



COOK HILL NEWS

Cook Hill Elementary School 57 Hall Rd. Wallingford, CT 06492 203-284-5400

April 2015

Dear Cook Hill Families,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the last couple of months of school! Spring has brought sunny skies, windy days, and beautiful flowers in our courtyards. It is such a treat to see the colors emerge after snowdrifts were piled high all winter! I had forgotten what they looked like!

As we approach end of the school year activities, I am reminded of the celebrations that occur when children complete each grade. Our kindergarten students are moving on to a full day of school, full of independence and eager to experience greater challenge. First graders are excited about the many opportunities to showcase their skills as the oldest members of our school. And second graders are spreading their wings as they prepare to begin a new phase of their learning at Parker Farms.

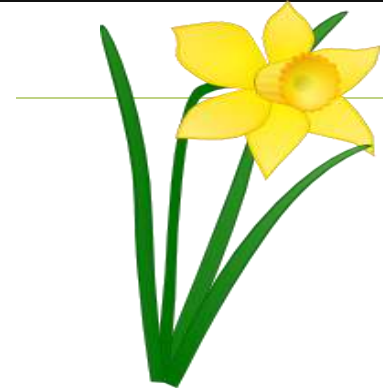
We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments both academically and socially this year. Using the Responsive Classroom Approach, we have modeled and practiced respect, responsibility, and kindness. Our morning meetings have included greetings, sharing, songs, energizers, and a daily message of focus. We are looking forward to applying these routines to a whole school "town meeting" in June!

Please remember that daily attendance matters! Our attendance policy states that students who are absent for 4 or more days unexcused in a month or 10 or more days unexcused in a year are truant. Please help your child establish routines that emphasize the importance of school!

All the best,

Kristine Friend

Principal



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Pre K

Pre K students recently starred in an episode of "Sunnie Days" which will be shown on Public Television Channel 19. Students highlighted the signs of spring and shared artwork, songs, and movement. Mrs. Kell and Mrs. Ives were so proud of the students as they performed for the camera! Quin-nipiac students did the filming as part of their studies.

Kindergarten News:

Kindergarten students are busy planting seeds and getting ready to visit the Lyman Hall Voag Fair in May. Students are participating in collaborative learning projects, guided reading lessons, and using the interactive smart boards to further their learning.

On March 31st kindergarten students invited their families in for some challenging math games in the cafeteria! An exciting time was had by all!



First Grade News

First graders have been busy over the past several months. In math, students enjoyed exploring the place value of numbers to 120. They also practiced time to the hour and half hour on analog and digital clocks. During this final part of the school year we are focusing on utilizing our knowledge of place value and fact fluency to add and subtract 2 digit numbers. We will finish the school year with measuring using non-standard units. Thank you to all those families who were able to join us for March Math Madness. Continue to enjoy the games from the packet that went home to all students to reinforce fact fluency in an enjoyable way. In language arts, students continue to strengthen their comprehension of fictional stories both orally and in written form. The children will build upon what we have done all year. They will be focusing on additional comprehension strategies such as visualizing, predicting and questioning as we move through spring. First graders had fun creating "The Weatherman" with Eli Whitney and experimenting with a scientist from High Touch High Tech as a culmination of our weather unit in science. As our weather warms up, we look forward to our final unit in science on plants.

Second Grade News

Second graders are busy celebrating all of the joys of being the oldest students in our school! In early April they enjoyed a field trip to the Sheehan High School planetarium and learned about the planets and stars. This followed a solar system unit requiring each student to research and study a planet, complete a project, and present it to an audience. Many of the classes invited families in to view their projects which remained on display in the library for viewing. Second grade students will also be attending a field trip to Hammonasset State Park to learn about the different types of animals and plants that live at the beach, an extension of their present science unit is on organisms.



Which Pet Would You Choose?

What pet (beta fish, hamster or hermit crab) do you think your child would choose for a classroom pet?

The second graders did a wonderful job supporting their opinions with text evidence. Although pets aren't allowed in school, maybe you can be convinced to have one of these pets at home - just ask your child which one would be best to have and why! Don't worry, if you can't have one of these sweet things at home, the children will have an opportunity to have temporary "creepy visitors" in school for our next Science kit.

Dance Party Time



Cook Hill students have been celebrating with organized dance parties this year! Bus drivers are rewarding students for appropriate and positive behavior on the school bus by handing out tokens. When a bus has 15 tokens they are treated to a dance party in the gym. A graph in the main hallway reminds the students of their progress toward goals. Walkers, YMCA, and Daycare vans have been included in the fun, too. We have noticed a decline in the number of bus conduct referrals as a result of this initiative! This helps our drivers maintain safety at all times.

Regina Kosior – School Psychologist
Teaching Young Children Self-Control

Article adapted from “Self Control Skills for Children” by Louise Eckman

The full article can be accessed at <http://www.nasponline.org/resources/handouts/revisedPDFs/selfcontrol.pdf>

Self-control is an important skill for all children to learn. It refers to having power or control over one’s own actions. It also means that an individual knows right from wrong. If students are taught self-control at an early age, then they will feel better about the choices that they do make.

General Strategies to Teach Self-Control

It is important to select age-appropriate goals for children who are learning self-control. Try simple goals first, where success is expected, one goal at a time. For early elementary school children, appropriate goals might include complying with bedtime rules or showing anger appropriately (instead of hitting or screaming). Some general strategies that often help children learn appropriate self-control behaviors include:

- Take a break: Encourage children to “take a break” or a “time out” from a situation where they are feeling angry or upset.
- Teach and provide attention: Children can learn to resist interrupting others by learning how to observe when others are not talking, so that they can join in appropriately. Be sure to provide children with attention at appropriate times so that they are not “starved” for attention and more likely to interrupt inappropriately.
- Use appropriate rewards: Children need consistent, positive feedback to learn appropriate behavior. Praise and attention are highly rewarding for young children, as is special time with a parent. Be sure your child knows what behavior is desired!

Cook Hill Media Center

News

Mrs. O'Brien

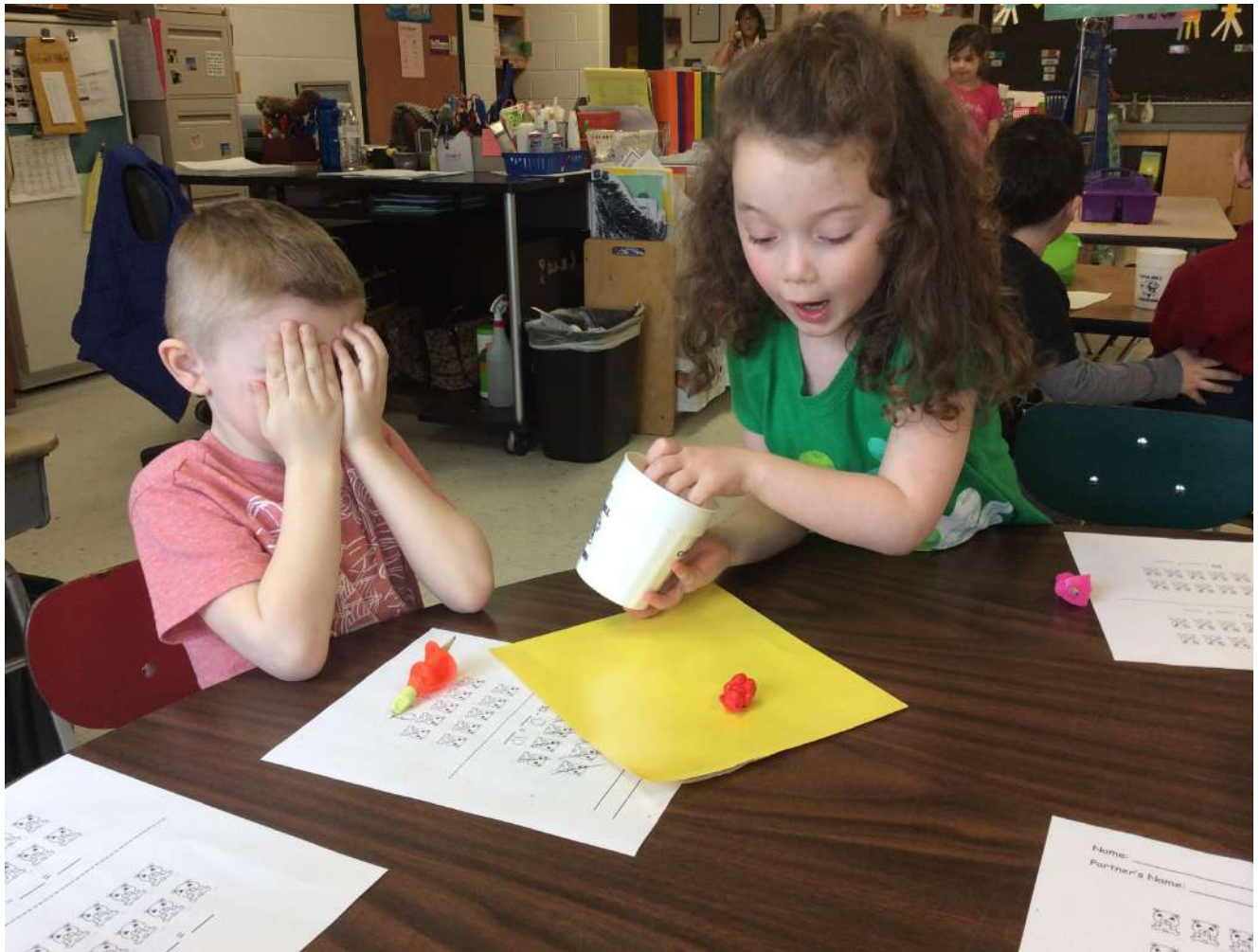


Brian Chevalier from Song Spun visited our school on March 27th. Brian engaged and inspired our students with his highly interactive character education songs that focused on mindfulness, kindness and respect. Students were dancing, singing and using sign language. We loved his visit! We thank the PTO for funding this program!



Students At Cook Hill Love To Read

Students who read 20 or more days on their reading log are entered into a raffle to win prizes such as reading to a preschooler or getting an honor book placed in the library in their name. This month, we also started a library Lego creation where all students who participate in the reading log get to add to the creation. We've had an increase in participation over the last few months. Keep reading!! ~ From the CH Reading Committee



FAMILY LITERACY

By: Mr. Moffo and Mrs. Correll

Programa De Comprension De Lectura



Si usted es el padre/madre de niños en Pre K o Kindergarten los cuales asisten la Escuela Elemental Cook Hill, usted tiene la oportunidad de asistir clases de la Educación de Adultos en la escuela de su niño. La Educación Para Adultos de Wallingford ofrece clases de inglés como Segundo Idioma y Educación Básica para Adultos en la Escuela Cook Hill. Además de las clases de inglés tiene usted la oportunidad de ayudar a su niño (a) y tomar parte en las tareas y actividades de la escuela.

Monday AM Students

Tuesday PM Students

Kindergarten Orientation

We will welcome our new kindergarten students to Cook Hill on May 1st for orientation! Kindergarten teachers will meet with them to participate in some exciting activities. Parents will enjoy a brief overview in the School Media center with Ms. Friend, Donna Correia, the school nurse, Wilfred Velez, the bilingual teacher, and Stephanie Rubin, Interventionist. The Parker Farms/Cook Hill PTO will also have representatives available to answer questions. Students will receive a special bag of goodies to go! It will be an exciting day! If you know of any students who are eligible to enter Cook Hill for kindergarten this year, please remind them to register as soon as possible!



Thank you to all who completed the parent survey. We are busy analyzing the results to determine strengths and weaknesses, as well as set attainable goals to improve our school climate! We continually strive to make Cook Hill a safe, warm and welcoming school for you and your children!



Congratulations to all students who had work featured in our annual Wallingford School District Art Show at Lyman Hall!



Field Day

Cook Hill will hold its annual field day on May 27th with a rain-date of May 29th this year! If you are interested in volunteering please contact

Stephanie Cerrato at ...

mrs.stephc@hotmail.com



The Social Worker's Corner

By: Liz Hess



Read to your children every night. Carve out 20 minutes of time before bed for a chapter book, preferably after jammies are on and teeth are brushed and a certain young someone is snuggled under the blankets. Be an actor! Read with enjoyable abandon, complete with voices for the characters and dramatic inflection. Make this a time of pleasure and relaxation for you and your child(ren), it is not a time for reading skills practice, it is an end-of-the-day few minutes of precious time spent without the usual demands of the busy day.

A well-written book will sometimes inspire questions and conversation... grab this chance to wonder about things with your kids and listen to their thoughts. Don't worry if you don't always have the answers, believe it or not, children don't always want the answers, they just like the chance to wonder aloud. You can say, "I wonder about that too," and that's just fine.

Read above their reading level, children's vocabulary and ability to understand language is always ahead of where they can read and besides, you want to enjoy the book too!

Below are some suggestions of tried and true books for you to try out... let me know how it goes!

P.S. Many wonderful chapter books are available in Spanish... ask your friendly librarian and she will find them for you.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Five Children and It by E. Nesbit

The Book of Dragons by E. Nesbit

Knight's Castle by Edward Eager

Little House on the Prairie by Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Adventures of Danny Meadow Mouse by Thornton W. Burgess

Liz Hess

Cook Hill Social Worker



Programa Bilingue

Escuela Cook Hill

Buenos consejos para las tareas

Las tareas son importantes porque enseñan responsabilidad y animan a sus hijos a contribuir en las tareas del hogar. Dele al principio trabajos que pueda hacer con comodidad. Una vez pueda hacerla, dele otra que sea mas exigente.

Lectura

Dele a su hijo varias revistas y pidale a su hijo que busque las palabras que el pueda leer en varias paginas y que las recorte. Tambien puede animar a su hijo a que utilice estas palabras para escribir



Explicar el razonamiento

Quando su hijo exprese sus ideas, animele a que le de datos u opinion de por que piensa de esa manera. Esto le ayudara a tener una vision mas clara y especifica de lo que expresa.

Gracias por todo lo que hace por sus hijos!

Salud

Puede ayudar a sus hijos a escoger meriendas salud-





Contact Us

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Contact the office if you would
like to visit or volunteer!

To:

Mrs. Warner, Cook Hill School's Teacher
of the Year! &

Mrs. Stellato, Cook Hill School's Para
Educator of the Year!



Last Day of School is Friday, June 19th
with an early dismissal at 1:30!