



Martin Elementary School



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November, 2013, Vol. 8, Issue 3

Catherine Colavecchio, *Principal*

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents:

Happy November! It is that time of year again to prepare for the first look at your child's progress since September. We look forward to being able to share your child's growth with you at upcoming parent-teacher conferences on December 3, 4, and 5. Just a reminder that these are half days, and students will be dismissed at 1:17 P.M. Lunch will be served on these days.



A conference reminder form will be coming home with students a few days before your scheduled meeting time with the teacher. If you have not scheduled a time yet, please contact your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible so we can help to arrange a time for a conference. Staying in touch with your child's classroom teacher only assists with ongoing growth and success for all students.

Since we have not had time to organize our annual Veteran's Day Assembly, we have decided to dedicate our first public Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 19th to honoring those who have served our country.



We invite all family members who may be veterans who can join us to come to this Town Meeting. More information will be coming home next week. This day we will also be asking students to wear red, white, and blue.

Room parents will be notified by next week for each classroom. A special thanks to Sue Donnelly for all of her efforts with the process again this year. Another special thanks to Cheryl Desrosiers and all of the other parents who put in so much time to make this year's annual PTA Halloween Party such a success!

As we are in a month that focuses on thanks, I want to take a moment on behalf of the entire Martin School community to say how much we appreciate the support of the families and parents.

In working together, the children benefit the most and it is evident in their daily attitudes and commitment to their schoolwork. Please take a moment this month to discuss with your children the importance of giving thanks to all those in their life that support the most important aspect of their lives now-their education!

***A reminder that there is no
school on Monday, November
11th for Veteran's Day.***

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.

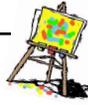
No Heely sneakers are permitted on these days for safety. Thank you!



Important dates to remember:

- November 19th: HOT School Town Meeting from 2:15 p.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- November 20th: PTA Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- November 27th: Abbreviated day for students
- November 28th: No School/Thanksgiving Day





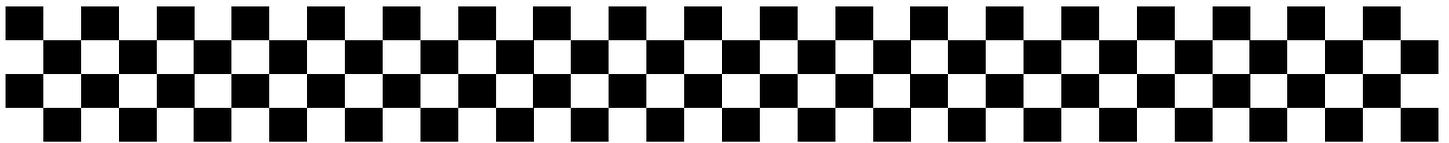
Students in Mrs. Ruzzo's art classes are still finishing up their painting unit this month, so please make sure that students are not wearing nice clothing on art days. They can bring in an old T-shirt to use as a smock if they would like to cover up their clothes.

We will be moving onto collage in the middle of the month. Students in 5th grade will be working on Paper Molas which are intricate designs based on South American clothing.

The younger grades are working on Henri Rousseau, jungle collages and self portraits.



Sample of a paper mola



**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

PTA News

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[®]
everychild. one voice.[®]

Library/Media Center: Mrs. Plavin

Have you stopped to admire one of the showcases as you've walked down the hall past the Martin library? These displays are created by 3rd through 5th grade students, five of whom are chosen each month to highlight an interest of theirs or something they collect. Students sign up for this privilege and often wait many months to be chosen because interest runs so high.

So far this year, our displays have included Lego creations, original artwork, penguins, cars and trucks, sea creatures, collectible dolls, World War II paraphernalia, miniature football helmets, and model trains among many others. Students are encouraged to include a book in their showcase to accentuate the connection to the library.

As the year goes on, watch for some of these: fossils, woven bracelets, dominoes, duct tape creations, as well as showcases highlighting rocks, dance, football and baseball.

It is never too late for your 3rd, 4th or 5th grader to sign up in the showcase book kept in the librarian's desk. Some children work with a partner and others prefer a solo showcase. Talk to your child and discuss his/her interests and encourage them to think creatively about designing a display for all of the Martin community to enjoy.



"Cool stuff you can find in the desert in southeastern California" showcase by third grader, Gemma

Reading Specialist: Ms. Bill

The state of Connecticut is one of 45 states that has adopted the Common Core State Standards. These standards for both English language arts and math have grade level expectations for students in grades K-12 to prepare them to be career and college ready.



One of the changes reflected in the new language arts standards is the emphasis that is placed on students reading more challenging text and answering questions that require them to go back into the text and cite evidence to support their answers. A greater emphasis is

also placed on reading informational text including science and social studies text.

One of the ways that you can support your child in meeting these higher standards is to encourage your child to read at home every day for at least 15 minutes. Reading to your child will also give them opportunities to hear books that are above their own reading level and expose them to new vocabulary. The volume of reading a child does helps him or her become a better reader.



How can I help my child be ready to read and ready to learn?

- Talk to your infant and toddler to help him learn to speak and understand the meaning of words. Point to objects that are near and describe them as you play and do daily activities together. Having a large vocabulary gives a child a great start when he enters school.
- Read to your baby every day starting at six months of age. Reading and playing with books is a wonderful way to spend special time with her. Hearing words over and over helps her become familiar with them. Reading to your baby is one of the best ways to help her learn.
- Point out the printed words in your home and other places you take your child such as the grocery store. Spend as much time listening to your child as you do talking to him.
- Take children's books and writing materials with you whenever you leave home. This gives your child

fun activities to entertain and occupy him while traveling and going to the doctor's office or other appointments.

- Create a quiet, special place in your home for your child to read, write and draw. Keep books and other reading materials where your child can easily reach them.
- Help your child see that reading is important. Set a good example for your child by reading books, newspapers and magazines.
- Limit the amount and type of television you and your child watch. Better yet, turn off the television and spend more time cuddling and reading books with your child. **The time and attention you give your child has many benefits beyond helping him be ready for success in school.**

~~~~~Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Education

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

Kindergarteners are learning ways to become good readers. One strategy that they have been working on is sequencing. Putting the events of a story in order is a way to retell the story.

We read *The Little Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything*. We used many H.O.T. ways to explore retelling. As a whole class, we acted out the story.



We also created an actual scarecrow and used a story stick as we sequenced the events in the story.

Independently, the students made their own paper scarecrows as they put the story events in order. Retelling a story after reading is a way to check for comprehension. When reading with your child at home, ask them to retell the story events.

In math, we are continuing to explore number sense. We are working with the numerals 0-10. Students are learning to work with partners and in small groups as they count objects using one-

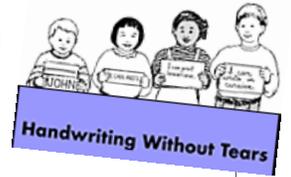
to-one correspondence, match quantities and numerals, recognize numerals and number words and write numerals.

We are excited with all the progress the students are making on their journey to become safe, respectful and responsible learners. Thank you for your support at home!



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

Grade one continues to practice each day Handwriting Without Tears. This program focuses on proper writing posture and letter formation based on research from the two occupational therapists-turned-authors. A complete set of the capital letters we have been working on with a forward from our Literacy Coach will be forthcoming. Please check backpacks and folders for this important information!



In math, we ask that students practice their addition and subtraction facts. We have completed a focus on numbers whose answers equal 10. We will now be moving forward into numbers equaling to 20, the Common Core State Standard for Grade One. Please reinforce as much as possible at home. Thank you!

In science and social studies, we will have a non-fiction focus, where children are exposed to nature and the real world. Thanksgiving and Native Americans/Pilgrims will be our upcoming topics for discussion, looking at customs, habitat and food.

In language arts, our phonics focus right now is sounding out words using beginning, middle, and ending sounds. Look for the MONDO Bookshop "read the words" and "read the sentences" papers that come home.

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

The second graders have been busy studying characters in their reading. They have examined character traits and feelings and how those impact a character throughout the story. Getting to know a character better helps students to better comprehend the story.



In math, students have tackled the challenging skills of doing double-digit addition and subtraction with regrouping. We are now applying this skill to creating and solving story problems and will soon be working with money.

Students had their first chance to experience their new ECHOs for this year. Students will be attending ECHOS twice a month this year and are really looking forward to participating in this great HOT opportunity.



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

We can't believe it's November already! Along with fall weather, October brought about many exciting things for third grade: the Manchester Fire Department visit, the Manchester Police Department program, Cops and Kids, Frank Rizzo Cross Country Run and our first completed rounds of NWEA MAP testing as third graders!

The Manchester Fire Department visited us with an informative program about fire safety. Some of us had an opportunity to use a real-life fire hose! Officer DiPatrio visited with us to talk about making safe life choices and the dangers of substance abuse. Several third graders participated in the town-wide Frank Rizzo Cross Country Run. We had a blast!

October also brought a celebration for our grade when Mrs. Dunklee's class won the Enrichment-sponsored Core Brain Benders contest for grade 3-5 with over 100 points! Go, Mrs. Dunklee's class!

We continue to delve further into multiplication and division as we embark on the new Common Core adventures. (Stop us anytime and we can point out an array anywhere!)

We are using the results of our first round of NWEA MAP assessments to determine the next steps in our learning in math and reading. We are looking forward to launching our writer's notebooks in Writer's Workshop. One great way that you can help your child with his/her writing is to talk about his/her experiences every day.

All of third grade is racing to the top with our timed math facts. We are working hard to move through all of the operations to reach mastery. Don't forget to practice math facts with your child at home to help reinforce learning at school and encourage math fluency.



To wrap up our eventful month, everyone in third grade was smiling ear to ear as we enjoyed our first Town Meeting informance and ECHOs Friday. We can't wait for our next Town Meeting and ECHOs!

### Thanksgiving history and Fun Facts

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as the first Thanksgiving celebration in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

- The average person consumes over 4,500 calories on Thanksgiving Day!
- Turkeys can drown if they look up while it's raining.
- Ripe cranberries of good quality will always bounce.
- Turkeys can have heart attacks. Apparently, when the Air Force conducted test runs and broke the sound barrier, fields of turkeys would drop dead.
- Fossil evidence shows that turkeys roamed the Americas 10 million years ago.
- 91% of all Americans eat turkey on Thanksgiving Day.
- More than 40 million green bean casseroles are served on Thanksgiving.
- Twenty percent of cranberries eaten are eaten on Thanksgiving Day.

~~~*Courtesy of Examiner.com*

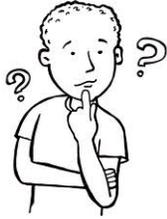
Other holidays in November?

Veterans' Day
All Saints' Day
Eid al-Adha
First day of Muharram
First Sunday of Advent

~~~*Courtesy of thefreeresource.com*

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

Grade 4 students have been working on reading fiction with a purpose. In order to improve comprehension we have been practicing strategies to help us think and reflect. Students need to think while they are reading as just reading the words is not enough to understand the text.



As part of language arts, students are continuing to work on personal narrative bringing them through the writing process. It is interesting to see the details they remember from the important events in their lives. The challenge is trying to make their writing clear to the reader.

For Veteran's Day, students are currently working on writing poems to honor veterans. This multi-disciplinary unit requires research using nonfiction text and analyzing events to create authentic poems. You can look forward to seeing their efforts at the next town meeting.

1.



It's called **reading**.  
It's how people install new software into their brains.

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

In Reader's Workshop, fifth graders have been looking at characters within their independent reading texts as well as our read aloud. Students are exploring using character traits to make inferences about their texts.



In writing, students are focusing on developing small moments within different genres of writing, as well as implementing the writing process.

In math, students have been using various methods to learn long division. Students are now learning how to multiply and divide with decimals.

We will be moving into order of operations, which will include all of the operations that we have focused on so far this year.

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In science, we are wrapping up our Earth, Moon and Sun unit and are ready to start to explore difference concepts of sound.

In social studies, students will begin to learn about explorers and their travels around the world.

