, hats, ear muffs, mittens, and boots or sneakers. Please remember to provide a healthy snack for your child and a water bottle to keep hydrated. Also, don't forget to check your child's folder each night…there may be important information in there. We are planning our Winter Celebration for the end of this month…stay tuned for more information.

KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Baker & Mrs. Boivin

Reading/Language Arts

Our students will continue to work on letter patterns in words and decoding and recoding as well as blending sound together to read words. We will continue on with our use and identification of nouns, verbs and adjectives in our Wonders reading series for , whole class and small group instruction.

Math

Our students are determined to learn all of the partners for numbers 1-10 and use these skills to navigate and demonstrate their understanding by solving math addition problems. We are using number lines and also starting to use our knowledge of addition to begin to understand the relationship to subtraction.

FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Scarborough & Mrs. Varholak

Happy New Year! We are almost to the halfway mark of first grade! Here is what we will be learning this month:

ECRI - We will be finishing up Unit 3 and moving onto Unit 4. Students will be learning more about long vowel sounds with vowel teams such as ai, ay, ee, ea etc. Please continue to practice the high frequency words that we have learned since the beginning of the year.

Wonders - We will be starting Unit 3 which focuses on the main idea of What animals do you know? And What are they like? Each week we will have a new essential question about this topic and students will continue to learn new reading strategies as well as practice ones we have already learned. Please try to read with your child each night. This will be very helpful for them as they continue to learn to read.

Science - Next week, we will be starting our new science unit on Light. Over a two week span, students will learn about how light helps us see, how materials block light and how light travels.

Math - Our current unit is focusing on adding and subtracting numbers within 20. Please continue to practice different ways to make 10 at home as this will help them with teen numbers. We have also finished up our middle to the year math testing. Please practice counting objects at home as well as playing games that focus on math skills.

Try this: Here are some apps (for iphone and ipad) that help with making ten: Ten Frame Fill, Franklin's Friends of 10, Make 10 Plus. Looking for a challenge - try Number Logic Problems

As the weather gets colder, we will be monitoring whether we go out for recess on a day to day basis. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves (labeled with their name) in case we do go outside. Also, please send your child with a sweater in case they are cold in the classroom. Students may also wear a long sleeve shirt underneath their short-sleeve uniform shirt.

Please make sure to check Parent Square for weekly updates!

Important Dates

1/10 No School - Early Dismissal - Professional Development

1/15 No School - Martin Luther King Jr.

SECOND GRADE

Ms. Guerrera & Mr. LeVasseur

Happy 2024 Everyone!

As we continue math in January, 2nd grade will be finishing our unit in numbers to 100! We will finish the unit on time, using an analog clock. Then, we will begin our next unit on numbers within 1000. More specifically, we will begin to explore three digit numbers using base ten blocks, and learning that 10 tens are in a hundred and follow the same pattern that 10 ones are in a ten.

In reading, we will continue to work on Unit 3: The Earth and Communities. We will continue with working on opinion writing and developing our own opinion letter! Starting at the end of next week, we will switch from Language Arts to Science for two weeks. During this time, our Science unit will focus on changes in the Earth's surface!

In ECRI, we are working with variant vowels for the Long I, long O and long E sound. This means we will explore the different ways to make the O and E sound in a word. This includes, (I, y, i_e, igh, ie), (o, oa, ow, o_e, _oe), and (e_e, ea, ee, e, _y, _ie_, _ey).

We will continue to also reinforce classroom expectations and procedures. Class Dojo communicates to students and to parents how your child is doing in the classroom. Be sure to also check ParentSquare daily for any updates in the classroom!

The weather is chillier these days. Please make sure if your child needs a sweater in the classroom that it is dress code appropriate. Also, we do go outside if weather and temperature permit, so please send your child with appropriate cold weather outerwear to keep him/her warm.

Important Dates:

January

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

1st - New Years Day - No School
2nd - School Resumes
6th - Three Kings Day (Observed) - No School
10th - Early Dismissal / PD Day
15th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - No School
16th - 19th - Mid-Term Exams - Early Dism. HS Only
19th - End of the 2nd MP: HS/MS/Elem
29th - Grade Submission Ends - 9AM
17th, 24th, 31st - CN Early Dismissal / PD Day

Thank you for being supportive at home and great partners in your child's education journey!

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Ciccone & Mr. Gagnon

Happy New Year!

This month students will continue their exploration of division during numeracy. We continue to discuss and work with division and multiplication fact families. We will also observe patterns in multiplication tables and solve real life word problems using multiplication and division. Students should continue to memorize their multiplication facts throughout the year. We will begin the study of area.

Our study of Fundations will introduce students to the “schwa” sound which is when an unexpected vowel spells the short u or short i sound in an unaccented syllable. Students will also revisit the concept of open syllables and learn how to spell open syllables when they appear in multisyllabic words.

Students will begin a science unit on weather patterns and climate. They will explore climates around the world and seasonal weather patterns. They will also differentiate between weather and climate. In addition, they will read about weather hazards, their impacts, and graph weather and climate data.

Finally, in literacy, students continue to practice writing responses to comprehension questions using text evidence and details. Students are striving to achieve our fluency goal of 114 words correct per minute by the end of the year. This month students will read about the importance of individual qualities, especially leadership. They will read examples of and discuss figurative language as well as enjoy the historical fiction genre. In mid January, students will be testing using Dibels and MClass standardized tests.

A few gentle reminders - Please be sure to send in a written note to document absences as well as changes in any dismissal procedures that may arise. Please check Parent Square daily for important messages and announcements. Please check Class Dojo daily for behavior information.

We are always available through your use of email or a quick phone call. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us with questions or concerns or to schedule a meeting.

FOURTH GRADE

Mrs. Carroll & Ms. Smith

Happy New Year!! We hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday and break and that the new year is off to an amazing start.

In Math, students have learned how to multiply two, three, and four digit numbers by one digit and two digit numbers. They have also learned how to convert different types of measurements by multiplying larger units to get their equivalence into smaller units. This month, students will also begin learning how to divide three and four digit numbers. It is important that students continue working to master their multiplication facts. We are also wrapping up the mid-year iReady Diagnostic and we will celebrate the students who have reached halfway toward their goals for the end of the year.

In ELA, we have begun Unit 3 which focuses on different ways that people help their communities. We will be reading various biographical and other nonfiction texts that teach us how important leaders from our past have helped make a difference by fighting for different rights and equalities. The students are learning that one person can make a difference. We are always practicing daily to increase our reading fluency and students should be reading nightly as well in order to increase their reading stamina. They have set a goal of reading at least 4 nights per week for at least 25 minutes each night; and should be tracking this progress on their reading homework calendar.

In Science, we have wrapped up the unit on Waves and have begun exploring a new unit on Animal Structures. In this unit, we examine the external and internal structures of animals, including the organs that make up the organ systems, and the senses.

Reminders - All students should be coming to school wearing the appropriate dress code. All shirts need to have a collar and hooded shirts of any kind are not allowed. Students are not allowed to wear outdoor coats during the school day so please make sure your child is dressed warm enough. Also, please make sure students are properly dressed for the weather. As weather permits, we will continue to go outside for recess. As always, if there is a change in dismissal, please send in a written note to us and we will then inform the school office of such change.

FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Allen & Mr. Russo

Hello fifth-grade families! It is starting to get chilly outside! Please make sure your child is wearing the appropriate clothing each day to accommodate for the colder weather. Please have a sweater that is dress-code appropriate for your child to wear in the classroom because it can get cold in the classroom. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn in school unless it is for fitness Friday. Thank you for your cooperation!

Reminders:

January 10th (Wednesday) - 12:00 dismissal day for staff PD

January 15th (Monday) - NO School for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The following is what we are working on for the month of January.

Math: We are continuing to work on decimals. We have begun Lesson 8 on Reading and Writing Decimal Numbers. Soon we will be working on comparing and rounding decimals and adding decimal numbers. We have been working hard to work towards our goal of 2-3 lessons passed per week on iReady. Students may log-in from a device from home if they log into Google on the device first. Please have your child continue to work on multiplication facts. These need to become automatic.

Science: We are wrapping up our unit on Energy and Matter in Organisms. The students have done an amazing job talking about different animals and the flow of energy from the sun and through the food chain or food web. Soon we will begin our unit on Systems in Space which will investigate the earth, sun, and earth and moon’s orbits.

Language Arts: Happy 2024 to everyone. We will be starting Unit 3 In the next few days. The first 2 units seemed to go by very quickly. We worked on Folk Tales, Poetry, and non-Fiction. We will continue to practice writing skills and grammar. Report cards will be going out in a few weeks and grades are closing this week. Wishing you all a wonderful start to this new year.hen inform the school office of such change.

SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Carosella & Ms. Griffin

Reading:

Students will be completing their research for the unit project for *Lightning Thief,* focusing on literary elements, overall character development and conflict to resolution within their creative story structure projects. Students will continue working on selection of specific textual evidence to support their claims/positions when responding to comprehension questions.

Language Arts:

Students will continue to build grammatical skills and strategies with daily Quill practice lessons and activities, specifically with compound subjects, objects and predicates. Students will continue to work on paragraph development and use of effective transitions within their overall writing.

Math:

Students will begin to understand the concept of a ratio and use ratio language to describe a relationship between two quantities. Students will use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real world and mathematical problems by reasoning about tables of equivalent ratios, tape diagrams, double number lines and equations. Also, students will make equivalent ratio tables by finding missing values and plotting them on a coordinate plane.

Science:

Students will continue Unit 2 Ecosystems. Students will recognize the states of matter change and how it flows through an ecosystem. At this point the roles of an ecosystem will be identified and the role of predator-prey relationships will be explored.

Social Studies:

Students will continue to explore the continent of Asia. Specifically, students will learn about the physical geography, history and life in South and Southwest Asia.

SEVENTH GRADE

Social Studies - Mr. Thomas

Students will continue to examine the Geography, History, and Current events in Mexico and Central America. After completing this unit, students will begin to study South America.

Math - Ms. Hall

Students are learning how to simplify expressions by combining like terms. Students will be able to write, read, and evaluate expressions in which letters stand for numbers.Please ensure your student is completing homework every night.

Science - Ms. Murrary

7th graders will apply their knowledge of chemical and physical reactions along with The Periodic Table as they study synthetic and natural materials. Further, they will study the Law of Conservation of Energy and demonstrate knowledge of how atoms rearrange themselves during a chemical reaction by identifying patterns and proportions.

Reading - Mr. Napp

Students are completing the book “The Giver”. We will be focusing on skills such as inferring, text evaluation and text elements. Students will also begin to get work focusing on skills that they need to develop individually based on District testing. We will look to begin Unit 3 by the end of the month.

Language Arts - Mrs. Fernandez

Students are learning about the dark elements of a society while reading short StudySync excerpts about dystopian societies. We are talking about how to pick out the dark elements, and what makes a society dystopian.

EIGHTH GRADE

Social Studies - Mr. Thomas

Students will finish studying the outcome of the American Revolution and then dive into the Articles of Confederation and the United States Constitution.

Math - Ms. Hall

Students are beginning their unit on functions. They will be able to determine how to tell if a table or graph is a function by looking at inputs and outputs on a table or graph. Please ensure that your student is completing homework every night.

Science - Ms. Murrary

Students will continue their study of dinosaurs and the progression of life on earth over time. Specifically, they will look at patterns in the rock layers and the fossil record. Additionally, they will explore methods for dating rock layers.

Reading - Mr. Napp

The students will be completing their reading of the book “Brown Girl Dreaming”. We will be focusing on skills such as inferring, text evaluation and text elements. Students will also begin to get work focusing on skills that they need to develop individually based on District testing. We will look to begin Unit 3 by the end of the month.

Language Arts - Mrs. Fernandez

Students have been learning about the Civil Rights Movement, and many of the unsung heroes involved. Shortly, they will begin research on two unsung heroes of their choice, and have to argue that one was more influential than the other by creating a strong argument, and showcasing it within a 5 paragraph, MLA style, essay.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Ms. Rodriguez - Essential Skills 1

Happy New Year from Essential Skills 1! Hope everyone had a relaxing and great Holiday. As we enter the month of January we are focused and ready for more learning. We will continue on our goals and daily tasks. We will continue to work on our colors, shapes and numbers. We will continue to learn about the winter season and dressing warm. We look forward to some fun fine motor activities such as hand painting and cotton ball penguins. We look forward to stories such as “Be brave, Little penguin, “Winter is here” and “Pete the Cat, Snow Daze”. We hope you all have a great month of January. Stay Warm.

Ms. Teal - Essential Skills 2

Happy New Year!! As we begin our January month, we continue to focus hard on our goals and objectives. This month's focus is the number 5, our color of the month is White,and our shape is the rectangle. We have many art projects lined up, with that being said We will be replacing our holiday projects with new ones, so make sure to check your child's backpack every night.

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Elementary - Mrs. Barbati

Happy New Year to all our staff, students and families! As we begin our new year, we focus on our accomplishments and move forward to completing our goals for this school year. For all grades I service, I will be continuing the “Lively Letters” program that has proved so successful in helping our students relearn decoding skills. We will be continuing our weekly fluency drills to increase rate and accuracy at all levels. In Math, we will continue to work on student’s goals in calculation and problem solving. Grades 3 and 4 will be reviewing previously learned Math concepts along with their IEP goals to get ready for the Statewide test in May, 2024.

Mrs. Barbati
Special Education Teacher
Resource K-4

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Middle School - Mrs. Pierce

This month (January) is the beginning of the new year! We can't believe how quickly it is going! In addition to our core academics per their IEP's my students the students learned how to address an envelope by sending cards to their loved ones. We had a great time! We are back and ready to go! Hope you all had a Happy and safe New Year. If you have questions or concerns about anything please call (203-574-8184), e-mail (kpierce@waterbury.k12.ct.us), of parent square me.

Karen Pierce

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Mrs. Parker

Mrs. Parker

English Learners/ Multilingual Learners

Happy New Year to all! It is that time of the year where I will be testing multilingual students for LAS Links. Each year, all identified English learners must be evaluated using the statewide English language proficiency assessment. This proficiency assessment determines an EL's reading, writing, speaking, and listening skill levels. Tests are conducted online and will measure students' language acquisition. Students will complete no more than 2 tests per day. Results will be provided later on in the year.

SPECIALS

Music - Mrs. Doolan

In Music Classes, the 7th and 8th Grades learned about different traditions celebrated in the Winter. They especially enjoyed learning about Chanukah and playing the dreidel game. The 6th grades worked very hard on their performance of “I Need a Christmas Vacation” They did a terrific job performing for their parents on December 12th! The 5th Grades are learned songs from “The Sound of Music” and the PK, K and 1 learned songs of the holiday season, like “Jingle Bells”, “Rudolph”, “I’m a Little Snowman” and “Must Be Santa”

Physical Education - Mr. Chiasson

In Physical Education, First Tee of Connecticut will be guest teaching a lesson on golf for students in grades K-5 during the week of January 8th-12th. Following this the students will begin a unit on basketball where fundamental skills of dribbling, passing, and shooting will be covered both in activities and games. In grades 6 and 7 students will be beginning a unit on ultimate frisbee where throwing and catching, offensive strategies, defensive strategies and gameplay will take place. In grade 8 students will begin a unit on basketball where offensive strategies, defensive strategies, as well as more advanced skills will be covered followed by gameplay.

Library - Mrs. Rosa

Happy 2024! Pre K, K and 1st grade recently read about New Year’s Resolutions. We will begin reading fiction and nonfiction books about penguins. Grades 2,3, and 4 have started to learn about Martin Luther King Jr. We have recently done some fun STEM lessons in library with grades 2, 3 and 4 including creating snowflakes out of Q-tips and Play-Doh

Book circulation is coming to an end for grades 2,3, and 4, as we are approaching the 3rd marking period and switching schedules. For 3rd marking period, I will now see grades 5 and 6.

Grades 7 and 8 are finishing up on research project and will soon start Black History Month projects. For parents grades 6-8, please remind your child that their Chromebook must be charged and brought to library media class.