

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

Subscribed websites: www.cmttestprepfun.com www.ixl.com www.RazKids.com www.ReadingA-Z.com

Regan Newsletter February 2014

Dear Parents and Families of Regan School,

January seemed as though it would never end! It has been a very harsh winter. Please continue to be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the hard conditions. We hope the Ground Hog does not see his shadow and spring will arrive early.

Please review the times below for delayed openings, early dismissals, and emergency early dismissals. Report cards will be handed out on February 11, 2014. Please contact school with any questions.

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

Early Dismissal: Students are dismissed at 1:05 p.m.

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

All information is posted on the website: www.waterbury.k12.ct.us as well as local radio, and television stations.

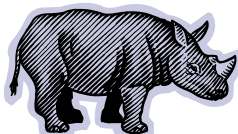
February Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

February 12, 2014 – Early Dismissal @ 1:05 PM – Teacher Collaboration

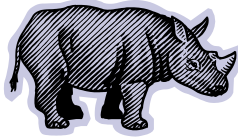
February 17th & 18th – President's Day & Lincoln's Birthday Observed – No School

Sincerely,

Noreen E. Buckley
Principal



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CLASSROOM NEWS

KINDERGARTEN Team – Mrs. Gutierrez and Mrs. Rose

My goodness, the year is flying by in Kindergarten! We are busy, busy, and busy. Some highlights: Reading/Writing: Students are busy reading books and decoding new words. You might see them "stretching" words like a rubber band to listen for sounds, or using their arms to help them chunk out the sounds and blend them together. We also have our own Writing Workshop in class where students are working on creating their very own stories, with complete sentences and detailed pictures to match. Please encourage your children to write stories and sentences with you at home about things they have done, what they like, and about stories they have read.

Please continue to read with your child at home at least 4-5 nights a week. After reading, ask your child: Who were the characters? What was the setting? What was the problem (if there was one), What was the solution? What happened FIRST, NEXT, LAST in the story? Retelling a story is something students will *need* to know when we start DRA testing in the Spring. The more practice they have the better!

Math: Students continue to solve addition and subtraction facts, as well as story problems. We are also working on comparing numbers (what number/group has more? less?) We have also been comparing 2D and 3D shapes. After reading the story Corduroy students had a chance to create button patterns, as well as count, sort, and add gummy bears! Yum!

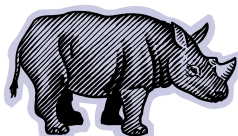
Social Studies: We will celebrate Black History Month by learning about different African-American people from history, like Harriet Tubman and Martin Luther King Jr.

Science: We continue to explore the weather and the four seasons and the changes that they bring. Just a reminder: Check red folders nightly for important papers and notes from class, as well as your child's work. We appreciate your support at home.

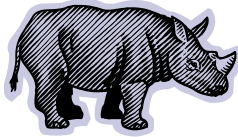
GRADE 1 Team – Ms. Dunn and Mrs. Roden

As we finish our DRA testing, we push full speed ahead into more reading and retelling. Please read with your child every night, and then ask them to retell the story with the book closed. Non-fiction texts (like Time for Kids) are also important to practice. Ask your child to restate facts from the story or article as the method for retelling non-fiction. Also, rereading stories is a great way to increase your child's fluency.

Please work on telling time to the hour and half hour with your child. Always practice basic math facts to twenty. With the cold weather, please send your child with a uniform sweater or long sleeve shirt; it can get chilly when the doors are open. Thank you for your cooperation and hard work.



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GRADE 2 Team – Mr. Dombrowski and Mr. Homewood

Second grade students in our classes are ready to continue to work efficiently and expand their thinking! Students continue to work on various genres of literature in reading. Our second graders just took the winter DRA's and students continue to grow! Please continue to encourage your child to read at least 10-15 minutes every night. Ask them questions about what they have read so you can be sure that they are practicing "real reading" by reading the words and not just flipping through the pages and just looking at the pictures. We are just starting Unit 3 and focusing more on folktales and fables. Report cards will be issued soon. Continue to ask students what text features they have learned about.

In math, the students will be learning how to create and interpret information using various types of graphs as well as multiple time and money examples. They will also create and solve comparison story problems based on interpreting graphs and measurements. As we have been throughout the course of the year we will continue to focus on place value. Students have been spending a lot of time learning about different animals in science including animals of study. This is a busy month in social studies. The students will be learning about famous African Americans and their contributions to American society. They will also be learning about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and their contributions to American society as President's Day approaches. Students cannot wait to share their work with you!

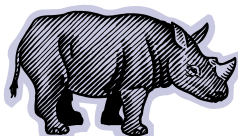
Your child will continue to receive homework Monday – Thursday. They should be studying their spelling words every night since there will be a spelling test **every** Friday! In addition, please encourage your child to read every day for 20 minutes. Ask questions about what he or she read. We also have 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. Happy Holidays! 2014...here we come! ☺

GRADE 3 Team – Mrs. Baker and Mr. Mitchell

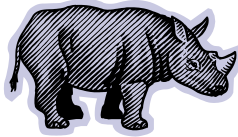
We hope you are staying warm and healthy during these cold winter days. February is a short month, however, a very busy one!

The students will continue to prepare for upcoming assessments. Please have your child READ each night to improve fluency and comprehension. This will help them prepare for the DRA and DIBELS assessments.

All students should also be practicing their multiplication and division facts - flash cards are great for this drill. We will be having weekly math challenges to help with this.



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February Highlights:

Reading --- Introduction of Unit 3 Non-fiction, informational text features cause/effect, compare/contrast, summarizing, sequencing, and continue to cite evidence when answering questions

English --- Paragraph/story writing, review of pronouns, conjunctions, adjectives,

Math --- Addition and subtraction with and without regrouping; multiplication and division facts/strategies; problem-solving with 2-step problems, continue with time, awaiting a performance task to be completed by the class.

Science --- Continue with plant and animal life, changes of the earth, discussing the layers

Social Studies --- African-American history (cultural connections, diversity), discuss the presidents, past and present, and other seasonal events

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

Fourth graders continue to be very busy. We recently completed our ELA Unit 2 Assessment.

Students researched information on global warming using websites, articles, and informational books.

They created posters displaying causes for climate change and presented them to the class. Ask your child to share what they learned with you.

In math we will be sharing our knowledge of basic multiplication facts on "Fun Fact Fridays". Also, in class, we will build upon our fraction concepts. In addition, we will spend time in the computer lab exploring a practice test for the new SBAC test. This test will be given later this year in place of CMT's. Please continue to check your child's homework folder and assignment sheet for notices and updated school information.

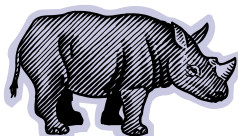
GRADE 5 Team – Mrs. Hart and Ms. Petruzzi

Happy Chinese New Year -- The Year of the Horse!

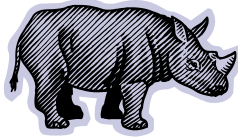
Congratulations to the newly-elected members of Grade 5 Student Council. Ms. Petruzzi's class elected Naomi Lesinsky as President, Kylee Corcoran as Vice President, and Nathan Daunis as Secretary. Mrs. Hart's class elected Natalia Colella as President, Christopher Pickering as Vice President, Melanie Lopez as Treasurer, and Nataly Topolosci as Secretary. We look forward to the plans and ideas for school wide activities of our council in our third and fourth semesters. Let's get peer tutoring underway!

Our month starts with a brand new English Language Arts Unit, and we'll all get a chance to *really* look at ourselves through guided reading and narrative read-aloud. The unit title is The Good, The Bad and The Ugly: Fiction, Realistic Fiction and Poetry. Through fictional characters and different points of view in narrative texts, students will have the opportunity to think about the person they want to see when they look in the mirror.

Math skills will refine fraction sense and application of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills as they are applied to visualizing mixed numbers. This can be along a line plot, or in an area



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model. We will also begin a school-wide Math challenge grade-level contest on Friday afternoons -- sure to be the noisiest day of the week!

Instead of CMTs, we have been preparing for the first use of the Connecticut standardized *Smarter Balance Assessments*, and would like to encourage all of our students, whenever possible, to utilize snow days by logging onto www.testprepfun.com. It's the best way to become familiar with the most of the content that will appear in new format.

Report cards will be distributed on February 11th. We will observe President Washington and Lincoln's birthdays on February 17/18th. Enjoy!

READING Corner – Mrs. Ciarlo and Mrs. O’Leary

Students in grades 3-5 are preparing to take a new assessment called Smarter Balanced. This assessment will replace the Connecticut Mastery Test. These assessments will be administered online and will go beyond multiple choice questions to include performance tasks that allow students to demonstrate research, writing, and analytical skills. This assessment is aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts/literacy and mathematics for grades 3-8 and 11. That means students in all states will be taught the same material.

The results of the Smarter Balanced test are more accurate and provide information about what students are learning. Because these assessments are computer adaptive, they will also provide better information about the needs and successes of individual students. This test will give parents and teachers a clearer window on whether students are on track to graduate high school, ready for college and the workplace.

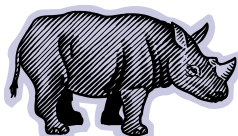
Parents and students will receive the results of these assessments from their school system in a readable and easy-to-understand format, most likely online. Also parents can use this information to better communicate with teachers and school administrators about their child's success. For more information, you can visit the website smarterbalanced.org

NURSE – Ms. Pelletier

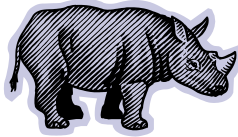
Well it's February and I sure hope the ground hog tells us spring is on its way! We sure have been in the "freeze", so continue to make sure you and your child are bundled up well and warm for school and outside.

The health office has completed the hearing tests. Notes as needed for follow up have been sent home. Also the nurse continues to finish up vision testing. Referrals for follow up are also going home.

Please, if your child has a fever, so not send them to school. They should be "fever free" for 24 hours. Send a note in with them once they return. Hang in there, spring will really come!



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PARENT LIAISON – Mrs. Poulter

I hope everyone is enjoying the winter weather. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage in family time. On these snow days you can enjoy playing cards or board games, reading or watching a movie together.

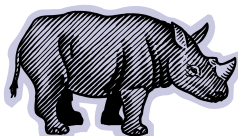
I would like to thank the staff that helped with the Book Fair and our parent volunteer – Carla McBean, Terry Anderson's mom (4O'B) and Tasha Lott, Tylon Lott's mom (KG). Your help is very much appreciated.

School Governance Council Module 3 Training and information is Tuesday, February 4, 2014 (Snow date Wednesday, February 5) from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Kennedy High School, 422 Highland Avenue. All are invited to attend (see attached flyer).

PBIS – Valentine Lollipop sale – February 3rd - 7th, delivery date February 13th. Please support our school!

Be Mine Bingo –February 14th - talk to your child and encourage them to earn a heart to play intercom bingo.

If you need books or materials you can contact me at (203) 346-2603 or the main number at (203) 574-8187.



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