



COOK HILL NEWS

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

December 2014

Dear Families,

Season's Greetings from Cook Hill School! Snowflakes are falling, bells are ringing, and magic is in the air as we approach the holiday break and welcome in the New Year! I continue to be so impressed with the warmth and love that your children share with others on a daily basis. It is truly a privilege to come to work each day!

We have experienced many changes in staff this fall! Help me to welcome our newest member of the office staff, Tina Blauvelt. She is a familiar face to Cook Hill families, but has taken on a new role in our building. Michelle Falk has joined the staff at the Integrated Pre-School, Liz Capetta will now be with us full time, and Guilia Cardonna has joined our staff as a paraprofessional. We are fortunate to have familiar faces choosing to stay at Cook Hill! We also welcome Nancy Benham as a lunch and recess aide.

On December 5th our School Climate Committee welcomed our bus drivers to a breakfast in the staff lounge. We discussed ongoing efforts to maintain safety on our school buses. We generated a list of rules to post on each of the buses and rolled out a new incentive initiative aimed at rewarding our buses with tokens that are displayed on a bulletin board in the main entrance. When a bus receives 10 tokens the students will earn a "dance party" in the gym with Mr. Milbrandt! The children are very excited about this opportunity! Some of our drivers have already reported a difference in student behavior.

Report Cards were sent home on December 11th. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns. Always look for positive growth and help your child to celebrate their strengths as well as set goals for their weaker areas. It is never too early to begin the practice of self assessment and evaluation. We are proud of the efforts of each and every child at Cook Hill. As the saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child."

Wishing you and your family a warm and relaxing holiday break!

Peace,

Kristine Friend



"December's wintery breath is already clouding the pond, frosting the pane, obscuring summer's memory..."

— [John Geddes](#)

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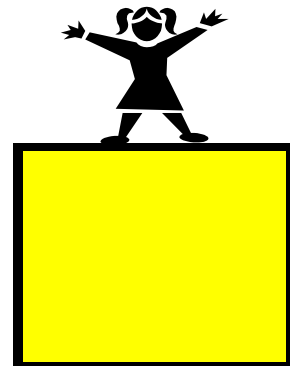


First Grade News

It has been a busy November and December in first grade!!! The children have been enjoying their hands on activities with 2-D and 3-D shapes. The students really enjoyed composing different shapes with pattern blocks. The students continue to practice their math facts using a variety of games and activities. Looking ahead after our winter break, students will be learning about counting and place value. In language arts, students continue to be more independent using their reading strategies. They continue to retell fictional stories using the elements of character, setting, problem, sequence of events and solution. There has also been a focus on non-fiction text. They have been practicing determining the main idea and details. We are looking forward to our study of solids, liquids, and gases after vacation. Snuggle up with a book and a blanket during these cold winter months!

Kindergarten News

Children in Mrs. Wilson's class made gingerbread houses to complete their unit on shapes while Mrs. Lemieux' class built shape cities and Olaf snowmen!





Second Grade

The second graders have been very busy bees the last several weeks! In Literacy, we just finished wrapping up our second unit about "Community Heroes". The children learned about character traits and how to identify traits of characters in the books they read. Students also worked on supporting their ideas about characters' traits with text evidence. They read articles about animal heroes and historical heroes and thought of traits and evidence for each. We just began our next unit, "Let's Create!" where the children will be encouraged to show their creativity in a variety of ways. They will also be focusing on how good readers can read with fluency.

In math, our second graders learned how to use a variety of tools, such as a "quick pic", hundred chart, and number lines to solve addition and subtraction problems. We also learned some math strategies such as decomposing and compensation to help us solve two-digit equations. Of course, as second graders, we also spent time focusing on fact fluency with our facts up to 20, which is always important!

We are excited to learn about the concepts of time and measurement as we head into the new year as well as our new science unit focused on the Solar System. We are excited for 2015!

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH ROOM

The cold weather has arrived and the heat is on!

Please remember to dress your child appropriately. A warm winter coat, hat and gloves for outside recess and layered clothing for inside as the temperatures vary from room to room.



Keeping hydrated is one of the best ways to keep your child's skin from drying out so remember to send in a water bottle and chapstick for those chapped lips!

Reminder...



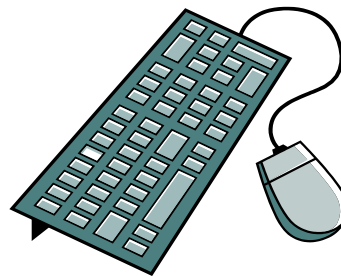
When arriving at school to drop off children in the morning you should be using the loop at the far end of the school by the gym. Children should be sitting on the right side of the car so they can exit onto the sidewalk and cars should not be passing other cars in the loop. This is a safety concern! If you must get out of your car, please park in the parking lot. The loop is meant for drop-off only!

Never pass a school bus with flashing lights!

Bus drivers and supervising adults have been instructed to report license plate numbers to town officials.

Technology News

Mrs. Waldron



Grade 2 students spent last week participating in the second annual international "Hour of Code" week. They learned that anyone can learn how to program a computer, and they gave an hour of their time to learn some basic programming patterns by using interactive commands in a fun game format. To learn more, or to try it yourself, visit www.code.org.



Greetings from the Music Room!

We have been having a wonderful time in Room 8 (The Music Room)! In addition to our regularly scheduled classes, this year our Cook Hill family commemorated Veteran's Day in a big way. Our entire school learned "I Love My Country" – a patriotic song complete with American Sign Language. Students in Grades K-2 performed the song for our invited veteran guests for our Veteran's Day luncheon. It was a big hit, and I'm sure we'll be singing that song again and again since we all do love our country! If you haven't heard it, ask your student if they remember it and have them perform it for you!

The holidays were upon us so quickly this year! To celebrate Thanksgiving Day, we learned another song with sign language that could also be used as Grace at our Thanksgiving tables. It is a song by Franz Schubert called "Thank You". Once again, our students did not disappoint! I hope some of them were able to sing it at your tables.

Once Thanksgiving was past us, it seemed to be only minutes before we were learning about (and singing about!) the wealth of holidays celebrated in December: Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Sankta Lucia, Las Posadas, as well as many other traditions from other lands. We capped off our studies with an all-school Holiday Sing-A-Long in our gym. What fun it is to have our entire school together, singing their hearts out in a joyous celebration of the season! It always makes me feel very lucky to work here!

In closing, I wish you and your families all the joy of the season and no matter what you celebrate under your roof, I wish you all health and happiness in the coming New Year!

All the best!

Mrs. Ives



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

Mrs. Koons's class enjoyed a special visit from Miss Hess.

She read a story called, Regina's Big Mistake by Marissa Moss which tied in nicely to our theme of accepting mistakes.

The students brainstormed things they could do to help cope with making mistakes.

We even had a little extra fun by singing the song from Frozen about "Letting Go" and creating a Frozen bulletin board titled,

Don't Stay Frozen! When I make a mistake, I can _____.

Contact Us

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



<http://disney.wikia.com/wiki/Olaf>

Wallingford SW PTAC

“Together, we can Accomplish More”

**As a parent of a
Wallingford Student,
YOU are a member of
PTAC**



System-Wide Parent Teacher Advisory Council



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