



Claude Chester School

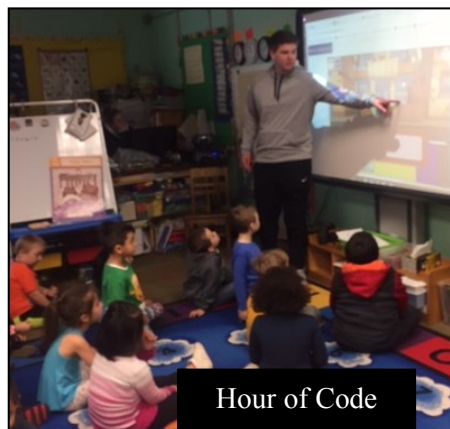
1 Harry Day Drive ~ Groton, CT 06340



December 2018

Dear Families and Friends of Claude Chester School,

We had an amazing first semester of learning! The growth our students demonstrated has been so incredible. I am very proud of their efforts. In addition to your child's Report Card, you will find a grade level specific Family Compact that was made from the Parent Survey you completed in October. You will also find information about the importance of attendance to school. If you have questions about your child's Report Card or any of the enclosures please contact their teacher. Also, please kindly sign and return the Report Card cover as soon as possible.



We have had so many wonderful enrichment activities already this year such as Playwell Teknologies coming to provide STEM opportunities for Grade 2 students. Playwell will be returning this month for Grade 3. In addition, Fitch High School students came to CC to work with students in grades K-5 during the Hour of Code. CC students were engaged in learning how to move figures and robots using basic computer codes. Coding helps develop and enhance math skills, executive functioning, and problem-solving. It was a wonderful partnership experience and opportunity for our students. NESS (New England Science and Sailing) will also be coming this month to support NGSS Standards (Next Generation Science Standards) through hands-on experiments.

Claude Chester has many "Thank you's" to express for this semester. Thank you to the PTO for helping to fundraise and supporting the Book Fair. Thank you to the Trillium Garden Club for the beautiful wreath they donated to Claude Chester School. Thank you to Groton Bible Chapel for generously taking time to donate and help to organize and distribute the Breakfast Bags during the Thanksgiving break and soon to come December break! We are so grateful to be part of such a giving community!

Please note that this year the Newsletters will only be going home only on a trimester basis in your child's report card. It will also be posted to the CC website. The Wednesday Weekly Word will continue to go home to every family on a weekly basis as well as posted to the website. We have been using the website much more for announcements and reminders. Lastly, please take a moment to read the Important Reminders on page 4 of this newsletter.



I hope you have a wonderful, safe Holiday Break and a Happy New Year!

Jamie Giordano

News from the Integrated Preschool Classrooms

It has been a great start to our year! The children spent the month of September learning the classroom routine, exploring learning centers, learning new songs, and learning how to share and play with others. We have learned about apples, pumpkins, leaves, and scarecrows. We have read Pete the Cat books as well as the Monster book series by Ed Emberley. We have been learning colors, shapes, sorting, counting, and concepts of print. We have had a busy and productive start! The children have been so welcoming and helpful in showing new classmates our routines. We look forward to more fun and learning as we begin our Gingerbread and winter-themed topics.

Ms. Facas & Mrs. Knobloch

Kindergarten

The first trimester has gone by so fast in kindergarten!

Students have enjoyed studying their names and the names of their friends. They chanted, cheered, counted and looked at the formation of each friend's name. We have been working very hard reading and writing the kindergarten sight words from units 1 and 2. Thank you for your continued practice at home. We have enjoyed some of our favorite story books such as: Mrs. Wishy Washy, The Carrot Seed, Harry the Dirty Dog and The Three Billy Goats Gruff. The children enjoy rereading and retelling these stories with their reading partners.

In math, we've studied shapes, done number practice with 1-10, matching 1:1 and writing numbers. Students have enjoyed different ways of sorting, including the kids in our class!

Our writing focus has been on true stories that have a beginning, middle and end. They are working toward detailed pictures with labels and speech bubbles. Stretching words has been a focus so that students can write the sounds that they hear in the word. Don't worry if the spelling is wrong! It is part of the writing process.

Miss Emma (food corporation volunteer) has come to all 3 classes to do small gardening projects. The children have been discussing what plants need to grow. They have had the opportunity to see the life cycle in action with the Claude Chester garden out front. December is a busy month! Our theme will be gingerbread. Students will be reading a variety of stories, sequencing, writing their own version of The Gingerbread Man, counting and even tasting. On the day before our Holiday break we will have Polar Express day where students will come to school in their PJ's. At the end of the unit we will be hosting a gingerbread bread house event that you are all invited to attend. Hopefully we will see you there!

Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. Card and Mrs. Legnos

1st Grade

Hello First Grade Families! So far this year in reading we have been working on developing good reading habits! We are reading independently, reading with partners, and reading in small groups. The first graders are also developing stamina in order to read for longer periods of time. Some of our reading focus has been on: ways to solve unknown words, using our SNAP words to help us figure out unknown words, using patterns that we have learned, such as: an, am, and at, to spell more difficult words, and we have also been focusing on story elements for comprehension. Please continue to read with your child to strengthening these important building blocks.

In writing, we have completed our unit on Small Moments. We learned how to write real stories about things that we did, or something that happened to us. We learned how to write in small steps, breaking our larger stories up into snapshots, and then adding details to bring our stories to life. In first grade, we have now moved onto writing How-To books! This unit allows the students to become the teachers, learning how to write books that will teach their readers how to do something fun and interesting. Also in writing, we are working on ensuring that our readers have an easier time reading what we write. We do that by ensuring we are using capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, writing complete thoughts, using spaces between our words, using correct letter formation, including transition words such as next, and ending our sentences with correct punctuation.

In Phonics, we are working on all of our letter sounds - both consonants and vowels, blends, and digraphs. We are also working on noticing and using spelling patterns, becoming aware of super power words, such as: at, an, and am, which can then be used to create new and longer words. In phonics we are also concentrating on our SNAP words, words that we know in a snap! We are working on identifying these words in reading and spelling them correctly in our writing.

In Math, we have been busy working with number formation, building numbers, addition and subtraction within 20, learning how to write equations, and working with story problems. We are also working with mathematical concepts such as: 1 or 2 more, 1 or 2 less, ten partners, and doubles. We have been learning many new games that help us understand these math concepts and allow us to practice our number skills. Please continue to help your child practice their facts to ten at home.

In Science we took a trip to the Mystic Aquarium! This field trip allowed the students to really explore and learn all about different marine animals, their lives, and habitats. We learned that Jellyfish are not really fish, and so we call them Sea Jellies! The students really enjoyed their time at the aquarium, and we hope that they shared their most favorite parts with you at home.

The First Grade Team:

Mrs. Cassel, Mrs. Nystrom, and Mrs. Robillard

2nd Grade

We have been very busy building a sense of community in our classrooms. We are practicing daily routines, learning how to use materials appropriately and most importantly, getting to know each other! In September, we shared our Hopes and Dreams for second grade and then developed our classroom rules together. We want to build a strong foundation so we can have a year filled with learning and fun!

Second grade is a special time for reading and writing! During Reader's Workshop we have been focusing on these main ideas; taking charge of your reading, working hard to solve tricky words and paying attention to authors craft. The students enjoyed listening to and reading narrative selections for the first reading unit. We have just begun our second reading unit on non-fiction or informational text.

Writer's Workshop started off with narrative writing. We studied master authors for inspiration and ideas. Then wrote our own narrative stories about small moments in our lives. Just as we have moved on to non-fiction in reading, we will do the same in writing.

Our classes have been working on a mathematics unit called Coins, Number Strings, and Story Problems. This unit lays the groundwork for the mathematics we do all year. The focus of the unit is counting by 1's and by groups of 5 and 10, identifying and recognizing coins and their values, using what we know to add and subtract numbers, developing fluency with addition and subtraction facts, and understanding and solving a variety of story problems.

Science in second grade consists of three units. Each class spends a trimester working on a topic. Ask your child which science unit they are studying in class, Solids and Liquids, Insects and Plants or Pebbles, Sand and Silt! We are off to a great start and looking forward to a wonderful year of learning!

Mr. DeCaro, Mrs. Deeble and Mrs. Vernet

3rd Grade

This term in third grade we have been building expectations and routines in all areas of school. In Literacy we have focused on creating productive reading habits and strengthening reading stamina. Our reading work has focused on realistic fiction and mysteries, with the skills of retelling, predicting, envisioning, and character traits.

In Math we focused primarily on concepts of multiplication and division for most of the first term. Students should be fluent in all multiplication and division facts by the end of the year, meaning they should be able to quickly and accurately answer any one-digit multiplication fact they are given. You can help them practice at home by making or buying flash cards or going on to multiplication.com and playing Quickflash II under multiplication and division games. We have recently moved on to graphing and are learning key concepts of bar graphs, pictographs, and line plots.

Our first writing unit focused on using small moments from our own lives and building them into fully developed narrative stories. We are now working on writing persuasive speeches, focusing on a thesis statement about something students have a brave and bold opinion about.

In addition to our core subjects, we have had the privilege of working with the Food Corps program and learning about plants. We have studied parts of the plant, the life cycle, and have explored the school garden. We have even gotten to enjoy some tasty treats each lesson. In Health, students have focused on hygiene, nutrition, safety, and general self-care.

Please remember as the weather gets colder to wear warm outerwear each day. This includes a thick jacket, hat, gloves, and appropriate footwear. We do go outside for recess twice every day unless weather is severely inclement.

Ms. Corona and Mrs. Miner

4th Grade

Wow! It is hard to believe that it's already almost 2019! Your children have been so busy adjusting to the social and academic demands of fourth grade.

In writing, fourth graders spent a majority of this term working on realistic fiction stories. This was different and more challenging for students, as they have been writing narrative stories for years. In this first writing unit, students had to base their story on a true event from their lives. They were asked to choose a small moment event from their lives, then adjust it using a fictional character, and possibly changing the details as they saw fit. The published products came out great! We are so proud of them! We are now shifting gears into opinion writing, using a boxes and bullets structure to write about the important people in our lives. We are certain that once the students have an understanding of this expository structure, the rest of the writing will come naturally for them. We have lots of versions and revisions to make, but we are excited to see the finished product!

Our reading unit this term has focused on characters within fiction text. We finished our first novel, The Tiger Rising, by Kate DiCamillo, and we spent a significant amount of time developing written responses to questions analyzing characters, building interpretations by looking at various story elements, and determining theme. Students have also been building their reading stamina. Every year, we compare this skill to someone who wants to run a marathon. Marathon runners build their endurance, strength, and stamina; they persevere. Students are asked to do the same thing, building their stamina bit by bit, until they are able to persevere and read continuously for at least 30 minutes. We have seen great gains in reading progress thus far! Keep up the great reading work, fourth graders!

In math this term, we explored multiplication, arrays, factors, and multiples. Students learned about prime and composite numbers, and looked for patterns with those numbers within the 100-chart. Students who do not have their multiplication facts memorized would benefit from practicing these at home. We are now working on addition and subtraction strategies in word problems. We're learning how to read, write, expand, round, add, and subtract numbers up to 1,000,000. Daily homework will be a spiral review of all of the skills we've been reviewing in class in addition to basic fact practice.

Our exploration into science and social studies will begin in the new year. This school year, fourth graders will explore soils, rocks and landforms, environments, and circuits and magnetism. In social studies, students will study the regions of the United States, the 50 states, and the American Revolution. We are excited to begin our journey into science and social studies!

Thank you for your support up to this point in the year. As always, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher at any point with questions or concerns. It is easiest to contact either of us through the Remind app or via e-mail.

Mrs. Biederka and Mrs. Voland

5th Grade

We have had a very busy trimester in 5th grade! In math, we completed units on multiplication and division of multi-digit numbers, order of operations, and volume. Students are now beginning to learn about fractions. In reading, students participated in book clubs with classmates and learned about theme. They are now reading non-fiction texts and learning about text structure. In writing, students celebrated finishing their personal narratives by having an "Author's Tea" in which they shared some of their writing with classmates. They are currently researching a Native American tribe of their choice in order to write a research paper and complete a project. In social studies, students studied early Native American people and their survival. Students focused on text features and comparing and contrasting in their Social Studies textbook. Students have begun to learn about European explorers and will focus on main idea and details in their textbooks. Science classes just finished a unit on mixtures and solutions as they learned about properties of matter and how different substances interact. We are beginning a unit on Earth's movement in space and how this relates to day and night, the seasons, and the moon's phases. 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 second trimester!

Ms. Cocheo, Ms. Locarno, Mr. Russell

News from the Art Room!

It has been such an exciting first trimester in the Art Room! Every grade level, K-5, has their art class for 40 minutes each week. So far, students have been either learning, reviewing or building 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!

Kindergarten Art focuses on basic skills necessary for art. This is done through the use of "art centers". Students move through a variety of centers, each targeting a different skill. These skills must be developed before they can be put into practice. As students begin to develop skill, additional centers that are more challenging and/or focus on new ones are added.

First through fifth grade art builds upon the previous year's learning. You will see your student's artwork becoming more and more complex as they progress to more layered learning.

All students will have their artwork showcased at the end of the year Claude Chester Art Show.

Looking forward to trimester two!

Mrs. Kohary

News from the Media Center

Greetings from the Library Media Center!

It's been a busy first trimester in the Library Media Center. Kindergarteners have been learning about book care and have also been doing an author study of Adam Rubin and Daniel Salmieri's books (ask them about *Dragons Love Tacos!*), 1st grade has been learning about sequels and series books and practicing alphabetical order. 2nd grade spent a lot of time learning how to log into our Chromebooks. They did a great job with that and now we are learning about how to behave safely and respectfully when we are on computers. 3rd graders were introduced to the library catalog and had a lot of fun looking up books!

We are now working on learning the different categories of the Dewey Decimal System. 4th graders have become master users of the library catalog. 5th graders have been refining their search skills in the catalog, online encyclopedias and the internet, gearing up to do some research. Enrichment groups continue to focus on technology skills including typing, coding and design, and research.

Students have been doing a great job remember 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 vacation coming up it's 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 first trimester, and I'm looking forward to 2 more great ones!

Miss Fargo



Congratulations to the our PUPs!



Septembers PUPS

RESPECT- Treat others with respect, be tolerant of differences, use good manner, use kind words and actions

Edward Martinez	Gracie Noland
Connor Rodriguez	Aarhyana Nhem
Jayda Coleman	Jackson Farkas
Carlee Robbins	Charlie Green
Thadeus Gervais	James Rix
Sophia Collazo	Niomi Robinson
Roxena Martinez	Jayce Adams
Josie Perez	Lance Perkins
Kush Patel	Charlie Green
MyaRose Summersett	
Angelina Gervais	



October PUPS

Responsibility- Do what you are supposed to do, always do your best, use self-control, think before you act, be accountable for your choices

Krishna Patel	Isabel Meyer
Z'yairee Johnson	Amelia Amar
Natalie Hansson	Michael Varner
Kevin Pinelo Lemus	Zoe Serrano
Ruldahe Andre	Seth Ballou
Jayana Johnson	Synaa Waters
Kahlan Hedemark	Khalia Bowen
Mya Duncan	Haken White
Jonathan Mitsko	Kweku Benn
Maleigha William	



November PUPS

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

Raphael Manuel	Jenelise Morales
Nikithasree Sounthararaj	
Derell Johnson	Tavish Afroz
Andre Gonzalez Pothier	
Xavier Gonzalez Pothier	
Madina Harris	Katelynn Mitsko
Anaiya Coleman	Marley Newman
Isabelle Torres	Harmony Wheaton
Yeviyari Morales-Diaz	
Yuleishly Morales-Diaz	
DeNetria Townsend	
Dalisha Martinez Colon	
Mackenzie Butler	



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December 20—Kindergarten Gingerbread day (10am-11am)

December 21—Early Dismissal

December 24-January 1—No school

January 8—PTO meeting at 4:45pm

January 28—PUPs to Bridge

February 5—Early Dismissal

February 25—PUPs field trip to Bridge



IMPORTANT SCHOOL REMINDERS

- o If you have a DISMISSAL CHANGE, please remember to send a note confirming any dismissal changes before noon (AM preschool by 10:30am; PM preschool by 2:00)
- o ARRIVAL - The earliest students can be dropped off in the morning is 8:30am to go into the cafeteria. If you drive your child to school, drive to the designated area in the back loop where a staff member will be waiting to greet your child. If there is no staff member, please do not drop off your child. See the CC Handbook for more details.
- o TARDY - If your child arrives late to school, please walk them in and sign them into the school.
- o If you send in LUNCH/BREAKFAST MONEY for your, please make sure it is in an envelope labeled your child's name and teacher name.
- o Please continue to call the school if your child is going to be absent and follow up with a written note otherwise it will be considered an unexcused absence. Please see the enclosed information about Attendance and the District Handbook or CC Handbook for the full policy.



*****IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PARKING LOT SAFETY****

Please help us keep all students safe at CC by observing the posted no parking areas and using the designated parking spaces.

- **There is a designated student drop-off area in the morning between 8:30am-8:50am.**
- **Please drive to the BACK parking lot (upper playground area). You will see a marked sign.**
- **Please do not drop your child off in the morning until you see a staff member there.**
- **Please do not drop your child off in front of the building unless you park in a designated parking spot and walk them across the street.**
- **There are also designated No Parking areas which are for the Buses.**
- **Please do not park in the Bus Lane or alongside the Bus Lane – it blocks traffic, and it is very unsafe for your child to walk across the lane.**
- **Please be mindful of your speed as pedestrians are always walking across.**

Thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe and orderly arrival and dismissal for our students.