

Wolf Times

Volume 11, Issue 10

May, 2014



From The Desk of Jacqueline Norcel...

Dear Frenchtown Families,

This year the month of May will be Family Month and the culmination of another outstanding and productive school year. Our May theme at Frenchtown School will be "Celebration" and will be a great time for us to see and be seen. The month will be dedicated to our families. Every grade level has chosen a country to study and share their celebrations. To excite and support the children with the month's theme, we have 2 assemblies as a highlight of the month. Our special shows will be seen by Kindergarten, grades 1, 2 and at 9:45 a.m., and by grades 3, 4, 5 at 2:00 p.m. Our theme will allow our "specialists" Mrs. Hawkins, Ms. Tavella, Ms. Dean, Mr. Turechek, Ms. Karlan, Mr. Bourque, Mr. Strychalsky, Mrs. Bryk along with our classroom teachers, to present our children with a fresh approach to integrating the Arts with all the other curriculum areas.

During May students in Grades K through 4 will be presenting class science projects. 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 another 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 12, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. for families and for our



student body on Friday, May 30 at 1:45 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 student only spring picnic is a bag lunch and will be on Tuesday, May 27 from 11:00 to 1:35 during student lunch shifts. Parents are not invited to join us. The PTA Book Fair will be held on Tuesday, May 13 through Thursday, May 15. 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 11, 2014. Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday in June, this year to be celebrated on June 15, 2014.



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 26, 2014. As a school community we will once again be marching in our town's Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26 at 10:00 a.m. Our students will be submitting their suggested names for the parade's theme. Perhaps a Frenchtown students name will be chosen again.

Watch for more information. June 14, 2014 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 Friday, June 13 at 9:00 a.m.



Character
Corner—
Social Worker
Helpful

The Trait Character that we will focus on in May is being helpful.

- Children are naturally sympathetic and have a desire to be helpful. In fact, children as young as 12 months old can recognize when others are in distress and may try to comfort them. Between age 12 and 24 months children begin showing signs of empathy and concern. Showing kids how to be helpful is a value that can stay with them as they grow.

- Being helpful means doing all it takes to care for yourself, your family, friends and community. It involves looking for those in need and doing something to help them out of love. There are many ways children can be taught to help others and grow up with a sense of selfless giving to others without always expecting something in return.



Kindergarten News...

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

Spring is finally here! The children are enjoying the beautiful weather and have really blossomed as learners. This month the children have continued to work with digraphs in Foundations and are also noticing them in the books that they are reading. They have also continued to work on multiple reading strategies of going past the word and trying to put their own word in and then reread to make sure that the sentence makes sense. Please make sure that your child is reading every night and returning their bags of books weekly. We have also worked very hard on noticing a variety of clouds. We enjoyed our Passover and Easter celebrations!

This month in reading the children have continued to learn about nonfiction books. They have learned what makes books nonfiction (table of contents, index, real facts, bold words, glossary, etc.). This was a difficult concept for the children to learn, but they did a great job! They also did a beautiful job of making connections and wondering while reading nonfiction stories.

In writing, the children are still working on gathering different ideas, but they are now working on adding in more information to their story. This month, the children have learned how to add another sentence to their story and should be writing two to three sentences about one topic. Their stories about their favorite places, school and favorite events this year have been a pleasure to read!



Science has definitely been hands on this month! We have been working very hard on noticing a variety of clouds. The children have learned about cumulus clouds, stratus clouds, cirrus clouds and nimbus clouds. If

you are outside on a beautiful day (or even rainy day), see if your child can also notice the clouds that they have learned about. Along with learning about clouds, the children have begun our new unit of study which is the life cycle of chickens. After spring break, the children got to see the beginning stages of the life cycle of a chick and will be

watching little eggs in an incubator for the next 20 days. This is a great experience for all of the children.



Lastly, in social studies, we have learned about two different holidays of Passover and Easter. The children really enjoyed trying

the matzo with butter and jelly and learning about the holiday. To end the month, they all had a blast with their egg hunt. They got to learn about the love of sharing and Easter.

Just remember that the weather is getting warmer, but our mornings might be cooler so please dress your child appropriately and don't forget to put the sunblock on before school begins. April definitely came in like a lion and is also leaving like a lion. Whatever happened to the lamb?

Grade One News...

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

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. We are SO happy that the snow FINALLY melted and we can enjoy outdoor recess again.

In Reader's Workshop, we have been focusing on retelling. We have also been working on sequencing the stories we read and using wonderings to help us understand what is happening. Students are also learning the difference between fiction and nonfiction text. On April 10, we celebrated Read Aloud Day! Each class had a surprise reader. The Rotary Club of Trumbull donated *Just Like Josh Gibson* by Angela Johnson to each first grade class in Trumbull. In Math, we have been practicing combining and separating story problems. We have been counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's and are learning about patterns. We have been very busy scientists this month! We are finishing up our Water unit and are beginning our Science Fair lima bean experiments. We are learning all about the scientific process and are excited to see the results of our experiments. In

Writer's Workshop, we continue to focus on adding more exciting details to our writing and remembering our capitals and end marks. We have also been working on writing opinion pieces and poetry.



We are learning, laughing, and loving every minute of first grade. We are looking forward to our field trips to Trumbull Public Library and Sacred Heart University to see a play in May!

Grade Two News ...

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

We had a busy month of learning in second grade! In reading we continued to focus on nonfiction. Students explored text features such as photo captions, table of contents, glossaries, and diagrams that appear in nonfiction books, articles, and passages. As students gained new information from their nonfiction reading, they worked on responding to the text and using strategies to further develop their understanding. Asking questions before, during, and after reading helps second graders to focus their thinking as they read. Encourage your child to share questions, or wonderings, as they read or listen to others read at home.

The students worked hard on place value concepts in math this month. We practiced mentally adding and subtracting 10 or 100 to various numbers and discussed how the numbers changed. Students used mathematical language and vocabulary to compare numbers (i.e., "There is one more group of 100"). We looked for patterns on the hundreds chart and reviewed skip counting by 2s, 5s, and 10s.

The second grade scientists had fun investigating changing states of matter this month during our science unit on solids and liquids. The students learned how to classify matter based on observable properties, explored various types of solids and liquids, and experimented with changing states of matter. The students had so much fun

asking questions and making observations as they worked through the scientific process!

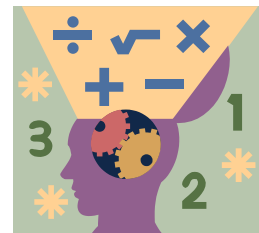
Students began research on community workers and learned about how important these special jobs are to a community. They chose a job to learn more about, conducted research and learned about note-taking to help collect important information. Students are creating projects to present their learning at the Community Workers Fair in May.

The students continue to work hard each and every day in second grade. It is important for them to continue reading and practicing math facts nightly at home. We look forward to seeing students continue to blossom in the coming spring months!

Grade Three News...

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

Our third graders have been busy in the month of April. In reading, the third graders learned to compare and contrast companion texts. These are texts about a similar topic, but they have different styles to convey the main idea. They also learned how illustrations, accompanied by text can convey a mood. The students are becoming more analytical readers as they work to compare the similarities and differences between the themes, settings and plots of a story. These exercises teach your child how to think deeper about the texts they are reading in order to have a higher level of comprehension. They have been reading nonfiction text and exploring many subjects while reading articles too. 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?



Math Night was a great success with nearly 60 families in attendance. Trade Up to 100, Three Bean Salad, and Battleship were the three most popular games. Thank you for joining third grade for such a fun time! In math, we finished our unit on fractions. Your child practiced finding equal parts of a whole and naming

fractions. They also learned to order fractions from greatest to least and identified equivalent fractional parts. After fractions, we moved into more practice with adding and subtracting three digit numbers. Your child should be practicing facts nightly. Our end of the year focus is on being able to solve multiplication and division facts quickly and accurately. Please make sure you review your child's, Mad Minute with them and focus on memorizing the facts they missed. This will ensure better results on their Mad Minutes.

In writing, the students learned to write persuasive essays. Do you think there should be zoos? Ask your child their point of view on this topic. They researched important reasons to support their point of view and used those reasons to construct an argument.



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 changed the Cheyenne's way of life. The next tribe we will be studying about is the Navajo. They will learn where the Navajo lived and about how they used natural resources to survive.

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. Be sure to ask your child which brand of paper towel is the most absorbent.

Our field trips to the Trumbull Historical Society are in early May. The third graders are able to get an idea of what life was like in our town many years ago. They engage in an activity that includes hands on experience with artifacts from Trumbull's early years and they are able to compare the land of early Trumbull to today's Trumbull.



Grade Four News...

Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Fiore,

Mrs. Gaspar, Ms. St. John

Mrs. Wolfe

Even though "spring" has finally "sprung," April has proved 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 have worked diligently in their new math unit 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.

The Endangered Species Project is the highlight of our year and well under way. The students are so excited to research their animal and to find out why it is endangered or threatened. The essential question that they are focusing on is *Why is your animal endangered and what can we do to help its future?* Their enthusiasm and interest in this project is overwhelming. It is very moving to see so many children concerned about our environment and the animals that inhabit our planet.

We look forward to seeing all of you at the Endangered Species Fair on Thursday, May 22 at 7:00 pm. It will be a wonderful night.

Grade Five News...

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

In social studies, your child will be learning about the events that led to the American Revolution. We are all reading My Brother Sam is Dead and learning that not everyone was in support of declaring independence from England and the costs of war. As a culminating activity, the fifth grade will travel back in time to Putnam Park in Redding, where they visit stations and learn from costumed historians what it was really like to live during that time. They will see first hand the methods used to cook foods, what a surgeon did to "cure" you, and see a live musket firing. All are welcome to come along at no charge.

Please encourage your child to complete the "Get on Track and Read" form. We were happy to see so many students participating in the new reading program. At the last assembly, students were treated to a mime expert who taught them tricks and told many stories about reading and his favorite books. You don't want your child to miss out on what is in store at the final reading assembly of the year. We are again very fortunate to have a storyteller named Mr. Lott come to Frenchtown on May 21st. This is a favorite treat for all. His ability to tell an oral story and connect with the students is truly a gift that your child will enjoy.

You will want to mark your calendars for two upcoming events. On May 12th at 7pm, fifth grade will be having our Spring Concert and your child will also perform in school on May 30th at 2pm. The fifth grade has been practicing very hard since their winter concert and you will be impressed by how wonderful they sound. On May 16th at 2pm, we will be holding our 5th grade hygiene talks. Boys and girls will be separated and parents are invited to attend.

May 15th we will be visiting Hammonasset State Park. Students will get a chance to learn about several animal habitats including 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.

YMCA end of year picnic is scheduled for June 5th at Lakewood YMCA on Route 59 in Monroe. A picnic lunch of hot dog, hamburger, or cheese sandwich and transportation for all students are covered by 5th grade Activities Committee. Permission slips must be completed and returned prior to picnic date. Parents are welcome to attend but must drive there by car and provide a fee of \$8 which includes lunch (\$6 without lunch). Cost must be paid prior to picnic.

On April 28th, counselors from both middle schools came to Frenchtown to talk to all fifth graders about their transition to middle school and answer any questions they had. On June 9th, we will be traveling to Madison and Hillcrest for students to have tours, attempt to open lockers, and gain a better understanding of their fast approaching middle school experience. This is a great time for you to start having conversations with your child about if they have any questions or concerns about attending middle school. You could write them down on index cards so that the counselors could address them with your child. There is no school on May 26th but please march with Frenchtown in the Memorial Day Parade and show your Frenchtown pride!



Students in the Spotlight

This year's CAS Arts Recognition
Awardees were:

Allie Koch
Katarina Kendall



Gifts to School

5 Subscriptions to Kind News

Mrs. Martins
Mrs. Gaspar
Mrs. Wolfe
Mrs. Weinstein
Ms. St. John

Classroom books \$370
for K, 1, and 24 books
for grades 4 and 5

4 Library books



FRENCHTOWN ELEMENTARY
Citizens of the Month
April

Grade One

Mrs. Gambardella	Matthew Pomposello
Mrs. Mordecai	Alexandra Cotto
Mrs. Rodrigues	Hasan Rana
Mrs. Tuohy	Katelynn Robinson
Mrs. Grunow	Elaine Rodrigues

Grade Two

Mrs. Angon	Sarah Gasparrini
Mrs. Alfano	Snow Settembre
Ms. Hull	Braden Fruin
Mrs. Pereira	Sebastian Leon
Ms. Sansone	Drew Colucci
Mrs. Shinnick	Elaine Umana

Grade Three

Mrs. Atwood	Lynn To
Mrs. Martins	Ryan Mirrione
Mrs. Cretella	Calista Ibaran
Mrs. Makoski	Lucas Barbosa
Mrs. Carley	Abby Knapp

Grade Four

Mrs. Gaspar	Carley Gallace
Ms. St. John	Anthony Antos
Mrs. Weinstein	Kole Dennis
Mr. Fiore	Brooke Formanek
Mrs. Wolfe	Rislyn Raja

Grade Five

Mrs. Carley	Devin Ferreira
Ms. Demshak	Conor Poholek
Mrs. Ferraro	James Adinolfi
Mrs. Russo	Alaina Doris
Mrs. Windsor	Fernando Perez

**S*T*A*R* Recognition for Outstanding Effort
for the second trimester.
Keep up the good work!**

GRADE THREE

MRS. ATWOOD

Austin Ashby
Sean Francoeur
Jenna Goncalves
Warren Little
Jayda Newsom
Tori Tanase
Lynn To
Xabier Uriguen

MRS. MARTINS

Gracie Angon
Caitlin Carley
Katie Duenges
Madison Kelly
Siena Mejia-Collarini
Isabella Mercado
Ryan Mirrione
Reene Nemchek
Kaitlyn Russell
Kelsey Ryan
Mackenzie Tiani
Jada Valentin
William Zaslow

MRS. CRETELLA

Joshua Fung
William Genuario
Madison Goncalves
Ashley Ho
Calista Ibaran
Kristine Kramer
Isabella Lee
Madeline Lojko
Derek Lopez
Erin Lui
Mitchella Macura
Ayush Puthiyavettle
Johannes Rysse
Marianna Wegiel
Matthew Wich

MRS. MAKOSKI

Brenna Benvenuto
Caroline Cummings
Olivia Ray
Anna Simpson

MRS. CARLEY

Scott Carravone
Matthew Cherfane
Aaran Dressler
Zuriel Guerra

Gabby Guimares
Abigail Ho
Jeremy Ibaran
Abby Knapp
Valerie Morantus
Chase Newman
Ava Resse
Ashley Russell
Gabiella Santiago
Christopher Sarlo
Connor Smith
Vivian Wang
David Wise

GRADE FOUR

MRS. GASPAR

Dominic Arvai
Michael Castiello
Nicoletta Colucci
Matthew DiJoseph
Annalisa Frumento
Carley Gallace
Johanna Louis-Fin
John McCain
Joseph Page
Steven Pelle
Fernanda Perez
Isabella Pucci
Nicholas Sabato
Aston Yip

MS. WEINSTEIN

Erica Thompson
Ashley Swan
Carlie Siwanowicz
Christopher Mejias
Melany Lewis
Madhu Krishna
Sally Kirk
Emely Huerta
Danny Costello
Amelia Brace
Matthew Cummings
Zachary Fogelman
Justin McGee
Rachel Bikofsky

MS. ST. JOHN

Alyssa Andrews
Joshua Crawford
Grace Dias
Saihari Kota
Cassie Lathrope
Jake Moffat

Philip Okoroafor
Cayden Paymer
Gia Powar-Barhpaga
Julia Vieux

MR. FIORE

Jayson Caballero
Grace Carrello
Brayden Crumb
Mia DiBello
Olivia DiCocco
Brooke Formanek
Eman Seyal
Chase Soucy
Atice Zulfi
Brandon Aulac

MRS. WOLFE

Jack Arcamone
Dominick Chuka
Ella Cook
Farrah Hass
Kiersten Nyquist
Zachary Parente
Rislyn Raja
Shreya Shiju
Michael Carroll

GRADE FIVE

MRS. CARLEY

Symphony Akinloye
Hannah Bershefsky
Matt Burgos
Sarah Doris
Morgan Keating
Katarina Kendall
Alie Koch
Haley McFadden
Joe Megale
Luke Therriault
Courtney Trutt
Emily Umana
Jenna Yaylagul

MISS CARAVETTA

Kate Barton
Bailey Cenatiempo
Niko Coclin
Anthony DeSabella
Ayden Dias
Brian Essing
Bella Genuario
Annie Kacin

Jason Knapp
Julia Larkin
Katherin Lima-Galazka
Jackie Malheiro
Cassie Pereira

MRS. WINDSOR

Charlotte Beri
Julia Burns
Jack Colabella
Oliva Cook
Torelle Ewunife-Orakwue
Serena Formoso
Mishka Kapoor
Sophie Malin
Siri Setty

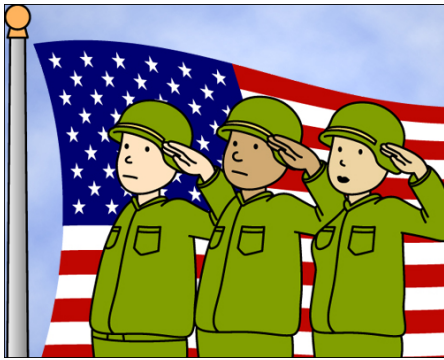
MRS. RUSSO

Patrick Benvenuto
Aldo Espino
Josh Liebowitz
Anthony Rossi
Conor Poholek

MRS. DEMSHAK

Ryan Carrol
Jenna Delucia
Adriana DiGirolamo
Alexis Dobson
Alaina Doris
Emily Gossman
Jack Kimball
Elisabeth Liggins
Jasmyn Newsom
Joelle Nutter
Samantha Pereira
Luke Samoskevich
Jason Wegiel





Reading Department

May 2014

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.

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?


Read Aloud Day!

On April 10th, students in grades K-5 enjoyed hosting guest readers. The books that were generously donated by the Rotary Club were based upon the town's theme of *Batter Up!* In addition, we were grateful to have two of the varsity baseball players from Trumbull High School as guest readers.

SBAC Testing

Students in grade five have completed the state testing at this point. Grade four students began testing on Tuesday, April 22nd and will complete testing on Thursday, May 1st. Third grade testing will be Monday, May 5th- Tuesday, May 20th. Please keep in mind that testing is not everyday.

You can assist your child by encouraging them to get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast. Encourage them to do their best each day!

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26 	27	28	29	30