

Dear Stratfield Families,

Happy end of February!! As we head into March there are a few things that will be coming up for the students. Due to the snow delay, we will be rescheduling our cultural assembly with Tom Chapin. This assembly will be on March 7<sup>th</sup> for students. We are looking forward to this FAY presentation as we have heard it was a hit at the other Fairfield schools.

We will begin our SBA, Smarter Balance Assessment, testing in March for grades 3-5. The following are the windows that we will be administering this test:

*March 27 – April 7 – Grade 3*

*April 17 – April 28 – Grade 4*

*May 1 – May 12 – Grade 5*

*Grade 5 Science CMT Assessment – March 28<sup>th</sup>*

In the area of literacy, Stratfield has been working collaboratively with the District Language Arts Coordinator, Mrs. Khairallah, and 3 other schools (Burr, McKinley, and Holland Hill). Mrs. Khairallah has been working with the staff and students in Reader's Workshop as well as with Interactive Read Aloud and Shared Reading. We have been focusing our work in grade 2 and 4; however, we have been in classrooms throughout the grade levels.

Lastly, we had a "Crock Pot Cook-Off" with our staff last Friday. We had over 10 entries, and the winners were:

*1<sup>st</sup> place - Meg O'Connor with her Buffalo Chicken Dip*

*2<sup>nd</sup> place – Kate Ciccarelli with Mac and Cheese*

*3<sup>rd</sup> place – Marie Kass with BBQ Pulled Chicken*

Hopefully the weather is warm as we head into March. Please remind children to wear their coats, as we will continue to get out each day for outdoor recess.

Respectfully,  
Ms. McGoey

## Music News

Winter has finally arrived! In January, we welcomed our student teacher, Mr. Jacob Bartfield, who will be with us for seven weeks. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students have focused on pitch and winter/seasonal songs. Grade 2 worked on folk dances, playing instruments, and creating words to a pentatonic melody. Grade 3 began the study of the soprano recorder. Grade 4 performed folk dances, mainly the troika, Romanian hora, and hora, and improved their recorder skills. The Grade 5 Chorus did a fabulous job in their winter concert, and will focus on rhythm and instrument playing. Have fun playing in the snow!

- Dr. Alward

## Math News

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

\* In Kindergarten, counting is heavily featured this month.

During the Calendar Grid workout, students count and compare sets of dots to 30. The class collects pennies and nickels during the Calendar Collector as a way to practice counting on from 5 and developing greater fluency with combinations of 5. During Days in School, students practice counting by 10s to 100 with Crandall the Crab and his nine cousins. During the Number Line workout, students focus on counting and reading numbers to 20 as they deepen their understandings of teen numbers, and the Computational Fluency workout features story problems to 10.

\* Workouts for first graders in February continue to focus on many of the concepts introduced in January. The Computational Fluency workout brings focus on multiple addends, and students use a variety of efficient strategies to compose groups flexibly. In addition to the numeration work, students name and describe pairs of two-dimensional shapes shown on the Calendar Grid markers and determine whether or not the shapes in each pair are congruent.

\* In February, second grade students use the Calendar Markers that feature flags and story problems from around the world. The Daily Rectangle moves into 2- and 3-digit addition as students deposit base ten area pieces into the Base Ten Bank every couple of days. In addition, during the Computational Fluency activities, the teacher introduces Quick Facts — a timed routine designed to help all students master their addition facts.

\* This month's workouts offer a rich exploration of geometry and measurement, fractions, multiplication fact fluency, and problem solving for third graders. The Calendar Grid features a growing pattern focused on area and perimeter. The Calendar Collector focuses on fractions. Meanwhile, Computational Fluency follows the same sequence of activities as in previous months with students now exploring strategies for multiplying by 3, 4, and 8.

\* The month of February focuses largely on geometry, measurement, and fractions for fourth graders. In the Calendar Grid students identify, draw, compare, and analyze angles while working with lines and polygons. Computational Fluency focuses on fractions: decomposing and composing fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions. Computational Fluency also addresses decimals and fraction-decimal equivalency. Solving Problems includes a special focus on writing equations for multi-step problems.

\* In the month of February, fifth grade students use the area model to make sense of multiplication with fractions in the Calendar Grid. They also explore patterns in the number of 0s and in the placement of the decimal point when multiplying and dividing by a power of 10 during the Calendar Collector and Solving Problems workouts.

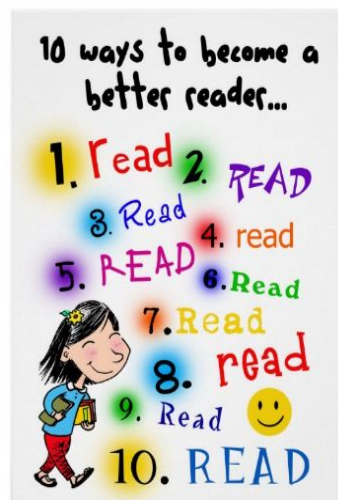
## Art at Stratfield

As winter rolls on Stratfield is taking a look at some new art projects. Kindergarten is very excited about starting sculpting next week. 1<sup>st</sup> grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade have begun creating awesome decorations for our upcoming book fair. 3<sup>rd</sup> grade is about to start some mixed media collages. 4<sup>th</sup> grade is finishing their study on shadow and value in art as they complete very detailed flower drawings. As 5<sup>th</sup> grade is finishing their design unit we are about to get into realistic portraiture. – Bob Matarazzo, Art Teacher

## From the PE department

February is a busy month in Physical Education for all grades. We start the month 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. Kindergarten through fifth grade will be exploring and challenging themselves for the next 4-6 weeks. - Joe Cote, PE Teacher

## Quote of the Month



Jennifer O'Connell & Jennifer Stowell  
Language Arts Specialists

## **COMING SOON!!** ***Stratfield Reads Together***

The PTA has generously purchased one copy per student of the book *The World According to Humphry* by Betty G. Birney to be used for a whole school reading project. Families will be encouraged to read sections of the book together at home. We will be following the plot at school and building excitement around the book! We anticipate beginning the program in late **March** or the beginning of **April**.



More information to follow.....



Dear Stratfield School Families,

### Learning Commons

Children in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade have traveled to some amazing places this month. They have been using their navigation skills to take virtual/online field trips. Students discovered that they can use the Internet safely to visit faraway places and learn new things. Kindergarten visited the San Diego Zoo and saw polar bears in action, just in time for their polar bear unit. First graders went to New York City and visited MOMA (Museum of Modern Art) and the San Diego Zoo. Second graders visited the Capitol in Hartford. However, to be safe they must follow the number one rule of always asking for permission from a parent or teacher first. All links are accessible through our [virtual library](#) by grade level.

Third graders have been busy with their biography unit. Fourth graders created comic strips based on cyberbullying with a positive outcome. For more information, please click on this link for the [Family Tip Sheet](#) from [commonsensemedia.org](#). Fifth graders did a phenomenal job researching information for their debatable topics. They will now use this research to create a multimedia project using either Microsoft PowerPoint or Microsoft Photostory3.

The month of February is African America History Month and Library Lovers Month. Click here for more information about the Civil Rights Activist [Rosa Parks](#). A special thank you to the parents that show their love to the library by being volunteers. If you would like to show some love by volunteering, please visit the [PTA website](#), hover over “Get Involved” and click on “Volunteer”. *Make tracks to our library today!*

 Happy Reading,

*Mrs. Gonzales*  
Library Media Specialist