



Dear Stratfield Families,
Happy Holidays! The winter weather is here! With that being said, we will head out to recess whenever we can so please be sure all children dress in layers so they are comfortable in both the classroom and out at recess. Just a few updates for all families that I will outline below for easy reading during this busy season.

- Progress Reports will be coming out on December 21st for all students. Please be sure you log onto Infinite Campus to view these reports. I will blast the Parent Guide to support all families with this process.
- Please consider taking a few moments to complete the Stratfield 2016 School Climate Survey. This survey is located in your inbox on IC. We are always looking for feedback!
- As you know, the Board of Education approved the Racial Imbalance Proposal last month and as part of this plan Stratfield will house a preschool program next year. More information will come throughout the year about this. If you are interested in learning about Pre-Kindergarten in Fairfield, there is a presentation on January 19, 2017 from 6:30 – 7:30 PM at the Fairfield Public Library.

Thank you again for your continued collaboration and community support! Have a wonderful holiday break! Happy 2017!!!!

Respectfully, Ms. McGoey

Music News

During the month of November, all students sang beautifully at our Veteran's Day Assembly. In class we sang seasonal songs, performed movement games, and played instruments related to Thanksgiving. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students' Thanksgiving hit was "All Around the Kitchen," while Grade 1's hit was "A Pumpkin Ran Away." Grade 2's tune was "Over the River." A highlight in Grade 3 was the culmination of the Japan Unit, with the performance of the Coal Miner's Dance, "Sakura," and original haiku set to movement and music. Grade 4 students enjoyed the "Turkey Blues." The fifth-grade chorus led the singing of the National Anthem for our Veteran's Day assembly, and is diligently preparing for an exciting Winter Concert on Thursday, January 12th. So, MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

- Dr. Alward



Math News

In December, students at Stratfield embark on some new and interesting mathematical **discoveries through Number Corner**:

- * In Kindergarten, the Calendar Grid workout this month features positional language, as students name and predict the location of a teddy bear relative to a box on each new marker. During Calendar Collector, the class collects pattern blocks in four different shapes, sorts them, and orders the collections by quantity. The Days in School workout continues to count down the days until winter break. Through the Computational Fluency workout students explore numbers and combinations between 5 and 10, while the Number Line workout provides a look at numbers through 29 with plenty of lively games
- * Workouts for first graders in December continue to focus on many of the concepts introduced in November. Students complete their collection of 24 hours and learn how each day is divided into two equal parts, a.m. and p.m. Next, they expand their exploration of doubles and halves to include numbers to 20. Finally, the Calendar Grid workout features familiar items and a growing pattern of three-dimensional shapes such as cylinders, spheres, cubes, and rectangular prisms.
- * In December, second grade students use the Calendar Markers that feature two-dimensional shapes, with an emphasis on quadrilaterals and symmetry. The Calendar Collector turns to data collection as the teacher and students conduct class surveys. Students work with Add Ten and Add Nine facts, as well as the related subtraction combinations during the Computational Fluency activities.
- * From fractions to measuring mass to rounding to multiplication problems, third graders explore a variety of strands, skills, and strategies this month. In all the workouts, students look for patterns, develop mathematical reasoning, and solve problems.
- * Fourth grade students work with geometry in Calendar Grid as they explore, discuss, and analyze congruence, line symmetry, and parallel and perpendicular lines this month. The Calendar Collector workout focuses on numbers and operations in base ten, especially adding and subtracting 2-, 3-, and 4-digit numbers.
- * During the month of December, fifth grade students focus on classifying special kinds of quadrilaterals: kites, parallelograms, and trapezoids. As they observe, record, and compare, students examine each shapes' defining attributes. Additionally, they work with decimals and fractions as they measure each other's height and foot length in the Calendar Collector workout.

- Amy Lacey, MST

Art at Stratfield

Stratfield students are creating some beautiful artwork as the weather gets colder. Kindergarten just completed some Pete the Cat inspired pictures. 1st grade is completing resist paintings of Lions. 2nd Grade is currently starting some very detailed drawings of cars and trucks as we explore the use of reference photos in art. 3rd grade is working on illuminated letters taking inspiration from the art of hand written books. 4th grade is completing some musical instruments as we learn to combine feelings and mood in our work. 5th grade is exploring perspective drawing as we create our own unique aquariums. We also have some of our Stratfield sculptures on display in our cabinet by the cafeteria in addition to the usual assortment of work hanging around the school. – Bob Matarazzo

From the PE department

Kindergarten through second grade will be participating in floor hockey type activities and second grade will actually start playing floor hockey. Following floor hockey each class will be enjoying a variety of games using a large parachute.

Third through fifth grades will be playing floor hockey games followed by learning how to play team handball.

- Joe Cote, PE Teacher



Jennifer O'Connell & Jennifer Stowell
Language Arts Specialists

The winter break is almost here. This is the perfect time for family, fun, celebration and **READING!** The following includes tips to encourage your child to read over the break and for many days to come.

Provide time: Give your child and yourself plenty of time to read books.

Allow for book choice! Self-selecting books of interest creates motivation and excitement to read and reread books.

Read aloud to your child: This creates the joy of reading and provides quality time together.

Provide access to books: Go to the library, visit the books store, read and reread books from school, utilize Big Universe; there are so many options to get books in front of your child. Have fun!

Get hooked on a series or author: Encourage your child to try a new series, read additional books in a series or read books by the same author. Research has shown that readers who read series books tend to become life-long readers.

Helpful Ideas:

- Type a favorite title of your child's into amazon.com. It will generate a list of suggested books that are of similar topics and interest.
- Books make wonderful gifts!
- If a book has a main character that is more than two years older than your child the content may not be appropriate.
- The library is a wonderful resource and a great place to visit!

HAVE A WONDERFUL VACATION!

Quote of the Month



Student Art Work



Hello Stratfield Parents,

My name is Rebecca Campbell and I'm Stratfield's new social worker, working at our school on B and D days. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many bright, energetic and kind students this year and am proud to be a part of the team!

As the holiday season is in full swing, I felt it appropriate to write on something important to keep in mind, as we bounce from "to-do" to "to-do", and that is your child's stress level. As parents, we can easily lose sight of the enormity of daily stressors our young minds encounter throughout their school day, whether academic or social/emotional.

With that in mind, I would like to offer some simple advice as your child walks out the door, about to start their busy day:

- Keep your cheerleading around tests to a minimum. Know it comes from a loving place! However, while may not seem like it, your child puts enough pressure on his or herself to perform in their school environment.
- Instead, wish them positivity around a class activity or social exchange you're aware of, or a good time at 4 square during recess. That science test is on their mind, believe me. A focus on something else around their day will be a welcome reminder that there's more to their school day than that stressful test, thereby reducing their potential test-taking anxiety.
- When arriving home from school, ask your child an open-ended question around a school activity/assignment versus a yes/no closed-answer question. This shows your child you're interested in their experience versus their performance. "Was your math test hard?", doesn't imply as much need for elaboration.

Ultimately our kids want to feel worthy, that their parents are interested in their experience. So whether you enjoy hearing about the Pokemon lunch table talk or not, ask those questions and get involved! A little interest in the experience goes a long way in lightening your child's anxiety around the anxiety school and test-taking organically incites. – Rebecca Campbell, School Social Worker