



# Dunfee Digest

*All About Ball Study!*

## What's inside:

- All About the Ball Study
- PTA Spirit Days
- Gathering of Dragons
- PTA Fall Fest
- UPstanders of the month
- Did you know? *(for families)*

## Reminders

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LMDS\_preschool!

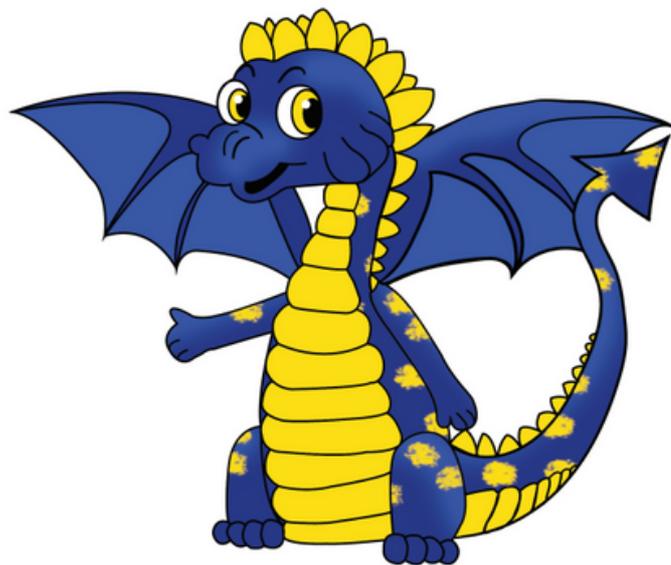


## Hello, Dragons!

### ***Welcome back!***

Oh, how the Dragons have been loving being back to school! We have sure been making the most of our school year so far. We have been taking advantage of the nice weather by going outside as much as we can, and when we have to be inside the fun doesn't stop! We have so many fun gross motor challenges, and just love to learn through play every day.

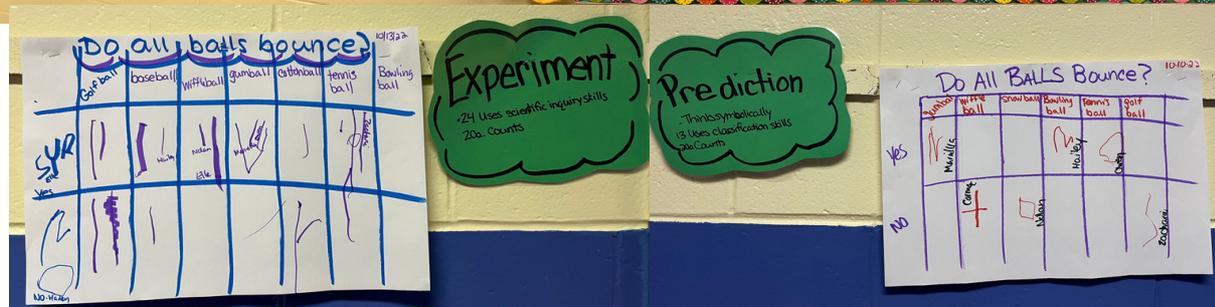
Take a peek at what the school year has been like for us Dragons so far! Between our incredible UPstanders, everything related to Ball Study, and more - there is a lot to check out!



# Creative Curriculum's Ball Study: Introduction

*What do we know about balls? What do we want to find out?*

Take a look at all of the different ways Dragons have been learning! Every day there is a different question of the day to connect to our curriculum. We had some study-focused read aloud stories, outdoor learning experiences, cooking learning activities, and more learning through play activities everyday!





## Energy Balls!

### *Mrs. Campos' class*

Dragons in Mrs. Campos' class got to make their own edible energy balls! Students got to measure each ingredient and take turns mixing it all together. Finally, they each got to roll the mixture into a ball shape. After some time in the fridge, all students got to eat these delicious little treats!

# Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs!

*Ms. August & Ms. Tardiff's Class*

Dragons in Ms. August and Ms. Tardiff's class learned about balls through this delicious classroom activity! Students listened to the story "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" and then got to make their very own meatballs! Students measured ingredients, mixed them together, and rolled their meatballs into balls! Of course, they got to enjoy eating those meatballs too!



# Ball Study Featuring Fall-Themed Investigative Fun!

## Mrs. Egbert's Class

Learning through play happens here every day - sometimes in the form of experiments! Some classes had the chance to incorporate fall themed fun into their Ball Study! Mrs. Egbert's class measured the circumference of their pumpkins with links, painted them with pipettes for fine motor, and used their senses to describe the texture. To wrap up this lesson, they predicted whether the pumpkin would sink or float - and then tested it out!



# Ball Study Experiment Fun

*Mrs. O'Halloran's Class*

Mrs. O'Halloran and Dragons created their very own bouncy balls! What a super fun and unique way to learn! After making them, they tested them out to see if they would bounce - do you think they did or not?



# Ball Study: Around the School





# Ball Study: Around the School



# Dragons' getting into the school spirit!

Pictures from various classes



# School Spirit





# Gathering of Dragons Fall Festival: a Schoolwide Playdate



October 11, 2022

A schoolwide playdate for Dunfee Dragons AND their families! We enjoyed some movement, arts & crafts, playground fun, obstacle courses, light refreshments, a chance to win one of two door prizes donated by Oasis FSC! Congratulations again to our lucky winners! Dragons came to play together, meet other Dragons and their families, friends from Right at School, all while enjoying a beautiful fall evening together.



# PTA Fall Festival at LMDS

October 20, 2022

Thanks to the Barnegat PTA, Dragons had the coolest Fall Festival we have ever had yet! The PTA was able to not only supply our school with a pumpkin patch, but they were able to get a petting zoo!





# PTA Fall Festival at LMDS



We were lucky enough to get to share this day with our friends from the ACEs program!



# LMDS UPstanders

## *UPstanding-Dragon of the Month*

### What is an UPstander?

In Barnegat, we believe in family. We also believe in helping students become the best versions of themselves, and facilitating a positive school climate.

And that's why in the 2018-2019 school year, the Counseling Department launched the UPstanders initiative. Through this program, one altruistic student per school will be recognized monthly at our Board of Education meetings. These students will be nominated by building administrative and counseling staff.

To reward these students, we are granting them with a gift card to a local restaurant to fund a meal for their household. Parents will sign a contract to consent to bring the whole family—bringing back the idea of a family dinner and family togetherness. Each month, students are nominated based on the UPstander criteria and the trait of the month.

### UPstander Qualifying Criteria:

Outstanding citizenship, indicated by:

- 1 or more acts of **advocating** for their fellow student(s); and/or
- 1 or more acts of **kindness**, and/or
- 1 or more acts of facilitating **community**/teamwork, and/or
- 1 or more acts of leading a group **positively**

## September Trait of the Month: Benevolence

*Connor Stanton*

"This is Connor's second year at Dunfee. In the time that I have known him I have seen a child who is compassionate for the well being of others. He is always there to give a hug to a peer who is upset and even tries to make them smile by giving a gentle tickle. He tries hard to do the right thing and listens to his teachers when he forgets. Connor is the true meaning of benevolent - caring, helpful, considerate and compassionate."

- Mrs. Gulla



## October Trait of the Month: Effort

*Abigail Adams*

"Abigail has the best manners in the classroom. She always says please, thank you and you're welcome. She is usually the first to ask someone if they are okay and to give them a helping hand when needed. She takes pride in her work by sharing her accomplishments and trying her best. She also helps keep the classroom clean and organized by cleaning up after herself and messes left by others."

- Mrs. Egbert



# Making the Most of Storytime

*“It is the talk that surrounds the story book reading that gives it power.”*

*National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) & International Reading Association*

Reading aloud to young children is important, and **HOW** you share books can make a big difference. Research shows that following these read-aloud practices significantly improves the language skills of children who participate:



## 1. Have a conversation about a book

- Frequent conversations—back and forth exchanges
- Ask questions that require more than one word answers
- Wait long enough for responses
- Be responsive to what the child says

## 2. Model advanced language

- Repeat what your child says and add more to it:
  - a. Provide new information
  - b. Recast what they say with more advanced vocabulary
  - c. Repeat what they say with correct grammar/word use, or a longer sentence

## 3. Prompt critical thinking skills

- Ask how and why questions
- Ask children to explain their answers
- Give clues to get them to the right answer if possible

## 4. Intentionally build vocabulary

- Reread the same book often
- Stop and explain the meaning of one or two words
- Define words using words they already know
- Ask children to repeat the words to improve their memory of the sounds in the word

## 5. Teach and provide practice of social and emotional skills

- Everyone has something valuable to say and listen to (self-regulation)
- Listen to peers with eyes and ears (self-awareness)
- Building community (relationship skills) “So you and Jamari both take a bus to the grocery with their mommies.”

*This information and more can be found at <https://www.preschoolpromise.org/BookoftheMonth-Providers.aspx>*

# Did you know?



Improving the school attendance of New Jersey's youngest learners



## Attendance in Preschool and Kindergarten Spells Future Success!

Every day that your preschooler or kindergartner is in school builds their foundation for learning. Missing two or more days each month can make it harder for them to succeed. Navigating the path to your child's learning is a team effort.



**Busy schedule?** Set up a morning routine. Prepare your child's backpack the night before.



**Transportation issues?** Talk to a neighbor or other parent to create a backup plan for transportation.



**Not sure how many days your child has missed?** Ask your child's teacher for updates or start to track days on your own.



**Not sure when to keep your child home from school?** Check with your school nurse or doctor.



**Regular attendance helps your child:**



Learn numbers, letters, and shapes



Learn to manage emotions and behaviors



Learn early reading and writing skills



Achieve future academic milestones



**Let's work together to make sure children attend school every day!**

Questions? Contact your child's teacher, school, or parent organization.

THANKYOU

