



BOWERS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
141 PRINCETON STREET
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT 06042



BOWERS BUGLE
JUNE 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

According to the calendar our 2013-14 school year is winding down. However, the Bowers School learning and community is going strong. The Celebration of Learning last week was a wonderful display of special projects and learning reflections throughout the grades. I always enjoy reading about what our youngest learners reflect upon and this year I especially enjoyed the incredible writing across the grades, the integration of technology into our learning products and the results of the many enriching before and after school programs at Bowers—Robotics Club, Bowers Broadcasting News and Spanish Literacy Club! Strengthening our writing instruction was one of our school-wide goals this year; as was integrating technology and research skills across the curriculum and fostering school climate through our social thinking curriculum and providing opportunities for students to connect with school mates across the grades through buddies and school families. From our kindergarten through fifth grade, higher level thinking abounded! Other special events demonstrating our learning were our spring concert which included our grades 4 & 5 band, orchestra and chorus and our annual upcoming Field Day where our students will demonstrate the good sportsmanship skills they are learning, as well! It is great to see so many of our parents, grandparents and special family members at these events. Students across the grades are working diligently each day to become strong readers, writers, mathematicians and thinkers. We are working towards being creative, collaborative learners who take risks and strive for excellence in all we do!

Besides being a strong learning community, we have a strong caring community at Bowers. And the caring also continues right until the end. Our Bowers and Buckley Have Heart Relay for Life Team will be active at this weekend's Relay for Life at Northwest Park on June 5-6. We hope that many families will be able to join us as we raise funds to fight cancer. With the support of our PTA and the family of 3rd grader, Alex Hardnett, we will be sponsoring a Hat Day on June 12 to raise funds for the people of Nepal who suffered a devastating earthquake in April.

This wonderful learning and caring community at Bowers would not be possible without the support of our families and the work of our volunteers. Our school would not be successful without you! Parents volunteer in classes, on field trips, serve on the PTA and give support in so many ways. We are also thankful for our high school volunteers, our community mentors and volunteers including our Manchester Senior Citizen volunteers who help our students become successful and support our teachers throughout the year. Volunteers make the difference to us all!

A Special Thanks to our PTA

Bowers School thrives because of our PTA. The fundraisers, family social events, book fairs and other school activities have been fun and meaningful. Most recently, last week, we were treated to a fabulous children's theater! Thank you to our co-presidents, Josh Lewis and Krista Tuohey, as well as the other executive board members including Shannon Savoy, secretary, and Michelle Clark, treasurer, and chairpersons of various events. Josh Lewis will be ending his term on the PTA executive board and we thank him!

Finally, best wishes for a bright and happy summer with time to enjoy your family. Also, please be sure to have your children, read and practice their math and writing skills. Once again, thanks for a splendid year!!! It is truly my honor to be your principal. Don't hesitate to share any of your thoughts with me to make next year even better; especially ideas for continuing to partner with our families!

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Ruggiero

Please join us at 9:05 am on the last day of school, June 22, as we come together on the school lawn as a community for our pledge, moment of silence and then our special traditional farewell to our fifth graders!

MONDAY, JUNE 22, LAST DAY OF SCHOOL, 1:17 DISMISSAL

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 IS ALSO A 1:17 DISMISSAL DAY

Thursday, August 27—FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL for the 2015-16 school year!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Laura Becker, grade 2 teacher, was selected by the Bowers teaching staff as our 2016 Bowers School Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Mrs. Becker, who is beloved by students and staff alike!

MORE STAFF NEWS

- Best wishes and farewell to **Mr. John Ferrante**, our band instructor, who will retire at the close of this school year. Mr. Ferrante has taught band for the Manchester Public Schools for the past 20 years. We thank him for his many years of service teaching our students to make beautiful music! We wish him the best in his retirement!
- We bid farewell and best wishes to **Mrs. Joanne Bell**, our reading consultant, and **Miss Rachel Pelchat**, our itinerant music teacher, who have resigned their positions in the Manchester Public Schools. We wish them both well in their new endeavors.
- Congratulations to **Mrs. Laura Becker**, grade 2 teacher, and **Mrs. Pari Ghetia**, grade 5 teacher, who have recently been selected to fill new STEM Specialist Positions. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Each elementary school in Manchester will have two STEM specialists—one for K-2 and one for grades 3-5. While their specific school assignments have not been determined, we hope they will be assigned to the positions at Bowers. They will be sorely missed as classroom teachers, but will have the unique opportunity to continue to foster the love of STEM subjects to many more students across the grades!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO . . .

- Our 2014-15 PTA Executive Board Officers, **Josh Lewis, Krista Tuohey, Michelle Clark and Shannon Savoy as well as all of the individuals who chaired the many successful PTA events this year.**
- To all our parents who completed the School Climate Survey. We appreciate your input. 58% of our families responded. Our goal was to have 35% and we surpassed that goal! Results will be shared in the fall.
- All of the families who donated flowers for Center Park on Memorial Day.
- All students and families who helped to make Teacher Appreciation Week last month a huge success!
- **Amy Newman**, for coordinating the recent PTA Scholastic Book Fair during the Celebration of Learning; as well as all the parents who helped out. It was a wonderful opportunity for families to stock up on summer reading books!
- The family of **Micaela Arenas**, 3rd grader for sharing their Argentinian and Bolivian cultures at the PTA Multicultural Night last month.
- **Girl Scout Troop, 10602, including Bowers alum, Elisabeth Helmin**, for planting beautiful gardens outside Bowers and treating us to positive sidewalk chalk messages which thrilled students staff and parents alike when we returned from our Memorial Day Holiday Weekend last week!



SHARPEN MATH SKILLS WITH SOME SUMMER FUN !

One of the biggest challenges we have is to help children retain and enhance what they have learned in school. Math skills are particularly hard to retain during summer vacation since traditional dittos, flashcards or workbook pages can be extremely unappealing. The trick is to keep kids practicing math by making it fun!

Games are an effective way to ward off the slippage in your child's math skills over the next few months. Math games put children in the right frame of mind for learning. They relax and concentrate when they play, and repetition is built into the challenge, competition and fun of the game. When children are focused, they retain more. Think back to the games you enjoyed as a child and try to adapt one to a math skill you noticed your child working on this year.

Here are some ideas with a few twists on some old classics. All you need is a deck of cards and you're off and running!

GO FISH-Instead of asking for numbers, ask "Do you have the answer for ____ ?

(use addition, subtraction, multiplication or division facts)

OLD MAID-Use a queen for the Old Maid and give one point for each doubles-fact your child can state when all the cards are paired up.

SLAP JACK-Players call an operation. (addition, subtraction, multiplication or division) Then each player puts a card down and the first person to slap the pair and tell the answer gets the two cards.

WAR-Place one card down and play for the highest or lowest value card. **OR** Place two cards down and play for the highest answer to an addition, subtraction, multiplication or division fact.

SOLITAIRE-Remove the face cards from the deck and lay the cards out as in Solitaire. Look for number pairs that add up to 10 and move them to a pile at the top. Try to remove all the cards. (Use two decks and play against your child to add a little competition!)

MEMORY-Use a deck of basic flashcards for addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. Lay the cards out in 5 rows with 4 cards in each row. One player turns over two flashcards and keeps them if the answers match. Play continues until all cards are matched. *You will need to be sure there are 10 sets of facts with matching answers before laying the flashcards out to play.

Technology is another motivating and engaging way to practice math this summer. Check out these apps: Splash Math (by grade level), Operation Math (secret agent interface), Doodle Math. The website bedtimemath.org has a new math problem every day and lots of ideas for family fun!

Also...consider taking some time to explore the K-8 Resource page on the Bowers School website. You'll be amazed at the digital learning tools available at your fingertips!

Remember . . . Games solidify the achievements of children who are already good at math, and strengthen the children who need some extra help. I hope you enjoy playing some math games with your child this summer while they get a jump start on the coming school year!

Have a math-tastic time! Mrs. Litwin, Numeracy Coach



A Fabulous Multi-cultural night last month hosted by the Arenas family!

WE'RE PROUD OF . . .

- Our **Band, Chorus** and **Orchestra** students for their outstanding performance at our spring concerts. Special thanks to **Mrs. Clough, Mr. Ferrante** and **Mrs. Valenti!**
- All of our students, K-5, for their wonderful **Celebration of Learning** projects on display last week!

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING—MAY 28



STRENGTH WORD FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE

INFLUENTIAL

To be influential means to have great influence on something or someone—**Our continued goal is to work with families and raise children who positively influence their family, classroom, school and community! This year we have strived through our K-5 School Families to put our older students in leadership roles to model for and influence the younger students in a positive way; both behaviorally and academically. We hope to do more in this area next school year. But, in the meantime, parents are encouraged to develop their children’s leadership skills and ability to be a positive influence.**

“Being a Leader” does not necessarily mean that a person is in a position to tell others what to do. Many of the most powerful or influential leaders in history simply “led” themselves, but through their powerful individual choices they influenced millions or even entire generations of people around the world. One of the most important traits of a leader is the ability to make decisions for yourself, being able to stand up to peer pressure and set a personal standard of behavior.

There are a few simple skills you can help your child learn and develop that will help them become a leader. These skills will empower your children with the confidence and tools to make choices for themselves and not have to follow the crowd or cave in to peer pressure.

A “Leader” says “Yes, I Can!” It's called the power of Positive Attitude.

Teach your children to say “Yes I can!” even when they are not sure. Help them understand the power of a positive attitude.

A “Leader” says “It's not a problem, it's a Challenge!” It's called Overcoming Adversity.

Teach your children to ask better questions and be creative in finding solutions to life's challenges. Help them find the lesson in each of life's challenges.

A “Leader” says “Never give up, never give up, never give up!” It's called Perseverance.

Teach your children the power and importance of not quitting and fulfilling their commitments in life. Help them develop a habit of persistence and fulfilling commitments.

A “Leader” says “I may fail or make mistakes BUT I always learn and move ahead!” It's called Commitment.

Mistakes and failure are an integral part of life. We tend to learn the most in life from our mistakes or failures. Leaders learn to do their best and are not beaten down by their mistakes. Leaders learn to ask themselves a powerful question each time they make a mistake or fail: “What can I learn from this experience?” **Teach your children it is OK to make mistakes in life as long as they learn and do their very best.** Help them find the lesson in each of life's experiences.

A “Leader” says “I will always do my best!” It's called Excellence. Teach your children to do their own best and not worry about comparing themselves to other people. Help them understand the importance of challenging themselves to do their very best everyday.

Source: <http://www.kidznpower.net/leadershipThree.html>

STUDENTS WITH MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child has any medication at school please stop into the nurses office on or before the last day of school to pick it up. Medications left at school will be disposed of after June 22nd. When your child returns to school in the fall, please bring in a new medication order from the physician and a new medication at that time. Please remember to sign the bottom of the medication order. If your child will be attending the S.A.A.M summer program, Mrs. Galper will provide the nurse covering that program with your child's medication. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Galper, School Nurse, at [860 647-3314](tel:8606473314).



MANCHESTER HAPPENINGS FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Family Drumming Circle With Dennis Cotton: June 26th 5:30pm Center Park Registration required ~ Please call (860)647-5269. Come have fun and connect as a family through a mutual drumming experience.

Little Explorers' Playgroup : A free 5-week outdoor adventure playgroup for preschoolers ages 3 & 4 ,Tuesdays June 30th-July 28th 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Northwest Park Pavilion, For more information and to register please call (860)647-5269. Parents required to attend.

Open Preschool Playgroup: Group includes 45 minutes of free play and 45 minutes of guided activities, July through August - Nathan Hale Building , Wednesdays 10-11:30am, Please call ahead to register! (860) 647-5269

Positive Discipline and Behavior Management: A workshop for parents, caregivers, and preschool providers with Ruth Freeman, LCSW, Tuesday June 2nd, 2015, 6pm-7:30pm , Manchester Youth Service Bureau Manchester Youth Service Bureau Service Bureau , 63 Linden Street 63 Linden Street , Manchester, CT , Please RSVP to Caitlin McNamara at cmcnamara@manchesterct.gov Caitlin McNamara at cmcnamara@manchesterct.gov Or (860)647- Or (860)647-5269 , Dinner will be provided

Parents & Caregivers Infant Mini Learn & Play: A free 5-week educational workshop for parents, caregivers and the infants they look after, Thursdays 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. , for the month of July, Nathan Hale School

MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Manchester Public Schools' does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including, but not limited to, intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability), genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by Connecticut state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws. Manchester Public Schools' does not unlawfully discriminate in employment and licensing against qualified persons with a prior criminal conviction. Manchester Public Schools' is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and equal access to Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding Manchester Public Schools' nondiscrimination policies and practices should be directed to:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist/Title IX Coordinator

860-647-3595

Shelly Matfess, Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services

Section 504 Co-Coordinator

860-647-3452

or

Linda Hodgkins, Coordinator of School Health Services

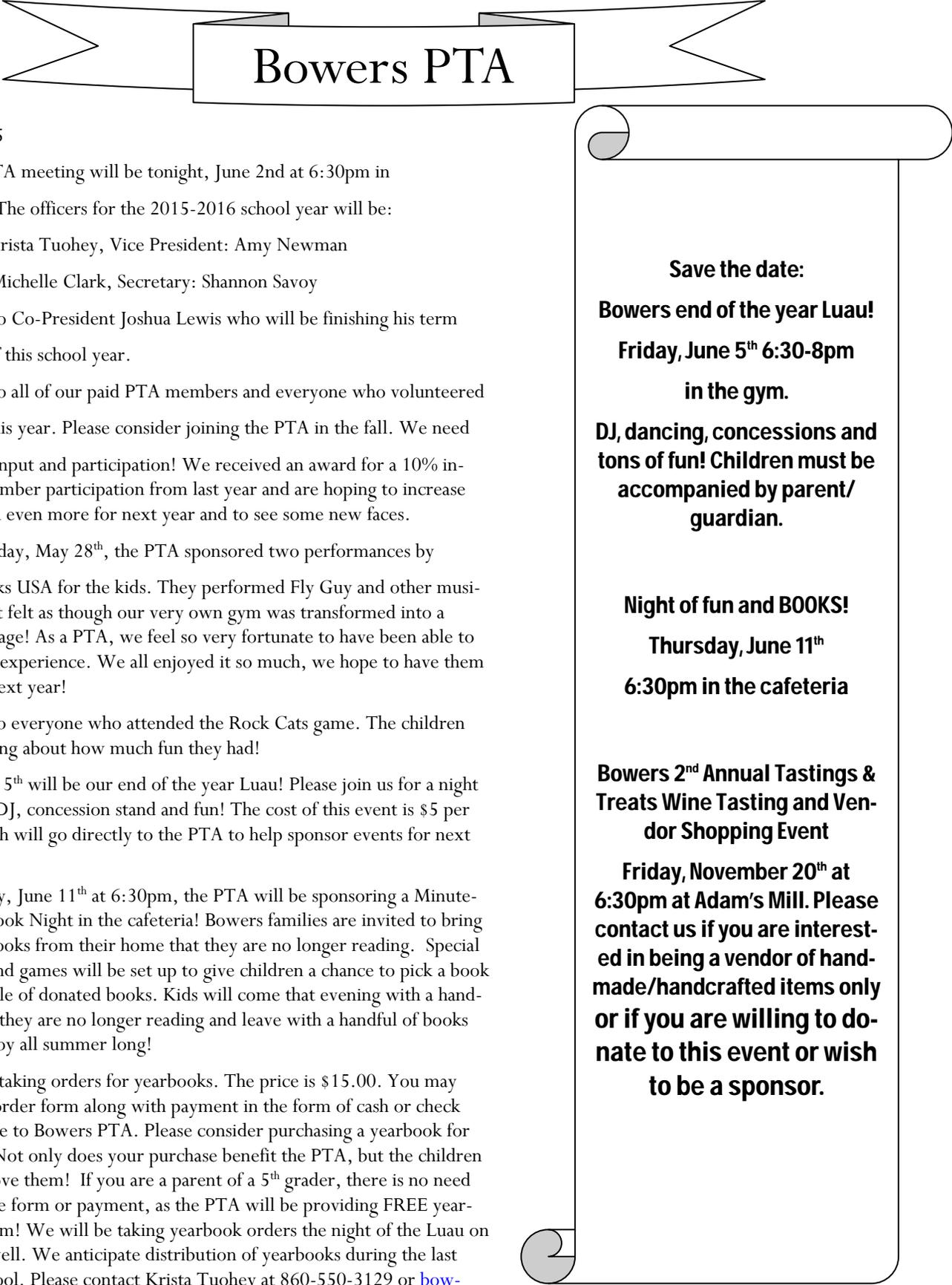
860-647-3324

Section 504 Co-Coordinator

Manchester Public Schools

45 North School Street

Manchester, CT 06042



Bowers PTA

June 2, 2015

Our next PTA meeting will be tonight, June 2nd at 6:30pm in the library. The officers for the 2015-2016 school year will be:

President: Krista Tuohey, Vice President: Amy Newman

Treasurer: Michelle Clark, Secretary: Shannon Savoy

Thank you to Co-President Joshua Lewis who will be finishing his term at the end of this school year.

Thank you to all of our paid PTA members and everyone who volunteered their time this year. Please consider joining the PTA in the fall. We need your ideas, input and participation! We received an award for a 10% increase in member participation from last year and are hoping to increase participation even more for next year and to see some new faces.

On Wednesday, May 28th, the PTA sponsored two performances by Theatreworks USA for the kids. They performed Fly Guy and other musical stories. It felt as though our very own gym was transformed into a Broadway stage! As a PTA, we feel so very fortunate to have been able to provide this experience. We all enjoyed it so much, we hope to have them back again next year!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Rock Cats game. The children are still talking about how much fun they had!

Friday, June 5th will be our end of the year Luau! Please join us for a night of dancing, DJ, concession stand and fun! The cost of this event is \$5 per family, which will go directly to the PTA to help sponsor events for next year.

On Thursday, June 11th at 6:30pm, the PTA will be sponsoring a Minute-to-Win-It Book Night in the cafeteria! Bowers families are invited to bring children's books from their home that they are no longer reading. Special challenges and games will be set up to give children a chance to pick a book from the table of donated books. Kids will come that evening with a handful of books they are no longer reading and leave with a handful of books they can enjoy all summer long!

We are still taking orders for yearbooks. The price is \$15.00. You may send in the order form along with payment in the form of cash or check made payable to Bowers PTA. Please consider purchasing a yearbook for your child. Not only does your purchase benefit the PTA, but the children absolutely love them! If you are a parent of a 5th grader, there is no need to submit the form or payment, as the PTA will be providing FREE yearbooks to them! We will be taking yearbook orders the night of the Luau on June 5th as well. We anticipate distribution of yearbooks during the last week of school. Please contact Krista Tuohey at 860-550-3129 or bowersschoolpta@gmail.com with any questions. Based on pre-sales, we have a limited number of yearbooks left available for purchase, so please get yours before they are gone!

Save the date:

Bowers end of the year Luau!

Friday, June 5th 6:30-8pm

in the gym.

DJ, dancing, concessions and tons of fun! Children must be accompanied by parent/guardian.

Night of fun and BOOKS!

Thursday, June 11th

6:30pm in the cafeteria

Bowers 2nd Annual Tastings & Treats Wine Tasting and Vendor Shopping Event

Friday, November 20th at 6:30pm at Adam's Mill. Please contact us if you are interested in being a vendor of handmade/handcrafted items only or if you are willing to donate to this event or wish to be a sponsor.

Please like our Facebook page:

Bowers Elementary School PTA



Dear Bowers Families,

Bowers School wants 100% of our students to read over the summer!

As an entire Bowers community, we can work together to make sure our students stay sharp *and have fun over the summer. Check out the many exciting ways students can have fun and be readers over the summer!*

- Sign up for the Public Library summer reading program. They have many great programs! Miss Leila will be visiting Bowers on June 4 to introduce students to their summer reading program. You can register and keep track of the books online - look for the link here: <http://library1.townofmanchester.org/index.cfm/what-s-happening-for-children/>
- <https://sites.google.com/a/mpspride.org/summer-reading-room/> The Highland Park and Bowers School media specialists have a special website devoted to summer reading. Students can write book reviews, recommend books, find book lists.
- Bowers students can check out a bag of books for the summer. Look for the form in this newsletter.
- Mrs. Holdt or Ms. Colman will be posing reading questions for students every Monday at 6 pm beginning June 29th. Sign in to Socrative.com, enter the Teacher's Room Code 3GNVY2UI to respond to those questions!
- Future kindergartners are reading too! At K visitation, parents were given a letter challenging the students to read at least 100 books before they enter kindergarten! Many of them are taking the challenge!
- Keep a list of the books read! Keep an electronic or paper log. All summer readers will be recognized in the fall, so make sure to keep track!
- Please contact Ms. Colman or Mrs. Clarke with any questions (860) 647-3313 or 647-3411.

