

Buckley
School!

Bobcat News

A Great Place
to Grow and
Explore

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Principal's Corner

November 2013



September and October have been very busy here at Buckley School. As a highlight, we have been busy at school making sure that our classrooms are prepared for your children, conducting benchmark assessments that will provide valuable information and data on how best to provide instruction to our students, busy preparing our new bulletin board across from the main office that highlights our students, and participating in the many **PTA** events

here at school including the back to school cook out and recently the book bingo night.

I would like to bring to your attention that Buckley School is in the final process of completing our School Improvement Plan. This has been a work in progress for the past few months. Please know that I began working on it during the summer and then had our School Leadership Committee work on it for a few sessions, as well as the entire staff. As we make our final minor revisions, I will bring it forward to Dr. Kisiel who will share it with the Board of Education. Please know that I will share it in our December newsletter, as well as post it in our breezeway of our main entrance.

Recently, you should have received a **Save the Date** flyer for Thursday, November 7th from 6:30-7:30. The purpose of this evening is for a discussion on the Common Core. I will be joined for this discussion by our Literacy Coach, Mrs. Tammy O'Malley and our Numeracy Coach, Mrs. Lisa Miner. During this time, we will discuss the implications of the Common Core on our curriculum, the instructional shifts that are seen at each grade level and how this looks in the classroom. Please join us for this evening.

In addition to the above, please note that you will be receiving information regarding the parent/teacher conferences that will take place December 3rd -5th. Please note that we had signups for days and times during the September Open House. **I sent out notices during the week of October 28th to those who have not signed up.** I anticipate the confirmation letters to be sent to families during the week of November 20th.

Bobcat Central

250 Vernon Street
Manchester, CT
06042

Phone:(860)647-3302
Fax:(860)647-5007
Illness:(860)647-3344
Nurse:(860)647-3303

Our annual Barnes and Noble Night will take place on December 9th. This fun filled activity will take place at Barnes and Noble and Buckley School receives a percentage of the sales receipt. Our music department will play music during this evening. More information will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. Stay tuned!

For your convenience, **I have outlined our November activities that will take place here at Buckley.**

November Calendar

- November 5th **No School**-Professional Development for Staff
- November 7th Common Core night @ 6:30 in the cafeteria
- November 8th **PBIS** Pep Rally @ 2:30!
- November 11th No School
- November 13th **PTA** Meeting @ 6:30 with Grade 4 reporting
- November 15th **PTA** sponsored Mother/Son Movie night
- November 27th Early Release @ 1:17
- November 28, 29 **No School** Thanksgiving Break

I wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving Break. I hope you spend quality time with your family and friends!

Fondly,

Matthew Daly

Kindergarten

October was a great month! Our focus was on fire safety, apples, pumpkins and leaves. We learned to safely and quickly go outside during a fire and make sure an adult calls 911. We created many fun fall crafts and learned new words that are connected to the season of fall, such as squirrels, acorns and football. We learned to write many letters and sight words this month and cannot wait to keep going! We are also learning how to read from left to right and to point under each word as we read. Please continue to encourage your child to write his or her name the Kindergarten way. Only the first letter should be uppercase and the rest should be lowercase. In math, we practiced recognizing, counting and printing numbers to 10. We are excited for our fall celebration! Let's make November a great month!

Thank you,

Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Budman and Ms. Lavalley

First Grade

What a great year it has been so far for our first graders! They are trying new activities and are able to work independently in class! Learning centers are in full swing and the children are enjoying the variety of learning activities that these centers provide. We are working hard in all areas and the boys and girls are making progress as readers, writers, and mathematicians!

The first graders are becoming familiar with our reading program and the routines that it involves. They enjoy our shared reading lessons, which give them an opportunity to work on literature as a whole class. Students also meet in small reading groups to work at their own ability level.

Students are working hard to listen for beginning, middle, and ending sounds for word writing. We are learning to write sentences with a capital letter and a period or question mark. Some students continue to need assistance with letter formation and neatness. Please practice these skills at home.

Our math focus has been on addition and subtraction strategies. The first grade students have been working hard learning their facts and using a variety of tools, activities, and manipulatives to help them model what they have learned. Please practice addition and subtraction facts at home with your first grader so that they improve their fact fluency.

October brought us opportunities to learn more about Fire Prevention. We had a visit from the firefighters, who shared many safety tips with us! Ask your child what they learned about fire prevention in school.

A great big thank you to those parents who accompanied us on our fall field trip to Foster Family Farm in South Windsor! Your help and support was such a blessing! We wish you and your families a healthy and Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank you,

Mrs. Bourcier and Ms. Seaha

Second Grade

With each month our second grade is becoming a stronger learning community, as students take increasing amounts of responsibility and accountability for their own learning.

During our reading block, students

are successful in working and learning together in small group literacy centers, as well as teacher led-guided reading groups. Students are motivated to work in centers devoted to vocabulary, poetry, phonics, listening, reader's responses, and phonics. What is your sec-

ond grader's favorite center?

In math, we're completing our unit on addition and subtraction fact fluency to 20 and moving into our unit on place value to 1000. Fact fluency, or mastering math facts, is a process that is ongoing for our mathemati-

cians. Home practice can be facilitated through basic flash cards, websites, and just calling out facts to kids while riding in the car!

During our social studies map skills unit, students compared the physical qualities between a map and a globe. We also examined a map of our own Buckley neighborhood to illustrate the concepts of a compass rose, a map key, and map scale.

During November's science unit on nutrition, students will identify the sources of common foods and classify them by their basic food groups. Soon, ask your second grader about the characters in Little D's Nutrition Expedition Program, such as Prince Waffle, Princess Pea Pod, and Queen Anna Banana!

Your child's participation in his or her home reading program is vital for academic success. Please note that The Pizza Hut Book It Program begins to award free personal pan pizza certificates monthly to those who meet their home reading goal! Keep on reading!

The second grade team is looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you during parent/ teacher conferences on December 3, 4, and 5th! In the meantime, please feel free to contact us at any time!

Our best wishes,
Ms. Strickland, Ms. Jones, and Mrs. Adinolfi

Third Graders

Third Grade is getting even busier! We are now into two sided math homework, a spelling page, and will begin to send home a weekly comprehension paper that is not due until Friday. As always, the children are expected to read for 30 minutes every night. Please keep this work load in mind when planning afterschool activities like dance, karate, indoor soccer, etc. Homework is expected to be completed every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday night.

We are finishing up Unit 2 in Math, Connecting and using multiplication and division where the students have explored the Commutative, Associative, and Distributive property of multiplication. Students have also solved and created multiplication and division problems.

Students have used the vocabulary concepts, operation, product, factors, quotient, divide, and equally. In the middle of November we will be transitioning into Unit Three, Computing with Whole Numbers. Students will be learning to round numbers to the nearest ten and hundred and be able to explain their reasoning. Students will also be exploring the concepts of addition and subtraction, including regrouping.

In Language Arts, third graders are living in the world of Nonfiction. We are looking at newspapers, magazines, websites, and non-fiction texts to identify and utilize non-fiction text features such as labels, headings, sub-headings, bold words, graphs, diagrams, table of contents, glossaries, index, and captions to pictures. The stu-

dents are also finding the main idea and supporting details in classwork, center activities, and in their guided reading. If you read some interesting science articles, please share them with your son or daughter.

In Science we are finishing up our unit on Ecology. In writing, we are working on writing non-fiction pieces and are slowly introducing Writer's Workshop. In Writer's Workshop, the students all work on one genre but get to choose their topic. Mini lessons are given each day on a different skill.

Thank you,

Mr. Sweetland, Mrs. Edwards
and Mr. Murphy

Fourth Grade

There is a lot going on in fourth grade. The newly revised Manchester Public Schools Language Arts and Mathematics curricula are Common Core aligned. We are teaching the standards while covering the designated Science and Social Studies topics. The children will be reading and writing about Native Americans throughout the month of November. They will read Native American legends as well as nonfiction articles. Crafts are an important part of Native American culture. Crafts are used: to show tribal membership, to record and share community history, and to meet daily needs like clothing and shelter. We will have students complete a Web Hunt and explore five traditional Native American crafts. They may design beadwork, identify different kinds of baskets, and see kids making their own moccasins- all online. You may want to ask your child what Native American craft they would like to try making. What would that craft show about your history? If you are able to make a Native American craft with your child; please encourage your child to

bring it into school to share with the class. Finally, we will look into current events in this community including the controversy over the following labels: Native American and Indian. There is so much to learn about the history and culture of this group of citizens.

The first three units of our Math curriculum focus on whole number work. In addition to multi digit computation, the children have been doing work that requires “algebraic thinking” (solving for an unknown) and analysis of patterns. At home any work you can do with measurement would be very helpful. For example:

1. You have 18 inches of string, which you will cut into 3 equal pieces. How long will each piece of string be?
2. A rubber band is stretched to be 27 cm long and that is 9 times as long as it was at first. How long was the rubber band at first?
3. A seedling was 7 cm long at first. Now it grew to be 21 cm long. How many times as long

is the seedling now as it was at first?

Every time you fill up the tank of your car you can question your child about the estimated cost of gas, or ask how many miles you should get out of the tank, or do a gallons to quarts conversion. These types of real world math applications are very powerful. It makes the work we do in school meaningful.

In closing, we are looking forward to seeing you at a conference during the first week of December. Enjoy the Road Race and your turkey!

Thank you,
Ms. Godbout, Ms. Marocchini
and Ms. Hoke

Fifth Grade

Our last year at Buckley is passing very quickly and the fifth graders are keeping busy. Students have been working hard in the area of Language Arts. We have been learning how to identify the theme of a text, make inferences, and state what the plot of a given story is. In addition, we have been examining character traits based on physical and personality traits.

Also, we have been exploring writing narrative pieces in our writing workshops. We are currently choosing one “important moment” story to bring to publication and share with our peers.

In math, we are working hard to solve decimal problems to the hundredths, using strategies, concrete models, and drawings. After solving our problems we then explain our mathematical think-

ing in writing. In addition, our Math Olympiads team has been working hard preparing for their first competition.

In social studies we are learning about the colonization of the New World. We will continue to study colonies, learning about the Jamestown and Plymouth colonies and how we came to be. We will be integrating reading, writing, art, and social studies in our classroom projects.

In science, we are finishing up our study of the movements of the earth and moon. Thank you to all who chaperoned our field trip to the Children's Museum in West Hartford. It was a fun and informative trip. Anyone who did not get a chance to come with us....not to worry, we will be going on several field trips this year.

Thank you,
Ms. Brahm and Mrs. Jodoin

MAP News

Last month our theme was fall. We made trees with fall colored leaves. We read We're Going on a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger and The Bumpy Little Pumpkin by Margery Cuyler. On the iPad, we read It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown by Charles M. Schulz. It is an interactive app in which you can virtually carve a jack o'lantern and put a costume on a Peanut's character.

This month, our theme will be Thanksgiving. We will talk about what we are thankful for this year.

Thank you,
Mrs. Rodowicz

Media Center

November is **Family Stories Month** and what better way to get ready for Thanksgiving than by sharing some books about families and starting to create a scrapbook of your own family. There are several easy ways to start saving your family stories and each one can be introduced with a library book. A good way to introduce the topic is with Rona Downey's **Love is a Family** which shows that although a family is made of many different people, the main ingredient is love. Dig out your family albums, wedding pictures and baby books and explain the photos. Record family members sharing their favorite pictures and what memories they bring back. Try to remember funny tales such as those found in Cynthia Rylant's **The Day the Relatives Came** or Ann Martin's **Ten Kids, No Pets**. Create a "day in the life of" Journal. Ask each family member to talk about their daily routine, from breakfast burritos to bedtime books. Read what it's like when mom decides she needs **Five Minutes Peace** by Jill Murphy. Set a time and go through boxes in the attic, basement, closet, or shed. Don't clean, just explore. Discover the memories these treasures hold just as Michael did in Sharon Mathias' **The Hundred Penny Box**. After reading **Once There Were Giants** by Martin Waddell, take a look at some old family videos and take notes on family members' thoughts. Susan Roth's **Patchwork Tales** and Valerie Flourney's **The Patchwork Quilt** remind us of the importance of interviewing grandparents. Ask them what it was like when they were young. What was life like without a television, a computer or a smart phone? And don't forget to share special memories like Jeradine Nolen's **In My Mama's Kitchen** or Emily Arnold McCully's **New Baby**. When you put all of these stories together, you will have a family treasury full of love and laughter.

You might also like to check out the Library's K-8 Resource page which can be found at <http://mhsweb.ci.manchester.ct.us/Library/k8resources.htm> - your children can access FasttMath, TumbleBooks and Type to Learn from this website, as well as other educational and entertaining links.

Literacy Corner

Hi! I'm Mrs. O'Malley and I am the Literacy Coach at Buckley School. The purpose of my role in the building is to support teachers in strengthening instruction and increasing student achievement. We have several new and exciting things happening in Manchester this year in the world of literacy and I will do my best to keep you up to date as we move through the school year. Additionally, I will share with you ways you can support your child's literacy at home.

First, this year we will be continuing our statewide transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). If you are interested in more information, there is a link to the CCSS on the Manchester website. **Additionally, we will be holding a Common Core Informational Meeting for parents on November 7th from 6:30-7:30 in the cafeteria.**

Also exciting this year, the district has purchased the Lucy Calkins Writing Units of Study for us to use as a resource as we move towards a Writer's Workshop model of instruction. Classes will be following the Workshop framework where students will write daily on topics of choice, will be writing in a variety of genres, and will receive explicit instruction through daily mini-lessons, individual conferences with their teacher, and small group strategy sessions.

We are definitely on course for a year full of new learning and growth for everyone!! Hope to see you on the November 7th!

Thank you,

Mrs. Tammy O'Malley – Literacy Coach

Sensational Specials

ART

The art room has been very busy this month! In Kindergarten, we continue to practice routines and transitions while learning about tools and materials we use in the Art room. Our projects have consisted of a bowl of apples, a scarecrow, and five little pumpkins. First graders have been learning about Mondrian and primary colors, as well as horizontal and vertical lines, and patterns. With the arrival of fall, we created a fall landscape with a fall tree. Our leaves were sponge printed with warm colors. Second graders are finishing up their collage of the city. Our goal was to create the feeling of a busy city through our use of a variety of paper, colors, and shapes. We recently finished drawing our pumpkins in 3rd grade. The goal was to create the feeling of a three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional paper. Both fourth and fifth graders are completing the Fire Prevention posters for the fire department. Each student tries to pass along a message about preventing fires by creating an effective poster with their words and illustrations. These look fabulous! For the month of October, November, and December, some of our Buckley artists have art on display at the Board of Education. Please be on the lookout for a note coming home if your student has work in this display. Enjoy the brisk, fall days ahead!

Thank you,
Mrs. Maloney

P.E..

Many of our Bobcats ran in the Elementary School Cross Country Challenge on Saturday, October 19th at Manchester High School. The kindergarten Girl's team finished 3rd in their race and came home with a great trophy to display at Buckley School. The top 15 finishers in each race earned medals.

Kindergarten: Juda Kissi 5th Naol Tifessa 13th, Olivia Reyes 11th-Makayla Barrows 13th

1st Grade Natalie Becker 1st Spencer Johnson 6th, Jaireliz Rodriguez 9th Derek Yeboah 11th, Khaled Kharboush 14th

2nd & 3rd Julia Zingler 6th, Joey Larson 5th, Elise Ryan 12th

4th & 5th Analise Ortiz 11th, Chayse Mercer 15th

Congratulations to all of our Bobcats!!!!

AND a special THANK YOU to **Ms. Ferreira** for being our Finish Line Official

In other **PE** news, the 4th grade students are in the midst of completing the State of Connecticut Fitness Test. Please ask your child to share with you the details of the PACER, Curl-ups, Push-ups and Flexibility tests. Thank you,

Mr. Kolze and Ms. Falkowski

MUSIC

Greetings from the music room!

As the temperature drops, we've been moving and grooving in the

music room! Kindergartners are finding that they "Can't Sit Still" and have gone on "An Adventure in Space", while 1st graders are helping each other stay awake with "Wake Up, You Lazy Bones!" and moving to "Epo i Tai Tai E". Meanwhile, 2nd graders are using cards to write out rhythms and learning a passing game called "Obwisana" - can they show you at home without dropping the sticks?

Third grade has begun mastering the note names on the staff and learning to draw the treble clef. It is harder than it looks, but with four easy steps they are beginning to take shape. They have also just begun joining the 4th and 5th graders in attempting the MAD MUSIC MINUTE! Fourth and 5th have both been learning about work songs, and the many ways they have helped people do both simple and complicated tasks over the years. Look for them to be bringing home an interesting craft this month that they will be producing using some ancient methods - and some ancient songs!

Keep singing everybody!

Mrs. Leonard

November 1, 2013

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Manchester Public Schools believes that all children can and must learn well. To do this we are using the State of Connecticut's Framework for Scientific Research Based Intervention (**SRBI**). This **SRBI** Framework provides tiered instruction for students who may struggle.

In short, intervention means that your child may need additional materials or strategies in order to be successful. We know that all children learn in different ways and at different rates. By offering different strategies, we can help all children be successful.

The first level (Tier I) is the general classroom, where we provide instruction and progress monitoring to help the majority of our students to succeed.

For students who may still struggle, Tier II (small group targeted instruction), or even Tier III (specialized instruction) interventions can be provided.

At each intervention level, there are different strategies and materials used to try to meet the needs of all learners. *At times schedule changes are necessary in order to provide appropriate intervention time for your child.* Parent communication is an important part of the SRBI process, and you will be notified of your child's progress.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the tiered interventions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We believe that we have the responsibility to help **ALL** children to be successful, and we will continue to do that one child at a time.

Sincerely,

Building Principal



Café Time

Hi from the Cafeteria!

Can you feel the crispness in the air? Boy, have there already been some cold mornings! With the arrival of the more seasonal weather, it brings all of the colds and other bugs to make everyone feel sick. With this in mind, it's always important to eat as healthy as possible and whenever possible. It's always important to drink plenty of water along with 100% fruit juice and milk. Hot chocolate is another good choice. It helps to warm you up from the inside out. Of course, I like a cookie or two with my hot cocoa, how about you? Now that we have some new food items in our cafeteria, I'm pleased that more of our students are trying them, even if it's only a small sample. I hope they talk to you about them, and what they think, and that you'll let us know.

As always, we really try to remind everyone to only touch the foods that you are going to eat. Miss Rose and I keep reminding the students to keep their hands to themselves, and no passing of food to their friends. All of these things help to keep those nasty germs to a minimum.

Here's a reminder for some, and maybe new to many families If we have a delayed opening of a school day, that means, No Breakfast that day. The extra 2 hours at home should give everyone enough time to have breakfast at home.

Also with cold weather approaching, we have many students coming through the line wearing their heavy coats, hats, mittens, and/or gloves. Please remember to take these items off and hang them on the coat racks that are provided in the cafeteria, and remember to take them with you when you leave. Backpacks should also be removed and hung on the racks. The students don't realize how much space they take up, especially when they're moving through the line. They can easily bump into another student causing unnecessary problems. We do our best to make the cafeteria a safe and friendly place for all who join us.

Breakfast starts at 8:30 and ends at 9:00. We are asking our students who walk, or get a ride from their family to school, to get here on time to get their breakfast. This helps everyone, especially if the school buses are having difficulty and are running late. We appreciate everyone's help with this.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to stop by or call us at 647-3306. We are available from 8:00 am – 10:30 am or after lunch is served, from 1:45 pm – 2:15 pm. You can also call the Office of Food and Nutrition at 647-3462. The office is open from 8 am – 4:00 pm every school day.

Please remember: If you want to stop by the kitchen, you need to go to the school office and get a visitor's pass. We are all working to keep everyone safe and healthy. This is one of our priorities here at Buckley.

Sincerely,

Dale Schuetz
Cafeteria Manager

Come get a "taste" of the Common Core
State Standards!

November 7, 2013

6:30-7:30

Buckley School Cafeteria

Save the date!

PBIS Corner

Our **PBIS** team has continued to meet monthly and refine the program that is currently in place here at Buckley. We continue to identify three students from each class per month from Kindergarten through fifth grade to receive recognition at our monthly **PBIS** Pep Rally. All students will have a chance to be recognized by the end of the school year.

The following students were selected to receive recognition for the month of October. They were selected as having shown exemplary behavior in one of the three **PBIS** categories. These students participated in a fun activity during our Fun Friday!

Be Safe

1. Derek Yeboah, Lauren Smith
2. Lillianna Andreoli, Justin Spiewak, Jenny Roze Katibian
3. Andrew Addy, Siara Albelo, Abhijay Madanagopal
4. Gabrielle Brocki, Shea Comstock, John Nguyen
5. Noah Lindstrom, Paige Gagnon

Mrs. Rodowicz

Annissa Bairagee

Mrs. Lonergan

Micah Costin

Be Respectful

1. Jaireliz Rodriguez, Spencer Johnson
2. Katelyn Hall, Caden Jolly, Chris Virdokian
3. Krina Patel, Logan Tomic, Jeiraliz Rodriguez
4. Adam Rodowicz, Jayda Davis, Karli Bidwell
5. Michael Figley, Callen Wallace

Be Responsible

1. Bhavya Patel, Shayla Cashman
2. Xavier Torres, Abigail Gerrity, Nicholas Foran
3. Aaliyah Parkman, Jack Bienvenue, Joey Larson
4. Kyle Zingler, Bridget Scanlon, Cheyenne Torres
5. Gloria Ortega, Wally Adamy

Congratulations to everyone who was recognized! When you are in the building, please stop by our bulletin board in the main foyer to see photographs of our exemplary Buckley Bobcats!



