



# Sprague Elementary School

## December ~ 2015

Mrs. Bakewell, Principal

Mrs. Tsacoyeanes, Vice Principal

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Families –

I would like to thank the families who joined us at McEducator's Night. It was a fun and successful fundraiser!

Please review your report card with your child and set goals together as we begin the second marking period. I look forward to seeing everyone at Parent Conference Night on December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Be sure to sign up for a time with your child's teacher. Working together will ensure that our students reach their greatest potential. Wishing you all a happy and restful holiday season!

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Diane Bakewell

### December Calendar of Events

December 2	Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 5:00pm - 7:00pm
December 8	School Governance Council Meeting 2:35pm
December 9	Early Dismissal - Teacher Collaboration Day
December 10	Family Literacy Night 5:30pm - 6:30pm Sprague Gym
December 14	Report Card distribution - Pre-K & Kindergarten
December 18	Winter Concert 1:15pm Sprague Gym
December 21	Student of the Month Ceremony 10:00am
December 23	Polar Express Day
<b>December 24 - January 1 Winter Recess NO SCHOOL</b>	
January 4	School resumes



### Winter Weather Schedules

#### 2 Hour Delay

Pre-Kindergarten hours 9:50am - 1:20pm

Kindergarten - Grade 5 hours 10:05am - 2:20pm

The earliest Kindergarten - Grade 5 students can be dropped off is 9:40.

Breakfast is NOT served on 2 hour delay days.

### EMERGENCY DISMISSAL DAYS

Sprague School dismisses at 11:30. When inclement weather is forecasted during the day, parents must check TV stations or website.

All After School Programs will be cancelled.



# \*Attention Parents\*

A note must be sent in with your child if there is a change in their normal dismissal procedure.

Emergency dismissal changes must be made **before 1:30pm**.

## Early Dismissal School Hours

Pre-Kindergarten

7:50am - 11:20am

Kindergarten-Grade 5

8:05am - 12:35pm



## News from the Nurse

When children are sick, it is important that if any child has a fever greater than 100, they will need to remain home until temp is less than 99.0 for 24 hours, without the use of medication. Also, if they have been vomiting or have diarrhea, the same applies. Please be sure that if your child/children are sick for any reason that you should call the school's nurse at (203) 574-8324, as soon as possible, to let the school know they will be out sick. Thank you for your assistance.

## Attendance Corner

Please do not make medical appointments during the school day. Appointments should be scheduled after 2:20pm. Your child misses important instruction when they leave school early.

## PBIS Corner

One of our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) traits is ORGANIZED. Sprague students are encouraged each day to remember their belongings and fill in their homework planners. You can help at home by checking that book bags are packed and ready to go each night so that mornings are less stressful for everyone. Students are reminded daily to clean up after themselves at both breakfast and lunch time. Another way that Sprague students show they are organized is by having their dismissal tag with them each day they leave the building. When a student is organized their day runs much more smoothly and they do not experience unnecessary stress. Please refer to the Expectation chart that was sent home in October and have your child share ways that they stay organized in school. You can also talk about your expectations that will keep your child organized at home.

Talking about our PBIS traits at home sends an important message to your child that we are working together as a team to help him/her to be successful. Thank you for your support!



## News from the Social Worker and Guidance Counselor

November has been another quick and successful month here at Sprague School! We were very grateful to receive some very generous donations for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Elks Club in Waterbury provided the school with 50 turkeys to distribute to families. Mr. Dino Pantoni, a teacher at Kennedy High School, the Sacred Heart Church in Waterbury and Sprague staff, donated various items to complement the turkeys for baskets. Thank you all for your thoughtful contributions!!!

The support staff continues to work with students on utilizing their words to resolve conflicts with peers. In last month's newsletter, we gave parents/guardians a format for you to review with your children in order to practice this skill: "I feel \_\_\_\_\_, when you \_\_\_\_\_, and I want \_\_\_\_\_." If they are faced with a conflict in school, such as someone cutting them in line, they could use their words by saying "I feel angry when you cut me in line and I want you to stop." Thank you parents/guardians for reviewing this skill with them, as we have seen some of our students utilizing that very skill! Please continue to do so. Ms. Ogilvy, the school counselor, has done classroom lessons on the difference between mean behavior and bullying. She also provided them strategies on how children can address this behavior (which one strategy is the "I-Statement" mentioned above). Also, remind your children to think about their words before they say them in order to increase the use of kind words at school. As Mother Teresa once said, *"Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless."*

Thank you,  
Mrs. Brayton and Ms. Ogilvy



## News from the Parent Liaison

Smile Builders Dental Cleaning will visit our school on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday December 1<sup>st</sup> and Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the school.

Save the date for Family Literacy Night, Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. A flyer will be coming home shortly. Please be sure to reply if you plan on attending.

If you need a registration key or have any questions at all on how to enter the Progress Book, please don't hesitate to contact me at: [vdemirali@waterbury.k12.ct.us](mailto:vdemirali@waterbury.k12.ct.us) or call me at: (203) 346-3916. Our Next Governance Council Meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:35pm in the main office.

Vjollca Demirali  
Parent Liaison



## Students of the Month - November



### Kindergarten

Ms. DeVito - Cecil Malcolm  
Mrs. Feola - Brianna Torres-Rodriguez  
Mrs. Maghini - Dominick Burgos  
Mr. Giammatteo - Gabriel Narvaez  
Ms. Stasaitis - Victor Maldonado-Torres

### Grade 1

Ms. Cianfagna - Atrudah Powell  
Mrs. Martinez - Jernasha White  
Mrs. Newman - Jose Gonzalez  
Mrs. Albino - Arianna Paradise

### Grade 2

Mrs. Hirbour - Abdulghani Hashim  
Mrs. Horan - Janvi Patel  
Ms. Kaminsky - Nadia Nasiri

### Grade 3

Mrs. Boucher - Hilary Garcia-Cortes  
Mrs. Grazdhani- Landon Hall  
Mr. Smith - Deyanira Marrero

### Grade 4

Mrs. Goderre - Ashley Santiago  
Ms. Williams - Fernando Lopez-Utate  
Mrs. Lombardi - Juliana McClary

### Grade 5

Mrs. Olson - Lilly Woike  
Mrs. Pascale - Krismarie Rivera



## Around the School

**Pre-K - Mrs. Hanas, Mrs. O'Leary, Mrs. Baker**

December is here and what an exciting month this will be! On Friday, December 18th, we will be going to the winter concert. We will continue our seasonal activities with The Polar Express day on December 23rd. Our new theme: Seasons All Around is an exciting one!. Who knew that in one place you can experience all four seasons at once: winter, spring, summer and fall. As the cold approaches outside, we'll be at the beach inside. Seasons are so much fun especially in our Pre-k class where our imaginations are always on the run.

**Kindergarten - Mrs. Feola, Mrs. Maghini, Ms. Stasaitis, Ms. DeVito, Mr. Giammatteo**

Kindergarteners had a great Thanksgiving Day Feast. Thank you to all of the families that donated items, it was a great success! Our mystery reader program is off to a great start and we have welcomed some surprise readers into many of our classrooms. Thank you to those of you who have volunteered. We are busy in the classroom as well. We are just finishing our unit on force and motion. Looking forward to seeing many of you at conferences!

**Grade 1 – Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Newman, Mrs. Albino, Ms. Cianfagna**

Students have been working hard with glued sounds, digraphs, and reading words with suffixes. Currently students are working on story elements and identifying characters feelings. While reading with your child at home, please ask questions such as, who are the characters? What's the problem in the story? How is that problem solved? How does the character feel? In math, students are working on solving word problems with an unknown. Continue checking your child's folder daily. Conferences are also in the process of being scheduled for December 2nd. Please sign up for a time that works for you.

**Grade 2 – Mrs. Horan, Mrs. Hirbour, Ms. Kaminsky**

Now that we have completed our first marking Period, we would like to give you some reminders, that will help you're your child succeed in school. Please replace your child's pencils, crayons, folders, glue etc. A Homework packet is given to the students every Monday, and it is to be brought back to school completed on Friday. Spelling tests are given every Friday. Please check and empty your child's backpack and folders every night. We are noticing that there are papers, notes, flyers etc. in student's backpacks from September. With the cold weather quickly approaching, we ask that you please put your child's name in all coats, hats, mittens etc. We will continue to go outside for recess while weather permits, so make sure that your child is prepared for the colder weather.

**Grade 3 – Mr. Smith, Mrs. Boucher, Mrs. Grazhdani**

In the month of December, third grade students will continue to explore new books with the specific purpose of analyzing characters and identifying the central message (theme) of a story. We are also studying plants in science. We are looking at parts of a plant: roots, seeds, and leaves. What plants need to survive and how they do it. (Carnivorous plants, minerals in the soil, etc.) We are also examining how plants travel around the world. In social studies, we will be learning about different cultures around the world and how they celebrate the holiday season. We will utilize non-fiction literature and learn to identify the main idea and supporting details that make up an informational text.

**Grade 4 – Mrs. Goderre, Mrs. Lombardi, Ms. Williams**

The Fourth Graders continue to make steady progress. We are using our "I understand..." and "I can..." statements to begin every lesson. Please be sure to ask your child what she/he learned in school today. The Fourth Graders are studying character's identity through narrative elements (setting, conflict, plot events, and resolution). During small group, we are reading stories where we can identify narrative elements. The Fourth Graders have begun Module 2 in Math: Parts of a Whole/Fractions. They are studying equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, and converting fractions. We will be working in small group and with our i-Ready Math Program to understand the skills taught.

**Grade 5 – Mrs. Olson, Mrs. Pascale**

The Fifth grade classes have been reading and sharing biographies and autobiographies of people who have made important contributions to our society. We will complete our unit by creating and sharing Power Point presentations on the person that each individual has chosen to research. We are excited to be working with our knowledgeable, Mrs. Snow, to prepare some exciting Power Points!

**Art – Mrs. Ouellette**

Kindergarten, first and second grades have been exploring line and shape in their art. They have been creating their own drawings using only lines and shapes. Third grade has been focusing on color particularly warm and cool colors. They have created their own fall leaves art. In fourth grade, the focus was texture and value. Students created a realistic still life of pumpkins they used oil pastels to show highlights and shadows. Color studies were the concentration of fifth grade. First they created a monochromatic artwork using only one color. Next, they reproduced the same working of art with color. For the month of February Sprague artwork will be on display at the Silas Bronson Library located at 267 Grand Street, Waterbury. Please support Sprague by visiting the library in February.

