



# Martin Elementary School



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December, 2013, Vol. 8, Issue 4

Catherine Colavecchio, Principal

## From the Principal's Desk: Mrs. Colavecchio

Happy Holidays! On behalf of the entire Martin School community, I would like to extend our warmest wishes to all of our families during this season.

We have had a busy couple weeks at Martin, but students will be completing this week ready to begin this second half of the school year on Thursday, January 2, 2014!

A very special thank you to Mr. Diehl and Mrs. Plavin and all of the parent volunteers for another successful book fair this month! Numerous parents and students purchased items.



A special thank you as well to all the families who came to parent report card conferences the first week of December. If you have not had a chance for a conference, please contact your child's teacher and we will make every effort to have a time scheduled for a meeting.

We have been very fortunate to have the opportunity for all of our fourth and fifth grade students to be able to work with a teacher from CREC who joins us once a month to teach about new science standards as they relate to the Common Core. This began last month and will hopefully continue for the remainder of the school year. Thank you to CREC for funding this wonderful opportunity.



A very special thank you to all of our fifth grade students who participated in the annual winter concert this past Monday afternoon at Martin. As always, Mr. Garrison, Mrs. Valenti and Mr. Bretthauer continue to enhance all students by pushing them to achieve their best in music. We look forward to seeing the progress of all of the band and orchestra students in the spring at the next concert event!

We look forward to another very successful second half of the year when we return in 2014! As a reminder, our last day of school is this Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> which is a full day of classes.

On behalf of the entire Martin School community, I wish all of you and your families a very happy and relaxing holiday vacation. Happy New Year!



## From the Principal's Desk, Continued

If your child is going to be late to school, a parent or guardian **is required** to bring the child into the office and sign them in to the building.

Please note that notices are going home monthly from the Food Services Department. If your child has an overdue balance due for lunches, the amount needs to be paid as quickly as possible.

Please call Food Services at 860-647-3461 with any questions.



Please make sure to send in a note to your child's teacher if your child is going home by a different route than the usual manner. If we do not receive a note or phone call, children will continue to go home on the bus or their daily routine.

This will continue to ensure the safety of all students. Thank you!



If your child is going to be absent from school, please call at any time on the absentee line at (860) 647-3365.

**Please** call daily and be as specific as possible with the information (how high the fever, etc.) on your child's **illness**. This message machine is on at all times, and all absences are monitored in the morning by office staff.



Please make sure children continue to wear sneakers to school on gym days.

No Heely sneakers are permitted on these days for safety. Thank you!



## Important dates to remember:



### IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

**Thursday, January 2, 2014**

Return to school

**Wednesday, January 15, 2014**

PTA Meeting-6:30 p.m. in the Martin Cafeteria

**Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

No School for Students/Martin Luther King Day  
Long weekend

## Library/Media Center: Mrs. Plavin

### Manchester Public Library Happenings!

#### Leila and the Nutmegs

This book club will take place on Tuesday, January 14th from 3:45-4:45 p.m. at the Mary Cheney Library Building. Children in 4th to 6th grade will discuss one of the Nutmeg nominees and do a related activity.

The book for this month is *The Candymakers* by Wendy Mass and you must read the book to participate. Snacks will be provided. Registration is required. Please call 860-645-0577 to register. Location: Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040

#### Silkworms Parent/Child Book Club:

This month's meeting will take place on Saturday, January 18th from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Mary Cheney Library Building. This program is for children in 2nd to 4th grade and a parent.

The book for this month is *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Warner and both child and parent must read the book to participate. No siblings please.

Snacks will be provided. Registration is required. Please call (860) 645-0577 to register.

Location: Mary Cheney Library Building, 586 Main St, Manchester, CT 06040



Would you like an easy way to thank a Martin School staff member at this holiday time?

### *Dedicate a book in his/her honor!*

This is a great way to thank a teacher at holiday time; help the school library; and give a present that requires no extra shopping!



Every morning from Monday, December 16th through Friday December 20th, members of the Student Council will be staffing a table before school in the front hall. There will be an assortment of brand new library books on display and you get to choose the one you wish to dedicate in your teacher's honor. We ask for a donation of your choosing (suggested amount is \$5 to \$10 per title).

We will let the teacher know the name of the student and the title of the book that was selected. We will make sure the teacher gets to see the book once we've placed a bookplate inside with the donor's name and the honoree's name!

### **MANCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE**

It is the policy of Manchester Public Schools that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise discriminated against under any program, including educational and employment, because of race, color, religious creed, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, mental retardation or past/present history of mental disorder, learning disability or physical disability.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Terri Smith, Human Resources Specialist  
Manchester Public Schools  
45 North School Street  
Manchester, CT 06042  
860-647-3595

## Music News: Mr. Bret-

Congratulations to all the 5th grade students and several 4th grade students who participated in the winter concert on Monday, December 16th.

The concert featured the Martin Orchestra, Chorus and Band.



*Mr. Bretthauer directing the chorus*

## PTA Board

The New PTA Board for the  
2013-14 School Year:

**Co-Presidents:** Mrs. Kim Mercier and  
Mrs. Sherry Norris

**Vice President:** Mrs. Michelle Balthazrr

**Secretary:** Mrs. Mary Beth Dufresne

**Treasurer:** Mrs. Brittany Covill

Please consider joining the PTA this year!

Please contact the school office for further information at (860) 647-3367.

**PTA**<sup>®</sup>  
*everychild.onevoice.*<sup>®</sup>

## Holiday Trivia Quiz

1. The lowest ever recorded temperature did NOT take place in December! Which month did it take place in?  
A. July  
B. November  
C. January  
D. April
2. According to the song, "12 Days of Christmas," your true love brings nine of these on the 9th day of Christmas:  
A. Golden rings  
B. Turtle Doves  
C. Lords a'Leaping  
D. Ladies Dancing
3. Which term is not associated with the holiday of Hanukkah?  
A. Latkes  
B. Dreidel  
C. Chutzpah  
D. Menorah
4. Which is December's birthstone?  
A. Opal  
B. Turquoise  
C. Topaz  
D. Diamond
5. Who said:  
*"How did it get so late so soon?  
It's night before it's afternoon.  
December is here before it's June.  
My goodness, how the time has flown.  
How did it get so late so soon?"*  
A. Dr. Seuss  
B. Shel Silverstein  
C. Emily Dickinson

### ANSWERS:

1. C. (January) The lowest temperature on record in the United States is -79.8°F, at Prospect Creek Camp in the Endicott Mountains of northern Alaska on January 23, 1971.
2. D. Ladies Dancing
3. C. Chutzpah
4. B. Turquoise
5. A. Dr. Seuss

## Physical Education: Mrs. Bonneau

Students in Kindergarten through grade 5 have been finishing working on our soccer unit. Practicing the skills of dribbling, passing and shooting, students have put those features to the test in different types of soccer games.

In this short period before winter break, students have also been working on different cooperative games that involve strategic thinking. Students need to figure out:

- \* what's the best way to not get tagged,
- \* who can I work with to get the job done,
- \* is there a better movement for this activity.

Some of the strategies students have come up with have been game-changing!



As the cold weather is officially here, please remember to send your child to school with sneakers.

If you get a sneaker notice sent home, it has the specials schedule calendar on the back to help remind you what days your child has physical education. Without sneakers, they cannot participate.

## Kindergarten News: Mrs. Bride and Mrs. Eagleson

Kindergarten students are excited to become a community of writers. They have chosen names for their writing groups and look forward to writing and sharing their stories.

Students were asked to think about what they like and now they are writing 'teaching books' to teach us about themselves. During Writer's Workshop, students work together as a whole class, work with their writing partners and conference with the teacher. Students are learning to touch each page of their booklets as they think of a separate idea for each page. They are also learning that their ideas have to be connected to form a story.

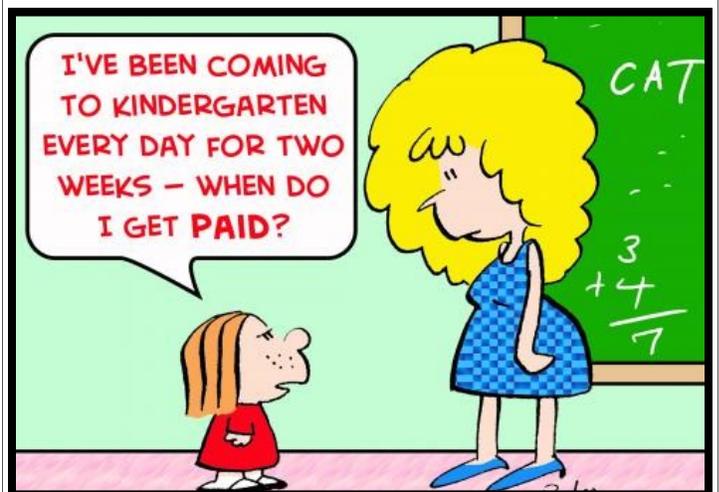


Students are learning to touch each page of their booklets as they think of a separate idea for each page. They are also learning that their ideas have to be connected to form a story.

Students are using the 'Say it Slowly' strategy as they stretch their words to spell them. When their stories are finished they will sit in the author's chair and share their booklets with the class as we celebrate their writing accomplishments!

In math, we are continuing our exploration of numbers and number words. We are comparing groups to see if they have more, less or are equal. We practice counting by ones, tens and they will be introduced to counting by fives as well.

Please enjoy the holiday season with your family and friends! We are looking forward to an amazing new year filled with learning and fun!



## Numeracy Coach: Mrs. Ozmun

Our fourth and fifth grade students who are participating in Martin's Math Olympiads program have already completed their first two national contests and did an excellent job!



We continue to wish our marvelous mathematicians good luck as they continue these high level math challenges!

### MATH QUICK TIPS

Use everyday objects to allow your child to count and group a collection of objects. (K)

Encourage your child to construct numbers in multiple ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make 10? Answers might include  $5+5$ ,  $6+4$ ,  $8+2$ , etc. Have your child explain his or her thinking. (K, 1st grades)

Look for everyday opportunities for your child to do mathematics. For example, if you open a carton of eggs and take out seven, ask, "How many are left in the carton?" (1st,2nd grades)

Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number. When I add five to it, I get eleven. What is the number I am thinking of?" (2nd,3rd grades)

Encourage your child to construct numbers in multiple ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make 15? Fifteen can be  $10+5$ ,  $7+8$ ,  $20-5$  or  $5+5+5$ . (2nd, 3rd grades)

Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds and 4 ones. What is the number?" It is 354. Or, using a deck of cards, deal two cards and ask your child to add the two numbers.

You can also identify a target number and ask your child to either add or subtract to obtain that target number. (Use a target of 20 or less.) (2nd, 3rd grades)

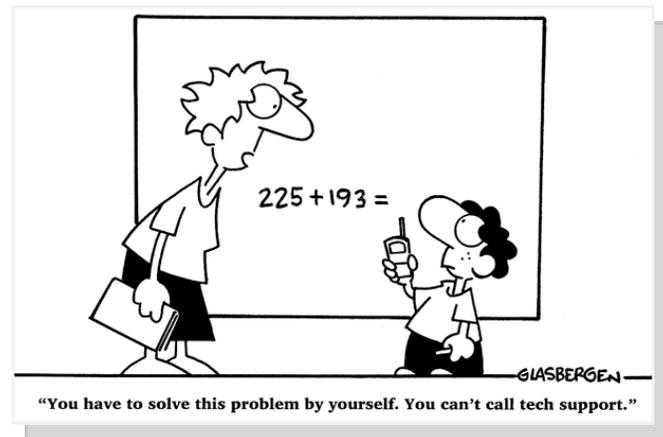
Have our child explain the relationship between two different numbers without counting. For example, 147 is 47 more than 100, and three less than 150. (2nd,3rd grades)

Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs of factors can you think of that would satisfy this problem?" Have your child explain the solutions. (3rd,4th,5th grades)

Encourage your child to write or describe numbers in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to make 1,450?

- ⇒  $1,450 = 1$  thousand, 4 hundreds, 5 tens and 0 ones,
- ⇒  $1,450 = 1000 + 450$ ,
- ⇒ 14 hundreds and 50 ones, or
- ⇒ 13 hundreds and 15 tens, etc. (3,4,5)

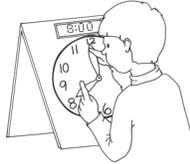
(For additional tips go to [csde.org](http://csde.org), <http://www.commoncoreworks.org> and [pta.org](http://pta.org))



## First Grade News: Mrs. Bloomquist, Ms. Leng and Mrs. Knight

December brings great things in our first grade curriculum! We are learning all about base-10 using ten frames and telling the tens and ones in every number we encounter!

In the upcoming months, we will be exploring time, money, and even digging into some double-digit adding using tens. We ask that if you come across any of these ideas at home, please feel free to do some guided discovery with your child!



In language arts, we have been studying all the vowels, with close attention being paid to the long vowels, learning that the long sound can be made by a vowel team or three-letter combination.

Have your child share their new knowledge with you by pointing out words in your daily travels or at home!

As you may have already noticed, we are sending home a Weekly Reading Log. This log is to be recorded on each night and initialed by an adult. The completed log comes back to school on Friday.



Thank you again for all your continued support in helping your child's education such a success!



## Second Grade News: Mrs. Vincens, Mrs. Bordeaux and Mrs. Whidden

It was wonderful seeing all the parents at parent conferences last week. It is always good to have the time to discuss students' progress.

In math, we are working on money. The students are counting money, problem solving with money and learning to count back change. The Math Standards are more rigorous with the new Common Core and the expectations are much greater than in the past.

We continue in our Reading Groups to work on the skill of summarizing. In writing, we are working on narrative stories.

We wish you all a happy and safe holiday.

**Happy Holidays**

The school district's policy of nondiscrimination must be prominently included in each student handbook, bulletin, catalog, booklet, announcement, brochure, student application form or other publication distributed to students, potential students, parents, and any other persons benefiting from the school district's activities and programs. The name and contact information (office address, telephone number, fax number, email address) of the Title IX Coordinator must also be included in this announcement.

### **Title IX Notice**

Title IX is a federal law which states: "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving federal assistance."

Manchester's Title IX coordinator is: Terri Smith, Manchester Public Schools, 45 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042, Phone: 860-647-3595, Fax: 860-647-3327

The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the overall implementation of Title IX for the school district and coordinating the institution's compliance with Title IX in all areas covered by implementing regulations. The major responsibility is the prevention of sexual harassment and discrimination.

## 3rd Grade News: Mrs. Dunklee and Mrs. Kelsey

Thank you all for attending your children's conferences. It was a pleasure to see you all again! You're continued support is so very important to your children's learning.

With the onset of the new Common Core-based curriculum, the way we teach math is changing. We are moving to more in-depth studies of units which will provide us with the opportunity to explore and invest in each topic.

The following is a synopsis of the math your child will be taught in third grade.

### First Trimester

Unit 1: Understanding Multiplication and Division: Students will use strategies to multiply and divide numbers to 100.

Unit 2: Connecting Multiplication and Division: Students will apply understandings of multiplication and division to solve problems.

### Second Trimester

Unit 3: Computing with Whole Numbers: Students will fluently add and subtract numbers within 1,000 using multiple strategies.

Unit 4: Exploring Measurement and Data: Students will tell and write time to the nearest minute. Students will create scaled picture and bar graphs to represent data and solve one and two step problems represented within the data. Students will measure to the nearest half and fourth inch and will illustrate the data using a line plot.

### Third Trimester

Unit 5: Area and Perimeter: Students will calculate the area and perimeter of squares and rectangles.

Unit 6: Understanding 2-Dimensional Polygons: Students will solve real-world mathematical problems involving perimeter of polygons. Students will classify and define shapes by their attributes, and will partition shapes into equal parts.

We hope this helps clarify the direction in which we are headed. Also, please note, problem solving is embedded throughout our curriculum as a part of each unit of study. There is particular emphasis placed on explaining one's thinking/reasoning.

Enjoy your holidays! We will see you in the new year!!

$$\begin{aligned}x &= x + mt, y = y_1 + nt, z_1 = z + pt \\x &= mz + a, y = nz + b \quad \frac{x-a}{m} = \frac{y-b}{n} = \frac{z}{1} \\y^2(x+c)^2 + y^2 &= 4a - 4a^2 \sqrt{(x-c)^2 + y^2} + (x-c)^2 \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \left( \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{e^x - 1} \right) &= \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{e^x - 1 - x}{x(e^x - 1)} = \frac{1}{2} \\ y' &= (\ln u)' (\sin x)' = \frac{1}{u} \cos x = \frac{\cos x}{\sin x} = \cot x \\ \int dx &= \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \int f(x) dx + \lim_{\mu \rightarrow 0} \int f(x) dx = \int f(x) dx \\ \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{4x}{\sin(\pi(2+x))} &= \left\{ \frac{0}{0} \right\} = \lim_{x \rightarrow 0} \frac{4x}{\sin 2\pi x} = \frac{2}{\pi} \\ \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + b \sum_{i=1}^n x_i &= \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 y \quad a \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 + bn = \sum_{i=1}^n x_i^2 y \\ y &= \pi - x, x \rightarrow \pi, y \rightarrow 0\end{aligned}$$



## Fourth Grade News: Mrs. Inkel, Ms. Tamsin and Mrs. King

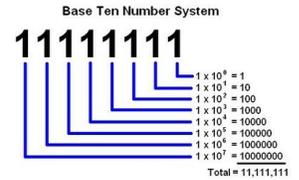
Greetings fourth grade families!

In language arts, students have been working on connecting their reading to writing. Students have been asked to write brief summaries for fictional texts. Classes have developed rubrics and students are beginning to evaluate their work based on this criterion.



In math, we are continuing to work within the Numbers in Base Ten Unit. Students are practicing multi-digit multiplication using a variety of strategies (partial products, lattice, et al).

Exposure to a variety of problem solving methods allows them to choose one that they can use comfortably with accuracy.



We wish you and your families a very restful and happy holiday season.

## Fifth Grade News: Ms. Pietkevich and Ms. Eichenauer

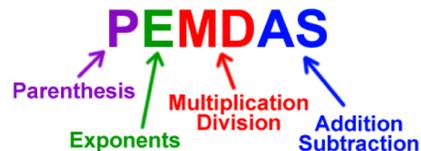
In Reader's Workshop, students are learning about theme. Theme is the message within a story that the author wants to convey to the reader.

We have been exploring the purpose of theme as well as looking at theme within folk tales, short stories, and music.

In Writer's Workshop, students have been exploring the importance of character traits within their writing, and how they impact how we feel about certain characters.



In math, we are wrapping up our unit on order of operations. Students have been learning to follow the acronym PEMDAS or Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally, when solving numerical expressions. Our upcoming unit will focus on coordinate planes, and graphing.



In science, we are diving into our unit on sound. Students have been learning different vocabulary words that are associated with sound like: volume, vibration, echo, pitch, and frequency. Students will be using these vocabulary words to help them understand the cause of sound.

In social studies, we are working on researching the explorer Christopher Columbus as a class. Students will be learning how to conduct research for their upcoming explorer projects that will be completed in January.

