



Dear Stratfield Families,

Spring is upon us! Many exciting things are happening at Stratfield. We had an all school assembly this week to highlight both kindergarten and grade 2. Kindergarten shared their Ribbon Dance with the school community and grade 2-shared research and posters exemplifying famous people in black history. All the students enjoyed sharing in the celebrations and accomplishments of their peers throughout the grade levels. This week, Kindergarten students are also highlighting their research and presentation skills with their Polar Bear Presentations to parents.

Grade 3 students will begin the SBA next week. The testing windows for grades 3-5 are as follows:

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

We will put these dates on the Stratfield website as well for your information as we move forward with these assessments.

In the area of recess, we continue to have our 20-minute recess for each grade level as well as a 10-minute movement break each day. We continue to go out each day for recess before lunch. We will only make the decision to stay indoors for recess if the temperature is below the mid 20's ("feels like" or temperature) or when it is raining outside. Please be sure children have the necessary clothing layers as the temperature can fluctuate a bit in March. Additionally, please have students leave Pokémon Cards at home. We have a plethora of games to play both for indoor recess as well as outside.

Happy Spring!

Ms. McGoey

Music News

This past month, all students were eager to learn songs written by three-time Grammy winner Tom Chapin. Students were excited to prepare the songs and participate in the March 7th performance. Top hits were "Big Rock Candy Mountain," "Family Tree," "Walk the World Children," "This Pretty Planet," and "Together Tomorrow." Led by Mr. Chapin and Dr. Alward, and accompanied on bass by Mr. Bartfield, students sang "This Pretty Planet" as a two-part round. We also said goodbye to Mr. Bartfield, who will move to another school to complete his student teaching with older children. We enjoyed having him teach and learn at our school, and will miss him. Think Spring!

- Dr. Alward



Math News

In March, students at Stratfield make many interesting mathematical discoveries through

Number Corner:

* In Kindergarten, counting and combinations that make 5 and 10 are featured this month. During the Calendar Grid workout, students count how many ladybugs appear on the marker each day and determine how many more it would take to make the next set of 10. The Calendar Collector workout, which deals with the daily weather, provides practice with addition combinations to 5 while the Days in School workout offers new opportunities to practice counting by 1s and by 10s to 100.

* This month in first grade, students practice both number sense and measurement workouts. The March Calendar Grid features telling time to the hour and half-hour on both digital and analog clocks. In addition, students explore elapsed time as they determine the time between markers. Coins return to the Calendar Collector, and students practice counting mixed sets of dimes, nickels, and pennies to determine their total value. This month they review strategies for solving equations within 20 and learn how to "think ten" when adding numbers with sums greater than 10.

* In March, second graders learn about three-dimensional shapes in the Calendar Grid workout, with an emphasis on faces, edges, and vertices. Meanwhile, Calendar Collector features money and fractions as students collect two quarters a day and keep track of the growing collection. In addition, students continue to practice Quick Facts, a timed routine designed to help all students master their addition facts to 20.

* In third grade this month, students are engaged in challenges and activities that deepen their understanding of time and data as well as measurement, area, and perimeter. They also continue to practice their multiplication facts. The Solving Problems workout targets many of the same skills and concepts through engaging story problems.

* Fourth graders this month, focus on fractions and decimals through two workouts - Computational Fluency and Solving Problems - where students race with the teacher to be the first to collect enough fraction pieces to fill six whole strips. The Calendar Grid focuses on patterns and functions by introducing a Function Machine to compare the relationship between variables.

* In fifth grade, the Calendar Grid gives students practice using the standard algorithm for multiplying multi-digit whole numbers and helps them apply the associative property, with place value patterns, to multiply related decimal numbers. In addition, they play Quotient Bingo in the Computational Fluency workout and write their own problems in the Solving Problems workouts.

Art at Stratfield

Spring is around the corner and that means lots of color in the halls of Stratfield Elementary. Kindergarten just finished painting some beautiful gardens, which will be displayed in our upcoming school art show. 1st grade has just begun an underwater collage. 2nd grade is currently wrapping up some complimentary color portraits. 3rd grade is hard at work on their mixed media collages. 4th grade just began a unit on the “pop art” movement creating work in the style of famous painter Roy Lichtenstein. 5th grade is deep in a unit on value study as we work up to creating realistic portraits. Our school art show is March 30, coinciding with evening conferences. Please stop by and enjoy our beautiful work.

Bob Matarazzo, Art Teacher

From the PE department

The next month will consist of all grades completing the Body Management unit followed by our Volleyball unit. Using our volleyball trainers each student will learn how to bump, set, and underhand serve the volleyball. Students will be learning these skills and techniques along with spacing and scoring during modified games in hopes of appreciating the value of volleyball activities as lifetime learners.

-Joe Cote, PE Teacher



Dear Stratfield School Families,

Learning Commons

Here is a quick synopsis of what is happening in the LLC.

Kindergarteners: They are diligently working on their Polar Bear research project. We are currently working on an e-book of polar bear facts using the authoring platform Wixie. Parents, we are looking forward to sharing the class e-book with you.


1st Graders: Are learning to bring stories to life using folktales and fairytales. We talked about folktales being stories that were told long ago by storytellers when radios and televisions were not available. As their storyteller, they listened to traditional folktales like **The Three Little Pigs** and the Irish folktale **Jamie O'Rourke and the Big Potato** by Tomie dePaola.

2nd Graders: Are diligently researching information about Connecticut. Soon they will choose to either design a new state license plate or design a new state stamp. Students will then write a persuasive letter to the Governor about why their design should be chosen.

3rd Graders: Created a biography timeline using Read Write Think Timeline Maker. They are also learning to be good digital citizens by citing their sources of information to avoid plagiarism. Give credit where credit is due!

4th Graders: Have begun research for their Colonial unit and are in the investigation phase of their research.

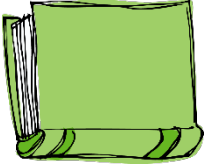
5th graders: Are engaging in the inquiry process for their immigration unit. They will be making connections and developing background knowledge about immigration throughout history in America. They will be thinking critically about how freedom and equality are interpreted by people living in America and why people “past and present” want to come to America.

“Remember to Spring into a Good Book!” 

 Happy Reading,

Mrs. Gonzales





From the
Reading Room

Jennifer O'Connell
Jennifer Stowell
Language Arts Specialists

Join us for...

FAMILY READING

NIGHT



At the book fair!

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

**Readers will be scheduled at intervals between
5:30-7:30**

**Come listen to a guest reader share a favorite story on
the stage around a “campfire”. Bring a sleeping bag or
blanket to sit on if you wish. Then, browse the excellent
collection of books for all ages at the book fair sponsored
by the Stratfield PTA!**

***Children must be accompanied by parents or guardians.**

