



JUNE 2015

# BOBCAT NEWS

BUCKLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that the 2014-2015 school year will come to a close in just a few weeks! We have seen tremendous academic, social and emotional growth from all our students. In short, it has been truly a fun, fast paced school year!

I would like to take this time to thank all parents/guardians for your commitment to Buckley School. I appreciated your support and enthusiasm throughout the school year. Because of your support, we have made great strides both academically and socially! Moreover, the entire Buckley faculty appreciated your support.

I would also like to take this time to thank all our staff (teachers, paraeducators, tutors and noon time aids) for a great year. With their hard work and dedication, our students truly grew!

One of the many strengths of Buckley is the community support we have. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the many parents, community members and former educators who volunteer to provide our children and staff with so many services. I appreciate all that you do for Buckley and its staff and students. With your support, Buckley is a school where everyone grows and explores!

Finally, I would like to express a special thank you to the PTA. The PTA provided Buckley with a wide array of events. The events that the PTA led were outstanding! Thank you!

As you prepare for your summer, you can help your child continue to grow as learners through a number of ways. Here are a few examples:

- Plan a trip to the Lutz Museum or the Connecticut Science Center;
- Write letters to friends describing the interesting things they have seen during the summer;
- Read a book to your child;
- Encourage your child to take part in the Governor's Reading Challenge;
- Visit your library.

With the month of June upon us, I thought it would be helpful to provide a few important dates for your planning purposes.

June 3	Kindergarten Visitation
June 5	PTA Ice Cream Social and Movie Night
June 5	Field Day
June 10	Field Day Rain date
June 11	PTA Meeting
June 11	V.I.P. Day
June 17	School Wide kick Ball game!
June 18	Pep Rally
June 19	Grade 5 Promotion Ceremony @ 11:30 in the gym
June 19	1:17 Dismissal
June 22	Last Day of School and 1:17 Dismissal

I wish the fifth grade students the best as they begin their middle school years!

Lastly, I wish everyone a safe, relaxing and restful summer!

Fondly,

Principal Matthew Daly

## KINDERGARTEN

Wow! It's hard to believe that the month of May is coming to a close. It has been a very busy month for us in Kindergarten. It was very exciting learning about the life cycle of the caterpillar. In math we completed our unit on 2 and 3D shapes and just started our unit on measurement. We have also continued to be busy writers. In preparation for first grade the students have been practicing sounding out words independently and also writing them on the lines appropriately. June will be a very busy and exciting month for us! We have our field trip to Wickham Park on June 2nd and we are also getting excited for field day! It has been a wonderful year and the children have made so much progress. Thank you so much for all of your help and support in making this a successful school year!

Thank you! – Mrs. Hoffman and Ms. Lavallee

## FIRST GRADE

Wow, first grade has gone by so fast! It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of the year! In June we look forward to field day, which will be in the morning on Friday, June 5th. In addition, during the last few weeks of school we will continue to practice all of the first grade skills that we have worked so hard to learn this year. We will be reviewing problem solving strategies and many of our other math concepts. The grade one teachers wish to express our most sincere appreciation to you for working with us as partners in your child's education. It has been a wonderful school year! We are asking for just one more commitment, we strongly encourage you to keep your child's mind active this summer to help maintain the many skills he/she has worked so diligently to achieve this school year. Please take advantage of those teachable moments as they pop up during the summer days. Take time to read and write stories, solve simple math problems, and practice math facts together. Thank you again for all of your support and help throughout the year! Have a wonderful summer with your family and friends!

Thank you! - Mrs. Bourcier, Mrs. Seaha, & Ms. Patrylak

## SECOND GRADE

As the school year begins to wind down, the second graders have been mastering their second grade skills in reading, writing, and math in preparation for third grade!

In reading, the students have continued examining informational texts. The students have also been practicing identifying the cause and effect of an event within a given passage. In addition, students have been comparing and contrasting two texts focusing on a particular concept. This is a challenging task, but truly allows the students to deepen their overall comprehension as they critique each text.

In math, the students have been practicing telling time to the nearest five minutes with both a digital and analog clock. Be sure to ask your child to explain the differences between each type of clock! The students have also been working on multiplication through using arrays, repeated addition, and the commutative property! The students have been thoroughly enjoying this unit, as they have been rotating through a variety of hands-on math stations!

In writing, the students have worked on conducting research about an animal of their choosing. The students have practiced the act of formulating their own sentences using the information found throughout their research. This was exciting for the second graders, as they were able to examine a variety books and internet resources prior to crafting their pieces. We would like to thank you for a wonderful year! Your help and support have enabled our second graders to grow both academically and socially. Please continue encouraging your child to read nightly and practice his or her basic math facts.

Fondly - Miss Adams and Mrs. Strickland

## THIRD GRADE

By the time you are reading this, third grade should be at the Connecticut Science Center thanks to a very generous grant from the Science Center. Our bus is being paid for as well as a science education class, so the entire trip is free! What a wonderful opportunity to explore science concepts through interactive exhibits!

Our next field trip will be on Wed. June 3rd to take a walking tour of Manchester. Every year the Manchester Historical Society graciously hosts all of the elementary schools and shows them the Cheney Homestead, the Old Keeney one room Schoolhouse, the Fire Museum (this year it is being renovated so we will miss it), the new and old Manchester Historical Museum, and this year the kids will be getting a rare treat, we have been invited to tour the Fuss and O'Neill Building! The Buckley School PTA has very generously picked up the bus tab for this trip so this trip is also free for every child!!!!

We continue to have homework in June, please know that reading logs and homework are due even if children have games or other events. Please have children practice Fastt Math, we have found that even though a lot of the children know their facts, they are not able to compute quickly.

Thank you! – Mrs. Edwards, Mr. Murphy, & Mr. Sweetland

## FOURTH GRADE

In the last month of the year, fourth grade students will continue to work on state research projects. We will share the results of that research on June 19 at the annual State Fair in the cafeteria from 9:30 to 11:00. Please stop by to sit and look through the children's work if you are available. We are also looking forward to seeing many of you at field day on June 5th or on VIP Day, June 11th. We'll share some of the state work at VIP Day too.

In Math we are going to be using a protractor to measure angles. We'll use pattern blocks in our study of angles too. Please involve your child in any measurement you may encounter. The only way to truly understand the measurement is to handle real world situations and objects. For example, when the gas tank is empty, ask your child to predict how many gallons will fill it. Discuss why you buy a quart or a gallon of orange juice. How many miles is it to where you are going? Have the kids estimate and then calculate. They need to measure time, distance, volume, and capacity in fourth grade and learn both customary and metric measurement. It's a lot to take in!

We hope to take a yearend field trip to UCONN. Look for permission slips to come home next week. It has been a wonderful year, thank you for all you do to support your child's education at Buckley School!

Thank you! – Mrs. Godbout, Mrs. Hoke, & Mrs. Marrocchini

## FIFTH GRADE

At this time of the year, we are reminded of how much our students have grown. June is always such a bittersweet time. They have worked hard all year and we wish them the best as they move on to 6th grade.

The PTA has been busy arranging for our yearbooks. We are excited to see this memento of our years at Buckley. We also want to extend our gratitude for the support of our PTA throughout the year. We can't say enough about the generosity of all of the Buckley community and how they provide a rich environment for the students. A special thank you from the fifth grade teachers.

We will visit the Nathan Hale Homestead on June 8th to conclude our study on the colonial times and Revolutionary War time period. On June 11th, we celebrate VIP day by hosting a live wax museum. Please join us for this incredible event. Coming up soon is our final field trip, our annual Grade 5 picnic at Winding Trails on June 12th, sponsored by the PTA. This is truly a social event we all look forward to a chance to visit with friends, play games, swim, and party for the day. We appreciate all parent volunteers to coordinate sporting events and games.

Join us for our Promotion Ceremony on Friday, June 19th at 11:30AM for all fifth graders and their families. Invitations will be sent out, and we hope those of you who can will join us.

Most of all, thank you for sharing your children with us. Best wishes for a great school year in 2015-2016!

Thank you! – Mrs. Brahm, Mrs. Adinolfi, & Mrs. Jodoin

## COACHES CORNER

It's hard to believe the school year is coming to an end. Summer will be here before we know it! Studies show that students experience a loss of reading skills over the summer months if they do not continue to read. This loss in skills over the summer is known as the "summer slide". But, children who continue to read on a daily basis can potentially gain skills during the summer months. Parents can help avoid the "summer slide" by reading aloud to their children on a regular basis and by encouraging their children to read every day on their own. Be sure to have your family visit the Mary Cheney Library this summer and participate in the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. Enrollment in the Governor's Reading Challenge will be online again this year. A representative from the Mary Cheney Library will be visiting Buckley School on June 15 to talk about the Summer Program. Whether your children take the Summer Challenge or not, be sure to have them READ, READ, READ! Have a great summer and we will see you in August!

Thank you! – Mrs. Miner & Mrs. O'Malley

## MAP

This month we continued with our spring theme. We made bunnies out of foam and butterflies out of coffee filters. We read Mouse's First Spring by Lauren Thompson and Angelina and the Butterfly by Katharine Holabird. We added a new song to our circle activities called "10 Little Butterflies" to go with our butterfly theme. We are having a lot of fun at recess in the warm spring sunshine! We will start our summer theme in June.

Thank you! – Mrs. Rodowicz

Field Day is scheduled for June 5, 2015 (rain date June 10th). A notice will be sent home illustrating the facts about field day. Students in grade K-2 will be having their field day in the am beginning at 9:30 and the students in grades 3-5 will have field day in the afternoon beginning at 12:50. Each grade has been assigned a color to wear. If the student does not have the colored t-shirt they will be able to wear a pinnie that will be supplied by the PE teachers. Please remember that since field day is scheduled in June, the weather is probably going to be hot. The students can bring water with them, water will also be supplied. They should wear sun screen, sneakers, and if they want, they can wear a hat. Field day this year is going to be ran very similar to the way it was run last year; the students will be traveling from station to station working as teams. This is going to be an awesome fun day!



Greetings from the music room! May was a month filled with amazing concerts! The Spring Festival was on May 1st, and it featured a dance by each of our grade levels. You can watch a video of the performance on the Buckley School website - <http://mpspride.org/page.cfm?p=566>

We had our Spring Concert on May 19th. At both the day and evening concerts our Orchestra, Band, and 5th Grade Choir dazzled the crowd! Congratulations to all of them for their amazing performances!

In the classroom, we've been reviewing our songs from throughout the year. Many old favorites have been re-

discovered! Also, the younger students have been meeting our classroom teddy-bears - Piano, Mezzo, and Forte and racing each other around the room with the game 'Cut the Cake'. The older students have been cracking some secret music messages and doing rhythm relays. Phew!

"The Things on A Farm" exhibit on May 15<sup>th</sup>, was a fun evening for the second grade cows and their artists! Thank you to those who attended this event, sponsored by the Office of Neighborhoods and Families. Representing Buckley with their colorful painted cows were Karla Daha, Alexa Renduchintala, Asia Rochester, Shayla Cashman, Adriana Figueroa, Jonathan Daub, and Joshua Beal! I am currently in the process of choosing artwork for the calendar for next year and for a summer exhibit at the Board of Education. This might be a good time to start creating a box for the summer complete with paper, scissors, glue, and other art materials. This will be ideal for summer days when they complain they are bored or need something to do other than swimming, bicycling, or other physical activities. Challenge them with creative activities to keep their minds active and their hands busy!



## SCHOOL NURSE

I'm sure everyone is as excited I am for summertime!!! I hope everyone has a happy and healthy summer, making great family memories. Here are a few things before summer vacation:

- If your child has medication at school, please plan to pick it up by the last day of school. Medication, including Epi-Pens, must be picked up by an adult.
- If your child needs to take medication at school next year, please stop by the Health Office and pick up a Medical Authorization form or and Anaphylaxis Plan form for next year. These forms must be updated and signed by your child's physician each year.
- If your 5th grader has had a physical with immunizations since January 1, 2015, please submit the blue form to me for their health file.

Thank you and stay well!  
Mrs. Hussey

## MEDIA CENTER

"Every Hero Has a Story" is the theme of this year's summer reading program at the Manchester Public Library. The Children's Librarian from Whiton Library will meet with grades K-4 students on Monday, June 15th to introduce the Superheroes. So register online at home or at the Public Library to participate, there is something for everyone from infants to adults. You can earn a free t-shirt, the chance to win other great prizes and enjoy lots of fun activities. And don't forget, listening to a book in the car or on the beach counts and the Public Library has hundreds of ebooks you can download to your ipod or ereader.

Once again we will be offering students entering grades 2-5 the opportunity to borrow a Bag of Books from the Buckley Library for the summer. Permission slips will be going home with your children this week and students will be allowed to pick up to 10 books the last full week of school. Applications to borrow will be accepted through Friday, June 12th.

The Buckley Library will close for the year on Friday, June 19th, however all Library books will be due back by Friday, June 12th. Please be sure that your child has returned all of his/her Library books, we will be sending out bills the following week for missing or damaged books. If you believe that you have received a bill in error, please call us at 860--647-3309. Wishing you all a great summer full of good friends, good fun and good books.

Noreen Lake & Donna Samborski

# Buckley School PTA News and Events

BuckleyElementaryPTA@gmail.com



Our next PTA meeting will be held  
Thursday, June 11, at 6:30 p.m.  
in the Buckley cafeteria!



This will be the last PTA meeting of the school year. Come for a quick business meeting, which will include information about our year-end activities, then stay for a potluck dinner. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. We can't wait to see you!

## PTA VOLUNTEERS. We Thank You!

Without a small army of volunteers to help throughout the year, the PTA and its events would not be the success they are. From those who organized and carried out our events to those who came to meetings and bought from our fundraisers, nearly everyone played a part in helping the PTA this year.

During our May meeting, the PTA honored Kayle Gagnon and Sheila Hall as our two outstanding volunteers of the year. Kayle ran both Book Fairs, Book Bingo, the Box Tops collections, Lego Block Party, and served as our membership chairwoman. Sheila runs the Holiday Store and spends the rest of the year stocking its shelves.



To Kayle and Sheila, our graduating fifth-grade parents, and all of our other volunteers, a sincere thank you for everything you do to support us.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The PTA has two final events planned for June.

Come for an ice cream social and movie night on Friday, June 5. We'll be serving up scoops of ice cream beginning at 6 p.m. in the cafeteria and showing the movie "Big Hero 6," which will start between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m. in the gymnasium depending on the size of the crowd. Come for one or both! Ice cream will cost \$1, but the movie is free.



Then, on Wednesday, June 10, the PTA is hosting a Food Truck Dine-Out Night at the school. We'll have a handful of trucks lining the parent loop outside the school, each of which will donate a portion of their revenue to the PTA. Come and eat, let the kids loose on the playground, and enjoy an early summer evening.

## THINKING OF GETTING INVOLVED

The PTA is in search of a few good people to get involved next school year. At the start of September, we're looking for someone to head up the Fall Fundraiser and another person to handle our membership recruitment. Then, as the calendar progresses we'll be looking for people to organize a possible Holiday Fair and Silent Auction and the spring Variety Show. We're also looking for two or more people who are interested in taking over the Fall and Spring Book Fairs in 2016-17. They'll learn the ropes in 2015-16 before diving in themselves the following year. Emails will be distributed soliciting folks. Remember, these events can't happen without you!

## P B I S T E A C H E R R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S

	Be Safe	Be Respectful	Be Responsible	Pillar of Sportsmanship
<b>Mrs. Hoffman</b>	Alyssa Puglise	Lucia Calderon	Gavin Morris	Layne Ridel
<b>Ms. Lavallee</b>	Saadullah Quraishi	Kamila Calderon	Aamnah Babar	Benson Chen
<b>Miss. Patrylak</b>	Kylie Valdez	Ayden Riendeau	Marley Evans	Natalia Harnois
<b>Mrs. Bourcier</b>	Tessa Macdonald	Owen Blake	Carina Brown	Cameron Spiewak
<b>Ms. Seaha</b>	Loren Roca	Parker Agresta	Michaya Cersosimo	Ametri Harris Webb
<b>Mrs. Rodowicz</b>	Max Rivera	ABOVE & BEYOND		Max Rivera
<b>Miss. Adams</b>	Dominic Thompson	Lauren Smith	Derek Yeboah	Sophia Witwicki
<b>Ms. Strickland</b>	Jordyn Nichols	Amy Nguyen	Spencer Johnson	Paige Basquait+
<b>Mrs. Boccia</b>	Olivia Miolla	ABOVE & BEYOND		Alex Bellone
<b>Mrs. Edwards</b>	Alyssa Kusher	Catherine Smith	Brandon Houghton	Samuel Johnson
<b>Mr. Murphy</b>	Justin Spiewak	Joe Commisso	Katelyn Hall	Corey Verranault
<b>Mr. Sweetland</b>	Nyere McNeil	Jenny Rose Katibian	Caden Jolly	Amelia Dykstra
<b>Ms. Godbout</b>	Natasha Ortega	Katherine Turley	Sylvia Squatrito	Tommy Rodgers

<b>Ms. Hoke</b>	Logan Tomic	Camden Becker	Gillian Lamphere	William Solito
<b>Ms. Marocchini</b>	Kaylen Smith	Rishi Mallepally	Victoria Mordasky	Ethan Zimmerman
<b>Mrs. Lonergan</b>	Kayori Henry	Jahad Freeman	Welcome New Bobcat	Jaizon Smith
<b>Mrs. Adinolfi</b>	Orlando Sanchez	Karli Bidwell	Lyla Ratches	Yusuf Ayaz
<b>Mrs. Jodoin</b>	AJ Kulpanowski	Cameron Brown	Subhan Dalal	Teagan Ridel
<b>Ms. Brahm</b>	Cheyenne Torres	Emma Greenfield	Adam Rodowicz	Jabari Murphy
<b>Mrs. Gore</b>				Tyson & Olivia
<b>Mrs. Martin</b>				Gio Porta
<b>Mrs. Esposito</b>				Aiden Ellis
<b>Mrs. Maloney</b>				Aiden Zimmerman
<b>Mrs. Leonard</b>				John Cammilleri
<b>Mr. Kolze</b>				Anna Baidya
<b>Ms. Quinn-Lake</b>				Isabella Shea
<b>Ms. Ferreira</b>				Jessi Smith
<b>Mrs. Chasse</b>				Adrian Seyapura
<b>Ms. Germano</b>				Hector Pena