



Claypit Hill Monthly Newsletter

May 7, 2015

Principal's Message

"Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve."

Roger Lewin

Dear Claypit Hill Families,

Summer has arrived and children are running into school (so of course I have to tell them to walk!) – A parent standing next to me today noticed how happy they are coming to school – running and skipping into the building. I never take this for granted even though I see it every day, but it is lovely to see it through a parent's eyes!

Last week, Claypit Hill hosted the first "Math Games Night" for the three elementary schools. About 100 people came, including teachers, elementary principals, Claypit's new principal, Christie Harvey, and of course, Tricia O'Reilly, math/science Director and the elementary math coaches. Tricia O'Reilly and her staff planned a night of fabulous math, including a variety of board games, puzzles, measurement activities, estimation, raffle prizes and just plain old fashioned family fun. I will admit that I did not put my age on the timeline but there was quite a diverse spread. Families entered the cafeteria and found a table of interest – either a fun board game, or sitting down at the estimation jars, or measuring their foot size and entering the data on the chart. Math was everywhere and it wasn't obviously math. What was obvious was the fun that every individual was having. Every person was focused on working on problem solving, estimating how many elastics were in a jar, putting a puzzle together or adding and dividing the digits on our name tags to win the raffle prize that was being offered. Every child left with dice and a book of games to play with dice. As I was standing with Tricia O'Reilly – she made an astute observation. Not ONE person – adult or child – was using electronics – no one was checking email – no one was on their IPAD – EVERYONE was working together at a table, participating in a math activity with family members or friends. How fun it was to be involved in this experience which could have happened one hundred years ago! We had electricity, coffee, cookies and juice and everything else was made out of paper or cardboard – a few plastic pieces – no technology. I don't want anyone to think that I am opposed to technology – I'm not. However, I do feel that it does interfere with social conversations more often than it should, family time more often that it should, and good old fashioned fun, more often than it should. Thank you to Tricia O'Reilly and her department for providing this experience which I hope will be the first annual elementary math night to be continued for many years.

Enjoy the merry month of May and I look forward to seeing you at many fun events over the next few weeks.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bearse

Kid's Quote

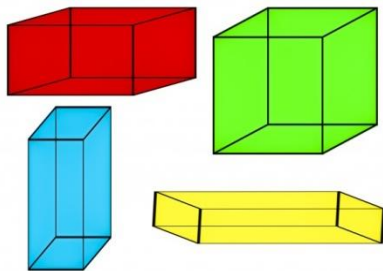
*Two second graders were recently talking:
Student #1: "Has Ms Bearse retired yet?"
Student #2: "She will at the end of the year"
Student #1: "I think she needs a break. She has
been here for about 60 years"*



Curriculum Corner

Kindergarten

In math, kindergarten is wrapping up geometry and moving into building more number sense and addition and subtraction within 10. In ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS we are working on blending and segmenting words and revisiting syllables. In science, we are working on our wood unit and completed a STEAM project on sinking wood. In art class the children have been working on collages based on the illustrations of Eric Carle. We will be creating written captions to go along with this art. In social thinking, as things wind up before they wind down, we will continue to work with kindergartners on self regulation. The children are working very hard and showing their growth across all disciplines. Full speed ahead to first grade!



- **Ms. Rahaim**
- **Ms. Haydon**
- **Ms. Seligson**
- **Ms. Root**

First Grade

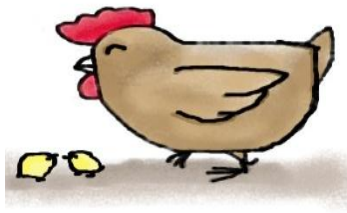
Spring is an **eggs**-tra exciting time in first grade!

The students learn about the life cycles of frogs and chickens.

On May 13, our chicken eggs arrive to Claypit Hill School. The students and teachers carefully set them in the incubator and wait for 21 days until, **PECK, PECK, PECK**, the chicks arrive!

While eagerly waiting, the students learn about what is happening inside the eggs. Our study culminates with an **eggs**-citing field trip to the Natick Organic Farm. .

- **Ms. Dines**
- **Ms. Rossi**
- **Ms. Laudenslager**
- **Ms. Walther**



COFFEE DRAWING

Second Grade

Second grade is getting ready to travel to the North End in Boston. This has been a second grade tradition for over 25 years. The focus of the trip has changed over the years to align with the Massachusetts State

Frameworks. For the past few years, we have focused on goods and services and producers and consumers. It is a field trip that fifth graders often cite in their memory books as their favorite field trip in elementary school!



- **Ms. Biggs**
- **Ms. Pesaturo**
- **Ms. Coady**
- **Ms. Currie**

Curriculum Corner

Third Grade

The Third grade is currently doing one of our most popular science units, plants! We are studying the life cycle of a (genetically engineered) small flowering plant. We will follow the life cycle from seed to seed. Each student has their own set of plants to take care of and observe. Throughout the five week cycle students will be learning how to write a scientific observation, how bees pollinate and why they are important. The students will be taking on the role of a "pollinator" and will see first hand what would happen if we didn't have bees to naturally pollinate our plants and flowers. It's always hard to see the plants come to the end of their life cycle but if all goes well we will be rewarded with new seeds to start the cycle all over again.



- **Ms. Bertram**
- **Mr. Owen**
- **Ms. Paratore/Ms. Whitesides**
- **Ms. Murphy**

Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade launched their Science "Animal Adaptation" unit of study this week by having students participate in an "Animal Adaptation" program developed by the Museum of Science. As scientists, students expanded their understanding of biological adaptations by observing both skulls and live animals. Initially, students observed live animals, placed the animals in their correct classes, and learned about specific adaptations each animal has developed. After observing the live animals, students engaged in a hands-on activity in which they examined particular skulls to determine how animals may have adapted. This learning opportunity helped create a deeper understanding of behavioral and physical adaptations as each student engages in his or her animal adaption research and slide show project.



Ms. Foley/Ms. Olivier
Ms. Langston
Ms. Mello
Ms. Postma

Fifth Grade

There is excitement in the air in the fifth grade! The students have all chosen their biography characters that they will "become" on June 11. Over the next several weeks, the students will read about their character, research more information and write memoirs. All their effort will culminate in the now-famous Biography Celebration where they will each transform into their character and tell stories about their lives. So, if you see George Washington, Barack Obama or Rosa Parks roaming the hallways, you'll know they are just fifth graders in disguise!



- **Ms. Malm**
- **Ms. Wales**
- **Ms. Moquin**
- **Ms. Ciavarro**
- **Ms. Arees**

Sexual abuse awareness program:

Beginning the week of May 25th children will participate in a program designed to educate students about sexual abuse prevention. Michael Hehir and Eileen McManus will spend time in 1st, 3rd, and 5th grade classrooms showing and discussing a videotape. The goal of the program is to help children: (1) increase their awareness of abuse and exploration; (2) develop skills and understanding that will help them avoid potentially abusive situations; (3) know how important it is to tell a trusted adult if they have been abused; and (4) understand that if a child has been abused it is not their fault. This is presented in an age appropriate format at different levels for the different age groups involved. After the video and some discussion, the children will be asked to talk with you about it. The videos will be made available for you to view on Tuesday, May 19th at 8:30 AM and on Thursday, May 21st at 2:30 PM in the conference room at Claypit Hill.

From the PTO

Save the Dates:

Ice Cream Social will be held on Monday, June 8th from 6-7:30 p.m. Rain date will be on Wednesday, June 10th!

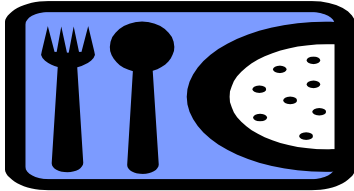


5th Grade Picnic and Games will be held on Tuesday, June 16th with a rain date of Thursday, June 18th.



Claypit Hill Reminders

Please feel free to join your child for lunch any day. If you would like a hot lunch, please call the office at 508 358 7401 in the morning *and we will order it for you. Thank you!*



Please send in back-up clothing for your children. Children sometimes get very wet when playing on the playground, so please remember to include some clothes, especially pants and socks, in your child's backpack! Thank you!



Specialist News

Please visit our specialist's websites for current happenings. (Please click the text to view each website)

[Art News – Ms. Bentley](#)

[Library news – Ms. Burman](#)

[Physical Education News – Mr. Chadsey](#)

[Music News – Ms. Vanaria](#)

[Technology Update – Ms. Colbert](#)

[Strings Update – Ms. Tandon \(4th and 5th grade\)](#)

[Band Update – Ms. Keenan](#)

[Technology News- Ms. Meyler](#)

[Strings Update – Ms. Jacobsen \(3rd grade\)](#)

News from the Health Room

Guidelines for Keeping Your Student Home Due to Illness

Keep your child home if he/she has:

1. **Fever** : Your child should remain at home with a fever greater than 100.4 degrees. A child can return to school after he/she has been fever free for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication such as Tylenol or Motrin)
2. **Diarrhea/Vomiting**: A child with diarrhea and/or vomiting should stay home and return to school after being symptom free for 24 hours
3. **Rashes**: A child with a suspicious rash should return to school only after a health care provider has made a diagnosis and authorized the child's return to school.
4. **Colds** : Consider keeping your child home if he/she is experiencing discomfort from cold symptoms, such as nasal congestion and cough. A continuous green discharge from the nose may be a sign of infection. Consider having your child seen by your health care provider.

Your child is expected to be picked up from school in a timely manner when sick, to reduce the spread of illness to other students and/or staff. Please make sure your cell phones are checked throughout your day if parents need to be contacted. All phone numbers need to be up to date in the school office.

Check your children for ticks:

1. **Important information about ticks and what you need to do to protect you and your family**
1. **Please read information on the following websites:**
http://kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/sheets/tick_bites_sheet.html
<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/StopTicks/>
<http://www.tickencounter.org>

Spring Allergies:

2. **Please be sure that you are observing your child for signs and symptoms of allergies**
3. **It is important that your child be given allergy medication before symptoms start**
4. **Many children will have watery, red, itchy eyes – and over the counter eye drops will help if given before school**

3rd Grade Parents:

5. **Please send in your child's updated physical. All 4th grade students are required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to have a physical on file going into 4th grade. Any physical dated Aug 1, 2014 or after will qualify.**

Spring=Mud:

1. **Please be sure that your child has back up clothing, season appropriate, available at school. The health room cannot be responsible for clothing your wet child. Your child may end up uncomfortable or you may receive a call asking you to come to school with back up clothing.**

Please contact me with any questions and/or concerns.

Cindy Forti RN
Cindy_forti@wayland.k12.ma.us
508-358-3779

Calendar of Events for May and June

Event	Location	Date(s)
4th Grade Field Trip (Olivier & Mello)	Broadmoor	Tuesday, May 12 th 9:30-11:30
Kind. Field Trip (Root & Seligson)	Garden in the Woods	Thursday, May 14 th 9:30-12:00
1st Grade Field Trip (Walther & Dines)	Natick Organic Farm	Friday, May 15 th
Game Night, 1st and 2nd Grade	Cafeteria	Friday, May 15 th , 6:00-7:30
5th Grade Class Photo	Outside	Friday, May 15 th , 9:15 a.m.
3rd Grade Field Trip (Murphy & Bertram)	Grout Heard House	Monday, May 18 th
4th Grade Field Trip (Langston & Postma)	Broadmoor	Tuesday, May 19 th 9:30-11:30
3rd Grade Lexington Field Trip, (Owen & Par. Whitesides)	Lexington	Thursday, May 21 st
1st Grade Field Trip (Rossi & Laudenslager)	Natick Organic Farm	Friday, May 22 nd
3rd Grade Lexington Field Trip, (Bertram & Murphy)	Lexington	Friday, May 22 nd
2nd Grade North End Field Trip	Boston	Friday, May 22 nd
3rd Grade Field Trip (Owen & Par./Whitesides)	Grout Heard House	Wednesday, May 27 th
5th Grade Play	Gym	Thursday, May 28 th 10:00 a.m & 7:00 p.m.
School concert	Gym	Monday, June 1 st 10:00
Author Visit		Tuesday, June 2 nd
FIELD DAY!	Outside	Wednesday, June 3 rd (Thursday, June 4 th rain date)
Talent Show	Gym/Stage	Friday, June 5 th 6:00-8:00 p.m.
All School Meeting	Gym	Monday, June 8 th 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.
Parent Coffee (Meet Ms. Harvey)	Cafeteria	Monday, June 8 th 10:00 a.m.
Ice Cream Social	Outside	Monday, June 8 th 6:00 -7:30 p.m. (Wednesday, June 19 th rain date)
5th Grade Biography Celebration	Outside	Thursday, June 11 th (Friday, June 12 th rain date)
5th Grade Picnic	Outside	Tuesday, June 16 th 11:00 – 1:00 p.m. (Thursday, June 18 th rain date)
Move along day		Friday, June 19 th
All School Meeting	Gym	Monday, June 22 nd 9:00 a.m.
Last Day of School		Monday, June 22 nd 1:50 p.m dismissal