

Wolf Times

Volume 11, Issue 8

April, 2014



Our monthly theme at Frenchtown will be “Spring Into Confidence.” Our Character Counts pillar of study is “Honesty.” We will also review our T.R.A.C.K.S attributes.

The 40th annual observance of National Volunteer Week will be held the week of April 21st. This is an opportune time for us to show our generous and caring volunteers our sincere appreciation for their invaluable contributions. In expressing our gratitude, I’d like to quote Mother Teresa, “It’s not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving,” and Lao-Tzu, “He who obtains has little. He who scatters has much.” On March 11th at the Connecticut Association of Schools Volunteer Recognition Banquet, Maggie Carroll, Donna DeLucia and Rosie Samoskevich were honored as this year’s volunteer honorees.

April is School Library Media Month. Our school library is a very special place where we can really read, think and learn. Mrs. Bilangi, our Library Media Specialist, has organized many special activities for the month such as looking up and having a joke or riddle to share with staff members throughout the day; hosting authors in the Media Center throughout the month; and having “lunchtime literacy” opportunities for students.

The 42nd Anniversary of Earth Day will be observed on April 22, 2014. Earth Day helps us to explore science and social studies concepts. Children are involved in science activities as they discover the importance of trees, air and water. Exploring the relationships between people and the environment, and beginning to understand the

interdependence of all people, emphasizes important social studies principles.

The idea of having a national “Earth Day” to voice concerns about environmental problems came 42 years ago from Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. He initiated the event, but it truly was a grassroots effort. He later wrote, “It organized itself.” More than 20 million Americans gathered across the United States on April 22, 1970 to demonstrate on behalf of the environment.

Grade 5 Invention Convention will be held on Wednesday, April 9th. The judging will be held in the morning. The public can visit the Invention Convention from 1:30 to 2:45 along with grade 3 and 4 students.

Our Read Aloud day will be Thursday, April 10th.

Grade 4 will have a Pep Rally on April 21st at 2:15 p.m. Mr. Carley will be our D.J.

Due to SBAC testing, Family week had to be spread out over the month of May with our special activities set for May 12 to May 30. Our K-4 science fair will be on display in the lobby Tuesday, May 27 to Friday, May 30. Our theme is “Celebrate Our Accomplishments.” Highlights of the month include a student only “bag” picnic lunch, Grade 2 Career Day, second and fifth grade chorus concert and grade 1 author teas.

Our classroom teachers along with our Art, Music and Physical Education specialists are preparing and presenting a month of events that will be your children’s gift to you.

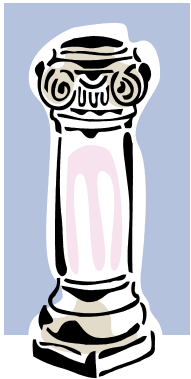
Please extend a “Family Week 2014” invitation to all family members, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and senior citizens to join us and become part of our 10th anniversary celebration as the culmination of our tenth year at Frenchtown. We hope you will be able to join us at some, if not all, of our special activities. Additional information and invitations will be sent home in early May. Remember to check Channel 17,

Wolf Mail, and our Web site
(www.frenchtownelementary.com.)

I also encourage you to consider enrolling your child in the Summer Explorations 2014, the district's summer school program. This year there are many one week programs. Registration has begun and ends June 15th. Some courses are limited in enrollment so sign up now. Summer Explorations begins June 30 and runs through July 25 for elementary students throughout Trumbull.

Samples of the programs are:

- Pre-Kindergarten – Ready, Set, Go! For students entering school in the fall of 2013
- Post-Kindergarten – Up, Up and Away! For students who have completed Kindergarten and need to strengthen skills
- Flights and Rockets – Grades 3-6
Grades 2-5
- Lego in Motion – Grades K-1
- Robotics Soccer – Grades 2-5
- English Language Learners
Grades 1-5
- CSI– Grades 2-5



Character
Corner—
Social Worker
David Weitzman
Honesty

Lessons about honesty are learned differentially, depending on the child's age. If you start the teaching of honesty early on, you can continue to support this virtue as your children get older.

Explain to your child what honesty means at his/her developmental level. Use words that they can understand at their ages. Be honest with children at a level that they can understand. When

deciding what to tell a child about a given situation, take into account the child's age and maturity, and to what extent it is in the child's best interest to know whatever it is you are considering telling him.



In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes the month of April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.



Thank you to all Frenchtown families that registered their Stop and Shop cards. We earned \$4704.64.
270 families signed up.



Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Alves, Mrs. Bershefsky/
Ms. Grosso, Mrs. Buswell,
Mrs. Capone/Ms. Bennette,
Mrs. Crawford**



Well, we are definitely ready for spring after the winter we have had this year! We had enough snow to last us a couple of years! It is now time for the kindergartners to

be spring detectives. We will be looking for robins, buds, flowers, warmer weather and other signs that tell us spring is truly here! Some of us have already seen robins! Encourage your little one to be a scientist! Enjoy this educational opportunity as well and talk about this science topic with your youngster.

This was a fun month for reading in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' birthday. We had fun reading Dr. Seuss books and it was a good opportunity to review rhyming. We enjoyed a variety of activities related to Dr. Seuss. During our Foundations lessons this month, we focused on tapping out sounds to blend and read words. We have also been writing three letter words on our dry erase boards while simultaneously focusing on correct letter formation. Most of the children recognize the letters and the sounds. I am so impressed! We ended the month by learning digraphs (th, sh, ch, wh, ck) and will practice finding them and writing them as it can be a tricky skill to attain. Please review the sight words with your child if he/she cannot read them all yet. They have to be able to automatically read all 50 sight words by the end of the year.

In social studies, we learned all about St. Patrick's Day and even had a visit from a tricky leprechaun who left behind messes, muddy footprints, gold, and blarney stones for good luck. The children were thrilled. Thank you to all the parents that helped with this holiday celebration. Many of the children were completely enthralled!

In math, we finished up our geometry unit on 2-D and 3-D shapes and moved onto numeracy.

In this unit we will focus on teen numbers. We will not only learn to recognize them but to become comfortable accurately counting out corresponding amounts. We will play a variety of hands on games to develop a proficiency in using numbers higher than 10 and we will also learning how to solve simple addition and subtraction problems.

We are really having fun with our new science curriculum. The focus this month is living vs. non-living; clouds and life cycles. The children LOVE the science big books we are reading. We will get to look for shapes in the clouds and make a couple of really fun cloud projects, but the biggest event of all will be when we actually have chicken eggs that we will care for and watch them (HOPEFULLY – please keep your fingers crossed) hatch. We are certain when we start that unit that you will be getting daily reports at home.

Please remember to mark your calendars. Kinderfest will take place on Tuesday, June 17th at 9 a.m. in the cafetorium. You don't want to miss it!

Grade One News...

**Mrs. Gambardella, Mrs. Mordecai,
Mrs. Rodrigues, Mrs. Tuohy,
Ms. Grunow**

First graders had a marvelous March! We started our month with a Dr. Seuss celebration! We read many books that Theodore Giesel wrote and focused in on Green Eggs and Ham and Horton Hears a Who. We activated prior knowledge and shared all that we knew about these two funny stories. We hunted for rhyming words and practiced retelling these stories using all the components of a good retell. (Characters, setting, events, problem, solution). Our mathematical number sense is developing and becoming stronger as we continued to practice story problems. We also practiced and played many number games to increase our automaticity of our number facts. We are practicing telling time and counting coins. We are sure to be ready for second grade with all of these skills under our belt. We welcomed Spring on the 20th with open arms! We cannot wait to explore this wonderful season and all the scientific findings that come when insects, bugs and flowers arrive. Although, Frenchtown first graders are always busy bees as we buzz through our days! Happy Spring!



Grade Two News ...

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



Wow! March was a busy month for our second graders! In reading, the students have been focusing on nonfiction texts. They have learned that good readers wonder before they read a text, during their reading, as

well as after they complete a text. Students are encouraged to look for answers to their wonders in other texts. They also have learned about a variety of text features that are commonly found in nonfiction books. Each night, as you read with your child, remember to talk to him/her about the book. Ask questions about the author's main idea, character traits, and vocabulary used in the story. Also when reading nonfiction books, encourage your child to notice nonfiction text features such as the table of contents, glossary, index, bold words, diagrams, and captions. This will help to improve your child's reading comprehension.

In math, the students have been working very hard on their problem solving skills. They have been developing multiple strategies for solving problems with totals up to 100! When working with your child, it is important to encourage your child to not only write an equation that represents a problem but to also show their work. This is an important skill that they need to develop before third grade. There is a big focus in adding tens and ones to combine 2-digit numbers and noticing what happens to the tens place when a multiple of ten is added or subtracted. In addition, it is essential that your child continues to practice his or her math facts on a nightly basis. The end of the year is approaching quickly and we would like them to know their facts for third grade!

In science, the students have been introduced to a new unit on Matter. Through hands-on experiments, they have been able to discover the different properties that solids and liquids possess.

In library, the students have been learning about community workers. They are learning the skill of note taking. Each student will be

researching a community worker and finding out facts. Keep an eye out because they will be presenting their projects in May!

We are seeing a lot of growth in second grade and we thank all of the parents for their continued support and devotion to their children's education. Let's hope for a gentle end to March and much sunshine!

Grade Three News...

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

April is a month full of exciting events for our third graders! The students will be treated to a TAY performance on April 2nd called, "Jack and the Giant." Our third grade Math Night is occurring on the Wednesday, April 9th in the evening. It promises to be a lot of fun for both our students and their parents. One of our favorite authors - James Bruchac - will be coming to visit us on Read Aloud Day on the 10th. The Read Aloud theme for this year is "Batter Up!" in honor of the Little League's 25th anniversary as champions. Of course, we are all looking forward to the Spring Break during the week of April 14th. What a fantastic month April is for our students!

In math classes, we have been studying fractions. Students are working hard to understand the relationship between the numerator and the denominator in fractions. Perhaps students can participate in measuring ingredients, or a similar activity, to help reinforce fraction concepts at home. Don't forget to continue to practice your multiplication and division facts at home. In reading, students have been focusing on comparing and contrasting stories. We have been looking for similarities and differences between companion texts.



The students are continuing to study the Native Americans of the Plains in social studies. They are very excited to begin this unit and learn about the tribes from this area. In science, the students are finishing their unit of study for the human body with their discussions of the owl pellet investigation. Soon, the students will complete a Connecticut Embedded Task called "Soggy Paper" when the students will be conducting fair tests with various types of paper. All third grade students

throughout the state of CT will be completing this task!

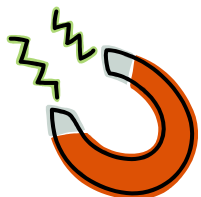
We are finally enjoying some nicer weather. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. Please send in your signed permission slips for our upcoming field trip in June. As always, if you are able, the third grade teachers would like to ask for any donations of tissues, paper towels, and wipes. Our supplies are running low, and we can always use reinforcements! Thanks so much!

Grade Four News...

**Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Fiore,
Mrs. Gaspar, Ms. St. John
Mrs. Wolfe**

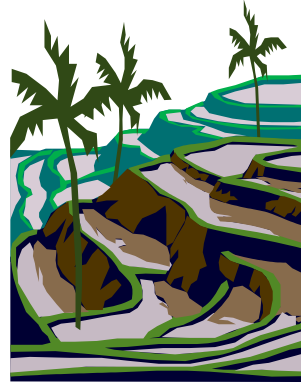
Now that the blustery “dead of winter” is finally behind us, Grade Four has been concentrating on all things alive and growing! The students have been very excited about their Endangered Species projects. Research and writing time has been set aside each week in order for each student to learn valuable information about their animal – from its appearance and habitat to why it is on the brink of extinction. The students’ hard work and efforts will be showcased at the Endangered Species Fair on **Thursday evening, May 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**, where everyone is invited to attend. Make sure you mark your calendar for this fun and informative event! Our culminating field trip to the **Bronx Zoo** is also approaching. Feel free to accompany your child and enjoy the day on **Friday, June 6th**.

Math this month is all about solids in geometry. Students have been busy identifying the shapes of silhouettes, and visualizing what objects look like from different perspectives. They have been finding the volume of rectangular prisms in cubic units by constructing boxes to hold arrays of cubes, and then drawing patterns for those boxes. Of course we continue to review our basic facts in class on a daily basis. Please continue to practice these facts at home each night with your child.



Did you know that the Earth is one, big giant magnet? Have you ever heard of a lodestone? Did you ever wonder why one side of a magnet attracts objects, while the other side repels them? Ask your

child to answer these questions. You’ll be amazed at what your fourth grader has learned this month in science!



Just in time for spring, in social studies our fourth graders will “travel” to the sunny Southeast. Students will learn about the burgeoning population, growth of port cities, and its mild climate. They will also learn about the unique colonial history of the southeast and its many contributions to “Americana.”

Classroom discussions will center on the “special way of life,” along with the temperate climate that citizens of the southeast enjoy. From Mardi-Gras in New Orleans, to exploring the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, our trip to the Southeast will be an exciting one for all!

As you can see, we have some exciting events planned in Fourth Grade. Now that the weather has improved, we can all enjoy ourselves outdoors. Happy spring!

Grade Five News...

**Mrs. Carley, Mrs. Russo,
Mrs. Ferraro, Mrs. Windsor,
Mrs. Demshak**

We know that everyone is excited that we will have our full April vacation from April 12th – April 20th. But there is so much happening before then that we need to let you know. Afternoon conferences will be held on April 1st (early dismissal) and evening conferences on April 3rd. These conferences are only at the request of your child’s teacher and by appointment only. This conference time will not be used to discuss next year’s placement. If your teacher does not feel a conference is necessary at this time but you want to talk or meet at another time, please contact your teacher directly by email.

SBAC testing for Math will take place on March 26th, March 31st, and April 1st. SBAC testing for Language Arts will take place on April 3rd, April 7th, and April 8th. The test will require students to apply their knowledge of language arts and mathematics in practical and problem-solving situations. Most of these tests will be completed on laptops and your child has had some exposure to the types of questions which may

be asked and experienced what it is like to answer on a laptop. This is a new testing process for everyone and we just ask that each child tries their best. Your child will also have a math articulation test for middle school placement on April 2nd.



Invention Convention is upon us and will take place Wednesday, April 9th! Each student chose an invention that solves a real problem and serves a purpose. It was hard for many to find something that no

one has ever thought of before or improve on an object that was already invented. However, once your child did, the designing and building was underway. The test trials and improvement phase definitely showed your child that it is not easy creating something and a great deal of perseverance is needed. Your child documented what was done and how it was done in an inventor's log. Most enjoyed creating a display board demonstrating the invention process and the invention in use complete with drawings and photographs. Some are a little nervous about the interview process by the judges. Judges may ask questions like: What problem does your invention solve? Why did you decide on this invention?, or What was the biggest problem that you faced while working on your invention? Check out the site www.ctinventionconvention.org for more information. Remember invention and display are due on Monday, April 7th!

There are so many fun things going on in April also. Your child will be raising money for Jump Rope for Heart on April 11th. Author Steve Swinburne will be visiting on April 22nd and you can check out his site at www.steveswinburn.com. Finally as a special treat, a music program by Billy Genuario will entertain us all during the afternoon of April 24th.

Math News...

**Mrs. Gidwani, Mrs. Cannon-Axtell,
Mrs. Sansone**

Is your child practicing their math facts at least 3 to 4 times a week? Students must practice their math facts regularly, just as they read each night to gain fluency. Math facts are the "alphabet"

of mathematics. Students who know their math facts will feel more confident in math class and be able to perform more complex math problems.

Grade K-Must know all addition and subtraction facts to 5.

Grade 1-Must know all addition and subtraction facts to 10.

Grade 2-Must know all addition and subtraction facts to 20.

Grade 3-Must know all of the above and multiplication facts to 100.

Grade 4-Must know all of the above and multiplication/division facts to 100.

Grade 5-Must know all of the above quickly and accurately.

Go to www.xtramath.org, www.mathfactcafe.com or www.multiplication.com for fact practice online. Also, visit www.frenchtownelementary.com and click on the Math BEAR for more math practice.

From the Library...

Mrs. Belangi

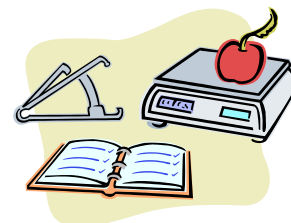
I was happy to join Mrs. Norcel at the Connecticut Association of Schools Volunteer banquet where, Maggie Carroll and Rosie Samoskevich, two long-time library volunteers were honored; hats off to my "silent heroes."

April is Library Media Center month so we will have many activities to celebrate. Fifth grade students will read a poem during morning announcements each day; authors will visit every grade and the library windows will be decorated with student and staff responses to the question:

"If you wrote a book about your life what would the title be?" Encourage your child to participate by creating a book cover or go online to my website and follow the instructions under "Book Title."

From the Nurse's Office...

Mrs. McCullough



The following information is taken from the Food and Drug Administration's website on the new food label.

A lot has changed in the American diet since the

Nutrition Facts label was introduced in 1993 to provide important nutritional information on food packages.

People are eating larger serving sizes. Rates of obesity, heart disease and stroke remain high. More is known about the relationship between nutrients and the risk of chronic diseases. So the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposes bringing this familiar rectangular box—which has become one of the most recognized graphics in the world—up to date with changes to its design and content.

"Obesity, heart disease and other chronic diseases are leading public health problems," says Michael Landa, director of FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. "The proposed new label is intended to bring attention to calories and serving sizes, which are important in addressing these problems. Further, we are now proposing to require the listing of added sugars. The 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends reducing calories from added sugars and solid fats." Jessica Leighton, Ph.D., senior nutrition science and policy advisor in FDA's Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, and Claudine Kavanaugh, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., a health scientist at FDA, explain what you can expect to see if the proposed changes are enacted.

"The goal is to make people aware of what they are eating and give them the tools to make healthy dietary choices throughout the day," says Leighton.

What's Different? And Why?

- The first thing consumers would notice is a greater emphasis—with larger and bolder type—on calories. "The number of calories is especially important to maintaining a healthy weight," says Leighton.
- For the first time, "Added Sugars" would be included on the label. On average, Americans eat 16 percent of their daily calories from sugars added during food production.
- And the calories from fat would no longer be listed. "We know that the type of fat is more important than the total amount of fat," says Kavanaugh. Total, saturated and *trans* fat will still be required.
- The number of servings per package would also be more prominent. And "Amount Per

Serving," would now have the actual serving size listed, such as "Amount per cup."

- FDA proposes updating serving size requirements. These updates would reflect the reality of what people actually eat, according to recent food consumption data. By law, serving sizes must be based on what people actually eat, not on what they "should" be eating.
- FDA would update Daily Values for various nutrients. Daily Values are used to calculate the Percent Daily Value (%DV) on the label, which helps consumers understand the nutrition information in the context of a total diet. In addition, the %DV would be shifted to the left of the label. FDA wants to help consumers visually and quickly put nutrient information in context.
- The amounts of potassium and Vitamin D would be required on the label. Vitamin D is important for healthy bones, especially among women and the elderly. And potassium helps to lower blood pressure and prevent hypertension. "We have evidence that people are not consuming enough of these nutrients to protect against chronic diseases," says Leighton.

New Label

Nutrition Facts	
8 servings per container	
Serving size	2/3 cup (55g)
Amount per 2/3 cup	
Calories	230
% DV*	
12%	Total Fat 8g
5%	Saturated Fat 1g
	<i>Trans Fat</i> 0g
0%	Cholesterol 0mg
7%	Sodium 160mg
12%	Total Carbs 37g
14%	Dietary Fiber 4g
	Sugars 1g
	Added Sugars 0g
	Protein 3g
10%	Vitamin D 2mcg
20%	Calcium 260mg
45%	Iron 8mg
5%	Potassium 235mg

* Footnote on Daily Values (DV) and calories reference to be inserted here.

Old Label

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)	
Servings Per Container About 8	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 230	Calories from Fat 40
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	12%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	12%
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%
Sugars 1g	
Protein 3g	
Vitamin A	10%
Vitamin C	8%
Calcium	20%
Iron	45%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g

Old Label

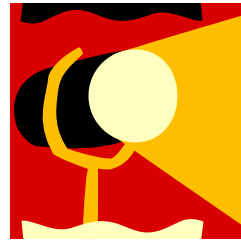
Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)	
Servings Per Container About 8	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 230	Calories from Fat 40
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 8g	12%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 160mg	7%
Total Carbohydrate 37g	12%
Dietary Fiber 4g	16%
Sugars 1g	
Protein 3g	
Vitamin A	10%
Vitamin C	8%
Calcium	20%
Iron	45%
* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.	
	Calories: 2,000 2,500
Total Fat	Less than 65g 80g
Sat Fat	Less than 20g 25g
Cholesterol	Less than 300mg 300mg
Sodium	Less than 2,400mg 2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate	300g 375g
Dietary Fiber	25g 30g

Music News...
Mrs. Tavella

In K, 1, and 2, we have been trying to sing, Songs about green grass and birds, To bring along Spring! We have also been jiggging for a while, and learning about instruments from the Emerald Isle!

In grade 4 we are roaring on recorder tunes, practicing for the Endangered Species Concert soon.

In fifth grade we are deep into the blues, learning about chords and progressions, and listening for clues.



*Our Kids in Motion Raffle
Winners!
Week 3*

- 1st place – Isabella Pucci*
- 2nd place – Timmy Costello*
- 3rd place – Katelynn Robinson*

Week 4

- 1st place – Chase Soucy*
- 2nd place – Katelynn Robinson*
- 3rd place – James Carello*

PI Day



On March 13th Two Fairfield University Math professors brought three students with them to present a π Day Workshop for fourth and fifth grade girls. The girls explored how to find the area of a circle using the formula $A = \pi r^2$. The following girls participated:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Cassie Lathrope | Gia Powar-Barhpaga |
| Tiffany Suporn | Sally Kirk |
| Mishka Kapoor | Carlie Siwanowicz |
| Siri Setty | Kiersten Nyquist |
| Julia Larkin | Marcella Cecere |
| Jenna DeLucia | Jacqueline Malheiro |
| Alyssa Andrews | Emily Umana |
| Julia Vieux | |

Spring Photos

If 100% of portraits taken at Frenchtown on March 12th are paid for or returned when received, Lifetouch will reward positive behavior by providing a bicycle to be used in a drawing. NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE DRAWING.

