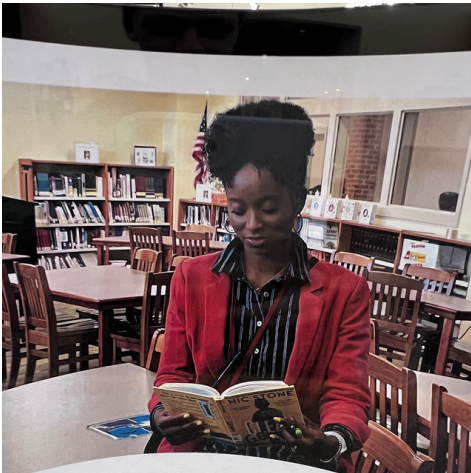
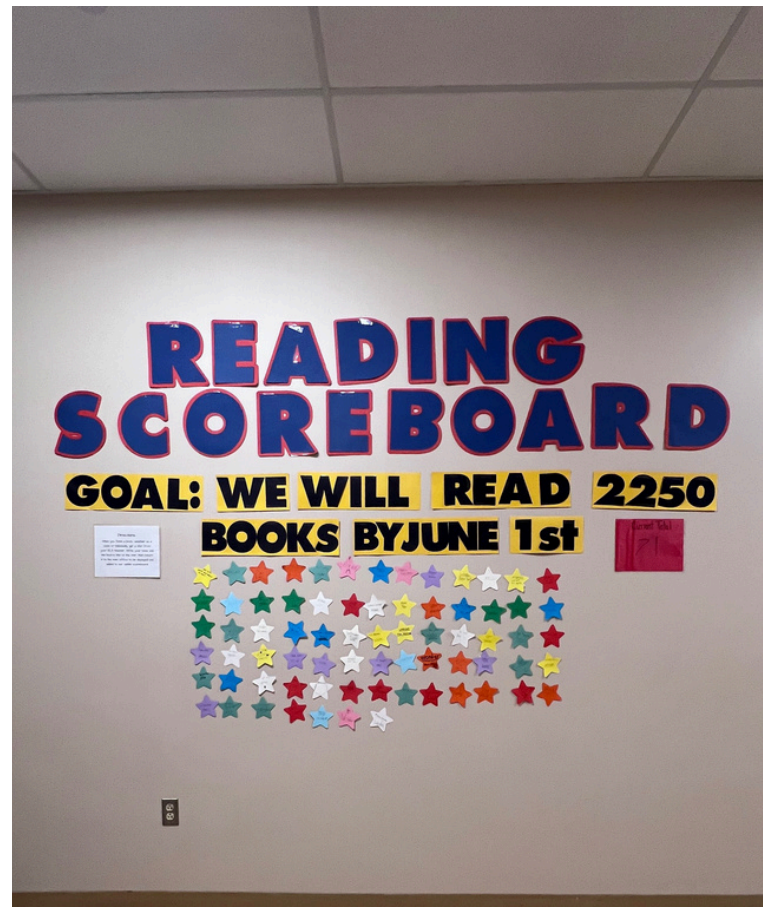


READING CHALLENGE

2250 BOOKS SHALL BE READ



In our school this week our principals brought the reading challenge into our school system! They were influenced by some of the other ELA teachers, as they wanted to increase the number of students that become reading adults. The process of this starts when a student finishes a book. When they are 100% completely done they can go to their ELA teacher and get a star! On the star they will write their first & last name plus the title of the book they just completed. After they do this, their star will be hung on a wall. This wall states “reading scoreboard” in huge blue and red capital letters! Along with the reading challenge it also says our goal which happens to be 2250 books. As of December 6, 2024 we were up to around 71 books in total. Off to a great start! We wanted some other information on this topic so we interviewed Dr. Northcutt.



We were wondering if there was an amount of books that she had hoped each student would read and she replied with “Nope, the more the merrier!” We thought that there might be some sort of reward at the end but soon found out that doing things for a reward isn't what she wants. She wants to encourage doing things for personal satisfaction. This challenge is a school wide event that will be ending on June 1st. As a hope to achieve our goal there are absolutely no restrictions.

(continued page 6)

“ You are enough just as you are.”

This week we had some positive things happen. The whole school has been working on being kind to others and not bullying. With this it has led us to do more circles and has led us to have a better perspective on other classmates. On Tuesday, December 3rd best buddies decorated the gazebo for Christmas great job those who went in best buddies it looks great. Get excited cause Kindness Week is coming up on the week 16 - 20 student council is planning a bunch of kind and fun activities for all the grades Guess what, on Thursday, December 5 we had our first snow day of the year. It was very



unexpected but I am sure most of you probably enjoyed it. Another positive thing was that the chorus took a field trip to the good speed opera house to see the Christmas story. When they came back to the school they were all positive reviews. Otherwise the Nathan Hale Ray Middle School had a positive week.

ARTS & LEISURE

Switching it up this week were going to inform you on the work going on in Computer and Stem class. In Mr.Badala's computer class this week he has 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes. In his E period class (6th grade) they're working on designing and modeling. With this topic they're designing air skimmers. These are not just normal air skimmers though, these ones REALLY HOVER! Along with these they're also working on puzzle cube toys, and currently a foot orthosis for clients with cerebral palsy. Doing things Mr.Badala style he had to add a little twist, the students got fake \$ along with a budget and shopped at Badala General for the materials they needed. Moving on to 7th grade B and D classes they're currently working their tails off to code microbits using light and pressure sensors to spin servo motors. Using these skills they have designed animated postcards from anywhere of their choice. Some kids did sports, favorite towns, or even fantasy worlds. Last but definitely not least in Mr.Badalas G period 8th grade class they have been using VEX robotics kits to learn about gears and gear mechanisms.

In addition to designing and building pull toys that were presented in a "Pull Toy Parade," they are currently designing solutions to rebuild civilization after an apocalyptic event. These include grain crushers, water pumps, wood saws, moveable solar collectors, and rescue vehicles. This is all for Mr.Badalas class(which is awesome) but on the other side of the school we have Ms.Thodys stem class 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students all doing PLTW. They are currently working on building circuits (Series and parallel) in order to do this they are using snap circuits. Moving to 4th grade they are learning about levers which will eventually lead to them building rube goldberg machines. Last but definitely not least 5th grade is currently designing and building hot air balloons. While building these the students are being taught about buoyancy. Stem and Computers are doing so well. Keep it up!

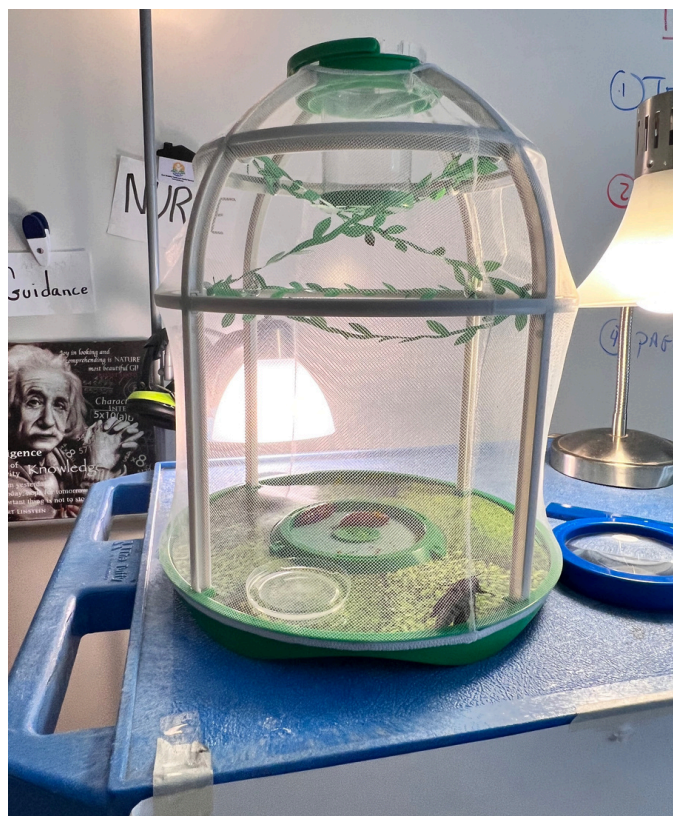
GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

4TH GRADE

This week in 4th grade we have some exciting things going on! In math class students are learning how to subtract fractions by borrowing. They are also placing fractions on a line plot. That's pretty challenging considering they're only 8-10 years old! Next up is Ms. Quinns ELA class students are working on using writing strategies to create "expert leveled" paragraphs. They are also taking evidence from stories to help understand the theme! Moving straight to social studies as our last class, students wrapped up picking and researching a state from the northeast region and began creating informative posters describing different parts of their state. Although teachers in our school tend to make classes pretty spectacular, we have some things that are a bit more exciting. To start off they have a 10 day countdown right up until holiday break where a special event will be revealed each day! Along with this they also have high hopes for the school wide spirit week. 4th grade is doing some amazing things, and we hope they keep it going strong!

5TH GRADE

This past week in 5th grade has been great! In Mr. Hopkins' class they are continuing to learn about the food web. The day before break the student council gave out hot chocolate. The 5th graders did so well with the thankful cards. Moving back to this week Ms Fultons' class is having so much fun. They are comparing and contrasting two different ancient civilizations. They are comparing Athens and Sparta. Isn't that just amazing! The stranger will be revealed to Ms. Gerrish class. We all can not wait to find it out. So to finish this off. Make sure to read next week's paper to learn more about what the 5th grade is up to.



GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

6TH GRADE

This week, sixth graders have been working hard! The pedal is to the medal! Not only are the sixth graders finishing up their one pagers, but also preparing for their science quiz today. This week in math, they are learning about ratios and navigating ratio tables along with using multipliers while solving different multi-step problems. In Science this week they are learning about the structure and function of cells. Sixth graders are taking home their science notebooks so they can study and prepare for their quiz on Monday. In Ms. Michaud's class, students are finishing up their one pagers and showing what they have learned and their understanding of the book they read. Bringing up the rear, is Ms. Brazas' class, sixth grade will be learning how interconnected the ancient world was. They will also map out trade routes and learn how valuable SALT was. Keep up the good work sixth graders and can't wait to hear more from you next week!

7TH GRADE

This week in 7th grade students have been talking about spending kindness and being an upstander. In Math the 7th graders have been studying really hard for their quiz that was on Tuesday, December, 5th. In Ms. Macs' class the 7th graders are fishing up their book *Touching Spirit Bear* and getting ready to do their projects in the next following week. In Mr. In Riccios' class we just fished the Native Americans and did amazing on their essays. Now the 7th graders are starting European exploration. In Ms Sullivan's class the 7th graders just finished their experiment with different liquids. The names that follow are the 7th graders that got into jazz band congrats to all. Conner McDonald, Griffin Pulaski, Giavana Cusiana, and Eve Forsyth. Congrats 7th graders on Monday, December 9, we have our first band concert of the year. It is an annual winter concert. 7th grade had a great week this week wrapping things up before Christmas break.



GRADE BY GRADE UPDATES

8TH GRADE

This week in 8th grade, students are exploring a variety of exciting topics across different subjects. In science class last week they started a new unit. 8th grade students learn about electric magnetic and gravitational fields by building and experimenting with electromagnets. They are exploring different ways to change the strength of the magnetic forces and create a model to show how different factors affect the magnetic fields. Students also are using electromagnets to model the gravitational fields between the Earth and the Moon, and between the Earth and the Sun. Then in Language Arts 8th grade is writing a 100-250 word story called *The Spine Chiller*. It's all about making the story exciting by using things like plot, setting, conflict, and mood. 8th grade will work on creating a plot that keeps readers interested and a setting that makes everything feel creepy. The conflict will add some drama and suspense, and the mood will help make the story feel really eerie. I'm excited to see how everyone's stories turn out and how the 8th grade students can make them as fun and chilling as possible. In math they are still working on slopes and lines, and in math 2 they are still learning about solving problems with proportional relationships. Then in social studies the 8th grade is continuing researching the American revolutionary. I think we all can agree that we are very excited to see the models, stories, and the problem solving skills these 8th graders have!



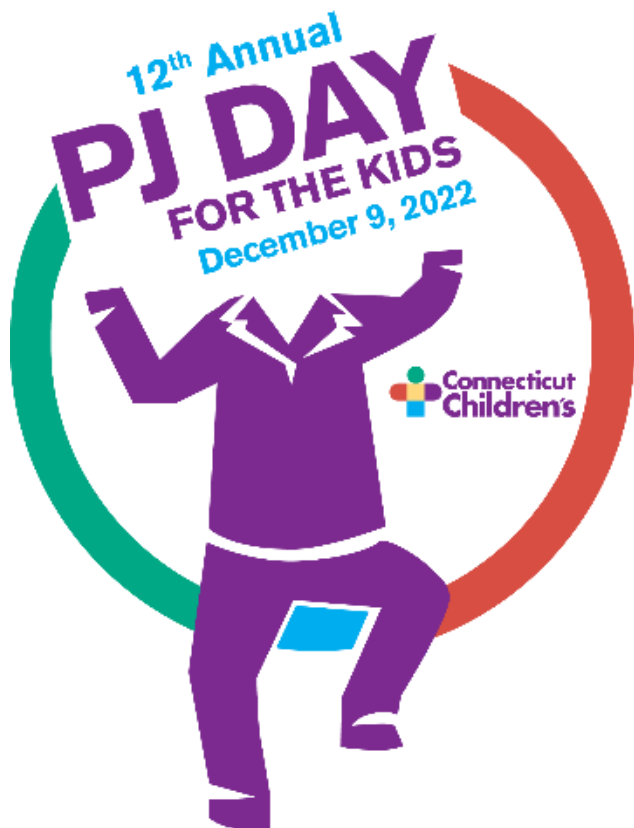
READING CHALLENGE

2250 BOOKS SHALL BE READ

We wrapped up our conversation with Dr. Northcutt by asking if she wanted anything else to be included and she told us that she really wants student feedback. Students really are doing amazing with this and the wall is filling up. Let's keep going strong and reach our goal!



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT HALE-RAY?



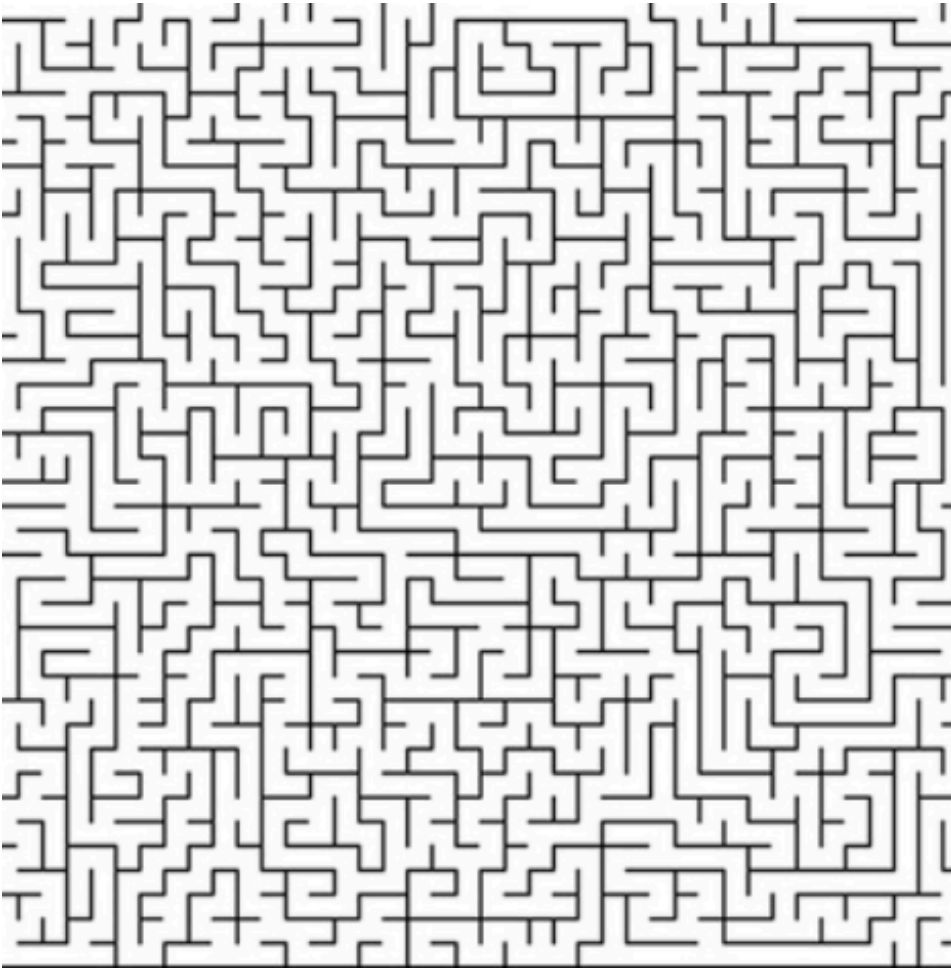
In the next following weeks we have some fun things to look up too. We have PJ day on December 13. We are trying to raise money for kids with cancer at the hospital and pay a dollar or more to wear your PJ for one day. Kindness week is coming the week before break. We have kindness week for the whole week. The student council has some fun and kind things planned. Spirit week is also the week right before break to get ready to show some spirit to the school. The world cafe is scheduled for December 12 from 2:10 to 3:30. On Thursday December 5 in snow we had our first snow day of the year. ALERT WINTER BREAK IS COMING ALERT WINTER BREAK IS COMING. On Friday December 20 is the last day of school before winter break. I think that we have some pretty fun events coming up before winter break but as a school we still need to work for it. But otherwise keep looking forward to the upcoming events.

STUDENT COUNCIL

This week in the student council we had a couple of interesting things go on. To start we approved our minutes and proceeded to fill out a hot cocoa form to get feedback on how it went and what we can do better for the next year. Once we finished this we took around 10 minutes to talk about kindness week, an event that will be taking place the week of December 16, 2024. We don't want to spoil it too much but we have some activities that will be enjoyable for all! The last thing that will be coming up soon is PJ Day for the Kids! This year PJ day has landed on December 13th and you only have to pay one dollar! 100% of the funds go directly to Connecticut childrens to support the kids that are fighting cancer, and have to undergo treatments every day. During our meeting this week we finally got to do one thing that we have been looking forward to for a long time, committees! We only did three committees this week but that is a great start! This year one of our goals is to make our school more inclusive and we're definitely off to a great start! Keep up the good work StuCo and if you want to join come to one of our meetings on Mondays until 3:05.



MAZE AND SUDUKO



By Kamlil Gibran

“Kindness is like
snow. it beautifies
everything it covers.”

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SPORTS

Last week or so we were talking about school sports starting. Well as of today and tomorrow all three sports we have been practicing for a week. Girls and boys basketball started on the second with cheer starting on the third. Let's start by talking about the cheer team. This year they got new uniforms! Now they are matching with the high school. We can all agree that the cheer girls were really excited for this. Enough about the cheerleaders, it's time to talk about basketball. First off the girls and boys basketball games start off with a double header on Friday, December 13. You can see all of the teams at the game this Friday. We hope many of you attend it. Make sure to read next week's paper to hear how these teams are doing!



COMICS

Lauren Masterson
Enrichment Teacher



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

We are 7th grade students. Our names are Neilly Erlandson, Emma Brisson, Paige DeLisa, Peyton Tremblay, Lillian Bristol, and Ruby Parady. We are bringing back the school newspaper for our Enrichment class led by our teacher of the year Mrs. Lauren Masterson.

I am Paige DeLisa and I am in 7th grade. I play on the travel softball team Bearcats along with a couple of my friends. I love playing shortstop! I also play for the school team. I love being on the student council. I am the secretary/treasurer and I'm excited to see where we go with this year's as we have a really good group of students. Some of my hobbies include boating, traveling, skiing, Leos, babysitting, and hanging out with my family. In my family that lives with me I have 2 older brothers Benjamin (17) and Chris (16). My mom and dad also live with us along with my dog Luci.

I am Neilly Erlandson and in the 7th grade. I play about 7 sports. I have played on a travel softball team for 2 years called the Bearcats, but have played softball for 8 years. I really love the sport of softball and am happy to continue. My favorite position to play is catcher. I am also currently doing Irish Step dancing, and have danced for 11 years. I play volleyball, I cheerlead, golf, ski, waterski, and hunt. I am currently out for an injury of my ankle, but will be back soon. I am also President of the student council and am the Middle School Liaison for the State of Connecticut. The goal I am trying to accomplish is to be a successful student athlete and eventually attend Harvard University. I have 21 animals, 6 oxen, 3 cats, 12 chickens, and a dog. I have two sisters and one brother: Lexi, Bridey, and Wyatt.

I am Emma Brisson. I am a 7th grade student. My favorite sport to play has to be softball. I play pitcher and outfield. I have been playing this amazing game for 6 years. I love animals! My favorite is bears. This love for the animals gave me the nickname Panda. Back to animals, I have an animal, I do have a dog of my own named Rocky. Rocky is a mix of a beagle and Australian cattle dog. I have one other sibling who is Lincoln. One thing I like to do in my free time is practice for softball and play with my dog.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

I am Ruby Parady I am a 7th grade student. My favorite sports are softball and I love to ski. I ski in Vermont with my friends and family. I play shortstop on my travel team called the Bearcats. I have been playing ever since I could. I also am a part of the student council and leos. I also love to go camping with my friends and family in the summer. I have 3 pets at home: my English cream golden retriever and I have two orange tabby cats that are named Mickey and Duke. I am a HUGE Swifty and I love going to Disney every year. I have been ten times and I am going back for April vacation next year. This is something that I look forward to this year. I have two brothers Reese and Reign and they are twins! They are both in third grade. My favorite color is pink and my favorite subject is Language Arts.

I am Peyton Tremblay. I play soccer, softball, and cheer, and I enjoy each one for different reasons. Soccer is all about strategy and working with teammates to move the ball and score. Softball keeps me focused, whether I'm hitting or playing defense. Cheerleading gives me a chance to stay active and support my school. I like the challenge and energy that come with each of these sports. My favorite subject is math or enrichment. When I'm not playing, I spend time with my sister, Quinn, who's in 4th grade. I also have 3 pets. My dog Murphy is a Boston terrier and is 10 years old. I have 2 cats, one cat named Myles who is 3 years old and my other cat named Mason is 5 years old.

I am Lillian Bristol. I am a 7th grade student. My favorite sport is soccer. I play forward (wings, mid, striker). I've played soccer most of my life and I love to be part of a team. I also love to play piano and sing. I write my own songs and perform in front of people whenever I get the chance to. My favorite color is blue and my favorite subject in school is ELA. I love going to the beach with my family along with my friends. I go to a beach house every summer with my family and my dogs. I have two dogs named Lucy and Poppy. Lucy is a hound/mutt mix and Poppy is a schnauzer mutt mix. I have two other siblings Ruby and James. Something I look forward to every year is going to New York to my family's lake house. I don't get to see them a lot so I really enjoy having a vacation to spend time with them.

That's it for our first ever issue of the Noisy News! We hope you all enjoyed it and we are excited to publish more in the future.

