



Claypit Hill Monthly Newsletter October 9, 2014

Principal's Message

"Play is our brain's favorite way of learning." Diane Ackerman – author

Dear Claypit Hill Families,

After five weeks of school, I can happily report that it has been a great start with students coming into school every day – smiling, laughing, and some skipping. I have seen very few students in my office for negative behavior – and classrooms are focused on learning and building community. Please notice the Kid's Quote this month, which follows this message – the kindergartener who drew the picture says it all!

Last week, parents received MCAS scores and so many students have exhibited a lot of growth, as showcased by their MCAS scores. As many know, I do not focus solely on MCAS scores in elementary school, as we continue to use them to improve teaching and learning – one piece of the puzzle which is important to a child's academic journey. However, the State does form a judgment on schools, based on MCAS, and I am happy to report that Claypit Hill is a LEVEL 1 school, after having been a LEVEL 2 school the previous 2 years. Simply, this means that all student groups have reached a certain growth percentile benchmark that the State has set for us. We made it!!!!!! **I want to stress that this was not accomplished by giving students more homework or skipping recess.** The teachers in all departments worked strategically and collaboratively in specific areas during the school day and we will continue this effort. Weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) meetings, and RTI (Response to Intervention) groupings have all lead to this growth over the past few years. Enough about MCAS – I would like to say a few words about PLAY.....

Each year I devote at least one newsletter to the importance of PLAY. Play is what builds cooperative skills and taps into a child's deepest creativity. Budding architects, engineers, scientists, mathematicians benefit from a strong foundation in PLAY. PLAY allows children to practice what they are learning in school, in sports, in music, in art. In the article, "Child's Play Is About More Than Games," by Peter Gray and Lenore Skenazy, it was noted, "In play, children must solve their own problems – emotional, social, physical or intellectual. In the other parts of a child's life, adults jump in and make everything work. In play, children are the adults. Play is practice for adulthood, because in play the children are in charge." <http://online.wsj.com/articles/peter-gray-and-lenore-skenazy-childs-play-is-about-more-than-games-1409179516> "There's no better way to raise innovators than to allow and encourage play." I encourage you to read this article. At Claypit Hill, we will continue to put a strong emphasis on PLAY – continuing 2 recesses each day, and earning extra recess at special times. We will continue to focus on the whole child, balancing the arts, social/emotional learning with academics. We will continue to pay close attention to MCAS and all academic areas, without giving more homework. Thank you to the special parent who sent me this article! If you have an article to share, I'd love to read it.

Enjoy the month – please read Curriculum Corner as we are revising and improving it – and have fun participating in October activities!

Sincerely,

Debbie Bearse

Kid's Quote of the Month

Life at Claypit Hill School, "Heart Swings" - Kindergartener



Thank you to...

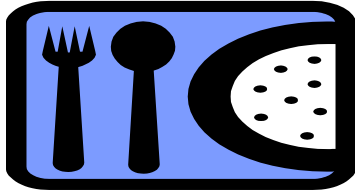
All the wonderful book fair volunteers and our wonderful book fair coordinators, **Niki Duffy, Lani Camacho, Britt Rjanikov, and Kim Long.**

Meredith Tobe for all your hardwork coordinating the libray volunteers and the Just Like Me volunteers.

And all the parents who volunteered for Picture Day!

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.

Curriculum Corner

Kindergarten

The kindergarten students began their yearlong seasonal study of trees by getting to know the trees in our schoolyard. Kindergartners will record their observations of a specific tree each season and discuss how the tree changes. The children also learned the parts of the tree and the differences between broadleaf and conifer trees. The fall is a great time of year for comparing the many attributes of the leaves we collect. We learned about the different stages of an apple tree in order to get ready for our field trip to an apple orchard.

- **Ms. Seligson**



First Grade

Open Circle is a social and emotional learning program for grades K-5 and is a part of our social studies curriculum. Through this program, we strive to help your children become valuable contributing members at school and in the community.

Open Circle is a leading provider of evidence-based curriculum and professional development for social and emotional learning in elementary schools. Research shows that implementation of a social emotional program such as open circle results in a reduced number of bullying incidents and increased achievement scores. Since 1987, Open Circle has reached two million children and 14,000 educators. Open Circle is currently used in over 300 schools across the United States. If you would like to learn more check out the Open Circle website

<http://www.open-circle.org>

- **Ms. Dines**

Second Grade

The second graders are studying weather as part of their Earth Science unit. Through discourse and reflective thinking, students will learn about air as a form of a gas, various types of clouds, forms of precipitation, and identify tools that measure specific weather characteristics. They will read informational texts to help build their content knowledge and vocabulary. They will generate graphs to observe weather patterns to see how weather changes day to day. Students will also study the water cycle, which describes the process of how water moves through the Earth's environment.

To culminate this unit, each class will visit the Blue Hill Observatory in Milton, Massachusetts. It is the home of the oldest climate record in our nation. Students will see scientists using tools that have helped make measurements of weather conditions for over 120 years! The students will tour the Observatory, observe different weather instruments, build kites, and take a guided hike on the grounds. Who knows, there could be a future meteorologist among us?!

- **Ms. Pesaturo**

Curriculum Corner

Third Grade

During the month of October third graders will have an opportunity to express in writing their many opinions. Students have been introduced to two different mnemonics that will help them to structure a cohesive, well-written paragraph. The first mnemonic is POW; pick your ideas, organize your ideas, write and say more. As students are organizing, they then use TREE, the second mnemonic. This stands for topic introduction, reasons, examples, and ending. Third graders will begin by responding to simple topics, such as their favorite season or favorite free time activity. After much practice students will be asked to give their opinions based on texts they have read. They will be sure to include examples from the text to support their opinion.

- **Ms. Bertram**



Fourth Grade

Fourth Grade Social Studies Travel Log Project
Every fall, fourth graders begin a year long study of the United States's geography. Students start by writing a letter telling about where they live. Different classes achieve this in a variety of ways, whether it be independently, in small groups, as a whole class, or a combination of those. The letter is one of the ways that students review and think about New England and the Northeast as a larger region of the United States. Once the letters are in the travel log journal, students are asked to send it to someone they or their families know in another part of the country. The recipient writes about where they live and sends it along to someone else. Each person who gets the travel log sends a postcard directly to Claypit so that we can learn about the US and students can "follow" their travel log. Sometime in May or June, the travel logs get sent back to Claypit for students to read and share about many places around the US, and sometimes the world. Fourth graders get very excited about this project, love getting post cards, and learn quite a bit about other states and regions! As post cards start coming in, we will start posting them on maps outside of the technology room. Check them out when you are in the building!

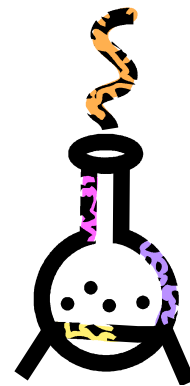
- **Ms. Mello**

Fifth Grade

The fifth grade scientists are off to a great start! We started out the year learning about our brain and what an amazing machine it is! The students took quizzes to see what their dominant learning style is and learned a lot about how different our brains all are.

Then we briefly studied the process of the scientific method using various experiments involving paper helicopters and gummy bears. Now we are off and running on our first major unit on astronomy. The students are learning about our place in the solar system, the Sun, Earth's moon and all of the eight planets. We will soon be starting our big astronomy E.T. project, where the students will become experts on a planet and design a creature that is adapted to live on that planet. Stay tuned for information on our annual rocket launch!

- **Ms. Malm**



Specialist News

Library News



Welcome back to school and welcome to all of our new students! We have had a busy month here at the Claypit Hill School library. Kindergarten and first grade students toured their new library, and have discussed taking care of books and how to choose books they enjoy. Kindergarten and first grade students may take out one item each week. Encourage students to have a special spot at home where they keep their library books. Second graders have been discussing ways to choose a just right book. They have learned that our nonfiction section is organized in a special way - the Dewey Decimal System. Second graders may take out two items. Third graders have been reviewing ways to choose books. They reviewed the Dewey Decimal System, and viewed the Claypit Hill School library eBook collection. Ask them to show you how to find an eBook! Third graders may take out 3 items. Fourth graders reviewed the Dewey Decimal System. They viewed our eBook collection and new ways to search the library catalog. They reviewed reference tools. Fourth graders may take out 3 items. Fifth graders reviewed the Dewey Decimal system and they reviewed the encyclopedia and encyclopedia index. Ask them to show you how to find an eBook. Fifth graders may take out 3 items.

If you are interested in volunteering in the library, please send an email to ruth_burman@wayland.k12.ma.us

For a lot more information about the library including weekly updates, book lists, content area web sites, students at work, and much more, please visit Ms. Burman's web site:

<https://sites.google.com/a/wayland.k12.ma.us/ms-burman-s-library-classes/>

Happy Reading!
Ms. Burman
Library Teacher
Claypit Hill School

Music News

Band – Tristie Keenan

4th grade band has begun and we are starting to learn to make music on our instruments. This month we



will be learning our first few notes and how to care

for our instruments

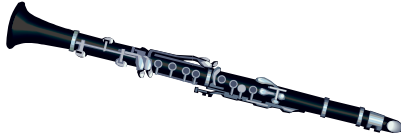
The 5th grade band students will be performing in this month at a Wayland High School football game. Come out and help us support our team on Friday, October 17th at 7:00 pm.

Specialist News (continued)

Music News

1st Grade Music – Tristie Keenan

First graders will be singing and moving in music class this month. We will be singing songs such as 'The 5 little pumpkins'. We will be playing instruments to books such as 'The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid Of Anything'.



3rd Grade Workshop – Tristie Keenan

3rd graders will be learning how to read treble clef notation this month. We will be playing songs such as 'Skin and Bones' and 'Helter Skelter'.

Tristie Keenan

Elementary Band Director

<http://waylandelementaryband.weebly.com>

Music Highlights from Ms. Vanaria

First and Second Grade music students have been working on the difference between beat and rhythm. Ask your child to sing "Apple Tree", or to play the "Bumble Bee" game with you! Can you tell the difference between the beat and the rhythm?

Third grade music students have been working on music notation. We are practicing our note-reading skills to get ready to play the recorder!

Ask your child to tell you the names of the notes on the staff!

Fourth grade students have learned about orchestral and band instruments this past month. We listened and analyzed Gliere's *Russian Sailor's Dance* and Holst's *Fantasia on Dargason* and sang the song *Ding Dong* while playing Orff classroom instruments.

Fifth graders have been working hard on their singing skills. We had fun singing and playing the game *Cheerio*. All fifth graders have focused on the way melodies move in music. They can all identify a step, leap or a repeated tone!

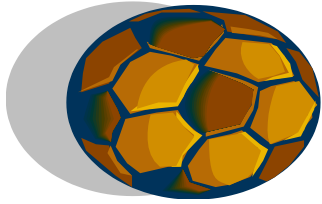
Comments or Questions?

Please email me at:

Bernadette_Vanaria@Wayland.k12.ma.us

<http://claypithillvanariamusic.weebly.com>

Physical Education News



Please see Mr. Chadsey's website for physical education news. . .

<http://dexchads.wix.com/start>

Art News

Student Art Work

This year students work with basic skills and nature for many of the creations this fall.

Kindergarten Family Drawings

Kindergarten students viewed the painting titled, "Wedding Dance," by Peter Bruegel. We discussed people and people they know like family members. Some of the work is displayed at the Town Hall in the School Committee Room, during the month of October.



Grade 1 Self-Portrait Environment Painting

Students painted a Self-Portrait painting. They placed themselves in an environment for a background. They painted the portrait and used oils pastels for details.



Grade 2 Beanstalk Mixed Media

Students toured the Claypit Hill Garden beanstalk vines during art class before drawing vines and stalks for a painting. One of the lesson objectives was overlapping lines and shapes and "point of view."



Grade 3 The Pumpkin Draw

Each year, students work through a series of lessons and exercises that develop their imagination, visual perception and fine motor skills. All third grade students complete a drawing of a pumpkin that hangs in the hallway marking the end of the lesson series.



Grade 4 Floral Still Life and Landscape Painting

Fourth grade students painted floral still lives, and many painted the Sunflowers of the Claypit Hill Garden after their garden tour. Students were encouraged to use complementary color schemes for their paintings. Many sample paintings hang in the hallways of our school.



Grade 5 Graphic Lettering Design

Fifth grade students created name designs from their initials or monogram letters of their names. They discussed the importance of international, primitive and icon graphic symbols. Students worked with the principles of design in contrast, balance, radial design, and positive and negative space.



Technology News

Grade 1:

The First Graders were introduced to LARK and discussed the Wayland Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. Students have been practicing their tech skills by logging into their accounts, utilizing proper mouse navigation by clicking on links, opening and closing windows and logging out of their accounts

Grade 2:

The Second Graders have been very busy this month! First, we discussed LARK, the Wayland Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy. Next, the students learned how to navigate the Claypit Hill website.

Lastly, the students created beautiful fall trees in KidPix. Multiple tech skills were involved in this project: using the pencil, freestyle tool, paint bucket, undo button and also selecting a printer. Did you see your child's tree in his/her backpack?

Grade 3:

The Third Graders reviewed the Wayland Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy, LARK. They clearly are on their way to becoming excellent digital citizens as so many remembered and understood this policy when we reviewed it early in September. Next, the Third Graders were introduced to our keyboarding site, All the Right Type 4 Online.

Grade 4:

The Fourth Graders reviewed the Wayland Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy, LARK. We reviewed the important components in class, for example, do not give out personal information on the internet. We had great discussions centered on this policy. This year, we will be using Google Apps for Students in 4th Grade. All the students logged in and created Tech Folders in Drive. The students will learn the necessary tech navigation in Drive and will complete several projects this year in Documents, Presentations. Lastly, Fourth Graders logged into All the Right Type 4 Online, our keyboarding program.

Grade 5:

The Fifth Graders reviewed the Wayland Public Schools Acceptable Use Policy, LARK. The students are really beginning to understand the importance of digital citizenship as well as what that means in their own lives at school and home. Fifth Graders logged into Google Apps for Students and we discussed some basic navigation skills in Drive. We will be exploring and creating in Google Apps all throughout this year! Fifth Graders also logged in to All the Right Type, our keyboarding program

*Please note: Students will have access to Google Docs, Calendar and Sites but not Gmail in Google Apps for Students. Students will have access to Gmail beginning in sixth grade.

News from the Health Room

Enterovirus D-68

- Please read the information available from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health regarding this respiratory virus. See www.mass.gov/dph/enterovirus and www.cdc.gov/.
- Parents should continue to monitor their children for signs and symptoms of any illness. EV-D68 can cause fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. Often there is no fever. (from the Boston Public Health Commission)
- Children should stay home from school if they are not feeling well to prevent spreading germs to others.
- Parents should be checking their cell phones throughout the day.
- It is important for your school nurse to be able to reach a parent if your child is ill and/or has any injury.
- Parents need to be able to pick their children up at school in a timely manner.
- Please have a backup plan (such as a neighbor) if you are not readily available.
- Please reinforce with your children: Encourage frequent hand washing with soap and water, especially after coughing and sneezing. Soap and water are preferred, but alcohol based hand sanitizers can be used. (from the Boston Public Health Commission)
- Practice good “cough etiquette” by coughing or sneezing into a tissue, or into your elbow instead of your hands. (from the Boston Public Health Commission).

Flu Clinics at the Town Building:

Community Walk in Flu Clinics

**Wednesday October 8, 15, 29th
2PM-7PM**

Town Building

Please bring Insurance Cards



Vision and Hearing Screening:

- Vision and Hearing screening will be held November 3-7.
- Vision and Hearing is a mandated screening required by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
- Vision screening is done in grades 1-5 and hearing screening in grades K-3. Vision will be done on K+ students that do not have documentation on their physicals as it is required before entry to school.
- Letters will be sent home if your child fails their screening. If your child is followed outside of school by a specialist, please send in a written note excusing your child from this screening.
- Student should wear their glasses if required for the testing

Reminders:

- All 4th graders require an updated physical this year. Please send in your 2014 physical, attention: school nurse.
- Please be sure that your child is appropriately clothed with the colder days ahead.
- Children in the lower grade levels should have a change of clothes available, placed in their backpacks in the event that clothes get wet during the school day.
- Please be sure your children are eating a good breakfast before they come to school. A nut free morning snack should also be sent in with your child, to sustain them through their day.

Please contact me with any questions and/or concerns. I am available in the school from 8am-3:00. 508-358-3779

Cindy Forti RN

cindy_forti@wayland.k12.ma.us



Wayland Schools and Community News

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 October and November

EVENT	Location	Date(s)
Book Fair	Lobby	October 6, 7, 8, 9
NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day		Monday, October 13th
Grade 4 Fruitlands Field Trip		Tuesday, October 14 th
Kindergarten Field Trip, Shelburne Farm		Thursday, October 16th
Grade 2 Field Trip, Blue Hills		Monday, October 20 th
Grades 3- 5 All School Meeting	Gymnasium	Monday, October 20th
Grade 2 Field Trip, Blue Hills		Tuesday, October 21 st
Grades K-2 All School Meeting	Gymnasium	Monday, October 27 th
Grade 3 Plymouth Plantation Trip		Tuesday, November 4th
NO SCHOOL – Veteran’s Day		Tuesday, November 11th
5th Grade Rocket Launch	Large playground	Friday, November 14th
5th Grade Roller Kingdom		Thursday, November 20 th
½ Day Dismissal		Wednesday, November 26th
NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Recess		Thursday and Friday, November 27 th and 28th