

# Keeney Chronicles



April 2016

a Message from the  
Principal

*Mrs. Martin*

Dear Keeney Community,

This is the time of year when we begin to think about one school year ending and another one beginning. Kids start to get a little nervous and excited, parents start to wonder about their child's teacher for the following year, and educators begin to work on plans to thoughtfully end a school year and prepare for a new one.

This is also often the time when parents consider making teacher requests for their child's future classroom placement. While I cannot honor specific teacher requests, I certainly welcome parent input into the type of teacher they think their child would benefit from. In the past I have invited parents to send me an email describing the type of learner their child is and the type of teaching style they think is best suited for them. This year I again extend that invitation. Staff members will begin working on the process of placing students into next year's classes in early May. If you would like to provide feedback into this process, please feel free to email me with your thoughts before May 2nd.

It is also important for you to have an understanding of the process we use when making decisions about class placements. Initially our support staff identifies students who should be either grouped together or separated depending on services or learning needs/profiles. Classroom teachers then design a recommended class of students. This process is very lengthy and involves conversations with all classroom teachers, essentialists, and support staff. The conversation highlights learning profiles, social/emotional profiles, gender, and other traits that are important to consider when creating a classroom community. I then review the list and make recommendations for changes I deem necessary. This is a very complex process and one that we take seriously and attend to with much thought. If you have any questions about this please feel free to contact me.

I hope you all enjoy the upcoming spring break!

# Introducing our Grade 2 Team



Mrs. Frallicciardi Mrs Patrick Ms. Smith

## **Amping Up Reading Power**

The second graders have been learning how to ‘Amp Up Their Reading Power’ by reading more challenging books for longer periods of time. These young readers are learning how to examine the author’s craft by recognizing literary language and noticing the author’s play with words. They are developing fluency by recognizing dialogue tags, scooping up words into phrases, and learning how to read at a just right pace. One of our next exciting units will be about fantasy and fairy tales.

## **Wonderful Writers**

Our student writers will focus on writing about reading in the coming weeks. They will give their opinions about characters, favorite parts, pictures, covers and titles, and provide supporting evidence and examples for their opinions.

## **Mighty Mathematicians**

In math students are exploring money, time, and addition and subtraction of three digit numbers. They are learning a variety of strategies to help them become more efficient in adding up these larger numbers.

**We asked second graders to share their most memorable grade 2 activity. Here are some responses**

*I liked going on the field trip to "Charlotte's Web." It was funny and I got to spend time with my friends and teacher. **Liam***

*Reading is my favorite activity. Reading is good for your brain and you will get better at reading books. **Keira***

*My most memorable activity is writing because I think it's fun, and I am good at writing. When I am done writing I like to read it to see if it's good. I write books at home too. I love to write! **Emily***

*My favorite thing about second grade is learning about math. I can answer the math problems quickly when they are on the board. **Anila***

*My most memorable activity is reading. I have over 2000 books. Reading makes me feel happy because I get other things off of my mind. I really like reading comic books! **Jackson***

*My favorite thing about 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is when I went on a field trip to see Charlotte's Web. It was my 100 best thing ever, and I was sitting with my friends. It made me feel happy. I love my friends. **Jennasiya***

*I like researching about animals because I like animals, and it was really fun. I also like researching to learn more about Komodo Dragon. I love Komodo Dragon now. **Ryan***



SOME OF OUR SECOND GRADERS HARD AT WORK.





## *National Poetry Month*

Ms. Elizabeth Swan

Children recognize the power of poetry—its ability to inspire emotions and the special pleasure you can get from memorizing a favorite poem or reading it again and again. But children may not know where to start in writing their own poems. And they may not realize that poems come in wide varieties—from succinct haikus, to ones that follow conventions of word choice and line length, to the-sky-is-the-limit free verse.

Help your child recognize the elements of a poem and explore different ways of writing one, and you'll also enable your child to become more familiar with the meaning of words and sentences, sentence structure, rhymes, and vocabulary. Plus, in writing poetry, children will discover a new, limitless world of expression that's just as fun to share with others as it is to create.

Here are a few ideas you can do at home with your child:

1. Choose some books of poetry. Read some poems aloud with your child. Talk about where each line of the poem ends and how it creates rhythm, affects the meaning of the poem, and might even make the poem look a particular way.
2. Sing a favorite song together and write down the lyrics. Then ask your child to write a poem that he or she could sing to the melody of the song. Use the structure of the original lyrics as a guide.

3. Go on a neighborhood poetry walk. Stop at various points—the park, the school, the street corner,—and ask your child to write a sentence or two that describes what he or she sees. Back at home, your child can revise and shorten those sentences and turn them into a poem.
4. Show your child how to write an acrostic poem, in which the first letter of each line spells out his or her name, when read top to bottom. Once your child writes a poem based on his or her own name, he or she can write about family members, friends, or pets.
5. Make a slideshow poem. Have your child photograph a series of five to ten pictures (based on a common theme or during a trip). Import the photos into a multimedia software program such as PowerPoint, iPhoto, or Photo Story and ask your child to write a poem by posting a word or two with each image. Add special effects, transitions, or music to enhance the slideshow.
6. Introduce the rhyming dictionary at [Poetry4Kids.com](http://Poetry4Kids.com) and a thesaurus as helpful tools for writing poetry.
7. Explore different types and even shapes of poems. For younger children, the three-line haiku (five words/seven words/five words) is a fun way to start. Older children may want to experiment with formats like the diamante, a seven-line poem that is shaped like a diamond.



Ms. Lesley Sherman

In 2nd grade math, students are finishing a unit of study on time and money and beginning to learn about models and strategies to add and subtract within 1,000. They will learn how to model addition with place-value blocks and represent addition on an open number line. Students will also use the open number line to count back and count up in subtraction as well.

Below is a game you can play with your child to help them practice subtracting three-digit numbers using an open number line.

### **Game: Subtracting Three-Digit Numbers**

#### **Materials:**

Number cube or dice, paper and pencil

Have your child toss a number cube to generate 2 three-digit numbers. Ask him or her to show you how to use an open number line to subtract the lesser number from the greater number.

## A glance into STEM Grades 3-5

**In third grade**, we have begun our unit on Rocks and Minerals. Students kicked off this unit by exploring a collection of twelve different rocks and sorting them based on their observable properties. We have created our own “Rock Information Journals” to determine how specific rocks are used and formed every single day. Ask your child about sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks! Next, we will begin conducting tests to determine the properties of different minerals that make up our individual rocks.

**In fourth grade**, we have moved into our unit on Forces and Motion. Students have worked together as engineers to design and build a vehicle using K'Nex pieces. These vehicles will be used throughout the unit to help guide our learning. Students will be able to demonstrate that a force can cause an object to start moving, stop, or change speed or direction. We will also conduct a series of experiments using our vehicles to determine how friction and mass affect the motion of objects. This will give us the opportunity to look further into the life of Sir Isaac Newton and his discoveries!

**In fifth grade**, we have begun our unit on Light. So far, students have explored light as a form of energy that travels in a straight line. We have also discovered that light can be reflected, refracted or absorbed by different materials and objects. Recently, students were challenged to design a maze, and then use this maze to steer a beam of light without actually moving the light source itself. Students have also experimented with prisms to conclude that white light is composed of many colors. We will be diving into our study of the eye and the way in which we perceive images and color shortly!

**~Ms. Kara Seaha**

## PE NEWS

The students are currently having a great time playing cooperative games in the gym. It is a great time of year to remind them how to get along while participating in any activity. It is especially important when the score is being kept, or for any form of competitive play.

We are looking forward to the warmer weather and the opportunity to go outside for some spring sports and activities.

As you know one of them is field day.



**The dates for Keeney's field day is  
May 19th with a rain date of May 20.**

This is, as usual, a whole school event which requires the whole Keeney staff and numerous parent volunteers. I will be sending out an email with the details for the day.

If you can volunteer on either day or both, please contact me at [b21gdeni@mpspride.org](mailto:b21gdeni@mpspride.org) or text me at 860-508-9840.

Thank you in advance. Sincerely,

Yours in health, Greg DeNies

## Art - Mrs. Sharon Puntty

Square One was returned to the students and the fundraiser packets need to be returned to the PTA soon. All orders go to the main office, not the art room. The children's published work looks great! Creating work that does become published is always a wonderful learning experience for students, even if their artwork is published as a stamp.

Students are currently finishing up units in clay. **Fifth graders** are making a figurine or other object using the clay slab technique and a cardboard textile cone for an armature (to support the flat slab as they are working). **Fourth graders** studied internationally known Pueblo Potter, Maria Martinez. They are creating coil pots. **Third graders** are making animals (mammals) starting with a fat, hot-dog shaped coil of clay. This fat coil becomes the basis for the body and the legs. Then students add a head, ears, tail, and other features. **Second graders** worked mostly with the pinch technique creating various pinch pots with and without accessories like handles or covers. Second graders made turtles starting with a shallow pinch bowl. **First graders** focused on clay plaques and creating shapes with cookie cutters. Some first graders insisted on sculpting teapots! What a technical feat. Fortunately the teapots don't have to really function. Because of the technical process, that comes several years later. First and second graders made mice and bunnies starting by creating a tall cylindrical pinch pot. **Kindergarten students** made plaques by patting, flattening, and applying texture to clay. Creating shoe prints by carefully stepping on a ball of clay is always a favorite. Some kindergarten students even created pinch pots. It is always amazing to see some of the things the children think of to model with clay!

This is a time when many students are being recognized for their artwork. Late last fall, I sent several pieces of artwork to the Manchester PTA Reflections contest. I chose at least one piece of artwork for each grade level. Students whose work went to the contest included Kindergarteners Khloe Wizzard and Lacey Freund, first grader Rebecca Tattrie, second grader Miabella Nixon, third grader Elizabeth Allen, fourth grader Chais Woodson, and fifth graders Jaden Patrick, Kayla Berube, and Damilare Akinsola.

Congratulations to fifth grader Damilare Akinsola. He won PTA Reflections for the town with his intricately penned drawing entitled Aracknitopetil Dossier. Damilare's drawing then went on to the state championship where he won third place for the state in his grade level! Congratulations to Damilare Akinsola!

Last month several students had artwork on display on the superintendent's bulletin board. Congratulations to Owen Austin, Aaliya Rehman, Macy Ryerson, Isaiah Thomas, Christopher Santostefano, Kayla DaSilva, Eleanor Green, Jaiden Carr, Jeremy Zilora, and Anastasia Kobylanski.

Last October fourth graders created fire prevention posters as a means to continue to educate themselves and others about fire safety and prevention. Keeney didn't take first place for the town, but after much careful thought, I chose to recognize several students who worked extra hard in creating an artistic and clear message about fire prevention. For Ms. Borcea's class I chose Jillian Orzak. Ms. Wallmark's class winners are Ryan Alahyari and Sonja Mumford. Mr. Trojan's winners are Sebastien Yanac and Dylan Khner. These students will receive a certificate and a small prize.

Each year students learn about Long Island Sound and how to take care of that wonderful natural resource. In response they create a poster. I will be sending one poster from each grade level, grades K through three to the Long Island Sound Foundation. It was extremely hard to choose only one poster because so many of them were absolutely beautiful! The students who have artwork going to the Save the Sound poster contest are kindergartener Aditi Holgi, first grader Averie Rizzo, second grader Angelina Khner, and third grader Benjamin Flanagan. Several of the remaining posters will be on display at the Lutz Museum in April and the Manchester Community Youth Art Initiative show in May. More information for both exhibitions is to follow.

Finally, several students have artwork on display on a bulletin board in the basement of Central Office. Congratulations to second graders Jennasiya Vazquez, Derel Palma, and Keira Chandler. First grader Makayla Nixon and kindergartener Addyson Lineberg also have beautiful paintings on the bulletin board. Congratulations to all our hard-working artistic Keeney cubs.

## Music – Ms. Haveles

**Town-wide Concerts:** This week our Fifth Grade Orchestra, Fifth Grade Band, and Fifth Grade Honors Chorus students will participate in the Town-wide concerts. The Town-wide Orchestra concert is on Tuesday 4/5, the Town-wide Band concert is on Wednesday 4/6, and the Town-wide Chorus concert is on Thursday 4/7. All concerts are held at Manchester High School at 7:00pm. We are very proud of our musicians for all of their hard work and efforts with practicing, rehearsals, and performances.



**Spring Concerts:** We will have our Spring Concerts on:

**Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 10:00a.m. and 2:15p.m.  
in the Keeney gym for Keeney staff and students**

**Our evening concert for parents and families will be held on  
Thursday, May 26, 2016 at 7:00p.m.  
in Bennet Academy's Cone Gymnasium**

The Fourth and Fifth Grade Band, Fourth and Fifth Grade Orchestra, and Fifth Grade Chorus will perform at all three concerts. We look forward to seeing parents and families at the evening concert. More information will be sent home after April vacation.

# Keeney Street School PTA

Spring is in the air and the Keeney Street School PTA is busy preparing many family friendly events. We hope that you'll take the time to enjoy them with your children.

**Please join us at our next meeting Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm in the school cafeteria.** We will be voting on our Board Positions for the upcoming year. *The MHS National Honor Society will be on hand to do crafts with the kids.*

**It's never too late to join the PTA. You don't need to make it to all of the meetings. Any small amount of time you can devote is greatly appreciated. We hope that you'll take the time to make it to a meeting and see what the PTA is all about!**

## **April / May PTA Fundraisers and Family Events:**

- **April Vacation** – Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – No School!
- **Social Thinking Parent Meeting** - Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> - Watch for fliers.
- **Red Robin Night for Keeney** – Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – 5-8pm. Take a night off of cooking and come out to support our school!
- **Running Club** Begins – Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>!
- **District Wide Science Fair** – Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Illing Middle School.
- **Family Bowling Event** – Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am-1pm – Spare Time Lanes in Vernon. Make sure to send in your permission slips. This is an annual event the whole family can enjoy!
- **Administrative Professional's Day** – Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – Thank you Judy DeLong and Tricia Malan for all of the support they give the school and our cubs!
- **Spirit Day** – Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Sports Day – A \$1 donation to the PTA is greatly appreciated.

- **May PTA Meeting** – Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm. We are voting on Board Positions for the upcoming school year.
  
- **National Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week** – May 2<sup>nd</sup> – May 6<sup>th</sup>. Please have your child take the time to express their gratitude to their teacher. We are so lucky here at Keeney to have a staff that is dedicated to educating our children.
  
- **Breakfast with a Buddy** – Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-8:30am. This has become an eagerly anticipated yearly event. Come and have breakfast with your cub and catch up with friends.
  
- **Staff Professional Day** – Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> - Early Dismissal 1:17pm.
  
- **Memorial Day** – Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> – No School.

### **Volunteer Opportunities:**

- **Running Club** - in need of two **Head Coaches** to shadow our coaches this year and take over for the Fall 2016 season. If you like working with the kids and are able to help out, please contact Pat Allen at patallen614@gmail.com.
- **Square 1 Arts Coordinator** – Work with Mrs. Punty, our wonderful art teacher, to have students create unique pieces of art that are turned into personalized items. If you're interested please contact Niki Garcia at keeneystpta@gmail.com
- **Grocery Store Coordinator** – For just a few short hours during the fall, you can coordinate all of our Grocery Store relationships which earn thousands of dollars in both cash and equipment for our school. It is a small time commitment compared to the value it brings our cubs. If you're interested, please contact Amber Moriarty at keeneystpta@gmail.com .
- **Fall Mixer Chair** – Do you want to plan a super-fun event for our cubs? How about becoming our Fall Mixer Chair! Our current chair is moving up to Bennet in the fall and we will need someone to take over this event. If you're interested, please contact Amber Moriarty at Keeneystpta@gmail.com .

Please remember to submit your **Box Tops!!!** We will collect them for the fall program!



**Special Thank You to the following individuals:**

- Pat Allen and all of the volunteers that helped at our Annual Variety Show! We are so glad that our cubs got to showcase their talents.
- Tamara Speaks & Pat Allen for coaching our Spring Running Club! This is a great way for our cubs to have fun and get exercise. We are in need of two head coaches for the Fall Session. Want to help? Please contact Pat Allen at [patallen614@gmail.com](mailto:patallen614@gmail.com).
- Mrs. Puntty & Josie Robertson for working with our cubs to coordinate our annual Square 1 Arts Fundraiser. Products will go home before Mother's Day!
- The teachers and staff that conducted Parent/Teacher Conferences and also all of the families that attended them. We pride ourselves on our close-knit community and it is certainly reflected by our busy conference schedule.

Come to our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6:30-7:30pm** and find out how you too can get involved. Any amount of time that you can devote to helping is appreciated! We look forward to meeting you all!

**“April hath put a spirit of youth in everything” -  
William Shakespeare**



# Keeney's PAWS Program



**Mrs. Martin and Tucker**

Keeney students have had the opportunity to meet our new “furry” family members. They bring joy, calmness and a smile to everyone !



**Ms. Roxy**

**Tucker**

**Ms. Sandra**

**Meg & Andy**

**Ms. Heidi**

**Teddy**



***Kindergarten Registration for 2016-2017 is now open!***

If you have or know of a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, please contact the school to schedule a time to come and complete the registration process. Keeney's registration dates are:

April 29

May 3

May 12

We have morning and afternoon slots available. During this registration period:

**The Guardian Will:**

- Meet the principal, teachers, PTA, and other staff
- Have an opportunity to complete the online registration process
- Ask questions and receive information about kindergarten

**The Child Will:**

- Participate in an early learning screening with a staff member (it's a fun activity that feels like play!)
- Get to know some other children who are entering kindergarten
- Play in a play station set up for them
- Meet our kindergarten teachers