

# Keeney Cub Chronicles

Volume 5 Number 9

May 2014

Newsletter Editor: Mrs. Malan

## From the Principal's Desk

Mrs. Martin-Beaulieu

Dear Keeney Families,

We have entered the time of year where spring activities abound and wonderings and worries about next year begin to increase. It is certainly an exciting time of year and one that tends to generate energy on the part of both child and adult. Please know that the Keeney staff is working hard to ensure a positive end to the current school year while beginning the preparations for a strong start to the upcoming school year.

Next year there will be some changes to grade level teacher assignments. Below you will find a list of classroom teachers and the grades they will be teaching for the 2014-2015 school year:

### KINDERGARTEN

Heather Woble, Wendy Elmore,  
Catherine Kratz

### FIRST GRADE

Loisann Sisson, Megan Branciforte,  
Jodi Karlins

### SECOND GRADE

Michele Frallicciardi, Michelle Patrick,  
Lisa Smith

### THIRD GRADE

Joan Silvia, Rhonda Steiger

### FOURTH GRADE

Kathryn Olesnevich, Scott Trungadi,  
Cara Christensen

### FIFTH GRADE

Megan Thompson (looping with most of  
current 4th grade class),  
Stephanie Borcea, Lara Wallmark

As indicated in an earlier newsletter, parents are welcome to send me an email or note describing the learning style of their child and what type of teaching style you think would be best matched to your child. I cannot honor specific teacher requests, but I can certainly take into account what you know about your child and what you believe would be best for him/her in

terms of a classroom teacher. There are a lot of considerations that go into class lists and class placements including student-teacher match, student-student match, and overall class climate based on students. We have begun the discussion process now and will continue it through the next several weeks.

In addition to the changes in some teaching assignments, we can also look forward to a newly remodeled lunchroom in the fall! Our students are currently participating in a contest to rename our lunchroom. This name will provide guidance to an artist (with [LoveYourLunchroom.com](http://LoveYourLunchroom.com)) who will transform our lunchroom into either a "Keeney Cub Café", "Respectful Restaurant", "Seasoning Café", "Dine -N- Den" or any other creative names that have so far been submitted to us for consideration. We are all excited about the new and improved lunchroom!

It's an exciting time to be a Keeney Cub!

## Library News

Jen Jalbert



### NUTMEG AT NIGHT

On Wednesday April 30, six Keeney students were able to join over 100 other fourth, fifth and sixth graders from all over Manchester for the town-wide program Nutmeg at Night.

Francisco Juro, Alivia Lecoultre, Kaia Mclaughlin, Amber Moriarty, Sam Mushinski and Mary Valentine were on 2 different teams. There were 11 teams answering questions about the 10 Nutmeg books. The first place team got medals and all participants got to choose a new 2015 Nutmeg Nominee book. On May 15, the winning book statewide will be announced.

New starting May 1 are Nutmeg Nominee books for grades 2 - 4. All books will be available in the school and public libraries. Students at Keeney will be receiving a special Nutmeg bookmark to keep track of their Nutmeg book reading.

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Kratz, Mrs. Woble, Mrs. Spector

Kindergarten is moving right along. We continue to reinforce and enhance our reading and written language skills. We are noticing a lot of improvement in all academic areas. The continued support at home enhances your child's reading skills. Continue to practice writing and sight word recognition.

In math, we continue to practice addition and subtraction. The children are very excited to be able to create their very own "number stories". Ask your child to create and share with you at home!

We have been learning about recycling. We have been discussing and learning the many different ways to be a friend to our environment. The "Recycled Robot" project was a big hit both here and at the CRRA (Trash Museum). They love when we use recycled materials to create robots and leave them for all visitors to enjoy!

Fridays have become known as "Cluster Friday." Be sure to ask your child which activity they are participating in for the next several Friday afternoons. While in school,

the children chose from several options. "Cluster Friday" has been very exciting and fun!

## First Grade

Ms. Elmore, Mrs. Sisson, Mrs. Karlins

Spring has sprung in first grade! We have been reading fiction and nonfiction pieces about plants and caterpillars. The Lutz Museum has come to talk to us about metamorphosis. They will be visiting us again in May to teach about the structure and functions of plants. In our classrooms we have planted seeds and are watching them grow roots, sprouts, stems, leaves and flowers.

In math, we continue to explore geometry and discuss the attributes of many different 2-D and 3-D shapes. Students have compared shapes by looking at their sides, angles and vertices. They have also built new shapes by putting two shapes together. We will begin talking about fractions next.

Students are very excited about our upcoming field trip to the Children's Museum in West Hartford. We will be meeting many different animals and learning about their habitats and how they move and get food.

## Second Grade

Miss Branciforte, Mrs. Patrick

The students in second grade have enjoyed our unit on poetry. We have read various poems, described how words and phrases (regular beats, alliterations, rhymes, repeated lines) supply rhythm and meaning in a poem, and even had the chance to write our own poems including haikus, shape, limerick, cinquain, and imagery poems.

Here are a few to share:

There once was a boy named Bob,  
who loved corn on the cob.  
But at the fair, his hands got tied up  
on a ride high up,  
now Bob can't eat corn on the cob.

- Ryan Alahyari

Keeney Street School is cool,  
Although I wish it had a pool.  
Our teacher is nice,  
and the food has no spice,  
Mrs. Martin can't even be fooled!

- Julianna Elwell

## Third Grade

Mrs. Silvia, Mrs. Steiger,  
Mrs. Frallicciardi

Marvelous May is well under Way!

Our third grade writers are sharpening their skills as they write persuasive letters and editorials this month. Our mathematicians are developing a deeper understanding of fractions and our geologists are discovering more about rocks and minerals.

Third graders will be continuing our learning outside the classroom as we visit the Cheney Historical District, Hartford Walking Tour, Connecticut Science Center, and Manchester High School for a band demonstration.

## Fourth Grade

Mrs. Christensen,  
Mr. Trungadi, Mrs. Thompson

Have you heard the latest? Fourth graders started switching classes for science. Mrs. Christensen teaches the Electricity and Magnetism unit, Mr. Trungadi teaches Land and Water, and Mrs. Thompson is in charge of Motion and Design. Each hands on unit runs for about four weeks and then students switch. This is a great way to get better

acquainted with the other fourth grade teachers. The following quotes have been taken from students in each of the classrooms:

"If you connect two wires to a battery and connect it to a light bulb you can create a circuit." Niesha Miller

"We learned how to make a stream out of dirt and that the stream takes away the bad dirt." Davanta Martinez

"We have been building and racing cars so that we understand what it takes to move cars." Elijah Torres

You may not know this, but the fourth grade has traditionally put on a state fair at the end of the year. This year we are fortunate enough to have such a small student population that each of the fifty states, the U.S. capital, and Puerto Rico will all be represented at the fair. It is going to be an exciting time and the best fair yet! As the time draws closer, we will send out a formal invitation with your personal invite to the fair in June!

## **Fifth Grade**

Mrs. Smith, Ms. Borcea,  
Miss Wallmark, Ms. Olesnevich

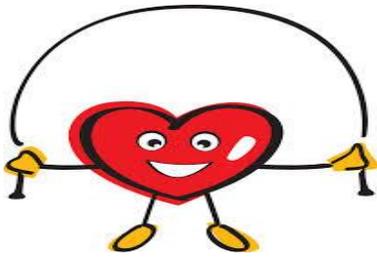
The month of May is very busy for our fifth graders. With our trip to Discovery Camp, the spring concert,

and our field trip to Hammonasset State Park, students have a lot of excitement going on. As you know, preparations for the end of the year festivities are already being made and committees are formed. The yearbook committee is asking parents to send in or email baby pictures. If you are sending them in with your students, please make sure their first and last name is written on the back and in an envelope. If you are emailing them, please send them as a jpeg file and email them to Ms. Borcea at [b55sborc@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b55sborc@manchesterct.gov) In addition, we are still looking for parent volunteers to help with activities and lunch on June 18th, the day of the End of the Year party. If you are available, please contact your student's teacher.

In Language Arts, we are embarking on our study of opinion based and persuasive writing. In Reader's Workshop, students will be reading non-fiction texts and discovering the author's point of view on a topic. They will be locating the evidence from the articles to support their opinion. In Writer's Workshop, students will be writing opinion pieces based on their own thoughts. In addition, students will be reading articles and taking stances on different topics. We are hoping this unit spurs respectful debates and reflections on what makes a strong argument.

## PE Department News

Mr. DeNies



First of all, congratulations to all of you at Keeney that supported the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser.

WE WERE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE  
AN AMAZING AMOUNT OF  
OVER  
\$8,500.00  
TO  
THE AMERICAN HEART  
ASSOCIATION

This will help fix many tired and worn out hearts. Not only that, but by raising that much money, U.S. Games will send Keeney gift certificates for equipment which benefits us all. The "thank you gifts" for students who contributed five dollars or more have been ordered and should be delivered within the next couple of weeks.

On March 25th, 26th and 27th, all of the students helped celebrate healthy hearts by participating in all kinds of fun ways to jump during their regular Physical Education class. This included a station to take a break and have ICE COLD WATER, which was

sponsored by the PTA and was supervised by parent volunteers. "THANK YOU" to them.

There is also a sense of excitement in the air as we prepare for FIELD DAY. The dates are Monday, June 2nd with Tuesday, June 10th as the rain date. The plan is for the students to meet outside at 9:15am and then they will rotate through 10 fun stations until about 11:30am. We will then all have a picnic lunch outside together and witness the fifth grade's annual tug-o-war. Students will be dismissed to return to their classes around 12:40pm. I am looking for volunteers from 8:00 on for setup, help with stations and take down. Please call the office at 860-647-3354 or email me at [b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov) if you can help for any period of time during the morning.

The students are working hard in physical education classes getting ready for field day by practicing their skills and teamwork necessary for the event questions in writing about themselves as it relates to their health habits and knowledge. We will complete them in the beginning of June and they will bring them home to share what they learned stations. We are also working on throwing, catching and batting skills as a lead up to baseball and softball type games. The fifth graders are also taking some

time to work on their health journals. The first ten minutes of class are spent answering questions in writing about themselves as it relates to their health habits and knowledge. We will complete them in the beginning of June and they will bring them home to share what they learned.

## Art News

Mrs. Punty

Kindergarten, grade one, and grade three students are painting and glossing their clay treasures. Soon they will take them home. Fourth grade students will glaze their wonderful coil pots.

Second graders are creating clay penguins and turtles using the pinch method. After they are fired the children will paint and take them home.

While fifth graders enjoyed the Discovery Camp in Woodstock, then ones who stayed home had the opportunity to work with clay in art and make figurines. Fifth graders are creating their own color wheel. Finally, they will study African American painter William H. Johnson and create

a representational, yet abstract painting of their own.

Congratulations to Jayden Rivera for winning first place for kindergarten in the Save the Sound Contest! He will attend a special presentation put on by the Long Island Sound foundation. Jayden competed with many other Connecticut children his age. He is a very proud budding artist.

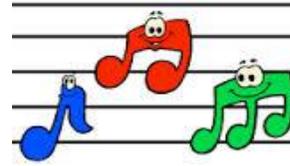
I am pleased to announce that Ella Robertson won second place in the Elk's Club Drug Awareness poster contest. Congratulations to Ella! So many exciting events are happening this spring for our Keeney artists.

Ten children will have artwork on display in the third annual Youth Services art show. This year's theme is Things With Wings. The show will be on May 16 5:30 - 8:00 PM at the Youth Services Bureau on Spruce Street. The names of these children are as follows; fifth graders Lauren Kennedy, Chaudhury Haidar, Jadine Wisdom, and Saher Waseem, third graders Mackenzie Hall, Angely Hook, Dannelly Delecruz, and Sidharth Patlola, second graders Nana Yaw, and first grader Sophia Belisle.

May 16 is a very busy day. In addition to Things With Wings, several Keeney cubs will have artwork on display at the Lutz Museum, opening May 16. Fifth grade students are Kiara Thornton Bey, Isabel Carrol, Seth Papandrea, Erika DiPietro, Alexandra Salazar, Nathan Chervenak, Amber Moriarty, Shannon Crockwell and Andrew Fogarty. Fourth graders are Nathan Heimer, Tyler Leroux, Sophia Goldberg Doyle, Mia Hickey, Lauren Kennedy, Mya Vasquez, Jessi Smith, Victoria Jones, and Marissa Benson. Third graders displaying work at the Lutz are Albert Speaks, Kevin Le, Xavier Vahidy, Jaden Patrick, Damilare Akinsola, Elizabeth Swedis, Chelsea Vazquez, and Juan Solis. Second grade artists are Ryan Alahyari and Bradley Carlson. First graders are Sleiman Elder, Kennedy LeClaire, Liam Murphy, Akshar Perugu, Jacob Carlson, Tianna Chandler, Benjamin Flanagan, Emma Skoog, and Aleksander Kobylanski. Finally, kindergarten students displaying artwork at the Lutz exhibit are Conor Donnelly, Camron McGonigal, Brayden Bruckner, Kiera Chandler, Gabriella DiSalvatore, Emily Silberberg, Shemiah Swan, Alexis Grondahl, and Xavier Lopez. Congratulations to all our Keeney artists!

## Music

Miss Haveles



## SPRING CONCERT:

We will have our Spring Concert

on Tuesday, May 20, 2014  
at 10:00am and 2:00pm  
in the Keeney gym.

Our evening concert for PARENTS  
and families will be held

on Thursday, May, 22, 2014  
at 7:00pm  
in Bennet Academy's Cone Gymnasium

Please note ALL fifth grade students  
will perform in the concerts as  
members of the Fifth Grade Chorus  
as well as all fourth grade  
instrumental students.

Permission slips were sent home and  
need to be RETURNED AS SOON  
AS POSSIBLE. We look forward to  
seeing you at the evening concert!

## Health News

Nurse Sandy



### OUTDOOR SAFETY

Spring has sprung and our Keeney cubs will be outside more often playing and getting important exercise. Several things can be done to keep kids safe while out at play here at school or at home.

Safe foot wear is recommended while your child is here at school. Please avoid sending your child to school in flip flops. Sneakers and shoes are the best type of footwear to use. Children will be active and flip flops offer little support and cause slipping while on playscapes.

Allow approximately 20 minutes of mild to moderate sun without sun block use to expose your child to the ultraviolet B rays needed for vitamin D production. The amount of time needed does vary with the pigment of your skin. For longer periods of sun exposure, use sunscreen to protect skin from the sun's rays.

To protect your child from tick bites there are several things that can be done. Have your child wear light weight long pants tucked into shoes if hiking or spending time in wooded

areas or tall grassy places. Wear long sleeved shirts that are light also. Bug repellent should be used in areas where ticks are prevalent.

After spending time in the woods or fields, check your child for ticks. If a tick is found, use tweezers to remove the tick. Place the tweezers as close to the skin as possible and pull gently and steadily to pull the tick out of the skin. Save the tick if possible, to later show your doctor, if necessary. Clean the area with soap and water and use antibiotic ointment on affected area. If a part of the tick's body remains in the skin and you can't release it, call your doctor for medical advice and follow up.

If a tick was removed from your child, watch the area for a rash. Lyme disease will sometimes cause a "bull's eye" rash. Watch for any symptoms to report to your doctor such as fever, fatigue, body aches, headaches, and joint pain or swelling.

## Literacy Room

Miss Swan



### Developing Your Child's Expressive Oral Language

You can help promote natural language development by providing environments full of language development opportunities. Here are some ideas:

- **Let your child talk...**Every child's language or dialect is worthy of respect as a valid system for communicating. It reflects the identities, values, and experiences of the child's family and community. Do not be quick to correct their language; this will limit their willingness to talk.
- **Include your child in conversations...**Treat children as if they are conversationalists. Children learn very early about how conversations work: taking turns, looking attentively, using facial expressions, and

continuing a topic with conversing adults.

- **Encourage interaction with other children...**Peer learning is an important part of language development, especially in mixed-age groups. Activities involving a wide range of materials can promote talk. There should be a balance between individual activities and group activities that include discussion, such as dramatic play, book sharing, and block-building.
- **Talk with your child daily...**Remember that parents/caregivers are an important part in language development. Ask about your child's day at school, "What was something interesting that you learned today?" or "What did you learn in science/math/art class today?" Read and discuss a book, play a board game, make a recipe, create a craft, review homework together. Any activity can encourage talking together; be mindful of long periods of silence.

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

## Numeracy Room

Ms. Sherman



### SIMPLE SUMMER MATH TIPS

1. Use errands as a learning opportunity. A great place to learn and review math is at the grocery store. You can review numbers while you choose groceries, for example, adding the quantity of apples, looking at prices to reinforce decimals and even doing simple number recognition while standing in line.
2. Children love to collect and gather items, especially at the park, beach, woods or even in the backyard. Encourage your children to sort their items by size, color, shape or texture. If your child loves to be outside and observe nature, do a scavenger hunt where they have to find a specific number of leaves, rocks, sticks, etc...
3. Transform doing laundry into a fun lesson for your children. Together, sort clothes by colors, whites and darks, measure capfuls of laundry detergent, and estimate how many pieces of laundry it will take to fill the washing machine.

EXTRA ! EXTRA !  
Keeney Cub News



Visitor from Kenya



Keeney cubs had a visitor from Kenya who told the students about his life back home.

It is considered rude not to greet someone, so he taught us how to greet people in his language.

The village where he is from has no paved streets, supermarkets or electricity !

NO ELECTRICITY ? ! How do they entertain themselves ? ! !



Drums. They love to play and dance with drums. Keeney cubs were able to try some of their dances



Then they got bigger



and play some of the village games. Others tried their expertise in carrying objects on their heads.



and bigger



First the objects started out small.



It will take lots of practice until we can achieve this !!

# KEENEY STREET PTA

We are a very active group, doing many great things that benefit ALL of the Keeney children. There are a number of events & activities in the remaining months of this school year that are the perfect opportunity for you to get involved in your child's school world. The Enrichment Clusters, Running Club, Field Day & the Funtime Fair! These are the wonderful activities that make the Keeney Community the enriching environment it is for our children. Any amount of time you can give; is the perfect amount!

## May/June PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:

- Our next meeting will be held **Tuesday, June 3rd** at 6:30pm. Bring the KIDS! We'll have an all NEW program from the LUTZ!
- Running Club Spring Session **Friday, May 9 - Friday June 13**
- **Keeney Teacher Appreciation Week May 12-16<sup>th</sup>**, Write a letter, draw a picture and say Thank You not only to our tremendous teachers but also our special staff!
- Breakfast with a Buddy, **Friday, May 16 7:30am – 8:45am**
- Keeney Night at Red Robin in Manchester, **Tuesday, May 20**
- Spirit Day, **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> PAJAMA DAY!!!!**
- Please continue to send in your **Box Tops For Education** and shop our special link to **Amazon.com**.

Please visit our PTA web page on the Keeney School site at:

<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov/page.cfm?p=642>

(scroll down and click Amazon For Keeney & BoxTops for Education listed under Support Our PTA)

## Upcoming Events....Save the Dates:

- Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, rain date Tuesday, June 10 **Field Day!**
- Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, rain date Sat. June 14<sup>th</sup>...**Keeney's Fun Time Fair is BACK!** Be sure to save the date!
- 

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

- Thank you Josie Robertson, Tamara Speaks, Niki Gallagher for our Mother's Day gifts from Square One. Thank you Mrs. Punty for all your help!
- Thank you Michele Ryerson, Michelle Bellinger-McLaughlin, Stacey Goldberg-Doyle, Andrew Price & family for the beautiful Someone Special to Me Dance! What a fun night!



**Professor Presto amazed our Cub audience  
with his Fire & Ice demonstrations**



**What a perfect night for our  
Someone Special To Me Dance!**



### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- Please email Pat Allen at [patallen614@gmail.com](mailto:patallen614@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with Running Club
- Please email Tamara Speaks at [viorene89@msn.com](mailto:viorene89@msn.com) if you'd like to help with the Fun Time Fair
- Please email Mr. DeNies at [b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov](mailto:b21gdeni@manchesterct.gov) if you'd like to help with Keeney Field Day

