



Claypit Hill Monthly Newsletter November, 2014

Principal's Message

"Thac you for helping me wen I did not no wut to do." Note left in the office yesterday for office staff from a first grader

Dear Claypit Hill Families,

November is the month when we think about so many ways to give thanks. Soon we will be having "Claypit Cares" when the whole school creates projects for people with varying needs - food, clothes or just positive messages to brighten their day. Veteran's Day is a reminder to be thankful for all the Veterans who have given their lives for our country and who have helped to protect people all over the world. We end the month with our Giving Thanks School Meeting on November 26th, definitely a highlight of the year! This is the last time I will write a November newsletter and I certainly have a lot to be thankful about. As I stated in our August 20th newsletter, this year is the last year of my educational career and "I have a lot of work ahead which I will embrace with as much enthusiasm as when I began in 2006" at Claypit Hill. My plan for the year is to stay focused on THIS year – continue to work on goals, school improvement plans, CREATE, collaboration with staff and families, and most importantly to keep my focus on the students. There have already been nostalgic moments and I am creating a myriad of lasting images to take with me during the next exciting phase of my life. I trust the process that Dr. Stein has created for finding the best principal for this wonderful school. I hope that you get involved!

So – in my cleaning out and organizing, I keep finding things that are making me smile and laugh. I recently came across a folder of student writing from 2006, explaining to me how they will change their behavior and take it on a more positive track. Enjoy the excerpts.....a few spelling errors but not many!

Fifth Grader: Dear Ms. Bearse, I am sorry of what happened in the cafeteria. I did my share of cleaning because I deserved it. It was inappropriate and disrespectful...throwing food is also bad manners and I want good manners.....Your student (name)

Fourth Grader: sorry Ms. Bearse, I should not have run down the hall. Can I have one more chance. I will walk. Sorry Ms. Bearse

Fourth Grader: I am here because I was joking about pantsing to the class and (name) took me seriously and tried to pants me but he didn't. If I could start the day over I would not joke about pantsing.

Third Grader: Today at football we got a little too compeditave. We both hit each other once. I tried to slap the ball out of (name) hand and accidentally hit him so he hit me back. I think I should of asked for the ball or controlled my temper. I AM SORRY.

Third Grader: What I did was take (name) tamagatchy. I know what I did was bad. I just really wanted to play but my battery died. I thought I could take it for one day and give it back the next day. If I could start again I wouldn't have taken the tamagatchy. And I should have asked (name) first. I am sorry.

Second Grader: Dear (name), I am really sorry for punching you in the face yesterday. I feel really bad about it. From (name)

Second Grader: We're sorry we put jello in (name) hat. I knew it was wrong that I did that. I made a bad choice.

I hope you enjoyed a glimpse of what went on in the principal's office in 2006. Enjoy and thank you for sending us your amazing 2014 kids!

Sincerely,

Debbie Bearse

Kid's Quote of the Month

I was visiting a kindergarten class last week and I wore my glasses instead of my contacts. I said hello to a student who I know pretty well and he said, "Oh, it's you, I didn't recognize you." I said, "(Name), is it because I am wearing my glasses?" He said, "No, you changed your clothes."



Thank you to...

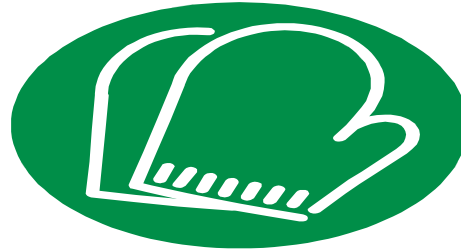
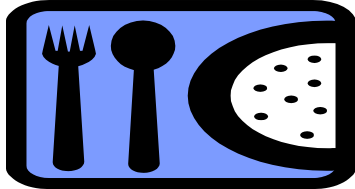
Thank you to all the families that attended the PTO sponsored Kindergarten Play Date that took place last month. It was great to see so many families and the kids enjoyed the Nature Scavenger Hunt and Apple Decorating. Thank you to Alissa Duffy and Jamie Larsen for organizing this event!



Thank you to Mr. Chadsey for helping promote Gift Your Child!

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!*



Cold weather is upon us, so please remember to send your child in with a jacket, gloves, hats and warm shoes. If your child is not dressed appropriately for the colder days, he/she will not be able to participate in recess.

Curriculum Corner

First Grade

In Room 108 we love a good read aloud and especially love the Pete the Cat books. Our favorite this year is Pete the Cat and the New Guy written and illustrated by James and Kimberly Dean. At the beginning of the year, during Reader's Workshop, we are learning to sit with our E.E.K.K partners while we listen and think about the read aloud book. E.E.K.K stands for **E**ye to **E**ye and **K**nee to **K**nee and we work with these partners and have a conversation about a book we listened to or a reading strategy we learned. Later in the year we will read books or poems with our E.E.K.K partners. This week we loved talking about how Pete the Cat likes to make new friends and how we have made so many new friends so far this year! – **Ms. Walther**



Second Grade

In the month of October, second grade mathematicians were busy exploring place value. Students learned more about three-digit numbers and the many ways that they can be represented. We began the unit by building numbers using the base-ten blocks. This allowed students to better understand the value of each digit in a three-digit number, and what it represents. They also used these manipulatives to explore other ways that you can represent a number. Students proved that 2 hundreds, 6 tens, and 7 ones was equal to 1 hundred, 16 tens, and 7 ones and explained why this is true. These explorations and visual representations helped students gain a better understanding of how to compare three-digit numbers, write numbers in expanded form ($264 = 200 + 60 + 4$), and skip count by 5's, 10's and 100's beginning at any three-digit number. Thinking flexibly about three-digit numbers will help us later in second grade when we learn about adding and subtracting three-digit numbers with regrouping. Did you know there are so many ways to represent a three-digit number?

- **Becky Lepow, K-2 Math Coach**

Curriculum Corner (continued)

Third Grade

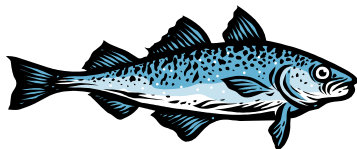
Third grade students have begun to learn about Massachusetts, which is part of their Social Studies curriculum. We have enjoyed learning about some of the stories behind the Massachusetts State Emblems - for example, the state insect, the state tree, the state dog, the state marine mammal, and even the state dessert! Students were amused by the story of the wooden model of a codfish hanging over the chamber for the

Representatives at the State House (the Sacred Cod!) and the iron fish which hangs above the chandelier in the Senate room in the State House (the Holy Mackerel!). Originally, these symbols were hung to remind Senators and Representatives to think of the fishing industry when passing laws! We have also learned why Maine's state tree - the white pine - or, rather its pine cone - is featured above our Massachusetts State House!

Students were surprised to find that Maine used to be part of Massachusetts - one big territory - linked by a common government, but not contiguous on the map!

Each student will now prepare a page for our class book of MA state emblems!

- Ms Murphy



Fourth Grade

- In fourth grade, teachers are implementing the Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) writing program to instruct and empower students in developing their written language skills. Positive self-talk is an integral part of the SRSD program that helps students preserve when asked to plan, organize, and formulate their thoughts and ideas into a well-crafted written piece. Initially, positive self-talk can sound a bit strange to the student's ear as they practice talking in the third person. However, with practice students are learning that when they put their name into a positive self-talk statements such as, "(Name) will try!", it encourages them to maintain their focus and attention when they are feeling stuck and want to abandon a writing assignment. Learning to apply positive self-talk is a life skill that children can use in all areas of their life. Incorporating it into the one's set of writing strategies, empowers students to become their own personal writing coach.

- Ms. Postma



Fifth Grade

Small Group Instruction for Reading Comprehension: In fifth grade, students begin to synthesize their knowledge of different texts to make comparisons and connections between events and characters. Classroom teachers model these skills in reading aloud texts, so that students can apply these strategies in guided reading groups or literature circles. During small group, students come together to have collaborative conversations about the text. While building oral language skills, these collaborative discussions allow students to enhance their comprehension skills. Together, they develop skills to follow the growth of characters throughout a novel, recognize themes, and determine the authors' purposes. Small group leaders include classroom teachers, the reading teacher and special educator. For tips on how to enhance your child's comprehension at home visit my website [Ms. Pellerin](#), Reading Specialist.



Specialist News

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

Library News

- Ms. Burman

Physical Education News

- Mr. Chadsey

Music News

- Ms. Keenan

Music News

- Ms. Vanaria

Technology Update

- Ms. Colbert

Art News

- Ms. Bentley



Upcoming Cultural Enrichment Performance on November 24th.

BECOME YOUR DREAMS: HISTORY OF HIP HOP DANCE

With incredible energy and personalities to match, the dancers of Illstyle & Peace demonstrate that by perseverance and focus, you can reach your highest goals. Tracing hip hop dance styles from the late 70's through today, this acclaimed ensemble teaches positive messages, including "Think It—Do It—Become It." Become Your Dreams celebrates the art and movement of hip hop and includes a funky blend of locking, breaking, popping, tap and house dancing, vocal percussions, D.J.ing, and modern and traditional dance forms. An emphasis is placed on the similarity of some hip hop moves to those found in ballet, modern and traditional dance forms. In this show students also get to come on stage and share their own creative dance moves!



Kindergarten and First Grade Movie Night!

Join your fellow Kindergarten and 1st Grade Claypit Hill families for Movie Night!

Friday, November 14th
6-8 pm (movie will start at 6:15)
Claypit Hill Gymnasium
Movie: Rio 2 (running time 101 minutes)

Popcorn and water will be served
No cost for the event
Siblings are welcome!



Any questions, please contact Alissa Duffy alissaduffy@hotmail.com or Jamie Larsen jahlarsen@gmail.com

Just Like Me

~ Intellectual Limitations Unit ~

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Sign-up at: <http://vols.pt/Cdw1h8>

Tuesday, November 18th

Ms. Mello's Class: 8:50am-10:30am

Ms. Scarpulla's Class: 10:35am-12:15pm

Wednesday, November 19th

Ms. Postma's Class: 9:00am-10:45am

Ms. Foley/Olivier's Class: 10:45am-12:15pm

Training Session - Thursday, November 13th, 7-8pm
at Loker Elementary

Parent volunteers lead small group activities with the students. The training session gives you an overview of the unit and activities. Please contact one of the coordinators if you would like to volunteer, but are unable to attend the training session

JLM CHS Coordinators

Meredith Tobe
Meredith.Tobe@gmail.com

Jennifer Varney
JenniferAnneVarney@gmail.com

7th Annual Holiday Gift Drive for Children in Foster Care!

Please volunteer to help children in Massachusetts Department of Children & Families (DCF) enjoy this holiday season. Your gift(s) will mean so much to a child in foster care that might otherwise go without any presents this holiday season. Please email claypitgiftdrive@gmail.com and let me know if you prefer to shop for a boy or girl and if you prefer a certain age range (4-13 years old.) I will email (or send to your child's classroom) a specific child's "Wish List." Purchase any items on the list keeping in mind there are listed "needs" and "wants." The wish list has been created by the child's social worker, with input from the foster child. The wish lists are gift suggestions. Gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart, Game Stop, etc. are greatly appreciated. Drop off your UNwrapped gift between Dec 2-5 at school or anytime before Dec 5 at my home. Details will be sent when you select your foster child to shop for! Your time, energy and gift for Framingham children in foster care is greatly appreciated. Best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season. Karen Munroe, claypitgiftdrive@gmail.com or [781-726-2685](tel:781-726-2685)



Wayland Schools and Community News

Green Team Announcement & Tips:



Announcements:

Hands-on opportunities - On November 13th we will be at the Happy Hollow garden from 3:30-5pm and on December 11th we will be at the Loker garden, also from 3:30-5pm, to help put both gardens to rest for the winter. See you there.

Idling Concerns - We are working with each school to educate parents and students on the health, environmental and fiscal concerns associated with car idling. If your car will be idling for more than two minutes, please turn it off. Let's not allow the schools' air filtering systems to bring this dirty air into the classrooms! Thank you.

Tips for Saving Energy:

- 1- During cold months, lower your thermostat to 68° by day and 60°-62° by night.
- 2- Adjust your water heater's temperature to between 115° and 120° and save on water heating costs. And if you go away for more than a weekend, turn it down to the "vacation" setting.
- 3- Replace your incandescent and CFL light bulbs with LEDs, which are now available at reasonable costs. Look for CREE bulbs, for example, at Home Depot, Batteries Plus (Rt.9) or on Amazon. Many other options now available.
- 4- Use powerstrips to plug in all electronics and turn off powerstrips when not in use. This avoids phantom loads. Turn off your computers at night (this will not harm them).
- 5- Test for air leaks next to windows, doors, electrical boxes, plumbing fixtures, electrical outlets, ceiling fixtures, attic hatches and other locations where there is a possible air path to the outside. These areas may need caulking, sealing or weather stripping. For more information about the Green Team, go to www.waylandgreenteam.org. Please see the Transition Wayland website at <http://blog.transitionwayland.org/> for more info on related events in Wayland.

Thank you. -Wayland Schools Green Team



Become a Girl Scout

In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship and power of girls together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences, such as field trips, skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full individual potential. If you have a daughter interested in joining a troop, please contact



Karen Montague at kdm55@verizon.net.

Calendar of Events for November and December

EVENT	Location	Date(s)
NO SCHOOL – Veteran’s Day		Tuesday, November 11th
5th Grade Rocket Launch	Large playground	Friday, November 14 th , 2:00 p.m.
5th Grade Roller Kingdom		Thursday, November 20 th 3:00-6:00 p.m.
Cultural Enrichment – Hip Hop Dance	Gym	Monday, November 24 th 9:00-9:45 (grades k-2) 10:00-10:45 (grades 3-5)
Giving Thanks Assembly	Gym	Wednesday, November 26 th , 10:45 a.m.
½ Day Dismissal		Wednesday, November 26 th , 12:00
NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess		Thursday and Friday, November 27 th and 28th
Band Concert	Gym	Wednesday, December 10 th 7 p.m.
School Concert	Gym	Thursday, December 11 th 10 -11 a.m.
Strings Concert	Gym	Thursday, December 11 th 7 p.m.
Last day of school for 2014		Tuesday, December 23 rd 3:00 dismissal

