

CLEVELAND CONNECTION

"DO YOUR BEST, BE THE BEST"

CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015/VOLUME 3

Principal's Corner

We have some great news! Our PARCC results have been returned. Under the state accountability system, the state uses statewide test scores over time, student growth percentiles, and other factors to classify schools into Levels 1-5. Thanks to the hard work of our whole staff, we are one, of only two schools in the district, to receive a LEVEL 1 rating. This year we will once again be taking the PARCC test in the spring. Dates have yet to be determined.

We will be extremely busy this month with a number of holiday concerts, gingerbread making and collecting toys and mittens for the less fortunate. It is important for students to remember that it is as important to give, as it is to receive.

Norwood Firefighter Paul Ronco has spent much of December at the Cleveland teaching our children about fire safety. The boys and girls have had the opportunity to try on his safety gear and practice fire prevention tips. We truly appreciate all the time that Paul shares with us!

I would like to thank you for your continued donations to the textile donation bin located in the Cleveland School parking lot. This is a simple fundraiser for our school based on the weight of the textiles. To date, we have raised over \$1000 for the Cleveland!!

Last month we were sad to say goodbye to one of Cleveland's custodians, Mr. Mullen, as he ventured over to the Prescott. We welcome our new custodian, Craig Bishop, to the team. Mr. Binnall, Mr. Gomes and Mr. Bishop are always working hard to keep our building and grounds in tip-top shape!

As the cold weather approaches, please be sure your children are dressed appropriately for recess. We will be going outside on the sunny days! If possible, it would be helpful if you could put your child's name on their clothing. We have a large number of items in the lost and found.

Thanks to Ms. Atiyeh and former Cleveland School
Student Council members for creating this
beautiful and inspiring mural in our front lobby.



IMPORTANT DATES

- **Dec 10** - 1/2 Day 12:30 Dismissal
Professional Development
- **Dec 14** - Cleveland Elementary Holiday
Concert - No parent please!
- **Dec 23** - 1/2 Day 12:30 Dismissal
- **Dec 24 - Dec 31** - Winter Break



PAT ON THE BACK

This month's "Pat on the Back" goes to Ms. Worcester! Ms. Worcester is always willing to jump in and help out around the Cleveland Elementary School, many times without even being asked! Thanks to Ms. Worcester for always being a team player and helping our school run smoothly!

PTA CORNER



November was another busy month for the Cleveland PTA. We had a very successful Bingo Night, Parent Bowling Night and our Jake and Joe's Fundraiser. Thanks again to all who supported these and other recent fundraisers and Happy Holidays from the Cleveland PTA!

- If you are shopping online this Holiday Season, please use the charitable Amazon site at www.smile.amazon.com and select "F A Cleveland PTA" as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate to the Cleveland PTA every time you make a purchase through that link.
- Keep an eye out in December for delivery information on Coffee Cakes.
- Mark your calendars for another restaurant fundraiser on Monday January 11th at the Chateau Restaurant. Flyers will be coming home and can also be found at the PTA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/faclevelandschoolpta

TIDE POOL FUN!



- Game Night is coming on January 29th – more info to come soon

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday, Jan 26th at 7pm in the School Café. All are welcome so please come join us!

ENRICHMENT AT THE CLEVELAND



The New England Aquarium came to the Cleveland School on Wed, Nov 18th through a PTA sponsored enrichment program. Grades 1-4 saw the Tide Pool Revue program which is an interactive program where the kids became different parts of a tide pool themselves. The 5th graders saw a classroom presentation of Tide Pool Adaptations and got to interact with tide pool creatures in their habitats.

Highlights were the sand crab and the sea slug.

Notes from the Nurse

Fun in the Outdoor Winter Weather

Being outdoors has been shown to increase alertness, concentration, and movement. This, especially for children, is part of a healthy lifestyle improving growth and development!!

Dress in warm clothes: hats, mittens, winter coats and layers of clothing.

Limit the amount of time out of doors on very cold days when the temperature is less than 32 degrees Fahrenheit or 0 degrees Celsius.

Instruct your children to avoid walking or skating on ponds where an adult is not present to determine that the area is safe. Avoid any ice where there is moving water underneath. Ice should be 4 inches thick before skating.

When it is actively snowing children should avoid playing on or near streets and hills; that lead to streets; or where plow drivers or snow blowers may not be aware of them.

Staying Healthy this Winter

- In order to minimize the spread of germs, this month in the health office, I'll be reinforcing "good cough etiquette" and "proper hand washing".
- For those parents who have received a notice in the mail reporting that their child did not pass the school vision or hearing screening; please forward the doctor's follow-up evaluation to the health office. If you would like to book a clinic appointment send in the permission form or call Mrs Abely at 781-440-5953.
- Third graders who have had a physical this past fall please send a copy to Mrs. Abely. This is a requirement for 4th grade.
- For Hand Washing: Sing "Happy Birthday" 2 times while washing hands. Wash with soap and warm water, be sure to rub all over your hands making bubbles; then rinse and dry well.
- Cough or sneeze into inner elbow, "your cough catcher," or a tissue rather than using hands. If you blow your nose or use a tissue, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer if a sink is not available. Practice these healthy habits at home.
- Try to keep your hands away from your faces.
- Stay home when ill. The district policy states that students should be fever free 24 hours without medicine that brings a fever down, as well as no vomiting for 24 hours.
- Creating healthy habits can promote good health and minimize absenteeism from school and work.

From the Speech Room - Adrienne Fine, MS CCC -SLP

Believe it or not, language development is actually a life-long endeavor that begins at birth and continues across the life span. When one considers how complex it is to learn to comprehend what others say and to express what one wants or needs, the development of language can be considered an amazing feat that most children go through naturally. In elementary school children acquire many language skills including following multi-step directions, having conversations, retelling stories and using sophisticated vocabulary. All these tasks are the building blocks for the academic tasks of reading, writing and math.

Parents have a powerful influence on their elementary school aged child's language development. Here are some suggestions (taken from asha.org) for ways to naturally promote language development in your child:

In early elementary grades (K-2) parents can:

- Talk with your child frequently.
- Read and talk about a variety of books.
- Ask your child to retell stories and talk about events of the day.
- Talk with your child during activities (ex. give directions during making cookies.)
- Talk about how things are alike and different.
- Let your child write! Postcards, journals, diaries etc are all great ways to practice getting thoughts on paper.

In later elementary grades (3-5) parents can:

- Continue to encourage reading and it's great to read to your child (including picture books!)
- Encourage your child to form opinions and tell why he/she feels that way.
- Help your child make connections between what s/he reads or learns to personal experiences.
- Talk out loud as you help your child understand math problems, reading problems etc. to help your child understand the problem solving process.

First Grade Happenings

It was great seeing everyone at conferences to discuss your child's progress.

Since conferences, we have been hard at work!

*In reading, we are asking students to retell what they have read as well as use their reading strategies. We asked questions about characters, settings and endings. Students are growing as readers by building their reading stamina and reading longer periods of time.

*In science, we have been learning about animals. The students observed live fish and earthworms to understand their characteristics. We also discussed the differences between vertebrates and invertebrates. They love the real life experiences with these activities.

*In Social Studies, we have enjoyed learning about the first Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, and Native Americans. They learned about how Squanto helped the Pilgrims in the New World. We discussed the Mayflower's journey in search of a better life.

*In math, we worked on addition facts to 20, using many strategies. Currently, we are working on subtraction facts to 20, using strategies. We will explore related facts and fact families. We continue to identify coins and count money. We would greatly appreciate your help in practicing this skill at home.

*In writer's workshop, we are learning about different types of writing, such as opinion and persuasive writing

Please continue to make sure your child is appropriately dressed for the cold weather ahead.



Mrs. Brigham's boys and girls getting ready for the holidays



SECOND GRADE UPDATES

Second grade has been busy as always! In reading, we finished up our author studies and started talking about inferring. To infer, we use what we already know combined with clues from the book to make sense of what is happening. Second graders are using many of the skills we have learned this year in order to infer while reading. In writing, we are working on writing friendly letters or writing a whole class story. We will be learning all of the parts of a letter and then using those skills to write a friendly letter to someone we know. We will be mailing the letters as soon as they are done and we always look forward to a few responses! In math, we are continuing to work on addition strategies within 100. We are learning how to break apart numbers into place value and using that to help add 2-digit numbers. Please be sure that your second grader is practicing his or her math facts EVERY NIGHT! Many students have their facts mastered but many still need a lot of practice. Please help your child to be successful with his/her math facts. In Social Studies, we continue to work on our map skills learning about the globe and different types of maps (other than a GPS!!). Please help your second grader stay focused during the month of December. It is hard for us all to stay focused with so many fun things going on, but we have to power through and get as much done as we can! We hope you are enjoying your holiday season.

Dessert Spectacular

On Tuesday, November 24th the Cleveland School held its annual Dessert Spectacular for their neighbors at the Sunrise Assisted Living Facility. The students and teachers created invitations, cards, posters, pins and decorations and performed songs and poems for their guests. This is a way the Cleveland school celebrates the upcoming holiday season by teaching students the importance of community and giving to others in need.



Third Graders are Out of this World!



Cleveland's Third Graders created turkey feathers to make a colorful turkey bulletin board display in the Grade 3 Wing.

Cleveland's third graders have been busy writing letters to the Veterans for Operation Gratitude, and making cards for the guests of the school's Dessert Spectacular. In science, third graders learned about the moon phases, the rotation of the Earth, and the scale size of the planets. In math, the students have continued to learn about multiplication and patterns, and should be practicing memorizing multiplication facts each night. Each class completed Topic 3, and has been working on Topic 4, which is using multiplication to divide. Please keep in mind that it's more important now than ever for your child to memorize the multiplication facts for the 0-10 tables fluently.

All third grade classes have continued to learn about the Pilgrims in Social Studies, and have been working on personal narrative writing in Writer's Workshop. At this time, we would like to remind all families about the importance of reading at home. Every child should be reading at home at least 15-20 minutes each night, and should be completing his/her reading log. In third grade, there is a shift from learning to read, to reading to learn, and the more your third grader reads at home, the more he/she will develop his/he reading fluency and comprehension. When selecting at-home reading materials for your third grader, it is helpful to remember that there should be a good balance of reading fiction and nonfiction reading texts.

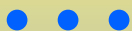
Happy Holidays!

Thank you!

At this time, we would like to thank all families for their continued support helping with homework and reading projects.

Lastly, as the days grow colder, we would like to remind all children to dress warmly for outdoor recess.

Fabulous Fourth Grade



Cleveland Dessert Spectacular -

Our Fourth Grade Student Council representatives helped set up the cafeteria for this year's Dessert Spectacular. Other students volunteered to give up their morning recess so they could make turkey pins for all of our visitors. The pins looked great and our guests enjoyed this festive decoration.

On November 3rd, we celebrated "Day of the Dead," a Mexican holiday of remembrance. The holiday is meant to celebrate the lives of those we loved and are no longer with us. Day of the Dead, is not a scary holiday although skeletons are often used as decorations. Studying Mexican culture is part of our Social Studies curriculum. We made colorful masks and flowers and built a scrapbook of flowers, pictures and cards for loved ones who have passed on. It was a wonderful way to learn about the

Mexican culture, as well as share many family stories with each other.

In Language Arts, we learned the art of persuasion. The students imagined that we were turkeys and wrote a friendly letter to our favorite chefs (Barry, Kilduff and Wesley) asking them to consider cooking something else for Thanksgiving dinner. The children learned about the history of the Presidential Pardon for turkeys. The good news is that all of our fourth graders were successful, and they were all pardoned! President Obama pardoned two turkeys this year; their names are Honest and Abe! Our next writing project will be an exploration into the genre of Fantasy and Fairy Tales. Our model texts are Hansel and Gretel by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm and Little Red Riding Hood. The children are learning the various elements found in Fantasy and Fairy Tale literature. To culminate this activity the students will make gingerbread houses. Watch for our Gingerbread Smilebox on the Cleveland website in January!

In Math, we are working on various strategies and algorithms

for solving double digit multiplication problems. We continue to help students deepen their understanding of high level math vocabulary, place value and the importance of estimation in problem solving. Gingerbread house word problems were incorporated into our unit as well!

We just finished our unit on plants in Science and will have a special "Animals" demonstration in December. We continue to work on refining map skills in our Social Studies unit in preparation for "X" Marks the Spot."

Our students are excited about the NYRA Reading Program. We encourage you to have your students read some of these books. They only need to read four to be able to vote. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we had 100% participation?

Happy Holidays!





FIFTH GRADE NEWS



★ November was a busy and fast month for fifth grade! We started the month off by writing letters to Veterans and current servicemen fighting to protect our country. We all know how important these people are to our freedom, and the fifth graders appropriately thanked and expressed their gratitude through thoughtful letters. The Norwood Elks picked them up and mailed them to those who were away from their families during the holidays.

★ A Cleveland School graduate is currently training at Boot Camp for the Marines and is stationed at Parris Island. We wrote letters of encouragement for him and sent them to South Carolina. We know he will do well and conquer any and all obstacles along this noble journey!

★ The fifth graders had a very important homework assignment before Thanksgiving -- the turkeys were in need of saving! The farmers were getting ready to prepare the turkeys for dinner, and it was the job of the students to disguise a turkey so the farmer wouldn't see it and use it for a meal. There were some very creative turkeys! Some turkeys were disguised as hockey players, Minions, cupcakes, a flamingo, an elephant, Batman, a farmer, a waiter, football players, leaf piles, genies, and a peacock to name just a few. They were extremely creative in their disguises! They also had to write a cover story for their turkey. Why was Batman out in the yard? There were some clever turkeys.

★ The Dessert Spectacular is always a favorite celebration for the fifth grade. This is their time to shine! The fifth graders showed maturity and creativity while hosting senior citizens. Some of them waited on tables, played wonderful music, filled cookie tins, greeted our guests, sat and talked with the guests, and wished them well as they left. As always, they made us very proud!

