

Wolf Times

Volume 10, Issue 8

April, 2013



Our monthly theme at Frenchtown will be "Spring Into Confidence." Our Character Counts pillar of study is "Honesty." I will have a 30 minute assembly for each grade level to discuss honesty and review our T.R.A.C.K.S. attributes.

The 39th annual observance of National Volunteer Week will be held the week of April 21st. This is an opportune time for us to show our generous and caring volunteers our sincere appreciation for their invaluable contributions. In expressing our gratitude, I'd like to quote Mother Teresa, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving," and Lao-Tzu, "He who obtains has little. He who scatters has much."

April is School Library Media Month. Our school library is a very special place where we can really read, think and learn. Mrs. Albro, our Library Media Specialist, has organized many special activities for the month such as looking up and having a joke or riddle to share with staff members throughout the day; hosting authors in the Media Center throughout the month; and having "lunchtime literacy" opportunities for students.

The 41st Anniversary of Earth Day will be observed on April 22, 2013. Earth Day helps us to explore science and social studies concepts. Children are involved in science activities as they discover the importance of trees, air and water. Exploring the relationships between people and the environment, and beginning to understand the interdependence of all people, emphasizes important social studies principles.

The idea of having a national "Earth Day" to voice concerns about environmental problems came 42 years ago from Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. He initiated the event, but it truly was a grassroots effort. He later wrote, "It organized itself." More than 20 million Americans gathered across the United States on April 22, 1970 to demonstrate on behalf of the environment.

Grade 5 Heroic Figures Night will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 p.m. The children have spent the last six weeks reading, researching and writing about their chosen hero. Our Fourth Grade Endangered Species Night will be April 24, 2013 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, which includes a short concert at 7:45 pm and on April 25th from 9:00 am to 12 noon when the presentations will be on display to all of our students.

The week of May 13th will mark our tenth tribute to the Arts and a thank you to all our loved ones. Our major theme is "Celebrate a Decade of Learning." Mrs. Albro, Mrs. Hawkins, Ms. Nuzzi, Ms. Dean, Mrs. Grabinski, Mr. Turechek, Ms. Karlan, Mr. Bourque, and Mr. Strychalsky will be working along with our classroom teachers in preparing and presenting a week of events that will be your children's gift to you. Highlights of the week include: Monday's Opening Program; grades 2 and 5 concert-Tuesday; "bag" picnic lunch on Wednesday from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm and Grade 2 Career Fair on Wednesday, 9:30 to 10:45. Friday's closing program for the children will be the strings and chorus concerts.

May 23 and 24 will be our annual school wide Science Fair. The evening viewing will be on Thursday, May 23 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Friday, May 24 from 9:00 am to noon. There will be classroom displays from the K-4 classes and individual projects from our fifth graders.

Please extend a "Family Week 2013" invitation to all family members, grandparents, neighbors, friends, and senior citizens to join us and become part of our 10th anniversary celebration as the culmination of our tenth year at Frenchtown. We hope you will be able to join us at some, if not all, of our special activities.

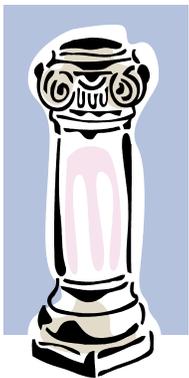
Additional information and invitations will be sent home in early May. Remember to check Channel 17, Wolf Mail, and our Web site (www.frenchtownelementary.com.)

I also encourage you to consider enrolling your child in the Summer Explorations 2013, the district's summer school program. This year there are one week programs. Registration has begun and ends June 15th. Some courses are limited in enrollment so sign up now. Summer Explorations begins July 2nd and runs through July 27th for elementary students throughout Trumbull.

Samples of the programs are:

- Pre-Kindergarten – Ready, Set, Go! For students entering school in the fall of 2013
- Post-Kindergarten – Up, Up and Away! For students who have completed Kindergarten and need to strengthen skills
- Flights and Rockets – Grades 3-6
Grades 2-5
- Lego in Motion – Grades 1-2
- Animal Antics – Grades 1-3
- English Language Learners
Grades 1-5
- Dinosaurium– Grades 1-3

To continue to develop a positive culture at Frenchtown in addition to grade level assemblies, grades 3, 4 and 5 will attend Laser Team Anti-Bullying/Character Show.



Character
Corner—
Social Worker
David Weitzman
Honesty

Lessons about honesty are learned differentially, depending on the child's age. If you start the teaching of honesty early on, you can continue to support this virtue, as your children get older.

Explain to your child what honesty means at his/her developmental level. Use words that they can understand at their ages. Be honest with children at a level that they can understand. When deciding what to tell a child about a given situation, take into account the child's age and maturity, and to what extent it is in the child's best interest to know whatever it is you are considering telling him.



In order to highlight the growing need for concern and awareness about autism, the Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The United States recognizes the month of April as a special opportunity for everyone to educate the public about autism and issues within the autism community.



Thank you to all Frenchtown families that registered their Stop and Shop cards. We earned \$4439.66 .
299 families signed up.



Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Alves, Mrs. Buswell,
Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Crawford**



Wow! March came in like a lion and out like a lamb! This month was filled with exciting celebrations and so much growth. The children are doing so beautifully in reading, writing, math, science and

social studies.

The kindergarteners are really blooming as readers. The children are doing a wonderful job making text to self-connections and text to text connections. When they are independently reading they are noticing word families and kindergarten sight words. If you walk into a kindergarten classroom during reading, you'll see all of their little fingers tapping away at sounds. At home, you should continue to read with your child every night and remember to read all the books in the take home bag four times each.

Along with their growth in reading, the children are becoming fabulous authors! This month we are working on adding in more details to our sentences and to our pictures to tell more. We have also worked on nonfiction stories and fiction stories about feelings. Each time the children write, they are reminded to use a capital letter at the beginning of a sentence, to spell their kindergarten words correctly, to tap out sounds of words and to always include a period, question mark or exclamation mark at the end of their thought. Keep on encouraging your budding author at home by having them keep a journal to write down all of their wonderful thoughts.

In math, the children are working on number combinations up to 20 through games. They practiced this skill of combining numbers by playing games and using counting bags with objects up to 20. At home you can encourage your little one to practice counting by taking out beans, cheerios, or toys. Have them continue to practice counting all the way up to 100.

In social studies the children learned about St. Patrick's Day and Easter. In the middle of March, a Leprechaun visited our classroom and left us some treats. He also left some muddy footprints behind. We tried following his tracks, but we

couldn't find him! Then we finished the month of March with our Easter and Passover celebrations. The children had such a wonderful time going on an egg hunt and eating a special snack.

We have learned so much in science this month. The children have explored objects that sink and float, how different animals have fur, skin, or scales and we have even explored what makes something living and nonliving.

Even though March came in like a lion and out like a lamb, the children have worked very hard on becoming learners and thinkers. We can't wait for what April has to bring!

Grade One News...

**Mrs. Gambardella, Mrs. Mordecai,
Mrs. Rodrigues, Mrs. Tuohy,
Mrs. Bershefsky, Mrs. Shinnick**

March has been a busy month for the first graders at Frenchtown School! The students began the month celebrating the birthday of Dr. Seuss! Stories were read and book reports were generated about their favorite Dr. Seuss book. The children were also encouraged to bring in their favorite stories by Dr. Seuss. It was a fun time in first grade!

St. Patrick's Day was also another fun celebration. Children were engaged in activities such as hat making, writing about catching Leprechauns and tasting delicious food associated with the holiday! A few classes even had a visit from a leprechaun! We are told the leprechaun escaped and so we will be on the look out for him next year!

Reading strategies this month focused on making connections. The students also continued on focusing on important reading skills such as the silent e and vowel teams. These skills have come in very handy as the children continue to become proficient readers!

During math, the first graders became familiar with measurement. The children learned about what length is and how it can be measured. Students worked on identifying the longest dimension of an object and describing measurements that are in between whole numbers of units. This month



in math the students began to work on combinations of ten.

We have been very excited to get outside with such a mild winter and we look forward to a beautiful Spring!

Grade Two News ...

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

Wow! March was a busy month for our second graders! In reading, the students have been practicing the strategy of wondering about nonfiction texts. They have learned that good readers wonder before they read a text, during their reading, as well as after they complete a text. Students are encouraged to look for answers to their wonders in other texts. Each night, as you read with your child remember to talk to him/her about the book. Ask questions about the author's main idea, character traits, and vocabulary used in the story. This will help to improve your child's reading comprehension.

The children also enjoyed Dr. Seuss' birthday by reading and sharing many of his books. Many students loved the book Green Eggs and Ham and they learned the valuable lifelong lesson that they shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

In math, the students have been working very hard on their problem solving skills. They have been developing multiple strategies for solving problems with totals up to 100! When working with your child, it is important to encourage your child to not only write an equation that represents a problem but to also show their work. This is an important skill that they need to develop before third grade. There is a big focus in adding tens and ones to combine 2-digit numbers and noticing what happens to the tens place when a multiple of ten is added or subtracted. In addition, it is essential that your child continues to practice his or her math facts on a nightly basis. The end of the year is approaching quickly and we would like them to know their facts for third grade!

In science, the students have been introduced to a new unit on Matter. They have an opportunity to explore hands-on experiments with solids, liquids and gases!

In library, the students have been learning about community workers. They are learning the skill of note taking. Each student will be researching a community worker and finding out facts. Keep an eye out because they will be presenting their projects during Family Week in May.

We are seeing a lot of growth in second grade and we thank all of the parents for their continued support and devotion to their children's education. Let's hope for a gentle April and much sunshine!

Grade Three News...

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

The third grade teachers would first love to say how proud they were of all of their students and their hard work during the Connecticut Mastery Tests. The third graders had never taken the CMTs before! The teachers want to thank the children for their effort and the families for the support. The children were on time, well rested, and ready to take the tests!

April is a month full of exciting events for our third graders! We have authors coming to visit us - James Bruchac on the 9th, and Patricia Polacco on the 10th. Our third grade Math Night is occurring on the 10th in the evening. Read Aloud Day is scheduled for the 9th this year. Enjoy your vacation during the week of April 15th. What a fantastic month April is for our students!

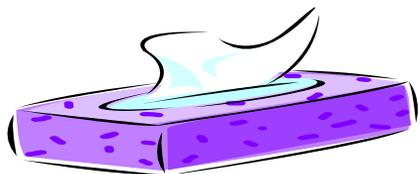
In math classes, we have been studying multiplication and division. The students have really enjoyed learning all about multiplication and memorizing their facts. Don't forget to practice at home! In reading, the students have been exploring expository pieces and practicing wondering techniques. In anticipation of our author visit, we have been conducting an author study of Patricia Polacco and her wonderful books. The students were happy to return to their routines after the CMTs ended! Don't forget to read just right books at home and mark your FREE calendars each night.



In social studies, the students are moving into their study of the Native Americans of the Plains. They are very excited to begin this unit and learn about the

tribes from this area. In science, the students are finishing their unit of study for the human body with our discussions of the nervous system. Soon, the students will be complete a Connecticut Embedded Task called “Soggy Paper” when the students will be conducting fair tests with various types of paper. All third grade students throughout the state of CT will be completing this task!

As always, if you are able, the third grade teachers would like to ask for any donations of tissues, paper towels, and wipes. Our supplies are running low, and we are in desperate need of reinforcements! Thanks so much.



Grade Four News...

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



Now that CMTs are officially over, Grade Four has been concentrating on their Endangered Species projects. Research and writing time has been set aside each week in order for students to learn valuable information about their animal – from its appearance and habitat to why it is on the brink of extinction.

The students' hard work and efforts will be showcased at the Endangered Species Fair on **Wednesday evening, April 24th at 7:00 p.m.**, where everyone is invited to attend. Make sure you mark your calendar for this fun and informative event! Our culminating field trip to the Bronx Zoo is also approaching. Feel free to accompany your child and enjoy the day on **Friday, May 3rd**. (More details to follow on this family field trip.)

We have been very busy in math this month. Students have been building upon their "basic facts" foundation to learn about fractions: adding and subtracting with like denominators; identifying equivalent fractions and converting improper fractions to mixed numbers. Please continue to spend time with your child each night and practice those basic facts.

Can you remember the main parts of an atom? Do you know why we need atoms to create electricity? Can you make a light bulb light or a motor run using a battery and just one wire? Do you know why one side of a magnet attracts objects, while the other side repels them? Ask your child to answer these questions. You'll be amazed at what your fourth grader has learned this month in science!

Our students have traveled throughout the northeastern part of the United States in social studies this month. They have learned about the geography, resources, businesses, and industries of these regions, as well as how the climate affects the people who live there.

As you can see, we have some exciting events planned in Fourth Grade. Now that the weather has improved, we can all enjoy ourselves outdoors. Happy Spring!

Grade Five News...

Mrs. Carley, Mrs. Russo,
Miss Caravetta, Mrs. Windsor,
Mrs. Demshak

We hope everyone enjoyed their April vacation! Fifth graders have worked really hard on completing their Heroic Figures project this month! Teachers were very pleased with the outcome of the project, the extension projects and the oral presentations.

April kicked off with parent/teacher conferences. We would like to thank all parents for being flexible with the times and arrangements of conferences, since this was a first for us here at Frenchtown! We also had some authors come and visit us this month. Students enjoyed their time with famous author, Patricia Polacco. They were very excited to also meet Rob Buyea, the author of the book *Because of Mr. Terrupt*. Special thanks to Ms. Albro for arranging these amazing visitors!

In reading, all classes wrapped up their heroic figures research. They each read a biography about their hero and took notes as well. Following this, students hopped right back into regular reading. They worked on finding the main idea and determining the importance of specific parts of a given text. Students continue to work on using the components of written response in their answers.

Our fifth grade mathematicians are also hard at work! Students took a look deeper into geometry than ever before. We looked at all of the different kinds of triangles and examined their angles. Students also were investigating about how they were similar or different. Students learned about the differences between a right, scalene and equilateral triangles.



All fifth focused on the completion of their heroes papers in writing. They continued to utilize the strategies of expository writing. Each student had a research paper with an introduction paragraph, three body paragraphs and a conclusion. They learned about their hero's life, accomplishments and character. Everyone really took a

lot away from this project and the teachers were all so proud of them!

Fifth graders are looking forward to the end of year activities since we anticipate the start of the 5th grade trips. Please keep yourself updated by checking your teacher's newflash regularly!

From the Nurse's Office... **Mrs. McCullough**

Warm weather is right at our doorstep [we hope!] and we will be spending more time outdoors. Of course, this brings with it the risk for Lyme Disease. The following will help you to determine your child's risk of Lyme Disease and, how to recognize it's symptoms and what to do if you find a tick on your child.

Living in Connecticut where Lyme Disease was first recognized is the number one risk. Still, your child's risk of getting the disease after being bitten by a tick is only 1-3%. Most Lyme Disease cases occur between April and October, particularly in June and July.

Other risk factors include:

- Spending a lot of time in wooded areas, tall grass or shrubs
- Having pets
- Hiking, camping or fishing in tick infested areas

You find a tick, what to do:

- Don't panic
- If it is attached to skin remove it with fine-tipped tweezers
- Grasp head of tick close to the skin
- Firmly and steadily pull the tick straight out of the skin
- DO NOT twist or rock the tick side to side
- DO NOT use Vaseline or a hot match to kill the tick
- Put the tick in a sealed bag so you can bring it to the doctor if your child becomes ill
- Wash your hands and the site with soap and water
- Swab the bite area with alcohol

Signs to look for:

- A red bump with a ring around it
- Red dots on the ankles and wrists [Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever]

- Flu like symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue and muscle aches

When to seek medical care:

- The tick has been on the skin for more than 24 hours
- Part of the tick remains in the skin after removal
- A rash of any kind appears
- The bite looks infected
- Flu like symptoms

Prevention:

- Check your child for ticks after they have been playing outside
- Pay particular attention to the scalp, behind the ears the neck and under the arms
- Use an insect repellent
- Avoid tick-infested areas

All this information and much more can be found on this very informative website.
Connecticutchildrens.org/kidshealth

Reading News... **Mrs. Infante, Mrs. Cannon-Axtell,** **Mrs. Olimpieri**

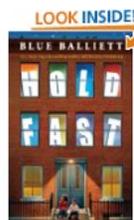
From the Frenchtown Reading Corner: Happy Spring! We thought you would enjoy seeing some the new and notable books that have been released this year. Enjoy and happy reading!!



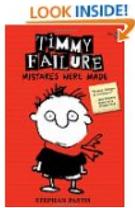
Ghoulish Song by William Alexander (Mar 5, 2013)



The Whizz Pop Chocolate Shop by Kate Saunders (Mar 12, 2013)



Hold Fast by Blue Balliett (Mar 1, 2013)



Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made by **Stephan Pastis**
(Feb 26, 2013)

Grades 2-3



Each Kindness by **Jacqueline Woodson**, illustrated E.B. Lewis



H.O.R.S.E.: A Game of Basketball and Imagination by **Christopher Myers**

Picture Books/ Early Readers



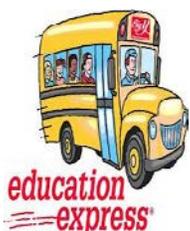
Adios Oscar!: A Butterfly Fable
by Peter Elwell
When Oscar the caterpillar discovers that he will one day become a butterfly, he's overjoyed. And his friend Edna the bookworm encourages his hopes of flying to Mexico with the other Monarch butterflies. To prepare, Oscar learns Spanish and dreams of flying through the purple Sierra Madre Mountains.



Spring Thaw
by Steven Schnur Illustrated by Stacey Schuett
This award-winning book uses lovely illustrations to show the changes that take place on a farm when spring arrives.



It's Spring!
Series: **Hello Reader! Level 2**
by Pamela Chanko, Samantha Berger
Illustrated by Melissa Sweet
Berger and Chanko's breezy rhyming text and Sweet's charming watercolor illustrations tell a delightful story of adorable woodland animals spreading the news that spring has arrived in the forest. Full color.



Frenchtown has earned 64,450 points. 71 shoppers have designated our school to receive their Big Y points.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Reflection Winners

win great door prizes! Come join the fun at our annual event. Watch for flyers and register early.

Primary Visual Arts:

- 1st - Anna Geraghty (1st gr)
- 2nd - Scott Carravone (2nd gr)
- 3rd - Aidan Williams (1st gr)

Intermediate Visual Arts:

- 1st - Robert Thompson (5th gr)
- 2nd - Eman Seyal (3rd gr)
- 3rd - Ananya Kodura

Special Needs Artist:

- 1st - George Manesiotis (5th gr)

Primary Photography:

- 1st - Caitlin Carley (2nd gr)
- 2nd - Johannes Rysse (2nd gr)
- 3rd - Jack Stocknoff (1st gr)

Intermediate Photography:

- 1st - Kiersten Nyquist (3rd gr)
- 2nd - Stephen Walters (3rd gr)
- 3rd - Marius Siscar (5th gr)

Intermediate Dance:

- 1st - Elizabeth Hazen (5th gr)
- 2nd - Katarina Kendall (4th gr)

Primary Literature:

- 1st - Hannah Daniel (1st gr)
- 2nd - Johannes Rysse
- 3rd - Talia Cook (1st gr)

Intermediate Literature:

- 1st - Victoria Almazan (5th gr)
- 2nd - Ella Jane Cook (3rd gr)
- 3rd - Mishka Kapoor (4th gr)

Music Primary

- 1st - Kacper Zajaczkowski (K)

Music Intermediate

- 1st- Aldo Espino (4th gr)

Siena Mejia Collarini in Mrs. Alfano's second grade class has collected and turned in 98 Box Tops for Education

Save the Date for Family Bingo Night

Save the date! Bingo night is back – Friday, April 26! Lots of cash to be given away, plus chances to