



Claude Chester School

1 Harry Day Drive ~ Groton, CT 06340



March 2019

Dear Families and Friends of Claude Chester School,

I can't believe how quickly the year is flying by! I have been so impressed with the level of growth our students are demonstrating everyday with their literacy and math skills. Please celebrate all of the growth and effort your child has put forth so far this year as you review their Report Card. Thank you for taking time at home to promote reading and continue to practice math facts. In addition to the Report Card, you will find a letter from me about your plans for next school year. Please complete the form and return it by April 5. Thank you in advance for your help in returning this form as it does help us as we are in the beginning stages of planning properly for students next year.



Valerie Tutson during Storytelling and Sundaes Night!

Read Across America Week was outstanding! We had so many wonderful activities and

events throughout the week to promote and celebrate reading from Spirit Week to a Door Tour of decorated classroom doors to community guest readers including FHS students to the Discovery Bus for Grade 4. Thank you to all of our guest readers and thank you to Ms. Fargo and Ms. Lubs who scheduled them to come celebrate reading!



Discovery Bus was here for Grade 4 during

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Wednesday, April 3 and on Thursday, April 4. Please make sure to schedule a conference with your child's teacher if you have not already done so. April 3, 4, and 5 will be Early Dismissal days. Lunch will be served each day, and Walkers will start to be called at 1:00pm. During Parent Conferences, please take a

moment to look at the Lost and Found items and to complete the Parent Survey. Your input on the survey is valuable to making CC an even greater place to be. In addition, the PTO will be hosting the Book Fair in the Library. They are always looking for volunteers to help in the Book Fair as well as bake for the Bake Sale. Lastly, we will be having a Community Dinner fundraiser on Wednesday, April 3rd. Please send back the RSVP to let us know if you can make it. See a copy of the flyer attached to this Newsletter.

I hope you have a wonderful Spring and hope to see you at Parent Teacher Conferences and the Community Dinner!
Jamie Giordano



****Please go to the CC website for ongoing updates****

News from the Integrated Preschool Classrooms

We have enjoyed watching the construction of our new playscape. The children ran to the window each day to monitor the progress, wave to the workers and name all the work vehicles. We are waiting for the ground to thaw so they can add the last of the topsoil and wood chips.

Despite the cold weather, we have been busy learning about snow, winter animals, friends and pizza! We had so much fun reading stories about pizza, one of our favorites was Hi, Pizza Man! We had a pizza party and a Pizza Giraffe delivered our pizza!

We are all looking forward to spring and warmer weather! We will be learning about transportation, weather, birds, and plants. Feel free to stop in and watch the magic that happens in our preschool classes!

Ms. Facas and Mrs. Knobloch

Kindergarten

The second trimester has flown by!

Students enjoyed celebrating our 100th day of school with fun counting activities. They really liked counting out groups of 10 snacks to make a 100th day trail mix. Friendship Day was a success in kindergarten. It was great to hear friends sharing compliments with each other. The Big Y field trip was tons of fun. Students really loved seeing a pizza being made, a cake being decorated and checking out their own items. Their favorite parts were touching a real live lobster and sampling cake!

Students have been working on building their stamina for partner and independent reading. This is an important time to really focus on reading each night and reviewing the snap words. Students are expected to know all 67 words by June. We all need to keep up the hard work!

In math, we have been working on addition with a focus on partners of 5. We read a math story called Are You All Here? In the story a mother hen is trying to keep track of her five chicks. The students job was to show 5 groups using manipulatives and pictures from the story. We played different math games that connected to the story.

Our writing focus has switched from narrative to how to writing. The children will learn to write a story and explain how to do a task such as making a pizza, getting in line etc. Students will learn the structure of this new form of writing. It requires a title, numbering the steps and giving directions with labeled pictures.

Miss Emma (food corporation volunteer) has done a few more lessons introducing new healthy food choices. We made a delicious black bean dip with cilantro and used our 5 senses to describe the different qualities of apples. The students sampled different fruits and vegetables that may have been new to them. We have learned not to yuck someone else's yum!

When spring arrives we study living and nonliving things. There will be some new creatures visiting the classroom! We have planned a visit from the Niantic Children's Museum and will be going to the Nature Center. There are more field trips being planned so be on the lookout for permission slips.

Sincerely, The K teachers Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Card, Mrs. Legnos

1st Grade

Hello First Grade Families! This trimester was a period of great growth for our learning! In Writing Workshop, we have completed our work on writing Informational texts. We have written teaching books to teach our readers all about topics of our choosing. We learned ways to use key details and specific vocabulary words for our topics. Our writing process included lots of partner work in which we helped our writing partners to make decisions about what we may want to add or change in our texts. We did this by asking each other questions, "Who? Where? What? Why? When? How?" When we wrote while keeping these questions in our minds and tried to answer them as best we could, our Informational texts improved. We now are turning our focus to Persuasive writing and sharing our opinions. We will practice supporting our opinions using reasons to try to persuade others to see our way of thinking about topics.

Our Reading Workshop has been alive with so much reading!!! The best way to improve as a reader is to practice reading every day. So, we have been reading with partners, independently, in small groups, and also as a whole class! We have spent a great deal of time focusing on how to read nonfiction texts so that we learn more and more! We continue the important first grade work of learning to apply all early reading strategies to decode unfamiliar words and then of course making sure what we read makes sense before we continue reading further. Comprehending what we read is really the goal of reading. We want to understand and share what we have read in our books. As readers and writers, we use the skills we learn in Phonics lessons each day to help us decode unfamiliar words as we read as well as enabling us to write the words we want to use in our own writing.

During the second trimester in Math Workshop, we investigated 2D shapes and their attributes. We worked with shapes to see how familiar shapes can be made from other shapes when we cut them in half or fourths. During our next unit, we will be understanding measurement, comparing lengths, and also representing and solving problems which involve addition and subtraction. We will be working with double digit numbers and place value as the year continues on.

We are looking forward to seeing you at your child's conference and sharing with you your child's individual progress and achievements! Thank you for your continued support as we all work as a team in grade one at Claude Chester!

The First Grade Team, Mrs. Cassel, Mrs. Nystrom, and Mrs. Robillard

2nd Grade

We have been very busy this winter! We have completed one science unit (varies by classroom), became non-fiction “experts,” and hosted whole school morning meeting!

Second grade is a special time for reading and writing! During reader’s workshop we are working through our third unit. Our second unit was on non-fiction books. Students learned how to use non-fiction text features to learn more about a topic. Currently, we are reading fiction books and focusing on these main ideas: becoming more fluent readers, figuring out the figurative language in books, and strategies to understand longer books. The students have made such growth in reading!

In writing workshop, we are also on unit 3. Our second unit was on writing informational books, or “expert” books. Students chose a topic on which they were experts and wrote all about that topic. They learned how to make a table of contents, introduce their topic, and tailor their writing to a specific kind of audience. Our current writing unit is an opinion unit. Students are writing letters to friends, family, teachers, and readers about their favorite books and explaining why they enjoy this book.

Our classes have been working on a mathematics unit called How Many Stickers? How Many Cents? This unit develops student ideas about counting and quantity, place value, and the structure of our number system. We also completed a unit on fractions and shapes. We look forward to all the great learning we have ahead of us to get students ready for third grade!

3rd Grade

Third graders have hit the ground running in 2019! In Literacy, we have continued to build stamina and productive reading habits during our daily Reading Workshop. Our reading work has focused on becoming “experts” using nonfiction text and identifying character traits in narrative fiction. Our work includes identifying main ideas and supporting details, summarizing, cross-text synthesis, critical reading, inferring, determining themes, and analyzing parts of a story.

In Math, the focus has been on addition and subtraction with two and three digits using various strategies that “work” for our brains. At this point in third grade, students should be able to memorize their addition and math facts through 20 fluently. Some of our Math work has also been revisiting multiplication and division using ratio tables. Students planned a “big dinner” using various foods and their price per pound to figure out the cost. We are currently exploring polygons and finding perimeter and area.

Our Writing Workshop has focused on writing nonfiction “teaching” books. Students wrote about topics, about which they are experts, and shared their knowledge with the class using nonfiction text and text features. We are ending up the trimester writing about characters and story elements in a literary essay. Students are reading about characters and events in a story and then analyzing them using evidence to support their thinking.

We are so lucky to continue our work with Ms. Emma from the Food Corps Program. Students have learned how to identify processed and unprocessed foods and have made pickles and jam. The kids are eager learners and enjoy getting to taste their creations.

In Science, we have started exploring fossils and how they are clues to our past. We have a few “in school” workshops coming up with the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center and New England Science and Sailing that the students are looking forward to.

The students are looking warm and cozy in their beautiful new coats. We do go outside for morning and afternoon recess so it’s important that they wear their coats, hats, mittens, etc. during these chilly winter days.

4th Grade

Trimester 2 has been a busy one here in 4th grade! A quick recap of the things that have been happening:

We have continued building our reading stamina, with a focus on non-fiction text;

We have written THREE 5-paragraph essays;

We have started our exploration of the United States and its history;

We have become more flexible using 5- and 6-digit numbers in math;

We can multiply 2- and 3-digit numbers by 1 digit, and 2 digit numbers by other 2-digit numbers;

We are learning about rocks and soils, as well as physical and chemical weathering.

If you ever have ANY questions regarding what’s going on in your child’s classroom, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher. We are available via phone call, e-mail, and the Remind app.

Mrs. Biederka and Mrs. Voland

5th Grade

We have had another very busy trimester in 5th grade! In math, we completed units on adding and subtracting fractions, and creating and interpreting graphs. We are now working on multiplying and dividing fractions. In reading, students participated in a Read Aloud as we practiced various types of responses to text. In writing, students completed a research report while learning to take notes and organize those notes into nonfiction writing. We have also practiced writing a Literary Essay. In Social Studies students have studied European explorers and early European settlements in the Americas. Students are focusing on main ideas and details while reading their textbook. Science classes just finished a unit on the movement of Earth, sun, and moon in our solar system. We learned about the phases of the moon, what causes day and night, as well as information about stars and constellations. We are looking forward to our trip to the Seaport Planetarium where we will view a presentation of the changing night sky.

Please continue to encourage your child to read 20 minutes every night and to return their homework on time. We are looking forward to a fantastic third trimester!

News from our Literacy team! The Power of Series

Reading research shows that increased reading volume leads to improved reading skills. One way to increase reading volume is to get your child hooked on a new book series. While reading a series, children develop a deeper interest in the characters and they get excited about finding out what happens next - leading to more reading! Not all series click with all kids, so make sure you find a book series that really works for your child. Here are some tips for getting even the most reluctant reader into a series:

-Kick-start a new series with a television show or a movie. Many great books have been made into corresponding shows or movies. You can read the books together and then talk about the similarities and differences. Some of our favorites for younger readers are *Curious George*, *Arthur*, and *Martha Speaks*. Older students will love listening to or reading *Harry Potter*, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* and *the Chronicles of Narnia*.

-Jump into a new series with a favorite activity or topic. Name any activity or interest area and there is likely to be a series about that very same thing. There are series for animal lovers (*Biscuit*, *Elephant and Piggie*, *Mercy Watson*, *Ranger in Time*), sports fans (*Little League*, *Soccer Cats*, *Horse Diaries*, *Go for the Gold*), superhero enthusiasts (*Captain Awesome*, *Princess in Black*, *Zapato Power*, *Tales of Bunjitsu Bunny*), and many more!

-Start with a favorite genre: fantasy, mystery, biography, realistic fiction, etc. A simple google search for popular series for elementary school students with a particular genre will lead to countless numbers of fantastic titles. Try matching a new series to the genre your child is studying in school. Classroom teachers would be happy to share a list of classroom favorites.

Get to know your child as a reader and help build their reading identity by asking about WHAT they like to read about. Reading is not just about levels. It's about falling in love with characters and stories!

~Your Literacy Team!

News from the Art Room!

It is hard to believe that we have completed another trimester! Every grade level, K-5, has their art class for 40 minutes each week. Students have continued to learn, review and/or build upon a variety of art skills, techniques, and processes from basic to complex. They have been using markers, glue, pencils, crayons, oil pastels, and paint, along with many other media. Students are learning about artists and their work, art vocabulary, and how and why artists do what they do. They are using inspiration and imagination to fuel their creativity- and the results so far are amazing! You will be able to see just how amazing when you come to our annual Art Show. The Art Show will feature a piece of artwork from every K-5 Claude Chester Student. It will be from 5-6:00 PM on May 15th- the same night as the Spring Concert. You and your family are invited to walk the halls of Claude Chester to see the transformation from hallway to "Art Gallery". After, please consider staying for the 6:00 PM Spring Concert.

Looking forward to trimester three and seeing all of you on May 15th!

~Mrs. Kohary, CC Art Teacher~

News from the Media Center

It's been a busy trimester in the Library Media Center. Kindergartners are looking at the works of Mo Willems while 1st grade started an author study on Leo Lionni. 2nd is looking at all of the different books that have won the Caldecott medal for outstanding illustrations. 3rd graders were introduced to the Worldbook online encyclopedia and have been doing research. 4th graders are focusing on digital citizenship with a program called Digital Passport which focuses on using technology respectfully, responsibly, and safely.. 5th graders have begun a mini-research project on a topic of their choice. They will be presenting their research in the form of a Google Slideshow. Enrichment groups continue to focus on technology skills including typing, coding and design, and research.

Students have been doing a great job remembering their books on library day. If they do forget they are still able to select a book during library time, and I hold it aside for them for 1 day giving them time to return the old book. With a new trimester coming up it is a good opportunity to look around for any library books that might be missing. Slips for missing books have been printed and sent home this week. Please help your child look for any missing materials.

It's been a great second trimester, and I'm looking forward to another great one!

Miss Fargo



Congratulations to the our PUPs!



December PUPS

CARING- Be kind, show you care, express gratitude, forgive others, help others in need

Audriana Santoro Madeline Bates
Amari-Jan Nicholas Lillian Longo
Aiden Ripani-Coates
Madeline Bates Ravenlyn Lanzer
Kaeloni Clark Brianna Abby
Noah Chapman Brandon Soriano
Carmiana Priet Canales
Savannah Moldes
Savien Dillon Carolyn Mesa
Josie Meeches-Shoaf
Ny'Asia Reels Lily Martinez



January PUPS

FAIRNESS- Play by the rules, take turns and share, be open-minded, listen to others

Chase Whipple Mark Santora
Chandler Whitman Jacob Rowe
Meylin Martinez Ella Ballou
Addisen Galloway Kao Santiago
Judah Babineau Lajaya Price
Anthony Thepphalath Oliver Sweet
Elise Peterson Brianna Bolado
Adrianna Salen Lylah Mathews
Taylun Ashcraft-Hanson
Jordan Harris Joleeana Guichardo



February PUPS

COURAGE— take risks, self awareness, do the right thing even when you stand alone, tell the truth, advocate for yourself and others

Phanniel Nieves Hernandez
Mateyo Dillon Skyla Fernandez
Isabella Santora Aubriella Goss
Jackson Farkas Unity Claxton
Jorliana Rohena Leon
Dominic Newman
Karina Garchitorena
Maya Rosos Brandon Duyan
Axel Soriano Treasure Chapman
Rafdiel Cruz Ethan Eusebio
Felipe Dantas Sally Kydd
Chayse Heyl



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April 3—Community Dinner (5:00pm-6:00pm)
April 3—Parent Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal, Book Fair
April 4—Parent Teacher Conferences, Early Dismissal, Book Fair
April 5—Early Dismissal, Book Fair
April 5—Form about next years plan due
April 9—PTO meeting at 4:45pm
April 15-19—Spring Break
April 20—Spring Pictures
May 31—Field Day! (rain date 6/7)
June 18—Last day of school

Book Fair Schedule

Tuesday, 4/2—9:30am-3:00pm
Wednesday, 4/3—9:30am—7:00pm
(Family night from 5:00pm-7:00pm)
Thursday 4/4—9:30am—3:45pm
Friday, 4/5—9:30am—2:00pm

