

C O L D S P R I N G S S C H O O L

The Cubes Tale

February, 2017
Volume 4, Issue 5

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

MONTHLY EVENTS

- February 3 Spirit Day
Wear your favorite football Jersey
- February 6 SLC Meeting
Media Center 3:30
- February 10 Helping Hand Food Bank
Drive Ends
- February 14 Parent Teacher Conference
Evening 6:00 - 8:00
Early Dismissal
- February 15 Parent Teacher Conference
Afternoon 1:15 - 3:30
Early Dismissal
- February 16 Parent Teacher Conference
Evening 6:00 - 8:00
Early Dismissal
- February 17 Staff Development
No School for students
- February 20 President's Day
No School
- February 21 Grade 1 - 3 Assembly
"Quiet Riot"
- February 19 Kindergarten Assembly
Academy of Natural Science
"Incredible Insects"
- February 24 Mother Goose
Visits Kindergarten

At the time of this publication, there has yet to be any significant snow thus far this winter! Personally, I am disappointed; I happen to like an occasional snowfall. With that said, events on the calendar remain intact.

Recently, the Gloucester City Board of Education has requested the school district verify residency for students in 3rd and 8th grade, prior to moving on to another district school. All parents of third graders should have received a form to be completed and returned, along with four proofs of residency. This information is due back to Cold Springs School by Monday, February 6th. Envelopes have been forwarded to you through your child's communication folder. Please place all completed information in the envelope and return it to school. Your cooperation with this endeavor is very much appreciated.

Our mid-semester conferences will take place from February 14th through February 16th. Students from Preschool through Third Grade will have early dismissal on each of these days. Evening conferences are the 14th and 16th, with afternoon conferences scheduled for the 15th. More information about this is on its way. Once again, our Lost and Found has grown, so during conferences, there will be a table set up for you to browse in case your child has left something behind. The PTO will be sponsoring their winter book fair, while here; you may also browse and purchase books. Our dedicated PTO is always looking for helpers. Please consider volunteering and contact them with your availability.

School will not be in session for our students on February 17th as it is a professional development day for teachers and staff. Presidents' Day is February 20th, so school will be closed. Quiet Riot will treat students in grades 1-3 to a multi-cultural assembly on February 21st, while the Kindergarten will attend one from the Academy of Natural Sciences.

As always, please refer to the school web site for upcoming events. We do our best to provide you with the most current information.

While completing this entry, I gazed out of my office window to the sight of a sudden snow squall.
I am at peace!

Thanks for your continued support.
Mrs. Karen Kessler, Principal
Cold Springs School

Connecting with the World Around Us

This month Cold Springs students will be traveling the world without having to leave their classrooms. Throughout the month of February and March we will be participating in several Distance learning experiences.



As part of the Read Across the Planet celebration, other classes will be connecting with classrooms from all parts of North America. Some of the places they will "visit" are Michigan, South Carolina, California and Texas. They will be meeting and talking with students about the similarities and differences of each of their home towns. They will also share projects that they have worked on for this Read Across the Planet Celebration! What a wonderful way to teach our children about being citizens of a global community!!



Celebrating Valentine's Day



Valentine's Day with your PreSchooler

Every February on Valentine's Day, cards, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones.

Preschoolers love to sing, and with the daily rhyme, "How can I say I love you," the song helps our Pre-K students learn to enunciate and boost vocabulary. With rhymes, songs, movement and rhythm, there is always something to see, hear and, most importantly, to join in with at rhyme time.



Celebrate with your little Valentine's with not only extra hugs and kisses, but also fun and creative activities!

Here are some example: Make a Family Photo Book.

Cut a cover page out of red construction paper and write the title "I Love My Family" on the top of the page. Cut a heart out of pink construction paper and decorate with glitter, or markers or crayons. Each family member creates a page for the family book. Have each family member add a photo(s) to their page and decorate. Punch holes in the pages and tie them together with ribbon or string. Cut out a small heart and attach to the end of the string. This makes a really cute coffee table book.



Valentine Breakfast

Valentine's Day is a great excuse to get creative in the kitchen, and anything you can serve up in a heart-shape is bound to go down well with the kids!



♥ Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to cut hearts out of your morning toast, and spread thickly with strawberry jam.

♥ Make a heart-shaped fried egg, placing a metal cookie cutter into your greased frying pan and breaking the egg into it.



Early Childhood News and Updates

As we enter the month of February, Preschool and kindergarten classes are preparing for several upcoming activities like Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school.

Preschool just finished exploring the arts. We had a visit from the Blue Sky Puppet Theater who presented "The Three Little Pigs". For the month of February, preschool will be investigating through a Buildings study and a transportation study. Children are learning literacy, math, and science through blueprints and construction. Remember to ask them what they are learning at school.

Kindergarten classes will celebrate the 100th day of school on February 10th with special activities in the classroom. The Academy of Natural Sciences will be here on February 21st to present the program, "Incredible Insects" to all kindergarten classes and on February 24st students will enjoy a visit from Mother Goose.

During the first week in March, we will celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students will participate in Dr. Seuss activities all week. On March 2nd, Guest readers will be visiting classrooms to share their favorite books.

Please note that we will also have re-registration for 3 year old students for the 4 year old program during parent teacher conferences on February 14th and 16th from 6-8 pm and on February 15th from 2:00-3:30. All 3 year old students must re-register for the 4 year old program. You will need to bring your 4 proofs of residency:

IF YOU OWN YOUR HOME YOU MUST PRESENT:

Gloucester City Tax Bill, Water Bill and TWO additional, currently dated proofs of residence

IF YOU RENT THE PROPERTY YOU MUST PRESENT:

Lease and documentation from Gloucester City Housing Department with parent/guardian and children's names listed, and TWO other currently dated proofs of residence.

EXAMPLES OF ADDITIONAL PROOF WITH PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME AND ADDRESS

(ALL MUST BE CURRENTLY DATED)

- Utility bills
- Current driver's license (license with sticker not accepted)
- Insurance bills
- Settlement papers
- Phone bill
- Work order for services with parent/guardian name and address
- Bank statement mailed to home (no web printed statements accepted)

The students have been working hard on their writing. We have some young authors and illustrators here. Take a look at all of our writing hanging in the hallways when you visit.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Norell Gurcsik
EC Director/Assistant Principal



This month's topic focuses on the stages of Child Development for 6 to 9 year old

Child Development is the study of how children grow and mature physically, mentally and emotionally. One of the joys of being a parent is watching your child grow, learn and change. It is amazing to watch their world open up before your eyes. Your child is continually developing lifelong skills and behavior patterns that will help define their personality. School, teachers, friends, and activities become increasingly important. They are constantly learning and maturing. Your love and guidance will help them develop their own unique personality and values.

Your child's mental development will be highlighted by their increased ability to reason, understand concepts, and think more logically. You will also notice their ability to read, write complete sentences, and perform mathematical operations in a more advanced

manner. Their self-esteem reliability, individuality and ability to predict future events will improve markedly. At the same time their opinions, attitudes and sense of independence are developing.

As your child matures physically you will notice their improved coordination, and increased skills. Until their eyes mature they may still experience difficulty reading small print and will have a tendency to catch colds. Regular pediatric and dental care will help detect potential issues. Ensuring childhood safety, balanced nutrition, and plenty of physical activity help establish good life long habits.

Your child's world is expanding and you will notice them spending more time and having an increased reliance with their friends. You

will also see them more willing to engage in competitive activities. You can encourage your child's development in this stage by supporting creative projects, setting up simple rules, offering guidance and giving meaningful praise.

With regards to your child's emotional development; you may notice increased demands and sudden mood changes. Your child is concerned about their personal safety and will look to you for reassurance. Providing your child with the opportunity to express their fears and concerns helps them to develop coping skills for the future.

Please feel free to contact me at 456-7000 x3154 to discuss your child's educational needs.

Sincerely,

Joseph DiPatri

Math Awards



IXL Math Honor Roll

1st Grade

- Alison Ding
Corinne Kelly
Jiannah Rivera
Robert Glassman
Kamryn Dunn
Sophia Daily
Faith Hopkins

2nd Grade

- Fariha Karim
Noa Hewlett
Nataly Alanis
Sahida Rahman
Leland Kidd
Jonathan Clark

3rd Grade

- Vincent Kelly
Keegan Cohan
Leniyah-Marie Osler
Bryant Lin
Janiyah Rivera
Sophia Fiorentino
Gracelyn Graves

100% Club

1st Grade

- Sierra Aquilante
Ella Haney
Austin Wang
Xavier DePoder
Camryn Gross
Samantha Japa
William Carr
Sophia Daily
Jiannah Rivera
John Brewer
Courtney Jones
Enzo Mensah
Jonathan Smith
Tyrese Custis
Kaylee Greenlaw
Ella Kirschner
Corban Nguyen
Aiden Scully

2nd Grade

- Keira Renshaw
Christian Shinn
Amelia Wentzell
Alexander Ekimoglou
Ashton Krogman
Jacob Lilly
Leland Kidd
Meghan Simmons
Samantha Ton
Riley Cole
Abigail Fowler
Kyle Johnson
Ethan Otero

3rd Grade

- Yeasir Alam
Vincent Kelly
Keith Lichty
William Rodgers
Julian Acevedo
Anthony Benner
Michael Bingham
Andrew Gross
Jaiden Huaca
Alexis Ullman
Richard Geiser
Robert Loughlin
Gracelyn Graves
Aubrey Madden
Thousif Alam
Yiornniel Cordero
William Durham
Giuliana Gambone
Alexis Nelson
Shayla Stiles
Lily Medina



V P Highlights

The students are back into the swing of things after the break. I have always thought these winter months were the best in education. Students are engaged and learning so much! The hallways of Cold Springs are just filled with exciting student work.

Remember that conferences are next week. I want to encourage you to meet with your child's teacher. It's so important to keep the lines of communication open between home and school. It's a time that you have the opportunity to find out exactly how your child is progressing academically, as well as socially. Students are successful when we work as a team.

Recent studies about children and video games indicate that excessive video game playing may be harmful to our children. Below are links to several interesting articles:

https://my.vanderbilt.edu/developmentalpsychologyblog/2014/04/effect-of-video-games-on-child-development/

http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/children/8825655/Video-games-can-alter-childrens-brains.html

http://www.webmd.com/mental-health/addiction/features/video-game-addiction-no-fun#1

http://internet.addictionblog.org/top-10-negative-effects-of-video-games-on-children/

http://www.pamf.org/parenting-teens/general/media-web/videogames.html

There are many more articles about this topic. The important thing to remember is that our children need positive, relaxing things to do with their "down" time. Read books with your children. Get them outside to play. Spending quality time with our children is the most important thing we do. Modeling constructive activities like taking a walk, reading a book or engaging in a hobby, teaches our children how to relax and have fun. This re-energizes them to be ready to learn when they are in school.

Finally, please remember to bundle your child up in the winter months. We have many hats, gloves and jackets in our Lost and Found. If you are missing anything, please come in and take a look.

Sincerely, Mrs. Kearney



Classroom Highlights



What's Happening in the Media Center?

By Pauline Fluck

Kindergarten is learning how to use shelf markers to get books from the shelves.



1st grade is reading seasonal stories



2nd grade is learning how to use our online circulation system, Destiny. They are using laptops and iPads to do this.

3rd grade is working on comparing and contrasting books by the same author. Third grade students are also excited about our Adopt-a-Shelf program. The goal is for the students who are participating to better understand how the library is set up and to take pride in their library. They are doing a good job of taking care of their shelves.



We are Readers!!!!

By Dr. Jackie Brady

Mrs. Bonner's and Dr. Brady's book club students have just finished reading *Wednesday Surprise* and the students overwhelmingly enjoyed it. Each student had an opportunity to write their own book review and make a Christmas ornament.



This month's group will be reading, *Abby*. It is a heartwarming story that will build the skills of character education and the reading skills of main idea and details.

Tutoring: Mrs Bonner and Dr. Brady are working on phonics skills and comprehension skills with their tutoring students. Students have had the opportunities to read text that focus on African American Heritage and character education just to name a few.



Practice Makes Perfect

Third grade students are putting on their thinking caps and working hard on their reading, math and test taking skills this month as they prepare to take the PARCC test this spring. Classes have been working with their teachers, Ms. Barth, and Ms Schoener in the computer lab to become more familiar with test taking strategies and learning how to tackle the various types of questions that they will encounter on our standardized tests. They have been practicing answering PARCC like questions in both Language Arts and Math while their teacher guides them in understanding the material and how to tackle the numerous types of questions relating to this material. Students and staff alike feel that this is a very worthwhile activity and believe that it is giving our students a sense of confidence in regards to our upcoming tests.

Character Education for February

"Kindness"

Kindness means to being caring, compassionate, loving, and considerate. A kind person shows concern for the feelings of others and is helpful and generous. A kind person does good deeds without thought of reward. Showing acts of kindness can improve the quality of life. The kindness we show to people, animals, and to the earth is given, and then reflected back to us.

"Kindness is more important than wisdom, and the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom."

~Randolph Ray~

We can show kindness by:

- * Showing concern when someone is sad.
- * Taking care of the environment.
- * Treating everyone fairly.
- * Thinking about the needs of other people
- * Helping others cheerfully, without being asked
- * Forgiving others
- * Praising and complimenting others
- * Saying only nice things to people
- * Sharing with others

Reading and Sharing in First Grade!!!

By Tara Yates



Our class completed Winter Nonfiction Chapter Books for writing. Many of the students shared their book with a Preschool class. They were very proud of their work!

