



Killingly Memorial School

Winter 2025

Principal's Message

A New Year's Message from the Principal

Happy New Year and welcome back to all families. May this year bring you joy, peace, good health, and good fortune. January is about new beginnings and positive change. I love all the possibilities that exist for our children at Killingly Memorial School and for their future. All of us at KMS thank you for your caring support and partnership in working together with your children.

The New Year is a wonderful time for families to discuss their own family values and how to make a difference in the lives of others. Teachers work with their students through Responsive Classroom and RULER discussions to set the tone for a positive environment. We encourage our students and families to take the opportunity to celebrate personal achievements every day.

My own goals for 2025 include finding opportunities for every member of our KMS family to work together to make our school a positive, healthy, safe and happy environment. A wonderful way we are doing that this year is with our monthly student and staff community meetings. Each month, the entire school gathers in the gymnasium. We sing a few songs, then recognize students and staff for various accomplishments. Each month, classroom teachers acknowledge a student of the month. Our unified arts teachers also recognize students in art, music, science, PE, and library. This year, grade 4 students have the opportunity to be chosen as a Koala Captain each month. These students are chosen for being responsible, respectful, and showing safe behaviors. They assist with announcements, daily folder delivery, peer mentoring, and much more. We have continued with our traveling trophy award for best classroom student attendance. One class per grade is issued the trophy each month for having the highest percentage of attendance for the previous month. Finally, KMS acknowledges one staff member each month for going above and beyond. They are given, what we call, the "Golden Koala". We are so thankful for our dedicated staff members and parents who contribute to the success of our students.

From all of us at Killingly Memorial School, we wish you a Happy New Year, and thank you for your continued trust and support of us. We look forward to a successful remainder of the school year. Together we are making a difference for all our students.

In Partnership,

Mrs. Chahanovich, Principal



January 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Happy New Year!!	2	3
6	7	8	9 PTCA Meeting at KMS—6pm	10 Early Release Day Progress Reports home
13	14	15	16	17
20 NO School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21 NO School Staff Development Day	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31 Community Meeting

Two Hour Delay—Students allowed into Building at 10:10 School Starts at 10:35.

NO BREAKFAST SERVED

Regular Early dismissal—Students will be dismissed at 1:20 Lunch served as usual.

Special Early dismissal—Students will be dismissed at 12:05 Lunch served as usual.

February 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Last day of Session One Clubs	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13 PTO Meeting —KIS	14 Valentines' Day
17 NO School President's Day Weekend	18 NO School President's Day Weekend	19	20	21 Early Release Day
24	25	26	27	28 Community Meeting

March 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13 PTO Meeting—KCS	14 Early Release Day Last Day of Marking Period
17	18	19	20	21
24 Book Fair Browsing Day	25 Parent Teacher Conferences Book Fair Open	26	27 Half Day at KMS ONLY Parent Teacher Conferences Book Fair Open	28 NO School Staff Development Day

Classroom News

Grade Two

Second graders truly enjoyed learning all about Greek mythology and the twelve Greek gods and goddesses that ancient Greeks believed lived on Mount Olympus.

In our current Knowledge unit, your child is learning about the War of 1812, including its causes, major events, and key figures. They're exploring topics like Great Britain's involvement in the Napoleonic Wars, the impressment of American sailors, and the legendary American battleship USS Constitution, also known as "Old Ironsides." Key figures like President James Madison, a Founding Father and fourth U.S. president, and his wife Dolley Madison, the first to be called "First Lady," is also being highlighted. You can support your child's learning by discussing these topics, incorporating new vocabulary such as "impressment" and "economy" into daily conversations, and reading together each day. This is a great opportunity to connect with your child and reinforce their understanding of this important historical period.

During Skills, students will be introduced to the many spelling alternatives for vowel sounds, which are some of the most challenging aspects of English spelling. Students will learn patterns for sounds like /ae/ (e.g., *cake, day*), /oe/ (e.g., *home, boat*), and others, using tools like word sorts and Spelling Trees. They will also explore "tricky spellings," where one letter can represent multiple sounds (e.g., *o* in *hop* vs. *open*). Alongside spelling, students will practice grammar, write personal narratives, and build reading skills through close reading and decodable texts. This structured approach will improve both reading and spelling over time. In math, students have explored the number line as a tool to represent and understand numbers within 100, as well as to relate addition and subtraction to length. They began by learning how the number line is similar to a ruler, showing numbers in sequence from left to right with equal spacing. Students practiced identifying, locating, and comparing numbers on the number line, understanding that numbers increase to the right and decrease to the left.

Later, students use the number line to represent addition and subtraction with directional arrows—right for addition and left for subtraction. They connect these visual strategies to written equations and computation methods based on place value. Students also explain their strategies and compare them with those of their classmates.

At home, you can reinforce these skills by asking your child to solve simple addition and subtraction problems on a number line. Encourage them to explain their thinking, identify their answers, and explore alternate methods of solving the problems. This will deepen their understanding and confidence in using the number line!



Grade Three

Reading

The 3rd grade's most recent CKLA unit is entitled The Ancient Roman Civilization. This unit has 15 lessons with titles including "The Legend of Romulus and Remus", "Daily Roman Life", and "Augustus Caesar and the Decline of the Roman Empire". Students will study the rise and fall of the Roman empire and key historical figures including Julius Caesar. There is an abundance of rich vocabulary sprinkled throughout the fifteen lessons. Students will be learning the meaning of words such as *civilizations*, *Mediterranean*, *empire*, *alliance*, and *negotiate*, using them in discussions with their peers, and in written responses to text.

Writing

As students gain knowledge of the Ancient Roman Civilization, they will have many opportunities to practice their writing skills. Note-taking, written responses requiring text evidence, and short opinion reflections will be part of the students' daily work as writers. In addition, each student will write an extended opinion response supporting whether they think architecture or Latin was Rome's greatest lasting contribution.

Math

Our work in math has recently focused on adding and subtracting numbers within 1,000. Students have been introduced to several different algorithms for both addition and subtraction. An algorithm is a set of steps that, when done correctly, will result in the correct answer. Knowing when and how to regroup is the most important skill that students have learned when adding and subtracting larger numbers. Another valuable skill third graders have been practicing is rounding. When deciding whether an answer seems reasonable, rounding can be helpful. Additionally, students are learning that an exact number answer is not always necessary. Rounding and estimating are skills that are useful all through life!

Social Studies

In Social Studies, students are continuing to learn about Connecticut. They have been introduced to the early history of our state through an excellent resource *Where I Live Connecticut*. Understanding the economy of Connecticut and what people do for jobs is another topic we have been discussing. Many famous inventors were from Connecticut, and we all benefitted from the things they made. Think: sewing machine, submarine, frisbee, dictionary, can opener, helicopter.

In addition to learning about Connecticut, students keep up with more current events and world geography through the *Scholastic News*. We receive a new issue of this 4-5-page resource nearly every week. Some of the recent topics that have been covered are *Extreme Jobs*, *The Rise of Flag Football*, and *Reefs at Risk*. Students look forward to reading and learning about the variety of topics presented in this mini newspaper. And many of the features also have exciting videos to watch! We love the *Scholastic News*!



February 2, 2025

Grade Four

Social Studies

We finished up the second unit in Social Studies of US Regions, we will begin studying the Revolutionary War, which will tie in to our American Revolution Unit in ELA. Students will read and learn about important events and people during the war. Afterwards, we will be moving into our final Social Studies Unit that will cover the remaining United States regions.

Social-Emotional Learning

Students are continuing to learn and practice social and emotional skills such as empathy, emotional management, self-control, and getting along with others. Students learn through the Second Step and RULER curriculums as well as through responsive, in the moment social emotional instruction as needed.

CKLA

For ELA, 4th grade will explore the methods and devices used by poets, which will prepare them to read and interpret both formal and free verse poems. Because poems are often multidimensional, students will have opportunities to let their imagination flourish, explore figurative language, and expand their creativity. Students will use a Poet's Journal, which has been created to reinforce the unit's integration of reading and writing poetry. The poems and activity pages in this journal will allow students to review material, answer questions, and complete activities designed to increase their comprehension. Students will also use these pages to compose original texts and apply what they have learned throughout the unit. Following the poetry unit, 4th grade will be starting the geology unit. Students will learn that the earth is composed of layers that, through heat and pressure, cause movements that result in geological features above and below the earth's surface. Students will learn about the theory of plate tectonics and how it explains the presence of volcanoes, mountains, underwater trenches, ridges, and other geological features.

Math

Fourth graders have been working hard in math over the last few months! We learned how to add and subtract fractions and how to convert into common denominators in Unit 3. In the beginning of Unit 4, we learned about the relationship of fractions and decimals. We also learned about tenth and hundredth on the place value chart. Currently in Unit 4, we are learning about whole number place value, rounding and adding and subtracting numbers within a million. In the coming unit, we will learn how to multiply multi-digit numbers by one digit as well as two-digit by two-digit. As always, please remember to have your child(ren) practice their math facts!



Unified Arts News



ART NEWS-Mrs. Powers



Art to remember was a huge success! Thank you to all that participated. I hope you are happy with your products. The money is a big help in art where we spend a lot of money on consumable supplies. The students are coming back, finishing up work from December and starting new work.

Classes in Grade 4 are working on mixing tints and shades to find lots of new colors in painting.
Classes in Third Grade are working on learning about shapes and creating art using both geometric and organic shapes.
Grade 2 is learning about color mixing with primary and secondary colors.

BRRR! If your kids are spending lots of time inside, check out these websites to counter boredom!

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=art+for+kids+hub

Check out the Metropolitan Museum of Art for kids

<https://www.metmuseum.org/learn/kids-and-families>

Greetings from the KMS Library!



In the New Year, students in grades 2 through 4 have continued to work on:

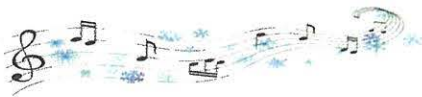
- Meeting the expectations of a good library user
- Understanding the process of borrowing and returning library books
- Practicing basic care for library books
- Searching the library catalog for books & finding them on the shelves INDEPENDENTLY!!
- From October 30, 2024, through January 10, 2025, the KMS library circulated 2,773 books.
- Several 4th graders have applied to be part of the KMS Library Crew, and many 3rd graders have volunteered to become Shelf Elves. With their assistance I will be able to keep our library always neat and organized.

Looking ahead we will focus on...

- Continued success as good library users
- Choosing "Just Right Books"
- Sharing our personal interests through a small project
- Understanding different genres



on March 9, 2025



SHUTTERSTOCK.COM • 1546273013

Notes From Mrs. Varone

KMS Music

January 2025

Happy New Year! In December, we had a lot of great musical experiences. We attended the KHS holiday assembly, where the high school music department shared some amazing performances. We were also able to have our own KMS Holiday Sing Along the day before the holiday break.

Below are some updates on what we are learning in music for each grade.

What Did We Learn?

2nd Grade:

In second grade we mastered quarter notes and eighth notes and added quarter rests to our rhythms. We worked on melodic motion and how notes move from high to low. While learning about melodic motion, we had a chance to explore xylophones and other barred instruments. We also studied the famous ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

3rd Grade:

Third grade students have been working on the notes Do, Re, Mi, Fa, and So. Students are becoming proficient at reading, singing, and playing these notes. We are now able to identify line notes and spaces notes on a staff. In December, we focused on the ballet, *The Nutcracker*.

4th Grade:

This is such an exciting time for fourth graders. We have just about mastered the basics of recorder and the notes B, A, and G. We managed to learn a holiday piece, *Carol of the Bells*, using the notes B, A, and G. You can watch a performance of this piece in the link below:

<https://youtu.be/QTuX2iApfQQ>



Science News

What great activities we are exploring this quarter for all the kiddos at KMS.

***The fourth graders** are continuing to learn about the different forms of energy. The transfer of energy is being explored and demonstrated each week. For their summative, they will make their own "Rube Goldberg machine"

***The third graders** finished learning about Motion and Forces. The Magnet unit never disappoints and continues to be the most popular. They started the new unit on "Weird Weather" in Earth Science. The science notebooks have been vital in helping the students learn the new vocabulary and gather information while completing their labs. This unit they will learn about different weather conditions and patterns. They will learn how to protect and prepare for wild weather conditions.

***Second graders** are having a fun time learning about landforms. They are using their bodies to form all different types of landforms. They are making a fun diorama of landforms using a variety of sweets. Next, they will be learning about land changes. Erosion is first on the list as they used water and wind to witness firsthand how land changes with different types of environments.

So much fun in science throughout the grades. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me at kyvincent@killinglyschools.org

Thank you,
Ms. Vincent

Physical Education

As we're in our winter season, we're excited to reflect on the progress our students have made in Physical Education and look ahead to the months to come.

Our 4th graders have just completed their first round of fitness testing. They worked hard through the various assessments, and their results will help us track their growth and set goals for future improvement. Spring testing will begin in April, and we're excited to see how they continue to build on the foundation they've created.

Before we left for winter break, our 2nd and 3rd graders enjoyed some fun holiday-themed games, bringing a festive and active end to the year. Since then, they've been working on developing their throwing and catching skills using bean bags, yarn balls, and other equipment. These activities have been fantastic for building coordination, teamwork, and hand-eye coordination.

We've also started our fitness unit, where students are learning exercises that help enhance strength, endurance, and flexibility. We're excited to keep the momentum going as we head into the spring months!

Sincerely,
Miss Gallagher
PE Teacher

As part of our math curriculum, we are exploring strategies to make addition and subtraction more intuitive for children. One powerful tool we use is the **open number line**. This method helps students develop a deeper understanding of numbers, place value, and mental math strategies.

What Is an Open Number Line?

An open number line is a blank number line where students can place numbers and make jumps to solve problems. It allows flexibility and encourages logical thinking while solving addition or subtraction problems.

Addition Example:

Problem: $58 + 36$

1. Start at 58 on the number line.
2. Make a jump of 30 (the tens place in 36) to reach 88.
3. Then make a jump of 6 (the ones place in 36) to land on 94.

Subtraction Example:

Problem: $84 - 47$

1. Start at 84 on the number line.
2. Breakdown 47 into manageable parts (e.g., 40 and 7).
3. First, jump back 40 to land on 44.
4. Then jump back 7 to land on 37.

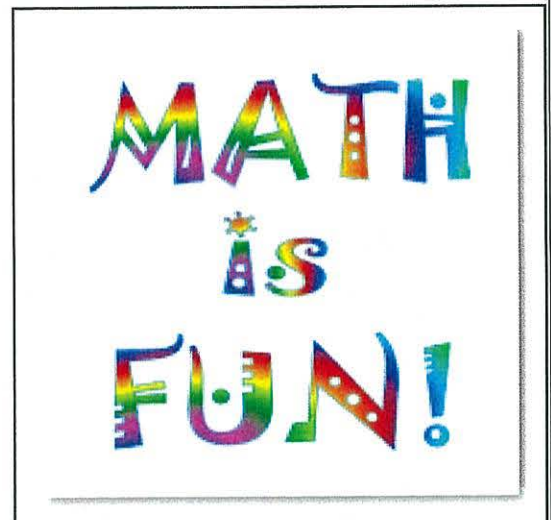
Why Use This Method?

The open number line helps children:

- Visualize the addition or subtraction process.
- Break numbers into smaller, more manageable chunks.
- Strengthen their understanding of place value.
- Build confidence in mental math.

How You Can Help at Home

- Encourage your child to use a number line for solving problems.
- Ask them to explain their thinking and how they made their jumps.
- Practice mentally adding 10, 20, 30, etc from any number within 100 ex. $54 + 20$.
- Practice combinations of 10 and 100.



Sincerely,

Mrs. Goldsmith & Ms. Costa

We are learning about the Winter Season.
How do you build a snowman? (Sequencing)
What do you wear in the winter? Why?
(Describing, Categorizing, Function)

We are working on Grammar using the correct helping verb is/are, was/were, do/does and have/has, while describing. For instance, He has, They have...

We are learning how to follow directions, with concepts, such as next to, before and after. Feel free to incorporate these concepts in your day. For instance, "Can you take your Backpack off before you take your shoes off?"

News from the SPEECH ROOM

Danielle Orbegozo, MS, CCC-SLP
Chris Boyle, SLPA-C



Hello



Winter

Here are some books you might be interested in checking out of the library:

- *The Mitten – Jan Brett
- *There Was a Cold Lady Who Swallowed Some Snow – Lucille Colandro
- *The Biggest Snowman Ever-Steven Kroll



BRRRR-- It's cold outside!

Just a reminder that children must have one recess a day, at KMS this is a 30-minute session. Recess is held outdoors unless there is precipitation or a temperature below 25 degrees. It is important that students come to school with appropriate winter clothing daily: coats, hats, gloves or mittens.

KMS Community News

Travelling Trophy

*given to one classroom per grade with the best percent attendance for the month

NOVEMBER

Grade 2 Mrs. Juhola's Class
Grade 3 Ms. Tillinghast's Class
Grade 4 Ms. Lee's Class

DECEMBER

Grade 2 Mrs. Lanzoni's Class
Grade 3 Ms. Penner's Class
Grade 4 Mrs. Scott's Class

Golden Koala Award

NOVEMBER

Mr. Phoenix Vaughan

DECEMBER

Mrs. Carol Bitgood

Student of the Month

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

Grade 2

Mrs. Crabtree-Henry Panteleakos
Ms. Fratonì-Julien Fanning
Mrs. Juhola-Madelyn McMillian
Mrs. Lanzoni-Alexa Casale
Mrs. Maheu-Juan Williamson
Ms. McMerriman-Avery Resto
Ms. Moulton-Zoey Ortiz
Ms. Riordan-Nicholas Gaudreau
Ms. Sakidovitch-Gaveenah DeBella

Grade 2

Mrs. Crabtree-Ambrose McDonald
Ms. Fratonì-Levi Van Gelder
Mrs. Juhola-Isabel Pietros
Mrs. Lanzoni-Benjamin Kelly
Mrs. Maheu-Remington Howard
Ms. McMerriman-Zoe Pawloski
Ms. Moulton-Jaycee Grigg
Ms. Riordan-Stanley Pietros
Ms. Sakidovitch-Landon Langlois

Grade 3

Mrs. Bitgood-Alexavier Dauphinais
Ms. Breen- Coraline Chalifoux
Mrs. Carlson- Maya Krogul
Ms. Gaulin-Haeden Riendeau
Mrs. Hand-Greyson Brito
Mrs. Penner- Anna Tatro
Ms. Siegmund-Joshua Hutchinson
Ms. Tillinghast-Noah Sciscia

Grade 3

Mrs. Bitgood-Penelope Beshaw
Ms. Breen- Isaac Urrego
Mrs. Carlson- Ava Onny
Ms. Gaulin-Madison Coleman
Mrs. Hand-Bentley Colon
Mrs. Penner- Julianna Bourget
Ms. Siegmund-Kolten Waters
Ms. Tillinghast-Braxtin Gallerani

Grade 4

Ms. Breen-Daniel Morente
Mrs. Burdick-Josie Raymond
Mrs. Delfarno-Cody Lizotte
Ms. Ellal- Evan Miller
Ms. Lee- Wade Wolczak
Ms. Salisbury- Preston Nguyen
Mrs. Scott- Jackson Hernandez
Ms. Tenaglia-Jeriziah Walker

Grade 4

Ms. Breen-Milena Tebano
Mrs. Burdick-Angelina Yacino
Mrs. Delfarno-Jameson Shimkus
Ms. Ellal- Dairelis Caraballo
Ms. Lee- Isabella Tempest
Ms. Salisbury- Danilo Torres
Mrs. Scott- Phoebe Machamer
Ms. Tenaglia-Ri'zamy Johnson

Koala Captains

NOVEMBER

Ms. Breen-Noah Burgess
Mrs. Burdick-Eldar Otajaic
Mrs. Delfarno-Kameron Dilbert
Ms. Ellal-Alexandria Spardello
Ms. Lee-Lillian Santiago
Ms. Salisbury- Ashton Barry
Mrs. Scott-Jaxon Johnson
Ms. Tenaglia- Lorelai Zadziejko



DECEMBER

Ms. Breen-Logan Boucher
Mrs. Burdick-Kaden Cruz
Mrs. Delfarno-Avery Palumbo
Ms. Ellal-Caleb Silveira
Ms. Lee-Danger Lombard
Ms. Salisbury- Amelie Levesque
Mrs. Scott- Hunter Kerttula
Ms. Tenaglia- Ella Porter



Community
Meeting



The Twelve Days of Christmas KMS **Winners !!!**



**Attend
Today
Achieve
Tomorrow**
Killingly Public Schools

