

Joseph J. Chella
Principal

Hassan Robinson
Assistant Principal

The Bennet Star



November 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Things are moving right along here at Bennet Academy; it's hard to believe that we're on the doorsteps of our Thanksgiving Break. We want to take a moment and share with you some of the wonderful things happening here at Bennet and to share how great your children have transitioned to sixth grade! I know I speak for all staff when I say your children are excelling here at Bennet Academy!

Hopefully, you all had a chance to go over your child's Report Card that they brought home on 11/10. If by any chance you didn't see the Report Card, please ask your child for it. If you need another copy, please let us know. Additionally, we mailed home an extra copy for those students that earned a grade(s) of a D+ or below.

We want to remind and encourage those who, at any point, have a concern about their student academically or socially, to e-mail the appropriate staff with the concern. All staff e-mails can be accessed from the Bennet website under "Staff Directory". However, if you feel your concern has not been satisfactorily addressed through e-mail or phone contact, please call your child's School Counselor to make an appointment with that staff member and/or team.

We have been working hard to instill our Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) Program into everyday interactions here at Bennet. We have also had team building activities, an anti-bullying assembly and our school counselors have been implementing our developmental guidance program, P.A.C.E. Both staff and students are collaboratively working to foster an environment of tolerance and respect here at Bennet Academy. The results of our efforts are evidenced in the smiling faces of our students and staff each and every day!

We also want to thank all that attended our family activities thus far this year. Our back-to-school BBQ was a big success. The Donuts for Dads and the Muffins for Moms events were a lot of fun. Special thanks to those that helped chaperone our Fall Social and to those that attended our recent Family Movie Night. These events are a lot of fun and support our partnership between home and school. We look forward to our future family activity nights throughout the year.

Lastly, we want to take a moment and thank all of you for your support and encouragement these first few months. It really is appreciated by the entire staff! Special thanks to those parents that have taken the time to stop by and say hello. As always, please feel free to contact us at any point if you have a question, concern, idea or you would like to share a positive experience of your child.

Thanks so much!

Sincerely,

Joe Chella

Joe Chella, Principal

PRINCIPAL HOURS

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

January 12, 2016

February 9, 2016

March 8, 2016

April 5, 2016

May 10, 2016



Sixth Grade Physical and Immunizations

All sixth grade students are required to have a physical and proper immunizations by June 1, 2016 on file in the Bennet Academy Health Office. The blue state physical forms must be dated after January 2015 to June of 2016. The State of Connecticut also requires that each student have a Tdap booster after age 11; two varicellas; and a meningococcal vaccine. Failure to provide documentation of the proper health requirements may result in your student not being allowed to enter grade 7 at Iling Middle School. If you have any questions, please call and speak with a school nurse at 860-647-3582. Thank you.

Bennet's Virtual Backpack is Up and Running

Please remember that ALL communications that are normally sent home in Tuesday's Communication Folder, can now be accessed through the "virtual backpack" on the homepage of our website. Notices will be posted by 3:00PM every Tuesday. If you wish to **STOP** receiving paper notices, fill out the form that was sent home the week of November 10th (or find the form in the virtual backpack for that week). All notices requiring a signature, will continue to be sent home with students.

Look for THIS symbol!!!



ABSENT LINE

Please call the 24 hour absent telephone line every time your child is absent from school:

860-647-3583

Please leave your child's name, home base teacher, team, and the reason for the absence.
Thank you!

Physical Education News

All Bennet students did an excellent job with their Physical Fitness tests in October! In November we will be putting our soccer skills into action with gameplay, and learning all about football in our flag football unit! Remember to check your day schedule so that you can be prepared with sneakers on the days you have Physical Education. Also, please bring a sweatshirt or a light jacket to class; on nice days we will be going outside.



Bennet Academy Art Class

All three art teachers began the year studying Illuminated Letters. Each student contributed one letter for the words representing success in Manchester. The words now grace the halls of Bennet Academy.

The whole Bennet Art Department also was involved in creating work based on the MACC Face the Need theme and produced projects exemplifying need in Manchester, in each student's own interpretation.

Ms. Sweeney joins our Bennet Art Department and has been actively engaging the students in the art Curriculum. Her classes are now involved in drawing from direct observation in preparation for the National PTA project "Let Your Imagination Fly".

Also for the "Let Your Imagination Fly" project, Mrs. Guzzi's classes have finished oil pastel works of Birds, creating an illusion of 3-dimensional form using light & dark values. They are now working on creating another illusion of 3D form, using 2-point perspective.

Creating a 3-dimensional form using light & dark value scale in pencil is the topic of study in Mrs. Reimels' classes, having finished a tin and water color project for "Face the Need". They are creating a Still Life using traditional or non-traditional objects.



Students in after-school activities will board late buses at 4:00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday.



Matthew C. created an Illuminated letter in Ms. Sweeney's Art class



Taliah M. used tin & water color in Mrs. Reimels art class.



Oil pastels & 3D values were used by Mary A. in Mrs. Guzzi's art class



Caytlyn M. used tin & water color in Mrs. Reimels art class.



Dara C. created an Illuminated letter in Ms. Sweeney's Art class



Oil pastels & 3D values were used by Nina G. in Mrs. Guzzi's art class

SAFETY
REMINDER
TO PARENTS
Please be sure to have your child exit and enter your car on the sidewalk side of the street. You may also drop off your child in the staff parking lot on School Street.



Music Notes

Musical Notes



Bennet Academy Orchestra,
Band and Chorus presents

The Bennet Academy
Winter Concert

Wednesday,
December 2, 2015 7:00 p.m.

Bailey Auditorium, Manchester High School

Concerts are an opportunity for students to share with parents, family and friends all of their hard work. We welcome all of our Bennet families to join our musicians for an evening of music.

Concert Etiquette

As we approach our first concert, students have been learning about concert etiquette. Students are learning about not only the important role they have as a performer, but also the expectations of them as a member of the audience.

MUSIC
DEPARTMENT
STAFF

Ms. Molly Sayles,
Band Director

Mrs. Browning,
Orchestra
Director

Mrs. Sandefer, Choral
Director and
Classroom Music



Bennet Counseling Corner

PILLAR OF THE MONTH: NOVEMBER – CARING

Treat people with kindness and generosity.

Help people in need.

Be Sensitive to people's feelings.

Never be mean or hurtful.

Think about how your actions will affect others.

"No act of kindness is too small. The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many".

Be a Bennet Star – Show you care! Caring builds good relationships
Serving the community feels good and helps other people
Always remember – we become caring people by doing caring things

- Helping with school work using kind words
- Say hello
- Be friendly
- Include someone
- Ask someone to sit with you at lunch
- Offer a pencil
- Listen
- Encourage

Share the Gl  ove

Share the Gl ve

Team Angelou will be collecting donations of NEW winter gloves, hats, and scarves for our annual

"Share the Glove" campaign.

Donations will be used to "warm up" Manchester families this winter.

Our goal is to collect 300 items (That's less than one item per student).

Donation Dates are November 2nd to December 9th.

Please help us by sending in your donations to your student's home base, or dropping off in the school office!



Future Problem Solvers



Future Problem Solving

Do you speak a disappearing language?

Students in the Future Problem Solving Program (FPS) are currently tackling their second problem for the school year. The topic is *Disappearing Languages*, an examination of a global issue which many Bennet students who speak more than one language can understand. Students will be competing against other Future Problem Solving teams across the state of Connecticut as they strive to achieve the most comprehensive and creative solutions to this important social issue.

Currently 7,000 languages are spoken around the world and it is estimated that half of them will disappear by the end of the century. Language is the soul of a culture. The survival of a culture may depend on the language used for rituals and to describe cultural ideas, beliefs, and understandings. What is the impact on culture when its language disappears?

In New Zealand, government and community initiatives are trying to revive the language of indigenous people, but even so, it is in a precarious state. Many indigenous peoples around the globe don't have support to prevent their language from disappearing. Will anyone be able to read the rich literature embodied in the disappearing languages in the years to come? What oral traditions will be lost? What responsibilities, if any, do governments, institutions, and communities have towards preserving endangered languages? Can social media and internet connections be used to unite speakers of endangered languages to preserve them?

During discussions in class, many FPS students have developed a renewed interest in preserving the languages they know and speak at home or hear spoken at home by relatives. They have enthusiastically shared cultural and family traditions related to the non-English languages they speak or understand. Studying the topic of disappearing languages in a culturally diverse environment such as Bennet has produced some lively class discussions.

These are just some of the questions FPS students are discussing and devising solutions for at Bennet Academy. (topic description taken from Future Problem Solving Program, International website: fpspi.org)



Bennet Academy S.T.A.R.S. Award Winners



Congratulations to the following students who received a S.T.A.R.S. Award at Bennet Academy recently: Alexandra Hamza, Alexander Hamza, Chavika Lopez, Juliana Reyes, Sophie Light, Leah Villar, Ethan Gardner, Grace Reid, Lauren Lerch, Kaylee Emond, Mason Cycenas, Joey Gentile, DaShawn Douglas, Robert Clarke, Juliana Soucier, Kaiden Flynn, Avory Vitiello, Logan Schierholtz, Ethan Skinner, Madison March, Nazhoni Tully, Joel Lingisi, Marissa Benson, Angelina Baez, Ben Roy, Paris Woodard, Lorelei Chapps, Alexia Meggie, Wady Ying, Giana Mugovero, Haileiy Skyers, Janessa Kennedy, Aja Tomes, Titia Watson, Catherine Liu, Daniel Valerio, Pamela Nkrumah, Hunter Donovan, Miqvan Robinson, Aureliana Brown, Michelle Scott, Nickolas Gastello, Mariah Marsh, Zane Ramsey, Sarika Akila, Jabari Murphy, Delaney Kissman, Patrick McAvoy, Olivia Perkins, Jason Skoog, Zenayah Wright, Dominique Salazar, Hunter Coleman, Sabrina Keovilay, Andrew Kulpanowski, Isabella Faulkner, Selina Rivera, Lordina Asante, Tyreice Dominique, Aaron Lemoine, Cam Quach, Tyler Leroux, Paige Zuverink, Antonio Mascitti, Emily Caceres, Madison Boilard, Kahari Franklin, Mairyn Melesko, Killian Boyle, Marielis Rodriguez, Gabrielle Brocki, Cailyn Flanagan, Brandon DeJesus, Shea Comstock, Jacob Tinson, Edgar Montalvo, Rebecca Laroche, Ava Alibrio, Ethan Stewart, Sarah Silberberg, Cameron Brown, Katie Neubauer, Christina Cumbo, Scarlett Beatty, Sierra Johnson, Justin Sklat, Daicha Chaluisan-Rojas, Kamili Riera, Kyle Zingler, Peter DelGazio.

Their pictures are highlighted on our Bennet Academy television monitor located outside the main office. We are proud of our students for the positive choices they are making at Bennet Academy.

Team Kennedy

Language Arts news from Mrs. Melesko

In Reader's Workshop, students are analyzing how authors use thoughts, action, and dialogue to build a character's personality. While engaged in an interactive read aloud of Stargirl, by Jerry Spinelli, students are identifying and analyzing Jerry Spinelli's use of figurative language, and character development. Students are also participating in small group seminars using short stories to explore theme and character development. Please continue to stress the importance of independent reading 30 minutes nightly. We appreciate your support of this, as it has been proven beneficial to the academic success in all areas.

In Writer's Workshop, students are using what they have evaluated as successful by authors they admire, to improve their narrative writing skills. We started our unit getting inspired about writing. Students have learned to use true stories about their lives to create some amazing narratives. One of the most important messages to convey to your child writer is that writers often use a writer's notebook to keep track of inspirations, sketches, ideas, and to reference a collection of strategies. Their notebooks are added to and referenced throughout the year. On Friday of this week students will be taking the on-demand prompt for literary essays, our next writing genre. Many students expressed interest in the Patriot's Pen essay contest hosted by the VFW. This year's theme is "Why I appreciate America's Veterans." Congratulations to the following student writers who submitted their essays into the contest: Anthony Lorenson, Jonah Nielsen, Lauren Lerch, Katherine Chicklo-Neubauer, Tahzjae Thomas, Dylan Jackson, Sarah Silberberg, Kyle Anderson, Emma Greenfield, Ava Alibrio, and Mykaela Sprowl.

Social Studies News Ms. Moretto

Social studies classes have just completed a spiraling study of the five themes of geography: Mr. Help {movement, region, human environment interaction, location, place} Continued use of primary and secondary sources will reinforce their understanding of meaningful resources used in our research. All students are moving into an ongoing study of Middle America.

Each student will utilize Special Purpose maps to apply to their study of individual countries in Middle America. Their research will provide a practical forum for a better understanding of this newsworthy area of study.

The Social Studies Department teachers and Team Kennedy, spearheaded a major collaboration of the entire Bennet Academy student body in an undertaking to have all students write a Reflective narrative or letter. Each student took a field trip to the model of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Manchester, CT. All social studies teachers pre-taught a brief history and introduction to the Vietnam War, that involved America with Vietnam for 20 years. As a result of the opportunity to visit the wall, students realized the information they learned about Vietnam and The Wall's history, had more of an impact on their lives more than they realized. All students in Bennet Academy wrote a response to their visit and created their own black block of granite, to be put on their Bennet Academy Reflection Wall. Over 400 blocks, with written responses, are hanging on the glass bridge corridor, of the Media Center. It is quite impressive to think that your child participated in an honorable task of their own. Please feel free to check in the front office and visit The Bennet Academy Reflective Wall, with our "black granite blocks" and American flags waving!

Math News with Mr. Reisine

Math classes are running very smoothly with the implementation of the Envisions program, and the math workshop model. Envisions allows the teachers to monitor the student's progress with instant feedback. Our math classes are finishing up with our first unit in Envisions. The students have been working very hard on writing and analyzing algebraic expressions. The students learned what variables, terms, coefficients, and constants are, and how we use them to solve problems. The students are now able to combine like terms, and solve an algebraic equation when given the value of a variable. The students will continue onto our next unit, which will involve dividing multi-digit numbers, and using all operations to solve problems with decimals. The accelerated math class is focusing on operations with positive and negative fractions, and as the weeks continue, we will solve problems with positive and negative decimals.

Students in all classes will focus their attention on Envision's third mathematical practice, which is to, "construct viable arguments, and critique the reasoning of others." This math practice will be a center of attention throughout the year. It will involve solving real world problems, and justifying responses with mathematical thinking and reasoning. The rubric that will be used to assess these responses can be found on the district website.

Students in all of my math classes have been off to a very good start, and I look forward to leading Team Kennedy students to success for the remainder of the year!

Team Hughes



The Hughes News

Mr. Mordhorst	Ms. Swanbon	Ms. Stevenson	Ms. Paluso
Ms. McLaughlin		Mrs. Timreck	Ms. Nofi

Welcome to the first edition of The Hughes News! Students have had quite an adjustment to deal with this year at Bennet, with the transition from elementary to middle school. Students are expected to change classes every 45 minutes, organize themselves according to their class schedule, and navigate a grand campus. After just a few short weeks, students were able to find their way around and are beginning to get more organized with the workload of a middle school student.

Congratulations to Our STAR Students of the Month

Mia Hickey ~ September
Alexandra Hamza ~ October

Thanksgiving Food Drive

We are collecting canned-goods for those in need. It's a great time to clean out the cupboard. Send in any non-perishable food items. They will be greatly appreciated!

Coats for Connecticut - We Need Your Help!!!

Help those that need a winter coat by sending in new or gently used winter coats. These are needed for men, women, teenagers, children, and infants. All coats will be brought to Best Cleaners in Glastonbury to be dry cleaned. All coats will be distributed to people in our own community who desperately need our help. If you are cleaning out your closets or have coats that no longer fit, please consider donating a coat to this worthy cause.

Home Access Center

The transition to middle school is not only an adjustment for students, but parents as well. The Home Access Center is a useful tool to help keep you informed about your child's progress throughout the school year. It is available to you 24-7. You can login to check on work completion and grades as often as you like. If you need your username and password sent to you again, let your homeroom teacher know.

Parent Conferences

Scheduled for December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. Look for a sign-up sheet to come home in the next Communication Folder. You will be meeting with your child's homeroom teacher. However, in preparation for the conference, if there is a specific class you would like more details about, contact the homeroom teacher ahead of time so they can gather the information.

Math- Ms. Paluso

We began the school year with Algebraic Expressions. Students learned how to write formulas for a given situation to include a variable. Depending on the situation, that variable can change, and we can still use the formula to determine the value. It was an eye-opening experience to discover MANY of the vocabulary words in math were also found in the Science classroom! Students learned to substitute a value for the variable and then solve following the Order of Operations. When evaluating an exponent, students have given a name to the common mistake many students make. They call it, "Taylor Swifiting" the exponent. Classmates remind each other to, "never, ever, ever..... multiply the base times the exponent." Currently, we find ourselves in Topic 2, Algebraic Equations. Many students have found that their preferred method of solving equations is to use the algebraic method. They've been solving problems like this for years and never knew they were using Algebra! By Thanksgiving we will be well into our next topic: Division (fractions and long division) and Operations with Decimals (add,

Team Hughes Continued

subtract, multiply, and divide). Many students have a good foundation of skills in these areas, however, as the focus of 6th grade, it is our goal to make sure that all students achieve growth in the two areas of Division and Decimals before entering 7th grade. Moving forward, most all math problems will have either division or decimals embedded within the problem.

One last note: students were given an opportunity to think about their 'Mindset' towards Math. With the new quarter starting, it is a good time to reflect on how the beginning of the year has gone so far.. For many students, their math mindset is rather negative. If they continue to tell themselves, "I can't" or "I'll never learn", then unfortunately the mind eventually wins. We have to support the students, encourage them, and believe that they can achieve. They also need to tell themselves that if they want to be successful, they need to TRY: Complete the assignments given, TRY the homework problems, ask questions in class, and believe that they *can* learn. Then success will happen, guaranteed.

Social Studies - Ms. Stevenson

Our first unit was the 5 themes of geography (movement, regions, human-environment interaction, location, and place). During this, we used a world map and identified the seven continents and five oceans. We also took time out to briefly discuss the country of Vietnam and the Vietnam War to prepare us for our trip we took to the Wall That Heals. The students were very interested and when we returned, each student wrote a short reflection piece and attached it to a construction paper piece of "wall" that Ms. Moretto from Team Kennedy has started assembling in the Cone Hallway. Stop and see it when you come for conferences. We are now on our unit about Central and South America. We will learn about the different countries and their people that are located in these areas.

Science - Mr. Mordhorst

We began the year learning about the Scientific Method and how it helps us learn about the world around us. We practiced formulating hypothesis that would be used to guide experiments and identifying different types of variables. Classes also practiced using some of the essential equipment we will use this year. Mass was measured with triple beam balances, volume was measured with graduated cylinders. Students then learned how to mathematically compare the two measurements to find an object's density. After the density unit, Manchester's Middle School Science Coach, Mr. Rossi, spent a day in our room with a game based on comparing the mass of different objects. Students won prizes based on how many successful comparisons they made. Mr. Rossi had a great time with us and was very impressed with the measurement and problem solving skills of team Hughes students.

In the coming weeks, we will continue our exploration of matter and its properties with a focus on physical and chemical changes. We will also continue building our skills with using various scientific instruments as well as constructing and executing experiments.

Language Arts - Ms. Swanbon

Over the past quarter, we have packed in quite a bit of learning. Students have investigated and explored the strategies author's use to engage the reader in their work. Students have explored lessons on setting, plot, theme, climax, author's purpose, point of view, figurative language, dialogue and character development. Students have learned to analyze and annotate their independent reading books, as well as short stories and informational text. This has enhanced the student's understanding of the text and aided in greater comprehension. In addition, this has also assisted students in incorporating all of the above into their own writing by creating personal narratives surrounding small moments in their own lives.

During this quarter students will focus on close reading. Close reading enables students to determine the central ideas or themes of a text; summarize the key supporting details and ideas, analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop within the text, and how to interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text. It also helps students analyze the actual structure of a text. Students will work on developing and practicing these skills in Writer's workshop, eventually leading students to write their own literary essays. The mentor text to be used over the next quarter is [Stargirl](#), by Jerry Spinelli.

**The Team Hughes Family would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday
with family, friends, and loved ones.**

Team Cheney

Cheney Chronicles

Where all the S.T.A.R.S. shine

TEAM NEWS

From the desk of Jan Broidis

Language Arts:

We are finishing up Unit 1. We focused on setting up our Reading and Writing Workshop model. For writing we worked on personal narratives. Students will continue to work on these skills as we move forward. In reading we focused on theme, character traits and finding evidence from the text to support our theories. We also worked on figurative language: similes, metaphors, personification, alliteration and onomatopoeia. Finally, we worked on point of view and author's purpose. Our focus for unit 2 will be on The Literary Essay focusing on characters of short stories and our mentor text, Star Girl.



Jerry Spinelli has numerous books you may want to read aloud at home.

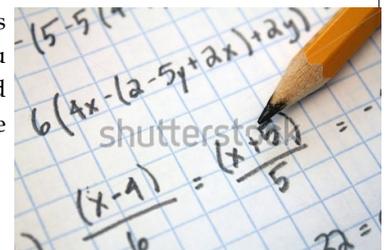
From the desk of Jess Albert

Math Happenings:

We have spent the first marking period making sure that students know how to communicate their mathematical thinking. Student have learned that in order to be successful mathematicians, all work must be shown so they have evidence to support their thinking. This is a very difficult process for kids, but it is a very important step in mathematics.

It is really important that students know their basic multiplication and division facts. There are many web sites that can help kids practice them: mathplayground.com or coolmathgames.com.

We will be working with dividing whole numbers, as well as working through all operations with decimals. If you are looking for ways to support math at home, ask the kids to help you with baking projects. This is a great way to learn about fractions, especially if recipes are halved or doubled! Have them estimate the cost of what you are purchasing at the store. All real life experiences will help solidify math skills.



Team Cheney

From the desk of Shelley Carlson

Social Studies:

In Social Studies students have completed Unit 1-This unit focused on the 5 Themes of Geography which students will use throughout the year as a format to study Latin America and Northern Europe. Students had their first experience with DBQ's which are Document Based Questions and require students to work with various sources to stake claims. Different DBQ's will be administered 2 more times during this school year. We are off to a great start and are looking forward to a fantastic year.

From the desk of Paul Duva

Science:

Density is a major scientific principle governing our world. We have been investigating this fascinating topic in science and have conducted a few experiments revolving around this massive topic. Your child should be able to tell you a very sad story about Density, the person who broke my heart. We have carried out several experiments this fall revolving around this topic and finished with a comparison of two unopened cans of soda; regular and diet coke. We made an interesting discovery, ask your child about it. We are now beginning our investigation of physical and chemical changes and from there we will be delving into an exciting unit on the elements.

A colorful periodic table of elements, with each element represented by its symbol and a small colored square. The table is arranged in rows and columns, showing the standard layout of the periodic table.

From the desk of Kathleen Boccia

Special Education - This has been an amazing year with all of our students. I am so impressed with their transition into middle school and cannot wait to see what they will accomplish next. During the first marking period, I collaborated with team teachers to modify and accommodate the various learning needs of our students. In addition, during our intervention period students receive additional academic support in assisting them in participating the general curriculum. Moving forward, I will continue to work closely with all teacher to ensure the learning needs of students are met.

Team Cheney News:

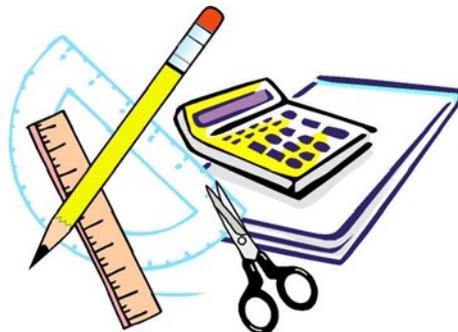
The Wall that Heals was a very moving and memorable field trip. Not only did kids witness the procession of the veterans and the wall to its temporary location in our town, but they were able to speak to veterans and see the names of all of those people who lost their lives in the Vietnam War. Reading the kids' reflections and listening to them talk with each other about the wall was a very moving experience for the staff as well.

Please keep checking student planners to help kids stay organized and current with assignments.

Please make sure students are reading 30 minutes every night and completing their reading log.

Please make sure that students have a notebook and a folder for each of their classes. A supply of pencils would also be appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at conferences on December 1, 2 and 3.



Team Angelou

Greetings from Team Angelou!

We have settled into a very good routine on team. Students are now familiar with their schedules, locker trips, specials, and daily operations. We have had several STARS certificates awarded this month. Check the Bennet website to see them all.

Our own Community Service Project began on November 2nd. We call it **Share the Glove!** Students will be collecting gloves, mittens, hats and scarves over the course of the next 4 weeks. We will donate them to needy families in our Bennet Community. The items must be new. Thank you in advance for your support in this project!

Team Angelou sponsored "Game Night" before the October PTA/PTSA Meeting. It was a lot of fun - parents and students alike enjoyed it. Even Mrs. Silagi got in on the action! She learned how to play a new game, which was not only a lot of fun to learn, but even more fun to play!

Speaking of **Mrs. Silagi**, she was voted our first *Teacher of the Month* this year by staff and students. Congratulations Mrs. Silagi!!!

Reminders to Parents and Guardians:

- Parent conference forms have been sent home. Please send your preferences for your parent conference back to the Home Base teacher as soon as possible to get the appointment most convenient for you.
- Check the school calendar for upcoming holidays, half days and vacation time.
- The Bennet website now has a "Virtual Backpack" you can click on to see copies of handouts sent home in your student's communication folder.

Academically Speaking...

In **Math**, we focused on building a community for the first three weeks of school. We have reviewed our mathematical skills from grade five and learned our new grade six math routines. During your visit during open house, we hope you were able to view our math autobiographies! If not, during parent/teacher conferences, please feel free to take a moment to look for your child's work in progress.

We have also learned how to create a high quality math argument: we make our claim, show and/or explain our evidence, link our evidence to build our claim, and we include representations (i.e. examples, pictures, symbols, words, etc.). We have established a "risk-taking" classroom where we "agree" or "disagree" with other mathematicians in our classes which includes solving rigorous real world multi-step word problems.

We continue to write our homework assignments in our planners, and we continue to learn how to keep an organized math notebook. We are using the Common Core enVision Math 2.0 program, which provides an abundance of practice opportunities. Please look to your student's enVision Math 2.0 Workbook, Volume 1 for many models of math problems (and videos) we work on in class. We continue to use the following extra practice programs: Fastt Math and Fraction Nation - online computer programs that can be accessed at home. Please ask your mathematician to log in at home for more practice. Please continue to have your child practice their math facts daily, as our goal is to become more precise and fluent when adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing this year!

We finished our unit on algebraic expressions, so now we are gearing up to begin Unit 3: Division Algorithm and Fluency with Decimal Operations. As we continue to work in whole group, small group, and math work-stations we will continue to grow as mathematicians!



Team Angelou continued

In **Social Studies**, students have learned about the 5 Themes of Geography. We are completing a huge project - all Social Studies classes - a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall that we visited in September. This "Wall" will have a letter to a Vietnam Veteran on the front of each block. You can see the completed wall in the hallway across from the Media Center. As we continue into the second semester we will study Central America. Students will continue to apply the five themes of geography. We will focus on primary and secondary sources, physical regions of Central America, and understanding how to use thematic maps to understand that part of the world to name some. We will utilize Google Classroom for assignments and to communicate with each other. Please make time to sit with your child to look at social studies assignments on Google Classroom.

In **Science**, we will continue to work on concepts involving matter and will soon be introduced to atoms, elements and compounds, the development of the Atomic Theory and the Periodic Table. Students are now familiar with lab procedures so our focus will shift a little to work on the writing of lab reports that include a good hypothesis, observations and a well thought out conclusion. An exciting addition to our classroom will be our salmon eggs, which will be arriving during the first week of December. We will then introduce our Fishy Fridays which are dedicated to learning all about salmon! In preparation, we will be setting up our salmon tank in the next week, and learning what to do to prepare our tank to be Salmon Fish Egg ready.

In **Language Arts** we have been establishing protocol for Reading and Writing Workshop, developing reading skills such as author's purpose and point of view, and will soon begin a unit on character development. Students have also been developing their narrative writing skills. We will continue with a unit on Literary Narratives. Be sure your students are reading 30 minutes per night and recording their minutes and pages in their Reading Log.

Remember to send in those hats, gloves and scarves as our students rally to *Share the Glove!*



Team Escalante

Social Studies

We have started the year out strong developing our skills as young geographers. We are using the five themes of geography to organize information about our world. Our first "trip" is through Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. The students are creating maps and interpreting information from a variety of maps. As we continue through this unit of study, ask your child questions and encourage them to research at home.

Science

Escalante science students have been busy bees! Our focus for the past two months has been working on physical and chemical properties/changes of matter. The students have done many hands-on activities related to density, solubility, and reactivity. During the month of November, the classes will be working on the basic structure of an atom and its component parts along with comparing and contrasting the properties of a metal with a nonmetal and metalloids.

During the first week of December, our North Atlantic Salmon eggs will be delivered to our classroom. The students will observe the eggs weekly and learn how to calculate the developmental index.

Math

The math classes have just completed work on algebraic expressions. Now some of our students will focus on multi-digit division and decimal operations while other students will work on operations with positive and negative rational numbers.

English Language Arts

We are getting ready to wrap up our 1st unit on Narrative writing! We are analyzing how a character's thoughts, actions, and dialogue help us determine a character's traits and how a character's motivation affects the plot. We are using short stories that include "Raymond's Run," "Everything Will be Okay," and "Stray." We also began reading Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli.



FRENCH TOAST WITH MR. CHELLA



SEPTEMBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH/STUDENT SPOTLIGHT BREAKFAST

Left to Right: Kwaku Nyame, Kyle Zingler, Amelia Hickey, Mr. Chella, Mary Valentine, Sabrina Lam, Subhan Dalal, Anthony Lorenson

OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH/STUDENT SPOTLIGHT BREAKFAST

Left to Right: Kellan Stewart, Mairyn Melesko, Leila Affini, Mr. Chella, Alexander Hamza, Marielis Rodriguez, Natalia Rogers, Alexia Meggie



Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy
1151 Main Street
Manchester, CT 06040

Joseph J. Chella, Principal

Hassan Robinson,
Assistant Principal

Phone: 860-647-3571
Fax: 860-647-3577

We're on the web:
<http://publicschools.manchesterct.gov>

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



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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.

