

Stratfield School Newsletter

From the Desk of Ms.
McGoey

Dear Stratfield Families,

Happy Thanksgiving to all! I hope that during this special time, all families are fortunate to spend some time with loved ones to reflect on the many things we can be grateful for at this time. I know that among one of the many things I am grateful for is being part of this very special Stratfield community. Thank you to all of you for all that you do to support Stratfield School each day whether it is volunteering, being a Mystery Reader, supporting children with school assignments, and much much more! I've included a few new "happenings" below for your information!

Many of you may see staff wearing jeans on Fridays. Each Friday staff donate money when they "dress down" to support a chosen charity. Mrs. Jen O'Connell organizes this effort each month. For the month of September, the Stratfield staff donated \$138.00 to the *Mercy Learning Center*. For October, \$125.00 was donated to *Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Resource Foundation*. Currently, the staff are collecting money to donate to *Operation Hope*. We look forward to sharing with you the many charities we have been able to support.

Grade 4 and 5 students are busy putting together their applications for the Student Leadership Team. This leadership team is led by Mrs. Bainer and Mr. Molony. All applications are due by November 23rd. We look forward to this new team of Stratfield leaders and their contribution to Stratfield. Stay tuned next month as we announce these new student leaders!

Another piece of exciting news is that a small committee of staff and PTA members are working to create a Stratfield School Store. We are looking to have this store begin in January 2017. More details will follow in the near future.

And lastly, I am pleased to announce that the restoration of the Stratfield School Recreational Field is complete with a fully functional automatic irrigation system! This area continues to be off limits however until the ground sets.

Again, I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving!
Respectfully, Ms. McGoey

Music News

The month of October was an ideal time to explore minor tonality and timbre (tone quality) of instruments. All students created instrumental parts to accompany songs, poems, or books. We had fun using our imaginations to think beyond and express our musical ideas.

- Dr. Alward

Math News

 In November, Stratfield students make new and interesting mathematical discoveries through Number Corner:



In Kindergarten, Calendar Grid markers this month feature two- and three-dimensional shapes. During Calendar Collector, the class collects craft sticks and uses them in comparing and measuring activities. The other three workouts are rich in counting skills, numeral reading and writing, and combinations of 5 and 10.



This month's workouts in First grade delve into fractions and telling time. Students discover a pattern of friendly animals chomping snacks into wholes, halves, and fourths in Calendar Grid, and the focus on fractions carries over to Calendar Collector. The teacher introduces telling time to the hour, and students use fractions of a circle to consider whole and half on an analog clock. November includes the 50th day of school, and students use the hundreds grid to discover they are halfway to the 100th day of school.



Meanwhile in Second grade, Calendar Markers pick up where Calendar Collector left off last month, as students review telling time to the hour and half-hour and learn to tell time to the quarter-hour on analog and digital clocks. In addition, students review Doubles and Doubles Plus or Minus One as well as the related subtraction combinations during the Computational Fluency workout. Meanwhile Daily Rectangle features a game called Rows & Columns where students build arrays and write equations.



Third graders explore Calendar workouts that reinforce multiplication. Students discover arrays as they look for patterns and relationships on Calendar Grid markers. In addition, they review fractions as they collect halves, fourths, and eighths in the Calendar Collector's *Unit Fraction Race*. And in Problem Strings, students solve for the unknown as they write equations with letters that stand for missing quantities.



In Number Corner this month, fourth graders play games, engage in discussions, and practice skills related to measuring, making conversions, identifying multiples/factors, ordering and comparing numbers, and adding multi-digit numbers. They build on foundations established in the first two months of Number Corner and extend their skills and understanding of these key concepts.



Meanwhile, fifth grade students study a pattern of transforming triangles in the *Tumbling Triangles* Calendar Grid as they classify shapes according to attributes. They continue to strengthen place-value skills by collecting a meter a day and converting units of measurement in Calendar Collector as well.



- Mrs. Lacey, MST

For your
Calendar

 Early Dismissal – Nov. 23rd
 No School – Nov. 24-25

 Progress Reports Issued: December 21st

Art at Stratfield

Stratfield is in full gear and producing terrific art work. Kindergarten has started drawing dinosaurs with a focus on seeing simple shapes in objects. 1st grade has some underwater inspired paintings starting soon. 2nd Grade is currently finishing some wild haired water color portraits and we got to use color wheels to learn about blending colors. 3rd grade has just finished some beautiful resist paintings of insects by combining oil pastels and paint. 4th grade learned about positive and negative

Quote of the Month



From the PE department

Kindergarten through second grade have been working on following the steps needed to roll a ball or throw the ball underhand or overhand. A popular throwing activity among K-2 is Oscars Garbage Can. Third, fourth, and fifth grade have completed their physical fitness testing at this point and will now participate in team games that involve throwing and rolling. There are a wide variety of games for this unit where each student is focusing on teamwork and the skills necessary to complete throwing or rolling. A popular throwing game among the 3-5th grades is House of Pain.

Student Art Work



Jennifer O'Connell
Jennifer Stowell
Language Arts Specialists

Dear Families,

Currently, many grade levels are in a nonfiction unit of study for reading and/or writing. This genre often ignites excitement and inquiry as children select their own books and topics. You can support this at home by encouraging your child to select and read nonfiction texts. It can include magazines, biographies, all about books and even narrative nonfiction.

A wonderful resource for Nonfiction texts is the online library Big Universe. This can be accessed via the Virtual Library on the school website.

For further ideas of how to support your child's work in these units see the parent letters on the Fairfield Public Schools website or click the link below.

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Information

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