

Wolf Times

Volume 11, Issue 10

June, 2014



From The Desk of Jacqueline Norcel...

We will soon come to the close of another fantastic school year. We offered a program of rigor, relevance and relationships. Our 12th year has seen many great things happen.

We continued our outstanding school wide Science Fair, Fourth Grade Endangered Species, two school picnics, holiday and spring concerts, our ninth PTA Bingo and our tenth Multicultural dinner. We introduced our grade five Invention Convention projects. June will bring our Kinderfest, Flag Day Program for third grade, fifth grade graduation and luncheon and our award assemblies.

June is a time of transitions. We say farewell to our fifth graders and their families as they head off to Madison and Hillcrest Middle Schools. It has been a pleasure to be a part of their educational experience and we all wish them well as they continue their school journey. We say goodbye to our Avalon Gates/Eaves families as they are moved to Middlebrook. We also wish continued success to our students and families who are moving away from Trumbull.

Thank you for answering our second survey monkey school climate questionnaire. Looking forward to many people taking the time to be part of the survey.

As we begin to think about summer and all the wonderful opportunities to relax and have fun, don't forget to-----READ, READ, READ. All students K – 4 will have a FREE Calendar and a math homework packet for the summer. Children returning completed packets will receive a special

ice cream treat. The district web site (www.trumbullps.org) and our web site

(www.frenchtownelementary.com) have additional summer ideas for you and your child. Remember the town library offers wonderful free story hours.

Mark your calendars. Our fall Open House is Monday, August 25, 2014, in the afternoon.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find an A+ Activity Calendar for July and August. I urge you and your child to do one activity a day to strengthen reading, writing, math, science, and social studies skills.

Have a safe, healthy, happy and exciting summer. If you pass by Frenchtown during the summer, stop in and say hello to me and Mrs. Mizzoni.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jacqueline J. Norcel



Character

Corner—

Social Worker

David Weitzman

Fairness

Make a list of some of your family rules and the consequences of not following them. Ask children what their rules would be if they were in charge of making them. List these next to the actual rules. Discuss the rules one by one. Ask, “Is this fair? Why or why not? What would happen if we adopted this rule?” Compare these to the first list in terms of fairness. Decide what will happen if the rules are broken. Consider revising some of the current rules if youth can show how their suggestions are more fair.

Children should reflect on the issue of fairness in journal writing exercises and family discussions about what they have written.

Kindergarten News...

Mrs. Alves, Mrs. Bershefsky,
Mrs. Buswell/Ms. Foley, Mrs. Capone,
Mrs. Crawford

Where has this year gone? We can't believe that we are writing our last newsletter. What a year it has been. We are so proud of the children and all that they have accomplished. Their reading and writing is just amazing! Please continue to read and write with them over the summer.

We participated in our school wide Science Fair. We all were scientists and learned all about the scientific process. We know big words like hypothesis, observation and conclusion! We hatched chicks this year so we used this experience for our science experiment. It was all too exciting. We kept the eggs in an incubator and then watched the chicks hatch. We named them and observed them. We kept them for a couple of weeks before we brought them to the farm. What an experience, one I'm sure your little one won't forget!

We also want to thank everyone for a lovely Teacher Appreciation Week. There were so many treats. We smiled every day. We thank you for all that you do during Teacher Appreciation Week and every week of the year!

There are many activities coming up. I know this is a very busy time of the year for everyone but you don't want to miss Kinderfest. That is our end of the year celebration for Kindergarten. It's on June 17 at 9:00 am. See you there!



Grade One News...

Mrs. Gambardella, Mrs. Mordecai,
Mrs. Rodrigues, Mrs. Tuohy,
Ms. Grunow

Our first graders are growing and blooming as quickly as the flowers in our gardens! They have been working so hard in all areas of the curriculum. During Reader's Workshop, we have been reading lots of nonfiction. We've practiced noticing new facts and then thinking of wonderings we still have after reading. We are exploring the features of nonfiction text, too. We are learning to gain information from the table of contents, the index, and the glossary. Ask your first grader to tell you about his/her favorite nonfiction book.

It's not only our first graders who are blooming. Just look at the lima bean plants we have growing in our rooms! Each first grade conducted a different experiment about plants. Our first grade scientists made a hypothesis and conducted the experiment to try to prove their hypothesis. Then we made observations of the plants. Our conclusions were based on what we saw happening to our plants. All this will be on display at the Frenchtown Science Fair.



This month we finished a unit on patterns and started a new math book called Two's, Five's and Ten's. We have spent time solving story problems that require us to count by 2's, 5's, and 10's. We've also been playing games with the 100's chart. Have your first grader count backwards from 65 to 50!

Our field trip to Sacred Heart University was a great success! We saw the play "The Velveteen Rabbit." We clapped and sang as the audience became part of the play.

Now we are all looking forward to our Author's Day. We can't wait to share our writing with you. You will be amazed at how much we have grown!



Grade Two News ...

**Mrs. Alfano, Mrs. Angon, Ms. Hull,
Mrs. Pereira, Ms. Sansone,
Mrs. Shinnick**



As we wrap up the year, we reflect on how much the children have flourished and bloomed! Although the summer is a time to spend with family; it is very important that children

continue to read, as well as practice their math facts. In addition, summer is a great time for children to keep a writing journal to continue practicing all the aspects of writing learning throughout this past year!

Reading, writing and math are not the only areas to practice what they have learned. We encourage the children to layer soil from their yard to observe the various thicknesses of each level, keep a weather journal to continue to apply their meteorologist knowledge, as well as practice changing liquids into solids (making popsicles to cool off). We wish all of you a safe and wonderful summer!

Grade Three News...

**Mrs. Atwood, Mrs. Cretella,
Mrs. Makoski, Mrs. Martins,
Mrs. Carley**

Our third graders participated and enjoyed the spring sunshine filled with many wonderful and exciting activities at Frenchtown. Our classroom activities were a great success as our students role-played the historical famous persons that they read about and researched. The children enjoyed listening to speeches presented to their peers. The students enjoyed one another as they were dressed up to look like the historical character they portrayed. We are so proud of our children!

As part of the social studies lessons, the students appreciated going to Trumbull's Historical Society. Each third grade class got to hear all about the history of Trumbull as they viewed many artifacts from Trumbull's history.

The students have been learning about the history of our American flag and the Pledge of Alliance to prepare for the third grade Flag Day program on Friday, June 13th. They are also learning the state capitals of each state through songs and poetry. We hope to see our families and friends in the Frenchtown audience!

Upcoming June is a time of preparation and celebration as we get ready for the transition from third grade into fourth grade. It is important for the children to continue to read and practice math facts routinely, especially during the summer months.

We are also planning our end of the year bowling trip. Please watch for details of the Nutmeg Bowling event.

In closing, the third grade teachers would like to thank all of our Frenchtown third grade families who have supported our students throughout the year. Have a pleasant summer!

Grade Four News...

**Mrs. Weinstein, Mr. Fiore,
Mrs. Gaspar, Ms. St. John
Mrs. Wolfe**

It is hard to believe that this is the June newsletter and the last one of fourth grade! We are very proud of the students and all they have accomplished this year.



The Endangered Species Fair was an amazing success! Students certainly became experts on their animal of study and were quite eloquent with the ways in which they spoke about and presented

the plight that these endangered animals are currently facing. The students' boards were very creative, as well! Our trip to the Bronx Zoo certainly will be a highlight and one experience students will cherish for many years to come.

Students rounded out the math year with a unit on multiplication and division that stressed many strategies with which to solve double digit problems. Students also explored graphs that represent change and learned to interpret the points

and shape of a graph in terms of the situation the graph represents. It is very important that students continue to practice their basic facts over the summer so that they can maintain the progress they have made during the school year.

Continue to have your child read throughout the summer. Students have worked very hard this year to strengthen their comprehension, especially with non-fiction texts. In science, students explored plant growth and the various parts of plants. Students explored the northeast region of the United States.

We want to thank all of the parents and guardians who helped to support their children throughout this school year. As teachers, we also want to thank you for your support and cooperation, too. Have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

Grade Five News...

**Mrs. Carley, Mrs. Russo,
Mrs. Ferraro, Mrs. Windsor,
Mrs. Demshak**

We cannot believe it is June! Even though our last day of school on Monday, June 23rd is fast approaching, there is still so much going on in 5th grade.

Tuesday, June 3rd is the scheduled date for our math 3rd trimester test. The test will focus on units 6, 7, and 8 and be comprised of multiple choice questions only. Your child's end of year reading assessment will be completed by June 6th so you can see just how much your child has grown as a reader. Ask your child his/her opinion on "Should all school buses have seat belts?" This was the

topic for the 5th grade writing prompt and positions had to be supported by using specific details from three articles that presented the advantages and disadvantages of having seat belts installed on all school buses. Your child also took a stand and supported his/her opinion in an essay on the causes of the American Revolution. This writing



piece clearly demonstrated that choices, actions, and decisions have consequences. In science, students have been learning about color and light and should be able to describe for you what is light, what

happens when light hits different materials, and how we are able to see objects and colors with our eyes.



Thursday, June 5th is YMCA field trip. All parents are invited to spend the day but please let us know and pay the \$8 parent fee. On June

9th, we will all be visiting the middle schools to get a tour, learn more about the transition into middle school, and even try opening lockers. Remember yearbooks were purchased for each and every student by the 5th grade committee and Friday, June 13th we have time set aside after recess for yearbook signing. Thursday, June 19th is graduation immediately followed by our luncheon and Friday, June 20th is the Grades 3 – 5 awards ceremony. Graduation and the luncheon are special events and all children need to be appropriately dressed. Girls need to wear skirts or dresses that are appropriate for 10-12 year old children along with shoes that they can walk safely across the stage wearing. Boys will need to wear dress slacks, a nice tucked in shirt, and appropriate shoes. This expectation is for all children throughout the duration of the school day. Shorts and t-shirts are not appropriate attire.

Please encourage your child to continue to give 100% in all areas of school. Thank you to all parents and guardians who made this year truly amazing for the fifth graders. Your effort and cooperation with the teachers this year is greatly appreciated and the kids really benefitted from your support.

Math News...

**Mrs. Gidwani, Mrs. Cannon-Axtell,
Mrs. Sansone**

Students in grades K, 1, 2, 3 and 4 will bring home a Summer Math Packet to keep up with their math skills over the summer. Please look out for the packets and help your child to review skills over the summer. The packets will also be on our math website. Students who return the packet in August will receive a special prize.

Math Facts to be mastered by the summer:

Students should leave grade K knowing their addition/subtraction facts to 5.

Students should leave 1st grade knowing all of their addition/subtraction facts to 10.

Students should leave 2nd grade knowing all of their addition/subtraction facts to 20.
Students should leave 3rd grade knowing all of their multiplication facts to 100.
Students should leave 4th grade knowing all of their multiplication/division facts to 100.
Students should leave 5th grade knowing all of their basic facts (all 4 operations).

From the Library...
Mrs. Belangi

Much of the success of the Library Media Program depends on the wonderful volunteers who manage the circulation desk while I teach my classes. These volunteers check books in and out and shelve returned books. I want to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped me this school year and to extend a special thank you to Maggie Carroll and Rosie Samoskovich who have been loyal Library Volunteers over the years and whose boys are graduating and also Pooja Vivek and Komal Patwardhan who will now be off to Middlebrook. You will be missed!

I also want to thanks Diane Pomposello for working on the schedule with me each month. Thank you Diane!

Please consider volunteering in the library next year. We always need more help.

Jump Rope For Heart
Raffle Winners

John Zaslow
William Zaslow
Kacey Gallagher
Joshua Crawford
Josie Angon
Sahari Kota
Jaden Buchetto
Anna Geraghty
Ryan Frate
Ryan Mirrione
Rachel Dizney
Alexandra Manolakas
Lucas Arone
Sophia Pucci
Carys Anku
Isabella Pucci
Jack Geraghty
Jeremiah Heins
Sally Kirk
Liliana Egmont
Mia Egmont
Ethan Staines
Gracie Angon
Monica Potkay
Erin Reilly
Anthony Gilberti
Alexander Settembre
Jack Stocknoff
Mila Biasuz
Snow Settembre
Rachel Bikofsky
Lily Biasuz
Daniel Fung
Josh Fung
Alyssa Andrews
Chase Neumann



Gifts to School

Subscription renewals to:

Cricket

Spider

Chick

Trumbull Times

Ranger Rick

Little Kids

Kind News for 3 Classrooms

Bird Bath (battery operated)

Thanksgiving Pow Wow Tepees

Geese Outfits; Ben and Dolly

Reading Workshop Book for Staff



Congratulations to the following Grade 5 students that represented Frenchtown at the

Connecticut Invention Convention:

Kate Barton

Jack Colabella

Emily Gossman

Theron Jason Knapp

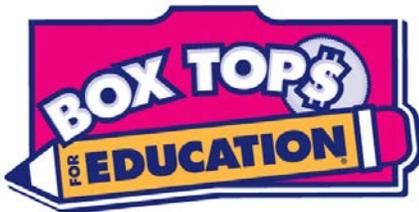
Allie Koch

Emily Umana



Stop and Shop Final Total!

\$5,517.13. Be sure to sign up again next school year.



We received a check for \$2615.70 from Box Tops for Education. We purchased:

Social skills rewards

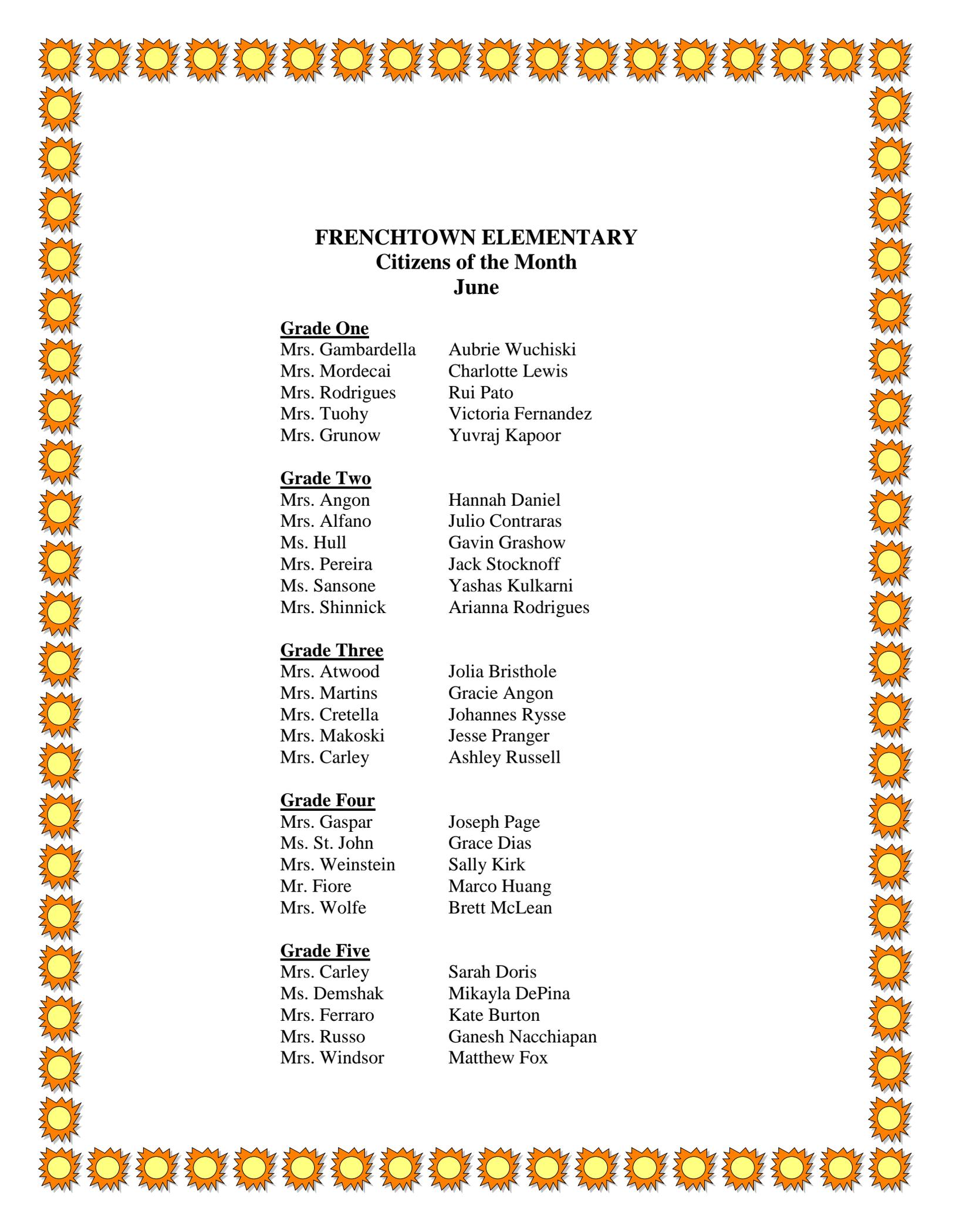
Science practice kits

Literacy practice kits

National Geographic kids magazines

Benchmark Colonial America book kits

14 new library books



FRENCHTOWN ELEMENTARY
Citizens of the Month
June

Grade One

Mrs. Gambardella	Aubrie Wuchiski
Mrs. Mordecai	Charlotte Lewis
Mrs. Rodrigues	Rui Pato
Mrs. Tuohy	Victoria Fernandez
Mrs. Grunow	Yuvraj Kapoor

Grade Two

Mrs. Angon	Hannah Daniel
Mrs. Alfano	Julio Contraras
Ms. Hull	Gavin Grashow
Mrs. Pereira	Jack Stocknoff
Ms. Sansone	Yashas Kulkarni
Mrs. Shinnick	Arianna Rodrigues

Grade Three

Mrs. Atwood	Jolia Bristhole
Mrs. Martins	Gracie Angon
Mrs. Cretella	Johannes Rysse
Mrs. Makoski	Jesse Pranger
Mrs. Carley	Ashley Russell

Grade Four

Mrs. Gaspar	Joseph Page
Ms. St. John	Grace Dias
Mrs. Weinstein	Sally Kirk
Mr. Fiore	Marco Huang
Mrs. Wolfe	Brett McLean

Grade Five

Mrs. Carley	Sarah Doris
Ms. Demshak	Mikayla DePina
Mrs. Ferraro	Kate Burton
Mrs. Russo	Ganesh Nacchiapan
Mrs. Windsor	Matthew Fox

From the Nurse's Office...

Mrs. McCullough

June is National Fruit and Vegetable month. The local farmers market provide an abundance of in- season locally grown nutritious fruits and vegies and are the best place to shop for freshness. When you put all that effort into getting the best you want to make it last. The following contains some tips to make your purchases last longer and retain their nutritional value.

Countertop Storage Tips

There's nothing as inviting as a big bowl of crisp apples on the kitchen counter. To keep those apples crisp and all countertop-stored produce fresh, store them out of direct sunlight, either directly on the countertop, in an uncovered bowl, or inside a perforated plastic bag.

Refrigerator Storage Tips

For produce that is best stored in the refrigerator, remember the following guidelines.

- Keep produce in perforated plastic bags in the produce drawer of the refrigerator. (To perforate bags, punch holes in the bag with a sharp object, spacing them about as far apart as the holes you see in supermarket apple bags.)
- Keep fruits and vegetables separate, in different drawers, because ethylene can build up in the fridge, causing spoilage.
- When storing herbs (and interestingly, asparagus, too), snip off the ends, store upright in a glass of water (like flowers in a vase) and cover with a plastic bag

Fruits that are cut and stored in the refrigerator lose from 10 to 25 percent of vitamin C and carotenoids (antioxidants that are related to vitamin A) in about five or six days. Other nutrients and phytochemicals aren't lost after cutting.

Cut vegetables retain their vitamin C content longer than cut fruit. According to the United States Food and Drug Administration, cut or peeled vegetables will lose about half of their vitamin C content in one to two weeks.

The best way to store fruits and vegetables is leave them unwashed with the skin, rinds, or peelings intact until you're ready to eat them.

Use freshly-cut fruits within two or three days and vegetables within four or five days, to be sure you are getting the most flavor, best texture and maximum nutritional value.

***More about Ethylene:** Fruits and vegetables give off an odorless, harmless and tasteless gas called ethylene after they're picked. All fruits and vegetables produce it, but some foods produce it in greater quantities. When ethylene-producing foods are kept in close proximity with ethylene-sensitive foods, especially in a confined space (like a bag or drawer), the gas will speed up the ripening process of the other produce. Use this to your advantage if you want to speed up the ripening process of an unripe fruit, for example, by putting an apple in a bag with an unripe avocado. But if you want your already-ripe foods to last longer, remember to keep them away from ethylene-producing foods, as designated in the chart below.

How to properly store

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Refrigerator

Apples (>7 days) Figs
Apricots Honeydew
Cantaloupe

(Unwashed in a Single Layer)

Blackberries Raspberries
Blueberries Strawberries

(Unwashed in a Plastic Bag)

Broccoli Green Onions
Carrots Lettuce
Cauliflower Peas
Corn Radishes

(Store in a Paper Bag)

Mushrooms Okra

Artichokes Kale
Asparagus Lima Beans
Beets Leafy Vegetables
Brussels Sprouts Leeks
Cabbage Plums
Celery Spinach
Cherries Sprouts
Grapes Summer Squash
Green Beans Yellow Squash
Herbs (not Basil) Zucchini

Countertop

Apples (<7 days) Tomatoes
Bananas

Basil Mangoes
Cucumbers Oranges
Eggplant Papaya
Garlic Peppers
Ginger Persimmons
Grapefruit Pineapple
Jicama Plantains
Lemons Pomegranates
Limes Watermelon

Cool, Dry Place

Acorn Squash Pumpkins
Butternut Squash Spaghetti Squash
Onions* Sweet Potatoes
Potatoes* Winter Squash

**Keep away from each other*

Counter/Fridge

(Ripen on Counter, Then Refrigerate)

Avocados Pears
Nectarines Plums
Peaches

Kiwi

High Ethylene Producers:

Keep away from other fresh produce to slow down ripening/spoilage.



Frenchtown Reading Dept.

June 2014

We can hardly believe that another year is coming to an end! We hope you all have a wonderful and well deserved vacation and you spend your time with your family and friends. It is so essential that you keep reading throughout the summer. Reading will help to strengthen your vocabulary, comprehension and fluency. You can read wherever you are, at home, the beach, in the car or away on vacation. Be sure to take a look at the summer reading list to find the fantastic books you can choose from. Your summer FREE calendar should be filled out over July and August. You cannot earn a prize at the end of the year if you do not turn in your summer calendars. The Governor's Reading Challenge should be arriving soon, so keep an eye out for that information as well. Another suggestion to keep up your skills throughout the summer is to write a journal and fill it with all the exciting activities and places you visit. Your teacher for next year would love to see what you have written! If parents are looking for a great reading or math review you can go to summerskills.com to see some well written workbooks to purchase. These books have been used in the past by many and are aligned with the state standards.

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate all students in grades K-5 that participated all year long, including last summer, in the FREE calendar for grades K-2 or the Get on Track program for grades 3-5.

Summer Fun!

If you haven't done so already and are looking for some fun and exciting summer camps for your child this summer, check out the Summer Explorations 2014 catalog offered through the Trumbull Continuing Education department. www.trumbullconted.org

The courses offered focus on accelerated academic progress, providing enrichment camps, and offering a wide variety of sport opportunities. If you missed the booklet that was mailed home to you, you can go online to the web address above to register.

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23 Last Day!	24	25	26	27
30				

HAPPY SUMMER!!! BE
SURE TO READ SOME
AMAZING BOOKS! SEE
YOU IN AUGUST!