

Newton School

December 2017

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin



Greetings from Newton School,

December is a short month filled with the excitement of the holidays. The weather has started to change and we want to remind families that our students enjoy being outside every day. We look forward to creating snow sculptures and structures on our playground. Students need to come to school dressed to play outside. We recommend layering clothing to meet the needs of changing temperatures. It's time to find coats, hats, mittens and boots. Snow pants and boots are required to play in the snow. Please mark your child's clothing so we can return lost items.

On December 15th we will have an All School Meeting that celebrates music. We hope you will join us on Friday December 15th at 8:30 for our All School Celebration of Music. On December 20th the GHS Chorus will perform at 1:00 at Newton. December 21st is a half day and the last day before the holiday. Dismissal is at 11:55.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday!

Melodie Goodwin



Upcoming Events

- ❖ December 14th Freedom Credit Union Banking
- ❖ December 14th PTO Meeting 6:00
- ❖ December 15th All School Meeting 8:30
- ❖ December 21st Early Release 11:55
- ❖ December 22nd Winter Break Begins
- ❖ January 2nd Return to School

Reminders

- School starts at 7:50
- Drop off is at 7:30. We are unable to care for children before 7:30. Thank you!
- Please send a note with your child or call the school before 2:00 if he or she has a change of dismissal
- At dismissal parking is allowed on the school side of the street only
- Dress for the weather. Winter weather is here make sure your child has a jacket, snowpants, boots, mittens/gloves, and a hat. Students need to have all the above to play in the snow.

Kindergarten News

November and December offer many opportunities for us to think about how important our families are to us. Kindergartners are eager to share stories about family members, holiday celebrations and daily routines. A book entitled Families are Different helped us to understand that each family is unique and that every family is held together by a “special kind of glue” called love!

During the month of December the kindergartners will begin to explore the many ways in which we use The Five Senses. The holidays provide lots of opportunities for us to creatively explore our sense of sight, smell, hearing, touch and taste.

As colder months approach we are also learning how to dress ourselves for the weather outside. Encourage your child to learn how to zip his/her own jacket and to put mittens on LAST. Please be sure to **label** all of your child's outerwear and boots with his/her name. These practices will help us greatly! Thank you!

Ms. Swist, Mrs. Brown & Mrs. Encarnacao

Be Safe. Be Kind. Be Respectful.

Dear First Grade Families,

We hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends. Our winter weather is fast approaching! Please make sure your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor gear for Playworks and morning recess. First Grade is busy working both indoors and outside! We want to be prepared for our daily adventures.

In math, we are steadily working to develop your child's tool belt! They are learning strategies for math- how to add and subtract utilizing: fact families, ten frames, and part:part whole mats, or illustrating a picture to find the answer.

In language arts our daily writing (together and independently), reading (in small and large groups), continues to grow and improve. We are focusing on writing a sentence that starts with a capital and ends with an end mark. Reading has included building reading fluency (pacing) and developing good comprehension skills (what happened in the story?)

In science and social studies, we have celebrated Veterans Day, Columbus Day, Kindness Day, and Thanksgiving through stories, songs, crafts, and poetry. We have also had fun exploring pumpkins, apples, and their life cycles.

Please continue to enjoy your quiet reading nights at home with your child. Also, remind your child of the importance of being safe, kind, and respectful within our communities.

Sincerely,

Ms. Hayes, Ms. Warren, Mrs. Thurston

Dear Second Grade Families,

Happy December from Second Grade! Second grade will be continuing to read stories that connect to our unit of Working Together. We will answer questions such as how can we meet people's needs? This theme will tie into the holiday season as we explore wants versus needs in our lives.

In math, second graders will begin adding two-digit numbers with and without regrouping. Knowledge of basic addition facts will be crucial for this skill, so it is always encouraged to practice facts at home. If you have playing cards you can challenge your child to add two cards together, this is a great way to spend time on long car rides or during downtime.

The second grade team would like to wish all of our families a safe and joyful winter holiday!

Mrs. Palermo and Ms. Power

Dear Third Grade Families,

We hope you had a fabulous Thanksgiving, spending lots of time with family! This month kids are focused on learning their multiplication facts. Please work with your child at night to help increase their fluency.

We have started the dental program with dental hygienist Jessica Calabrese. Students are learning how to care for, value, and clean their teeth to keep them healthy! We will be learning about anatomy, physiology, and chemistry throughout the year. Ask your child what they have learned so far!

Please remember that this month the All School Meeting is on Friday, December 15th, and we have a half day on Thursday, December 21st.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season!

All the best,

Mrs. Gutierrez, Ms. Lively & Ms. Skiff

Greetings from the 4th Grade Team,

After a lovey November, we are excited to announce that Mr. Stone's house, Harkness house, has taken home the Golden Pineapple. Excellent Work! This past month we focused on gratitude in our house meetings and each student designed a house animal to share their gratitude on our team's bulletin board.

In math, we hope you're hearing things like "vertical number lines" and "tape diagrams", as much of our focus is looking at these two math tools through the lens of addition and subtraction.

In reading, many of our classes are getting ready to finish up intense and wonderful work on The Circulatory Story and head into a poetry unit with Love That Dog. Students have focused on compound sentences, punctuation, and introductions that inform the reader, as well as grab their attention.

Finally, we're excited to be working on something special as a finale piece to our 50 states unit. Our classes did a beautiful job performing "Fifty Nifty United States" at our last All School, and greatly look forward to planning a "vacation" to one of the states as a final project.

Please keep reading, as accelerated reader awards will be given out at the next all school assembly! Peace, laughter, and lots of learning as we head into December!

Mr. Proulx, Mr. Stone, & Ms. Witherell

School Adjustment Counselor

The holiday season is upon us and for children who are grieving a loss, this can be a very difficult time. Instead of feeling cheery and bright, they may feel sad and lonely which can also cause feelings of guilt and shame. If your child is grieving a loss this holiday season, here are some suggestions from Frazerconsultants.com December 2015 article entitled "Helping Children Cope with Grief During the Holiday Season".

1. Listen. Allow them to talk about whatever it is they need to say and remind them they can talk to you anytime. Maintaining open communication and letting them know you care about what they have to say is very important.
2. Allow any and all feelings. Children may experience a wide range of emotions when they are grieving, so it is important to validate all of these feelings. Let them know there are no right or wrong feelings and explore why they may feel the way they do.
3. Ask for their input. Ask how they would like to celebrate the holidays. After a loss, previous family traditions may be too difficult to manage, so ask them what traditions they would like to keep and which ones they may want to go back to at a later time. Be flexible. Go with the flow. A child's feelings and expectations for the holidays may change day to day, so be patient with them.
5. Create new traditions. Ask if they would like to create a new tradition to celebrate or honor the lost loved one. There are many ways to do this (examples: create a remembering ornament, light a candle, make a memory jar, donate to a favorite charity in the memory of a loved one, create a photo collage, spend time at a place that was special for the child and lost loved one, plant a tree).
6. Have some fun. It is important that children know it is okay to have fun and feel joy even though they are grieving. Grief can take a toll on everyone, but try to find ways to lighten the mood, encourage laughter, and play.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Katie Irizarry, LICSW

READING REMINDERS:

"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book." -Groucho Marx

Hopefully, you all enjoyed a fun and family-filled Thanksgiving holiday! It's that hectic time of year again when we all have trouble finding time to just relax and take a deep breath. Reading with your student(s) can be the most relaxing part of your busy day. If you're having trouble finding a fresh book, remember that the Scholastic magazine always has a \$1 book choice. You can't go wrong for a dollar, and you and your child will have a gift to share. Your classroom teachers and reading teachers are also happy to share titles that make great gifts for your student.

Thank you for being our partners in your child's future. Happy Reading☺

Your Title 1 Reading Teachers,

Ms. Weissman, Ms. Sherry, Mrs. Miller & Ms. Blanchard



News From The Nurse

Greetings from the Health Office!!

It is that time of year where we have come to expect cold and flu symptoms. Sometimes colds and the flu are unavoidable, but there are several things we can do at school and at home to prevent illness and keep everyone feeling healthy. Here are some helpful tips to remember:

- **WASH, WASH, WASH** your hands!! Handwashing is still the best defense against illness. Encourage your children to wash, especially before meals, using soap and warm water. To ensure that your child is taking enough time to get rid of germs on their hands, have them sing the ABC song while scrubbing.
- Get plenty of rest. School age children should get 9-11 hours of sleep each night.
- Drink lots of fluids and eat a balanced diet.
- If you have questions about your child being too sick for school please don't hesitate to call me.

The temperatures are getting colder outside. Children should be dressed warmly for cold weather. Please be sure to send children to school in a warm jacket, gloves and hat. As the snow begins to fall this winter please be sure your child comes to school with snow pants and boots.

As a reminder all students in Kindergarten and fourth grade, or new to the school district are required to have a physical with their primary care doctor. A copy of the physical exam should be faxed or sent to me at school.

Wishing you and your family a Happy and Healthy Holiday season!

Jennifer Paulin RN
772-1370 ext 109

Newton PTO News

Thank you to all who participated in our fall fundraiser. Between sales, donations, and magazine orders we have profited over \$2000, which will go towards field trips, school events, teacher needs, and more. Orders will be delivered December 14th.

Quick Notes from PTO

- What did PTO fund in November? The Turkey Trot held on 11/22!
- Don't forget: Keep saving those box tops!
- Coming Soon: Garden Movie Fundraiser in January
- Next Meeting: December 14 at 6pm, All are welcome!

