

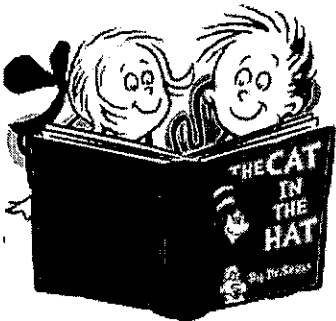
Littleton Winter Newsletter

Parsippany-Troy Hills BoE

Volume 11, Issue 5

5th Grade News

In Social Studies, the Fifth Graders are learning about the thirteen colonies and the Revolutionary War period. They are engaged in many activities to help



Dr. Seuss Day
March 2nd

them understand how our country evolved.

In Science, the students are participating in hands-on activities that enable them to apply their learned knowledge of how matter can be changed physically and chemically. Inquiry-based learning has helped students grasp concepts by applying real-life connections.

In Reading, the students enjoy center-based learn-

ing activities and small group instruction.

In Writing, the students are researching influential people who have or have had a positive impact on society. They are organizing and preparing information to later share with us.

In Math, students are working with decimals and fractions to apply various strategies to perform the different operations.

Upcoming Events:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1/2 day — Parent/Teacher Conference | 3/2*- 4 *Night |
| Kindergarten Registration | 3/7*-8 *Night |
| Closed—Good Friday | 3/25 |
| Half Day—Prof. Development Day | 4/4 |
| PARCC—Gr. 3 | 4/4—8 |
| Closed Spring Break | 4/11—15 |
| PARCC—Gr. 4 | 4/18—25 |
| PARCC — Gr. 5 | 4/26—5/3 |

Instrumental Music News

The Blue & White Band represented Littleton, as well as all of the elementary schools on our side of town, on February 24th at the “Bands of Par-

-Troy West” concert. On the program with our students were Brooklawn’s 8th grade band and both bands from PHHS. The finale com-

bined all of these groups together for a medley of patriotic favorites. Everyone enjoyed a great evening of music!

VOCAL MUSIC NEWS

In Kindergarten we have been moving in all directions and levels, and tempos (speeds) while imitating snowflakes. Please ask your children to chant "Seven Silly Squirrels" and sing "Five Little Snowmen Fat". Soon we will start the little story of "What will Little Bear Wear?" It is written by Else Minarek.

In First Grade we are finding one and two sounds on the beat using chants and songs. We learned a fun dance from Germany for Valentine's Day.

In Second Grade we are using our knowledge of solfege and pitch and putting

it on the staff for songs we know. Please ask your child how to sing and play the game "Pizza, Pizza, Daddy-O".

Third Graders have learned 5 notes on the flutophone and have expanded their repertoire to well known pieces such as Mary Had a Little Lamb. Bravo!

In Fourth Grade, we've been using 16th note combinations to create a rap.

Fifth Graders are doing a 6-week survey of classical musicians.

They started with Bach and will continue to one of the greatest living composers, John Williams.



NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

February was a busy month for the Kindergarten group. We celebrated Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and President's Day. We learned ways to take care of our teeth and how to keep our hearts healthy for Dental and Heart Health month.

In March, we are excited to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and St. Patrick's Day. Look out for Lenny the Lepre-

chaun! He loves to visit the Kindergarten classrooms around St. Patty's Day!

Our reading skills are developing and we are busy working on decoding words. Through reading groups, class stories, and cooperative learning, our students are eager to crack the code and read.

We are looking forward to our next

Look out for Lenny the
Leprechaun!

field trip to the Shrine Circus in May.

PRESCHOOL—MISS CONTUZZI AND MISS KAREN

The Preschoolers at Littleton School enjoyed the 100th day of school! The students have been learning to count by 10's and enjoyed the 100th day celebration in our classroom. The 3-year old class is learning their ABC's, numbers, and how to write their names. The 4-year old class is prac-

ticing writing skills and learning how to rhyme. This year we are studying pets, buildings and recycling. The Preschoolers also predicted if the Groundhog would see his shadow and they are very excited for an early Spring!



Almost Spring?

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

March, already? The Fourth Grade has been so busy learning new things that time seems to be flying by. Some of the fascinating topics that have been keeping us busy are: fractions in Math, the history of the United States, and the study of plants and animals in Science. The students have also been improving their comprehension skills while enjoying various

chapter books and other forms of literature. Our classrooms are overflowing with fantastic writers as we continue working on informative and narrative writing

Students in Fourth Grade are anticipating in events such as the PARCC test, NJASK



Science test, a spring field trip, and the spring concert. All signs are pointing towards the rest of Fourth Grade being a great year!

FIRST GRADE HAPPENINGS

The children are continuing to work on addition and subtraction concepts and strategies. Flash cards are a great way to "practice, practice" facts at home!

Brrr! It is cold, and the students have been investigating how animals and humans around the world adapt to the winter weather changes. We will soon be studying changes in nature as Spring approaches. But until then, stay warm and THINK SPRING!

Happy Birthday Dr. King! Students have

been reflecting on the importance of his life and message. This is a great beginning as we learn more about tolerance, uniqueness, and the rights of all Americans.

THINK SPRING!

NEWS FROM GRADE 2

As the students embrace the second half of the school year, they look forward to writing in cursive, studying where they live in relation to the rest of the world, and exploring science experiments. February brought forth

many exciting holidays in which the students incorporated math and writing. We're all looking forward to the upcoming biography reports and presentations this month too!



SAM I AM

no matter how
long the winter,
spring is sure
to follow

AshleyNevisPrints.com

THIRD GRADE UPDATE

Third Grade students have been focusing this marking period on division and fractions in Math. They are enjoying working with different strategies for solving math word problems and using their math manipulatives.

Our students are continuing to develop strong writing skills as they refine their persuasive, narrative, and expository writing. The use of Four Square definitely helps them to organize their thoughts and paragraph development.

Our Third Graders are strengthening their reading comprehension strategies in class. Summarizing, predicting, making text connections, and detecting evidence in the text are examples of these strategies.

In Science we are studying life cycles of plants, animals, and insects and are looking

forward to our field trip in April to the Arboretum.

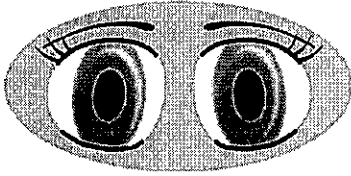
In the area of Social Studies, the children are studying Native American Regions, including the Southwest, The Plains, the Northwest Coast, and the Eastern Woodlands.

The members of the Third Grade K-Kids Club collected books for the Parsippany Child Day Care Center in February.

We are so proud of the leadership roles and enthusiasm that the children have developed based on membership in the club and in the projects that they have completed as of February 9 — Valentines for Vets and "Souper" Bowl Drive.



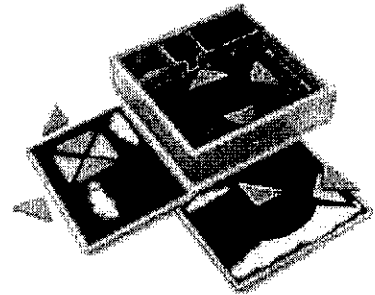
Visual Motor Skills



Visual motor skills are not just how well our eyes see (acuity) but also involve many different visual skills working together. Visual motor skills include how our eyes move individually and together (oculomotor ability) as well as visual perception and visual motor integration. These skills are used to scan a paper, jump from looking at the board to looking at our papers, hand eye coordination, and follow moving objects. It is important to not only consider visual acuity when looking at our students' eyes but to also look at the development of these other skills for success in school.

Here are some fun activities to try at home to support visual motor skills:

- Stringing colored beads with a pattern
- Imitate designs using blocks, Legos
- Tangrams
- Lacing boards
- Puzzles
- Balloon passing or tapping games
- Mazes
- Connect the Dots
- Cryptograms
- Hidden Pictures, I Spy, "What's Different" Pictures



Provided by: District Occupational Therapists ☺

Physical Education News

From Mr. Esnes

What We Did In January

We worked in various fitness activities to counteract the LONG winter break. Most of us were pretty stationary during the 2 weeks off and with the family gatherings or holiday celebrations, the good diets might have been cast aside. There was a great deal of running with MY versions of Tic-Tac-Toe, Bowling, and some beanbag activities. The students were able to get some great exercise time along with getting some well-deserved rest during some “interval-style” games. We planned to increase our cardio respiratory endurance in order to maximize the benefit of our Jump Rope Month (all during the month of February).

5 Tips for Family Fitness Fun by NASPE

- Use physical activity as a reward (family goes skating or hiking).
- Create an inside scavenger hunt on a snowy day that takes your children to all the different rooms and levels in your home.
- Keep fresh fruit and vegetable washed, chilled, and ready for snacking.
- Pack a lunch that includes whole grains, fruits, and vegetables.
- Play upbeat music while you twist and shake through your daily chores.



February Fun For Everyone!

We'll be jumping rope for the month of February. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will be participating in The American Heart Association program “Jump Rope For Heart”. The program is designed to raise money for The American Heart Association, but we are using it at Littleton to bring awareness to the program and start a conversation at home. The Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd graders will take part in a modified version with no fundraising opportunities at this time.

Students will get a chance to work on Individual Jump Rope skills, small group Long Rope Skills, large group Jump Rope Skills, and the possibility of Double Dutch! I encourage all of the students to practice outside of Physical Education class in order to reinforce the skills learned in class.

Parsippany-Troy Hills Township School District

February 26, 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian,

On February 17, 2016, we were informed by the New Jersey Department of Education that our district would be required to administer an English Language Arts (ELA) field test unit in our 2016 PARCC administration. For grades 3-5, this unit is 90 minutes in length; for grades 6-11 it is 110 minutes in length. This will necessitate adding an additional day to the current PARCC schedule for grades 4-12. Grade 3 students will take two ELA units on April 4, 2016, which is an early dismissal day for our district. Below please find the original letter sent to parents/guardians earlier this month, including a revised schedule for PARCC testing in April/May. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's principal.

Thank you,

Nancy A. Gigante, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent / Chief Academic Officer

February 2016

Dear Parent / Guardian,

Last school year the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) replaced the NJASK (for grades 3-8) and HSPA (for grade 11) with PARCC (Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) assessments. PARCC is a group of states in our nation that have come together to develop assessments linked to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). PARCC assessments will differ from the NJASK and HSPA in the following ways:

- PARCC questions and essays resemble the high-quality coursework seen in the best classrooms.
- Performance on PARCC assessments signal whether or not your child is making expected progress and whether or not he or she is on track to succeed in college or careers.
- PARCC assessments provide educators and parents useful data on their students' performance in a more timely way so that instruction, particularly in areas of difficulty, can be more customized and meaningful.
- PARCC assessments provide comparability among states and equity among American students.

PARCC assessments are administered to all students in grades 3-11 in the areas of language arts and mathematics. At the high school level, mathematics includes only Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2; middle school students taking Algebra 1 or Geometry will take these respective assessments in lieu of the regular 7th or 8th grade mathematics assessment. This year PARCC assessments will only be administered once, beginning in April. Please note that grades 4 and 8 will still be taking the NJASK in science only (a one-day test in May), and select high school students will be taking the NJ Biology Competency Test (a two-day test in May).

The final, **REVISED** district-level schedule for the PARCC administration is as follows:

| GRADE | DATES |
|-------|--|
| 3 | Monday, April 4, 2016 – Friday, April 8, 2016 |
| 4 | Monday, April 18, 2016 – Monday, April 25, 2016 |
| 5 | Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – Tuesday, May 3, 2016 |
| 6 | Monday, April 4, 2016 – Monday, April 18, 2016 |
| 7 | Tuesday, April 19, 2016 – Tuesday, April 26, 2016 |
| 8 | Wednesday, April 27, 2016 – Wednesday, May 4, 2016 |