

# 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)

## *Regan Newsletter May 2015*

Dear Parents and Families,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend Student Conferences on April 29, 2015. For the second year, teachers and students in grade 2, 4, and 5 participated in Student Led Conferences. Students, themselves shared with their families their individual growth in all academic areas.

### Important Dates to Mark on Your Calendar

May 1, 2015 – Distribute 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Report Cards  
May 6, 2015 – Early Dismissal @ 1:05 PM – Teacher Collaboration Day  
May 7, 2015 – McDonald's Night @ Chase Avenue Location from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
May 15, 2015 – Field Day – Details to Follow  
May 16, 2015 – The Gathering @ Library Park from 11:00 AM – 8:00 PM  
May 25, 2015 – No School – Memorial Day

### Mission Statement of Regan Elementary School:

*Our mission is to educate all students to high academic standards in an environment that cultivates character, fosters pro-social behavior and inspires the love of learning.*

### Vision Statement of Regan Elementary School:

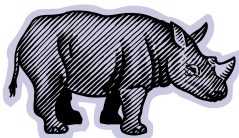
*Our vision is for all students to become proficient in effective communication, critical reasoning and logical problem solving. We seek to meet the needs of all learners within a student-centered, data-driven learning community where we continually collect, analyze and act on student performance data to improve teaching and learning.*



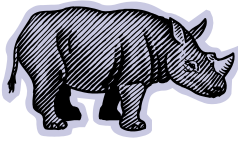
Ask your students what their daily learning targets were today.

Sincerely,

Noreen E. Buckley  
Principal



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



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## CLASSROOM NEWS

### **KINDERGARTEN Team – Mrs. Gutierrez/Ms. Parks**

Hi Everyone! We are in the home stretch, but there is still lots of work to do before the end of the year. We have a lot of fun events coming up as well that we are looking forward to.

Please continue reading with your child at home and having them read to you, even if it is just words they know and can find on the pages. In class we have been reading some fun stories about Earth day, and fairy tales like The Three Little Pigs. Students love listening to the stories and sharing their favorite part of character. The student's writing have really been developing nicely. They are using two finger spaces between their words, punctuation marks and upper case letters at the beginning of sentences. In addition, they are using their phonics code instruction to help them stretch and blend sounds to write the words they want to make their sentence. They will further develop this skill with other classroom and homework assignments in preparation for their end of the year culminating assessment which will be to write their own story with a beginning, middle and end. The task will be challenging, and we encourage you to make practice stories with your child at home to help them. A story might be very simple at this level.

For example: *My Day at the Beach*

*One day, my family and I went to the beach. First, we went to swim in the water. Next, we sat down on a blanket and had lunch. I ate a ham and cheese sandwich. Then, my brother and I made a sandcastle. It was huge! Last, we packed up our stuff and drove home. I had a very good day at the beach.*

In math, we continue to work on math story problems, number sentences, comparing numbers, and using math strategies to solve problems. We will also be exploring measurement in this last unit. In science and social studies we will continue to discuss animals, plants and nature. Our upcoming share and tell bags will be based off of these themes. We will talk about animal and plant life cycles, weather, farms, and taking care of our natural environment. These discussions will be a great preview to all we will see and learn on our field trip to Flanders Nature Center on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We cannot wait to go and explore together.

Please remember to send in your child's share and tell bag for the week. A note always goes home with the theme we are working on. This is part of your child's homework and participation grade, as well as their "points" for a fun activity at the end of the week. Thank you in advance for your help with this, the students really love it. Let's keep going strong until the end of the year. Thanks for all your support so far. The students are truly "leaping" their way towards a great end of the year.

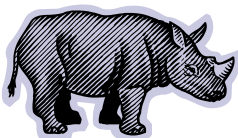
### **GRADE 1 Team – Ms. Dunn and Mrs. Russell**

Spring is finally here! Happy May!! Our first graders have been working extremely hard. In reading this month we will be learning about special authors for our author study unit. Ask your child which author we are learning about. In phonics we are learning about blends and vowel teams. Remember to practice the trick words sent home because they are tested after each unit.

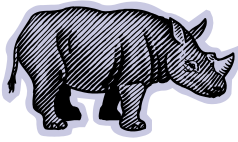
In math we will be learning how to add double digit by double digit numbers. Please continue practice adding using the hundreds chart. Our students did an excellent job on CFA #7 and we want to continue their great math skills all the way until the end of the school year. As a reminder, please have your child read daily. Have them read a book and then retell it to you. See if they are able to retell in sequential order and without any assistance from you. We will have our TRC test in May and this is a very important skill that our first graders have been working on.

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

It is hard to believe that the year is a month away from ending but our second grade students are ready to continue to working right up to the finish line. Students continue to work on various genres of literature in reading. Our second graders will be taking the TRC and MClass assessments this month to determine their end of the year reading levels and we are both excited to see the amount of growth our students have made from September to now. Please continue to



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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 working hard on Unit 4 – poetry and reader’s theatre. Students cannot wait to share their work with you! In addition, the children are working on reading fluently, making predictions, answering open ended comprehension questions, summarizing, finding the main idea and details, and author’s purpose for writing.

In math, we continue to focus on place value. Emphasis is placed on regrouping in addition and ungrouping in subtraction up to the hundreds place. Students will continue to make new tens, hundreds, and thousands. In social studies, we are continuing to discuss community and how they can become excellent citizens.

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. You can also go to these websites for additional help: Spellingcity.com, IXL.com, Raz-Kids.com, Primarygradesclasspage.com, Starfall.com, and TenMarks.com. We are looking forward to a great final marking period and 2 months in the second grade! ☺

## **GRADE 3 Team – Mrs. Harrigan and Mr. Mitchell**

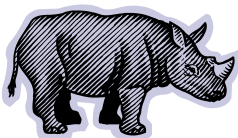
### **Ways a Parent Can Help With Reading**

1. Let your child see you reading! Have magazines and books in your home.
2. Help your child find appropriate reading and word games online. Keep a dictionary on hand. Help your child look up new words.
3. Read mysteries with your child and try to figure out the clues together.
4. Movie version coming out? Read the book together first, and then talk about which you liked better.
5. Set aside a time and place for your child to read - like a comfy chair and a reading light in a quiet place.
6. Visit your public library regularly. Look for and read together the books that were your favorite when you were a child.
7. Encourage your child to write - letters, thank you notes, emails, journals, lists, stories about their own trips, events, and daily life.
8. Ask your child questions about what he or she is reading, such as:
  - What is the story about?
  - Who are the important people in the story?
  - Where does the story take place?
  - Why do you think that person made that choice?
  - What do you think will happen next?
  - How do you know about ...?
  - Would you recommend this book to your friends?
9. Ask your child to draw a comic strip about what happens in the story.
10. Provide word searches, crosswords, and other games and puzzles, or help your child make their own.
11. Share with your child what you are reading, and encourage your child to do the same.

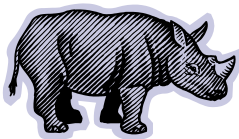
**HAPPY READING!!!**

## **GRADE 4 Team – Mrs. Bertrand and Miss O’Brien**

It was a long winter but we finally made it to the nice weather and the last marking period! We are very busy with end of the year testing both for Mclass and our standardized Smarter Balanced Assessments. The testing window for MClass is April 27th - May 15th. Please remember to READ EVERY NIGHT with your child and have them summarize the events in the story. 4B will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessments on May 12, 13, 14 and 19th, and 4O will be taking them



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on May 20th, 26th, 27th, and 28th. Have your child go to bed early the night before, so they are refreshed and ready to do their best!

Along with our new marking period, we began a new unit in ELA about Folk Literature. The students will be identifying and comparing various types of Folk Literature and even writing their own tales. Our new math unit is all about geometry. We have begun talking about types of lines and angles. The end of the year also brings a few fun activities. We are looking forward to our Field Day on May 15th and our Junior Achievement Day is May 26th.

Thank you to those parents who attended our student-led conferences. It was a pleasure seeing you all again! As final reminder, please remember that even with the warmer weather, students must be in uniform and follow our school-wide expectations every day!

## **GRADE 5 Team – Mrs. Chasse and Ms. Betancourt**

Students did a great job on their culminating assessments for the 3rd marking period. We are now in the fourth marking period. Dibbles and TRC reading tests have begun. Please continue to have your children practice reading at home. Please speak to your children about continuing to follow their Regan Rhino expectations as there are many rewards coming up that they will have to earn. We are wrapping up our Smarter Balanced Testing which test reading, language arts and math concepts. Please continue to work on math facts. Students have begun working on algebraic expressions in math.

## **LITERACY FACILITATOR – Mrs. Roden**

Hello to all our Regan families. Our EOY (end of year) reading assessments are currently being administered to all grade levels. When the testing window closes, results will be sent home again as they were for BOY (beginning of year) and MOY (middle of year).

Please continue to read with your child and to ask him/her questions after reading. Remember to ask your child to tell you how many sounds are in word, and to break apart those sounds for you. If your child has a Lexia account, please help him/her to use Lexia every day after school and on the weekends. Thank you for your continued support at home. We look forward to sharing our end of year progress with you!

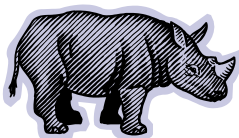
## **NURSE – Ms. Pelletier**

“April Showers” have finally brought us “Spring Flowers”. Along with this beauty comes “allergy season”. Drinking plenty of fluids and keeping nostrils moist with vaseline can help alleviate some of the irritations. Washing hands frequently can also help. Children with asthma should follow the above rules as well as not over exerting, especially on warm and humid days. Those who need a med in school and do not have one, call the nurse’s office for information and forms. Any referrals for vision or hearing follow-ups, please return Doctor’s findings or appointment date for follow up. Any questions, please call me at 203-574-8305.

All fifth graders moving onto middle school, remember your physical must be dated from January 205 to June 2016. This physical is State mandated for all sixth graders. Sports physicals are due each year prior to any try outs. A summer or early fall physical will be good for one year for all sports. Again any questions, please call me. Testing continues for our children so getting a good night sleep and breakfast is always number one for success. Enjoy the nice weather and get outside and do something fun as a family.

## **PBIS TEAM**

McEducator Night at McDonald’s - We are planning to do our McDonald's fundraiser night on Thursday May 7, 2015 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the McDonald's located on Chase Avenue. This is also the same night as a PTO meeting, so we will be holding it there with hopes of getting more parents involved with the PTO. Ten percent of the **total** profit we make from 4:00-7:00 p.m. will be donated to the PBIS team.



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