

Wolf Times

Volume 13, Issue 10

June, 2016



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 13th year has seen many great things happen.

We continued our outstanding school wide Science Fair, two school picnics, holiday and spring concerts, our eleventh PTA Bingo and our twelfth Multicultural dinner. We celebrated our third 5th grade Invention Convention project. June will bring our Kinderfest, 3rd grade Flag Day Program, 5th grade graduation and luncheon, our award assemblies and many super field trips. Hope to see you at these activities.

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 also wish continued success to our students and families who are moving away from Trumbull. We have met our new kindergartners and their families and look forward to their becoming wolf cubs.

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 at Open House on Wednesday,

August 31st. 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 Back to School Open House is Wednesday, August 31, 2016, in the afternoon. Specific times will be posted in June and welcome back letters.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will find an 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

T.R.A.C.K.S.

- T.....** Trust
Trust means to have confidence or faith in a person or thing.
- R.....** Respect
How you feel about someone and how you treat him/her
- A.....** Accountability
Help your children learn accountability by removing excuse-based behavior from their life-skills tool belt.
- C.....** Cooperation
Working in harmony with others to achieve a goal
- K.....** Kindness
The quality of being warm-hearted, considerate, humane and sympathetic
- S.....** Safety
Always check first with a parent, guardian, or trusted adult before going anywhere, accepting anything, or getting into a car with anyone.

Kindergarten News...

**Mrs. Bershefsky, Mrs. Buswell,
Mrs. Capone, Mrs. Crawford**

Can you believe the school year is almost over? What a fun and exciting May it has been!

The kindergartners have worked so hard to learn various reading strategies this year. It is amazing to see how much they have grown when most began the year not being able to read a single word yet! We cannot emphasize enough how important it is that you have your child read and write throughout the summer. This is so imperative to maintaining the growth they have achieved throughout this school year and help them get ready for first grade. All children regress a little no matter what after a summer off (this summer will be the longest we have had in Trumbull in many, many years), so imagine what happens when the children stop practicing all they have learned this year. Please have your child practice the sight words as well. Your child should be able to fluently read all 50 words by now and you want to maintain that over the summer.

We hope all mothers enjoyed their Mother's Day this year with the help of your kindergartner's thoughtful work. They have truly embraced what it means to be "bucket fillers," this year and enjoyed working to fill yours. Something special will also be coming home for the dads in June. We hope you treasure these projects and show them to your children when they are grown!



Science was predominant throughout the entire month. We finished up our unit on clouds and moved right into the moment we have been waiting for all year: chicks! We read all about chicks, made observations and recorded them in our science journals, made amazing brooder boxes to become our chicks' homes and tried to be patient for 21 days, waiting for our chicks to hatch. Among the four classes we had a total of 28 chicks hatch! Every class had multiple chicks to name, observe and LOVE! This is something your children will remember always!

In math we have finished our unit on teen numbers and understanding how to break a ten number into ten plus the ones (i.e. $17 = 10 + 7$). We have also been working on simple addition and subtraction equations within five and trying hard to

memorize these math facts. Our last unit in math focuses on sorting and taking surveys.



Please don't forget that June 7th at 9:00 AM is Kinderfest. Bring tissues – you will be very touched!

Thank you for a collaborative and memorable year! Enjoy your summer!

Grade One News...

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

May was a marvelous month for Frenchtown First Graders. Such busy students! We met the amazing author Steve Swinburne as he shared all of his talent as a writer with us! We went to see the play The Tale of Mrs. Tiggy Winkle at Sacred Heart University and loved it! Frenchtown first graders were a respectful and courteous audience. Each classroom got ready for our Publishing Parties/Authors Tea and worked so hard to put it all together to show off our writing talent to our parents.

Our first grade mathematicians explored the patterns of the hundred chart! We practiced the sequence of numbers and how useful the chart can be! We continue to practice story problems involving both addition and subtraction.

We participated in the Science Fair and became familiar with the scientific method and experimented with planting paper white bulbs in many different ways. It was quite an experiment and interesting to see if our hypothesis was accurate! Also in science we began our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) unit and learning all about POLLINATION through literature, Mariana Becomes a Butterfly. We are expanding our scientific vocabulary and enjoying it!

As you can see, first grade is ending the year in a busy, productive way. We are molding into second graders and soon will be saying goodbye to the primary wing of Frenchtown School. We will hold on to the wonderful memories that have been made.



Grade Two News ...

**Mrs. Angon, Mrs. Boyle,
Mrs. Pereira, Ms. Sansone,
Mrs. Tuohy**

The second graders have been busy bees this spring! In reading, they have continued to explore both fiction and nonfiction texts. It is important for the students to check their understanding as they read. Please encourage your child to stop and think as they read. For fiction books, they can stop frequently and ask themselves: "Who did I just read about? Where are the events happening?" and "What is going on?" In nonfiction books, they should stop and ask themselves: What did I just read about? and What did I just learn about the topic? If they don't understand what they have read they need to go back and reread. Then it is important for them to talk about what they have read with someone else. In math, they have been learning about fractions. They are able to describe fractions in halves, thirds, and fourths. They enjoyed creating their own fraction flags. It is important for your child to continue to practice both their addition and math facts. These need to be mastered by the end of second grade.

To enhance our awareness of community workers, the second grade participated in our annual Community Workers Fair, along with our Media Specialist, Mrs. Bilangi. The students spent some time researching a community worker or location within the community. They produced a presentation to inform our special guests all about their community workers.

As your child moves from second to third grade, there are some very important things you can do over the summer to help them succeed. It is important to engage in meaningful conversations with your child every day. Take the time, even if it is only a few minutes a day to really listen to what they have to say. Read to and listen to your child read. They should be asking questions, making predictions, and thinking about their reading as they read. Make sure your child practices their addition and subtraction facts as a way to really be ready for third grade math! One way of helping your child develop their writing skills is by getting them a writing journal so they have a special place to write poems, stories, and letters. Also, encourage



your child to develop their independence by having them solve problems independently and work on their organizational skills.

It's hard to believe the second graders will soon leave and become fabulous third graders! We have been lucky to have the opportunity to teach your children and are very proud of them all!

Grade Three News...

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

We can't believe that our year is coming to an end! Our students have grown so much in their abilities this year.

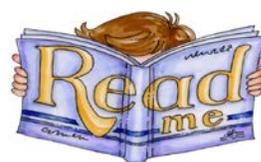
We have enjoyed many special events in the past few weeks. Our biography book reports and Living Museum were a great success. Thank you for your encouragement and support of your child with his/her project!



Our students thoroughly enjoyed the theater production of the Lightning Thief at Southern CT State University. We have been busy practicing for our own production for Flag Day this year, coming up on June 9th. Please remember to send your child in on that day wearing their newly purchased Flag Day tee-shirt along with some kind of denim bottoms - pants, skirts, or shorts. We hope you will join us for this patriotic program of celebration at 9:00 AM.

We are looking forward to our end of the year bowling trip on June 10th and our final party on June 14th. Your child will need to bring/wear socks on this field trip. Please remember that June 14th and 15th are legal days without lunch being served. Please send in your child with a large snack on those days.

Over the summer months, please make sure your child continues to read daily and practices basic facts. We have greatly enjoyed getting to know your children this year, helping them flourish, and we hope you have an enjoyable summer.



Grade Four News...

**Mrs. Carley, Mr. Fiore,
Mrs. Grunow, Mrs. Weinstein,
Mrs. Wolfe**

It is hard to believe that June is upon us! As we approach our last few weeks of school, we reflect upon how we began the school year, on a journey to create communities of learners in our respective classrooms. The children have grown physically, as evidenced by the now near impossibility of trying to gather all the children on one carpet for our mini-lessons. Throughout the year, we have all worked cooperatively to integrate the Frenchtown T.R.A.C.K.S. into our daily routines, encouraging social and emotional responsibility. Moreover, we are so proud of the academic achievements of our fourth grade students. They have learned to work both independently and collaboratively, solving problems and expressing their thinking in words and in writing. In science and social studies, students have explored the wonders of the world in which we live.



In math, we wrapped up our final unit of multiplication and division. The children showed great skill using a variety of strategies to solve 2-digit-by-2-digit multiplication and demonstrated success while solving division using larger numbers! We then used our problem-solving skills to create graphs, record observations, and interpret data. These are all skills that complement what we have been learning in science classes.

Science students have been dabbling a bit in the area of botany, the study of plants. Children had the opportunity to view and plant a variety of seeds. While speaking about science, we hope you had the opportunity to view our class Science Fair projects! While some students engaged in a traditional inquiry experiment with their class, others worked with their classes to create displays explaining the causes of animal endangerment, which supported our final research project.

Reading classes are wrapping up the year integrating all of the strategies we have learned to further comprehension when reading non-fiction texts. Students have made particular progress with note taking skills. They applied these skills when exploring global warming and the affect of human

activities on the health of our environment and survival of plant and animal species. Children were very excited to research an animal and learn about what is being done to save some species from extinction.

Our students have enjoyed learning about the history of Connecticut and journeying through the regions of the United States in our social studies classes. Road trips are a great way to learn about our surrounding states during the summer time. If long-distance travel is not in your budget, have children look for state license plates while traveling locally.

Thank you to Mr. Fiore who coordinated our role in the Memorial Day Parade. This is Frenchtown's 9th year as a participant. The children did a fine job representing our school on the float, wearing costumes of famous people in our nation's history. Thank you to the Palinkas family for towing the float and Mr. Carley for providing our patriotic music. We are sure that a fun time was had by all.

As the weather gets warmer, the tendency is to peel back layers for comfort. Children nowadays experience physical changes to their bodies at a much earlier age than in the past, which can make some children self-conscious. We appreciate your efforts to make sure clothing is age appropriate and comfortable.

We wish you all a safe and relaxing summer!

Grade Five News...

**Mrs. Alfano, Mrs. Demshak,
Mrs. Ferraro, Mrs. Gaspar**



It is hard to believe we are nearing your child's final days here at Frenchtown. Everyone will be teary-eyed – teachers, students, and parents alike as we watch them all walk across the stage to receive their diplomas. Even though Wednesday, June 15th is fast approaching, there is still so much going on in the 5th grade.

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.

Wednesday, June 1st: Math Trimester 3 Assessment and 7pm is Band/Strings Concert

Thursday, June 2nd: Students visiting middle schools 9am-11am
2pm Health Talk (All parents invited to attend)

Friday, June 3rd: YMCA field trip. All parents are invited to spend the day. Review "Top Ten Things You Need To Know For YMCA".

Tuesday, June 7th: Yearbook Signing. Remember yearbooks were purchased for each and every student by the 5th grade committee and we will have some time set aside for yearbook signing.

Friday, June 10th: Hammonasset Beach field trip during which students will explore three distinctly different habitats: salt marsh, rocky shore, and sandy beach. Review "Top Ten Things You Need To Know For Hammonasset Beach State Park."

Monday, June 13th: Graduation 9am-11am and luncheon is immediately following. Graduation and the luncheon are special events so 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 colored 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.

Wednesday, June 15th: End of Year and Summer Birthdays Celebration in classrooms
*Please have students wear their middle school t-shirts provided at graduation.

From the Library... **Mrs. Bilangi**

Good Bye from Mrs. Bilangi



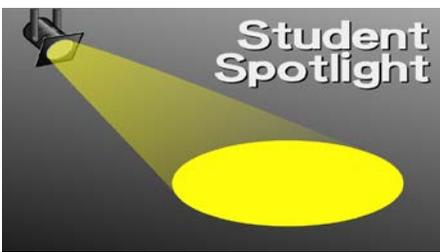
It is bittersweet for me to write the final newsletter as the Teacher Librarian at Frenchtown Elementary, especially since when I opened the library the shelves were empty and we now have over 18 thousand books and some of my students have graduated college!

I have had the pleasure of seeing all students every year for the past 13 years. I have watched them blossom from tentative kindergarteners to confident mature fifth graders ready for the challenges of Middle School. The many years I have spent teaching your children have been among the most rewarding of my life. Your children were a joy to teach and their interest and enthusiasm made the days and years fly by. I have wonderful memories to perhaps go in my post retirement book! I have grown to love your children and June, while always difficult for me as I watch graduates leave the building, will be especially hard this year.

It has been an honor to work at Frenchtown and to have been a part of this family since the day we opened the doors. I have had extraordinary volunteers that I am lucky enough to count among my friends. I feel confident that I will be replaced by someone with the same passion for knowledge and teaching that I have.

National PTA Reflections Awards

Congratulations to Johannes Rysse! Johannes placed as one of the Awards of Merit on the national level in literature. He received a silver medallion and certificate.



Students in the Spotlight

Congratulations go to our April/May Dream, Reach, Succeed nominees, who enjoyed a pizza lunch with Mrs. Norcel and Ms. Strever.

The students are:

Amber Burany, Michael Cardinale, Talia Cook, Rachel Dizney, Leah Greco, Savannah Lang, Tyler Martin, Anthony Rauso, Ava Rose, and Jada Valentin.

Invention Convention at UCONN



Frenchtown did an outstanding job at the Invention Convention at UCONN

These students won Recognized Inventor of Innovative Achievement:

Caitlin Carley-Eco Fundly Snack Bags
 Dana Lee- Comfortable Harmony
 Mitchell Macura-Pod Pocket
 Conner Smith- Toothpaste Terminator
 Matthew Wich- EZ Pour
 Jake Zawel-Cleat Clings

Christopher Sarlo- Sponsor Award
 CT Safety Society recognizing the inclusion of safety, health and environmental principles and ideologies in his invention.

Jump Rope for Heart Bonus Raffle Winners

Peyton Malzewski Grades K, 1 and 2
 Weston Rice Grades 3, 4, and 5



April Homework Winners

1st Place – Scooters Michael Cross
 Ella Peterson
 2nd Place – Science Braden Fruin
 Isabella Lee
 3rd Place – Animals Vivien DeLoma
 Landon Paoletto

Frenchtown Artists on Exhibit

The following student’s artwork was on display at *The Art and Design Gallery* at Sacred Heart University from May 22 through June 1.

Grade Three

Alexandra Cotto
 Charlotte Lewis
 Elizabeth Caron



Grade Four

Sofia DeRosa
 Nicholas Antos
 Sofia Bacolas
 Samuel Tran

Grade Five

Isabella Mercado
 Marianna Wegiel
 Brenna Benvenuto
 Caitlin Carley
 Joshua Fung
 Katerina Nguyen
 Matthew Wich
 Maya Gibson
 Abigail Ho
 Vivian Wang
 Madison Goncalves



Veterans in Memorial Day Parade

Peter Gill USMC
 George Healey USAA
 Frank DeSimone
 Brandon Cain
 Kenneth Cain
 James Grabinski USMC
 Andrew Frano USMC
 Oscar Grabinski USAA



Purchased with Book Fair Dollars



Three Read Across America Carpets