

Dear Stratfield Families,

As we close out the year, I want to thank you all for your continued partnership with the staff in order to make this another successful learning year! I hope you are already beginning to plan your family fun for the summer! Below are a few **end of the year activities**, and **updates**:

End of Year Activities

- Moving Up Ceremony for grade 5 will be on June 15th at 1:30 in the gymnasium. Each student may bring 2 guests.
- 5th grade field day is on June 12th at Owen Fish Park. The rain date for this is June 13th.
- We will have our 2nd Annual School- Wide Read - A – Thon Assembly on June 14th. We will reveal a student goal for summer reading and the incentive if this goal is reached.
- Girls on the Run will be running this Sunday, June 11th as their culminating activity in The Black Rock “Run for the Rock” race!!! We wish them well and thank the many volunteers led by Mrs. Francoletti for continuing this amazing program.
- **Updates:**
- The **field** is not in use at this time. Unfortunately, we must still stay off this area until it has been cleared. They have re seeded the entire area, and have just put down a starter fertilizer last week and adjusted the irrigation system.
- The **Garden**. Last week they came out to measure and map out a location. There were some issues that came up and the site is too tight to fit the preschool playground next to the garden. Mr. Cullen and Mr. Piatt are currently working on a solution that will work for everyone, and I will have more information hopefully shortly.

As we finish this year, a few staff members will be moving on to new opportunities and adventures. Mrs. Dorothy Carter, grade 1 teacher will be retiring at the end of this year. Dorothy has helped guide our 1st grade students in all areas especially in developing a love for learning! We thank Dorothy for her years of dedication and commitment to the school, staff, and parents. Mrs. Donna Tanana, strings teacher, will also be retiring this year. We have only been blessed having Donna work with our students musically for a few years, but she has instilled a love for music with many students and we will always remember her dedication and determination in developing all students in their musical skills. Mrs. Dyan Gonzales, LMS, will be leaving us at the end of this year. We thank Dyan for her hard work in our LLC and the technology skills and smiles she brought to our students. Lastly, due to a decreased enrollment of 3 sections for next year, Gina Marcheschi and Tara Bainer will be joining the staff of 2 other Fairfield Schools. This will certainly be a loss for Stratfield, but a gain for the schools where they are headed. Gina will be teaching at North Stratfield next year, and Tara will be teaching at Sherman. Thank you to both of those individuals for being part of our Stratfield family and bringing your expertise to your grade level. We have learned so much from each of you!

Ms. McGoey

Math News

In May, students at Stratfield are investigating various concepts through Number Corner:

- * In Kindergarten, this month’s workouts are rich with opportunities to pose and solve addition and subtraction story problems, represent and solve addition and subtraction combinations to 10, develop fluency with facts to 5, and count by 1s and 10s.
- * Activities in May for first graders focus on numbers to 120, with students working with the number grid for addition and subtraction in both the Calendar Grid and Computational Fluency workouts. Counting the days in school continues this month with an eye toward 200 AND summer vacation!
- * During May for second grade students, the Calendar Grid workout focuses on adding and subtracting 10 and 100 from any 3-digit number. During the Daily Rectangle activities, they learn how to label the dimensions of rectangles, and begin to develop intuitions about the connection between the rectangle’s dimensions and its area. Quick Facts, designed to help all students master their addition facts to 20, continues this month.
- * In third grade this month, workouts review and extend many key skills and concepts. The Calendar Grid workout focuses on fractions while the Calendar Collector and Computational Fluency workouts address multiplication facts and properties.
- * This month in fourth grade, students play games and engage in activities designed to deepen their understanding of skills and concepts they have worked on throughout the year. Some of the workouts also look toward fifth grade, as students use coordinate graphing to create line graphs during Calendar Collector and add decimals to hundredths during the Computational Fluency workouts.
- * In fifth grade, the Calendar Grid workout helps students practice locating points on a coordinate grid while the Computational Fluency workout focuses on computation with fractions. In addition, the Solving Problems workout features problems that focus on reasoning and working backward to find a solution.

Music News

This month is flying by! All students sang patriotic songs to prepare for the Memorial Day Assembly on May 25th. Additionally, Kindergarten and first-grade students created sound carpet accompaniments for books and poems. Grade 2 students studied the percussion instruments of the orchestra, and Grade 3 students prepared for their upcoming Native American Assembly. Grade 4 students are practicing the Star Spangled Banner and studying the woodwind and brass instruments of the orchestra. The fourth-and fifth grade orchestra and the fifth-grade band and chorus did a fabulous job in the Spring Concert. All three groups were spectacular! All that hard work paid off! Just give us that Old Time Rock and Roll. Yeah, team!!! Dr. Alward



Learning Commons

Dear Stratfield School Families,

The new 2018 Connecticut Nutmeg Book nominees are out! Click to view the [2-4th grade List](#) and the [4-5th grade list](#). The Nutmeg nominees list is also a great resource for upcoming summer reading. As mentioned in last month's newsletter, students from all over Connecticut voted for their favorite 2017 Nutmeg nominee in April.

The winners at Stratfield School are:

Grades 2-4 **Lulu's Mysterious Mission** by Judith Viorst

Grades 4-5 **Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library** by Chris Grabenstein.

The question is who will be the official winner for the entire State of Connecticut? Visit the following website to find out on May 15th 2017: <http://www.nutmegaward.org/>.

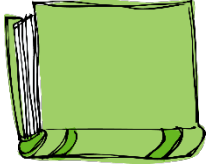
In Kindergarten we read the book **Kindness is Cooler Mrs. Ruler** by Margery Cuyler. They are also using the just right database PebbleGo for information about ocean animals since they will be visiting the beach soon. First graders are working on their poetry and illustrations using Wixie. Second graders have left the state of Connecticut and are focusing on the essential question: What makes Washington DC unique and different from any other place in the United States? Third graders will be learning about Native American symbols and designing their own family/tribe symbols. They will create their own jpeg image of the symbols using Microsoft Paint. Fourth graders are researching the American Revolution! Fifth graders will be using the transformative application called Kidblog to write about their reading. Until next time, "Spring into a good book!"

Happy Reading,

Mrs. Gonzales

Library Media Specialist

Stratfield School, LLC



From the
Reading Room
Jennifer O'Connell
Jennifer Stowell
Language Arts Specialists

We hope you are enjoying reading *The World According to Humphrey* with your families for the 'Stratfield Reads Together' book club! Please send into school a photo of your family reading together for our bulletin board in the main hallway by the office!

Parents often ask what students can do during the summer to maintain the skills they learned at school. Here are some ideas for practice that can be fun and low maintenance.

Writing

- Engage your child in telling stories. Using language like first, next, then, and finally when telling the story of their day helps build their story telling muscles. Maybe they can even write it down once in a while after sharing!
- Writers grow as they witness writing in their own lives. Point out where writing lives: a family list, messaging friends or family members, and the waiter taking orders at your favorite restaurant are real life examples of writing in action. Children can try these out too, even in play.
- Have your child create schedules and lists.
- Children can write or sketch about an outing or vacation.
- Write cards or letters to friends or family.
- Author Ralph Fletcher recommends keeping writing practice low stakes, and to encourage rather than force.

Reading

- Choice matters! Your child can read anything that he or she enjoys **and** understands.
- Volume! The more your child reads the better.
- Not sure what to read next? Amazon can be extremely helpful. Simply put in a title your child recently read and Amazon will suggest similar titles.
- Read aloud to your child.
- Series books are a great way to get hooked on reading. Below is a link to a site that lists series books by level.

<http://www.kidsbookseries.com/list/sorted-by-fountas-pinnell-guided-reading-level>

We encourage participation in the Fairfield Public Library Summer Reading Program! More information on our Stratfield summer reading incentive program coming soon!

