

# Wolf Times

Volume 9, Issue 4

December, 2011



## **From the Desk of Jacqueline Norcel, Principal**

Thank you for attending our parent/teacher conferences; your involvement sends a powerful message to children that school is important. Everything you do to show your concern and involvement increases the probability that your child will succeed.

Our December theme is "Peace on Earth" and our Character Counts Pillar is "Bee Kind." The country of the month is Germany. The development of these themes allow our teachers to present an interdisciplinary approach to the curriculum as we learn about various cultures and traditions. The holidays to be highlighted will be St. Nicholas Day, St. Lucia's Day, Las Posada, Poinsettia Day, Islamic New Year, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, and Three King's Day.

This is the season of light. All the December holidays revolve around light and caring. Christmas brings the message of LOVE and PEACE; Hanukkah the message of REDEDICATION and RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. Kwanzaa is a reflective holiday, introduced in the Mid-1960's during the Civil Rights Movement and was designed to pull African-Americans together through a celebration of unity and pride. The

symbols of Kwanzaa are based on ancient African harvest symbols.

What greater joy is there than giving? Gifts do not need to be store bought, expensive or wrapped in fancy paper. The best gifts are those made or performed for a particular friend or relative. These gifts make him or her feel special and leave the giver with a sense of accomplishment.

The children will be encouraged to make gifts and to give good thoughts and warm wishes during this holiday season. Sharing a part of ourselves can be a beautiful gift. Children or classes might produce a book of written stories, puzzles, mazes, games, poems, etc. for their families. We will also have our PTA Holiday Boutique where store bought items can be purchased for family or friends.



I would like to offer you twenty good and amazing reasons why books make one of the best holiday presents:

- ▶ BOOKS do not have to be assembled before being given.
- ▶ BOOKS do not need batteries.
- ▶ BOOKS never come in the wrong color or size.
- ▶ BOOKS do not need to be serviced by a dealer.
- ▶ BOOKS do not need spare parts.
- ▶ BOOKS are easier to gift wrap than footballs.
- ▶ BOOKS do not bite, scratch, or kick.
- ▶ BOOKS do not need watering or fertilizing.
- ▶ BOOKS do not go out of style.
- ▶ BOOKS do not irritate your allergies.
- ▶ BOOKS look good with any décor.

- ▶ BOOKS do not get aphids or draw ants.
- ▶ BOOKS do not bark or need to be walked in the middle of the night.
- ▶ BOOKS do not shrink, stretch, or fade.
- ▶ BOOKS do not need extension cords.
- ▶ BOOKS will not scratch the coffee table.
- ▶ BOOKS do not have zippers that break.

When you are finished with a book, it is not empty.

Through our music program at Frenchtown, our children will give their parents and the Frenchtown community the gift of two seasonal music productions. They will give of themselves to bring enjoyment to others for an evening. Band and strings will perform on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and our second and fifth grade Chorus will perform on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Both performances begin at 7:00 p.m. Parents, relatives, and friends are invited to see the production at Frenchtown School in the Cafetorium. There is extra parking available in the back of the building on the playground/black top.

December is a good time of year to remember that we give little gifts of kindness, hope, and faith every day, all year round. I would like to wish you and your families the many blessings of this happy, holiday season.

*Warmest thoughts and best wishes  
for a wonderful holiday season  
and a very Happy New Year.*

*The gifts of Love and Peace  
to all....  
Mrs. Norcel*



## Coloring Book Contest Winners



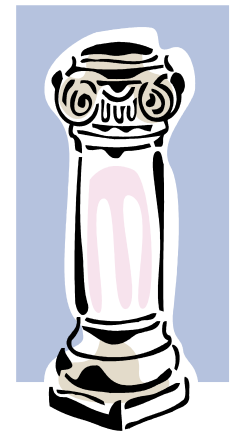
Hayden Brill	Room 176A
Connor Smith	Room 165
Jake Moffat	Room 128
Cassie Pereira	Room 131
Mina Song	Room 211

Character Corner—  
Mr. Weitzman,

**Social Worker**



**“Bee” Kind**



The Pillar of Character that we will focus on for December is “Bee Kind.” One way to show kindness is to use kind words. Your friends, classmates, and family feel special when they hear you say encouraging things to them. Some examples are:

**“Way to go; You are really good; You can do it; What a great idea; Good for you.”**

## Frenchtown School Dismissal Schedule

### Regular Day:

AM K 8:35 am to 11:47 am  
PM K 12:07 pm to 3:20 pm  
Regular 8:35 am to 3:20 pm

### Legal Day:

AM K 8:35 am to 10:45 am  
PM K 10:52 am to 1:00 pm  
Regular 8:35 am to 1:00 pm

### Early Dismissal:

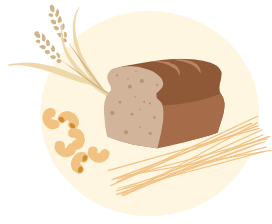
AM K 8:35 am to 10:45 am  
PM K CANCELED  
Regular 8:35 am to 1:00 pm

### Delayed Opening:

AM K 10:05 am to 12:32 pm  
PM K 12:52 pm to 3:20 pm  
Regular 10:05 am to 3:20 pm

## Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Alves**



I can't believe the holidays are here already! November has been a great month. We took the pumpkin that we got at Jones' and we cooked it and then we mashed it. We used that pumpkin to make our pumpkin bread. I hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did making it.

Our Thanksgiving celebration was wonderful. The children had a good time. Thank you so much for all you did to help us celebrate. Everyone was so generous.

Thank you so much for coming to parent/teacher conferences. It is so nice to see so many of you. Please don't hesitate to write if you think we need to talk again.

So far we have covered most of the letters. We need to know the name of the letter, know the sound it makes, words that start with that letter, and how to write it. But don't stop there. Keep practicing. I am so pleased with the progress the children are making with their sight words and their little books. Continue to review the sight words with your youngster.

We are counting, counting, counting and recounting in kindergarten. By the end of the year we would like the children to be able to count to 100! So any time you can practice would be a great help.

We are enjoying *Time for Kids*. The children really seem to enjoy it. We talk about current events and sharpen our reading skills. They liked getting their own magazine. I send them home with the children after we are finished. Go over it with your youngster and let them tell you everything they remember about it. There is even a hint on what to do with your little one on the last page.

Enjoy the season. It is a wonderful time of the year for our little ones!

## Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Crawford**

Well, the holidays are already upon us. I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

There is so much for which to be thankful. We spent time in class talking about the importance of giving to others and for thinking about all the special people and things in our lives. We read many holiday books and even watched a video of the first Thanksgiving. Children really love to learn factual information. Ask your child about why the Pilgrims decided to leave England. The most fun we had was making pumpkin bread. The children used many math and thinking skills as we mixed and measured. They were all very proud to bring their bread home and contribute to their families' celebrations. I hope you enjoyed it! Our parties went well and we had fun making different art projects. The feathers came out great and hence we had a dazzling turkey on the bulletin board! Thank you to all the parents who helped with the feather project and our holiday celebration!

We also celebrated Veteran's Day this month. We watched a movie about the holiday, but we also spent time talking in detail about the brave and important work our soldiers do to defend our country.

This month we learned the letters e, u, l, h, k, p, j, v and w. The children are doing pretty well with the sounds but could always benefit from practice. Have them tell you the letter/keyword/sound as we do in class. Also, have your child try to generate other words that start with a particular letter (You can even do this in the car). Keep practicing correct letter formation. It is not easy for the children to form letters correctly and place them on the lined paper appropriately. **Fundations** is really helping them learn correct letter formation. Please also reinforce the correct pencil grasp.



We have continued Calendar Math and are learning a great deal. The children are learning bigger numbers, counting patterns, adding, estimating, etc. We have to be able to count to 100 by the end of the year so we are counting all the time. We also started our unit on measuring where we learned to line up objects at the edge with our measuring towers. We then determined whether objects were longer, short or the same size as the measuring tower.

We are going science crazy this year with a newer curriculum this year! We focused on the five

senses (We will revert back to the senses all year long), magnets (They had a ball with all our experiments) and the weather (We are now meteorologists). I am having just as much fun as the kindergartners!

I want to end my newsletter by letting you know that I am very thankful to be working with all of you. I appreciate the time you take to help complete the homework and write me notes about the books your child is reading. I appreciate the help you provide on field trips, parties, and so on. Thank you for helping me create a positive learning experience for your children! I truly could not do it without you!

## Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Capone**



The month of November officially kicked off the holiday season at Frenchtown. We focused our learning on the true meaning of Thanksgiving and the importance of giving thanks for all that we have.

The kindergartners were excited to share their family traditions with one another. We read many beautiful stories that inspired the children to write about what they were thankful for. Our Thanksgiving celebration was fabulous! I am truly amazed with how generous our kindergarten families are. I appreciate all that you do to make our celebrations so special!

We continued our lesson on senses when we cut open our pumpkin that we bought on our field trip to Jones' Farm. To conclude our lesson in senses we baked our pumpkin and used it to make pumpkin bread for a delicious treat for our Thanksgiving celebration.

This month we have focused on the letters e, u, l, h, k, p, j, v, and w. The children are making great progress with identifying the lowercase letters, knowing the sound the letters make, providing words for each letter, and writing these letters. Their letter formation is really coming along. Please continue to practice forming these letters at home. It is so very important to review all of the letters we have learned since the beginning of the school year. I hope you are enjoying listening to your child read their little books to you as much as I do. I love to see the excitement in the students when they discover their high frequency words in

stories we are reading and around the classroom. Continue to practice reading, spelling and writing these words. I am so proud of how hard they are working!

Thank you to all for coming to parent/teacher conferences. I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet with you all.

## Grade One News...

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

November has been an exciting month in first grade. We have made great progress so far this year!

We love to read! In Reader's Workshop we have been busy practicing making connections, wondering, and retelling. We have been practicing these skills in our just right books.

We are learning about geometry in math. We have learned about the common attributes of shapes. We have enjoyed working with pattern blocks, power polygons, and geoboards.

In Writer's Workshop, we continue to practice adding more details to our writing. We also have been working on remembering our capitals and end marks. After reading When I Was Little we wrote about how we have changed from being babies to first graders. Be sure to check out our bulletin boards to read how we have changed and see our adorable photographs!

We planted brassica in science. We watched our plants grow and observed them like careful scientists.



We spent many weeks learning about the history behind Thanksgiving. We learned about the Pilgrims and the Wampanoags and how they were the same and different. We learned beautiful songs for our First Grade Pow Wow. We decorated our Native American costumes and prepared for our special day. Thank you for coming to share our feast and watch our Pow Wow. It was a wonderful learning experience!

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

**Mrs. Alfano, Mrs. Angon,**

**Ms. Hull, Mrs. Pereira,**

**Ms. Sansone, Mrs. Buswell**

November is always a busy time at Frenchtown School with conferences, Thanksgiving activities and classroom celebrations, but our second graders are doing a wonderful job keeping up with the pace of things and moving along academically! We enjoyed meeting families to discuss students' academic and social performance during conferences! We always appreciate the support and devotion to your children's education!

### ***English Language Arts/ Reading and Writing***

The children have been working hard in our balanced literacy program. They are reading independently from a variety of self-selected fiction and non-fiction books at their own levels. They continue to receive instruction at the appropriate level in their guided reading groups. They are also learning a variety of reading strategies to help them become stronger readers. Daily mini-lessons teach and model specific strategies and then the children apply them in their own reading and in their journal response books. Using a variety of strategies will help enhance reading comprehension.

Each night, as you read with your child, remember to talk to him/her about the book he/she is reading. Ask questions about the book's main idea, characters, the problem and solution as well as the vocabulary used in the story. This will help to improve your child's reading comprehension. The children are moving through the writing process. They are starting to understand that a story has a good topic sentence, details in the body of their work to support their topic sentence, and an appropriate closing sentence to wrap it all up. In addition, another focus continues to be correct punctuation and use of capitals when necessary.

### ***Math***

The students worked in Unit 3 in Investigations called Stickers, Number Strings, and Story Problems which is designed to develop ideas about counting and quantity, the composition of numbers, and the operations of addition and subtraction. The children also investigated what makes numbers even and odd.

Please keep in mind that it is important for the children to memorize the math facts. You can help them with this task by practicing with flash cards at

home. Our goal is for every second grader to know the facts automatically. (Without their fingers!)

### ***Social Studies:***

Due to the time of year, the social studies curriculum consisted of learning more about the history of Thanksgiving when the Pilgrims sailed from England to look for the New World. The children grew to understand what the life of Pilgrim children was like during the colonial times by following the stories of Samuel Eaton and Sarah Morton, a Pilgrim boy and girl. Through literature, they learned to appreciate the different way of life. They learned about the chores the Pilgrim children had, the schooling they received, and the past times they enjoyed.

The children were very enthusiastic about all of the November projects they worked on! It truly is a beautiful time of year!

### ***Science***

In Science the children investigated and recorded the weather daily. They became weathermen and women and reported what the days looked like in their journals. The children learned that air is material that takes up space, they observed the force of air pressure pushing on objects and materials, they observed and described changes that occur in weather over time, they became familiar with instruments used by meteorologists to monitor air and weather conditions, and they acquired vocabulary associated with properties of air and weather conditions.



In addition to this weather unit, the children participated in a fun experiment involving cranberries! During this experiment, they observed and described the properties of a cranberry. They recorded their observations before and after their teacher cut their cranberry in half. They made observations about the inside of a cranberry and they counted the seeds in their cranberry. They determined whether a cranberry will float or sink and whether it would bounce or not. It was a great introduction to exploring properties of an object and it was a fun experience!

This time of year brings many changes. As the leaves turn colors and the weather, well... who knows, the children are changing too. They are maturing. They are becoming more responsible for their learning and they are having a wonderful year.

## Grade Three News...

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

In reading, the third grade students have continued to make inferences when they are reading their just right books, as well as texts read aloud in class. We have been responding to our just right books in a variety of ways, and have been working hard to incorporate evidence from the text in our responses. Please remember to support your child by having them read 20 minutes each night, and to mark their FREE calendars to reflect that work.

In math, students have been working on solving addition and subtraction problems using a variety of strategies including the unmarked number line, breaking apart numbers, base ten blocks, and the algorithm among others. Although the students are solving the problems in a different way than you might be used to, it is important that the students find a strategy that works for them so that they can be accurate in their computations. Please help your child to practice their basic facts at home, and in completing their BEAR math fact calendar so they can get credit for all of their hard work.



The third grade students continue to love the computer program called “Test Prep Fun.” The teachers love it too! Students are completing their games, earning prizes, and are practicing for CMTs all at the same

time! Remind your child to “turn the red games green” and to check to make sure that they have completed all of the previous games that were assigned so that they can stay on the “road map” and can cover all of the important CMT skills in a strategic and steady way. We look forward to their continued participation and their progress toward mastering CMT skills! They can log on and compete with other third grade students from home! In social studies, the students continue to learn about habitats with a focus on mountains and deserts. The children especially enjoyed learning and participating in Election Day! In science, the students are finishing their ecosystems unit and are transitioning into the human body unit of study soon.

Please be mindful of the change in weather and make sure that your child comes to school with the appropriate clothing for outdoor recess and for getting dropped off/picked up. Lastly, ask your child if he or she is in need of any supplies. Your child may need another glue stick (we use one almost every day), pencils, or even scissors! Thanks so much!

## Grade Four News...

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

We hope you all weathered the wrath of nature’s fury. Along with a palette of crimson, umber, and goldenrod leaves, crisp cool air, and bright sunshine, Mother Nature delivered a few lessons in the month of November. Always be prepared and expect the unexpected! If you have not yet returned an emergency dismissal form for your child, please do so as soon as possible, we never know what awaits us around the corner. We want the children to be comfortable and aware of where they are to go in the event of an unforeseen emergency. Many had lots to be thankful for during the holiday season. We hope you enjoyed time with your family and friends.

Our fourth grade team has not been deterred in our quest to provide a rigorous curriculum that challenges our students and addresses their multifaceted needs. Math classes have completed their second unit of study focusing on multiplication and division strategies. Students are learning about *Size, Shape, and Symmetry*. We have had the opportunity to investigate linear measurement, using both metric and standard benchmark units of measure. Provide opportunities for children to assist in using a tape measure or ruler to figure out the perimeter of household items. In our study of 2-dimensional geometry, children are learning about the attributes of polygons- defined in terms of angles and sides. Do you know the differences between the various types of quadrilaterals?

The focus in reading has shifted from non-fiction text to fiction. Children are recognizing the key elements of a story- the characters, setting, and plot. We are delving into deeper thinking. For example, if the setting of the story were changed, what effect would this have on the outcome of the story or the message being delivered by the author? Children are progressing in their written response to

literature. As always, the challenge is to provide specific evidence from the text to support our thinking. Using a highlighter to draw attention to evidence in reading assignments is a great strategy to practice at home. Engage students in conversations about their nightly reading. Expressing thoughts verbally often assists students in getting their words down onto paper.

In our new Being a Writer program, students have been exposed to exemplars of children's literature. We have explored various means through which writers get their ideas. Classes are exploring the narrative genre and students are tapping into their personal experiences to create pieces that include sensory details and a vivid vocabulary. Students also had the opportunity to dabble in some poetry writing- in the form of fall triplets or haiku.



Newton's Laws of Motion provided students with a good foundation for understanding the world of simple machines. We are now learning about tools and machines that can make "work" easier for us. How was it possible for the Egyptians to move those heavy bricks to build the pyramids? Ask your children about the use of levers, the wheel and axle, and an inclined plane.

Thanks to Mr. Fiore's careful planning, our trip to Hartford was enjoyed by all! It was a great way to wrap up our study of the government and for students to witness first-hand how our democratic system operates. Students are now starting a journey through the regions of our diverse country... first stop- Connecticut and the states of the northeast!

As our weather is in a transitional stage, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately for outdoor recess. In addition, as we enter the cold season, donations of tissues, hand wipes, or soap are always welcome to help deter the spread of germs.

We wish you all a happy holiday season and a year ahead filled with health and prosperity!



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

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

### **Language Arts**

#### **Writing**

Students are realizing that expository writing is different from narrative in purpose, organization, and tone and is crafted for the purpose of informing an audience. The details need to be well organized in a logical and sequential manner but the piece should still maintain style and a unique voice that hooks and holds the reader's attention. Classes are focusing on writing attention grabbing introductions with powerful leads and clear topic sentences and creating creative conclusions. Students are elaborating with specific, supporting details and including anecdotes, descriptive segments, and amazing facts.

#### **Reading**

Students are exploring narrative text structure, including character, setting, plot, and conflict. They use questioning to help them make sense of text and they think about whether their questions are answered explicitly or implicitly. We are working on developing interpretations and examining text. They are using specific or implied evidence from the text to draw and support a conclusion. Students also analyze and evaluate the author's craft, including the use of literary devices and text elements. Please encourage your child to actively read a "just right" book and use their reading strategies for twenty minutes each night.

#### **Social Studies**

Students are analyzing why European explorers set out towards North America and how their impact on Native American life led to many changes in early civilization. Students have explored with many famous navigators, cartographers, and explorers. Students have become familiar with our globe and latitude and longitude lines, including the equator and prime meridian. The end of this unit will lead to early American Colonization.

#### **Science**

Ask your child to explain the cause of day and night based on the rotation of earth on its' axis. Ask him/her why we experience different seasons. Does he/she know what happens during a solar and lunar eclipse or why the moon's appearance seems to

change during the month, and name all the phases of the moon? Ask how the mutual gravitational pull of the earth and moon produces the ocean's tides. So much of what we experience here on earth is due to what happens in our solar system.

## **Math**

Students have been exploring place value and number sense. They are working with reading and writing numbers as well as regrouping numbers and representing numbers in different ways. Students are learning about the relationship between the value of a number and its place value. They are exploring ways to subtract numbers and utilizing different strategies to show their work. Teachers have analyzed the 1<sup>st</sup> trimester math results and have targeted the needs of your child and will continue to provide necessary support. Students have been exposed to various multi-step problems in which they need to apply their mathematical skills in new ways. They should be explaining their reasoning and showing all work.

In Calendar Math, students needed to explain what it means to simplify a fraction and how they know when they need to simplify and when it is not necessary. They explored composite, prime, and square numbers. Your child should have mastered basic math facts up to 12. Please encourage your child to practice if he/she is still struggling.

## **Math News...**

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

### **Working on Math at Home:**

I know that many of you at home may feel somewhat unsure of the strategies being taught in our classrooms because they look different from how we learned math in school. Below are some suggestions that might help as you and your child work together on math at home. Please don't forget to use the resources available at

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com) or to get in contact with either your child's teacher or grade level math specialist if you have questions.

### **Expect Your Child to Work Hard and be Able to Learn Math**

Many adults leave school thinking that mathematics doesn't make sense. The way they learned math did not always enable them to solve problems in efficient ways that made sense to them. When working with your child, keep in mind that

children can make sense of mathematics if given the opportunity and support. Encourage your child to stick with a task even if it seems challenging. Be sure to talk through what the problem is asking and discuss some of the strategies that might be used to solve the problem. Help your child learn that there are many ways to solve problems.

### **Ask Questions**

There are many different types of questions that you can ask your child. Try to use productive questions that promote mathematical activity and reasoning. Productive questions include: "What do you think...?" or "Why do you think...?" Questions such as these encourage children to develop ideas and test and defend their thinking. Other helpful questions include:

- *Why did you solve the problem in this way?*
- *Will your strategy always work?*
- *What else did you try?*

After you ask a question, be patient. Don't automatically give your child the answer. Instead, give your child time to think about the question and how s/he might answer it. If your child gives the wrong answer, ask how they got it. Probe to gain a better understanding of their thinking. Suggest alternate strategies that might help your child find the correct answer. Help him/her think about where their thinking went wrong. For example: "How did you add the 7 and the 8? Sometimes, I start with 7 + 7 because I know that equals 14. Then I know that 7 + 8 = 15. What strategy are you using? Let's try it again." Even if your child answers correctly, it is also important to ask why s/he came up with the solution and probe to learn more about their thinking.

thinking.

### **Solve Problems and Explain Thinking**

Encourage your child to ask questions and explain his/her thinking and do the same yourself. When you see a method that you do not understand, take the

time to analyze and figure it out. Prove to yourself that the answer makes sense. In school, children will use pictures, symbols, diagrams, words and numbers to explain and prove their thinking. The ability to use different representations and mathematical tools are an important part of a child's growing understanding and ability to explain and defend their thinking. As children describe and compare their representations, their understanding of mathematics deepens. You can model successful approaches to solving problems when you verbalize your math thinking and show your child your





methods. By asking questions, making mistakes, and talking about what you think, children will see the importance of working through a problem and make connections with mathematics in everyday situations. **Don't worry about using the same strategy that your child uses. In everyday situations, people have devised many different, effective ways to solve problems. What is important is that each person solves problems in ways that make sense to him/herself.** For example, when shopping, talk out loud about how you are figuring out how much money your items will cost or how much change you will get back. When building an object, sewing, organizing your closet, for example, think out loud and ask your child for his/her ideas to help you find a solution. \*The above information was adapted from <http://investigations.terc.edu/index.cfm>

## From the Library...

**Ms. Albro**

Students in all grades have been continuing their Internet safety lessons. Children should be able to share some of the rules we have discussed during our lessons.



We hope you will consider purchasing a Celebration book in honor of a special teacher. Celebration books help us add books to our collection.

Please remember that students are responsible for all library books taken out on their library card, even if the book stays in school. It is school policy that report cards are not distributed to any student who has an outstanding library book.

## From the Nurse's Office...

**Mrs. McCullough**

Surprising Things You May Not Know About Head Lice

From the Harvard School of Public Health

1. Until a few years ago, approaches to head lice were based on old wives tales, misconceptions and marketing departments for the companies who made products for profit from head lice hysteria. Luckily, we now have research upon which to base our practice. Thank you, Harvard !

2. Head lice are not a sign of uncleanliness; they love clean hair because it is easier to latch on.
3. Lice do not hop, jump or fly; the only way they can get from one person to another is direct touching, head-to-head.
4. Lice are not passed on pets. The only place head lice can survive and thrive is on the human head.
5. When found, most cases of head lice are already more than a month old. One sign is a red itchy rash on the back of the neck, just below the hair line.
6. Because of use and overuse of head lice shampoos, head lice have become resistant to the products that once would kill them, so no head lice product is 100 % effective, even if you follow the directions to the letter. That is why combing and nit removal is important.
7. Never treat or retreat "just in case" in the absence of live lice. Head lice products are pesticides, which are toxic if overused and can be absorbed through the skin. Follow the directions carefully.
8. Removing the nits (eggs) and live lice with a special metal-tooth comb is time-consuming but the most effective way to get rid of them. They do not wash out.
9. Hats and coats touching in school are not sources of lice and there is no need to separate or bag them. A louse on a hat or coat is a dying louse who will not be capable of reproducing. Healthy ones stay close to the scalp until they sense another human head. They cannot survive without blood, that is why they bite.
10. Head lice are not a source of infection or disease; they are simply a nuisance.
11. Schools are not the most common places where head lice are spread, even though schools have been blamed in the past. Sleep-overs among friends and relatives are thought to be a common way they are passed home to home.
12. School-wide head checks are not recommended or endorsed by the Harvard School of Public Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics or the Centers for Disease Control. The most effective screening occurs when parents check their own

children at home, treat if any are found, and make efforts to remove the nits.

13. One of the biggest challenges in eliminating head lice is parents' discomfort in communicating about the problem with other parents when they find head lice, so they are more easily passed back and forth among close friends and relatives.

14. You will always be able to find web sites that promote drastic measures like sprays and special products. Pay attention to who they are! Many of these web sites are either not based on up-to-date research or are commercial sites in the business of selling a product, and it is in their interests to keep Headlice Hysteria alive, otherwise there go their profits.

15. Nit and lice removal is tedious but there are some simple products that may help. Vinegar, real mayonnaise, olive oil and Dawn Dish soap all have their fans, even though none of these have been proven. The way they seem to help is to loosen the "cement" that the nits use to attach to the hair shaft.

16. Shaving the head or cutting the hair will not affect how easily a child catches lice, though these make nit removal easier. Don't do this unless your child wants you to. A child's self-esteem is much more important than a few missed nits.

17. Grandma's old remedy of kerosene for head lice does not work and is *dangerous!* Children have died from inhaling the vapors, or from being burned because it is highly flammable. *Never use kerosene!*

18. Most schools want children with head lice treated and back in school right away.

19. School nurses are supportive advocates who will help you obtain lice shampoo and use it properly. School nurses will assist you in checking or rechecking as you work to remove nits and lice from your child's head. Just ask.

20. School nurses will not judge you or report you or tell others if you ask for assistance dealing with head lice. We handle lice in a confidential manner. We know that even the best families can catch them, and most of us who are parents have been through it at least once ourselves.

## Reading News...

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

Here is your next installment of reading strategies that help children become better readers!

### **CAFÉ Fluency Strategy: Voracious Reading**

Fluency is the ability to read, speak, or write smoothly and with expression. The best way to become a fluent reader is through reading. The amount a child reads has a huge impact on their success in becoming a fluent reader. The strategy of voracious reading is one used with students to increase vocabulary and fluency. Students are taught that voracious means to do a lot of something and still want more of it. They know that by reading, reading, and more reading, they will become smooth readers that are enjoyable to listen to. This will lead to increased comprehension and broadened vocabularies.

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

1. Encourage your child to read more at home. Start by adding a few minutes to their regular reading time and go from there.

2. Model this strategy for your child by taking out a book of your own and reading.

3. Have your child to show you what he/she is reading. Ask the following questions:

- Does this book interest you?
- Are you able to read most of the words?
- Do you understand what you are reading?

Your child should be able to say "yes" to all three questions if he/she is reading a good book to improve fluency and become a voracious reader.

4. Find a genre or style of book your child is interested in. Visit the library or bookstore to provide more books or stories in this area of interest. Tapping into a reader's interests creates voracious readers.

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

**Written by: Allison Behne ©2010**

**www.thedailycafe.com**

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

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



Lucas Liebowitz's name was misspelled last month in the Wolf Times. He was a Citizen of the Month. Congratulations Lucas!



**Our Labels for Education Account  
26,656 Points!**

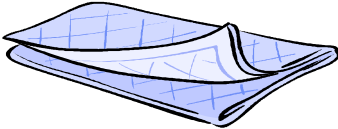


\$1490.90 earned so far this year!

Dear Classmates at Frenchtown,

Thank you very much for donating the sheets and other bedding. I brought them to The Connection in Bridgeport and the directors were very happy. Many children were helped by the donations and will have a warmer winter because of you. Thank you.

Madeline Nigro  
Grade 5




**In the Spotlight**

Sophia Zang has been selected to be a member of the GBYO. (Greater Bridgeport Youth Orchestra). Congratulations Sophia!

**Frenchtown Walking Club**

- Samantha Dobson
- Joshua Fung
- Brenna Benvenuto
- Aiden Demshak
- Daniel Fung
- Grace Krasinski
- Matthew Burgos
- Patrick Benvenuto
- Matthew Fox
- Annie Kacin
- Adrian Almazan
- Bailey Cenatiempo
- Rachel Sousa
- Adam Hammad
- Emily Gossman
- Allie Koch
- Colie Mierzejewski
- Kylie Hernandez
- Courtney Trutt
- Gloriana Arganese
- Alexis Dobson
- Ananya Koduru
- Doug Noe
- Victoria Almazan
- Ana Nogueira
- Tanvika Vegiraju
- Caroline Costello
- Maeve Jordan
- Joy Odigbo
- Brian Sousa
- Vincent Trinh
- Ian Connolly
- Katie Megale
- Karissa Dellicarpini
- Ashiti Damania
- Matthew Twarog
- Gretchen D'Amato
- Jack Welch
- Alexander Reeves
- Francesca Tesei
- Berit Ostensen
- Jada Burton
- Nidhi Kuchikulla
- Abby Giaquinto
- Ruslan Murphy-Cartiglia
- Libby Liggins
- Joseph Megale
- Cassie Pereira
- Samantha Pereira
- Gracie Angon
- Sarah Doris



**New Frenchtown Student Council Officers**

President:	Madison McGee
Vice President:	Delaina Bellows
Treasurer:	Ryan Teixeira
Secretary:	Robert Thompson
Community Liaison:	Michael Welch