

# WEDGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



## THE MUSTANG

### 3<sup>rd</sup> MARKING PERIOD NEWSLETTER

#### PRINCIPAL'S NEWS



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> is the annual School Budget Election. As a parent or guardian of a Wedgwood School student, your participation in this election is essential to the School's district's ability to provide the high quality education and services which are a hallmark and source of pride for our community.

As we work together to provide an outstanding educational program for our children, I encourage you to participate in the school budgetary process and to vote on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm in our centralized voting location at Washington Township High School. Your involvement and ongoing support in this process allows Wedgwood School and all the schools in our district to provide the children of our community with an excellent educational experience. Please see the attached flyer at the end of the newsletter.

Near the end of the school year, we will begin the process of tentative classroom assignments for next year. These assignments are made collaboratively by many staff members: your child's teacher, the next grade level staff, our Reading Specialist, BSI Math teachers, Special Education staff, our Guidance Counselor and the Administration. These professionals will be taking a considerable amount of time regarding the placement of the students. The following factors are taken into consideration: student reading level, student standardized test scores, report card grades, social history, heterogeneous grouping, special education requirements, teaching styles, learning styles, and BSI reading and math.

With this in mind, we cannot honor requests for a specific teacher because it could imbalance the classroom make-up. Because it is not possible to honor all such requests, it would not be equitable to do so for some. However, it is understandable that, if a sibling had a teacher assignment which resulted in conflicts in parent-teacher relationships, a parent may suggest an alternative placement. In this type of situation, parents, students and teachers are better off if such a request is honored.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4/20 – **Report Cards**
- 4/21 – **School Board/Budget Election**
- 4/22 – Market Day Orders Due
- 4/23 – Early Dismissal 1:40  
Lunch Served  
**Parent Conferences**
- 4/24 – Early Dismissal – 1:40  
Lunch Served  
**Parent Conferences**
- 4/28 – Market Day Pick Up
- 4/29 – Duffield's visits Gr. 3
- 4/30 – Gr.2 visits the Aquarium
- 5/4-8 – **NJ ASK Test** – Gr. 3,4
- 5/7 – Market Day Orders Due
- 5/8 – Gr. 1 Mother's Day Tea
- 5/11-15 – Spring Book Fair
- 5/11-14 – **NJ ASK Test** – Gr. 5
- 5/11-15 – **NJ ASK Test Makeups**  
Gr. 3, 4
- 5/18-21 – **NJ ASK Test Makeups**  
Gr. 5
- 5/19 – Family Night
- 5/21 – Art Show and Ice Cream Social
- 5/25 – **School Closed**  
**Memorial Day**
- 5/28 – Safety Picnic – Kandle Lake
- 5/28 – Gr. 2 – CBAC  
Junie B. Jones
- 5/28 – PTO – Randazzo's Night
- 5/29 – **Tech Meet**  
**Senior Service Day**

## FIRST GRADE NEWS



The first graders have been busy little bees since our last newsletter. Spring has arrived and like nature, our minds continue to grow. We are becoming competent readers and independent workers.

On February 19th, we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. The students celebrated by parading around the school and showing off very unique and unusual hats covered with 100 items. The students participated in many classroom activities in honor of that special number!

February and March were busy months of learning. First graders learned about two of our great presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We also read many books about some famous Black Americans and Famous Women in History.

We had a visit from **Dr. Anthony Calandra** for dental health awareness. He discussed proper dental care for our growing teeth. He showed us pictures of classmates' teeth with a special camera that he brought with him. It was a great learning experience and lots of fun as well. Thank you, Dr. Calandra!

Reading continues to be a major focal point of first grade. We have been busy working on comprehension skills such as retelling a story, identifying the main idea and sequencing stories. First graders also continue to grow in their writing ability. The students have many opportunities to write in the classroom. Journal writing, letter writing and story responses are some of the types of writing we use in first grade.

Our Foundations program continues to assist the students with the rules of our language for reading and writing. Using the core tiles to move around and make words enables the first graders to strengthen skills in a fun hands-on environment. You must be as amazed as we are at how well the children can break down so many new words while reading and writing!

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Wedgwood School celebrated **Read Across America Day**. First Graders celebrated with many reading activities. Mrs. Ann Pote, our reading specialist, and Mrs. Jan Sanders, teacher, along with Mrs. Christine Gehringer, our curriculum supervisor, provided an entertaining and exciting assembly to start off our month long incentive to promote reading. At the assembly, the first and

second graders were able to read and interact with story favorites from Dr. Seuss. The first and second graders had a very special visitor join them at the assembly...The Cat in the Hat! Our special guest enthralled our young readers and added that extra spark of excitement to the program. After the assembly, the first and second grade classes were able to have a photo opportunity with the Cat! Thanks you to all who helped with the program. Dr. Seuss remains a favorite to the young, and not so young readers of Wedgwood School.

We also participated in the school-wide book swap. Being able to choose a book we would like to read was a true highlight of the celebration! We would like to thank Mrs. Ann Pote, Mrs. Valerie Brown, and Mrs. Anne Lang for coordinating this activity.

Many first graders participated in the MS Read-a-Thon. Teachers are very proud of those students who read and raise money for such a worthy cause.

Math continues to keep our minds stimulated. The children have been working on money, time to the five minute interval, place value, and geometric shapes and solids.

Practicing addition and subtraction facts along with time and money at home can be very beneficial for first grade and the future grades ahead. Thank you for your continued help with math practice.

We are continually showing our school pride by wearing new tee shirts which were gifts from the PTO. Many thanks to the fine PTO parents who are always doing and giving so generously to the students at Wedgwood!

First grade is truly a learning experience for all involved. We would like to thank you, our parents, for your continued help and support. Your help is invaluable to us and we appreciate your time and effort put forth at home.

Moms, please keep [May 8th open for our traditional Mother's Day Tea](#). We look forward to seeing you in your fancy clothes and smiling faces.

**Mother's Day**

## SECOND GRADE NEWS

Spring is in the air. Warm weather can't be far behind! We look forward to seeing the green grass and the flowers starting to bloom.

Second graders have been very busy! In Math, we have learned to regroup with two digits in addition and subtraction. Knowing our math facts and practicing our timed tests have helped with this concept. The children have also worked with fractions and units of measurement. We will continue to reinforce these skills daily in our math boxes and journals. The children are enjoying the stories in our reading series. We are working through our second book, Banner Days. We will continue to write stories, work on story vocabulary, reading comprehension, and skills practice. In Science, classes are discovering animals and their habitats, light and sound, and/or weather and atmosphere. Some topics being presented in Social Studies include: needs and wants, major types of landforms on Earth, and map skills. Cursive writing has been introduced, and the children are eager to begin writing in a more "grown up" style. We will continue to work hard and have fun. Thank you for your continued support at home. Don't forget to sign the homework pad nightly and check your child's folder!

Many other exciting activities have kept us busy as well. Second grade had the opportunity to participate in Wedgwood's annual Book Swap. This activity was in conjunction with our school's celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday. The children enjoyed trading an old book for a new one. We also learned how important it is to wash our hands to keep from spreading germs during the Cool Hands Rule program from the Gloucester County Health Department. We are looking forward to participating in the Junior Achievement event that will bring us all an awareness about our community. We would like to thank the PTO for the Wedgwood Pride T-shirts that were provided to the staff and students of Wedgwood. Thank you for all of the activities and support you have given us this year! HAPPY SPRING!

### **THIRD GRADE NEWS**

We are all happy to report that spring has finally sprung! Third grade has a lot of exciting events planned for the fourth marking period and cannot wait to implement them!

In preparation for the NJ ASK test we continue to "brush up" on our writing skills by creating stories from poetry prompts and trying our hand at speculative writing. We are also working on improving writing skills by implementing the Four Square Writing method. As we read selections, we are working on comprehension strategies to help our understanding of the text. In math we concentrated on problem

solving and open ended questions. We introduced probability, fractions, and two digit multiplication. Keep practicing multiplication and division facts using the Everyday Math fact triangles.

In our Literacy program, we are continuing in the reading series. We have been learning many types of genres this marking period, such as historical fiction and folktales. Our trip to the CBAC was a big hit! The children enjoyed seeing the play, James and the Giant Peach. As a special reading activity, we celebrated Dr. Seuss's birthday by having a third grade pajama party. It was fantastic to have so many parents come in and read to us! Third graders also participated in the MS Reading Challenge. Reading Workshop is a favorite time of the day for many third graders. There are so many good books to read! Continue to read for at least fifteen minutes every night!

In Science, we have been exploring all types of matter! Our ice cube challenge proved to be an interesting way to learn about the different states of matter. Simple experiments also provided concrete examples of physical and chemical changes. Our next learning adventure will take us to our solar system and beyond! Breakfast Club continues to reinforce good nutrition and at the same time be an enjoyable and delicious experience for all of us. Our weekly "TIME for KIDS" magazine which was purchased for us by the PTO has kept us informed about current events. Thank you, PTO, for giving us this opportunity.

We all enjoyed our school's **Band and Orchestra Concert on March 25th and our Chorus and Handbell Concert on April 1st**. Our band and orchestra did a marvelous job. The third graders' first concert was a huge success! Keep up your hard work and practicing, it really showed in the performance. We are sure that many third graders will want to join the Chorus and Handbells next year after listening to the wonderful performance.

All of the teachers and students are looking forward to a busy and productive final marking period! We appreciate your continued support in helping your child to succeed this year.

### **FOURTH GRADE NEWS**

SPRING IS IN THE AIR!! It's hard to believe that the 3<sup>rd</sup> marking period is nearly over and 5<sup>th</sup> grade is looming around the corner. We are continuing to work hard on our organization skills to

## FIFTH GRADE NEWS



The fifth grade is very excited to welcome in spring! Now that the days of snowy winter are behind us, here are some of the new things fifth grade is accomplishing.

In Miss Mallett's social studies classes all the students are working hard to finish their American Revolutionary War Alphabet books. They began their study of the American Revolutionary War by reading their text books. Then they took their knowledge and continued to study the historic details with a Webquest by using the COWS. After the students gathered all the information, they compiled it in an original creation which will be their ABC booklets.

Miss Mallett's reading class is also working on Reader Theatre scripts. In Readers Theatre the actors (students) read their lines instead of memorizing them. The staging is kept simple. The students are very excited as they perform their scripts on Friday mornings. This has been a new and wonderful experience for all of the students!

In Reading, Mrs. Amendt's class is very busy working in their Fiction Literature Circles. This is a student driven activity, in which the students are deciding their own homework and having their own discussions based on their books. Each week a literature job is due. This assignment depicts the story in some creative way. Students are working hard to get their job done! As a culminating activity students will design a cereal box to discuss the major events in their novels.

The young mathematicians in Mrs. Amendt's class have recently completed Unit 7 on positive and negative numbers. It was a challenging unit, but they had a chance to explore "everyday" uses of positive and negative numbers. Now they are working in Unit 8, which is a review and extension of our favorite fractions! Students are adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions and then relating fractions to situations in real world situations like....dividing food. BIG thanks to Mrs. Wenner, who has really been a big help with fractions!!!

Exhausted is one word to use when discussing the scientists in Mrs. Amendt's Science classes. We are done our exploration with the Solar System and now safely exploring Electricity. We discovered a way to separate salt and pepper by

be prepared for next year. Students need to continue to be responsible and prepared each day.

The fourth marking period brings with it a time for your child to reflect on their year in fourth grade. This is their chance to "show what they know"!! Fifth grade can be a challenge for many students and we want them to be prepared. The NJ ASK test will be given during the first week of May, so the students need to be "on top of their game".

Many students got to show off their talents during the recent band/instrumental concerts. I'm sure all parents are very proud of their children – hard work and practice does pay off!! Even more students did an exceptional job with the Chorus concert. A packed house gave the students an opportunity to perform in front of their family and friends. The students were nervous, excited, and did an amazing job! They should all be proud.

In our Math classes, we have covered many skills and concepts. Some units have included geometry, fractions, measurement, multiplication and long division, probability, area and perimeter, to name just a few. The use of the Everyday Math program keeps students on their toes, since all skills come back in a spiral effect. They are using their higher-level thinking skills to solve problems and several strategies are incorporated daily. We recommend daily practice of basic facts to keep their minds active.

We have completed several of our themes in our Reading anthology and also have read many novels. The correlation between reading, writing, and word study has provided the students with meaning for their work. They see how things relate to each other and they have become more successful writers and readers.

Our new Science curriculum has opened up many new areas of study for the students. All classes have been rotating through different units during the last two marking periods. The units include Simple Machines & Forces, Rocks/Minerals & the Earth's Surface, and also, Life Cycles of Living Things.

We will end the year with our Social Studies curriculum, which will include inventors and inventions, as well as, how New Jersey has changed over the years. We will conclude the year with immigration.

We are all looking forward to a happy spring and an exciting, busy and productive 4<sup>th</sup> marking period. Please know that we appreciate all the effort you, as parents, have made to help your child be a successful student and continue to encourage them to be responsible at home😊

using static electricity, and tested various classroom materials to see if they would attract or repel with static electricity. Thanks to static electricity our hair is standing up, literally! Next, we are moving on to building circuits!

In Mrs. Gelzunas' math class, the students are finishing Unit 8-Fractions & Ratios. In reading they are reading the novel The Girl Who Owned a City. In science, the classes are studying electricity while working on a unit with Scientific Inventor Biography Projects. The students are working in groups of 3-4 to research, write, illustrate and orally present on specific inventors such as: Ohm, Volta, Faraday, Gray, Franklin, Edison & Morse. In health, the students are just wrapping up a unit on Nutrition/Fitness. The next chapter in health class is about the dangers of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs.

Ms. Smith's class is very pleased that spring is here. We have been very busy and we are very happy that the nice weather will be here soon! Currently, in Math class, we are working on Unit Eight. This unit is a review for the students since they have been taught all of the concepts covered before. In Reading class, we have just begun our next class novel, Number the Stars. The students are very excited to be reading this very touching story.

In writing class, we have been extremely busy. Our young writers are about to publish their Poem Linked Pieces. We have been concentrating very hard on the revising and editing process. Parents, please make sure your student is up to date with their Writer's Notebook entries.

The students in Mrs. Evans' literacy classes are now reading the novel Holes by Louis Sacher. As a culminating activity, we will be watching the movie and comparing/contrasting it to the book. The marking period will end with the completion of the Theme 4 test.

In preparation for the NJ ASK test, the students in all classes are given writing prompts and need to practice their skills in a given time period. Along with this writing, the classes are concentrating on poetry writing. We should end up with lovely poetry portfolios by the end of April.

Math news is all about fractions this month. We have all completed our challenging task of dealing with positive and negative numbers, and exponential, scientific, and standard notation, so we are moving ahead. Unit 8 deals with the addition and subtraction of fractions, as well as multiplication. Again we can not stress enough the importance of reviewing basic facts with your child.

In Social Studies, Mrs. Evans' students just had a **Virtual Field Trip to Fort Mifflin - a fort located on the Delaware River**. We learned all about the lives of Revolutionary soldiers and the ammunition used. We even saw a demonstration of the muskets and cannons being fired.

We are now moving West and studying Lewis and Clark. They created an illustrated quilt block depicting the travels of Lewis and Clark. Our class quilt is on display in the hallway. Also, our ABC books are on display in the library.

Our **START graduation** was held on April 8, 2009 at 2:10pm. The winning essays were read by the students and the winning posters are displayed for all to see. We are very proud of our students for completing the program. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

### LITERACY AT HOME



The newspaper can be used to help your child become a more skilled reader. It's like a daily activity book that can be delivered right to your door. The newspaper is a great source for creating reading/writing activities, projects and games for your child. Here are some ideas:

- ☑ Cut out several words from newspaper headlines and ask your child to put them in alphabetical order.
- ☑ Cut out various pictures from the newspaper and the accompanying captions. Separate the captions from the pictures, mix them up, and direct your child to match each photo with the correct caption. Then have your child create his/her own caption for each picture.
- ☑ Ask your child to keep track of his/her favorite sports team in the sports section of the newspaper each day. Have your child underline the verbs (action words) that the writer used. Discuss how these actions affected the team's score.
- ☑ Read your favorite comic strips with your child. Have fun adding expressions that you think each character would have spoken.

- ☑ White-out the words on a comic strip and have your child write his/her own words. Compare and contrast with the original comic.
- ☑ Think of a word and have your child look for headline words that rhyme with your word. This can be done by looking for synonyms as well.
- ☑ Ask your child to be a reporter. Have him/her write about a recent family trip. Make sure he/she includes the important elements of a newspaper story: who, what, where, when, why and how. Remind him/her to make a great headline for the article and add a picture with a caption.

The Pizza Hut "Book-It" program came to a close in March. Many BSI readers earned certificates for free pizzas at Pizza Hut. The students who met their reading goals for at least five out of six months during the program's duration (October- March) were marked as "All Star Readers". The reward for being an "All Star Reader" is an invitation to a pizza party hosted by Mrs. Pote and Mrs. Brown coming up in May.

Students who read personal choice books at home were eager to talk about what they read and truly seemed to enjoy their books. Although the chance to earn a Pizza Hut certificate is over for this school year, the pleasure and joy from reading a self-selected book never ends!

### RESOURCE ROOM NEWS

**Spring has sprung!** If Mother Nature hasn't convinced you, just take a walk through the back hallway! Students have brightened the corridors with butterflies, rainbows and beautiful flowers.

Fourth grade students working with Mrs. LaRocca are writing butterfly stories. They're also reading National Geographic "Explorer Magazine" to find out more about the living things they are studying in Mrs. Southwick's science class. Worried about dividing that Easter candy fairly? Just check with Mrs. LaRocca's math students who are sharpening their division skills.

The **second grade students** working with **Mrs. Sanders** are continuing to learn new things. They wrote riddles to practice writing accurate descriptions and using adjectives. The class enjoyed sharing their riddles and guessing the other students' objects. They

also practiced some basic editing techniques using their riddles. In our reading (shared, independent, partner, and read-aloud), the students are learning about penguins and adding to the background information they have from the movie "Happy Feet." The class will be working together and will be creating a mural for the hallway with penguinfacts. This project will give the students opportunities to be cooperative and creative! They will be using the Four Square organizer to help write about penguins.

In Foundations we have been working with r-controlled and "d" (vowel digraphs and diphthongs) syllables. The students are learning to read and write longer words using all the syllable types they have learned so far. Refer to your Family Packet when you work on the Foundations material at home. Remember that students earn stickers for their "Alien Books" when they bring in the dictation practice sheets from the Family Packet.

In math the students are enjoying working with measurement. We used our bodies to measure the length of a wall in the classroom and then discussed why our bodies might not be a good measuring tool. The students are beginning to develop the skill of estimation while they work with both standard and metric units of measurement. Continue to help your student practice the addition and subtraction math facts.

Thank you for your support with homework and maintaining home-school communication. Enjoy the spring weather!

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

In Physical Education class, we are practicing for the **Track Meet in grades 3,4,5**. The track meet will take place on **Friday, May 15, 2009 at 2:00 PM**. Mark your calendars!

Physical Fitness testing is taking place now. The students are being tested in 6 areas of fitness according to their age and gender. Many of the students are excited and trying very hard to do well.

In the lower grades we are practicing our locomotive skills and playing several different games while having fun.

We also hope to introduce lacrosse, hurdles, baton racing and some baseball skills in the spring.

Try your best, have fun, and play outdoors!

**Mrs. Faye Goldstein**  
Physical Education Teacher

## MUSIC NEWS

A note from **Mrs. DiGianivittorio**:

I would like to congratulate the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Handbell Ensemble and the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus on a SUPER PERFORMANCE on April 1<sup>st</sup> !!

All of your hard work and dedication really made for an outstanding performance~ I am so proud of ALL of you!...**BRAVO!!**

## BAND NEWS

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade band members are playing very well this year. The students performed our spring concert on Wednesday March 25. They sounded FANTASTIC!!!! I am so proud of all of you and the hard work you put into the performance.

This year the students will perform for **Super Saturday**. The date is **May 9th** in the amphitheater at Washington Lake Park. The time for **all 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be 10:25 a.m.** The time for **4<sup>th</sup> Grade students is going to be 11:15 a.m.**

We will be combining all the 5th grade students from the Washington Township Elementary Schools to perform as one band. All beginning students, from all six schools, will be combined to form one band to perform several selections directed by Dr. Bushong and me. The performance for each group will be 30 minutes long. More information will be coming home.

**Things to remember:** Your child should be practicing at least 15 – 20 minutes a day. This adds up to 105 minutes or more a week. The student can break up the time, 10 minutes in the morning and 10 minutes in the evening, or practice all at once. The important thing is that they are working toward our goal of being the best musicians that they can be. Clarinet and saxophone students please make sure that you have working reeds (and some extras just in case the one you are using breaks). All clarinet and sax students should be using reeds that are 2 ½ strength. If you still have old reeds that are 2 strength finish that box and then when you buy new ones get the 2 ½ strength.

What a terrific year this has been. I look forward to seeing you at Super Saturday!!!

**Mr. Appello**  
Band Director

## HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

**Deborah Sernicola, RN**  
Wedgwood School Nurse



Here we are again in the final stretch of the school year. Hopefully most of the illness is behind us, but of course with the beautiful spring blooms bring allergy season. I'm sure we'll get through that also. This has been a busy year as usual. All but a few screenings are completed. We are starting scoliosis for our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, as they prepare for the next step in their education. **By now 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents have received their letters regarding the required vaccinations before entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.** You can feel free to send them in as they are completed, but if your appointments are not until the summer months, forward them to the CRMS nurse, Mrs. Coleman. Finally, for the fifth grade, we will be preparing for the "Always Changing" presentation. That will be completed sometime in May. The fourth grade presentation "Just Around the Corner" was completed this month. The kids were great...very respectful and mature!

Our second graders enjoyed the "Cool Hands Rule" presentation by the health department in February and a representative from Moss Rehab visited with the fourth grade classes for a presentation on brain injury. Both of the presentations were great learning tools for the children, since good hand washing is the best defense against infection and illness, and the safety issues presented are a good defense against permanent life long injury. The students really seemed to enjoy both presentations. These were both free to the school and I hope to have more opportunities to offer to the children as they are offered.

The weather is getting nicer and the children will be going outside during recess more often. Please remember to reinforce safety issues at home just as we try to do so here at the school. Accidents will happen, but we need to be proactive in preventing them as much as humanly possible. As always I thank you for your support and cooperation. Last, but not least, the old house cleaning issues. Remember to send back your referral forms for any

student who has been referred for any screening issues. Please let the health office know in writing of any changes in health status, i.e. updated immunizations, medications, surgery, etc.

**Our Lost and Found is located in the attendance office. Please check there if your child is missing any items.** The pile is getting higher and higher and soon there will be no room to house them here. They will be donated to someone less fortunate if they are not claimed within the next few weeks. So please try to claim what may be yours. Thank you again and have a **HAPPY SPRING!!!**

### **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

**Cindy Volpin**

Teach your child the importance of responsibility!

When setting goals for your child/children; responsibility should be high on the list! Responsible children feel great about themselves because they know they can do things. They are also better prepared to deal with the demands of school. Teach your child/children skills that will foster responsibility, such as:

**Taking care of themselves.** Your child/children should get themselves dressed, brush their hair and brush their teeth.

**Taking care of their things.** They should put away their toys and clothes.

**Making simple decisions.** Let them decide between a red shirt or a blue one, carrots or celery.

**Living with decisions.** If they choose ice cream for a treat now, they can't get cookies later.

**Having some special weekly jobs.** They can sweep the leaves off the porch, empty the trash cans, and set or clear the table.

