



THE WASHINGTON POST

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians of Washington School Students:

We hope that your April vacation was restful and relaxing; I am crossing my fingers that spring is really here!

Recently, I received notification that we received funding for our 5th Annual Heisman Grant: Achieving by Reading. The funding is used to give every child the opportunity to choose 12 FREE books that they may keep. The children will visit a Scholastic Book Fair in our Library at school, receive a backpack and be able to fill it with 12 titles of their choice. Excitement, enthusiasm and curiosity about reading are just a few words to describe the look in the children's eyes from years past.

This past week we had Junior Achievement visit in grades kindergarten through fourth. This is a yearly event that connects us to the community and is an opportunity for our children to be exposed to realities and experiences of work in the 21st century. Corporate volunteers visited the classrooms for the majority of the day to engage our children in activities connected to the community, farm, import/export and more.

Please save the date, June 5th, for our Annual VIP day, in which the children can invite a special person in their life to join them in the classroom for a collaborative activity.

As the weather warms up, please make sure you properly mark all of your child's clothing with their name so they don't lose any items. The children come to school with jackets and sweaters and by the time recess comes around, it has gotten warmer and the kids put their belongings down and forget about them. Having their name on the clothes will help us return the items.

As always, thank you for your support and your commitment to Washington School.

Sincerely,

Karen Gray

Important Phone
Numbers

Mrs. Karen Gray
Principal
(860) 645-4813

b59kgray@manchesterct.gov

Mrs. Joan Charnas
Assistant Principal
(860) 647-3336

b21jchar@manchesterct.gov

Ms. Elisabeth Heil
Social Worker
(860) 647-5018

Carla Trovato
Secretary
(860) 645-4813

Ms. Mindy Olson
Nurse
(860) 645-4813

Cafeteria
(860) 647-3338

Attendance Line
(860) 645-4813

After School Program
(860) 647-6973

PTA President
Jen West
PTA Vice President

Sara Austin



May Good Deed Doers



Nehamyah Briscoe, Jaylah Robinson, Olivia Aiken, Chavika Lopez, Angelica Reyes, Hillary Benitez, Hyzell Collins, Emanuel Sampel, Hailey Sanchez, Jackson Case, Kobe Jackson, Jordany Vargas, Zayda-Lyn Downes, Jaden Seegobin, Caytlyn McLaughlin, Jazmine Herrera, Finnegan Kay, Charleigh Davis, Tristan Alayon & Jerimayha Genego

**This month's art kit was presented to Zayda-Lyn Downes!
Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work and remember
YOU can get caught doing the right thing too!**



Kindergarten ~ Caden Maurice, Jordany Vargas, Coltian Chaffee & Isaia Diaz

1st Grade ~ Jandel Herrera, Brenna MacNeal & Christopher StaCruz

2nd Grade ~ Samuel Diaz Vazquez, Jaiden Bernier, Sklya Gabourel & Nathan Negron

3rd Grade ~ Alana Perez, Jason Mathis & Samuel Belcher

4th Grade ~ Mirlyn Chacon, Mikaela Elias & Brenda Cortes

5th Grade ~ Joy Diamond, Sania Overstreet & Emily Caceres

Remember, YOU can be Student of the Month in your classroom too! Washington Scholars who are Safe, Smart and Respectful are always eligible to be Student of the Month. Congratulations to all of April honorees and good luck in May!

Afterschool News

Just a reminder if you have signed up for the Afterschool Saturday Field Trip to the Science Center, it is May 9th. We will be meeting the bus in the school parking lot at 9:00 am sharp, and leaving at 9:15 am sharp!

Any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Hassan at (860) 539-5221

Also, the annual Washington Talent Show is coming up in June! Date to be determined, so please get your acts ready!



Manchester Public Library News

Tails of Joy Presents R.E.A.D. to the Dogs

The dogs from Tails of Joy return to the Mary Cheney Library on Saturday, May 9th 2015 from 1 - 3 pm! Beginning readers through middle school students may sign up to read to a Reading Education Assistance Dog (R.E.A.D.). Registration is required - please call 860-645-0577 or visit the library to reserve your timeslot. Location: Mary Cheney Library, 586 Main St., Manchester, CT 06040



Kindergarten Registration

If you have a child that will turn 5 by January 1, 2016, it is time to register them for Kindergarten!!! Please visit our website: mpspride.org and complete an on-line application and call Miss Carla at 860-645-4813 to sign up for Kindergarten Orientation. We have times available on April 27 and 28 or May 7th.

Thank you!!!



F.R.C. May Dates

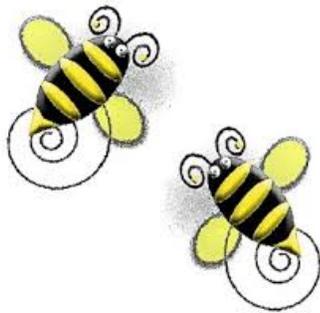
Infant/Toddler Playgroup - May 6, 13, 27

Preschool Playgroup - May 7, 14, 28

K Lunch Bunch - May 12

2A Lunch Bunch - May 11

2B Lunch Bunch - May 12



5th Grade T-Shirts





Understanding the Common Core Standards for Reading: What Parents Can Do

The Common Core State Standards are national standards that say what K-5 students are expected to know and be able to do in reading, writing, and math. There are four broad standards for reading: Key Ideas and Details, Craft and Structure, Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, and Range and Level of Text Complexity. There are some basic ways parents can support their child's learning in these four areas of reading standards.

•Key Ideas and Details:

What it means: *What did the text say?* Students will learn to carefully read many books and texts. Your child will be working to understand what is happening, summarize key events or points, and recall details important to the story or topic.

How parents can help: Encourage your child to retell or summarize his/her reading. For fiction, discuss important story parts such as the beginning-middle-end; characters; and settings. For nonfiction, ask questions about the information, "What are planets?" "Compare two planets - how are they alike, how are they different?"

•Craft and Structure:

What it means: *How did the text say it?* Students will learn to focus on specifics within a book, such as the author's word choices or phrases; and to understand the underlying structure of common types of texts, including fictional storybooks, poems, informational texts, and others.

How parents can help: During and after reading, call attention to interesting words and phrases the author used including repeated phrases, similes, metaphors or idioms (*as light as a feather* or *all ears*). Talk about any new vocabulary and other ways the author used language or words to make the text interesting, informative, funny, sad, or exciting. What type of writing is it? A poem, article, narrative, journal? Whose point of view is it from?

•Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:

What it means: *What does the text mean? What is its value? How does the text connect to other texts?*

Students will learn to compare and contrast details from stories, describe key ideas using details in informational text, and tell how two texts on the same topic differ from one another.

How parents can help: Encourage your child to describe how the illustrations in a book help tell the story. Try reading different versions of the same fairy or folk tale and talk about what is the same and different about the two books e.g., *Cinderella* and *Princess Furball*. Read a fiction (*Stellaluna*) and nonfiction (*Bats*) book on the same topic and compare the information in each focusing on what is the same and what is different.

•Range and Level of Text Complexity:

What it means: *How challenging and varied are the texts?* Teachers will introduce a range of fiction and nonfiction books and other written material that both supports and challenges a child's reading level. This will be done with the ultimate goal of making sure students understand what they are reading.

How parents can help: Promoting reading stamina, the ability to "stick with it," in your child is important by helping him/her avoid frustration or anxiety about reading harder books and texts. You can support your child by talking through some of the things that make a text complex or harder, including multiple levels of meaning, sophisticated language, inferred information (implied rather than clearly stated) or complex graphics.

Remember that promoting a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere is key to helping your child become a successful learner.

Next month I'll share tips and ideas for exciting summertime reading.

Happy Reading!
Dr. Fiano

Second Grade News

Second grade students recently took a field trip to see Theaterworks performance of Aesop's Fables. This was in preparation for their current Literacy unit on Fables, Folktales and Fairytales. There was lots of laughing and excitement as scholars watched the play, and learned about the moral of the fable.

In math, second graders are learning about money! PARENTS-if you have any change in your pockets, please let your scholar count it! Practice makes perfect!

In science, we have been learning so much about plants with the help of Mrs. Dehm. We have learned about plant life cycles, seed dispersal, how plants grow, parts of a plant, and more! Ask your scholar to share some of their plant knowledge with you. They will be happy to!

Love,

Mrs. English, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Frosti



Fundraiser

Congratulations to our fundraiser raffle winner Jorhden Ingles from Ms. Kantrow's Class! Jorhden received a Beats Pill Speaker!!!

Thank you to everyone who took part in our fundraiser to help Washington School!!!



Washington Elementary Music

Dear Parents and Guardians,

May 1, 2015

On Wednesday May 20th Washington Elementary School will be holding its annual 4th and 5th Instrumental (Band and Strings) and 4th and 5th grade Chorus Concert. Students in these ensembles will be performing in school at 2:00 pm and in the evening at 7:00 pm in the gymnasium. Students that are performing should arrive at Washington Elementary no earlier than 6:30 pm. All band students should report to Mr. Garrison on stage, and all orchestra students should report to Ms. Jordan in the cafeteria. Students that are only in chorus should report to Mrs. Stickle in the gymnasium.

Students have been practicing diligently and should continue to practice in preparation for our concert. To ensure the highest quality of performance, please make sure that your child continues to practice and attends all remaining before school rehearsals. Students should dress appropriately (no jeans, sweat pants, or workout pants please). We hope that you can join us!

Sincerely,

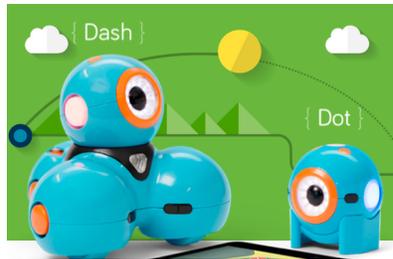
Ms. Jordan, Mr. Garrison and Mrs. Stickle



From the Library

You may have heard your child mention “Dash” and/or “Dot” robots. We have just acquired “Dash” and “Dot” and students have been trying them out in the library and around the building!

DASH & DOT



The purpose of Dash and Dot (they are brothers):

Ages 5-7

EXPLORE - *critical thinking, problem solving, etc. etc.*

Control your robot and the world around you. Drive, dress-up, play music, queue sounds, and imagine and make real any adventure you dream up.

Ages 8-12

APPLY - *creating, logical thinking, critical thinking, problem solving, collaborating, etc.*

Build knowledge of coding concepts and take on design challenges. Transform Dash into a delivery bot, solve mazes, and use with LEGO™ bricks to make your robot into something new.

Ages 12+

EXPAND - *creating, critical thinking, problem solving, collaborating, etc. etc.*

Become an inventor and make your robot do anything you can imagine. Build elaborate programs and even use our API to build apps of your own.

Websites for practice/information on coding:

Hour of Code: <http://code.org/> (information on coding)

Angry Bird: <http://studio.code.org/hoc/1> (coding practice)

Frozen: <http://studio.code.org/s/frozen/stage/1/puzzle/1> (coding practice)



Important Dates To Remember



May 5th - Gr. 3 - Manchester Walking Tour Trip

May 12th McTeacher Night 4 - 7 pm

**May 13th - Early Dismissal - 1:17 pm - Professional Development
School Governance Council 6 - 7 pm**

PTA Meeting 7 pm

**May 18th - Enrichment @ Highland Park School - 4th Gr. 5:30-6:30
5th Gr. 7 - 8 pm**

May 20th - Spring Concert 2 & 7 pm

May 21st - Math & Reading Night 5:30 - 7:00 pm

May 22nd - 3rd Gr. Trash Museum Field Trip

Memorial Day Plants Due

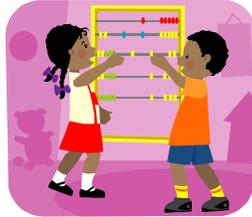
May 25th - No School - Memorial Day

May 26th - Highland Park School - Enrichment 5:30 - 6:00 pm

May 29th - Mr. Magic Show 7 pm



Please join us for
**Washington School's Annual
Family Math & Reading Night**



Thursday, May 21st

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Math & Reading Activities

Presentation for Parents

Pizza Dinner & Family Prize

Please complete the attached form by Friday, May 15th.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND RETURN TO YOUR TEACHER. THANK YOU.

Student's Name: _____ Teacher: _____ Gr.: _____

Adult family Contact: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Number of children attending: _____ Number of adults attending: _____