



# MARTIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOME & SCHOOL CONNECTION



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March, 2014, Vol. 8, Issue 6

Catherine Colavecchio, Principal

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

Dear Parents:

March continues to be another busy month of learning and growing at Martin School!

In addition to all of the wonderful higher order activities in the classrooms, all of our students in grades 3-5 will soon be beginning the field test called SBAC which is replacing the Connecticut Mastery tests. We will be testing for most of the remainder of this month and the beginning of April in these grades during the morning and afternoon hours.



If you know your child is going to be absent on one of the test days, please call the absence line at (860) 647-3365, which receives messages 24 hours a day. All students are required to make up the tests they have missed.

We are excited to be hosting a Family event on Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> (date was changed from 3/19/14). One of our student ECHOs has been working on collecting donations for the Heifer International Project which focuses on the purchase of farm animals to pass on to families in order for them to sustain themselves. We will be sending home more information about the event at the end of this week!



Teachers across all of the grades are also preparing for this week's upcoming report card conferences, which will be held this year on **March 18, 19 and 20.**

Our spring book fair will also be taking place the same three days this year! March is a wonderful time to touch base with your child's teacher and find out how s/he is progressing academically and socially in school. This time is beneficial to help plan for the remainder of the school year and to continue to plan for partnerships between home and school. All parents should have received the conference information sent home with all students earlier this month. Please schedule a time and day to meet with your child's teacher.

A reminder that students in grades kindergarten through 5 are dismissed at 1:17 p.m. on these days and lunch is served.

A very special thank you to Mrs. Lerch and all of the numerous parents who volunteered so much time and energy to what turned out to be another wonderful PTA variety show this past Friday evening! After all of the hard work on rehearsals and decorations, the students did a wonderful job presenting their talents to the school community!



**Thanks  
to Our  
Volunteers!**

Our next monthly PTA meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Officer Adam Marois will be beginning the evening discussing internet safety for families and children, a very worthwhile discussion! Please come if you can!

Thanks again to all for the ongoing support! As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions or concerns. Let's all think spring!

## From the Principal's Desk, Continued

Just a reminder that students are marked late to school if they are not in their classrooms when the second bell rings at 9:05 a.m. The first bell rings at 8:55 a.m., and students can enter the building at that time.



If you are planning on taking your child out of school early, it is important that we have a reason why they are leaving before school ends. If you know ahead, please make sure to send a note in to your child's classroom teacher with the written reason.



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.



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 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!



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.

 If your home phone number, cell or work number changes, please make sure to notify the school office at (860) 647-3367 or send a note into school as soon as possible.

This information is essential to update in Info Snap to ensure we can reach someone in case of an emergency.

If your child comes to school late for any reason, a parent or guardian is required to bring them into school and sign them into the office.

There are no exceptions to this rule.



## Important dates to remember:

Tues.: 3/18	Book Fair	
Tues.: 3/18	P/T Conferences	
	Early Dismissal	1:17 p.m.
Wed.: 3/19	Book Fair	
Wed.: 3/19	P/T Conferences	
	Early Dismissal	1:17 p.m.
Thurs.: 3/20	Book Fair	
Thurs.: 3/20	P/T Conferences	
	Early Dismissal	1:17 p.m.
Thurs: 3/20	NO Rock b-ball	
Wed.: 3/26	PTA Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed.: 3/26	Yearbook Meeting	3:30-4:15 p.m.
Thurs.: 3/27	Rock b-ball	3:30 p.m.
Thurs.: 3/27	Townwide PTA	6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fri.: 3/28	Movie Night	

# Martin PTA

*Making School Fun for Everyone*

Upcoming PTA-sponsored events:

- ⇒ 3/14 Martin Variety Show
- ⇒ 4/4 Father/Daughter Dance
- ⇒ 4/30 Mother/Son Bowling

Volunteers always welcome! See event flyers for contacts.

## ***Are you in the know?***

We send out reminders about key dates and events on a regular basis, get yourself in the Martin loop today!

Follow us on Facebook



Sign up for PTA email:

[Martin School PTA @yahoo.com](mailto:Martin_School_PTA@yahoo.com)



## **PTA Executive Board**

Co-President:	Sherry Norris
Co-President:	Kim Mercier
V. President:	Michelle Balthazrr
Secretary:	Amanda Lythgoe
Treasurer:	Brittany Covill

## Manchester Public Library

### **Special Literacy Story time:**

Come to Cheney on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. for a great, free program.

The Pi Beta Phi Manchester Area Alumnae Club will treat families to stories and a craft with snacks and goody bags.

Call (860) 645-0577 for more info.

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

### **R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dogs):**

On Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> the dogs from Tails of Joy will visit the Mary Cheney Library Building from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Beginning readers through middle school readers may sign up for a time to read with one of these special dogs. Participants will also receive a free Tails of Joy bookmark. Registration required.

Call (860) 645-0577 to reserve a time slot.

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

### **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

## Physical Education: Mrs. Bonneau

Our **Jump Rope for Heart** event was a great success! As a school, we raised approximately \$2,955 for the American Heart Association. This is another great example of the generous spirit we have here at Martin School.

Now we move on to **Relay for Life**. Keep your eye out for upcoming fundraisers including our famous Penny War!



Going into March in P.E., we have started our basketball unit to coincide with March Madness. While showing their skills in shooting, students are always asked to show their "BEEF."

B= Bend your knees  
E= Elbows in  
E= Eyes on the hoop  
F= Follow through (follow the ball into the hoop)

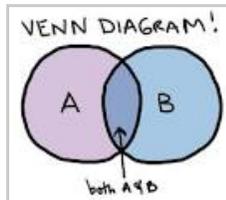
Students have been very excited for this unit and are doing a great job! Up next is Volleyball!



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

The kindergarten class is making nice progress and working hard.

In reading, students are learning how to show their thinking as they use organizers, such as a Venn diagram to compare and contrast stories.



The children are working hard on identifying authors and illustrators and are taking that learning into the library as they find books by authors or illustrators that they like.

In math, the children are investigating the process of addition. They are using manipulatives to show how the two small groups join together to make one big group. They are learning to use the signs/symbols for + (plus) and = (equals) to write and read number sentences.

Students are learning how to be editors as they use a rubric to check their writing. They are learning that they have to be able to read what they write. They are checking for finger spacing, punctuation, and beginning sentences with an uppercase letter.

Please be sure to check your child's backpack on Friday for our Weekly Newsletter. Please read it with your child, as they are very excited to share their learning with you.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress at report card conferences!



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

MARCH IS UPON US! Conferences are coming up, beginning Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, through Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to sign up for a morning or afternoon appointment with your classroom teacher. Also, each of these three days will be an EARLY DISMISSAL at 1:17 p.m. Lunch will be served on all days.

As you may have seen in your child's backpack, MARTIN COMMUNITY NIGHT is Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to send in your response so enough materials and refreshments are available.



In math, we are working on Geometry, looking at corners, sides, 2- and 3-dimensional shapes. Please keep

up all the hard work on the addition and subtraction math facts!!

In language arts, thank you for all your support in the Wednesday night reading program. We are finding it beneficial in the classroom and from hearing responses from home. To continue this practice, please visit your local library, where each librarian can help you find a whole selection of "just right" books.

Just a reminder, First Grade has HOMEWORK Monday through Thursday nights. Please check folders and backpacks for these important papers!

Again, as a continued reminder, we will be going outside for recess each day. Coats and appropriate dress are a must. Thank you!

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

The second graders have been busily exploring nonfiction in both reading and writing. They learned to write like scientists when creating lab reports and are now conducting research on an animal or a famous person. We have learned how to research on the internet as well as using reference materials in the library.



In reading, students read nonfiction texts about both science and social studies and learned to determine the main idea and supporting details, determine the author's purpose, and to identify text features.

In math, students have finished their unit on geometry and have been working on measurement. Students learned to measure using inches, centimeters, meters, and yards. We used both standard and nonstandard units.

**Reminder:** Students should be practicing their addition and subtraction facts at home and our goal is to be able to complete 95 problems in 5 minutes by June.



Please help your children to remember to complete and return their homework each day and their reading logs on Fridays!

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

March brings with it not only Smarter Balanced Assessment, but also report card conferences. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at conference time. Please watch for the notice which indicates your appointment time.

Mr. Alex Bugaeff, author of *Pilgrims to Patriots, A Grandfather Tells The Story*, visited us for a very informative presentation on the birth of our country.



Thank you to Brett and his family for the introduction!

Also coming in March is the third grade Connecticut State Project. This is a very large project that is done almost completely at home. It is intended to introduce students to projects in general by planning their time, collecting suitable materials, and working closely with parents to develop a neat, thought out presentation.

The packet will be distributed at parent/teacher conferences and students have six weeks to complete the project. We will be supporting the students in school via the computer lab and social studies activities that directly connect to the information they will need.

We do ask that if you experience any difficulties that you let us know as soon as possible. It is very important that each child has a successful experience that prepares him/her for project work in the upper grades.

Third grade enjoys several field trips that occur during the months of May and June. We are in the process of securing dates and will be sending home the information as soon as possible. Due to the nature of our field trips, chaperones are unlimited! We just need to know for sure who is coming in advance.



Unfortunately, because of the numbers, it has happened that chaperones could not fit on the bus and have had to meet us at the location.



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

Grade four has a challenging month ahead. We will be preparing to take the SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium). This will be a computer-based assessment designed for Connecticut students.



In addition to the challenge of taking a test on a computer, they will need to critically read and use multiple reading/math resources to create their responses.

We are now concentrating on reading non-fiction text and adjusting our reading strategies to foster comprehension. It requires a different set of skills from reading fiction, and demands students to continually refer to the text to support their thinking.



The focus in math is fractions. Students are required to define, identify, label, and find equivalents. Students will use their knowledge of multiplication and division to mathematically find equivalents. Please continue to work on math facts at home.

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

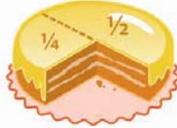
### Language Arts/Social Studies:

In language arts, we are continuing our unit on non-fiction text. Students are reading non-fiction texts and are in the middle of their Explorer's research project.

Each student is working on researching an explorer important to our history. Ask your students an interesting fact they have learned about their explorer!

### Math:

This month we have been working on our introduction to fractions. We have worked on finding factors, finding the greatest common factor (GCF), and simplifying fractions.

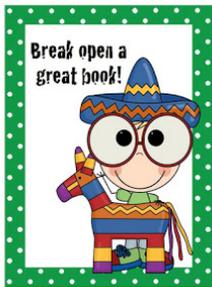


During this unit on fractions, it is really important for our students to have mastered their multiplication and division facts. This will continue to help them for the rest of the year.

### Science:

This past month, fifth grade students completed the Science CMT. The students worked really hard to prepare for this.

We are currently working on finishing our light unit where we understand how light is seen and how are eyes are used to help us see light.



## The Spring Book Fair is coming to Martin School from March 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>!

The Book Fair will be open daily from Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> through Friday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, before school from 8:30 to 9:00 a.m. and after school until 4:00 p.m.

Be sure to stop by when you are here for teacher conferences! You may also stop in before school or after school until 4:00 p.m. or you may even send in cash or a check with your child to pick out his or her book(s).

Feel free to call the PTA Book Fair Chair, Don Diehl, at (860) 573-2451 with any questions.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you here at the Book Fair!

