

# Wolf Times

Volume 9, Issue 5

January, 2012



## From the Desk of Jacqueline Norcel

“Happy New Year, Bonne Annee, Gung Hay Fat Choy, Feliz Ano Nuevo, Viel Gutes, Neues Jahr, Snorhavor Nor Tari.” However the greeting is said, the message is the same. We all look to the beginning of a new calendar year with renewed hopes, aspirations, and resolutions. It is an excellent time for us to review goal setting and study skills with our students.

Different cultures also have historical traditions of welcoming in the New Year, from eating black-eyed peas in the American South to creating geometric Rangoli (a form of sand painting decoration) in India as part of the five-day Hindu festival of Diwali. These culturally rich celebrations offer time for both reflection on events past and resolutions for future behavior.

The New Year’s holiday offers students the opportunity to consider critically the multicultural traditions practiced in our society. A study of the changing of the year offers myriad social studies connections – from questioning how calendars have developed, to analyzing celebrations across geographic and political boundaries to making a personal commitment to improve the community in some way.



During January, the staff at Frenchtown will be helping our students understand and respect time. How is time measured? Do you know who first began to measure time? Why are there different calendars and different New Years? The children will be made aware of our New Year’s customs and traditions. January 23rd is the first day

of the Chinese Lunar New Year. This year is 4710, the Year of the Dragon.

January is the first month of a new year. Our country of the month is Kenya. We invite families to lend us souvenirs and artifacts for our front lobby display. It is a good time to once again introduce the idea of “Firsts” to our students. What does it mean to do something for the first time? After making a collection of their own personal firsts, our children will be encouraged to create hypothetical firsts. The children also will investigate the firsts that occur during the month of January.



January 1<sup>st</sup> – First practical fire engine went into service 1853.

January 5<sup>th</sup> – Nellie Taylor Ross became the first woman governor.

January 7<sup>th</sup> – First voting under the new U.S. Constitution took place during the first U.S. Presidential Election.

January 9<sup>th</sup> – First successful balloon flight in America - 1793.

January 10<sup>th</sup> – The first meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations was held.

January 11<sup>th</sup> – First time milk was delivered in bottles – 1878.

Amelia Earhart Putnam – first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean from Honolulu to California.

Sarah Caldwell – first woman to conduct the Metropolitan Opera.

Robert C. Weaver – first Black American Cabinet member – 1966.

First time basketball played -1854

January 21<sup>st</sup> – U.S. launched the first atomic submarine, Nautilus, in 1954.

January 22 – Elizabeth Blackwell – First woman doctor graduated from medical school – 1849.

First time gold was discovered in California – 1848.

January 31st – First U.S. Satellite launched – 1958.

This month I would like to write about work habits or skills. Teaching independent work skills is similar to delegating. When you think about it,

helping students to work independently is much like being a manager in the workplace by assisting employees to take responsibility for their work. The techniques for teaching these skills also are remarkably similar.

We can start by identifying and focusing on the key skills that students must possess to manage work. Among these skills are breaking large, complex tasks into smaller, manageable elements; constructing and following a work schedule; identifying and securing necessary resources.

Students should be selecting, modifying and using work processes, and understanding and achieving quality results. Often, these elements can be taught effectively through real life examples, beginning with simple tasks such as making a sandwich. Students can make a list of ingredients and utensils needed; describe the process and sequence they should use; estimate time required; consider alternatives if any of the usual resources are not available; and describe the final outcome. Later, more complex examples that are similar to what students will be asked to complete in the classroom can be analyzed in a similar manner. However, instruction and discussion must be accompanied by plenty of supervised practice to give students both experience and real life examples upon which to draw later – if they become confused or stuck.

The move from instruction and practice to actual application must be gradual. Initial projects should be relatively small. The work must be divided into small chunks. The guidelines we provide them with need to be clear and relatively narrow in scope. Students should have frequent check-in points on their progress and the expected results must be described in very specific terms. Students should be asked to evaluate their work.

This month we are emphasizing Bee Trustworthy.

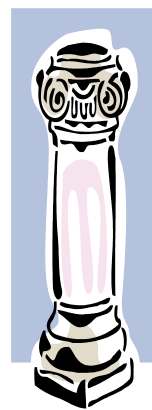
Our lessons will be developed to give our students an opportunity to engage in activities that help them learn about tolerance and respect. A few books you might get at the library to share with your child are:

- Say Something by Peggy Moss (PreK-2)
- Play Lady/La Senora Juguetona by Eric Hoffman (PreK-2)

- Nobody Knew What to Do by Becky Ray McCain (PreK-2)
- Blubber by Judy Blume (3-5)
- The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes (3-5)
- It's OK to Be Different by Todd Parr (PreK-2)
- Oliver Button is a Sissy by Tomie DePaola (PreK-2)
- Alley Oops by Janice Levy (PreK-2, 3-5)
- Felita by Nicholasa Mohr (3-5)
- Pinky and Rex and the Bully by James Howe (3-5)
- Mr. Lincoln's Way by Patricia Polacco (3-5)

Our goal at Frenchtown is to provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for our students and staff. If a parent has an issue with a student they must come directly to Mrs. Strever or myself. If they want to see the teacher they must first come to the main office. The office will call the teacher. No parent should ever go directly to a teacher's classroom ever in the morning or at dismissal time. Parents must report to the office and then go directly to the cafeteria to pick up their child at 3:20.

I hope that this New Year brings you joyful hours, pleasant memories, thoughts of family and friends, and much happiness and blessings.



Character

Corner—

Mr. Weitzman,

**Social Worker**



**“Bee”**

**Trustworthy**

The pillar of character that we will focus on for January is *“Bee Trustworthy.”* The foundations of trust exist in believing that a person will be honest, truthful, and honor their word, and also in letting them know that you expect him/her to do so. Through our lessons this month, we will be encouraging our children to choose the value of trustworthiness and recognize that we all depend on one another for loyalty and support.



## Kindergarten News...

### **Mrs. Alves**

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed your vacation.

I want to thank you for all the help you gave during December. We had many celebrations and the children enjoyed them all. I thank you for the time you gave to volunteer and for all the things you sent in during this busy season to make our celebrations special. The children had a wonderful time!

So far we have covered all of the lower case letters. The children should know the name of the lower case letter, the sound it makes and how to write it correctly. They should also know some words that begin with that sound. They should be able to tell if two words begin with the same sound. We have started to listen for the letter at the end of the word. We are also putting sounds together to make words. Ask them about tapping out a word! The children are having some trouble remembering to make the letters correctly. Please practice this at home. Make sure they start on the right line. They should trace the letters with their fingers many times and then also write some on paper. Say the sound of a letter and see if your little one can write the correct letter. This is very good practice. When you are reading to your child, stop and let them pick out the letters and words they know. Continue to work with the high frequency words. Any games you can play will only strengthen their skills. We are working on counting and double checking our counting. The children are working on counting up to 50. We are very busy in Kindergarten!

## Kindergarten News...

### **Mrs. Crawford**

The month of December is definitely a favorite for the children. We spent the whole month celebrating different holidays around the world. We



did social studies all month long! I hope you have been learning about these holidays from your children as well. We began with Hanukkah.

We learned about the miracle of how one-day worth of oil lasted eight days. We enjoyed latkes and other foods fried in oil. We learned how to play the dreidel game and

discovered what we do with a menorah. Thank you again to Sophia's mom and the parent helpers in the



a.m. class and to Austin's mom and grandma (and the parent helpers) in the p.m. class for all your help! It was really fun! St. Nicholas Day came next and we traveled to Denmark, Belgium, and the Netherlands. We learned

how the boys and girls in these countries stuff their wooden shoes with carrots and hay and leave them by a fireplace or window on the eve of December 5<sup>th</sup>. While asleep, St. Nicholas comes, gives the hay and carrots to his horse, and leaves behind candy and presents. St. Nicholas left us a bag of candy and goodies at Frenchtown! After that, we traveled to Sweden to celebrate Santa Lucia Day. At this time of the year, it is dark most of the day and night. Santa Lucia is the saint of light and the people of Sweden have this festival to remind each other that light will be coming soon. (The legend says that Santa Lucia would return to earth each December 13<sup>th</sup> to bring food to those in need.) The oldest girl in each household wakes up early, dresses as Santa Lucia and serves her family breakfast in bed. In our class, the girls were Santa Lucia and the boys were Star Boys who had to protect Santa Lucia. We all enjoyed our cinnamon buns and hot chocolate! Thank you so much for sending your children to school in white, they looked adorable! From there, we traveled to Mexico for our Las Posadas (means "the inns") celebration. This is a nine-day holiday ending on Christmas Eve. This holiday reenacts the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem looking for a place to stay. There was no room in any of the inns and they eventually stayed at a stable where baby Jesus was born. The people of Mexico get together with family and neighbors and act this out each night. Afterward they celebrate. We had our own little play and then enjoyed nachos, salsa and Shirley Temples. Yummy! The following week we learned about Kwanzaa. The children really enjoyed learning different words in Swahili! Kwanzaa is like going to the park, Thanksgiving, and a birthday all at once. The holiday focuses on a different principle of good character each day as well as a variety of different traditions. Finally, we celebrated Christmas. We made a craft, sang Christmas carols and ate Christmas treats. Thank you to all my room mothers and other parents who helped with these holidays! We could not do it without you. December is our busiest month and I really appreciate all your contributions! Next time

you talk to or see our room mothers, say an extra thank you to them as well. I worked them really hard this month!

In language arts, we worked on the letters p, j, z, qu, y, and x. That is it – we have already learned all 26 letter sounds! I am SO impressed with how quickly the children are learning. The children are doing very well with the letter sounds, but they could all use review, especially with the vowels. They are much harder. Have your child practice decoding 3 letter words (cvc words – consonant/vowel/consonant). Ask them to show you how to “tap out” words. After the holidays, we will go quickly through the entire alphabet again to learn the formation of capital letters and from there on we will focus on learning to read and write decodable words. Thank you for all your help at home. I hope you are seeing what I am. It is making a big difference!

In math, we are continuing to learn many skills in Calendar Math. We are practicing patterns, graphing, counting on, numeral recognition, measuring, etc. The children are utilizing higher level thinking skills to solve problems and answer questions. They are counting by tens, learning some basic mental addition and many other things. It is exciting! In our Investigations program, we finished our unit on patterns and have started to work on counting. Did you enjoy their counting books? They had so much fun making them. We even learned how to take “inventory” this month! Real world math!



In science, we are now focusing on animal and human shelters and how they differ according to climates and animals. The children are really enjoying all the information on animals. We also finished up our weather unit. Did your child tell you about our ice cube experiment? They love to be scientists!

As we start the new year, if you have it in your budget or capability to donate thin Expo markers, the children and I would greatly appreciate it. I have completely run out and the children love to use the dry erase boards daily. They love having a variety of colors to choose from as well! Also, if you are shopping and are able to pick up a package of baby wipes to send in, that would also be greatly appreciated!



Winter is officially here, so please pay attention to changes in our schedule due to inclement weather. If we have a delay, the a.m. class attends from 10:05 – 12:32 and the p.m. class is 12:52 -3:20. If we have an early dismissal, the a.m. class leaves at 10:42 and the p.m. class does not come to school. Hopefully, we won't get too much snow!

## **Kindergarten News...** **Mrs. Capone**

Dashing through December... It was a month that was filled with many celebrations and holiday traditions. We started the month out with Hanukkah, the festival of lights. The children enjoyed playing dreidel, making handprint menorahs, and sampling tasty cookies and applesauce. They were delicious! St. Lucia, a holiday observed in Sweden, is a celebration of light. We made a crown of candles and wore white in honor of this special day. Las Posadas began on December 16 and lasted for nine nights. The word Posadas means “inns,” a kind of hotel. It is the celebration of the journey Joseph and Mary embarked on in order to reach Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. The children enjoyed acting out the story of going door to door in hopes of finding a place to rest. All aboard the Polar Express! We explored the traditions of Christmas by reading many magical stories, singing Christmas carols, and creating reindeer antler headbands. Jingle all the way! We wrapped up our month of celebrations by learning about Kwanzaa. We learned that this a holiday were African Americans show their pride in their traditions and values. We learned many new words in Swahili too! Wow... what a fun and busy month December was! I would like to thank you for all of your help in making the holiday season so special!

Our class has covered all of the lowercase letters in Foundations! I am so proud of how hard all of the children have been working and how quickly they are learning. It is still so very important to review all of the letters, the sounds they make and how to write these letters correctly. We will be moving onto the uppercase letters in our program. Please practice writing these letters. A great skill to have your little one practice is for them to begin to

put sounds together to make words. Continue to practice the vowels, these can be tricky and difficult for our little ones.

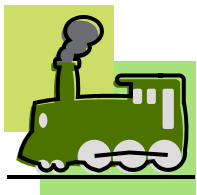
In Math we have been developing a strong number sense. We have discussed many math words like larger, smaller, longer, shorter and equal. As mathematicians we have been comparing numbers and the lengths of objects. We read the story Chrysanthemum and discussed how we could compare the letters in our names to figure out whose name had the most and whose name had the fewest amount of letters! We enjoyed making a chart to help us compare. Please continue to practice counting to 50 and writing the numbers 0-9 too!

Looking forward to starting the New Year with many new and exciting adventures to come. See you in 2012!

### **Grade One News...**

**Miss Buco, Mrs. Mordecai,  
Mrs. Rodrigues, Mrs. Tuohy,  
Mrs. Bershefsky**

December snuck in so quickly and with it came the sounds of joy, laughter and excitement over learning! You could have popped into any first grade classroom to get a sense of the holiday excitement so evident in every boy and girl's eyes! This month, first graders took many trips... around the world! Our social studies unit on "Holidays Around the World" exposed first graders to the rich diversity and family traditions of the many holidays celebrated by Frenchtown first graders this fall and winter season. We learned about Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, La Befana, Chinese New Year and so much more! We shared our own traditions and got a sense of how our celebrations are similar to and different from each others.



In reading, first graders continue to develop strong comprehension skills using rich literature, much centered around different holidays and winter themes. We had a great time comparing and contrasting similar books in our Gingerbread unit and warming up to favorite authors like Jan Brett. We even took another trip to the North Pole aboard the *Polar Express*. All the while, we were working on retelling stories accurately and using metacognitive strategies such as predicting and wondering to help

us think as we read. Just ask a Frenchtown first grader and they will tell you that good readers are thinkers too!



We produced some silly and beautiful holiday writing pieces by your child in December. Students got their chance to be a Gingerbread author as they took on their own version of the classic tale! We used our "Holidays Around the World" unit to write about traditions, our experiences and the books we read, all while focusing on topic sentences, supporting details, capitals and punctuation. You are sure to be impressed with how our writing is improving.

In math, first graders have really challenged their algebraic and numerical reasoning skills as we explore addition and subtraction strategies for solving story problems. Your first grade mathematicians are working at visualizing story problems and sharing the many different strategies that help us solve them.

Happy New Year!

### **Grade Two News ...**

**Mrs. Alfano, Mrs. Angon,  
Ms. Hull, Mrs. Pereira,  
Ms. Sansone, Mrs. Buswell**

December is always a joyful time of year with celebrations with family and friends, but the second graders have done a fabulous job of working hard in the classroom with all the various academic activities. We enjoyed seeing all our families at the Winter Concert and really enjoyed listening to all of the wonderful tunes from various holiday celebrations.

### **Reading and Writing**

The students have been hard at work with Reader's Workshop. They have recently added another new strategy to help them become great readers, which is wondering. Thus far this year, the children have learned five metacognitive strategies: check for understanding, make connections, visualize and infer the characters feelings. While they are reading independently they practice using these strategies to help them with their comprehension of the books that they are reading in their Just Right bins. When reading with your child,

remind them to be great thinkers while reading so that in return they can become great readers.

While increasing their comprehension of a variety of genre's of books, the students are also becoming fabulous writers. This month in writing, the students have created personal narratives that they tell more about the topic by using descriptive language by visualizing their story before they write. By visualizing, the students are able to freeze the moment that they want to share and really delve in deep with descriptive language. Along with adding descriptive language and details in their story, the students continue to work on including capitals at the beginning of the sentence and with proper nouns; commas; periods; exclamation marks; and question marks. They are beginning to understand when to use quotation marks when two characters are speaking. Please encourage your child at home to keep a journal or a notepad where they can write down ideas that they might have for stories.

### Math

This month in math, the students have continued to work in Unit 3, Stickers, Number Strings and Story Problems. The students are culminating the unit with a variety of story problems. The emphasis in this portion of the unit is to have the students develop a variety of strategies to help them solve addition and subtraction problems with totals up to 45. Some strategies that they will use are visualizing the story problem before answering it, breaking the numbers into tens and ones, finding clue words within the problem that will help the student decipher if it is addition or subtraction, and also showing how they solved the problem by showing all the steps they took to find their answers. Some



ways that you can help your child at home with answering story problems is to first have your child practice his/her basic math facts by using flash cards. The quicker your child is to find combinations within the story problem the easier it will be for him/her to break the numbers into groups for number combinations. Remember, our goal this year in second grade is to become fluent in our facts just like we are becoming fluent with our reading.

### Social Studies

Due to the time of the year, the social studies curriculum consists of learning about different holidays that are celebrated within the winter months. The students became familiar with a variety of holidays like Poinsettia Day, St. Lucia Day, Hanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Years. All of these holidays are important to us so we can share the great diversity that we have in Frenchtown Elementary School.



### Science

In science the students culminated our unit of study with Weather. They explored the variety of clouds that they notice like cumulus, cirrus, stratus, and nimbus clouds. We discussed the types of weather when we would notice the variety of clouds. Along with looking at cloud types, we also discussed how clouds move and the effect of wind on clouds. The students explored the levels of wind and discussed how an anemometer measures wind speed. The last portion of our weather unit was the water cycle. Here the students learned how evaporation, condensation and precipitation create our water cycle.

This time of year brings many changes within our curriculum and the children. They are blossoming as young learners ready to take on the upcoming challenges that they will encounter in the New Year. Have a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year!

### Grade Three News...

**Mrs. Atwood, Mrs. Cretella,  
Mrs. Makoski, Mrs. Martins,  
Mrs. Carley**

Happy New Year! Welcome back! We hope everyone had a fun and enjoyable holiday season with their family and friends. January is a great time to reflect and set goals that we want to work on and improve. It's like a new beginning!

In reading, we are now working on wondering and questioning in narrative nonfiction texts, such as biographies. The strategies of wondering and questioning help students make sense of the information they are reading. Students are still monitoring their comprehension while they are reading by stopping and asking, "Who is the text about, and what is happening?"

## **Mrs. Gaspar, Ms. St. John Mrs. Wolfe**

In math, we are culminating our unit on addition and subtraction with 2 and 3 digit numbers. Students have practiced using strategies such as breaking apart numbers into 100s, 10s, and 1s, using a number line, drawing place value pictures, and using an algorithm or equation. The next unit we will be moving into will be multiplication. Since multiplication is simply repeated addition, their knowledge of addition is essential. Keep practicing those math facts at home!

In social studies, we are moving from the prairies and forests into the mountains and deserts. This social studies unit ties in really nicely with the ecosystem unit we finished in science.

In science, we are moving into the human body. Do you know how many bones are in the human body? Do you know what the biggest bone in the human body is called? Ask your children, they will know! We have counted how many bones are in our body and we are going to be comparing and contrasting animal and human bones. In the human body unit, students will focus mostly on bones, joints, muscles, and the nervous system.

Please encourage your child to turn the “red” games “green” on TestPrepFun. This is a fun and interactive way to practice math, reading, and writing skills. Remind your children to complete the FREE reading calendars and the BEAR math calendars each month.



We are well into the winter season and would like to remind children to wear appropriate clothing for recess, such as warm coats, gloves, scarves, and hats.

We would also appreciate boxes of tissues and wipes for the classrooms. Remember to ask your child if they need to replenish any of their school supplies, such as pencils, glue sticks, crayons, markers, etc. Finally, we would like to wish everyone a great start to a new year!

**OOPS!**

**Jenna DeLucia was omitted from the Walking Club List in the December Wolf Times. Sorry Jenna!**

## **Grade Four News...**

**Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Fiore,**

Bitter cold and threats of snow may keep us indoors more often than we would like, but our fourth graders have been using that classroom time very wisely. Here's what we've been up to:

In math, students are continuing to use a variety of adding and subtracting strategies to solve problems with sums up to 10,000! Can you imagine? Mastery of multiplication is behind us and we are now moving on to division problems. Please continue to practice your basic facts at home each night.

Science classes were very exciting for our fourth graders this month, where they did a variety of experiments pertaining to Simple Machines. We are now beginning our second unit of study with Electricity and Magnetism. Ask your child what an atom is. You'll be surprised at the answer!



Now that the students have studied the history of Connecticut, it's time to learn about the characteristics that make up the Northeast Region of the United States. Geography, population and economy are just some of the topics we'll discuss in this unit.

2012 is a brand new year, and with that comes brand new beginnings for all of us. The fourth grade teachers want to wish you a very happy, healthy, and most of all, productive New Year!

## **Grade Five News...**

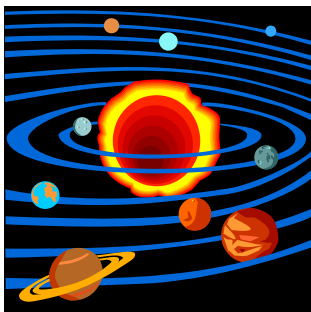
**Mrs. Carley, Mrs. Russo,  
Miss Caravetta, Mrs. Windsor,  
Mrs. Demshak**

With happy holidays all behind us, we are now rolling into 2012 head first! Thank you to everyone for making the holiday spirit bright! It seems only yesterday we were welcoming in our new fifth grade faces, and now, we are moving closer to our CMT testing in March. This is the time of year where skill reinforcement becomes critical. With the cooperation of parents and teachers, our children can remain at the top of the DRG for Connecticut. Think of it like the Super Bowl of

teaching or the World Series! With consistent practice and hard work, we can achieve.

Reading continues to be a strong focus at this time of the year. We are working to expose readers to a variety of texts with a special focus on nonfiction text structures. In the fall children were exposed to nonfiction text elements that included pictures with captions, diagrams, maps, charts, sub headings, and bold words. Now we look at the structure authors use to create their writing and get their message across. Is the text utilizing a cause and effect structure, sequencing, or compare and contrast? With support of key words and graphic organizers, children learn to identify these structures. It is important at this time of year that children are improving their ability to focus on challenging text for extended periods of time. Many of our fifth graders are still finding it challenging to maintain time on task with reading that is at their independent levels. Please continue to encourage your child to challenge themselves in order to ensure growth. Parents' expectations are vital to the success of all learning.

Basic facts, basic facts, basic facts... Need we say more? Without strong foundations with the basic facts, children continue to struggle in all other areas of math. Hopefully, you have experienced the power of the percentage over the holidays. Our fifth graders are experiencing the excitement of percents in ways we were not exposed to as we went through school. Ask them to explain the percent of  $\frac{1}{8}$  and how they found it. Then go ahead and challenge them with the percent for  $\frac{1}{6}$ . Some may even be able to excite you with the percent for  $\frac{1}{12}$ . We have also been working on ordering fractions and percents from least to greatest and finding fractions close to 0, one half, and a whole. The importance of number sense allows children the foundations to become good problem solvers in the future.



Science curriculum is finalizing our understanding of Earth and its place in the solar system. All students should be able to diagram the phases of the moon, show the Earth in orbit around the sun explaining

how and why we experience seasons of the year, and how our world would be different without the benefit of the sun.



Classrooms have been busy contacting Christopher Columbus for jobs aboard his ships to the United States during social studies. Children have learned about

the challenges faced aboard the ships and the benefits of making it to the new land. Currently, they are learning how Colonial America started and what challenges it faced to become an independent land from the governing body of England.

“Becoming a Writer” has been a new way of integrating writing into our curriculum. Children are exposed to good writing and then emulate those ideas into their own pieces. At the same time, the format of creating a well written expository piece is vital for the continuum of writing based on the Connecticut State Standards. Children have all been exposed to the organization of a piece, the need for an exciting lead with a specific thesis or focus for the writing, and generating paragraphs with main ideas and supporting details. Many students need to focus on grammar and mechanic skills. As an entry to fifth grade, all children should have mastered the correct use of punctuation and capital letters. They should also have a solid foundation for possessive nouns and correct use of some homophones (words that sound the same but have different meanings). These skills are assessed in all pieces of writing including written response to text, math explanations, and writing pieces used in social studies, science, and writing.

As we continue to move through the beginning of the New Year, please remember that we are working daily to help your children become the best students and characters they can become. We thank you for your continued support in helping these children achieve to the fullest of their abilities.

## Math News...

**Mrs. Gidwani, Mrs. Knapp,  
Mrs. Sansone**

This month, visit [www.fun4thebrain.com](http://www.fun4thebrain.com) for new math games to practice Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division. If you don't have a computer at home, go to the Trumbull library and try these fun math games.

When at the site above, click on Quizzes/Tests and your child can see how they are progressing on their computation skills. Also, for



our grade 5 students, click on [Beyond Facts](#) and practice Greatest Common Factor and Least Common Multiple in game format.

By the end of the school year (according to new state math standards):

Students in Grade K should be able to add and subtract to 10.

Students in Grade 1 should be able to add and subtract to 20.

Students in Grade 2 should be able to add and subtract to 100.

Students in Grade 3 should be able to add and subtract to 999 and multiply to 50.

Students in Grades 4 and 5 should be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide.

## **From the Nurse's Office...**

**Mrs. McCullough**



Who of us hasn't banged our heads on something at one time or another? Mostly it's just an annoyance, but sometimes it can be serious. Children are always banging their heads while playing, shutting their heads in car

doors or trunks or getting hit by a stray basketball. It happens on a daily basis, so when should we be concerned that a simple bump on the head is something more?

Concussions have been in the news lately and the medical professionals are taking them very seriously. And rightfully so, concussions are actually traumatic brain injuries that alter the way the brain functions.

While they are fairly common, every concussion injures the brain to some extent. Luckily, most concussions are mild and people usually recover fully.

The signs and symptoms of a concussion can be subtle and last for days, weeks or even longer.

Signs and symptoms may include:

- Headache or feeling of head pressure
- Temporary loss of consciousness
- Confusion or foggy feeling
- Dizziness
- Ringing in the ears
- Nausea or vomiting
- Slurred speech
- Fatigue
- Sensitivity to light
- Concentration and memory complaints
- Sleep disturbances[too much or too little]

You should contact your doctor if your child sustains a head injury, even if it seems mild. The doctor will determine how serious the concussion is and when it is safe to return to normal activities. You should seek immediate medical attention if your child has :

- Loss of consciousness
- Persistent or worsening headache
- Confusion
- Imbalance
- Vomiting
- Mood changes
- Memory loss

Treatment for a concussion includes watching the patient closely for any symptoms or worsening symptoms. If there is any swelling then an ice pack to the area is recommended. If the injury is sports related be sure to check with your doctor before returning to play. Rest is the best way to recover from a concussion. The amount of rest and what your child is allowed to participate in will depend on the severity of the concussion and it's symptoms.

Many neurologists will recommend "cocoon therapy." This entails being confined to a dark room with no television or other electronics allowed. Also no cognitive activity including reading or doing homework. This provides a complete rest for the brain allowing healing to take place.

Subsequent concussions are highly likely if the first injury is not properly healed before returning to normal activity. Another blow to the head can result in fatal brain swelling so you want to be sure the original insult is healed.

As always, if you are concerned or have suspicion that your child may have sustained a concussion, then do not hesitate to call your doctor for advice!

Preventing this type of injury can be difficult. We would all love to wrap our children up in bubble pack and stick a helmet on their head to keep them safe, but this would be frowned upon. Wearing a helmet while biking or skiing and having the proper sports equipment is helpful but other than being careful, there's not much you can do.

## Reading News...

**Mrs. Infante, Mrs. Knapp,  
Mrs. Olimpieri**

**The Frenchtown Reading Department wants to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2012!!!**

### **CAFE Strategy: Tune In To Interesting Words**

When children learn to **tune in to interesting words**, they build word awareness and the understanding of words. This leaves them with “thinking power” in their brain to comprehend and make meaning of what is read. Have you ever heard a new word, looked it up, and then repeated it often to remember it? Students who **tune in to interesting words** expand their vocabulary by focusing on these new words and their meaning. By looking for words that are interesting and unique, children not only increase their vocabulary, but they also enhance their comprehension. A child must have multiple exposures to a word in order for it to become a part of his/her vocabulary.

### **How can you help your child with this strategy at home?**

- When your child is reading or you are reading to your child, ask your child to find three interesting words. Have your child write these words down and talk about the meaning of these words. See if anyone in your family is able to use the words in a sentence. Add these words to your family word collector.
- Encourage your child to find interesting words when watching TV or in daily conversation. When tuning in to an interesting word, help your child understand the word and then add it to the family word collector.
- As always, modeling is a wonderful way to spark interest in children. When you are reading a magazine, newspaper, or book, tune into an

interesting word and discuss it with your child. Explain that even adult readers **tune into interesting words** to better understand text.

**Thank you for your continued support at home!**

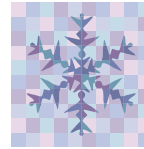
☐☐ **Ideas and strategies are taken from: The CAFE Book, written by Gail Boushey & Joan**

**Moser ☐☐ Written by: Allison Behne**

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## Music...

**Ms. Nuzzi**



The winter is upon us,  
and snow is on its way.  
So why not sing about it?  
We do everyday!

In Kindergarten we have been practicing handsigns to sing high and low.

We also celebrated all of the December holidays,  
And you guessed it...  
Sang tunes about snow.

In first grade we danced to the Nutcracker Ballet.  
We learned that this music was written over 100 years ago,  
and we still listen to it today!

In second grade our chorus concert was a sight to behold.

We also learned about the scale and melody,  
and sang about being cold!

In third grade we are reading the staff and lettered pitches.

We can't wait to begin playing our recorders,  
But first we need to work out all the music reading glitches.

In fourth grade we made a tree of rhythm.

To show us how notes relate to fractions.  
We also listened to some Beethoven,  
and played a holiday game with some action.

In fifth grade we sang a partner song to Jingle Bells.  
We learned about melody and harmony,  
and what combinations of notes sound swell!

Now on to the next frigid month of the year,  
Only five months until summer....if that makes you cheer!

We have 193 families enrolled in the Stop and Shop A+ Program.

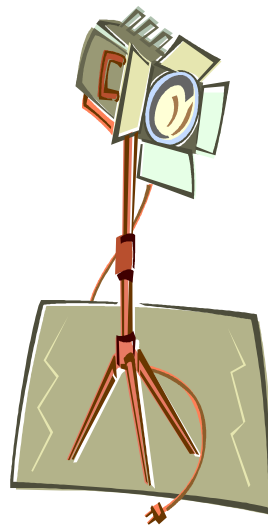
YTD total earned = \$1425.58

Thank You - Thank You!



It's not too late to register your card for Frenchtown.

[www.stopandshop.com](http://www.stopandshop.com)



### Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations to Alexis Dobson and Ella Cook! They placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the New England Irish Dancing Competition.

Congratulations and thank you to Matthew DiJoseph for the Shoe Box Collection Boxes collected – 71

Cash/check donations - \$1,150.00

Smile on Matthew's face delivering everything –

Priceless!

(See picture below)