Six to Six NEWS

READING/WRITING TIPS. PAGE 2
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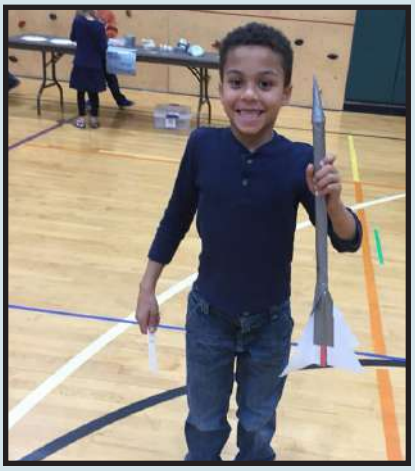
JANUARY 11, 2018

A night for STEM exploring



About 40 Six to Six families attended a Family STEM night presented by Connecticut STEM Academy on Dec. 7. The families were invited to join in for a night of exploring Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Families had a chance to build a rocket, create a tower, program a Sphero robot with a smartphone, code with Ozobots and engage in many more hands-on investigations.

The gymnasium was transformed into an exploration lab with rockets flying overhead and Sphero balls being directed to follow commands from the children.

Some feedback from the people who attended included:

"Great time learning with my children."
"Wish it could have been longer."
"We can't wait until the spring event."

The next family STEM night will be May 10, and thanks to a mini-grant from the CES Foundation, our school now has its own set of Ozobots and can start to plan more STEM Night experiences for their students and families.

-- Eva Kibby

Ask questions to engage with the text

By Elena Silva, Six to Six Literacy Coordinator

Our goal at Six to Six is to teach students to become life-long readers. That means that our students will read because they want to, not because they have to!

In order to foster this love for reading in our students we encourage them to engage directly with the text. One way to do this is by teaching students to ask questions as they read. Asking and answering questions while reading can help students push themselves to read on. When reading a story, students can ask questions about what will come next, why the characters do what they do, or why the author made the choices she or he did. When reading a nonfiction book or article, students may wonder about the topic and related ideas.

Whether you are reading to your child or your child is reading independently at home, encourage him or her to engage with the text by asking questions.

Some prompts to get the conversation going:

- What are you wondering?
- What makes you ask that?
- Have you find the answer to your question yet?
- What are you curious about?
- Try starting with who, what, where, when, or why.
- That's what you know. What are you wondering about that? (Nonfiction)
- That's what happened. What question can you ask about that? (Fiction)
- Do you think the answer to your question is in this book, or will you need to read another to find that out?
- Tell me about the conversation you're having in your mind.
- What is your guess about the answer to your question?

Writing Strategy of the Month:
Make a Plan for Writing Time

In our last newsletter we discussed the importance of having a writing notebook at home for children to write in authentic ways. Our goal is for children to see that writing can be a part of everyday life and is not always a homework assignment. Within this at home writer's notebook you can support and help improve your child's writing. An easy way to do this is by helping your child make a plan for his or her at home writing time. This will provide your child with a focus for writing.

If your child has a hard time generating a list of ways to improve his or her writing you can ask your child's teacher for strategies that they are currently working on in writing at school. Keep those strategies nearby to help your child make a writing plan at home.

Some prompts to get the conversation going:

- What are you hoping to accomplish as you write today?
- List three things you want to try as you write in your journal today.
- Jot your plan in your margin or on a sticky note.

C.E.S. leader resigning at end of year

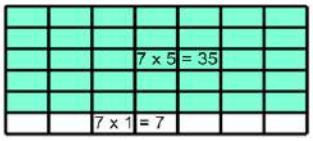
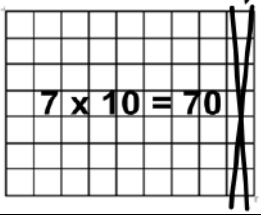
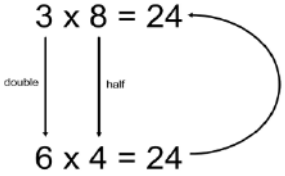
Dr. Evan Pitkoff (left), Executive Director of C.E.S., will be retiring at the end of this school year. The board is conducting a comprehensive search to ensure C.E.S. has a highly qualified Director to begin in the fall. The search team is hosting a focus group to hear feedback from families that have children attending C.E.S. operated school programs. This is a very important opportunity for your voices to be part of the search process. All are welcome on Tuesday, Jan. 16, at 6 p.m. at C.E.S. at 25 Oakview Drive in Trumbull.

By Catherine Dias, Six to Six Math Coordinator

Fluency: Fast and accurate. … Not!

In the previous edition of the newsletter (click here and go to Page 5), I shared with you how Common Core defines fluency and what our expectations are. We want students to have automaticity and understanding of basic facts for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Here are the basic fact strategies for multiplication and division, what it looks like, and some games to play for practice.

Strategy	Strategy description	Games or Activities
Doubling	2 groups of a quantity; connected to double addition facts 7 + 7 = 14 2 x 7 = 14 (2 groups of 7 is 14)	Double It Double Array Double Dominoes
Multiplying by 10	Skipcounting groups of 10	Counting quantity of dimes and determining its money value
Multiplying by 5	Skipcounting groups of 5	Corners Counting quantity of nickels and determining its money value
Multiplying by 1	When multiplying by 1, the product or answer is the same as the other factor 9 x 1 = 9	
Multiplying by 0	If either factor is 0, the product is always 0.	
Using known multiplication combinations	Use multiplication facts that you know to find the product of unknown multiplication combinations 7 x 6 = ___ 7 x 6 = ___ 7 x 5 = 35 7 x 1 = 7 35 + 7 = 42  7 x 1 = 7 7 x 9 = ___ 7 x 10 = 70 7 x 1 = 7 70 - 7 = 63 	Factor Pair Small Array, Big Array Count and Compare
Doubling and Halving	Used to make simpler problems for multiplication combinations by doubling one factor and halving the other factor. 	

Just like subtraction is the inverse or opposite of addition, division is the inverse of multiplication. So when students know their division facts, that is half the battle.

Strategy	Strategy Description	Games or Activities
Use Multiplication	Uses known multiplication fact to find the quotient or divisor	Missing Factor

Some of these games have been play and/or distributed to families. If you want copies of these games, please feel free to contact me at diasc@ces.k12.ct.us.

SIGNS OF FUN

Six to Six teachers joined other employees of Cooperative Educational Services, which operates Six to Six, for a night at Board and Brush in Monroe on Nov. 28 and made wooden signs. The event was set up by the Six to Six Climate committee and opened to staff from the C.E.S. Special Education program. Those who attended include (front row from left) Melissa Dueno, Jeremie Hittenmark, Jeff Hanewicz, (back row from left) Cindy Gallo, Kim Hawker, Elena Silva, Catherine Dias, Jodi Lovegrove, Kelly Hennessey, Robyn Proto, and Lauren Wiggins.

WINTER CONCERT TONIGHT!

The Six to Six Winter Concert is tonight (Jan. 11) at 6 p.m. in the school's auditorium. The performance will begin with a "Concert Etiquette Rap" by students in Grades 3-4. Chorus groups with students from all grades will sing traditional lullabies in French and Spanish with Kindergarten and Grade 1 singing a classic German children's song about colors.

The second half of the show will feature instrumental ensembles from Grades 3-8, featuring first- and second-year Strings, First Year Band, Orchestra and the Middle School Band.

This is Mrs. Patricia Barbano-Parczany's fourth year organizing the program.

Next up for Six to Six Performing Arts Program is the musical "Willy Wonka Jr." with performances April 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. A cast of 30 students from Grades 4-8 were chosen from auditions in November. Rehearsals begin next week. For more information, email sixtosixmusical@gmail.com.

Income tax information

Preschool, before school and after-school income tax information has been sent home through student's mailboxes. If you have any questions, contact Julia Paz at 203-365-8200 or email to pazj@ces.k12.ct.us.

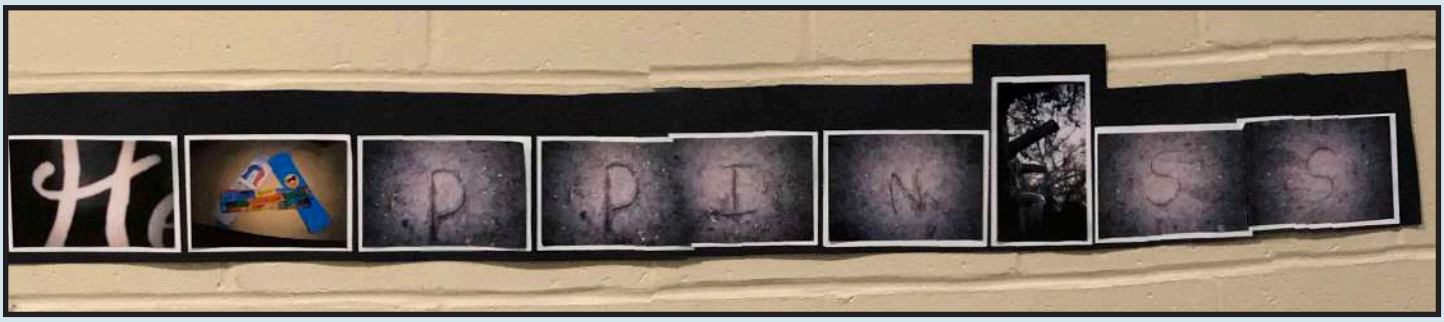
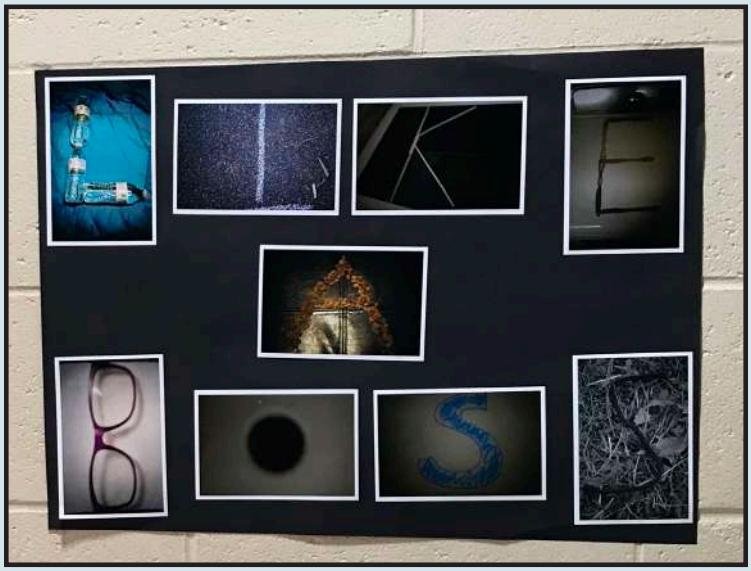
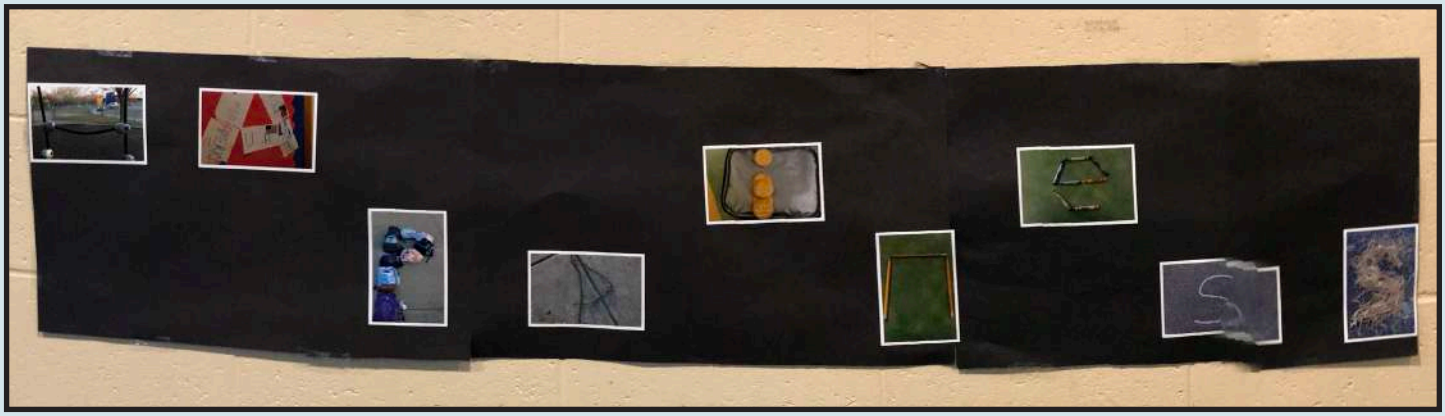


Photo club inspires creativity

These photos displayed at Six to Six are part of a project completed by students who are in the school's Photo Club. Great work!





FASHIONABLY FESTIVE

The staff at Six to Six dressed up in their most festive sweaters to celebrate the holidays on Dec. 21. We hope everyone had a great Christmas break and a fantastic start to 2018!

Stay alert for snow news

Be prepared for the next snowstorm and school delay. Visit http://www.ces.k12.ct.us/sixtosix and look for the link at the bottom to sign up for emergency alerts on your phone or email regarding the school schedule.

Applications for the admissions lottery

Families wanting to send their children to Six to Six are invited to submit applications for the admissions lottery. Applications must be in by March 2 to be eligible. If you know of anyone interested in joining the Six to Six family, have them visit our website at www.ces.k12.ct.us/sixtosix and click Admissions on the left.

The best way for new families to learn about our school is to speak to current families. If you are available to volunteer for either of our Open Houses, please contact Suzanne Clement at clements@ces.k12.ct.us. The Open Houses are Jan. 23 and Feb. 27 from 9-11a.m.