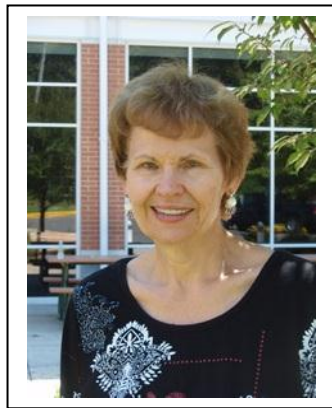


# Wolf Times

Volume 9, Issue 3

November, 2011



## From the Desk of Jacqueline Norcel, Principal

Dear Frenchtown Families,

Our November theme at Frenchtown will be "A Thankful People." This theme will highlight the American holiday of Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims entertained 92 Native American guests at the 1621 event. The first meal was breakfast at which boiled eel, lobster, roast pigeon, and stuffed cod were served. The guests brought turkeys, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and cranberries to the celebration. Quadequina, son of Massasoit prepared the first taste of popcorn for the Pilgrims. Our Student Council will sponsor a food collection for the needy in Trumbull from November 8th to November 19th.

The children will discover that in a democratic society, freedom is a privilege which he/she earns through participating in constructive and purposeful activity.



During the month of November, our staff will also be highlighting these other United States holidays:

Election Day, Veteran's Day, and American Education Week. The theme for American Education Week this year is ***Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.***

Grade 4 will present their Thanksgiving musical program on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. and the first grade's Pow Wow will be celebrated at 11:30 a.m.

The country of the month is France. If you have any souvenirs or artifacts, we would love to display them in the front lobby display case.

Eid al – Adha a Muslim holiday begins at sundown on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. This holiday commemorates the end of the pilgrimage to Mecca. This is one of the greatest religious observations in Islam and lasts for three days. It marks the end of the last month of the Islamic calendar.

Your children's teachers will be planning lessons and activities about books in honor of National Children's Book Week beginning November 14<sup>th</sup>. I am planning on reading a story to every Kindergarten and First Grade class during the week. Depending on the weather, I will read either outdoors on the picnic tables or in their classrooms.

At home, parents can help support our theme by reading a bedtime story, participating in our FREE reading calendar program, having a daily newspaper and magazine available, visiting the public library, and by talking with your child about what he/she has been reading at school.

Parent Teacher Conferences are to be held the afternoons of November 3<sup>rd</sup> and November 9<sup>th</sup>. Evening conferences are scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. Each conference period is fifteen minutes long. Your child's progress over the first twelve weeks will be discussed at these conferences.

Teacher and parents should exchange information about the child which will help each better understand the child's needs and personality. At the parent conference, parents can learn about their child's progress on academic, social, and physical skills during the report period. Teachers will let parents know at what level the student is working, how well he/she is doing and what is expected. The conferences should provide a realistic appraisal of the individual student's strengths and weaknesses within the total school program. Finally, parents and teachers must work

together as a team to effectively meet the child's needs if the child is to benefit as much as possible from the school experience. Together, goals should be set for the next trimester.



A word of caution about conferences: because parents are sometimes more concerned with weaknesses than with students strengths, sometimes all a parent reports to a child about the conference is what needs to be improved, rather than stressing both strengths and weaknesses. Share good things that were discussed at the conferences as well as things that need improving.

We offer a balanced math program K – 5. One of the resources we use is the “**Every Day Counts-Calendar Math**” program, a product of Great Source Publishing. It complements our math curriculum to help develop students’ math




understanding over time. Student work centers around a calendar and clock, using manipulatives such as pattern blocks and coins to help students see and discuss patterns, develop algebraic thinking (such as factors-parts of), and explore math relationships throughout the year. Students’ daily work includes analysis and discussion of place value, measurement, time, money, estimation, patterns and functions, graphing, statistics and probability, geometry, algebra, and problem solving. Somewhere between ten and twenty minutes daily is devoted to discussing these concepts in addition to our regular math time.

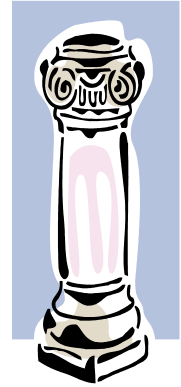
Every one of our children knows that he/she is in school to learn. For most, learning itself is a natural stimulus, providing its own intrinsic reward. It is our (home and school) job to help students understand that they need to continue to learn throughout their lives. Right now, our teachers are making that point obvious with our monthly pillar of the month of character counts activities and our Dream, Reach, Succeed program and our Positive Behavior Intervention Support. (PBIS)



Wishing you and your families, a Thanksgiving blessed with good health and happiness.

Mrs. Norcel

Character  
Corner—  
Mr. Weitzman,  
  
Social Worker  
  
“Bee” Honest



The Pillar of Character that we will focus on for November is “Bee Fair.” Kids have a lot of opportunities to be fair – at home, at school with their friends, and in many other places. It’s up to you to teach them that being fair is the right thing to do. Show them through your actions that being fair is always the best decision, and they’ll follow suit.

### Frenchtown School Dismissal Schedule

#### Regular Day:

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

#### Legal Day:

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

#### Early Dismissal:

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

#### Delayed Opening:

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

## Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Alves



October was a great month for the children in kindergarten. We let our last butterfly go. We're keeping our fingers crossed that they all make it to Mexico! Check my

website for details about monarch butterflies. We enjoyed our Visitation Days. It was nice to see so many of you. Our trip to Jones' was fun. The children had a nice time and we learned so much from the farmer. Thank you to all the parents who chaperoned. We are enjoying being scientists in kindergarten. We went outside and recorded what we saw. We also looked at the fall changes. We discovered many things in our own back yard. We also learned about Christopher Columbus and Halloween. To say we are busy is an understatement!

We are working with the letters t,b,f,n,m,c,a,i,r,o,g,d and s. Continue to review these letters with your little one. The children should be able to recognize the lower case of each letter, know the sound it makes, know words that begin with that sound and be able to write that letter. We are really emphasizing how to make each letter. The children should practice often so that they can write the letter correctly. We are also working on how to hold our pencil. We practice in school but I need you to also reinforce this at home. Keep reviewing the high frequency words that your child brings home. Try to find them in your every day reading. Cut out the words when you get them and put them into a plastic bag, then review, review, review. Continue to read the little books that I send home. The children are so proud of themselves! We are also working on counting.

The children are working hard on their homework folders. Keep up the good work! The children really benefit from this. It also gives you an idea of what we are covering in class. Please keep all the papers in the folder until it is due. That helps me to keep them organized. Thank you. Thank you for your support.

Check my website. I keep our special dates posted on it and the children may have fun on some of the links that I set up for you. Make sure you sign up for the News Flash part of my web page.

That is a nice feature. I can send you out a message especially if I want to get it to you quickly.

Parent /Teacher Conferences are in November. I will follow the schedule that is on your calendar. I will also have conferences on another day.

## Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Crawford

We spent a good deal of time learning about fall (i.e. leaves change, apples and pumpkins are ripe, the temperature cools down) this month through books, and our trip to Jones' Farm. I want to thank all the chaperones that accompanied us on our trip. We had so much fun on the tractor ride, seeing the animals, and picking a pumpkin!

Back in the classroom, we worked very hard and learned many letters! The *Fundations* program moves very quickly, but I have to say that the children are rising to the challenge! We focused on the following lowercase letters and sounds: c,a,i,r,o,g,d and s. Please reinforce these letters and sounds when helping your child with homework and other free moments you might have. I cannot emphasize enough how much your involvement will make a difference!

I am particularly proud of how well the children are reading their little books! Thank you for all the notes you are sending me. The children are excited to see the stickers on their folders. It is so exciting to watch them point to each word and make discoveries about the pictures, words and even the punctuation! It is also really important that you review the sight words with your child. I am noticing that some of the children are not yet able to remember the words and then those children struggle with the books we are reading. Make flash cards of the words and you can practice with them frequently. All of the children should know: a, my, the, I, like, we, and go. If these words come easily to your child, keep going with them even if it is ahead of our schedule. Thank you for all your help!



This has also been a month of science projects. We read and learned about apples and pumpkins, and made connections between the two

topics. Ask your child to tell you why the bees are so important and I hope that they will tell you about “pollination.” We learned that all fruits have to be a



flower first and that bees mix the pollen when collecting nectar, which results in a fruit! We also learned about scientists and the topic of science in general. Our classroom scientists even had an opportunity to experiment

with various science tools such as eyedroppers, funnels, magnifying glasses, balances, and rulers. Many of you from the afternoon class were here on that day to help – thank you so much! Thank you to the morning volunteers that came in especially for science centers as well! We are doing so much science this year with a newer science curriculum. In addition to all of this seasonal science we also started to focus on our five senses and magnets. It brings me so much joy to observe the students’ enthusiasm each and every time we do science. Seeing them in their lab coats and goggles is the best! They loved our “science outside” project! We each took a hanger and a clipboard. We placed our hanger somewhere in the grass and drew what we saw. We saw grass, insects, leaves, mushrooms and flowers! It was a great experience.

For Social Studies, we talked about Christopher Columbus. The afternoon class was treated to a special lesson on Diwali with a story and a craft. I want to thank the Kulkarni family for sharing your traditions with us! The overall favorite social studies topic though, was Halloween! They have been talking about their costumes since school started! I sometimes think that Halloween is more exciting for them than Christmas or other similar holidays! Thank you to all my room moms for their help and thank you to all the parents that sent in items for the party and/or came to help!

We have also been busy with our new Investigations’ program in math. We spent time learning good ways to count. We practiced counting by moving and/or touching objects as we counted them to help prevent making an error. We took attendance and counted the kindergartners and we had a counting jar of Legos. One day we had math centers and just had a chance to play and experiment with some hands-on materials (pattern blocks, geoblocks and color tiles). It was very interesting to watch the different ways the children played and used the materials. In addition to

counting, we have been learning about “attributes” and sorting. Each Wednesday, Mrs. Knapp comes in for a 45 minute block and we work with the children in small groups to teach hands-on concepts. It has been very successful thus far! Ask your child to tell you the different attributes of buttons and our attribute blocks!

Just to be organized and on schedule for February, I wanted to let you know that I am collecting regular sized coffee cans (I think they are 10 oz) for our project for Valentine’s Day. I need a coffee can for each child. The odd – shaped cans do not work, just the standard sized coffee cans please. If you use them and have any empty ones, please send them into school. Thank you!

## **Kindergarten News...**

### **Mrs. Capone**

October is a spook-tacular month in kindergarten. We have been exploring many different themes this month.

We have been focusing on many new letters and sounds with the help of Echo the Owl in our Foundations program. We have been learning the following lowercase letters and sounds: t, b, f, n, m, c, a, i, r, o, g, d, and s. Please continue to reinforce these letters and sounds with your child. It is also important to practice writing these letters as well. We have been introduced to sight words. The sight words that we have been learning are: a, the, my, like, is and I. A great way to help your child learn these words is to create flashcards.

In math, we have been practicing counting and recording numbers, recognizing and extending patterns, and sorting and describing many of our math manipulatives by their attributes. We even sorted each other by hair color, eye color and by the clothes we were wearing. For more practice with patterns we enjoyed painting the inside of real apples red and green to create our own AB patterns on paper.



As little scientists, we observed the season change from summer to fall. During that change, we discovered the leaves changing all around us, watched, wondered, and investigated why they fall to the ground, and discussed that with the fall comes cooler weather. We also spent a great

deal of time learning about a teacher's favorite fruit...apples! With our good friend, Johnny Appleseed leading the way, we used our five senses to explore apples.



As scientists we suited up in our lab coats and goggles and went on a nature adventure! We recorded our findings on our clipboards and shared them with our fellow scientists.

In preparation for the Columbus Day holiday, we read a book and watched a movie about Christopher Columbus' journey. During Fire Prevention week we watched a video, met with firefighters and were able to see an actual fire truck! We learned what we need to do to stay safe. After learning these safety tips we received badges and became Junior Firefighters!

Our trip to Jones' Farm was a fun filled adventure! We enjoyed going on a hay ride, seeing animals, and learning how a pumpkin grows. It was amazing to see the pumpkins on the vines and being able to pick our very own to take home was a treat. Thank you to all of the chaperones for accompanying our class!

We were excited to end this month with Halloween. We loved reading Halloween books, learning songs, seeing our friends in their costumes, marching in the parade and having a classroom celebration! Thank you to all who helped to make our Halloween party a success. What a great way to wrap up the month!

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

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

The leaves are falling, the winds are blowing and the temperatures are dropping. First graders are welcoming fall with their scientific observations. In addition to our fall explorations, we have watched our butterflies as they have passed through the stages of larva, pupa and adult. We have sent them off to continue their life cycle. We are now turning our attention to the life cycle of plants. We will be planting brassica seeds and making observations of the stages they pass through. We will notice how all living things have a life cycle. It's an exciting time of year!

We are becoming such skillful readers as we learn new reading strategies. During Reader's Workshop, we have been learning to be careful listeners and thinkers and to be good partners as we share our ideas. We have been making text-to-self connections as we think how the stories we are reading remind us of our own lives.

Our Foundations program has everyone "tapping out" sounds to help us read and spell words. Echo the Owl shows us what to do and we echo back to him. We are focusing on the digraphs "th", "sh", "ch", "wh", and "ck". Ask your child which digraph only comes at the end of words! We are learning "trick" words, too. They are the words we can't tap out. We must learn to read and spell them by heart.

First graders are becoming great mathematicians. We've finished our first unit of study called "How Many of Each?" and we have begun our geometry unit called "Making Shapes and Designing Quilts". Ask your first grader to show you how we "count on" to add!

Writing is happening all up and down our hallway! We are learning to generate many topic ideas and then to choose one to write about. We have been adding details that tell more about our topic. Our illustrations help us think of ideas.



Busy workers, smart thinkers, responsible friends, and smiling faces. That's what you will see in first grade this fall!

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

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

In reading the second graders have been making text-to-self and text-to-text connections, and visualizing in order to gain a deeper understanding of their reading.

In math the students developed strategies for accurately counting a set of objects by ones and by groups and solving addition and subtraction problems with totals up to 45. The students enjoyed hearing the story Two of Everything by Lily Toy Hong and doing a "magic pot" activity which reinforced the concept of doubling. It is vitally

important that your child continue to practice his/her math facts daily.

In social studies we have finished up Our Country unit. The students enjoyed learning about American symbols, the various jobs of our President, and various national holidays that help us learn about the history of our country. Your children did a phenomenal job on their holidays projects! We were so proud of the research and presentations.

It was wonderful to see all the parents at Open House. Thank you for taking time from your day to join us! We look forward to seeing all of you at conference time.

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

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

Our students are in full swing in third grade now that October is upon us.

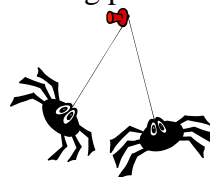
In reading, the third graders learned to identify the Question Answer Relationship (QAR). These exercises teach your child how to answer reading comprehension questions. If they understand the type of question that is being asked they can answer the question with better accuracy. The four types of questions we explored are On My Own, Think and Search, Right There, and Author and You. We have also been continuing our reading focus of visualizing the texts we are reading. What are you picturing in your mind? Tell about the part of the book that creates a mental image in your mind. These are some ideas you can ask your child during their nightly reading. It is important for your child to identify particular words from their book that helped them visualize their mental image. We also began our unit on making inferences. The author doesn't always tell the reader how the character feels. Your child will learn to pay attention to clues that the author reveals in order to determine the character's feelings.



In math, we finished our unit on strategies to solve equations and number stories. We began our unit on data. Your child will be collecting data, creating surveys, constructing bar graphs and pictographs, and making line plots. They will use their graphs to

interpret information and communicate it to their peers. Our first Computation Checkpoint came home for your review. These will continue to come home once a month for the school year. 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 with math flash cards. This will ensure better results on their Computation Checkpoints.

In writing, the students are adding many writing ideas to their writing notebooks. They have been learning all about how authors find their ideas to write books. They have also been practicing these ideas in their writing. The students have been learning some writing techniques such as making lists, quick writes, and using a good sentence from another piece of writing as springboards to new writing pieces.



Fish, crickets, and spiders, oh my! Your child's science classrooms are housing their very own bio-bottles. Our scientists are watching what happens in an eco-system and they are recording their observations and understanding in their science notebooks.

We finished up our social studies unit on oceans and rivers. In our next unit the third graders will be learning about three types of forests and they will identify the kinds of animals that live in prairies and how they protect themselves.

We hope your child is finding success using the Test Prep Fun website. This educational website will make your child more confident on the CMT's. Remind your child to "turn their red games green." Your child brought home their first FREE Reading Calendar and their BEAR Math Calendar. Please keep both calendars in a prominent location so your child can access them and fill them in. We will collect them on the first of November. So far the students have been doing a great job as a whole with returning homework. Please review the spelling words each night with your child. This review will promote good study habits and your child will be confident on Friday's spelling test. We have also been discussing with the students the importance of doing our best work on homework and on classwork. Please make sure your child double checks his or her work and that their name and date are on the paper. The cold weather is sneaking up on us. Make sure your child is dressing in weather-appropriate attire.

Thank you for your continued support at home.

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

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

As the leaves change color and the chill of autumn is in the air, we say good bye to the “beginning of the school year.” Classroom routines and expectations are known and fall baseline testing is completed. Our visitation days were a success, and we hope you enjoyed spending time in your child’s classroom. The fourth grade students are working hard and are ready to meet the challenges ahead.

In math class, the focus continues to be computational fluency. Students are working on strategies that will help them solve more challenging multiplication problems. One way they can do this is by breaking the multiplication problem apart into familiar parts that are easier to work with. For example, to solve  $16 \times 7$ , the students might break the problem into  $(8 \times 7) + (8 \times 7)$  to find the product or possibly  $(10 \times 7) + (6 \times 7)$ . Each class worked with array cards to break down the problems into smaller, more manageable components. The classes also took a closer look at the relationship between multiplication and division by solving story problems. Fluency of the basic multiplication facts is so important. Please continue to work with your child so that they know the facts “inside and out”. This will be a tremendous help as we move into more challenging curriculum.

In reading class, the students continued to focus on looking to non-fiction text feature to help them understand what they have read. Reading for meaning is hard work, and the students are learning and practicing a variety of strategies to help them. When you sign your child’s reading log each night, ask him/her about the book. Who, what, where and when questions are always a great place to start.



In science the students are learning Newtown’s three laws of motion as part of our unit on Force and Motion. The students are participating in a variety of hands-on experiments that demonstrate each of these laws.

Social Studies classes are learning about our government and the election process. Democracy Day was a wonderful opportunity for our students to see democracy in action. We were so proud to host many of the candidates and elected officials.



The colors of autumn will surely be replaced soon with winter’s white blanket. The fourth grade team looks forward to working with your children everyday to help make this year at Frenchtown their best one yet!

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

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

The school schedule is finally underway, and the students are really becoming confident with their schedules, expectations, and responsibilities. Our fifth graders are using their planners wisely and we appreciate your support with signing them daily. It really promotes homework consistency. Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up soon, so be on the lookout for the notice to come home with your specific date and time. Return it to school as soon as possible so teachers can accommodate the needs of all parents! Thank you!

Within our subjects, curriculum is in full swing. In math, have been focusing on multiplication. We have practiced our basic facts and applied this knowledge to multiply larger numbers. Students have also touched upon estimation strategies, writing story problems, and choosing an operation. We will now begin to focus on division; along with continued practice on all of our basic facts and estimation. Basic facts will be extremely important for these concepts. Students should be working on their “BEAR FACTS” daily and recording their progress. We expect a great turnout of students handing them in at the end of each month

Our reader’s workshop is underway. Teachers are using a variety of books and strategies to help create meaning while reading! Students are reading “just right books” in their reading class and are now bringing those books home to continue reading each night! They are reflecting on these books through conferences with their reading

teachers. Teachers and reading specialists are working together to create goals for each individual child to promote higher level thinking skills while reading. You may also hear a lot about non-fiction text features. Students have learned how to identify these features and utilize them to learn more about what they're reading. Please support you child's reading 20 minutes daily and take the time to discuss their reading with them. Maybe they can even write a letter to a family member about their books!



In science, we have wrapped up the scientific process and will begin exploring the earth, moon, and sun. Students are involved in detailed, hands-on experiences which help them explore our universe. This year's

focus will be inquiry science; therefore, students will be using the scientific process to explore their thinking. In social studies, the students are discovering the world like the explorers. They are really becoming great navigators. Students will use their knowledge of geography to apply themselves as explorers.

## Math News...

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

**Kindergarten and First Grade:** As you are out driving around, you will notice numbers, numbers everywhere: on street signs, car license plates, highway signs, speed limits, advertisements, and the list goes on. As you pass the signs, make it a game of reading the numbers you see. For our younger children, just focus on the digits they see. For example, when you see a 55 miles per hour speed limit sign, you can say, "I see two fives!" As they become more familiar with larger numbers, you could say, "I see fifty-five!"

**First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Grades:** *Are you looking for a way to help your child with their daily math homework?* Whenever your child brings a homework page with a BACKPACK picture on the top corner, look at the Student Math Handbook (SMH) page at the bottom. ***You can access math examples and models from your child's math lessons online.*** Just follow the directions below:

**Grade 1 Parents:** Go to

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

Next, type "FTGRADE1" as your username and password.

Finally, click on Mathematics Grade 1 Student Edition

Then, click on the SMH number from the homework page

**Grade 2 Parents:** Go to

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

Next, type "GRADE2FT" as your username and password.

Finally, click on Mathematics Grade 2 Student Edition

Then, click on the SMH number from the homework page

**Grade 3 Parents:** Go to

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

Next, type "GRADE3FT" as your username and password

Finally, click on Mathematics Grade 3 Student Edition

Then, click on the SMH number from the homework page

**Grade 4 Parents:** Go to

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

Next, type "ftgrade4" (all lower case) as your username and password

Finally, click on, click on Mathematics Grade 4 Student Edition

Then, click on the SMH number from the homework page

**Grade 5 Parents:** Go to

[www.pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com)

Next, type "GRADE5FT" as your username and password.

Finally, click on Mathematics Grade 5 Student Edition

Then, click on the SMH number from the homework page



**All Grades: To Practice Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication, and Division go to:**

<http://www.arcademickillbuilders.com/>



## From the Library...

Ms. Albro



Although I spend most of my time with students teaching research skills and facilitating their use of technology as a learning tool, I do have the opportunity to read-aloud to the children and, this is

the part of my job that I most enjoy. Reading aloud to children helps to expand their vocabulary, improve their attention span and develop a love of reading. This is an opportunity to expose students to literature they may not choose on their own, either because they aren't interested or the book is above their reading level.

Reading aloud to children at home can continue through their teenage years by either reading as a family with the student reading a page or a chapter and then the adult reading next or by using audio books. My own two teenage children love audio books and have been exposed to a large range of titles that they would not have read independently. Listening to audio books helps children with pronunciation and expression. The Trumbull library has an excellent selection of audio books available for children of all ages. I encourage you to turn off the movie on your next road trip and try an audio book!

## From the Nurse's Office...

Mrs. McCullough

With cold and flu season upon us I want to reiterate the policies of the Trumbull Public school district. These policies are in place in an attempt to keep everyone healthy.

**Temperature or fever:** With a temperature of 100 or over with or without symptoms, please keep your child home until he/she is fever free for at least 24 hours. Please do not medicate your ill child and then send them to school. Children always tell a classmate or the teacher and end up in the nurse's office with a panicky note from the teacher.

**Strep throat:** A student may return to school after being on antibiotics for 24 hours and fever free.

**Pink Eye:** A student Must be excluded from school and started on medication from your doctor . May return to school 24 hours after treatment has begun.

**Head Lice:** Children will be excluded and must have appropriate treatment before returning to school. **ALL** nits must be removed. Nurse will check in the AM before allowing the student to return to the classroom.

**Vomiting/Diarrhea:** Students will be sent home for vomiting and diarrhea [2 bouts of diarrhea].They can return to school 24 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea. Please inform the nurse of communicable disease such as strep throat and the flu. Proper hand washing goes a LONG way in the prevention of illness. Please encourage your children to wash their hands before they eat and after they have been out playing or have just returned from running errands with you!

If everyone is responsible about this issue, we should have less illness.

Thank You and Have a nice November!.

## Music News...

Miss Nuzzi



October brought us many tricks and treats, All of which had many musical beats.

In Kindergarten we can now perform quarters, eighths, and rest. With our clapping hands and instruments we were put to the test.

In first grade we can clap out the syllables of our names, first and last. We then wrote corresponding rhythms that could go slow or fast.

In second grade we sang "October Rocktober" and tested our ears with rhythms and pattern. We also yodeled across the mountain tops, we could be heard on Saturn!

In third grade "Soldier Soldier" was a favorite song. We've also learned the "triplet" and words that can follow this note along.

In fourth grade we worked on subdividing a quarter note. Students saw how math and music are subjects in the same boat!

In fifth grade we put four part rhythms together. We also worked on new eighth and sixteenth rests to make our rhythms more interesting and even better!

Now, on to the colder months of the year. We will all try to keep each other warmed up, and make beautiful music for all to hear.

## Reading News...

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

The Frenchtown Reading Department would like to continue to support you as you read with your child at home. We will be sharing various strategies from "The Sisters", Gail Boushey and Joan Moser that will give you guidelines on questions and strategies that you can use with your child as they read. Please read below to see our "featured" strategy of the month! Happy Reading!

CAFÉ Strategy: Check for Understanding. Even as an adult reader, there are times when I am reading a story and I get lost and am not sure what has happened. Fortunately, when this happens, I have strategies I use to help me understand the story. The same thing happens when children read. However, with children they often keep reading and do not realize they lost comprehension until the end of the story. They are too concerned with reading accurately, and forget to take the time to think about what they are reading. How can we help them gain comprehension? We can teach them the comprehension strategy: **check for understanding**, because good readers stop frequently to check for understanding or to ask who and what.

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

1. When reading to your child, stop periodically and say, "Let's see if we remember what I just read. Think about who the story was about and what happened." Do this 3 or 4 times throughout the story.
2. When reading to your child, stop and have them practice checking for understanding by saying, "I heard you say..."
3. Ask your child the following questions:
  - Who did you just read about?
  - What just happened?
  - Was your brain talking to you while you read?
  - Do you understand what was read?

- What do you do if you don't remember?

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

*Dear Frenchtown Parents, Friends, and Staff,*

*We are excited to announce that National School Psychology Awareness week is just around the corner! During the week of November 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be highlighting the many different aspects of school psychology including our roles within the school community, raising awareness, and much more! Please feel free to inquire about the activities and topics planned for School Psychology Awareness week by contacting Katie Cunningham, Frenchtown School Psychology Intern at [cunningm@trumbullps.org](mailto:cunningm@trumbullps.org). Have a great Fall Season!!!*

*Sincerely,  
Katie Cunningham  
School Psychology Intern  
Frenchtown Elementary School*



The kitchen staff would like to thank all students that have learned their pin

numbers for lunch debit and for those of you that haven't, parents, please help them to keep working on it!

## FT Mums Garden Group

## 2011-2012 Green Wolves



The newly formed FT "Mums" Garden Group is looking for extra hands (with or without green thumbs) to help us beat back the weeds and nurture the school flowerbeds back to health so that they are more inviting to the

butterflies and birds our kids love to watch. If you would like to join us in the fresh air, please contact Jocelyn, Sonya and Zdena at [ftmums@gmail.com](mailto:ftmums@gmail.com) Come once, once a month, or once a week, no help is to small!



Caitlin Britell  
Jocelyn Paymer  
Daniel Stocknoff  
Anthony Cascello  
Chase Dralle  
Ana Noguera  
Ezekiel Cruz  
Maeve Jordan  
Mina Song  
Elizabeth Hazen  
Marius Siscar  
Samaura Steele  
Katelyn Cerulli  
Emma Mikucki  
Gabby Rodia



## **Students in the Spotlight**

The following students were the top three in last week's MVP state-wide lists for Test Prep Fun:

Antonia MacEwen  
Frank Horan  
Riley Simpson

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## **One of the Many PTA Gifts to School**

**Three Large Outdoor Storage Bins  
for the Portables and Kindergarten**

**We have 172 families enrolled in  
the Stop and Shop A+ Program.  
Thank You - Thank You**

**There is still time to list your card  
for Frenchtown. If you contact the  
Main Office, you can ask JoAnne,  
Toni or Maura to do it for you.**

## **FRENCHTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS DONATION FROM WESTFIELD TRUMBULL**



Trumbull, CT - (9/28/11) – Westfield shopping centers and the *Westfield Family* program announce that Frenchtown Elementary School will receive a \$2,500 donation through “Give Back to School” Program. Through the national program implemented at 23 centers across the country, Westfield will donate \$57,500 to local schools, to be used to support such school programs as arts and music, sciences, physical education, libraries and technology resources.

The winning school was chosen by Westfield shoppers themselves who “voted” in-center and online to choose Frenchtown Elementary School as the winner. Votes were cast by shoppers who presented their shopping receipts from Westfield retailers to the Westfield Concierge desk, with each dollar spent counting as 1 point. Additional points were earned by “liking” Westfield Trumbull on Facebook.

“This is wonderful for our children. It proves what can happen for them when their parents, teachers and community business partners work together as a team,” said Frenchtown Elementary School Principal, Jacqueline Norcel.

“Westfield is proud of the outcome of our inaugural “Give Back to School” program, which saw thousands of dollars donated to schools, says Kirk Thompson, Westfield Vice President of Marketing. “We consider ourselves an integral part of our local communities, just like the families that shop with us, and are thrilled to be able to do our part to give back.”

Now offered at 30 centers across the country, *Westfield Family* continues its successful and popular program elements that make shopping fun and easy for families.