

Event Dates

October 19

Early Dismissal

1:17 pm

**October 20
Picture Day**

October 20

Cristoline

Fundraiser Part 2
due

October 28

Family FREE
Trunk or Treat

October 28

Spirit Day

Dress as favorite

BOOK character

\$1 donation to
PTA

From the desk of: Julie Martin-Beaulieu, Principal

I hope that everyone has enjoyed the beginning to the school year and is enjoying this newly arrived fall weather!

As most of you know, the month of September was filled with a variety of "getting to know you" activities and experiences. These ranged from students sharing information about themselves with their classmates, teachers and other staff members visiting classrooms to share "Curiosity Bags", and other community building opportunities designed by your child's teacher. In addition to those, our teachers have been completing a range of academic assessments to accurately identify the performance level of your child in

reading, writing, and math. These assessments were completed by September 30th.

Moving into this next part of our school year, your child will participate in small group instruction for reading, writing, and math based on the results of the assessments recently completed as well as on ongoing observations and informal assessments conducted by our teachers. During the November parent-teacher conferences, teachers will discuss student's current level of performance and share ideas of what you can do at home to support your child's ongoing learning. Please come to the conference prepared to engage in a dialogue with your child's teacher that will strengthen our partnered support of

your child.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and learn about some of our school-wide events and experiences that all of our Keeney Cubs have access to!

PRESCHOOL

On Early Dismissal days:

Ms. Scarpa Ms. Ferland

Class dismiss at: 11:05 am

No PM classes

Ms. Griffen/Ms Lepack

Class dismiss at 11:05 am

Attendance Matters

If your child must miss school, please call school BEFORE 9:05 am on the day your child is absent.. Give your child's full name, grade and the reason for the absence. And remember: Upon return to school, you child should bring a note to explain the absence.

Attendance Phone Line: 860 - 645 - 4826

Nurse Phone Line: 860 - 647 - 3355

Mrs. Merwin, School Counselor

This month I'd like to focus on the topic of "Emotional Awareness" and how we can support this in our students and children!

Why is this important?

Children who are able to identify how they feel are often better able to communicate their needs. They are also more likely to understand the feelings of their friends, peers, and adults in their lives. This builds empathy, which is an important life skill.

Becoming comfortable with their feelings is important as children face new challenges and learn to manage their changing emotions.

How can we build emotional awareness?

There are simple things you can do at home to help your child learn more about emotions.

Try some of these ideas:

- Ask your child how he/she is feeling. List some feeling words to choose from if they are getting "stuck":
 - Share how you are feeling. Be specific.
 - Play feelings charades. Show your feelings on your face and with your body language.
 - Read stories with your child and talk about how the characters are feeling.

Try some of these books about feelings:

The Way I Feel by Janan Cain

In My Heart by Jo Witek

How Are You Feeling? by Saxton Freyann

When Sophie Gets Angry by Molly Bang

Happy
Holidays!

Dear Keeney Families,
The Holidays will be here before you know it. We here at Keeney want everyone to have as happy a holiday as possible.

If you need assistance with gifts or clothing for your children please let me know as soon as possible. It is helpful if you tell me the name and age of your child, clothing sizes, preferred colors, interests as well as any item that you particularly are in need of like shoes or winter coat.

If you would like to be a sponsor to help purchase for others in our community that would be wonderful.

Please write me a note or call Keeney with this information.

Thanks so much,
Tom Nicholas
Keeney Social Worker

Ms. Jones Reading Specialist



Reading At Home... Can Make a HUGE Difference!!

Tips from Ms. Jones
Keeney School Reading Specialist

What you can do at Home...

Help your child choose books that are an appropriate reading level.
Use the five finger rule.

Open the book to any page and ask your child to read. Put up a finger every time your child does not know a word. If you have put up more than five fingers before the end of the page, this book is too hard for your child.

Choose books that match your child's likes and interests.

And don't forget to not leave home without it! Always have reading materials available to read in the car or if your child has to wait for an appointment. ☺

Read with Me

Allow your child to select some reading materials that interest them.



Make a Point to Support & Compliment!

Word-Solving



- ❖ You tried more than one strategy on your own!!
- ❖ Nice job using a different vowel sound!!
- ❖ Super work making your eyes go through the beginning, middle & end of that word!
- ❖ Great job sticking with it to work on solving!

Comprehension

- ❖ You are self-monitoring & working on it when it does not make sense.
- ❖ Your expression is showing that you understand what you're reading.
- ❖ Wonderful job stopping to think about the text instead of reading to just get to the next page!
- ❖ You remember the details beautifully!

Fluency

- ❖ You sounded just like the character would sound!
- ❖ I could hear you take a break after the punctuation marks!
- ❖ You are reading in phrases, not word-by-word!
- ❖ Your speed is just right! Not too fast or too slow!

15-20 minutes is plenty of time for a beginner reader.
Reading together can be part of your family time at any age!

Play a Sight Word Game: Tic-Tac-Toe: Write words in the tic-tac-toe spaces. Take turns selecting a space to read. If read correctly, an X or O is placed on the space until someone wins.



Important Information about Reading



Manchester Public Schools

Kennedy Education Center
45 North School Street
Manchester, CT 06042
860-647-5041

www.mpspride.org

Dear Elementary Parents/Guardians,

Manchester Public Schools is committed to developing children into readers.

Research supports that the amount of time spent reading is the best predictor of reading achievement, including a child's growth as a reader from the second to the fifth grade. The review concludes that *independent reading*, defined as the reading students choose to do, supports learning and school achievement. Providing students with protected *independent reading* time both in school and at home is critical for supporting necessary in order to support their student growth in reading.

The Reading Workshop structure provides students time to read independently on a daily basis. The [Independent Reading Chart](#) highlights by grade level, how teachers build independent reading time throughout the year in order to develop reading stamina for all students.

Each night your child should *read independently* at home. To assist, students will bring home a book(s) of their choice. In Kindergarten this book may be in the form of a poem, sight word cards or a book that they select from the independent classroom library.

As students advance with their independent reading levels, a letter will be sent home celebrating the child's success.

District expectation is that every child read independently each night. Teachers will communicate with parents and guardians when independent reading books go home and are to be returned. It is very important that these materials be returned as they are part of the classroom independent reading library which allow other students to have an opportunity to choose books to take home and read.

Sincerely,

Diane Sheehan-Burns

Director of Teaching & Learning - Humanities



Date: Thursday, October 27, 2016

Time: 6:00-7:30 PM



Childcare will be provided for pre-school age children.

Don't miss this amazing event at Keeney!

"I'm TOO busy and it's during dinner time!"

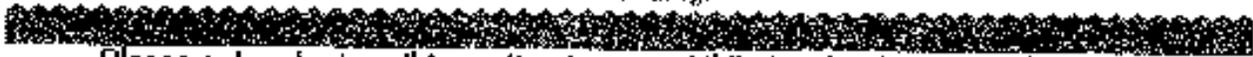
Dinner will be served!
Come enjoy a meal with us!

"Teachers always tell me to read to my children every night... but HOW???"

Receive a few **FREE** books to add to your home library as a gift for attending!

"My child is older than me so he reads at night!!"

Buses will be provided as needed.



Please cut and return this portion to your child's teacher by Thurs. Oct. 20th

Child's Name	Attending Adult's Name	# Attending
Teacher's Name	Circle One YES NO	# of Children for Childcare
<p><i>We would love your feedback following the program. Please leave your email address so that we may send you a quick survey!</i></p>		
E-Mail Address	Daytime Phone #	

Ms. Swan, Literacy Coach



LOOK AT YOUR DAY IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

What you do at home makes a difference!

Family learning is already in your home and in everything you do. You can help your child learn even more as you go about your daily routines. Ordinary activities throughout the day have the **POWER** to help children learn and succeed. Any time can be family learning time!

- Make reading a more visible part of life:
 - Read a cereal box or milk carton with breakfast
 - Add a note to your child's snack or lunch or write notes around the house that your child can find
 - Point out reading that's all around us, like mail, menus & labels
- Add singing, writing, talking with your kids to everything you do:
 - Make shopping lists together
 - Find letters on street signs
 - Make books together. Take turns writing words and drawing or cutting out pictures. Encourage your child to read to you.
 - Talk with children about things that interest them.

Children need their family's help to succeed in school and in life. Adults need to keep building their skills to keep up with a challenging world. Learning is the road to success. Families pave the way!

- Parents are powerful examples. Let your child see you love learning.
 - Visit a museum or science center together
 - Find an interesting website on the internet
 - Talk about what you're learning as you read a newspaper or magazine article
 - Math in the kitchen: using measuring cups with kids help them learn fractions
- Want to learn more?
 - Check out Manchester Public Schools Office of Family and Community Partnership website for more ideas: www.mpsfcp.com



Social Emotional Learning

For the 2016-2017 school year, all students at Manchester Public Schools in grades K-5 will receive instruction in the area of Social Emotional Learning. We believe that children's social emotional development is as critical as their development in academic areas. Students receive instruction 2-3 times weekly in their classroom by their classroom teacher.



Our curriculum addresses the five important skill areas that have been identified by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning: Self Awareness, Social Awareness, Self Management, Responsible Decision Making and Relationship Skills. Our goal is for students to acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to: recognize and manage their emotions, demonstrate caring and concern for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions and handle challenging situations constructively (CASEL).

Many of our materials and concepts come from the theoretical framework of Social Thinking® developed by Michelle Garcia Winner

(socialthinking.com). Children learn about concepts such as:

- Using our Social Smarts
- Thinking with your Eyes
- Following the Group Plan
- Expected/Unexpected Behavior
- Thoughts and feelings in self and others
- Being a Social Detective/Social Thinker
- Being flexible like Superflex™
- Defeating the Unthinkables™ (thoughts and behaviors that get in our way)
- Problem Solving strategies

Questions? Email or call - Christa Perkins, Social Emotional Learning Coordinator
b39cperk@mpspride.org or 860-645-6044

Sharon Punty, ART

At the open house in September, I was truly happy to meet many new Keeney families and reunite with returning cubs and their families. The home-school connection is helpful in understanding and engaging the whole child.

Recently some children used a plastic building game called "Shapescapes". Plastic pieces with slits and slots fit into one another to create toys or sculpture. Several children wished they had their own set. These sets are also available on Amazon.com.



Currently all grades are involved in drawing units. In Kindergarten we are learning to use art to express a story. First graders recently learned about the Las Caux caves in France and the early artists who inhabited them. Second graders are learning about finding "hidden shapes in art" to assist with drawing. Third and fourth graders are learning elements that show depth in a two dimensional drawing. Fifth graders are being exposed to one point perspective drawing and tessellations.

All classes are working on the PTA Reflections Program. The theme this year is "What is your story?" As students create quality artwork, I will hold onto certain pieces for future display and for indications of artistic growth.

I am attaching a copy of the visual art units of study to this newsletter so you will an idea what your child will be learning about in art, in what grade, and during what part of the school year. This might spark for some home discussions.

Units of Study 2016-2017

	Sept.-Nov	Nov. – Jan	Jan. – Feb.	Feb. - April	April - June
Kindergarten	Drawing (Alexander Calder) (William H. Johnson)	Painting (Alexander Calder) (Keith Haring)	Ceramics/ Sculpture (Alexander Calder)	Collage/ Printmaking (Eric Carle) (Henry Tanner)	Fabrics and Fibers (Artists of the Americas)
First Grade	Drawing (Cave Art)	Painting (Henri Rousseau)	Ceramics/ Sculpture (Alexander Calder)	Collage/ Printmaking (Eric Carle) (Chuck Close)	Fabrics and Fibers (Faith Ringgold)
Second Grade	Drawing (Vincent VanGogh) (Dr. Suess)	Painting (Edward Hicks) (VanGogh)	Ceramics/ Sculpture (Alexander Calder)	Collage/ Printmaking (Picasso) (Maurice Prendergast)	Fabrics and Fibers (Indians of the Americas and African fiber artists.)
Third Grade	Drawing (Winslow Homer)	Painting (Winslow Homer) Impressionist Painters)	Ceramics/ Sculpture Origami Masters	Collage/ Printmaking Children's Book writers/Illustrators (Caro, Lionni, Keas, Elliot, and Collier)	Fabrics and Fibers (Faith Ringgold)
Fourth Grade	Drawing (Frederick Remington) (Picasso)	Painting (Audubon)	Ceramics/ Sculpture (Native American) (Marta Martinez)	Collage/ Printmaking (Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, Tapa Cloth)	Fabrics and Fibers (Native American fiber arts)
Fifth Grade	Drawing (M.C. Escher)	Painting (William H. Johnson)	Ceramics/ Sculpture (Henri Moore)	Collage/ Printmaking (Folk Art) (Romano Boarder)	Fabrics and Fibers (Folk art and colonial arts)

Also I am attaching a general permission slip to display artwork outside of the Keeney building. If you didn't complete one on open house night, you may want to do that and send it in to school. You may include more than one sibling on the same form, including last names, especially if different from your own. I will inform you if your child will have work on display outside of school. Some outside sources like the PTA Reflections Program and the Manchester Community Youth Art Initiative will require their own permission slips.

Permission to Display Artwork Outside of School

1617 School Year

Sometimes I put artwork on display in the community. Generally we use the child's first initial and last name to identify the work. If it is OK for your child's artwork to be put on display outside of Keeney Street School, please send in the following permission slip. You may include each of your children on the same permission slip. Thank you for your support.

Sharon Punty

I, _____ give permission for

Mrs. Sharon Punty to display my child's artwork at locations outside of Keeney Street School for the 2016-2017 school year. I understand that full names will not be displayed on the artwork.

★ _____
Please be sure to include your child's last name if different from your own.

Parent or Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Ms. SOLOPERTO

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Welcome back! Things have been off to a great start in STEM for kindergarten, grade 1, and grade 2 since school started. We spent most of the month of September learning all about our 5 senses and how scientists use them to make observations (things we notice) and ask questions (things we wonder). We also became familiar with science tools and got to use magnifying glasses to explore Play-doh!

Now, as we have moved into October, we have begun our first science units. In **kindergarten**, we are continuing to discover using our 5 senses to learn all about the different properties of matter. We will be looking at how to sort objects based upon color, shape, size, and material. Kindergarteners will also be learning how to use a scale to weigh and compare different items. Lastly, we will be moving onto using magnets to find out which materials are magnetic and also discovering which items can sink or float.

In **first grade**, we have begun our unit about forces and motion. So far, we have learned all about the forces of push and pull and have gone on a “motion” hunt on the playground. We will continue to use different hands-on activities to learn more about push and pull and will even take a look at how friction impacts movement.

Second graders have started their unit about matter. I’m sure if you ask your students in second grade, they can tell you that matter is everywhere and everything! The first focus of our matter unit is solids and we have gone on a “solid” search in each of your students’ classrooms. We also have started to take a look at our boxes of “solids” to see what attributes they have in common and how they are different. Once we are done learning about solids, we will move onto learning about liquids and even spend a little bit of time learning about gases.

I hope that your little scientists have enjoyed the first month of STEM and have been telling you all about exciting things we are doing in school. Here’s a link to an experiment that we did the first week of school so that you can do some science at home!

<http://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/skittles-science-activity-candy-experiments-for-kids/>

Enjoy!

Music

Winter Concert: Our Winter Concert will be held on Wednesday, December 21, 2016. The Fifth Grade Band, Fifth Grade Orchestra will perform in two concerts – the first concert will be at 2:15pm for Keeney students and staff and the second concert will be at 4:30pm for parents and families. Both concerts will be held in the Keeney Street School Gymnasium.

Please mark your calendars!

Spring Concerts: We will have our Spring Concerts on Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 10:00am and 2:15pm in the Keeney gym for Keeney staff and students. Our evening concert for parents and families will be held on the same date at 7:00pm in Bennet Academy’s Cone Gymnasium. The Fourth and Fifth Grade Band, Fourth and Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform at all three concerts. We look forward to seeing parents and families at the evening concert.

Please mark your calendars!

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