

# Newton School

Readers are Leaders and Mathletes Count

Phone: 413-772-1370

Principal: Melodie Goodwin Ext: 101



Greetings,

We will kick-off our Penny War on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> and end our Penny War on February 12<sup>th</sup>. A Penny War is a way to teach children about the value of a penny and giving back to the community. During our Penny War we will celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday on February 12th and learn important information about our sixteenth president. We will also look closely at the penny and discuss the symbols and words on the penny. Each grade level will choose a charity to raise pennies for. The grade level that wins the Penny War will donate all the pennies to their charity. Children need to earn the pennies to help with our goal of teaching children the value of money. Please think of ways your child can earn pennies.

Our students and teachers are very excited about a new computer program called Fasstmath. Fasstmath is a web-based math program for grades 1-4 that provides targeted practice and instruction that children need to develop math fluency skills. Our students can use Fasstmath at home. Teachers will be sending home parent letters with detailed information about logging on from home. If you have not received this information by vacation please contact your child's teacher. Ask your child about this new program.

On Thursday, February 10, 2016 we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School. As a school we are celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> year as a learning community so the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school during the 100<sup>th</sup> year will be filled with fun celebrations of 100. Join us and make 100 special on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please read to your **child every day.**

## Upcoming Events

- ◇ February 8th—12th Penny Wars
- ◇ February 8th Butterbraid Fundraiser begins
- ◇ February 11th @ 4:00 PTO Meeting  
Newton Library
- ◇ February 15th—19th No School  
Winter Break
- ◇ February 26th Butterbraid  
Fundraiser ends
- ◇ February 26th All School Meeting 8:30
- ◇ March 2nd Author's night

## Health Reminders

**Fevers:** If your child develops a fever (temperature of 100 degrees F or higher), your child should stay home. Once your child's temperature has returned to normal (below 100 degrees F) for 24 hours, without the use of medication, your child may return to school.

**Diarrhea:** If your child develops diarrhea, he/she must stay home. Once your child has been free from diarrhea for 24 hours, he/she may return to school.

**Vomiting:** If your child develops vomiting, he/she must stay at home. Once your child has been free from vomiting for 24 hours, he/she may return to school.

If you have questions on whether your child is healthy enough for school don't hesitate to call me @ 413-772-1370 x109  
Jennifer Paulin, Nurse

## Kindergarten Team News for February 2016

During January, kindergartners have been learning how to keep their bodies healthy. We have discussed ways to stop the spread of germs by covering our coughs and washing our hands thoroughly. We have stressed the necessity of rest, exercise and healthful eating. Thank you for sending healthy snacks daily for your children. We hope to encourage life-long healthy eating habits!

In February kindergarten will be celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, Groundhog Day, Presidents' Day and Valentine's Day. Lots of celebrations for a short month!

Kindergartners are always excited to play outside in any season, and many children are so proud to be able to snap, zip and tie. Please practice these important skills at home if your child has not already mastered them... especially the tying of sneakers!

Also PLEASE remember to LABEL your child's outside gear. Thank you and stay warm!

Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Encarnacao & Ms. Swist



Dear 2nd Grade Families,

Happy New Year! During January, Second graders have been working extra hard on 2-digit addition. We have practiced and explored many ways to arrive at an answer, but have focused a lot on the standard algorithm. Please continue to practice basic addition and subtraction facts at home to solidify the fluency needed to solve more complex math problems. In reading we have been talking about creativity, and have focused on noun and verb types to make our reading comprehension and writing stronger.

In February we are looking forward to the 100th day of school and Valentine's Day. Stay tuned for more information from your child's teacher on celebrations for these days. We also have Penny Wars and vacation coming up.

With so many fun events coming, please be sure your child is getting enough sleep each night. If your child is sick, please keep him/her home so the illness doesn't spread.

Mrs. Palermo, Mrs. Pecoy and Ms. Lively



Dear First Grade families,

First grade continues to be a very busy place for learning and growing! The children are improving their reading fluency and comprehension skills every day. Please continue to read to/listen to your child read daily. Your help and support makes a huge difference; thank you. In math, the children are focused on mastering both their addition and subtraction facts to 20.

Thanks for remembering to send your child to school with the appropriate winter outdoor gear. Please try to also send along sneakers/shoes so your child can wear them inside and save the boots for outside.

Upcoming events... so far our 100th Day of School will occur on February 10th- if we have no snow days between now and then! Valentine's Day will be celebrated on Friday, February 12th. Look for info coming home soon for both of these fun upcoming activities.

Sincerely, Ms. Hayes and Ms. Warren

**HAPPY WINTER FROM THIRD GRADE!!**  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS FOR THEIR AWARDS**  
**LEXIA READING AWARDS**

All third graders are using Lexia Reading Program. This is a web-based reading program that provides the targeted practice and instruction students need to develop their reading skills. Students can use Lexia Reading at home. All students have their passwords.

Congratulations to the following students for their success in Lexia this past month!!!

Completed all levels in Lexia....Congratulations Mason, Henry, and Liam!!

Moved up a level.....Nazayla, Ciara, Saige, Crystal, Shiann, Brooklynne, Annabelle, Noah, Josias, Laura B.

**ACCELERATED READER**

Congratulations to the following students for earning Accelerated Reader certificates:

Annabelle, Liam, Maddie, Henry, Shiann, Zachary, Laura S., Mason, Nataliah, Kianny, Dahsean, Antonina,  
Brooklynne, Ronan, Laura B., Crystal

**HOMEWORK READING LOGS**

Students in Third Grade are given Reading Logs each Friday to complete, over the weekend and the following week, on books they have read. These are due each Friday. Students need to write the title of the book, how many pages read that night and a short 2 – 3 line summary of what they read. Parents please sign each week and write in the total number of minutes your child has read. Thank you. These books can be used to score Accelerated Reader points.

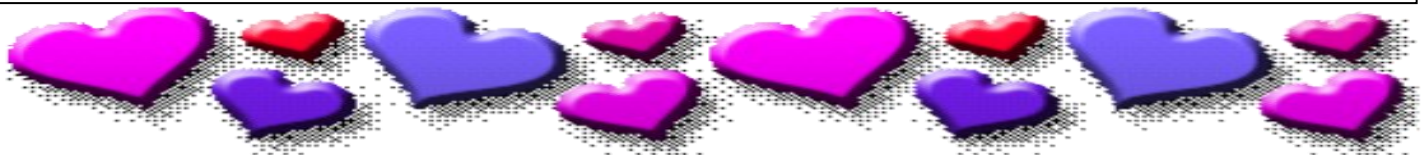
**SWIMMING**

Third graders in Mrs. Iacuessá's Class are taking swimming lessons at the YMCA on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays until Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Gutierrez's class will begin swimming February 12<sup>th</sup>.

**EMMA PICKLE**

Each week on Tuesday, students in Third Grade are visited by Emma Pickle, a Bright Spot Therapy Dog. Mrs. McCaffrey brings Emma Pickle to our class so students can read their favorite book(s) to her. This has been a great incentive for students to read and practice their fluency both in school and at home!!!!



Greetings from the 4th grade team!

We are continuing work in math on multiplication of large numbers. With the introduction of FASTT Math on the computer (link on our website), students have a new and fun way to practice from home. More information about FASTT Math will follow this month.

Students are looking forward to starting some new books in their reading groups, as well as learning some new International Myths.

As we enter into February, we encourage families to keep reading and a reminder that a Winter Break packet will go home over February Vacation for students to keep busy and try to earn extra recess.

We had a spectacular time at the UMASS Basketball Game, thanks so very much to our Parent Volunteers-you all rock!

Ms. Skiff, Mr. Stone, and Ms. Witherell



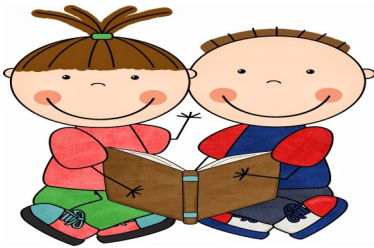
## READING REMINDERS

Reading should not be presented to a child as a chore or duty. It should be offered to them as a precious gift. – Kate DiCamillo

Happy Reading...enjoy your gift😊

Your Reading Teachers,

Mrs. Weissman and Ms. Sherry



## Hey Moms, Dads and Children! From Kay Lyons, Children's Librarian, The Greenfield Public Library

Alice in Wonderland: Experience The Book, Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm, Come to the Back Door!

Fun for Families:

- Story Hours (check the website for times and age groups)
- Experience the Book Parties
- Crafts.
- Games.
- Computers for Children 13 and younger.

Phone: 772-1544 Ext. 5104 or 5105!

Website: [www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org](http://www.greenfieldpubliclibrary.org)

Guess Who's Birthday is Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>? Yep! Dr. Seuss! **AND** *It's Read Across America Day!* How will you and your family celebrate books and reading!? Whooo HOOO!

## School Adjustment Counselor

"Parents will always be a child's first and most important teacher. And parenting is the most important job that every parent takes on."

—Secretary of Education Arne Duncan

As we enter into February, we have officially surpassed the midpoint in the current academic year. It's a great time to take a look at how your child is doing in school, both academically and socially/emotionally. We believe parents play a key role in the education of Newton students, and it is critical for the school, parents and community to work together to create an environment that allows our children to reach their greatest potential. The following are tips for parents published by the U.S. Department of Education intended to encourage parent involvement at home.

- **Encourage your child to read.** It's the single most important thing that you can do to help your child succeed in school. Read with your child right from the start, and make sure there are lots of reading materials in the house.
- **Talk with your child.** Talking and listening are major components of children's school success. By having many opportunities to use and hear spoken language, children are given a tremendous advantage, picking up the language skills they will need to do well in school.
- **Monitor homework and how much time children spend watching television, playing video games, and using the Internet.** Help your child get organized and provide a quiet place in the home for him or her to study. Limit the amount of time your child spends watching television, surfing the Internet, and playing video games. Help your child learn to properly and effectively use the Internet.
- **Encourage your child to be responsible and work independently.** Make it clear to your child that he or she has to take responsibility for actions both at home and at school.
- **Encourage active learning.** Listen to your child's ideas and respond to them. Active learning also can take place when your child plays sports, acts in a school play, plays a musical instrument, or visits museums and bookstores.

Please use the school as a resource for any needs that may arise while working with your child at home. We have many books that can be borrowed for additional materials. While talking with your children, don't hesitate to communicate any questions or concerns that may be brought up. Finally, monitoring the amount of screen time (time spent watching tv or playing video games) should not exceed 1-2 hours per day of high quality content as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics because too much screen time can make it hard for your child to sleep at night, raise your child's risk of attention problems, anxiety, and depression, and raise your child's risk of gaining too much weight.

Additional parent resources can be found at the Parents Families Webpage:

<http://www.ed.gov/parent-and-family-engagement>.