



Sprague Elementary School

November ~ 2015

Mrs. Bakewell, Principal

Mrs. Tsacoyeanes, Vice Principal

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:

Dear Families –

We want to ensure that our students are healthy and able to attend school regularly so that they are actively engaged in their learning. We ask that students dress warmly for school as they will be going outside for recess and many will be waiting at the bus stop. This year one of our goals is to reduce chronic absenteeism and it is very important that we work together to be sure that our students attend school every day.

Mrs. Diane Bakewell

November Calendar of Events

November 3	NO SCHOOL - Professional Development Day for Staff
November 10	School Governance Council Meeting 2:35pm
November 11	NO SCHOOL - Veteran's Day
November 17	McEducator Night at McDonald's 4:00 - 7:00pm Chase Avenue
November 19	Report Card distribution - Grades 1-5
November 24	End of 1 st Marking Period - Pre-K & Kindergarten
November 24	Picture Retake Day
November 25	Early Dismissal - Thanksgiving Recess
November 26 & 27	- NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Recess
November 30	Student of the Month Ceremony 10:00am



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD SUCCEED IN SCHOOL?

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless he/she is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomachache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors, or other parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

(taken from attendanceworks.org)

****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.

Please be sure that outerwear is labeled with your child's name. We have accumulated many items - coats, hats, sweaters, etc. If your child is missing an item please direct them to the Lost & Found bucket in the gym.



News from the Nurse

The nurse's office is still in need of some Pre k and Kindergarten physicals and lead test results. Please get them into the nurse, as soon as possible, if you have received a notification that it is missing or the student needs a physical/lead. I will accept an appointment date if one is due and has not been done. Also our Pre K students will need to have a flu shot by 12/31/2015 or they will be excluded when they return after Christmas break. Any questions please call the school nurse at 203-574-8324.

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 **SAFETY**. Sprague students are encouraged each day to demonstrate safety in all areas of the building, including the school bus. Students travel through the hallways in quiet lines staying to the right, they keep their feet and hands to themselves at all times, and they always ask permission from the adult before leaving the room. These are just a few of the ways that students can stay safe. As you refer to the expectation chart that was sent home last month, you can see the specific behaviors that show safety in all areas - classroom, hallway, bathroom, cafeteria, recess and bus/dismissal. Throughout the month ask your child to share ways that they demonstrated safety in school. You may want to even create an expectation chart for home. Have your child come up with a list of ways they can be safe in their own 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

In recognition of National Bullying Awareness month, we, at Sprague School, ask that students pledge to never bully, and never allow another to be bullied. Our school counselor, Mrs. Ogilvy, has been focusing her lessons on raising awareness about bullying, and the prevention of it. Please remind your child to always be kind to others and to advocate for others whom are having difficulty doing so themselves. Please encourage your child to use their words to resolve their conflicts. Here at Sprague, we prompt students to use an I-Statement when they have a conflict. For example, "I feel mad when you cut me in line and I want you to stop." If your child continues to have a conflict with a peer after using their words to attempt to solve their problem, please encourage your child to seek assistance from a member of the support staff. Thank you.

Katie Brayton, MSW
School Social Worker

Ms. Ogilvy, the new School Counselor at Sprague, is meeting with all the classes this month to talk to students about preventing bullying in school. October is National Bullying Awareness Month. Ms. Ogilvy will be in all the classrooms each month, teaching lessons that will help students in all areas of their lives.

News from the Parent Liaison

Our annual Harvest Family Night was a very well attended event. I hope everyone enjoyed the evening, especially the Dominicans-USA Dancers. Thank you to all the parents that helped out by donating their time to help set up as well as making donations. Little Caesar's Pizza fundraiser was a great success. Thank you for showing your support! If you need a registration key to access Progress Book, please contact me at:

vdemirali@waterbury.k12.ct.us or call me at: (203) 346-3916.

Vjollca Demirali, Parent Liaison.

Students of the Month - September

Kindergarten

Ms. DeVito - Angeliza Mediavilla
Mrs. Feola - Laderrick Jones
Mrs. Maghini - Daniellah Arline
Mr. Giammatteo - Jeremias Pacheco
Ms. Stasaitis - Lizbeth Martinez

Grade 1

Ms. Cianfagna - Ethan Mejias
Mrs. Martinez - Donovan Bremmer
Mrs. Newman - Caleb Richardson
Mrs. Albino - Jonathan Drown

Grade 2

Mrs. Hirbour - Jalyssa Magris
Mrs. Horan - Michael Lapinski
Ms. Kaminsky - Jowel Matos

Grade 3

Mrs. Boucher - Crishara Solone
Mrs. Grazhdani- Ariana Monegro
Mr. Smith - Javier Luis

Grade 4

Mrs. Goderre - Justice Queen
Ms. Williams - Jahry Smith
Mrs. Lombardi - Anjeska Perez

Grade 5

Mrs. Olson - Matteo Beaulieu
Mrs. Pascale - Jacqueline Hernandez

Around the School

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

Kindergarteners are working hard. The students are very excited that our Science Unit called "Push! Pull! Go!" has started. We are talking about force and motion and learning about what makes things move!

Grade 1 - Mrs. Albino, Ms. Cianfagna, Mrs. Martinez, Mrs. Newman

We are wrapping up the first marking period in first grade. In Literacy we have been focusing on Oral Language in both Literacy and Numeracy. We have been working on retelling events from stories in Literacy. In Numeracy we have been working on solving story problems and have just introduced types of graphs and how to interpret data using various graphs.

Grade 2 - Mrs. Hirbour, Mrs. Horan, Ms. Kaminsky

It's hard to believe that we have already completed our second month of school. As we are beginning to get into the cooler months, please make sure your child is prepared for outdoor recess with coats, etc., well-marked with their names. Also, if they need a sweater for the classroom, it must be a uniform color and not a hoodie. Students will be outside for recess, weather permitting. Windows in the classrooms are kept open throughout the winter months to keep the germs at bay. We have completed our second DAT (District Assessment Test) for Math. We are going to be starting our second marking period in Literacy, working on Text Features etc. Our second Math Module is "What's the Situation?" Please continue to make sure your child is doing homework every night and handing it in on Friday. Folders should be checked and emptied out each night. We are still continuing to stress our SOAR Behavior throughout the school.

Grade 3 - Mr. Smith, Mrs. Boucher, Mrs. Grazhdani

The grade three classrooms will be starting a fun and interesting new concept in reading during the month of November; we will begin exploring the central message or theme of a story. We will use what we learned about characters and character traits from the first ten weeks of school to help us figure out the central message of a story. Common themes will include: friendship, compassion, perseverance, and loyalty just to name a few. Third grade teachers are looking for parent volunteers to run book clubs and literature circles. Parents who are willing and able to come to school two days a week during November from 10a.m. to 11a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you are available and have a student in Mr. Smith's, Mrs. Boucher's or Mrs. Grazhdani's class please send in a note with your child or email Mr. Smith at wsmith@waterbury.k12.ct.us, Mrs. Boucher at mboucher@waterbury.k12.ct.us, or Mrs. Grazhdani at egrazhdani@waterbury.k12.ct.us. Thank you!

Grade 4 - Mrs. Lombardi, Mrs. Goderre, Ms. Williams

Literacy-Fourth Grade students are wrapping up their unit on Informational text. Students will be learning about global warming and the effects it has on the Earth. Students will be completing a culminating project on global warming, including different ways that information can be presented. Please continue to read at home! Numeracy-Students continue to work on multiplication and division. Students have used repeated addition/subtraction, area model, and standard algorithms to persevere through various multi-digit multiplication and subtraction problems. Please continue to work with your child on their multiplication facts!

Grade 5 - Mrs. Pascale, Mrs. Olson

As the 1st marking period comes to a close, the 5th graders have been very busy writing their own mystery stories! The students have also used their knowledge and creativity in Science by making their own musical instruments. The students have also been working with decimals in Math. Parents: Please check your child's planner daily and encourage them to read at least 20 minutes a night.

Library - Ms. Carbonell

In the library, our kindergarten friends are learning how to use a shelf marker and check out books for the first time. In first grade, we're learning the difference of fiction and non-fiction, the character, setting, problem and solution of a book. 2nd grade is talking about character traits within a book. 3rd, 4th, and 5th are all learning about the organization of the library and how important is it to know how the Dewey Decimal system works. As of the middle of October, all grades are checking out and many students have already checked out at least 6 books this year!

