



Keeney Cub Chronicles

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Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Malan

From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

GREETINGS KEENEY COMMUNITY AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we return to school now in the year 2015 we begin to experience the impact of winter weather. Please keep in mind the following as we navigate our way through some snow, wind, and ice. Brrr...

OUTDOOR RECESS

Nurse Sandy monitors the weather and informs staff members if it is a "green" day (good to go outside) 'yellow" day (good to go out with appropriate clothes) or "red" day (not safe to go outside.") Our goal is to get kids outside whenever possible. Please assist us in doing this by

sending your child to school in clothes that are appropriate for the weather. It is important to note that the colors above are primarily related to temperature; snow alone does not keep us inside. In fact - what kid doesn't like to play in the snow? When it is snowy out, and not in the red zone, there is still a chance that kids will get outside and play. Typically we tell our students that if they have snow gear (boots, snow pants...) they can literally play in the snow and if they do not have snow gear they can play on the black top. Individual classroom teachers often send home notices about outdoor snow play so be sure and watch for those notices.

DELAYED OPENING

Now that we are facing stormy weather, we will be facing delayed openings of school. Please remember that we do not have supervision for students until 10:20 on those days. Please do not send your child to school before 10:20 on delayed opening days.

RENEWED KEENEY EXPECTATIONS

As the new year begins, so do many resolutions to change behavior. At Keeney, we continue to talk about our pledge; Respect Yourself, Respect

Others, Respect the World Around You. In addition to building those habits, we are intentionally building habits of gratitude. In some classrooms, students are expected to share something they are grateful for each day. In other classrooms the circle focus question will include a sharing of gratitude, and throughout the school students and staff members are completing Appreciation Slips. Appreciation Slips identify a person or persons for whom another member of the Keeney Community feels grateful. Often those notes of appreciation are read aloud during morning announcements. If they are not read aloud, they are still shared with the person being appreciated. This is just another way to build and sustain an attitude of gratitude in our school community.

Enjoy this New Year and please know how grateful we are to all of you for sharing your children with us and for being a partner in providing an excellent educational experience for everyone.



JOIN TEAM KEENEY

June 5 and 6th

Northwest Park

See below for more information

Preschool

Mrs. Lepack, Mrs. Aldrich

Welcome Back! What a great year 2014 has been! We hope everyone had a splendid break. Themes this month will focus around winter. We will learn about what animals do in the winter and hibernation. We will talk about fun things to do during the winter season as well as appropriate clothing. We will complete snowmen projects and activities and learn about opposites too. We will sing songs and poems related to our themes. We will review letters introduced so far and continue on. Oh how fun the New Year will be!

Kindergarten

Mrs. Kratz, Mrs. Woble, Ms. Elmore

January is such a wonderful month to be in Kindergarten! Our many months of hard work are starting to pay off. Students are beginning to read and write. They are sounding out simple words and recognizing sight words. They are adding written words to the pictures they draw to tell a story.

In math they are beginning to add and subtract groups of objects. We are working toward writing equations to match. Students have become more independent while working with partners at stations. We are excited to start using our new iPad minis at math stations!

Kindergartners are enjoying play time every day! The colder weather has given us lots of opportunity to play indoors and navigate social situations. Children have practiced cooperating, negotiating conflict and talking to each other. We are so proud of all of the hard work they have done.

First Grade

Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Karlins,
Miss Branciforte

First graders are off to a great start in 2015! We are excited to be reading and writing nonfiction. We have learned so many parts of a nonfiction book. Ask your child: Where is the table of contents located? How does a glossary help you? Why do authors use **bold** words? What is the purpose of a heading? Our students are also enjoying learning about penguins, octopuses, and Martin Luther King Jr. Ask your child to share with you something that penguins and octopuses can do or have.

During writing students are no longer storytellers; they are teachers! They are writing books about topics that they are experts on such as school, karate, basketball, soccer, and sharks. Please encourage your child to share with you how to write a teaching book. Enjoy learning from your child!



Second Grade

Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Frallicciardi,
Mrs. Smith

Happy New Year from second grade! We hope you had a fun and restful vacation. Prior to our break the children traveled around the world on the Polar Express visiting different countries and exploring holiday traditions. We hope you enjoyed the special keepsake they created.

During the month of January the second graders will be busy investigating double-digit addition and subtraction. They are learning a variety of methods to help them solve problems. Please continue to review addition and subtraction facts to 20. In reading they have been making inferences to improve comprehension. In writing the students are busy composing opinion pieces about their favorite books. In social studies the children are learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and other famous Americans who fought for freedom and equality for all. 2015 is off to a great start! We are looking forward to spring and the progress your children are going to make.

Third Grade

Mrs. Silvia, Mrs. Steiger



Third graders are off to a dashing start in the new year! Students are excitedly beginning an animal research project of their choice. Students are currently learning about various non-fiction text structures, how to organize their writing, and demonstrating what they know about their animal. This project integrates reading, writing, science, and technology standards. In math students are beginning the concept of division as sharing and are expected to be acquiring fluency with their multiplication and division facts. Spending 5 minutes each night to practice math facts might include working with flashcards, skip counting, or completing 'FAST MATH' sessions on the computer.

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Christensen, Ms. Olesnevich
Mrs. Angelo

4th Grade students are starting off the New Year delving into *Genius Hour*. Each week, students will immerse themselves in one hour of self-directed learning. Students will read, research, explore, discover, ask questions and dig deep on a subject or topic or personal interest. We're currently wondering about a variety of things in 4th grade.....why the world is round, what heaven looks like, how do people invent things, what life as a wolf might be like, where lions came from, how submarines float and why dinosaurs are now extinct. Students may explore their topic independently or with a partner. Each month, students will present discoveries made during *Genius Hour*, to fellow classmates and teachers! Stay tuned to see how this journey unfolds...we're so very excited and look forward to share our learning with you!

Fifth Grade

Mrs. Thompson, Ms. Borcea,
Miss Wallmark

GRATITUDE

Fifth graders are taking a hard look at the notion of gratitude. Our grade level committed to complete an adapted version of the 21 Day Gratitude Challenge. Research has shown that training the brain to be positive in school or work actually fuels greater success. Every morning students write three things down they feel thankful for. Some notes are shared within our Classroom Circles, others between friends in passing. Discussion around the gifts in our lives we feel thankful for has certainly given new meaning to the expression "Gratitude turns what we have into enough". As we move toward Day 21 and the completion of the challenge, we have pledged to continue our appreciation and positive attitude.

GENIUS HOUR

Google's "20% Time", inspired by Sergey Brin's and Larry Page's Montessori School experience, is a philosophy and policy that every Google employee spend 20% of their time (the equivalent of a full work day each week) working on ideas and

projects that interest that employee. This year we will continue to work to incorporate this ideal in our classrooms. Though we can't promise to devote a full day each week to student interest-based learning experiences, we have committed to set aside a solid hour for students to explore their individual passions.

STUDENT BOOK HOOKS

Our reading block, based on UCONN's Schoolwide Enrichment Model-Reading (SEM-R) is divided into three phases. We have dubbed Phase One "Book Hooks". During this brief, daily block, we teachers introduce students to high-interest, engaging and challenging books by reading short excerpts that we hope will "hook" our readers. It seems as though our readers are ready to "hook" each other! Due to overwhelming requests and great enthusiasm of what they are reading, we have offered the opportunity for students to hook books. Those interested in sharing a book have to complete an application outlining their intent. Our first round of student book hooks begins this week!

PE Department News

Mr. DeNies

The Keeney P.E. classes have just finished their unit on Floor Hockey with the younger students (K-2) working on striking skills with a long handled implement. The new unit is Volleyball, which is a great activity/sport for everyone. I teach the skills to all levels with an emphasis on game play for the 5th, 4th and 3rd grade.

Do I dare ask for more snow??? I would just like enough to have the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders experience snoeshoeing.

I would also like to let everybody know that we are planning to do our annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association. This year we are planning on the Hoops for Heart event. Last year we raised \$9,000: therefore we were recognized as being in the Top fundraising schools in the State. Please be on the lookout over the next few weeks as an explanation letter and collection envelope will be given to all students. The actual celebration event will happen during their gym classes in early March. This is especially

poignant for the month of February, which is Heart Health Awareness Month.

Once again, I am hoping that even though it is a tough time of year weather wise to get out and exercise, I am confident that the students and parents will set a goal of 60 minutes of rigorous activity each day.

Lastly, I have a request for all parents, especially the parents of the younger students. Would you please try to keep track of their day for P.E. class. It happens every third day in the "specials" rotation. On that day, would you make sure their sneakers fit properly, are tied and double knotted tight, as well as have them wear proper activity clothes. As stated above, we are ever so mindful of safety and appreciate your help. Thank You.



Art Department Mrs. Punty

Congratulations to Sidarth Patlolla whose undersea drawing is in the November portion of the district-wide calendar

Fourth graders worked very hard on fire prevention posters. An exceptional poster meets the criteria set out by the fire department. This criterion includes things like the poster has to convey a fire prevention message, have correct spelling, and have the phrase, "Fire Prevention Everyone/Everyday" on it. Dannelly Delacruz won the fire prevention poster contest for our school. Congratulations to Dannelly!

Several Keeney portrait artists have artwork in display in the superintendent's office.

Congratulations to first graders Rebecca Osei-Assibey, Katie Beverage, Keegan Johnson, Eli Green, Jesse Beaulieu, and Claire Getter. Students looked for and traced "contour" lines over a photograph of their own face to create a likeness on transparency. Fourth graders learned about drawing portraits and the proportions of the human face.

Gregory Edwards, Simron Waseem, Sophia Baumel, and Ella Robertson have portrait drawings on display at the superintendent's office.

I chose six pieces of artwork to go to the PTA Reflections program. This year's theme was "The world would be a better place if..." I sent first grade drawings by Emily Silberberg and Myra Rocke's Reflections. I chose three second grade drawings. These people were Amber Raby, Elizabeth Gomez, and Lark Lerario. I chose a flower drawing by third grader Shayla Singleton. Finally, I submitted fanciful drawings by fifth graders Mary Valentine and Sarah Silberberg. We have such talented students at Keeney Street School!

Starting Tuesday, January 13, our student teacher, Maxine Pelligra will join us until the beginning of March. Miss Pellegra will be doing the elementary portion of her student teaching at Keeney. We welcome her! Fifth graders are starting a unit in color and painting. They will be experimenting with color mixing and blending. All other classes will begin sculpture units soon. Please remember to send your child to school

with an art apron (an old oversized shirt will do) to protect clothing.

Music

Miss Haveles

HARTFORD WOLF PACK HOCKEY GAME

All students are welcome to sing at the Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey game at the **XL Center on February 22, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.**

This event is organized through the PTA. During music class students will be learning the song for this performance. Please join us for this fun family event so we can have a large group of performers as we have had in the past. We are looking forward to performing as Keeney community again for the Hartford Wolf Pack!

SPRING CONCERT

We will have our Spring Concert on **Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at 10:00am and 2:15 p.m. in the Keeney gym for Keeney** staff and students. Our evening concert for parents and families will be held on **Thursday, May, 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. 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!

Literacy Room

Miss Swan

With your help, your child can learn strategies to overcome word decoding and phonics problems that affect his/her reading. Read below for some tips and specific things to do.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO HELP AT HOME:

- For a younger reader, help your child learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet. Occasionally point to letters and ask your child to name them, make their sound, or tell you a word that begins with that letter.
 - Help your child make connections between what he or she might see on a sign or in a store and the letter and sound work he or she is doing in school.
 - Encourage your child to write and spell notes, e-mails, and letters using what he knows about sounds and letters.
 - Talk with your child about the "irregular" words that she'll often see in what she's reading. These are the words that don't follow the usual letter-sound rules. These words include said, are, and was. Children must learn to recognize these words "at sight."
 - Consider using computer software or Internet Sites e.g., Starfall.com that focus on developing phonics and emergent literacy skills.
- Activities to teach your child to help himself:
- Play with magnetic letters. See how quickly you can put them in ABC order while saying or singing the alphabet.
 - Look at writing around your house and at signs outside to see if you can spot familiar words and letter patterns.
 - When you're trying to sound out a word, pay close attention to the print. Try to look at all the letters in the word, not just the first one or two.

Remember that promoting a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere is key to helping your child become a good reader.

Numeracy Room

Ms. Sherman

FIVE HELPFUL TIPS FOR TAKING THE FEAR OUT OF MATH

You can help your child learn math by offering insights into how to approach math. Your child will develop more confidence in their math ability if they understand the following points:

1. Problems Can Be Solved in Different Ways.

Although most math problems have only one answer, there may be many ways to get to that answer. Remind your children that learning math is more than finding the correct answer.

2. Wrong Answers Sometimes Can Be Useful.

You often learn as much from a wrong answer as a right one. So, learn from your mistakes.

3. Take Risks!

Help your child to be a risk taker. Help them to see the value of preserving to solve a problem, even if it is difficult.

4. Being Able to Do Mathematics in Your Head Is Important.

Mathematics isn't just pencil and paper activities. Doing math "in your head" (mental math) is a valuable skill that comes in handy as we make quick calculations of costs in stores, restaurants or at gas stations.

5. It's Sometimes OK to Use a Calculator to Solve Mathematics Problems.

Sometimes it is OK to use calculators to solve math problems. They are widely used today, and knowing how to use them correctly is important. Let your child know that to use calculators correctly and most efficiently, they will need a strong understanding in math operations—otherwise, how will they know if the answer they see displayed is reasonable!

EXTRA ! EXTRA ! Keeney Cub News



Calling all Keeney Cub Families:

Keeney Street School has FORMED A KEENEY CUB TEAM for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to be held on June 5 and 6th at Northwest Park.

This is an 18 hour event with entertainment and fun mixed with support for those touched by cancer.

Registration is free online at ACS.org- search for Manchester event and then Team Keeney Cubs. Look for more information to follow..... any questions, please email Mrs. Angelo at b37aange@mpspride.org.



KINDERGARTEN PLAY

We are currently **SEEKING ANY GENTLY USED DOLLHOUSE FIGURES** for our three kindergarten classrooms. As we continue to provide play opportunities for our children, we are noticing that more complex play is emerging naturally for some students and is in need of some support for other students. Having additional materials that promote pretend play will assist us in supporting more complex play. At this time, dollhouse figures (either families, careers, etc...) are our most requested items but we would also welcome other materials (such as dollhouses!) that promote pretend or fantasy play. If you have any such items in your home that you no longer need, please bring them to the office and Mrs. Martin will let you know if they can be used or not in the classrooms. Thank you so much!

NEW PHONE NUMBER ?



Parents **PLEASE** contact the school for any changes in any phone numbers, i.e., cell, home, etc, and emergency contact information.



PLEASE ...follow the directional signs when entering the school grounds - it's been noted that cars are going the wrong way into the lots.



Keeney Street School PTA

Welcome Keeney Families!

Here at Keeney Street School your child is supported by a very active and energetic Parent Teacher Association or PTA. We provide many quality programs and fine arts assemblies that enrich your child's scholastic experience. We also offer many fun-filled events that the entire family can enjoy together. The children of Keeney School, our "Cubs" are our priority.

We believe that your child will benefit in many ways when you get involved with the school. The PTA strives to offer many opportunities for parents to step into their child's school-world. When you do, you will see your child's educational experience blossom even more!

Please join us at our next meeting Tuesday February 3rd from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria. Bring the kids! We provide childcare with the Lutz Children's Museum during our meetings.

January & February PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day...Monday, January 19th ...NO SCHOOL**
- **Launch Fundraiser...Thursday, January 22nd...Come out to Launch anytime between 4pm-8pm and bounce off the walls for 2 hours for only \$10!!!! This is family fun-time at its extreme.**
- **Spirit Day...Friday, January 30th...It's Sport Team Day! Support your favorite team and wear their gear. A suggested \$1 donation to your Keeney PTA is greatly appreciated!**
- **Keeney Street School 3rd Annual Variety Show...Friday, February 6th... Bring your family and friends to enjoy the wonderful performances from our Keeney Cubs. This is a free evening of fun provided by the Keeney PTA. Rehearsals are held on 1/14, 1/28 & 2/4 from 6-8pm in the gymnasium.**
- **Wolf Pack Fundraiser...Sunday, February 22 at 3:00pm...The Keeney Cubs will sing during the 1st intermission. Bring the whole family – This is Hartford Wolf Pack Hockey! Order forms will be going home soon.**
- **Keeney Street School Science Fair & Invention Convention...Thursday, February 26th at 6:00pm...Our scientists and inventors have been working on challenging experiments. Come by the lab to check out what they've discovered!**
- **Keeney Street School Facebook Page...Check out Keeney's new Facebook page and be sure to "Like" us to receive updates about things that are going on at our school.**
- **Box Tops for Education...There is a collection bin in the hallway, right in front of the school office. Please send in your box tops and be sure they have not expired. Questions...email Francene at francenediana@cox.net. Help us make a difference for the Keeney Cubs.**
- **Save the date...Rockcats Game – Sunday, May 3rd at 1:35 our cubs will sing the National Anthem before the start of the game.**

Special **THANK YOU** to the following parents and volunteers who generously donated their time:

- Karen Carlson and Michelle DiPietro and ALL of the volunteers who so generously donated their time and holiday cheer to make the Holiday Shopping Event so magical.

- Teri Dougan for coordinating the Botticello Farms Wreath Fundraiser. The wreaths looked beautiful!
- Heather Zilora and Connie Anglin and all of the volunteers that donated their time and culinary skills during the teacher's luncheon during conferences.
- All of the teachers and staff at Keeney for making the holiday season so bright for our children.

We truly appreciate all that you do for our Keeney Cubs!!!

Come to our next meeting on February 3rd and find out how you too can get involved. We look forward to meeting you all!

Town of Manchester's MLK Jr Award Ceremony

Keeney Street School's Leadership Team

Recently Mrs. Martin had the honor of presenting an award to our very own Keeney Street School Leadership Team. On behalf of the entire school, Mrs. Martin proudly shared why these students are so deserving of this award:

"Each member of the team was selected as a result of demonstrated leadership, responsibility, an openness to new ideas and a willingness to try new things. This year the team has taken a leadership role in assemblies, and is in the beginning stages of mentoring younger students and promoting kindness throughout our school. One noteworthy act of service they have taken on is to support our younger students in communicating gratitude. Everyone in our school has the opportunity to complete an Appreciation Slip which gets delivered to the person being appreciated and often is announced during morning announcements. Members of the Leadership Team noticed that most people who were appreciating others were older students or staff members. In an attempt to build this habit of gratitude among younger students, our Fifth Grade Leadership Teams spends 10 minutes during Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade lunch periods per week to assist them in identifying something they are grateful for and then completing an Appreciation Slip. As a result, an attitude of gratitude is now pulsing throughout all hallways and classrooms at Keeney. We are very fortunate to have this group of students as a part of our Keeney Community."



Not pictured is Alex Lopez

Produce of the Month



Celery



Nutritional Information

Celery contains Vitamin A, Vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, calcium,

magnesium, and manganese

Celery is a rich source of folic acid which is essential for pregnant women and lactating mothers and aids in the

secretion of breast milk Celery is also an excellent source of Vitamin K which helps increase bone mass

- Today, California is the nation's top producer of celery
- There is a celery museum in Portage, Michigan
- It takes just one ounce of celery seeds to produce an acre of celery
- King Tut's tomb contained a shroud adorned with garlands of wild celery, olive leaves, willow, lotus petals, and cornflowers

Selecting, Storing, Preparing

- Look for firm tightly packed stalks with fresh unwilted leaves
- The stalk of celery should feel heavy for its size
- Celery "hearts" are the tender innermost ribs of the celery stalks



Recipes

For an easy appetizer stuff ribs of celery with cream cheese and sprinkle with paprika.

Children can help prepare an easy snack by filling celery ribs with peanut butter and topping it with raisins or dried cranberries.

Celery adds a delicious crunch to tuna and chicken salad.

Waldorf salad, which has chopped celery, apples, raisins, and walnuts, is a wonderful make-ahead dish.