



Dear Stratfield Families,

As many of you know we have had a few staff that are moving on to new positions so they are closer to their families. Please join me in saying goodbye and best of luck to Mrs. Amy Rizzo, our Library Media Specialist, and Mrs. Gina Guetti, Grade 4 Teacher. Mrs. Rizzo will be joining the Milford Public School District as a Library Media Specialist, and Mrs. Guetti will be joining the Waterford Public School District as a Grade 4 Teacher. They both have contributed greatly to the success of Stratfield School, and we will miss them tremendously!!!

As we say goodbye to these fine professionals, please welcome, Mrs. Dyan Gonzales who will be our new Library Media Specialist. Dyan will join us mid-November and she will bring a wealth of knowledge from her current position as LMS in Darien. Please also welcome Ms. Gina Marcheschi to grade 4. Ms. Marcheschi will transition with Mrs. Guetti next week and will take over formally on the 21st as Mrs. Guetti's last day is the 20th. Mrs. Marcheschi also brings a wealth of experience from her previous long term positions throughout the Fairfield School District. I know you will join me in welcoming both of these fine individuals to Stratfield School.

In other news, parents will be receiving the SBA scores (grade 4 and 5) and STAR Assessments (grades 1-5) in a few days. These will be mailed home. Please remember these are "snapshots" of data collected. We use this data combined with classroom assessments to make instructional decisions for all students. Next week I will blast out Stratfield's results on the SBA to all families.

Have a great weekend everyone! Ms. McGoey

Greetings from the LLC! Over the past several weeks, Stratfield students have begun practicing navigating our library and using our online card catalog system (Destiny) to search for books by call #. Students have also been at work in the computer lab, learning basic computer navigation skills and learning to access our Virtual Library (grades K-1). Students in grades two and up are getting reacquainted with proper network etiquette and setting usernames and passwords for the network and various programs that we will use throughout the year. We are excited to share that students have set up accounts in our newest online library database, Big Universe! You will find information on how to assist your child in logging in to Big Universe from home within this newsletter, so be on the lookout. Students in grades 2-5 will also be setting up their Typing Pal accounts this month. Typing Pal is a cloud based touch typing program, designed to teach students basic typing skills at their level. Students can practice their typing from any computer once they log in to their Typing Pal account. Information will be sent home on how you can access Typing Pal from home. Parents, please continue to encourage your children to read at home. We have added many new books to our library collection and our students have continued to show great enthusiasm for book check out each week. Please help remind your children to return their library books when they are finished reading them. Finally, as you are aware, this week sadly marks my final days working with students and staff at Stratfield school. Thank you to all of the families in the Stratfield community for a wonderful two years as your Library Media Specialist. I feel truly blessed to have been a part of your Stratfield family. Stratfield is an amazing school and community and will always hold a very special place in my heart. Fondly, Amy Rizzo

It's October! Stratfield students are discovering many exciting math concepts in Number Corner:

- 🍁 In Kindergarten, calendar markers feature colored maple leaves dancing in the breeze! Students predict the color and number of leaves they see as well as practice directionality. They explore the teen numbers, ten frames with activities for "How Many More make 10?", and review patterns to 5.
- 🍁 First graders focus on part-whole relationships with numbers to 10 using a number tree model of fall objects, create a graph of pattern blocks, record data on a frequency table, and estimate then count pattern blocks. They also write equations as they identify combinations to 10, and compare numbers using greater than and less than.
- 🍁 Second graders explore autumn leaf calendar markers that feature multiples of 3 and 4 as students describe and make predictions about patterns. They will also practice telling time to 5-minute increments, make rectangular arrays to represent each day's date, and play a guessing game using greater than and less within a century.
- 🍁 In third grade, students identify, investigate, and compare properties of polygons, collect milliliters and liters through the month, play *Frog Jump Multiplication*, learn about end points on a number line, and practice efficient strategies for subtracting 2- and 3-digit numbers.

Math (continued)

- For fourth graders this month, calendar markers show patterns featuring fractions and decimals as they explore place value to the millions, discover relationships between factors and multiples, work with proportional reasoning, partial products, and doubling using the ratio table. They continue to develop problem-solving skills, too, by working on multi-step problems.
- Last but not least, fifth grade students explore calendar markers with patterns that pose a new and engaging challenge focused on volume, and collect and graph data by measuring the masses of carrots. They also write and evaluate expressions that include parentheses, solve problems with organized lists and use money and clock models to add unit and non-unit fractions with unlike denominators.



From the PE department

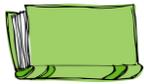
October begins our physical fitness testing for the third, fourth, and fifth grades. The entire month of September was spent preparing for this moment, so let's hope they can be successful in their attempts in the Sit N Reach, Push-ups, Curl-ups, and the mile run.

Kindergarten through 2nd grade will continue learning cooperative games before we begin to develop our rolling, throwing, and catching skill later this month where they will learn a variety of games involving these skills.

Sincerely,

Joe Cote

Physical Education



Jennifer O'Connell

Jennifer Stowell

Language Arts Specialists

Dear Families,

We are excited to let you know that there are now letters for parents that describe the units of study for reading and writing! This will help you communicate with your child about what he/she is learning and how to provide support at home. The intention is that the letters will be posted on the website prior to the beginning of the unit. (Unit one for reading and writing is now accessible. Sorry for that delay!) Letters may be posted by our IT department a few days in advance, or at times, a few weeks in advance. For example, you will see the unit 2 letters for writing. However, most grade levels will begin unit 2 around the beginning of November. Letters are listed by grade level and subject area.

To access the parent letters click on the link below:

<http://fairfieldschools.org/parent-resources/>

Please let us know if you have any questions about a current unit of study. Enjoy!!

Art at Stratfield

Our Stratfield artists are in the midst of some fantastic work. Kindergarten is concentrating on building up our cutting and gluing skills with a variety of projects. 1st grade is being introduced to some new tools, like the compass, in order to create planets in our space scenes. Our 2nd graders are concentrating on silhouettes and creating scary castles and houses. 3rd grade has finished making some amazing decorations for our book fair and will be starting our clay unit soon. 4th grade is focusing on balancing positive and negative space by making very cool designs based on their own hands. 5th grade just finished some amazing graffiti names that are currently hanging up in front of the main office. Mr. Matarazzo

Music at Stratfield

"I hear and I forget,

I see and I remember,

I do and I understand." (Confucius)

Herein lies the key (no pun intended) to understanding the foundation of our music program. All of our students are actively engaged in music-making through singing, moving, listening to, and playing music. We are exploring unpitched and pitched percussion instruments, and grouping sound qualities of instruments by timbre. Kindergarten students are focusing on the use of their singing voices, movement in personal space and playing unpitched instruments (triangle, hand drum, wood block, shaker, tambourine), while Grade 1 students are developing their beat-keeping skills with mallet instruments. Grade 2 students are orchestrating songs with various pitched and unpitched instruments. Grade 3-5 students are working on accompanying songs with multiple parts. Additionally, Grade 5 students are learning how to follow a vocal score in preparation for their Winter Concert on January 12th. Happy music making! Dr. Alward