



COOK HILL NEWS

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

February 2015

Dear Cook Hill Families,

We have certainly been blessed with beautiful white snow this winter! We have so much of it that we don't know where to put it! Our snowbanks are expanding and our parking areas and driveway are getting smaller. Please keep this in mind as you travel through our parking lots. We are trying to maintain space for buses to arrive and depart as well as space for our visitors that have difficulty walking. We must always maintain an emergency vehicle zone in the front of the school as well. Do not leave your cars in areas that block traffic for any reason!

In between snowstorms, our students have been busy in their classrooms participating in engaging lessons with their teachers. I have had the privilege of spending lots of time observing, participating, and even leading some of those lessons! It is a joy to watch your children flourish in their learning. They are free to take risks, share their ideas, and personalize their learning daily. The teachers have seen so much growth in their students since August!

Thank you for teaching your children how to love, honor, and respect one another. As I shared a story called *The Sweet Smell of Roses* with all of their classes in January, I was pleasantly reminded of their capacity to embrace diversity, recognize kindness in the world, and refrain from judgment.

Gratefully,

Kristine



"We can only learn to love by loving."

Iris Murdoch

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First Grade News

It has been an exciting time of year for the first graders! The children came back to school after the long break ready to work. In reading, the students continue to build their sight vocabulary and practice using their strategies in their guided reading groups. They are also learning to decode, or sound out, words ending with silent e. The children are noticing this common spelling pattern everywhere! Our math unit on place value came just in time, as we got ready to celebrate the 100th day of school. Learning to count by tens and ones helped the children make sense of this special number. In science, the children had fun learning about the three states of matter—solids, liquids and gases. We are now ready to start learning all about the weather. With all of this snow and wintery weather, we will have plenty to talk about!!



Kindergarten News:

Kindergarten classes celebrated the 100th day of school! In Mrs. Wilson's class they all dressed as 100 year old people! Students were part of the Sunny Days Retirement Center. Mr. Velez read *Pancakes, Pancakes* by Eric Carle and they enjoyed a pancake breakfast in the classroom!

Kindergarten students in Mrs. Lemieux' class are busy practicing sight words, addition strategies, and experimenting with Cook Hill's new Google tablets!



Second Grade News

Second grade students have been learning how they can be creative in many ways since creativity has been the theme of our reading unit. They have been developing their fluency skills by reading plays. Second grade students in Mrs. Brazauski's, Mrs. Harris', and Mrs. Warner's classes invited parents to hear them read their plays. In March, all second graded students will be attending the Bridgeport Cabaret Theater to see the play, Rapunzel.

In conjunction with our writing focus for the past English Language Arts Unit and the current one, many second grade students worked on a persuasive writing project called, "You Should Read This Book!". Children chose their favorite book from our Cook Hill library and wrote a persuasive piece of writing to convince others to read the book, too. Students created a book poster about their favorite book and it will be displayed throughout the school. Next time you are at Cook Hill, check out our book posters and maybe they will convince you to read a new book!

Join us for our Spell -O -Rama on February 25th

2014-2015 SURVEY TIME



This is the time of the year when we reach out to all of our stakeholders to request feedback. During the month of March students and parents will be asked to complete a survey to reflect on their experiences with our school. We use these surveys to gather valuable feedback, inform practice, and set goals aimed at improving our school culture. The student surveys will be administered in school on the computer. You will be receiving a link to the parent survey in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for your participation as it is so important to the success of your children's experiences at Cook Hill School.

~ *Kristine Friend*

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!

In addition, we should be able to unload 3-4 cars at a time to the sidewalk in order to maintain efficiency. We are causing traffic jams on Hall Road!

Reading Intervention

The interventionists work with Cook Hill's students to support their learning in reading. Students can qualify for academic intervention support in reading in the fall, winter and spring. During Reading Intervention, students build their foundational skills by practicing letter names and sounds, phonemic awareness, phonics, and word study. They work on reading sight words quickly since sight words represent "67 percent of the words encountered in text for students." Students are engaged in active learning strategies and scientifically researched based strategies to help meet their reading goals. Students also choral, echo and repeat readings of books and passages to help increase their words read correctly per minute and to support appropriate rate, expression and comprehension. Finally, Lexia and Earobics are computer programs used to help support these skills learned! Please continue to read together every day!

Liza Riggione

Stephanie Rubin

Carolyn Hall



Cook Hill Media Center

News

Mrs. O'Brien



In Kindergarten, we used a KWL chart to discuss what students know about winter and what we wondered about winter. After reading a book about what animals do in the winter, we created class books called, "Animals, Animals, Where Do You Sleep?" These will be bound and kept in the classroom for the students to read. Copies of the books will be sent home soon. I hope you take a moment to read the book with your child to see what we learned about migration and hibernation.

In first grade, we learned about a research model called The Super 3. The Super 3 is an informational problem solving model for young children based on the Big 6. It gives students a process for tackling both school and everyday tasks. The Super 3 steps are Plan, Do, Review. We even learned a song about it! After using a KWL chart to brainstorm what we knew and wondered about polar animals, we broke up into research groups to learn more about specific polar animals. Students took notes while reading nonfiction books and internet sites. Students will be reviewing what they learned and sharing their findings with their classmates.

Our second graders have been challenged to read all 10 of the Nutmeg Book Award Nominees. I have read some of these books to the classes. I have also borrowed multiple copies for students to check out. Students have been encouraged to visit the Wallingford Public Library to borrow copies as well. Check out www.nutmegaward.org to see the list of the Elementary Nutmeg Nominees. Second graders are encouraged to read all of them before we vote for the winner in April. Students in second grade have also been working on nonfiction text features, such as a map, the table of contents, index, diagram and caption. Text features help the reader make sense of what they are reading. They help readers determine what is important to the text and to them. As parents read with their child, I encourage you to read nonfiction books. Take some time before reading to look through the book to find these features, make some predictions about what they'll learn or come up with some questions they have based off of the text features.

The Reading Committee put together a wonderful Family Literacy Night on January 28th. Over 80 people from 20 families attended this event! After reading *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, we rotated through three literacy stations as we drank hot cocoa in our PJs. Students worked on a retelling activity, designed their own mitten with a new animal inside, and had fun acting during a Readers' Theater of the book. It was a huge success!

Don't forget about those reading logs! Logs are due at the beginning of every month. Students who participate for 20 or more days get entered into a raffle for prizes such as lunch with Mrs. O'Brien, reading to a preschooler, being crowned Royal Reader of the day, or getting an Honor Book added to the school's library with their name written on a name plate inside the book. The February log just went home! Read the back of the log for more information.

Cook Hill Library Media Center is always looking for volunteers! If interested, please call Annamaria O'Brien at 203-284-5400 or email at: ao'brien@wallingford.k12.ct.us.

Dear Families,

It's Developmental Play Time! Cook Hill wants to create a developmental play resource area for our K-2 students. Resources like building blocks, dolls and puppets, and games and puzzles will give students opportunities to foster their creative expression, strengthen their emotional and social development and build on their executive functioning skills and cognitive development. Our hope is to gather and collect these things needed as soon as possible. In order for this program to be successful, we are relying solely on donations from the community. We've created a request on a 501 (c)3 charity website called DonorsChoose.org. Donations can be made by going to <http://www.donorschoose.org/ms.riggione>. This will ensure that current students and future students have what they need to succeed.

In addition, if you are able to donate any of these new or gently used larger items, please email DAP committee member Liza Riggione at lriggione@wallingford.k12.ct.us.

train table	play kitchen	laundry baskets	Puppet theater
paint/chalk easels	mini grocery carts	doll houses	workbench



We appreciate your willingness and generosity in advance. Together we can truly make a difference in our students' lives!

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



Kindergarten Students from Mrs. Lemieux' class working cooperatively on a math activity!

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!

Vaccination is one of the best ways parents can protect infants, children, and teens from potentially harmful diseases. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious, may require hospitalization, or even be deadly – especially in infants and young children. Click on or go to these sites learn more about measles and the importance of having your child fully vaccinated.

- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/index.html>
- <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/measles/fs-parents.html>



Please join us for Cook Hill School's

Share an Artistic Talent Program

Art is here, art is there, art is everywhere

Do you have an artistic talent to share?

Parents, grandparents, or other family members are invited to share their artist talents with their Cook Hill School student's class in the art room. Examples of artistic talents include, but are not limited to, the following:

- * Drawing
- * Painting
- * Collage
- * Sculpture
- * Other (please explain if your artistic talent does not fall under the above categories)

(please note: I am looking for artistic skills/techniques rather than craft projects)

What's your specialty?

The format for sharing your artistic talent should include a brief discussion about yourself, your talent, and a hands-on experience for the students to participate in during one of their scheduled art classes. I will assist you and the students, as well as provide any supplies needed for the art activity.

If you are interested in sharing your artist talent, please email me at lfachini@wallingford.k12.ct.us or call Cook Hill School at 203-284-5400 and leave a message for me, Lisa Fachini. I will reply to your email or return your call at my earliest convenience.

I hope you will consider sharing your artistic talent with our Cook Hill students and help them realize that art is truly everywhere! I look forward to hearing from you.

The Social Worker's Corner

The pictures below are from one of my favorite books of all time. The title is **How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk** by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.

The book helped me be a better parent as I raised my three kids. Not a perfect parent, mind you, a *better* parent. The suggestions were simple and when I remembered to use them, I actually felt better about how I was communicating to my kids. These particular illustrations encourage us to talk about how the kid's behavior makes us feel, instead of making a comment about the kid's character or personality. Read the examples, see what you think.

Instead of

Talk about your feelings



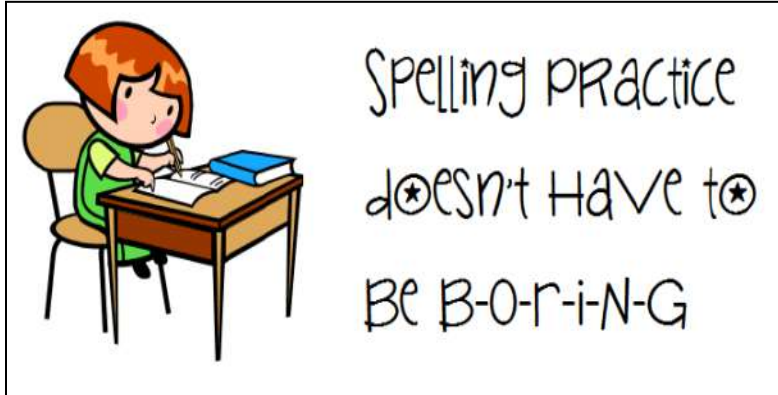
Instead of

Talk about your feelings

Liz Hess, LMSW
Social Worker

You're invited!

Second Grade Spell-O-Rama



Partake in some fun activities to support the second grade spelling curriculum and leave with some spelling goodies!

Wednesday, February 25th

6:00-7:00

Cook Hill School Cafeteria

Please RSVP by Friday, February 21st

_____ Yes, I plan on attending the Spell-O-Rama

Student's Name: _____

Number attending: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Chores for Charity

This year, I am pleased to announce that our K-2 students at Cook Hill raised **\$300.00** for Chores for Charity! Chores for Charity is a program which takes place during the month of December. Students at Cook Hill can choose to participate in the program and involves doing chores at home and donating all of their earnings to a charity. What a nice gift we were able to give the Wallingford Emergency Shelter this year! As the coordinator of this program, I would just like to offer a sincere thank you to all families who participated.

Thank you, Mrs. Harris

Contact Us

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

