

# FRANK G. REGAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2780 North Main Street Waterbury, Connecticut 06704

Telephone: (203) 574-8187 Fax: (203) 573-6647

Principal: Noreen E. Buckley Secretary: Denise Stribling

Parent Liaison: Patty Poulter

Email Address: [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us)

Subscribed websites: [www.cmttestprepfun.com](http://www.cmttestprepfun.com) [www.ixl.com](http://www.ixl.com) [www.RazKids.com](http://www.RazKids.com) [www.ReadingA-Z.com](http://www.ReadingA-Z.com)

## *Regan Newsletter December 2013*

Dear Parents and Families of Regan School,

It is very difficult to believe it is the end of 2013!!! It has been a wonderful year here at Regan School and we look forward to the month of December.

Please take note of the dismissal times if school is dismissed early or if school begins late due to weather.

90 Minute Delay: Students may arrive to school at 9:35 a.m.

2 Hour Delay: Students may arrive to school at 10:05 a.m.

Emergency Early Dismissal: Students are dismissed at 12:05 p.m.

All information is posted on the website: [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us) as well as local radio, and television stations.

On behalf of all of the staff at Regan School we wish all of you a joyous holiday and hope you have restful break!

### December Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

December 5, 2013 – Early Dismissal @ 1:05 PM – Parent Conference

December 12, 2013 – Kindergarten Report Cards Sent Home

December 12, 2013 – PTO Meeting @ 6:00 PM in Multi-Purpose Room

December 12, 2013 – Early Dismissal @ 1:05 PM – Teacher Collaboration

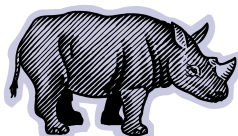
December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> – No School – Winter Recess

January 1, 2014 – No School – New Year's Day

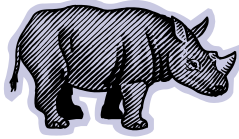
January 2, 2014 – School Resumes

Sincerely,

Noreen E. Buckley  
Principal



## **We Succeed when Regan Rhinos Read!**



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## CLASSROOM NEWS

### **KINDERGARTEN Team – Mrs. Gutierrez and Mrs. Rose**

Happy winter! We are now getting into Unit 2 in our language arts curriculum: Becoming a Reader and Writer. Students will begin to read and write more. We will be doing a lot of shared writing and then students will be able to have a chance to write on their own in response to books we read and creating their own sentences and stories. We will be exploring story elements: characters, setting, problem/solution, and the events of the story. We will also be reading much fun and exciting stories that are similar and students will be able to compare and contrast them, as well as retell them with props. Students will work with word families to help them figure out unknown words. You may see some of them using their arm to sound out the letter sounds in a word :- ) (c-a-t).

We encourage you to read at least 10 minutes every night, and ask your child questions about what you read in the story. You can even have them write a sentence and draw a picture for you of something they heard in the story. The more your child reads and writes the better!

In math, we are exploring addition and subtraction within 5, making 5 and 10 groups to help us count, and breaking numbers apart. We will get to use lots of fun counters and do different activities for winter. Please continue to practice counting by one's to 100 and by ten's to 100 with your child at home. Have some fun and have them practice counting objects at your home, and make up story problems together! The students love doing this.

In science we are exploring states of matter (liquids, solids, and gases) and in social studies we are talking about holidays and celebrations, with a focus on December holidays around the world. We appreciate your support at home. And **PLEASE** clean out red folders on a nightly basis as important notes do go home for you to see. Have a great December!

### **GRADE 1 Team – Ms. Dunn and Mrs. Roden**

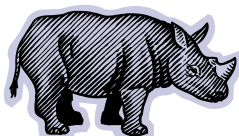
Hello First Grade Parents! As we enter the holiday and cold weather season, please remember to dress your child in a warm coat and sweater! We still go outside for recess and want everyone to be warm.

Remember that homework is sent home every night Monday through Thursday and it needs to be completed and then checked by an adult. Spelling words and high frequency words need to be studied every night.

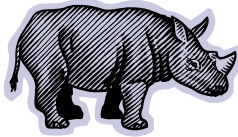
The children are working hard and we want to keep them moving in the right direction. Read and retell a book every night and don't forget about Time for Kids! It's great for non-fiction stories. Thank you, as always, for your help and cooperation and enjoy this exciting time of year with your children!

### **GRADE 2 Team – Mr. Dombrowski and Mr. Homewood**

Second grade students have worked their way through the first marking period and now into the second! In reading, the students are working on text features and nonfiction stories as we start Unit 2.



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In addition, we will be getting into text structures also including cause and effect, problem and solution, sequencing, comparing and contrasting, and description with main ideas and details. *It would be very helpful for you and your child to look for these when you read at home.* In math, the students are learning about place value, ordering numbers, and comparing numbers using greater than (>) and less than (<) signs. In science, we are learning about plants and tree growth and now we will be getting into the life cycle of animals past and present. In social studies, students learned about the first Thanksgiving including Pilgrims and Native Americans. We continue to work vigorously through our new Mathematics and English Language Arts curriculums.

Your child will continue to receive homework Monday – Thursday. They should be studying their spelling words every night since there will be a spelling test **every** Friday! In addition, please encourage your child to read every day for 20 minutes. Ask questions about what he or she read. We also have just made flash cards in the classroom that students will be allowed to bring home and return to school every day for extra practice! You can also go to these websites for additional help: Spellingcity.com, Primarygradesclasspage.com, Starfall.com, Fasttmath.com, Oswego.org, and RAZ-kids.com. We look forward to working with your child to make 2013-2014 a wonderful experience.

## GRADE 3 Team – Mrs. Baker and Mr. Mitchell

All third grade students have been working very hard on the new Common Core. They are learning how to find answers to math problems, and comprehension question. They are able to site evidence and prove their answers.

### December Highlights

Reading – finding the central message of a passage/story

English – finding the main idea of a paragraph and details to support it

Math – multiplication facts 0,1,2,3,4,5, and 10 X tables, estimation (rounding to nearest tens and hundreds) continue to study your tables

Social Studies – finished with Squanto and the First Thanksgiving, and will work on map skills, using cardinal directions

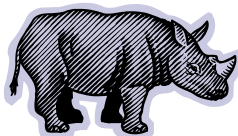
Science – matter, and weather/water cycle

We wish all of you a very happy and healthy holiday!

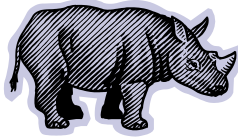
## GRADE 4 Team – Miss O'Brien and Mrs. Scarmo

Fourth grade continues to be very busy. We have been using base ten blocks, number lines, and pictures to help us learn about decimals. We can identify tenths and hundredths and order and compare them. We also continue to work on becoming fluent with our multiplication facts.

We have also been reading informational texts about ecosystems and food chains and food webs. As we read we have become familiar with informational text features like a glossary, diagrams, and timelines. We use these features to help us better understand the text. Please continue to encourage your child to read at home. Books can be great holiday gifts. Best wishes for a very happy holiday season!



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## GRADE 5 Team – Mrs. Hart and Ms. Petruzzi

Class elections are underway. Stay tuned for notice of our new fifth grade Student Council members. Representatives from both fifth grades will meet to discuss options for class field trips, conduct peer tutoring, and decide on reward incentives for Regan Rhinos as they prepare to move on to new middle school pastures.

Throughout the second semester, our reading will focus on *biography*. This will refine specific skills online research, fact and opinion, character traits, and forms of contribution to society. Math will take the foundational multiplication skills into inverse reasoning with *division* strategies, as well as decimal and fractional parts of a whole.

We look forward to discussing your child's progress on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 p.m. Remember to sign-up and allow for a 10-minute rotation (maximum) of parent-teacher meetings. If you are unable to join us on Thursday, please call the school to arrange for a conference in the coming weeks.

At this time, we acknowledge how fortunate we are to spend time with our families at the holidays, and extend our wishes for strength and peace to the families in Newtown throughout the coming season.

Happy Holidays to all our Regan families!

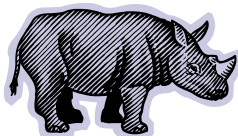
## READING Corner – Mrs. Ciarlo and Mrs. O'Leary

Reading with your child is a wonderful opportunity for you to see how well your child is applying the reading skills that they have learned. Here are some suggestions to follow when reading with your child.

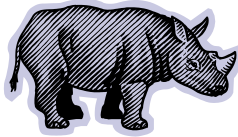
Before you and your child begin to read a book~

- Encourage them to select a story that is not too difficult for them to read.
- Have them read a part of the story that is exciting or familiar to them.
- Remind them to use reading strategies to help with unknown words. For example: read it again, slow down, sound out the word, look for part of the word you know
- Pick books your child is interested in.
- Set a time to read each day (Bedtime is often a good time.)
- Read with enthusiasm!
- Ask your child questions about what he/she is reading.

Look for more suggestions next month! Happy Holidays!



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## **NURSE – Ms. Pelletier**

Wow! It's December and 2013 is coming to a close. Our country, our school and our families have accomplished much this year. Let us remember them and celebrate them this last month of 2013.

Winter has been knocking at our door with some cold days in November. Please make sure your child has hat and gloves and warm coats. Have them put their hats and gloves in the coat sleeve when removing it. This way they have them and not left in the locker, at lunch or dismissal.

Also I suggest for all students to carry an extra pair of socks in their bags. With wet rainy or snowy days ahead, some get their feet wet at the bus stop.

I continue to receive and remind those kindergarteners whose physicals need or are being done this month to bring them in as soon as they are completed.

I wish all of you and your families a joyous holiday and a New Year of good health and happiness!

## **PARENT LIAISON – Mrs. Poulter**

Mark your calendars! Lots of things going on in the next few weeks!

\* Please join us for "Family Math Night" on Wednesday, December 4, from 6 - 7:00 p.m. It should be a fun event and a great opportunity to learn math activities you can do at home that meet the Common Core State Math Standards. Many take home items will be available. See attached flyer for more details.

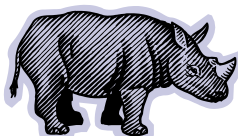
\* Parent-Teacher Conferences Thursday, December 5 from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

\* Holiday Shop – December 9-13. Volunteers needed. Sign-up sheet and more information to follow. If you have any questions, please contact me.

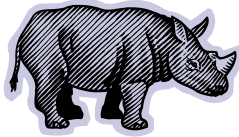
As we enjoy the winter break, take the time to enjoy family time together by reading, playing board games, or watching movies. Remember every moment can be a teachable one.

Remember if I can assist you in anyway, you can contact me at (203) 346-2603 or the main number at (203) 574-8187.

Wishing you a very happy and healthy holiday and a wonderful new year!



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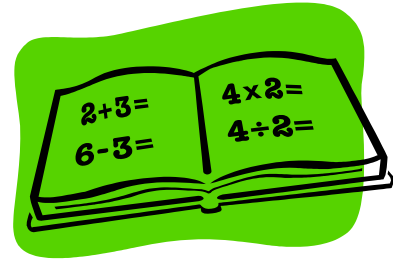
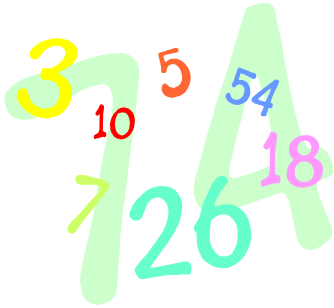
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## FUN WITH MATH

**When:** Wednesday, December 4, 2013

**Where:** Regan's All Purpose Room

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Guest:** Math Coach Bob Shagensky

### Here's How It Works:

- 8 Stations will be set up.
- At each station, families will play and learn a Math activity.
- All activities will be correlated to meet the Common Core State Math Standards.

Refreshments will be served

Take home math supplies for those who attend

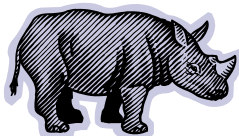
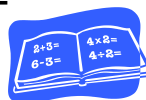
Please return to Patty Poulter, Parent Liaison by Monday, Dec 2, 2013

### Math Night

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

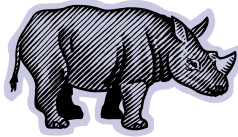
Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_



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## WATERBURY PARENTS!

*Enroll your child in a School Readiness preschool program. Get Your Child Ready for Kindergarten Now! Your child can start tomorrow! Quality preschool education and care is available now for your 3 or 4 year old.*

- Many sites across Waterbury;  Planned learning activities;  Safe and secure classrooms;
- Qualified teachers  Accept all children 3 and 4 years old!
- Free** or low cost based on family income.

Visit or call the Waterbury School Readiness Office Chase Building Room 104 -236 Grand Street (across from City Hall) and ask about our programs! We will help you find a program for your preschool child. Openings in programs are available today.

**For openings call 203-573-6684 or [www.waterbury.k12.ct.us/wsr/](http://www.waterbury.k12.ct.us/wsr/)**

### What We Know

Children are born with a great potential to learn. Scientists who study how the brain works have found that children learn much earlier, and far more, than once thought possible. A child's first teacher is his or her family.

Reading is the most important skill a child can learn. At an early age, families should introduce their preschool children to activities that will provide a strong foundation for reading in and out of school.

These include:

- Looking at books and hearing stories read aloud;
- Learning new words and their meanings;
- Learning the letters of the alphabet; and
- Hearing the individual sounds in words.

In addition to reading skills, children can develop early math skills by having adults counting and sorting with them and pointing out different shapes and patterns.

There are many benefits to placing a child in a good **preschool program**, especially one that teaches these early learning skills. You can enroll your child in some **Waterbury School Readiness preschool programs** as early as age three. *Research shows that children who attend a quality preschool program, on average, perform better in reading and math, have better attendance in school and are less likely to be asked to repeat a grade.*

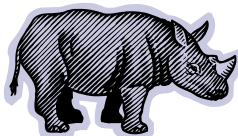
### In addition to attendance in a School Readiness preschool program –

#### What Families Can Do?

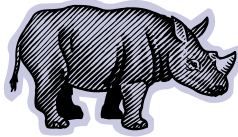
Families can create a safe, friendly and fun learning environment at home.

You can:

- Read aloud to your children every day. Involve them in activities that allow them to talk, listen, explore and wonder. This tells them that learning is both enjoyable and important.
- Make sure there are always books and reading materials around the house.
- Take your child to the local library, and help him or her get a library card.
- Ask older brothers and sisters to pitch in and read to your preschooler.



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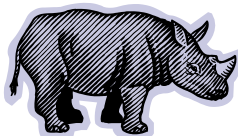
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## WATERBURY SCHOOL READINESS Grant Year 13-14

Call School Readiness Office for Current Openings 203-573-6684

PROGRAM	ADDRESS	PHONE 203-
*The Ark Child Development Center	2030 East Main Street, 06705	757-9917
*The Ark Early Care & Ed. Center	222 West Main Street, 06702	
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*Catholic Charities:	88 Cooke Street, 06704	596-9359
	965 South Main St., 06706	
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*Children's Center of Greater Wtby.	64 Robbins Street, 06708	573-6289
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* Children's Community School (Full-time & School-Yr)	31 Wolcott Street, 06702	575-0659
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*Easter Seals – All Kids Childcare Center	22 Tompkins Street, 06708	754-5141
East Childcare Center	128 Ave. of Industry, 06705	
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Family Resource Ctr. – *Chase School:	40 Woodtick Road, 06705	573-6689
Wilson School: (School-day only 8-2)	235 Birch Street, 06704	
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*Kid's Town LLC (Offers Transportation)	835 Wolcott Street, 06705	575-9137
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*N.O. Inc. Muriel Moore (Main Office)	444 North Main St., 06702	759-0841
Slocum Head Start	74 North Walnut, 06704	
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*NVCC – Discovery School	750 Chase Parkway, 06708	596-8604
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*Rainbow Academy LLC	145 Bucks Hill Rd., 06704	754-7815
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*St. Mary's Hospital Child Dev. Center	56 Franklin Street, 06706	709-6385
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<b>Waterbury Public Schools</b>	(Offers Transportation)	
Bucks Hill Annex (Part-time only)	330 Bucks Hill Rd., 06704	574-8024
Gilmartin School (School-day only)	107 Wyoming Ave. 06706	
Duggan School (School-day only)	38 West Porter St., 06708	
Reed School (School-day only)	33 Griggs St., 06704	
Carrington School (School day only)	24 Kenmore Ave. 06708	
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Waterbury Youth Services/Sprague School (Part-time only)	1443 Thomaston Ave., 06704 (Offers Transportation)	573-0264
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*YMCA Child Care Center	136 West Main Street, 06702	754-2181
*Full-time Programs		



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