



Dear Stratfield Families,

Happy 2017!!! We are off to a great start in the new year, and I have lots of great news to share. I am pleased to announce the 2016-2017 Student Leadership Team formerly known as the Student Council. We have already had a few exciting spirit days, and we look forward to their ideas throughout the rest of this year. Please join me in congratulating: [Emily Dowd](#), [Gwendolyn Kenny](#), [Kate Warren](#), [Paige Shaughnessy](#), [Claire Agee](#), [Natalie Joerchel](#), [Amelia King](#), [Jack Reynolds](#), [Caterina Sardo](#), [Amelia Bolton](#), [Ella Sato-Connell](#), [George Bentley](#), [Georgia Patterson](#), and [Brian Chisholm](#). On another celebratory note, please join me in congratulating Kelly Przygocki in 5D who submitted her poem to the Poetry for Peace Contest sponsored by Fairfield University. Kelly was chosen for her poem entitled, Peace and was recognized on January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Quick Center at Fairfield University. Kelly is now a published author! We will catalog this book to be included in our Stratfield Library Learning Commons. In the area of Science, we are looking to have our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Science Night on February 28<sup>th</sup>. This program is brought back by popular request. A flyer will be sent home in the next week with the specifics as well as to reserve your spot.

In other science happenings, I have included the link below to the PK – 12 draft science documents and the feedback form. The window for feedback will be open until February 10<sup>th</sup>.

<http://fairfieldschools.org/curriculum-instruction/subjects/science/#scienceFeedbackForm>

Respectfully,  
Ms. McGoey

## Music News

As the month of December flew by, Kindergarten and Grade 1 students sang, danced and moved to holiday music. Grade 2 students studied the *Nutcracker*. Grade 3-experienced major and minor music and performed rhythmic patterns to Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. Grade 4 was introduced to F# on the recorder and Grade 5 put the finishing touches on their winter concert. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Mr. Jacob Bartfield as a student vocal music teacher for seven weeks. In the future, we will focus on pitch, and Grade 3 will begin study of the soprano recorder. Have fun playing in the snow!

- Dr. Alward

## Math News

During the month of January, students at Stratfield Elementary are discovering interesting mathematical concepts through Number Corner:

\* In kindergarten, three different workouts feature addition combinations to 10: Calendar Grid, Days in School, and Computational Fluency. During Calendar Collector, the class collects Unifix cubes in three different colors, places the cubes in the Calendar Collector pocket chart, and also displays the results on recording strips. The Number Line workout deals with interval counting and comparing numerals to 20.

\* For first graders, the new year begins with familiar routines infused with fresh elements. Calendar Grid markers feature single equations and story problems with missing addends, minuends, or subtrahends, and students tell math stories to match the equations using various strategies. They return to collecting coins in Calendar Collector and record their collection on a graph. Students will also practice using known facts to solve related facts of 1 more or 1 less.

\* This month in second grade the Calendar Markers pick up where the Calendar Collector left off last month, giving students continued opportunities to read and interpret picture and bar graphs based on data collected while surveying other second graders on a variety of topics. The Calendar Collector this month features data collection based on the results of a daily tile sampling experiment. Finally, the Computational Fluency workouts revolve around a powerful subtraction strategy that underscores the relationship between addition and subtraction.

\* In third grade this month, workouts offer exposure to and experience with a variety of skills and concepts. Students continue to develop their understanding of fractions in Calendar Grid. They think about time as they collect minutes and hours in the Calendar Collector. The Computational Fluency workout is very similar to last month's, but this month students think about multiplying by 5 and 10.

\* This month fourth graders use the Computational Fluency and Problem Solving workouts to focus on division in which students learn and practice division strategies and consider division situations in contexts. Meanwhile, the Calendar Grid focuses on geometric shapes and scaling.

\* In fifth grade, students work on adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions and decimals throughout the month. Additionally, they analyze and compare patterns, graph ordered pairs based on those patterns in the Calendar Grid workout and write expressions and equations to represent those patterns.

## Art at Stratfield

This month has been filled with hard work for our Stratfield students. Kindergarten is reviewing cutting and gluing skills with some scaly fish drawings. 1<sup>st</sup> grade just finished some beautiful winter cardinals. 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade just finished their cars and trucks and we are about to try some traditional style Japanese fish printing. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is completing amazing coy fish drawings in colored pencil. 4<sup>th</sup> grade is beginning a study on shadow and value in art as we draw detailed flowers. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is getting a taste of life in a design firm as we are studying packaging design and creating unique cereal boxes. – Bob Matarazzo, Art Teacher

## From the PE department

January and February are busy months in Physical Education for all grades. We start with basketball where the younger grades focus on basketball skills while the older grades learn different basketball games, trying to master their basketball skills. Following the basketball unit, children will be enjoying the use of the climbing ropes, cargo net, climbing wall and much more during our body management unit.

- Joe Cote, PE Teacher

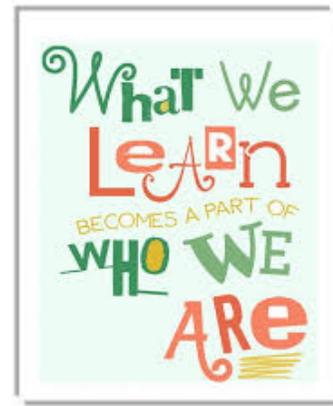


Jennifer O'Connell & Jennifer Stowell  
Language Arts Specialists

Welcome 2017! In the new year, it is traditional to set goals. Whether the goal be to get more organized, exercise more or drink more water; setting a goal can help us to focus on what we want to improve. This is a perfect time for readers to set new goals! Below are some questions to ask your child to help set goals and build a reading life.

- Could I try a new genre?
- Could I increase the amount of time that I read each night?
- Could I increase the number of pages I read each night?
- Is there a book series I would like to begin reading, or continue reading?
- Is there a Nutmeg nominee I would like to read?  
(<http://www.nutmegaward.org/>)
- What book(s) would I like an adult to read with me or to me?

## Quote of the Month



## Student Art Work



## Learning Commons

Dear Stratfield School Families,

Snow is falling and books are calling! We are excited to announce that we now have a copy of Poetry for Peace in our library collection. It is a compilation of the contest winners for 2016-2017 Fairfield University Poetry for Peace contest. You can find the poem Peace written by Stratfield's Own 5th grader Kelly. Congratulations Kelly!

In kindergarten and first grade, we read aloud some awesome books and used the interactive learning website ABCya. Here are some of the books we read: *Martin's Big Words* by Doreen Rappaport, a Caldecott Honor Book about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *The Stranger in the Woods*, a photographic narrative by Carl Sams and Jean Stoick, winner of the Benjamin Franklin Award for excellence in book publishing. Last but not least, brand new to our library collection is *Ada Twist, Scientist* by the bestselling creator of *Iggly Peck*, *Architect* and *Rosie Revere, Engineer*, author Andrea Beaty.

Second graders are learning how to be independent users of the library's online public access catalog Destiny. They also know how to access it from home. Third thru Fifth graders are learning about Online Safety and Netiquette. Fifth graders have also started research on their debatable topics. We had a lesson on the research process, note taking and the importance of citing our source of information. Give credit where credit is due! Until next time, **Warm up with a good book!**

**Happy Reading,**

*Mrs. Gonzales*

**Library Media Specialist**

**Stratfield School, LLC**