

Wolf Times

Volume 9, Issue 9

May, 2012



From The Desk of Jacqueline Norcel...

Dear Frenchtown Families,

Our May theme at Frenchtown School will be “Americana” and will be a great time for us to see and be seen. Every grade level has chosen a country to study and share their celebrations. Our theme will allow our “specialists” Mrs. Hawkins, Ms. Nuzzi, Ms. Dean, Mrs. Grabinski, Mr. Turechek, Ms. Karlan, Mr. Bourque, Mr. Strychalsky and Ms. Albro along with our classroom teachers, to present our children with a fresh approach to integrating the Arts with all the other curriculum areas. Family Week will be May 14 through May 18, and will celebrate families, our students, and the culmination of another outstanding and productive school year. Our special Laser Show will be seen by Kindergarten, grades 1, 2 and TLC at 10:00, and by grades 3, 4, 5 at 9:00.

During May students in Grades K through 5 will be presenting class projects and Grade 5 will do individual experiments at the Science Fair on Thursday, May 24, 2012 from 7:00 pm-8:00 pm., and Friday, May 25, 2012 from 9:00 am to noon, with additional viewing for parents and students. Our goals for conducting a Science Fair include the following:

- To demonstrate and evaluate student understanding of science concepts.
- To encourage creativity in the area of science.

- To involve families in the study of science.
- To stimulate scientific inquiry.
- To enable students to feel pride in their science skills and level of understanding.
- To help students get “hooked” on science.

This activity is one way for us to bring science to life at Frenchtown.

Other activities for the month of May will help to develop poise and confidence in our children. The joy and fun associated with music participation is obvious to all of us. Our second and fifth grades will present their concert on Tuesday, May 15, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. for families and for our

student body on Friday, May 18 at 2:00 p.m. There are many well-documented reasons for incorporating the Arts –including the visual arts, poetry, dance, and theater- in students’ learning programs. To quote Ernest L. Boyer, past president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, “During the past quarter century, literally thousands of school-based programs have demonstrated beyond question that the arts cannot only bring coherence to our fragmented academic world, but through the arts, students’ performances in other academic disciplines can be enhanced as well.” The teamwork needed to produce our activities will also develop and spotlight individual growth. These activities will help develop your child’s talent abilities and unearth undiscovered talents. These “special happenings” make for good teaching and meaningful learning.

Our annual lunch in a bag picnic will be on Wednesday, May 16 from 11:15 to 1:30 during student lunch shifts. Schedules will be sent home. Parents are invited to join us. The PTA Book Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 15 through Thursday, May 17. Students who have completed their

F.R.E.E. reading calendar contract for the year will receive a certificate for a free book.

In May and June, our children will be learning the history and customs of Mother's Day, Flag Day, Father's Day and Memorial Day. These are American holidays. In 1915, Congress proclaimed Mother's Day to be an annual observance on the second Sunday in May, this year to be celebrated on May 13, 2012. Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday in June, this year to be celebrated on June 17, 2012.



Memorial Day was established to honor the Civil War dead. Today, all the war dead are honored on this day. Since the end of World War I, Poppy Day has been observed in the United States on Memorial Day. On

this day, ex-servicemen sell poppies to aid disabled veterans. Poppies are a symbol of the tragedy of war since they bloomed on many World War I battlefields. Memorial Day is officially May 30, but is celebrated on the last Monday in May, this year May 28, 2012. As a school community we will once again be marching in our town's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 28 at 1:30 P.M. Our students will be submitting our suggested names for the parade's theme. Perhaps a Frenchtown student's name will be chosen again. Watch for more information. June 14, 2012 is Flag Day. The Fourth of July was traditionally celebrated as America's birthday, but the idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. We look forward to our third grade presentation celebrating the flag on Thursday, June 14 at 10:00 a.m.

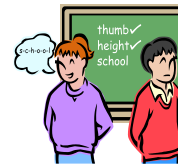


Character
Corner—
Social Worker



"Bee" Nice

- 1. Model it.** The best way to teach your children kindness is not by explaining: it's by doing. Whether you do volunteer work, mow an elderly neighbor's lawn or just treat others with dignity and respect, kids pick up on this and want to emulate it.
- 2. Be kind to your kids.** If you run a kind, respectful household, kids learn what it feels like to be treated kindly.
- 3. Reward kind acts.** You know how kids love attention: so shower them with it, when they've done kind things.
- 4. Give them tasks to do.** One study out of the University of Minnesota showed that children who did housework had better feelings of responsibility and self-worth years later. Children who feel good about themselves are more respectful to others.
- 5. Help others.** Organizations such as the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation and the Pay it Forward Foundation all suggest teaching children kindness by having them do kind acts.
- 6. Make friends.** Friendship is the most long lasting way we can show kindness to another person.
- 7. Watch the language.** Words have enormous power. Work on purging your vocabulary of words such as stupid, shut up, idiot and any racist or biased terms.
- 8. Enjoy kindness.** Finally, the whole point of being kind is to make the world a more fun, safe and happy place. So when your child does a kind act, when you witness something kind or even when you're the recipient of kindness, show your joy.



5th Grade Spelling Bee

Congratulations go to the following students who were Spelling Bee winners or runners up in their classrooms:

Ms. Caravetta's class- Sam Arcamone, Madeline Nigro, Patrick Gasparrini, runner up
Ms. Carley's class- Madeleine Oricchio, Samantha DiBenedetto, runner up
Ms. Demshak's class- Alexa Andrews, Christine Salinas, Claudia Zhang, runner up
Mrs. Russo's class- Pawel Kwieien, Delaina Bellows, Annika Stadler, runner up
Mrs. Windsor's class- Kerry Montes, Nicholas Marinos, Lily Bencivenga, runner up

Our grade level Spelling Bee was held on Friday, April 13th. The students who will go onto the town wide Spelling Bee on Wednesday, April 25th are:
1st place- Christine Salinas
2nd place- Delaina Bellows
Runner up- Pawel Kwiecien
The runner up will step in if Christine or Delaina cannot make it.

Congratulations to our fantastic spellers!

Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Alves



Spring is in the air and we are full speed ahead toward the end of Kindergarten!

Last month we talked about spring, Passover and Easter. I want to thank all the parents who sent in things. The Easter egg hunt was a big hit!

April was a big month for reading. The children got to see Daisy the Pig and Farmer Minor. We “pigged out” on books! They really enjoyed that. Don’t be surprised if your little one wants to read pig stories! It was also Read Aloud Day. The children always enjoy stories. We learned many new things and the children enjoyed it all.

We are working very hard on our reading skills. The children are blending sounds and reading little stories. How exciting! Keep up the good work. The children have also been working on their writing skills. We are putting together more than one sentence and of course the picture with lots of details always goes with our words. The children are doing great. We are also working hard on forming our letters correctly.

In math we have been working with shapes. The children are learning more and more every day!

Now that the winter is over we can start to talk about dates for the end of the year. Keep in mind June 7 for Crossing Over. You don’t want to miss it!

Thanks for all your help!

Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Crawford

It has been great to experience a real spring for a change! We spent the month being spring detectives and writing about spring. Park Ranger Mark was not allowed to come to school and teach our lesson on planting seeds (a huge loss to our schools!), but he was kind enough to supply us with soil and seeds, so we planted sugar maple seeds and learned all about the importance of trees. Please take care of them and keep them in the cup until summer vacation. At that time, you can transplant it outside. Science has been a big part of our curriculum this year and the children love every minute of it. This month we learned about the life cycles of chickens and learned about the different animal coverings (fur, feathers, scales, skin). We also started our science fair project (Do bean seeds grow better in soil or sand?) immediately after April vacation. We learned a lot of science this month!

In math (Investigations), we began our unit on 2-D and 3-D shapes. The children enjoyed making a class shape book, going on a shape hunt, playing games with pattern blocks and learning about the attributes and functions of all shapes.

In Language Arts, we focused on tapping out three sounds to blend together to make a word using all the letters of the alphabet. We are identifying the sounds we hear in the beginning, middle and end of words. All of these skills are helping the children to read and write. It is so exciting to observe. If your child cannot yet read all 25 sight words, please work on that. We are moving quickly now through the books and it boosts their confidence levels if they can read the sight words. Most of the children are finished with the Trophies’ reading series. I am so proud of them. We will spend the remainder of the year on more challenging reading material.

For the Social Studies curriculum we focused on Easter. We had a ball making bunny ears, Easter baskets, and of course, going on an egg hunt. I cannot thank all of you enough for filling and secretly sending in the labeled Easter eggs. The element of surprise made this celebration extra special! In addition to Easter, we also celebrated Passover. The story of Moses and the ten plagues

always fascinates the children. We tried matzo in both classes and most of them loved it. Thank you to the room mothers and parents that helped sent in supplies!

Your children are becoming quite the writers! The children write in their journals once a week, we do Writing Workshop a couple of times a month and usually have a writing focus (i.e. Holiday News/Vacation News) a couple of times a month. The children are writing multiple sentences, learning how to use punctuation and capitalize the beginning of new sentences, and write like they are telling a story. I am so pleased with their progress! It is amazing!

I look forward to the flowers of May and the warm weather. Do not forget to set aside June 7th for our Crossing Over Ceremony (a morning show around 9:45 a.m. and an afternoon show around 1:45 – more details to come.).

Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Capone

It looks and feels like spring has finally arrived! During the month of April we were happy to celebrate Easter and Passover! Our Easter celebration was a success. The little bunnies were quite surprised to find Easter eggs hidden outside! They loved going on an Easter Egg Hunt dressed with their bunny ears and baskets. We learned all about Passover and the traditional food to eat. We read stories and ate yummy matzo with jelly and butter and macaroons too! I want to thank all of the parents who sent in items for our Easter and Passover celebrations! We couldn't do it without you!

Our Foundations program continues to focus on tapping out sounds to help read three letter words. We are concentrating on the beginning, middle and ending sounds of words. These skills are really helping your little one to read our little books and write super sentences. Please continue to review and write our 25 sight words. It is so important that your child continues to read and write these words. The more they review them the better! Please continue to practice letter formation with your child.

In math we continue to work with 2D and 3D shapes! Go on a shape hunt with your little one around your house! They are really enjoying finding shapes around the classroom and constructing shapes out of clay! Please continue to practice counting to 100 and forming your numbers 1-10.

Our science unit focuses on Living and Non-Living things. The children love the science big books we are reading! We will be learning about chicks and eggs and the different kind of coverings animals can have, such as fur, feathers, and scales.



We were very lucky to have had Ranger Mark send us sugar maple seeds. We learned about how to take care of our seeds. We planted these seeds in cups and watched them begin to grow right before our eyes. Your little one can continue to care for these seeds until they are ready to be planted outside in the summer.

Save the date! June 7th at 9:45 will be our Kindergarten Crossing Over Ceremony! You won't want to miss such a special day!

Grade One News...

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

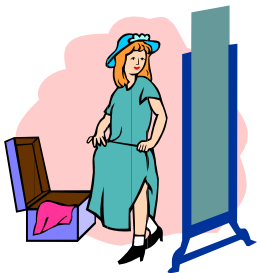
Happy Spring from First Grade! April has been an exciting month for us. We are enjoying the warmer weather and seeing the beautiful signs of spring.

In Reader's Workshop, we have been focusing on wondering in nonfiction. Good readers ask questions about their book topics, and then search for the answers as they read. This gives us a purpose for reading and helps us to make meaning of what we learn. On April 12, we celebrated Read Aloud Day! Each class had a surprise reader. The Rotary Club of Trumbull donated *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane Derolf to each first grade class in Trumbull.

**Mrs. Pereira, Ms. Sansone,
Mrs. Buswell**

In math, we have been practicing our story problem routine for solving combining and separating problems. You can practice with your family at home! First we visualize what is happening in the problem and try to retell it in our own words. We then figure out if we will have more or less than what we started from. We choose a strategy and solve it! To help us with this, we have been playing many addition and subtraction games such as “Five in a Row” and “Tens Go Fish.” We have charted strategies that help us add and subtract.

We have been very busy scientists this month as well! We began with studying the lifecycle of a lima bean. We learned that these green plants need only air, water and sunlight to grow. To prove this, we planted our beans in plastic bags containing moistened paper towels. Later in the month, we began our lima bean experiments for the May Science Fair. We have learned all about the Scientific Method and are excited to see the results of our experiments. In addition, we are studying the lifecycle of our latest insect: silkworms! They came to us in early April in the egg stage and we have been watching them change and grow ever since.



In Writer’s Workshop, we enjoyed spring cleaning our word choice in March and April! We brainstormed cumbersome words we are bored with using and found interesting words to replace them using the *Fancy Nancy*

series as inspiration! All first graders enjoyed celebrating their new word choice by coming to school in their fanciest attire in early April! Later in the month, we began our poetry unit in honor of Poetry Month. We have enjoyed exploring many different forms of poetry in reading and writing.

We are learning, laughing, and loving every minute of first grade. We are looking forward to our field trip to Sacred Heart University to see the play *Peter Rabbit* in May!

Grade Two News ...

**Mrs. Alfano, Mrs. Angon/
Mrs. Hetherman, Ms. Hull,**

We didn’t have much rain this month, but that didn’t stop the children from blooming! Their skills are maturing now! They are becoming greater mathematicians with stronger number sense, fantastic authors with good organizational skills to guide their thinking and publish their pieces, careful readers with the abilities to use several comprehensive strategies to help them understand both non-fiction and fiction texts, and wonderful scientists with good observation skills to help them discover the different forms of matter and the properties of each. It is truly amazing how far they have come!

Language Arts took a new twist in April. The children explored many different types of non-fiction texts to determine important ideas and to identify different features and functions of texts. The students learned that texts serve different purposes and they have different features to help the reader understand the information, such as table of contents, index, heading, photos, drawings, labels, and text boxes, to name just a few. So, when you are out and about this summer, don’t be surprised if your child is able to navigate your family through a zoo with their new knowledge of functional texts! Maybe they will whip up a smoothie for the family to enjoy by following the directions from a recipe. The possibilities are endless. 😊

In math, the children learned all about fractions. You are probably very familiar with their work since much of it came home for homework. The focus points involved finding equal parts of a whole and naming them with fractions, showing one half of an object, seeing different ways to make fourths of a square and identifying halves, thirds, and fourths of regions. The children had fun making fraction flags and creating their own flag using examples of flags from various countries! Science was a real eye opener for many. They realized that matter is everywhere and that there are three states of matter. They explored liquids, solids and gases through text books and mini experiments. They explored how matter changes from one form to another through heating and cooling. It was also a great review of the water cycle!

In social studies the children continued to learn about ancestors and how they inherited physical traits, interests, values and ways of doing and learning things from them. All classes completed family trees and the intent was for everyone to learn a little about their family and have fun doing so! We hope this was accomplished. The final products were absolutely beautiful and quite interesting!

Lastly, April was National Poetry Month. The children were exposed to many different types of poetry read aloud to them. They also experienced being young poets as they worked hard to be creative! So, we would like to leave you with a poem for the month written by a second grader which, in a way, reminds us of our students:



Plants
Green, fresh
Planting, growing, flowering
It's a beautiful plant
Flowers

We have enjoyed watching the children bloom this spring! We hope that you all enjoyed a fun and relaxing spring vacation.

Grade Three News...

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

Our third graders have been busy in the month of May. In reading, the third graders learned to stop and ask questions throughout their reading. This exercise teaches your child how to reflect upon reading so they can identify what they learned while reading. Strong comprehension is the result of purposeful practice. They have been reading nonfiction text and exploring many subjects while reading articles. During the second part of the month the students learned a new comprehension strategy called determining important ideas. They practiced making inferences, and visualizing in order to understand the stories they read as well as explore the important ideas presented. While reading with your child at home practice asking them these questions to support our lessons in the classroom. What is happening so far? What did

you picture happening in the story? How does visualizing help you understand the story? What is the important idea the author is trying to tell you?

In math, we finished our units on strategies to solve multiplication and division equations and number stories. We began our unit on fractions. Your child practiced finding equal parts of a whole and naming fractions. They also learned to order fractions from greater to least and identified equivalent fractional parts. Our Computation Checkpoint came home for your review. Your child should be practicing facts nightly. Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division are on the checkpoint. Please make sure you review it with your child, sign it and place it in your child's folder to return school. Have your child practice their basic facts along with multiplication and division with math flash cards. This will ensure better results on their Computation Checkpoints.

In writing, the students listened to fictional stories which inspired them to write exciting fictional pieces. They learned tips that writers use to engage the reader and enjoyed writing their own "what if" stories. As we move forward the students will learn how a character develops in a story to support creativity in their own writing.

We continued our social studies unit on Native Americans. The students explored the life of the Cheyenne. They learned to explain the importance of buffalo to the Cheyenne people and they described how the horse change the Cheyenne's way of life.



Our statewide embedded task called Soggy Paper was our area of focus for science. The students conducted a fair test while making observations of the properties of different papers.

We can't wait to see all the students dressed up as their historical figure during Family Week and we are looking forward to our visit to the Historical Society after Family Week.

Grade Four News...

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

May was kicked off with our much-anticipated trip to the Bronx Zoo. Students had an opportunity to see many endangered animal up close and personal. In doing so, this deepened our commitment to doing what we can to save these precious creatures. We appreciated the tremendous parent participation and hope you enjoyed the animals, exhibits, and the chance to spend some time with your children on this fun-filled trip.

Even though spring is in the air, May is proving to be a very busy month for the fourth graders at Frenchtown! In reading, the classes have been focusing on determining important ideas and summarizing narrative non-fiction text. Through reading a variety of literature, the students are working to strengthen this critical skill. You can help your child by asking him or her about important details in their just right book and then supporting their opinions with facts from the text or passage.

In math class, the students are moving into a new unit where they are learning to use a variety of strategies to solve multiplication and division problems with larger numbers. They are discussing problems in depth and are sharing their reasoning and solutions. Students are encouraged to develop more than one way to solve a problem and to use methods that are based on understanding numbers and their relationships. Some of the methods may not be the ones you learned in school, but you may recognize some of them as methods you use in your everyday life. One of the most important things you can do is show genuine interest in the ways your child solves problems, even if they are different from your own.



Do you know how plants make their own food? Photosynthesis is the answer! In science students are learning all about plants. Springtime is the perfect season to start this new unit. The social studies classes are learning about the variety of landscapes and

water features in the United States. The chapter also looks at how natural resources influence people and how they change the environment.

Help show your Frenchtown spirit by marching with us in the Trumbull Memorial Day Parade. This year it will be held Monday, May 28th. Looking forward to seeing you all there.

Grade Five News...

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



Students have chosen some really interesting Science Fair questions to investigate! Our school wide Science Fair will be held May 24th at 7:00pm. Students will be set up in the gymnasium to show what they learned through the scientific process. Friday

May 25th students will be showing their Science Fair projects to grades 1-4 in the gymnasium as well. To culminate our science/social studies curriculum this year we will be visiting the Mystic Seaport in Mystic, CT. Students will be able to tour the village and be able to see a series of presentations about life during that time period! Students will also get a chance to learn about several animal habitats at the Hammonasset State Park. There students will visit, the ocean's rocky edge, the marsh, and sandy beach. A tour guide will take us through each habitat and let the students touch some of the animals in each habitat! Trip details will be sent out as we get closer to the date.

In social studies, we are currently learning about events leading up to the Revolutionary War. To culminate our social studies curriculum, students will visit Putnam Park in Redding, CT. There will be a Revolutionary War re-enactment and eight stations for them to rotate to throughout the day. They will see first hand the methods used to cook, how soldiers communicated, see a live musket firing, and some early medical treatments. Please feel "free" to join us at no charge, but make arrangements to follow the bus.

Students just finished our last writing prompt after April break. In addition to that teachers will be conducting running records during reading. Currently students are determining important ideas while the read and supporting them with evidence from the text. You can practice this skill at home during your child's silent reading time. Simply ask them about what they are reading. Please make sure to provide a nice quiet environment for your child to read every night.

Upcoming Events:

May 14 th	Family Week Begins
May 15 th	Grade 5 concert at night 7:00
May 16 th	Family Week picnic
May 18 th	Concert in school at 1:45
May 21 st	Storyteller visit (also Family week)
May 23 rd	Putnam Park Field Trip (Parents welcome but must drive separately)
May 24 th	Science Fair at night 7:00
May 25 th	Science Fair in school 9:00 -12:00
May 28 th	No school Memorial Day
May 30 th	Middle school Visit (we visit schools)
May 31 st	Hammonasset Field Trip (Chaperones Welcome to follow the bus)
June 1 st	YMCA Field Trip (all welcome)
June 8 th	Band/strings concert 7:00
June 5 th	(CANCELLED) Museum of Natural History
June 15 th	Mystic aquarium
June 18 th	Graduation
June 19 th	Awards Assembly
June 20	Talent Show and last day of school

From the Library...

Ms. Albro

At this point in the year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped me this school year. And I want to extend a special thank you to Sally Anne Hayes, who has been helping me since Frenchtown opened 9 years ago. Her son Nigel will graduate this year and I will lose Sally as a valuable asset to the Frenchtown Media Center. Much of the success of the Library Media Program depends on my wonderful volunteers who manage the circulation desk while I teach my classes. These volunteers check books in

and out and shelve returned books. I also have volunteers who work "behind the scene" decorating my bulletin board and repairing books. Your help is very much appreciated!

From the Nurse's Office...

Mrs. McCullough

Sudden cardiac death [SCD] and sudden cardiac arrest [SCA]. Scary words and even scarier situation to be in. Would you know what to do if a child, yes a child, suddenly collapsed at a soccer or football game? What if a lacrosse player got hit in the chest with a ball and then fell over? Would you know what to do?

If you did know what to do and acted accordingly, you could be the difference between life and death for that child!

You've heard the stories before, a seemingly healthy young athlete drops at a game and dies. A terrible tragedy but what are the odds? Well they are not as rare as you may think.

- Cardiovascular disease is the second leading medical cause of death in young people in the United States.
- In the U.S. one competitive athlete dies every three days from an unrecognized heart condition
- 1 in 50 high schools has an [SCA] on school grounds each year.

Shocking! But what can be done to help or prevent this tragedy from happening to your family? Warning signs and symptoms of a heart condition:

- Fainting or seizure during or after physical activity
- Unusual shortness of breath
- Chest pain or discomfort/racing heartbeat
- Unexplained fainting
- Dizziness during or after physical activity
- Family History of heart disease
- Family history of SCD during physical activity or any other unexplained sudden death of an otherwise healthy family member under age 50.

If you are concerned about your child get them to a cardiologist and have them do an EKG and echocardiogram to rule out any heart disorders. What do you do to help in a situation where a person has collapsed?

Cardiac Chain of Survival:

1. Recognize symptoms
 - a. collapsed and unresponsive
 - b. seizure like activity
2. Early access to 9-1-1
 - a. assign someone to call don't assume someone will.
 - b. Follow the dispatchers instructions
3. Early CPR
 - a. begin immediately
4. Early defibrillation
 - a. Immediately retrieve and use an automated external defibrillator [AED]
5. Early Advanced care
 - a. EMS begins advanced life support.

Why is this important? Studies show that when AED is administered within 3-5 min of SCA a survival rate of 74% can be achieved.

On average it takes EMS to arrive at a scene 6-10 minutes. If nothing is done for the victim, they will most likely die.

Protect your family and be the difference between life and death.

- Remain calm, you can fall apart after.
- Be sure that every gym or field your child plays on has an Automated External Defibrillator.
- Ask coaches and referees if they have been trained in CPR
- Get CPR training for yourself.

Parentheartwatch.org has tons of info! Check it out.



Reading News...

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

Here is the next installment of a reading strategy that good readers can do!

CAFÉ Strategy: Use Main Idea and Supporting Details to Determine Importance

The main idea of a passage is often stated in a sentence within the passage. It helps readers understand the most important idea about what is being read. The other sentences of the passage include pieces of information that tell more about the most important idea. These are called the supporting details.

Understanding the general idea of a text can be tricky for beginning, emerging, or even established readers. It can require time, brain power, and hard work to determine the main idea of a passage. Learning how to use the main idea and supporting details is an essential piece to a reader's success in comprehending text.

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

1. When reading with your child, stop frequently and ask your child what they think the selection is about. Then, ask your child to give you one detail to support their thought.
2. Remind your child that readers may think differently about what the author's main point is in the selection. When a reader decides what he/she believes is the main idea, evidence from the text must be given as support. Model this process for your child, thinking aloud as you go and supporting your findings with details from the text. You may wish to use the following terms:

topic – the subject, what the text is about

main idea – most important idea about the topic (usually a sentence)

supporting details – bits of information used to support main idea

3. Give your child an opportunity to practice this strategy. After reading a selection, ask:

In a few words, what is this selection about?
What do you think is the most important idea about this topic?

Did you find the main idea written in the passage or did you infer it?

Thank you for your continued support at home!

□ **Written by: Allison Behne © 2010**
www.thedailycafe.com Ideas and strategies are taken from: **The CAFE Book**, written by Gail Boushey & Joan Moser

Students in the Spotlight



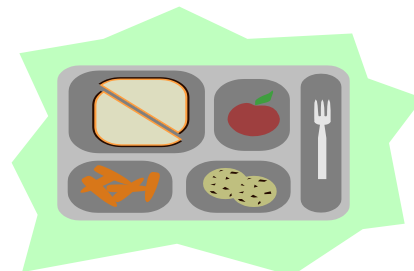
Congratulations to Joy Odigbo in Mr. Fiore's Class for winning third prize in the state wide "Good Citizen in my Community Poster Contest."



Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation week was created by the School Nutrition Association to highlight the hard work cafeteria employees do all year round. School food service staff contributes significantly to the health and well-being of children by providing nutritious meals. In turn, this positively affects students' ability to focus and learn better throughout the day. This week, the SNA encourages, parents, teachers, students and

school administrators to do something special for their school nutrition employees.

Taking care of our children's health and nutrition is a job that deserves to be recognized. Show your gratitude this Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week by recognizing your school food service staff.



The PTA Cultural Diversity Committee Chair would like to thank Mrs. Norcel and her wonderful staff for their help and support. Thanks to all the children who participated that evening – our cute Irish dancers, South Asian dance club members and fashion show models, whose costumes were lovely! Most of all, thanks to the PTA volunteers who worked efficiently to do their assigned part before, during and after the show – they made everything run smoothly! Volunteers were Becky Baglien, Jen Cerrato, Michele Genuario, Haddy Janeh, Sherene Kennedy, Heidy Malin, Loren Megale, Komal Patwardhan, Anne Meyer-Rosa, Rosie Samoskevich, Randy Schulman and Pooja Vivek. Special thanks to all the families for attending (we were at full capacity this year!) and for bringing all the delicious dishes representing their heritage. With over 30 countries and cultures represented in the event, it is no wonder the program was a great success!



During Family Week, May 14 – 18, the cafeteria menu will change on Monday and Wednesday. On Monday pasta will be served and Wednesday will be the picnic bag lunch.

