

A yellow umbrella with a black handle and a yellow cord, positioned in the top left corner of the image.

April 2024

CARRINGTON

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski

IMPORTANT DATES

4/8 – Solar Eclipse

4/10 – No School – Eid Al-Fitr

4/15 – 4/19 – Spring Recess

4/24 – 12:00 Dismissal

4/24 – Parent Conferences 5–7PM

4/25 – 12:00 Dismissal

5/1 – 12:00 Dismissal



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Principal: Karen Renna

Vice Principal: Kristen Gwiazdoski

We are excited to share that our first PTO meeting was held last month. We are off to a good start but we certainly welcome more parents to join. Our next meeting will be held on April 23rd at 1:00. If you are interested in attending the meeting please contact Jean Creaven our Parent Liaison.

Students have completed their Math iReady challenge and did a great job! The final classes competing for the win were Grade 1 Mrs. Scarborough and Grade 4 Mrs. Carroll. The winner of this challenge was Mrs. Carroll's math students from 4 Smith.

Thank you to all that supported our March Madness Home Bingo Read Challenge! We had several students participate. The class with the most participation was Mrs. Boivin.

They have won a celebration party with Mrs. Johnson.

It is important that your child gives their best effort in academics, behavior and attendance to the end of the school year. Thank you in advance for your support to help ensure your child's success for the year.

Spring vacation begins Friday, April 12th. We will return on Monday, April 22nd. We have Parent/Teacher Conferences on Wednesday April 24th from 5-7pm.



READING DEPARTMENT

Happy Spring!

It's that time of year again! All students will participate in end of year benchmark testing coming up after spring vacation. This test measures students' growth in reading. Students have been working so hard to improve their reading skills and meet their goals. Your child's academic performance has been progress monitored on a monthly basis in order to provide teachers with data to support each child's strengths and weaknesses. Instructional strategies are continuously adjusted to meet your child's needs. This is to help them to succeed.

Another important way to ensure your child's success is encouraging them to read at home for fun! We want children to love reading. One way to do this is to visit your local library. We honor our library and their workers with National Library week April 7-13. The library is a wonderful place to visit whether it be the Bunker Hill Branch near Bunker Hill School or the main library downtown on Grand St. During that week our local libraries have some fun activities planned, including a library scavenger hunt and raffle prizes. This year's theme is "Ready, Set, Library!" April 23rd is National Book Day and National Picnic Day. Another great day to enjoy a book and maybe have a picnic with your family while doing so. These are only a few of the special days in April. It is also Keep America Beautiful month and Poetry month.

If you like history, this is the month for you. On April 11, 1970 three American astronauts aboard the Apollo 13 spacecraft were launched from Cape Kennedy headed for the moon. Fifty-six hours later an explosion on board disabled their ship. This catastrophe makes for exciting reading to see how these daring men made it back to Earth alive! Did you know that Noah Webster published his first dictionary on April 14, 1828? The month also celebrates the birth of Queen Elizabeth II, Leonardo da Vinci, William Shakespeare, and Thomas Jefferson. The first shots of the American Revolution started April 19, 1775. The Civil War, Spanish War and World War II all started in April. Hope some of these honorary days have sparked an interest to find a book and read.

Lastly, we want to congratulate all the students who participated in March Madness Reading Bingo! We hope you enjoyed the challenges last month. We strongly encourage all our children to continue to read every night and share with you what they have read. This will help when they take the end of year benchmark tests. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time.

The Reading Department:
Ms. Johnson, Literacy Facilitator
Mrs. Mute, Reading Teacher
Mr. Ariola, Reading Tutor



NURSE'S NEWS

Nurse : Tina Hauser, RN

Spring allergies are upon us and are expected to be bad this year. If your child is affected by seasonal allergies follow up with their pediatrician for appropriate treatment.

Please do not send in any medications with your child, including cough drops, nasal spray, eye drops, etc...

Pre-K Families- Please start making appointments to get the state mandated physicals and immunizations completed for Kindergarten.

Grade 5 Families- Please start making appointments to get the state mandated physicals and immunizations completed for 6th grade.

Scoliosis screenings will take place the week starting May 6th for 5th and 7th grade girls and 8th grade boys.

If you do not want your child to have a scoliosis screening done at school, please submit a written note to the nurse office.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the nurse's office at 203-574-8303



PRE - KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Mauceri & Mrs. Promotico

During the month of April we will embark on a new study and learn all about how we can take care of our planet through our Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Study. The children will have the opportunity to learn the importance and the need to pay more attention to garbage in our homes and in our community.

We will explore the potential environmental effects when trash is not recycled and disposed of properly. Some questions we will investigate are: What do people throw away? Where does trash go and what do the workers do there? How do trash and garbage affect our community? How can we create less trash? and How can we reuse junk?

In conjunction with our Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Study we will celebrate Earth Day on Apr 22, 2024, setting us up for our final unit of study of the school year, Gardening in May!

We are looking forward to meeting and speaking with our parents during conferences on April 24th. The children have grown and learned so much this year. They are well on their way as we get ready for kindergarten in the fall!

We hope everyone enjoys our well deserved Spring Vacation from April 15-19 and look forward to the remainder of our school year!



KINDERGARTEN

Mrs. Baker & Mrs. Boivin

Reading Language Arts

Our Kindergarteners are blossoming into independent readers , reading with expression and identifying proper punctuation and sentence structure too!

We are very proud of the progress and determination of so many who have gained strong skills and shown great growth and progress in the phonics and reading work we focus on.

Please continue to have conversations about your child's school day and read at home and enjoy book talk based discussions the identify genresfiction, non fiction, informational text and folk tales.

Math

We have been working hard on addition and subtraction facts and how they relate to each other and can help strengthen math problem solving when they are concrete and students know them by heart . We are delving into FACT FAMILIES and what the steps are to create 2 addition and 2 subtraction with the same 3 numbers.



FIRST GRADE

Ms. Scarborough & Mrs. Varholak

Happy April First Grade Families!!!!

Wonders- We are continuing Unit 5 “How can we make sense of the world around us?”. The next two weeks will focus on “sounds all around us” and “How do things get built?”. We will work on finding the problem and solution of different stories. We will continue to write complete sentences that answer the week’s essential questions. Please practice trick words sent home each week! At the end of Unit 5 we will see how many we know!!

Math- We are finishing the lesson on telling time to the hour and half hour. Next, we are moving onto Unit 4- Operations with Tens and Ones: Addition and Subtraction. We will begin by adding and subtracting tens. Students will be able to use pictures, drawings, numbers, and words to add a number of tens with another number of tens. Please continue practicing addition and subtraction math facts with answers to 10!

ECRI- We have started to introduce vowel diphthongs, like the sound /ou/ in cow. It can have the spelling of ou or ow. We also are learning about the sound /oi/ which can be spelled oy as in boy or oi as in coin.

Words to practice spelling and reading: out, sound, foul, cow, now, clown, join, oil, point, broil. Joy, soy, toy, and Troy

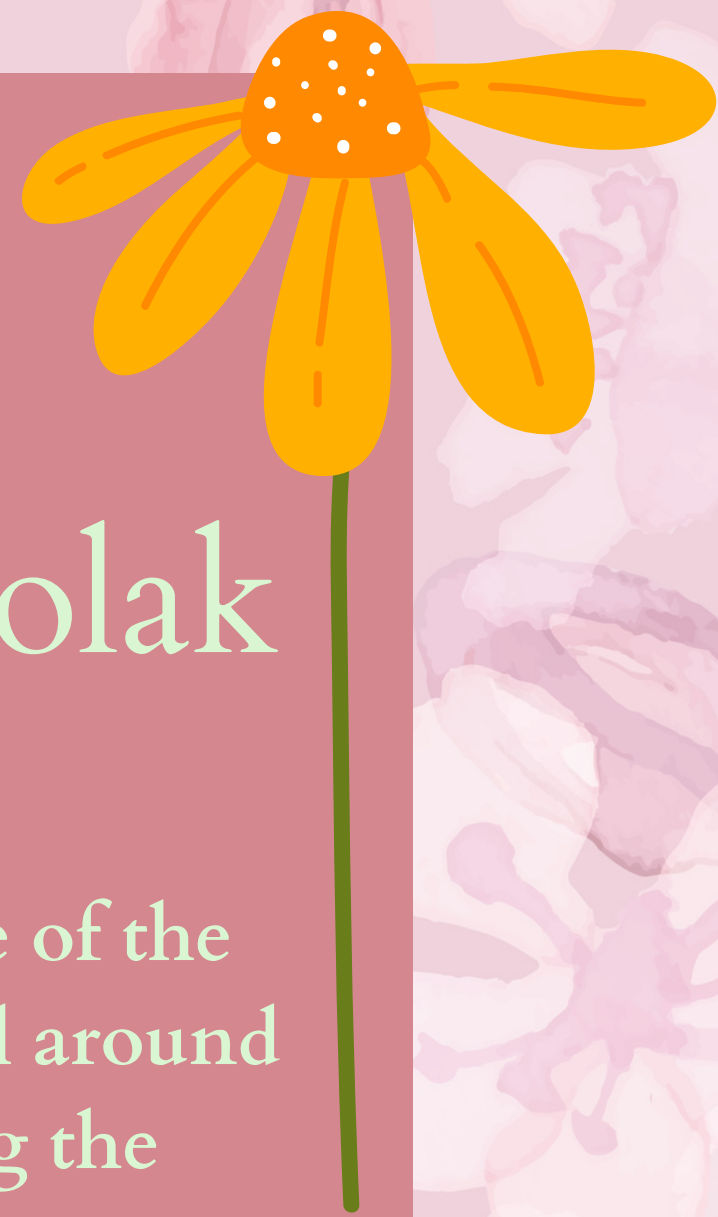
Science- We will begin our Unit on” Living Things and Their Young”. We will learn about the differences and similarities between plant parents and their offspring. We will discuss how plants of the same kind look alike and different. We will learn how animals of the same kind can be alike and different and also how animals help their young to survive.

Reminders:

*The weather is fluctuating, please make sure to wear a jacket as we will be outside for recess!

4/12 Puppet Show- Food Safety

4/24 5-7 PM- Parent Conferences Please sign up on Parent Square





SECOND GRADE

Ms. Guerrero & Mr. LeVasseur

Grade 2 April Showers...

Math

We will continue to explore place value and different strategies to represent, write, and identify 3-digit numbers. We will also compare using $<$, $>$, or $=$ symbols and begin adding and subtracting with 3-digit numbers.

Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts within 20 at home. We will then begin our unit on measurement! We will be using inches, centimeters, feet, and meters to measure objects found in everyday life!

Ecri

We are working on Diphthongs. Diphthongs are sounds formed by the combination of two vowels and moves toward another. These sounds include ou, ow, oi, and oy. We will also explore variant vowels /u/ and /o/.

Reading

We have begun Unit 5. We will discover how to be good citizens, how to cooperate and interact with others, and what heroes do. We will also be identifying the key details to help us summarize a text. When we summarize a story, we tell the most important events in our own words.

We encourage your child to read at least 20 minutes nightly.

Writing

We are excited to be putting the final touches on our fictional narrative stories! This unit will take through the steps of an explanatory essay!

Be sure to check ParentSquare and ClassDojo daily for any updates in the classroom and to get a snapshot of your child's behavior! To earn the end of the month P.B.I.S. Reward, students must earn 85% positive Dojo points for the entire month.

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

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Ciccone & Mr. Gagnon

During literacy third grade will explore several social studies topics during the month of April. We read and begin to discuss talents, adaptations, flight, and inspiration. Genres will include realistic fiction, expository text, narrative text and free verse. We continue to answer comprehension questions using text evidence to support our answers. We will prepare for our Smarter Balanced state testing when we learn research strategies and skills.

During April our third graders continue to investigate fractions. Students apply their knowledge of naming and representing fractions. Equivalent fractions are discussed and students learn how to compare them. Finally, students will apply their knowledge of fractions to break shapes into equal parts and name them.

It is very important that students read 20–30 minutes every night to increase their fluency as well as accuracy in reading. When students are proficient readers, they are then able to focus on comprehension, or understanding the meaning of the text. The end of year reading testing will take place in May.

We continue to encourage monitoring your child's behavior using Class Dojo. Parent Square is used regularly to communicate important class room information. Please check both apps daily.

Happy Spring!





FOURTH GRADE

Mrs. Carroll & Ms. Smith

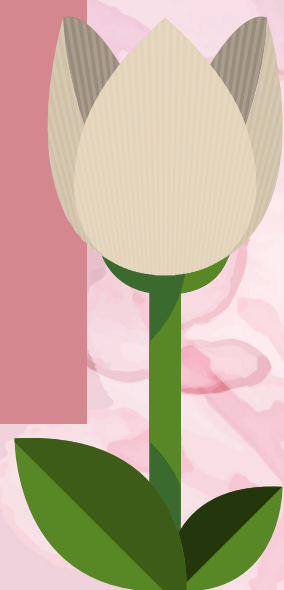
This month in Math, we will be working on multiplying fractions, fractions as tenths and hundredths, and relating decimals and fractions. Please continue to refer to the Family Letter pages that are sent home at the beginning of each lesson for ideas on how you can help your child with these concepts at home.

In ELA, we have finished our unit on Poetry. The students have read many examples of model poems and have even written a few examples of their own. We have also spent time reviewing different forms of Figurative Language. This is always fun because it lets the students use their inferencing skills and ‘think outside the box’ about the literal meanings of words and phrases. Now, we are ready to begin our next unit. In Unit 5, we will read some Tall Tales that will introduce the students to some larger-than-life characters. This unit’s writing is a Book Report, so students will review a favorite book and write a recommendation to their peers. As always, we practice our fluency daily in school and the expectation is that students are reading at least 4 nights per week for 25 minutes each at home and then recording that data on their homework reading calendar.

In Science, we have started Unit 7 on Rocks and Fossils. In this unit, students will learn how rock layers change over time, what fossils tell us about ancient environments, and what are some patterns that fossils show us.

We have also started preparing for the Smarter Balanced Assessments and end of the year assessments that will begin in May. Students can prepare at home by reading daily and practicing math addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts, if they are not mastered already.

As always, we encourage you to check Parent Square daily for important information or messages and Dojo frequently to check in on your child’s behavior.



FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Allen & Mr. Russo

Hello Fifth-grade families!

Welcome to April! Please continue to send your child to school with school-appropriate attire and school uniform clothing. Remember, hoodies are not allowed to be worn in school except for fitness Fridays when the student pays a dollar or other identified days. Students need a sweater for the classroom if they are feeling cold. The weather is still fluctuating a lot throughout the day so please keep that in mind as you send your child off to school.

Please send your child to school with a pencil. We need pencils and tissue boxes for both fifth grade classrooms. Also, consider getting your child a pair of comfortable headphones (not wireless) for school use and smarter balanced testing.

Reminders:

April 2 - Early dismissal for staff PD

April 10th - No school for Eid al-Fitr holiday

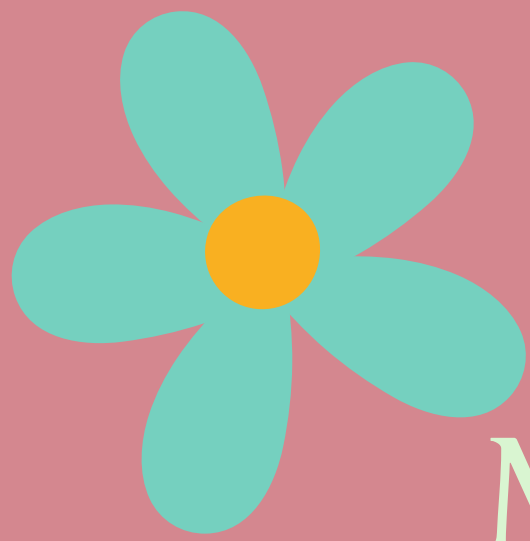
April 15-19 - No School for Spring break

Mathematics: In Math we have been working hard on multiplying a decimal number by a whole number. We are beginning to work on multiplying a decimal number by another decimal number. Students need to know their multiplication facts and should be practicing these at home on a regular basis. They also need a pencil for math in order to be successful in completing their work in school. A lot of students are not completing homework on a regular basis. Please check your child's planner daily!

Science: We are wrapping up learning about the sun and will be moving on to earth's systems. We will learn about our atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, geosphere and the water cycle.

LA: We have started Unit 4 in our Wonders Lessons. The focus has been on Fantasies, Tall Tales, and bringing about change. Currently we have been learning about conducting research and analyzing data. Please encourage your children to review vocabulary words and definitions for each week. Also, encourage students to do their best, complete assignments, and ask questions. Also, ask them to read 10-15 minutes per day.





SIXTH GRADE

Mr. Carosella & Ms. Griffin



Math

This month students will represent equations in tables and graphs. Students will use variables to represent two quantities in a real world problem and create equations of dependent and independent variables. Also, students will graph rational numbers on a number and integers on a coordinate plane. Using the coordinate plane, students will find the location of ordered pairs, find perimeter and area of polygons and use absolute value to find distances between points.

Science

In unit 4, students explore the line between reality and entertainment as they learn about destructive natural events that occur on Earth. Students will explore the structure of Earth looking for patterns as they analyze data, researching theories such as Wegener and Fixists. Students investigate what drives Earth's surface movement, and they make a connection between land and sea breezes and tectonic plates. Students examine the processes that change the Earth's surface both rapidly and gradually over time including tsunamis, earthquakes, and glaciers.

Language Arts

In this unit students will continue to work on compound and complex sentences with Quill learning activities in order to strengthen their overall writing skills. Students will review story elements and begin rough drafts for a fictional narrative about someone who takes a stand to help another person or to make a bad situation better.

Reading

In Unit 4, students will learn about the concept of facing challenges and standing up for what's right as they discover the changes taking place in the lives of these middle school characters in the novel *A Good Kind of Trouble*. Students will also discuss and explore the challenges that face society and their own lives, and research people and causes that attempt to help people overcome challenges and obstacles. Our unit will focus on story structure, figurative language and author's point of view.

Social Studies

Students will begin to explore Australia and New Zealand. Specifically, students will learn about the physical geography, history and life in Australia and New Zealand.



SEVENTH GRADE

Social Studies – Mr. Thomas

Students will continue to study the History of the Tropical North region of South America and then finish studying the continent of South America.

Reading

Seventh graders are currently reading The Outsiders.

Math – Ms. Hall

Students are finishing up their unit on circumference and area. We are also doing practice SBAC tests to help prepare them for state testing coming up next month.

Science – Ms. Murrar

Students are continuing their study of cells and the systems of the human body. They will do a virtual frog dissection in early April! They will be able to explain how the body systems are connected to one another and overall explain how cells and the different body systems are impacted by a concussion.

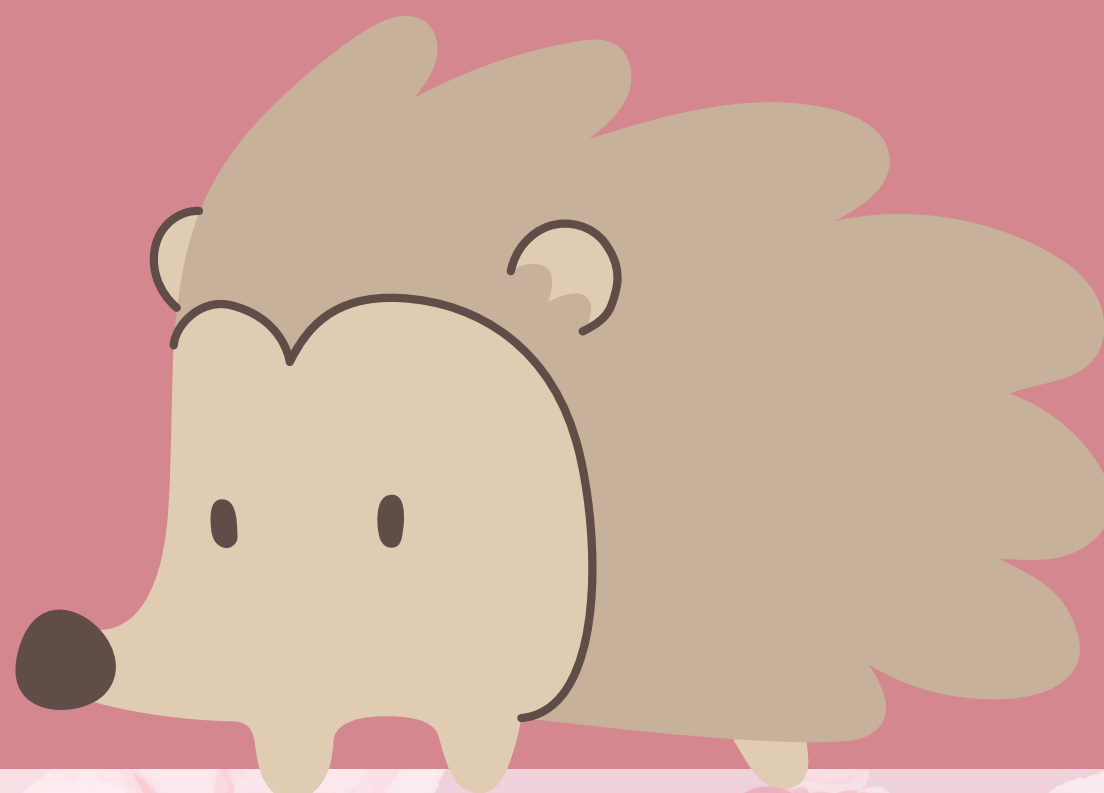
Language Arts – Mrs. Fernandez

Students will be digging deeper into the essential questions for the unit “Getting Along”, such as :

How should action be taken against invasive plant and animal species?

How should we preserve the Earth for future generations?

How do we remove the barriers inherent in communication?





EIGHTH GRADE

Social Studies – Mr. Thomas

Students will continue studying the U.S. Constitution and begin to examine the expansion of the United States leading into the 1800's

Reading

Students have started the novel for quarter 4 , “ Bronx Masquerade”.

Math – Ms. Hall

Students are finishing up their unit on scatter plots. We are also doing practice SBAC tests to help prepare them for state testing coming up next month.

Language Arts – Mrs. Fernandez

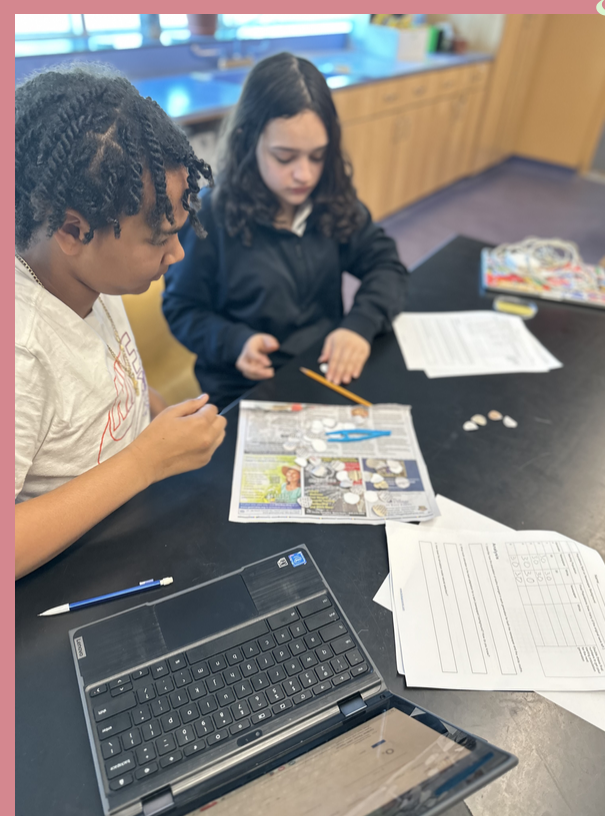
Students will be following along on StudySync assignments that help them dig deep into the essential question for this unit:

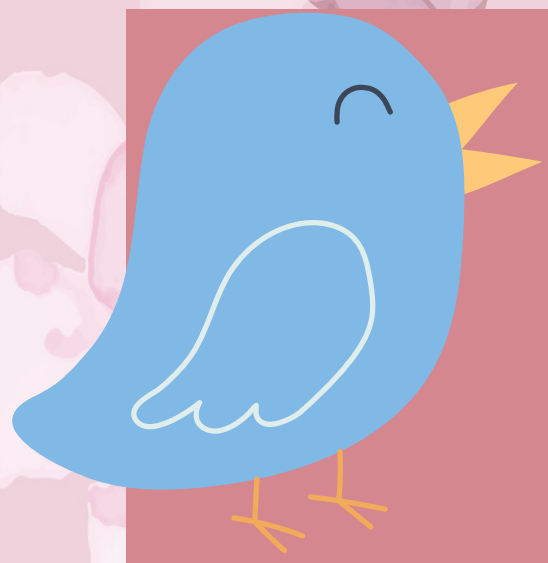
“ Do our experiences, and how we react to our experiences, define who we are or who we will become as people?”

Students will be acquiring narrative writing skills as they follow along through the unit.

Science – Ms. Murray

Students will continue their study of how modern organisms are related to dinosaurs. Further, they are practicing peer review of their GMO food projects and improving their research skills. In the attached photos, 8th graders did a “Moth Simulation Lab” to learn further about Natural Selection. The attached photos are from the students working on their lab.





ESSENTIAL SKILLS

Essential Skills 1

Ms. Rodriguez

April is here!!!!

We look forward to another fun filled month of learning. We will get to enjoy outdoor activities and recess with our peers as the weather begins to change. Some fun hands-on activities we will do are “cupcake liner flowers”, “Very hungry caterpillars”, and “speckled frogs”.

We will continue to Learn our names, Count from 1-10, Learn our ABC's, and Learn our colors and shapes. Some stories we will do are “Spring Has Come”, Pink Fong”, “Mouse’s First Spring”, "The Joyful Bookshelf” and “Pete the Cat and the Cool Caterpillar”, “Lollipop animated book”. We will continue to work hard on our daily tasks and goals.

Happy Spring!

Essential Skills 2

Ms. Teal

Happy Spring!

During the month we will be learning about Spring and the warmer weather.

We will talk about the diamond shape, the color purple and the number 8!

We continue to work on our goals and objectives and continue learning to share and take turns with our friends.





SPECIAL EDUCATION

Elementary – Mrs. Barbati

We have a lot going on in April.

The year is flying by and the state testing for our 3rd and 4th graders is fast approaching. We have worked all year to prepare for this test, and I'm proud of my students and their progress made toward this goal.

I have also seen great progress made with my K-2 students with reading and solving math problems.

We have Parent/Teacher conferences at the end of April after our Spring Break April 15-19. I want to thank each and every parent/guardian for working with your children in meeting their academic goals and helping them achieve success in school!

Middle School – Mrs. Pierce

This month (April) is going to fly by.

We will have two weeks before Spring Break. Please remind your children that break is in two weeks. They are getting a bit excited and we still have much work to do.

I will be getting in touch for my 8th graders needing transition PPT's. I could not be prouder of student progress. Please urge you children to keep it up! We will continue to work on IEP goals and objectives.

If you have questions or concerns about anything please call (203-574-8184), e-mail (kpierce@waterbury.k12.ct.us), or parent square me.

Have a Great Day!

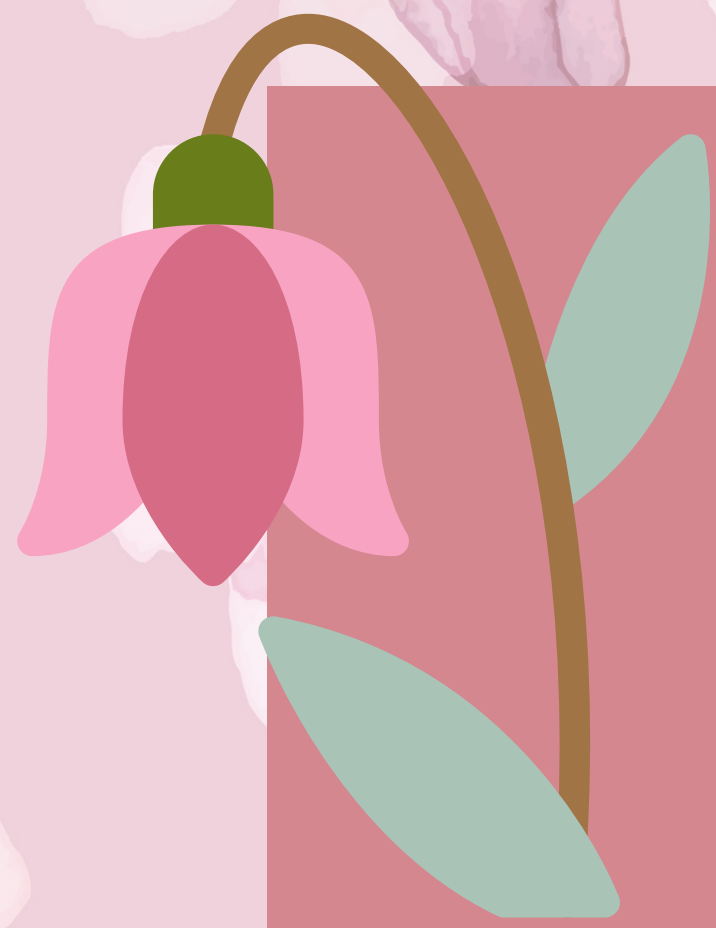
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Mrs. Parker

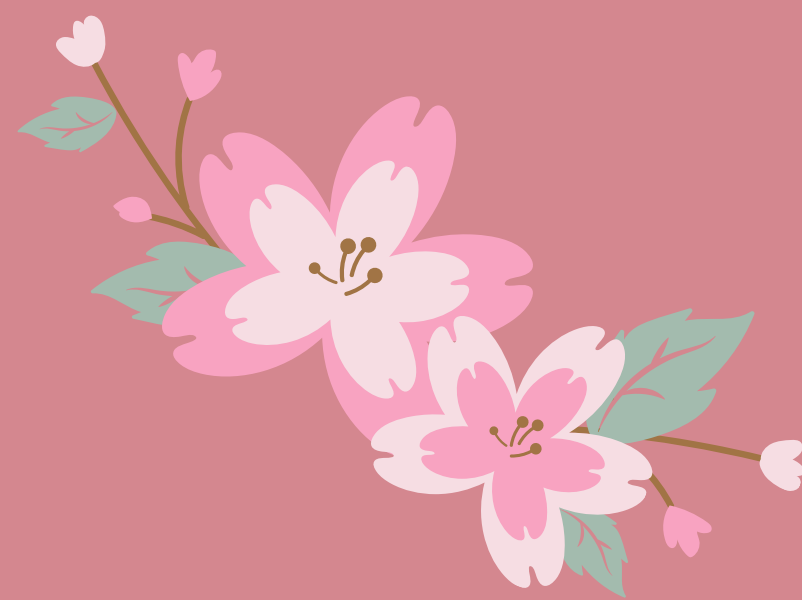
Multilingual Learners News

Happy Spring! We are continuing with our district reading program: Wonders as well as incorporating some Science lessons to celebrate the new season. A friendly reminder to parents, guardians, and caregivers to continue to expose children to a plethora of reading materials in order to maximize vocabulary and comprehension skills.





SPECIALS



Music – Mrs. Doolan

In Music Classes the 7th and 8th grades have been working on projects about their favorite artist. They will be presenting these projects in front of their classmates the next several weeks. Grades 2, 3, and 4 are learning about proper singing and working on Disney songs that they will present in a concert! Grades K and 1 are working on songs about “stories” and “All About Me”.

Physical Education – Mr. Chiasson

In Physical Education grades PK-2 will be working on a unit using scooters where different ways to move on them, activities, as well as some sports will be played! In grades 3-5 students will be working on a unit in badminton where they will work on their hand-eye coordination, skills necessary to be successful and gameplay will take place. In grades 6 and 7 the students will be working on a volleyball unit where fundamental skills will be practiced before gameplay takes place. Students in grade 8 will be working on a unit in badminton where fundamental skills will be practiced before a round robin tournament at the end of the unit. In grades 3-8 towards the end of the month students will be completing the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessments and in grades 4, 6, and 8 their scores will be reported to the state of Connecticut.

Library – Mrs. Rosa

Happy April! This month, students in grades 5 through 8 are learning about poetry. Any student who has shown interest in submitting their poem to the Silas Bronson Poetry Contest has been provided with a permission slip, which must be completed and returned to me no later than April 8th. After poetry, students will be introduced to plagiarism, misinformation, and the distinction between primary and secondary sources.

For Pre K, Kindergarten, and 1st grade students, this month we will be reading stories about Spring, Weather, and Earth Day.