



Cleveland Connection

March 10, 2014



Principal's Corner

Winter appears to have a hold on us with the cold, blustery winds and the snow falling week after week. Even though the weather is freezing, we are trying to stay warm and excited about the Spring ahead. This is a very productive learning time for students.

With safety still on my mind, children have been going out to recess. The snow and cold are a factor when I decide to keep students inside, but the staff agrees that a little fresh air is good for all students. We had a great time at our in school 'snow day'. Please continue to dress your children for the weather.

The reading incentive program is underway. It began with our Dr. Seuss, Read Across America. We had a number of special readers come visit and there is a wonderful video on our school website under 'School Events' if you missed the fun.

If you stop by the café, you'll see our own Green Monster wall tallying all our minutes of reading for March. Our fourth grade read the most this week, but each week we hope to have a new grade winner! Our older students just finished the NYRA books and we are very proud of the book talks that they shared. Keep up the good work!

Conferences will be held this week. Please come work with us to ensure that your child meets their learning potential. We will have an MCAS rally this week also, to gear students up for MCAS next week. It is important for all students to eat and sleep well next week during this testing time. Encourage your son or daughter to relax and just do their best!

Mrs. Coppola



PTA Corner.....

After celebrating a successful Talent Show, the PTA is looking forward to Math and Science Night this Friday, March 14th. This evening will feature a variety of activities and information related to the Common Core Curriculum. Please join us! Also, the fifth graders are preparing for the Cleveland Café. This special dinner hosted by our graduating class will take place on Thursday, April 3rd from 6:30-8:30. It's a great opportunity to take a night off from cooking and support your school at the same time! Donations of baked goods are appreciated.

Student Council News

Our Student Council was very busy in December with a Holiday Gift Store and collecting for the Mitten Tree and Toys for Tots. The Cleveland students seemed to enjoy buying surprise gifts for friends, family and teachers at the store.

The toys were brought to the Norwood Fire Department to distribute to needy children. They were thrilled with how many toys were collected; seven sacks of toys! The Mitten Tree items were sent to Homeless adults and children in Boston through the Warm Hearts, Warm Hands Program. Here was the response from Friends of the Boston Homeless: "The winter months are the most difficult time of year for the homeless. Many of them are at risk to the elements. Your donations will not only help keep people warm and safe, but will also help them maintain their dignity and comfort during a difficult time in their lives."

Pat on the Back ...

This month's "pat on the back" goes to :

Ms. Cottens for bringing in snow paint and extra snowsuits to ensure that everyone got to participate in the 'snow day' at school.

Thanks also to Mrs. Lasri and the many teachers who adjusted their schedules to get all of the ELL testing complete. We are so fortunate to have such a supportive staff. Thanks so much!



Important Dates

March 12—Conferences 6-8 PM
March 13—1/2 day Conferences
March 14—Math and Science Night
—Grades close
—MCAS Rally
March 18 - Gr. 4 MCAS (Comp.)
- Gr. 5 Field Trip
March 19— Gr. 5 MCAS (ELA)
March 20—Gr. 3 MCAS (ELA)
March 21—Gr. 3 MCAS (ELA)
- Report Cards
March 24—Gr. 4 MCAS (ELA)
March 25—Gr. 5 MCAS (ELA)
4:30 School Council
7:00 PTA
March 26—Gr. 5 MCAS (ELA)
March 27-28—MCAS Make-ups

Things you might have missed!

February was a busy month for our 1st Graders!! In math, the first graders have spent the last month focusing on fact fluency, geometry, 2 and 3- dimensional shapes and fractions. They especially liked using the hands on materials, such as the pattern blocks. Our reading and writing focus has been looking at non-fiction text features, learning about many topics, including penguins. We learned about how to find information in a text. Our Social Studies has focused on learning about Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges. We also discussed Chinese New Year and Groundhog Day. Our science lessons have covered fossils, geology, and the “magic” in all science! We even had an “electrifying” lesson with a Van de Graff machine, which demonstrates static electricity. Have your child tell you about his/her teacher using the machine! We are looking forward to spring with lots of fun learning!

Mrs. Brigham, Mrs. Nichols, Ms. Glaser and Mrs.”G”



Puneet Kaur and Gia Priore show-off their cute snowman during “Snow Recess”

Colleen Hachey and Paige Ballantyne take a peak at the new “One Book, One School” story.



We’ve got ‘characters’ in second grade!

The second graders are going to be busy in March! We have Character Day coming up on Tuesday, March 11 from 9:30-10:15. Each student will be dressing up as a fictional character of their choice and presenting information about that character. We can’t wait to see how great everyone looks! In reading and writing we are working on Non-Fiction animal reports. The second graders will be creating a book about the animal of their choice. We will be reviewing the Non-Fiction conventions during both reading and writing. In Math we are learning how to subtract two and three-digit numbers with and without regrouping in multiple ways (ie: base-10 drawings, open number line and expanded form). Along with this we will be starting our subtraction fact fluency.

Mrs. Baker, Mrs. Campagna, Mrs. Frye and Mrs. Hughey

A Busy Month for Third Grade...

There are many exciting activities happening in grade three. Poetry is just one of our themes. The third graders enjoyed a visit with poet Andrew Greene from Potato Hill Poetry. He taught students how to use their five senses when writing poetry and to see the beauty in ordinary everyday things. The students wrote amazing poems! We have also been reading and comparing various poems in class. Ask your child about Poetry Madness! On March 3rd, students enjoyed having a “celebrity” visit our classrooms. Thank you to Mr. Hayden, Mrs. Coppola, and Mrs. Hankey for their engaging and interactive read-alouds!



All third grade students are expected to be fluent with their basic math facts by the end of third grade (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). We appreciate all of the time parents have spent practicing these essential math facts with your children.

In science we have begun the study of Geology with our rock expert Mrs. Lockwood. We have learned about igneous rocks, and we will also learn about sedimentary and metamorphic rocks in the weeks to come.

MCAS is approaching quickly! The third grade ELA MCAS dates are: Thursday, March 20th, and Friday, March 21st! Please, make sure your child gets a good night sleep, eats a nutritious breakfast, and is on time for school. Remind your children to use the test-taking strategies they have been taught in class.

March has come in like a lion, but we are looking forward to a beautiful spring!

Mrs. Catalano, Ms. Howell, Mrs. Landfield, and Mrs. Palladino

Fifth Grade Happenings



The fifth graders were excited to see their friends perform in the Talent Show. The MCAS rally is coming up, students have been practicing their performance...ROAR! We are busy preparing for the MCAS coming up this spring. Students are remembering to go back in the story and find evidence and check their work. We're ready!

The fifth grade is excited to go to Moose Hill on March 18 to see how maple sugar is made and to learn about settling New England.

*Mrs. Bissanti, Mrs. Curran and
Mrs. Joyce*

Grade 4 News

Although February was a short month the fourth grade was very busy. On February 14th we celebrated both the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day. We did many fun, curriculum based activities. One of our activities was our challenge to collect 100 non-perishable food items for the Norwood Food Pantry. We are happy to report that due to the generosity of the teachers, students, and families of the fourth grade, we collected over 200 items. Another community service project we did this month was making valentines for the Charwell Nursing Home. The children did a wonderful job and made many people happy this month!

In math we finished working on our Geometry Unit. The children have had fun measuring and identifying angles, and working with symmetry. Please continue to have your child study their math facts, it really does make math easier for them to learn.

In Science we completed our unit on Geology. We enjoyed having our "pet rocks" spend time with us and learning all about rocks, minerals, and how to plot an earthquake map.

In Social Studies we have journeyed to the Southeast Region this included a mini-lesson on Mardi Gras as we studied Louisiana. We are learning all about the land, economy and culture of this special region. The children are now able to show us where in the United States these states are located and are able to correctly identify their capital cities.

Writing has been a major focus for us this month as we prepare for the MCAS Long Composition Test in March. We have written stories, persuasive essays, and poems, to name just a few types of writing. Our pet rocks helped us to write fantasy. Emphasis has been put on using figurative language and using the correct format for the different types of writing taught. We feel confident that we will do well on our MCAS tests.

Other activities included:

Making owl masks to show symmetry, connect with our reading of *Poppy* and study of masks used at Mardi Gras.

Poetry in a Bag where students wrote poems, placed them in slices and shared with other students to reinforce poetry structure.

Wrote fantasy stories using our pet rocks as inspiration and connecting science, history and writing.

Mrs. Barr, Ms. Kilduff and Mrs. Wesley



Fourth graders looking "100" on the hundredth day of school.

Handmade Valentines to brighten local residents.

Student Council cont.....

Thank you again for your thoughtful donations. We're very fortunate to have supporters like you! "Happy New Year!" *Thank You to the thoughtful Cleveland Families.*"

In January we put together a Compliment Quilt during "No Name Calling Week" as a positive incentive against bullying. In February we collected items for the animals at the ASPCA shelter in Dedham. They were very appreciative of the generous donation. The council sold bookmarks for our fundraising "Bookmark a Friend" activity.

Notes from Nurse Abely!

MCAS testing is starting soon. These suggestions are especially important at this time: To help your child prepare for a successful test experience - plan ahead so that your child has a good night's sleep, eats an unrushed, healthy breakfast and arrives to school on time the day of testing. These are important strategies for achievement at school every day. If your student is having a difficult morning, or feels mildly ill, feel free to let the school know. If your child has a fever or is vomiting, be sure to follow the school policy, as usual, and keep your child home until 24 hours of no fever or vomiting. Please don't be concerned, there are makeup days for the testing.

Growth Screening -or BMI screenings will begin this month and will go into April for first and fourth grade students. This screening is mandated by the state as it has been determined to be an important guideline in assessing overall health. Remember this is only one guideline of overall health and therefore your pediatrician's input is recommended. If there are any concerns, you may receive a call from the nurse.

Postural Screenings-have been completed. If you receive a letter from the nurse's office regarding the postural screening for your 5th grader; please follow up with your child's pediatrician and update the school nurse.

The staff at the Cleveland participated in Women Wear Red Campaign with the American Heart Association, by wearing red and making a donation. This Heart Association campaign works to increase knowledge and awareness of heart disease and how it affects women differently than it does men. The staff

break room also had information posted about healthy measure like, eating right, exercise and decreasing stress, knowing and decreasing cholesterol and HDL levels to improve one's cardiac health.

Consider having your family participate in the Family Track Night on April 4th, at 5:30-7:30 at Norwood High School which is sponsored by the NPS Wellness Committee. Families do better when new, healthy habits are shared by everyone! Calling All Runners: Go to the google-doc on the NPS Cleveland School page to sign up, a parent/guardian must be in attendance! Deadline for sign up is March 28th!



