

# Wolf Times

Volume 9, Issue 7

March, 2012



From the Desk of Mrs. Norcel, Principal

Dear Frenchtown Families,

It is said March “comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb.” At Frenchtown March begins with our CMT Pep Rally on March 2nd. Our third, fourth, and fifth grades will be watching our version of a “Minute to Win It” put on by our staff. March 5th through 23<sup>rd</sup> grades 3 to 5 will be doing their very best on the reading, mathematics and writing tests and for Grade 5 a Science CMT.

You are invited to attend an Internet Safety Awareness Night at Madison Middle School on March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. I would suggest every family have someone attend this meeting and consider taking your fourth or fifth grader with you. It is vital for everyone to know the wonders of technology as well as the dangers.

Our Character Counts pillar to be highlighted for March is “Bee Respectful.”



Remember, the development of good character is a process. You are building character one day at a time and often the path is two steps forward and one step back. The ongoing efforts you make will be rewarded, as your child becomes a person of good character.

We have purchased for the children in grades 3 through 5 and educational activities book entitled *Rock the Test*. The book will remind our students of their test-taking skills. The children will bring their copy home after CMT's.

Check out our new website. Our Wolf Times is archived each month as are photo albums of various school functions/activities. Our new web master is Kate Kelly. Kate has offered to continue to manage our site from her new home in Williamsburg, VA. We wish Kate and Colm and their girls health and happiness in their new home and school.

March is recognized as Newspapers in Education Month, National Nutrition Month, National Women's History Month, and Music in Our Schools Month. During the month, the areas of Social Studies, Science, Poetry, Nutrition, and Music will be highlighted. March 26th is the anniversary of the women's movement in the United States. Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott were abolitionists who organized the first convention to discuss “social, civil and religious rights of women.” At the convention, the “Declaration of Sentiments” were read. The Declaration said women should have these specific things:

- The right to own property.
- The right to earn money.
- The right to custody of their children.
- The right to equal pay for equal work.

The Educate America Act of 1994 recognized the arts as a core area of study in which American children are expected to achieve competency. In response to this challenge, Frenchtown School is committed to improving the climate of our school by promoting the arts as a way to help all students achieve high levels of academic, personal, and career success.



A renewed interest in arts education has been stimulated by public concern, the quality of American schools and the performance of our students, as well as both basic and advanced thinking skills. These skills instruct children in diverse models of thinking and learning.

March has traditionally been “Music in Our Schools” Month. Music is part of the school day,

and it supports other areas of learning. Each child grows through music as he/she becomes a participant to some degree in every phrase of the program. The music program at Frenchtown involves presenting to pupils many musical experiences: singing, listening, moving to music, performance, creating, and playing rhythm instruments. Our music educators are Mrs. Debra Hawkins and Miss Marie Nuzzi, as well as Mr. David Turechek, band and Kirsten Karlen, strings.

Beginning in grade three, students can start string lessons with Mrs. Karlen and fourth and fifth graders can participate in either strings, or band instruction with Mr. Turechek. These programs are not supported by the education budget, but are a "Pay for Play" Program. Children must also rent or buy their instruments. Mr. Iassogna, Superintendent of Schools, can be contacted concerning scholarship support.



During the week of March 14<sup>th</sup>, we will discuss with our students the customs and traditions of the Irish and their major reasons for immigrating to the United States. Students will be encouraged to wear green on Friday, March 16 in honor of the Irish, St. Patrick's Day and to welcome the season of spring. This year's spring theme will make each child aware of their role in saving the earth's resources. Let's all "Spring into Action" and remember to reuse and recycle.

On Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. we will sponsor our seventh Multicultural Pot Luck Dinner. Come join the fun. There will be a fashion show, our D.J. Seth Carley, dancing, good food, entertainment and a raffle.



Coming on April 13, 2012, we will have our "Jump Rope For Heart Day" to be held for all students during school hours. Watch for specific information from Mr. Bourque and Mr. Strychalsky.

We will focus on the preservation of the wildlife of our planet as an important responsibility of all citizens. We hope to teach our students a respect for all wildlife and encourage protection of our natural habitats. Our Endangered Species Fair will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. and Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 to 12:00 Noon. Please plan to join us.

As we begin the last few months of school, it is important to remember your partnership with your child's teacher is paramount to his/her success in school. Your child's teacher needs your support at home. Read with your child, practice math facts, help to organize projects, and monitor homework assignments. Your child needs to know that you expect his/her best effort every day.

Each year we recognize volunteers who help our school flourish. The award is presented from the Connecticut Association of Schools. This year we are recognizing Christine Stadler, Donna Delli Carpini and Randy Rosen. At a banquet held at Aqua Turf on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, they will be honored. Outside the main office is a plaque with the names of the people who have been recognized since 2004.

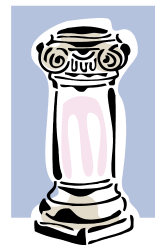


### Get Kids Involved

Talk to your kids about the importance of breakfast every day, but especially during CMT's. Let them help you choose breakfast foods when you go shopping and if time permits, let them help you make breakfast, too.



**Serve as a model. Eat a good breakfast yourself.**



Character  
Corner—  
Social Worker



**"Bee" Respectful**

Everyone deserves respect. We get along better with each other when we show good manners and take care not to disturb others. Showing respect also means using the right words.

- Say "please" when you ask for something.
- Say "thank you" when someone gives you something.
- Say "excuse me" when you burp or sneeze.
- Say "no, thank you" if someone offers you something you don't want.

## Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Alves**

February has flown by. Valentine's Day was such fun. The children really enjoyed sending valentines to each other and of course they enjoyed the goodies. We learned a lot about Chinese New Year. We had fun using chop sticks. I don't know who had more fun – the children or me! We celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We are 100 days smarter! I can't believe we are over half way through Kindergarten! Park Ranger Mark came to visit us and we talked about winter. We know what animals do in winter and we can tell that an animal has been in the area. It was a busy month. I thank you for helping to make all of our celebrations special!

We are sooo excited about reading! The children love bringing their books home to share with you. Encourage them. Let them show off to whoever will listen to them. Continue to review those high frequency/trick words along with the word families that I have been sending home. Go over all of them. The children know how to tap out the family words. Ask your little one to show you. They are doing great! I am so proud of them.

This is a great time to start to read those beginning readers from the library. We can find a lot of our words in those books.

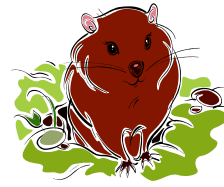
We are really moving along with our writing. I see so many of the children moving from hearing just the beginning sound to hearing so many sounds in the word. I see more and more vowels every day. Encourage them. Let them write as much as they can. Writing notes, making lists, making books are all great ideas. If they do any extra writing, send it in the homework folder. I will give extra stickers for extra work and I love to see it. If you send it in and you want it back, just let me know and I will be sure to send it back to you.

In Math we are talking about joining and separating stories. This is how we begin addition and subtraction. We are also counting, counting, counting.



About supplies – we can use wipes for our hands and the tables. I want to thank all of you for all your help - the supplies you send in, the treats

for the parties, the support you give. I couldn't do it without you. THANK YOU.



## Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Crawford**

At this point we are hoping for no more snow! Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow and predicted an early spring. I hope he is right!

We tried to get back into a routine during the week of February 7<sup>th</sup>. We spent time reviewing letter sounds and sight words and then moved right along. The best part of the week was our trip to the Monroe Post Office. The children really enjoyed getting a “behind-the-scenes” look at how a post office is run. I hope you enjoyed receiving a valentine in the mail from your child. They were really proud of themselves and quite excited to send you something in the mail!

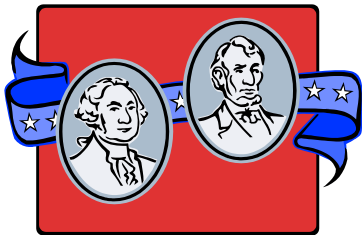
The following week, we started focusing on the number 100 in preparation for our 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. We learned that 100 is 10 groups of 10. We worked with Mrs. Knapp in math and practiced counting out 10 groups of 10 to equal 100. We did this in preparation for the children to count out 100 objects at home and bring them to school. Thank you for helping your little one with this project. We had fun guessing what each student had in their bag! We also had fun with the 100<sup>th</sup> Day program on starfall.com and enjoyed reading *Miss Bindergarten Celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of Kindergarten.*

Of course, February is known for Valentine's Day. Thank you for helping your child with their valentines and for sending them in ahead of time. The children did a great job matching the valentines up with the names on the bags. Thank you also to the room mothers and any other helpers for all you did to make our celebration a success! We made an adorable penguin holder made from a coffee can (thanks for sending in the coffee cans). If you ever have extra coffee cans, feel free to send them in throughout the remainder of the year. I would store them for next year!

We also celebrated Chinese New Year. Gung Hay Fat Choy! That means Happy New Year in Chinese. The children ate noodles with chopsticks, received a fortune cookie, and a lai see bag containing coins for good luck. We learned

about many Chinese traditions and superstitions. The children were fascinated. Ask your child about the color red, the lion dance, and cleaning the house.

In language arts, we finished learning to print all the capital letters and have moved onto blending individual sounds to make words. We do this auditorily without looking at a word. We make each individual sound aloud while tapping each sound out with our thumb to our fingers and then we sweep our thumb across our fingers when we say the whole word. It is hard to describe, but ask your child to show you how to do it. Please make sure you are practicing the sight words with your child. They need to be able to read all 25 words by the end of the year. We have been reading a number of books and concentrating on retelling the story to include the beginning, middle, and end (Have your child use the words *first*, *next*, *then*, last when retelling a story). Try doing that at home for practice with some of the books you read together. Ask your child to tell you how/if the story reminds them of something that has happened to them or of another book they have read. Making connections to text is an important and necessary skill. We have been working hard on our writing as well. The children seem to enjoy writing workshop and some are starting to write more than one sentence independently!



We ended the month by learning about Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. The children love to learn about real people and places.

Ask your child for a history lesson. March is here and spring is around the corner – hopefully! So is that tricky leprechaun. More fun is in store!

## **Kindergarten News...**

### **Mrs. Capone**

February was a very busy month for Kindergarten. It was filled with a lot of learning and many celebrations.

We kicked off the month with Groundhog Day! We learned all about Punxsutawney Phil and made predictions about whether or not he would see his shadow. The children were very eager to see if we would have an early spring or six more weeks of

winter. It looks like we will have more winter on the way!

Chinese New Year was great! It is the Year of the Dragon! They loved making dragon masks and learning all about the Chinese traditions. We celebrated by eating yummy noodles with chopsticks, fortune cookies and receiving red envelopes with coins in them!

Hip Hip Hooray we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> Day! Boy, were the children thrilled about this day! They had so much fun celebrating all of their hard work! Can you believe we are half way through Kindergarten? We made beautiful necklaces made out of 100 Fruit Loops. We used different colors and grouped them by ten to make it easier to keep track of our numbers while we strung them along.

Valentine's Day was great! We enjoyed reading valentine themed stories, creating bags to hold our valentine's from our friends and enjoying some goodies. I hope you enjoyed receiving a special valentine from your little one through the mail! Our party was a success! Thank you to everyone that helped to make Valentine's Day so much fun.

In math we have been working on story problems. We talk about combining and separating our numbers. We practice reading and writing number sentences too! We are becoming really good at comparing numbers as well. The little ones have been working very hard with their number formation. We have now moved on to writing the numbers 11-20. Please continue to practice this at home as well. Some of these numbers can be tricky.

In Language Arts we completed all of the uppercase letters. We continue to practice forming both the uppercase and lowercase letters correctly. Please continue to practice reviewing and writing them with your little one. We have now moved on to blending sounds. We are getting really good at this skill. Ask your child to show you how we blend and tap out our sounds to make and read words. The children have been working so hard and I have seen such growth in all of them. They are really zooming through their little readers. I am so proud of them. It is also important to continue practicing reading and writing our sight words. We enjoy Writer's Workshop and love to use our sight words in our sentences. Please continue to play

games with your child with our 25 words. The more practice the better!



We had a special visit from Park Ranger Mark this month! It was definitely a great way to end such a busy and exciting month. He taught us all about winter, hibernation and animal tracks. We were so lucky to have him and hopefully he will be back to visit in the spring.

Thank you again to the wonderful and very generous parents of Room 178! We appreciate all that you do to make each and every celebration so memorable. We could use some more hand wipes and glue sticks. We look forward to what is in store for us next month. Continue to enjoy watching your little one grow and learn!

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

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

February has been a jam-packed month for the first graders at Frenchtown School! The students learned many facts about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. In addition to Presidents Day the first graders learned about the Chinese New Year. Some of the classes sampled food from the Chinese culture. Some even learned how to use chopsticks! The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school was celebrated with various activities as a culmination of 100 days of hard work! Valentine's Day was a big hit, as the students had bags filled with cards and treats from their classmates!

Reading strategies this month focused on wondering, visualizing, and phonetic skills. The students learned important reading skills such as the silent e and vowel teams. These skills have come in very handy as the children continue to become proficient readers!

During math, the first graders became familiar with surveys and were able to use data to compare how two groups are similar or different. They also learned about attributes and practiced this skill by sorting objects. At the end of the month, the children learned about what length is and how it can be measured. Students worked on identifying the longest dimension of an object and describing

measurements that are in between whole numbers of units.

The first grade received a well deserved break and they are ready to continue their hard work towards second grade!

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

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

For a short month, February was quite busy in second grade!

We eagerly awaited the groundhog's prediction! Second grade read several stories about groundhogs and participated in fun activities to celebrate our furry predictor of weather. It appears so far that his prediction is wrong and we are quite happy about that.

It's hard to believe our 100th day has come and gone! On the 100th day of school, students worked on various tasks that revolved around the number 100.

Valentine's Day was enthusiastically celebrated with many cards, good wishes, and of course...many sweet treats. The Second Grade teachers would like to thank everyone for our cards and yummy goodies!



In reading, we celebrated Black History month. Students were exposed to biographies and historical fiction stories about G.W. Carver, Duke Ellington, Rosa Parks, Ruby Bridges, Jesse Owens and Harriet Tubman. We

also continued to focus on the reading strategy of wondering. Asking questions about stories helps readers understand story characters and plot and helps them remember what they read. You can use this strategy at home with your child by discussing the title and cover of the book and asking your child what he/she may be wondering about the story. While reading aloud, you can support your child's understanding by stopping every so often and discussing questions such as:

What has happened so far in the story?  
What do you wonder about the story?  
What do you think might happen next?

Have fun, reading, wondering, talking, and listening to each other!

Our focus in math was on using tables and graphs to represent ratios. We also extended a repeating pattern and even determined what element of the pattern would be in specific position. Please continue to practice math facts with your children. The more they practice, the better they get!

We also want to thank all the parents for helping with the Family Tree Project. The display boards were creative and we were very proud of the effort the students put forth. The students were quite excited to share all they learned about their ancestors. Be sure to take some time to visit our hallways to see them on display!

We hope everyone had a relaxing and rejuvenating vacation!

### **Grade Three News...**

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

We had such a busy month in March celebrating Groundhog's Day, the 100th Day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents' Day! Now that we are back from a much appreciated vacation, we are ready to roll up our sleeves and do a super job on our Connecticut Mastery Tests.

During the two weeks of testing, we will have some changes in our routines. First of all, please help see that your child gets plenty of rest and has a healthy breakfast before school each of those days. It is really important that children arrive on time. If children are late, we cannot allow them to enter during the testing time, and they will have to sit in the office for the next hour or so. We will be providing a small breakfast snack and juice when the children arrive. Then we have a testing period of about an hour or so each morning. During the test, we will be monitoring the children closely to help them stay focused on the task at hand. We also provide a small treat halfway through the testing each day courtesy of the PTA. There will be no homework assigned during those two weeks, but we hope the children will continue with their nightly

reading. Get them to bed early so they will be at their best the next morning.



Of course our academics continue throughout the testing period! Reading classes will be concentrating on poetry or an author study of Patricia Polacco. In math, we will be learning more about multiplication and division. Social Studies classes will focus on Native American tribes and how they used their environment and natural resources to provide their food, clothing, and shelter. Science classes are continuing their study of the human body. They will be moving into the study of the nervous system. Did you know that your brain is the control center for your body? As spring approaches, please make sure your child comes to school prepared for the weather. We love to go out for recess whenever possible. You might also ask your child if he or she needs any supplies like folders, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, or pencils. Some of those have disappeared or need to be replaced by this time in the year. Classes would always appreciate donations of hand wipes, tissues, and paper towels. As always, thank you for all that you do to support our programs at school.

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

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

Students have been working very hard to prepare for the Connecticut Mastery Tests. Please ensure that your child has plenty of rest each night and eats a healthy breakfast in the mornings. It is very important that your child arrives on time to school each day.

We are already underway with our math Investigations program, Unit Six, *Fraction Cards and Decimal Squares*. In this unit, students are naming and writing fractions, exploring mixed numbers, identifying and writing equivalent fractions, and ordering fractions. Students will develop ideas about fractions by identifying fractions of an area ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of a rectangle), fractions of a group of objects ( $\frac{3}{4}$  of 24), and decimal fractions (.75). They will compare fractions of different wholes ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of a 6 x 4 rectangle and  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a 10 x 10 rectangle), and combine fractions using models and reasoning. Students use 10 x 10 grids to represent,

compare, and combine common decimals in the tenths and hundredths. Your continued support at home to encourage the daily practice of math facts is so important for your child throughout the year. Multiplication and division facts practice will help your child strengthen his or her skills and lead to stronger mastery, which is needed in so many areas of the math that we study.

In reading, students have been focusing on the strategy of inferring during our Making Meaning lessons and applying these strategies to their independent reading. Students have used inferring when listening to such stories as *Miss Rumphius*, *Peppe the Lamplighter*, and *Amelia's Road*. During your child's nightly reading, ask what inferences they have made. Such questions will further enhance the home-school connection.

In science, students have learned about how electricity works. Students have learned about conductors and insulators. They have also explored what materials are effective conductors by doing hands-on experiments testing out their hypotheses. Our next unit of study will be magnetism, which the students are excited to begin! In social studies, students are learning about the contributions of the great immigration wave from Europe to the American melting pot in the early 1900's.



We are very proud of the students and their growth to date. We look forward to their continued academic success. Soon we will begin the Endangered Species Project and students are eager to

research an animal and discover why they are endangered or threatened. The students will practice note taking during this research-based project. Students will also create a PowerPoint presentation that highlights important facts and information about their endangered animals. We are all looking forward to a fun and warm spring!

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

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

Fifth graders have done an excellent job on their CMT's this month! All teachers were able to

choose three students a day to receive awards from Mrs. Norcel. These awards were given to students that demonstrated a strong use of their strategies on the tests.

CMT's kicked off with an amazing Pep Rally in the gym. All third, fourth, and fifth grade teachers participated in the 'Minute to Win It' themed assembly. All of the specialists as well as Mrs. Norcel and Ms. Strever assisted in the competitions and music numbers during the Pep Rally. Students were also able to play a part in this celebration by dancing, singing, and cheering on their teachers as they competed against one another. Everyone had a blast!

In reading, all classes continued to focus on text structure. We also studied author's use of figurative language in a piece of writing. We learned that similes and metaphors can be quite humorous! Authors can use these to compare two objects, characters, or setting. We also discussed an author's use of personification and imagery in writing. This brief study not only helped our 5<sup>th</sup> graders to identify these devices in an author's writing, but it also gave them more potential to be more descriptive in their own writing.

Speaking of writing, our Heroic Figures Projects are underway. Students have their heroes and are working on the writing project. They will also work diligently on their speeches. Heroes Night is right around the corner on April 12<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank all of the parents who attended our informative presentations about this project. Your support is appreciated!

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade mathematicians are also hard at work! Students focused on geometry for the majority of this month, while continuing the practice and review for the CMT's. We learned how to classify shapes by their families, determine if something was a polygon or not and also experimented with creating new shapes by combining others! Students also looked at measuring angles of geometric shapes and also found the area and perimeter.

For the first time, your children will take the CMT assessment on science. After taking a practice test in February, students were familiar with what the assessment would look like. Students have worked through the units on light and sounds. They were able to investigate the eye and the ear. They

really have enjoyed all of the hands on experiments during these units!

The fifth grade teachers are so proud of our students for their hard work on the CMT's. We look forward to continuing academic success, as well as the presentation of our Heroic Figures project.



## Math News...

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

**Grades K-1 Math:** Monthly Math Contests are posted on the school website every month. Click on the bear icon on Frenchtown's homepage and find the link to your grade level. Print out the contest, complete, and turn in to classroom teacher by the end of the month. Prizes will be awarded for effort and completion. If you do not have web access at home, please contact Jackie Knapp to ask for a hard copy of the contest.

"The Math-Happy Home" by Martin C. Kennedy  
I am often asked for teaching advice from parents and grandparents, questions like, "Jason can count to 100 already! Does that mean he will be good at math?" or, "Kasha hates doing things with numbers. What can I do?" My number-one response is, simply, "Be math friendly at home." We all (even teachers) seem to have a general discomfort with things mathematical. When I do in-service training for elementary school educators, we spend much of the time playing with math manipulatives and talking about our own fears of failing at math. Lots of parents share our fears.

To help the parents of the children you teach, suggest ways they can create a "math-happy home." Here are a few ideas.

1. Talk numbers!  
*How many hot dogs do you want for dinner?  
I see you are watching channel 85, can I just switch to channel 44 to see the news? I need to go back...hmmm...41 clicks. Let's count together.*
2. Shut off the TV and read some good books about numbers, like *100 Days of School* by Trudy Harris, *The Man Who Counted* by Malba Tahan, *A Million Fish...More or Less* by Patricia C. McKissack and *City by Numbers* by Stephen T. Johnson.
3. Take a math adventure outside and see how many things you can count. *I see three birds on the tree. There are four tires on the car. The icicle fell and broke into three pieces.*

4. Play with patterns. Take some colored blocks or Unifix® cubes and make pattern trains (red, blue, blue, etc.). See if your child can extend the pattern, then make it a bit more challenging as he or she develops skills. Let the child make a pattern for you to follow. Look for patterns and talk about them: *There's a traffic signal every two blocks. That song repeats the same rhythm twice. Three cookies fit in one row of a cookie sheet.* Any kind of repeating pattern is a wonderful activity. Math is simply patterns and being able to recognize them. The fun of it starts with play.

**Students and parents in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5** can visit The Investigations Support Site for on-line math manipulatives and homework support. Simply follow the directions below:

1. Go to [www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)
2. For Grade 2 Resources type:  
Username: GRADE2FT(all caps)  
Password: GRADE2FT (all caps)

For Grade 3 Resources type:  
Username: GRADE3FT (all caps)  
Password: GRADE3FT (all caps)

For Grade 4 Resource type:  
Username: GRADE4FT (all caps)  
Password: GRADE4FT (all caps)

Grade 5 Resource type:  
Username: GRADE5FT (all caps)  
Password: GRADE5FT (all caps)

2. Click on STUDENT RESOURCES to access math manipulatives such as:  
-Place Value Blocks  
-Money  
-Graphs  
-Counters  
-Fractions  
-Clocks/Time



- Click on INVESTIGATIONS OSE G2/G3/G4/G5 to access Student Math Handbook:
  - View examples and models used in class
  - See SMH page on homework as a reference
  - View all math games (rules and how to play)

**Grades 3, 4, & 5 Math:** March is a **BUSY** month for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 due to CMT testing. Grade 3 and 4 will have 2 math testing days (each test will be 60 minutes in length), and Grade 5 has 3 math testing days. For extra support go to <http://www.amathsdictionaryforkids.com/dictionary.html>. This site provides math vocabulary, definitions, examples and pictures. The website is great for homework support and preparing for the CMT math tests. Also, to become more familiar with the CMT test visit [www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/index.htm](http://www.csde.state.ct.us/public/cedar/assessment/cmt/index.htm).

## From the Library... Ms. Albro

The Frenchtown Library Media Center serves students in grades K- 5. This means that the collection should appeal to the diverse interests of children ages five to ten.

Some fiction books in the library have a sticker on the spine label that indicates that the book is appropriate for “5<sup>th</sup> Grade.” More often than not, this is a reference to the content rather than the reading level. While strong readers can clearly handle the reading level of some of these books, it might be best for a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grader to wait to read a book that involves pre-teen topics. If your student requests one of these books, I leave it up to your discretion. With a note from a parent or guardian on file, students in lower grades will be able to check out a “5<sup>th</sup> Grade” book.



## From the Nurse's Office... Mrs. McCullough

Children and adults alike consume soda on a daily basis but do you know the damaging effects soda has on your body?

The following information was taken from Consumer Media Network.

**Asthma:** Sodium Benzoate, found in sodas, is used as a preservative and adds sodium to the diet reducing the availability of potassium. Potassium is need to regulate heart rhythms and is essential in the proper functioning of the kidneys, muscles and digestive systems. Sodium benzoate can cause rashes, exacerbation of asthma and eczema.

The annual cost of asthma to the health care system is estimated to be about \$18 billion.

**Kidney Issues:** Colas contain high levels of phosphoric acid which has been linked to kidney stones and other renal problems.

**Sugar Overload:** Twenty minutes after drinking a soda, your blood sugar spikes causing an insulin burst. Your liver responds by turning any sugar into fat!

Forty minutes later, caffeine absorption is complete. Your pupils dilate, your blood pressure rises as a response your liver dumps more sugar into your blood stream. The adenosine receptors in your brain are now blocked, preventing drowsiness.

Forty-five minutes later, your body ups dopamine production, stimulating the pleasure centers of your brain. This is physically the same way heroin works, by the way.

**Obesity:** The relationship between soft drink consumption and body weight is so strong that researches calculate that for each additional soda consumed the risk of obesity increase by 16%.

**Dissolves tooth enamel:** The sugar and acids in soft drinks easily dissolves tooth enamel. When tooth decay reaches the nerve, the root and the base of the tooth, the tooth may die and lead to an abscess.

**Osteoporosis:** Soft drinks contain phosphoric acid and a high phosphate diet has been associated with bone break down and an increased risk for osteoporosis. When phosphorus is excreted in the urine, it take calcium with it, depriving the bones and the rest of the body of this important mineral.

**Diabetes:** Those who drink more soda have an 80% increased risk of developing Type 2 Diabetes. One in every 10 health care dollars is spent on diabetes. So the next time you pick up a soda, think twice before you drink it!

## Reading News...

Mrs. Infante, Mrs. Knapp,  
Mrs. Olimpieri

As you may be aware, March brings us to the Connecticut Mastery Tests. These tests are an accumulation of what your child has learned thus far throughout their schooling. We have been preparing your children with good test taking strategies here at school, but there are a few things that you can do at home to be sure that your child is well prepared.

**\*Be sure they get a good nights rest.**  
**\*Eat a nutritious breakfast each morning.**  
**\*Encourage them to do their best each day.**  
**\*It is very important that they get to school on time each day as testing begins promptly at 9am. Students will not be able to enter their classroom once testing begins.**

**\*Attendance is extremely important. Please try to avoid making unnecessary appointments during the testing window. If your child is sick, please know that they will be able to makeup the test after the testing window.**

The following is the schedule for the testing dates. Please be aware that these may change if there are snow days.

Mar. 6- Writing Prompt  
Mar. 7- Editing and Revising  
Mar. 8- Math 1  
Mar. 9- Reading Comprehension 1  
Mar. 13- DRP (Degrees of Reading Power)  
Mar. 14-Math 2  
Mar. 15- Reading Comprehension 2  
Mar. 16- Math 3 (Grade 5 only)  
Mar. 20- Science (Grade 5 only)

## ***Reflection Bee Decorating***

### **Contest Winners**

Aaron Dressler Room 177  
Katie Duenges Room 175  
Matthew Burgos Room 131  
Sarah Daniel Room 141  
Ananya Koduru Room 141  
Joey Sabato Room 173  
Claudia Zhang Room 210  
Hannah Daniel Room 174P  
Nicholas Sabato Room 128  
Kristine Kramer Room 177



## Reflections Winners

2011-12

	<u>First</u>	<u>Second</u>
<b><u>Visual Arts</u></b>		
Primary	Caitlin Carley	Nehal Singhai
Intermediate	Jenna DeLucia	Alexandra Coclin
Exceptional	Isabella Mantone	
	<b><u>Third</u></b>	<b><u>Honorable</u></b>
Primary	Nikolas Smagacz	Jada Valentin
Intermediate	Allie Koch	Kate Barton
	<b><u>First</u></b>	<b><u>Second</u></b>
<b><u>Literature</u></b>		
Primary	Johannes Rysse	Grace Dias
Intermediate	Sophie Malin	Abigail Winfield
	<b><u>Third</u></b>	<b><u>Honorable</u></b>
	Brian Essing	Nicole Sauer
	Katelyn Megale	
	<b><u>First</u></b>	
<b><u>Photography</u></b>		
Intermediate	Ella Jane Cook	
	<b><u>First</u></b>	<b><u>Second</u></b>
<b><u>Musical Composition</u></b>		
Primary		
Intermediate	Aldo Espino	Marius Siscar
	<b><u>First</u></b>	
<b><u>Film</u></b>		
Intermediate	Joelle Nutter	



Year to Date Total Earned  
\$2110.54  
**A+ Rewards**



The February Wolf Times printed an incorrect spelling of Joelle Nutter who was a participant in the YMCA Spelling Bee.  
Sorry Joelle!