

Mastricola Times



April 2019

Principal's Message

Happy Spring!

I am thrilled to announce that Maryanne Sabat, special education teacher, has been named as the New Hampshire Elementary Special Education Teacher of the Year for the 2018-2019 school year! Mrs. Sabat has worked at Mastricola for many years. She is currently working in the second grade. Anyone who knows Mrs. Sabat knows how much she loves her students and how dedicated she is to their learning. Congratulations to Mrs. Sabat on this well-deserved recognition!

As April comes to an end and we move into May, I want to remind parents and guardians of third and fourth grade students that students will be completing the NH State Assessment over the first three weeks of May. Please refer to the letter from Assistant-Superintendent Dr. McLaughlin and me for the specific schedule. It is important that students are on time for school and present to take these assessments. If you have any questions about the assessment, please reach out to your child's teacher or me.

As many of you may know, our superintendent, Marge Chiafery is retiring at the end of this school year and Dr. McLaughlin will become superintendent. Ms. Chiafery has been superintendent in Merrimack for the past fourteen years. It has been a true honor to work with Ms. Chiafery during my time in Merrimack. Her determination to provide our students with an excellent educational experience has been an inspiration to so many. We wish her the very best in her retirement. Thank you, Ms. Chiafery for all you have done for the students, families, and staff of the Merrimack School District, you will be missed.

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Assistant Principal's Message

Did You Know...

...on February 1st, we had our annual movie night here at MES and showed the movie *Hotel Transylvania 3*. Students enjoyed coming in with their favorite pajamas and sleeping bags to watch a movie with friends and family. If you missed it this year, you'll want to come and check it out next year!

...on Friday, February 8th, the third graders were able to show their families all of the incredible work that they have been doing with their Space Exploration unit? Students shared discoveries about robotics, coding and new learning in the field of science. Great work third grade and thank you to all the families and friends who came to check out the hard work!

...our student council runs our school store and it is open every Wednesday morning from 8:00-8:25? There are so many interesting things to see. Your student council members have been doing a great job keeping the store stocked and in good shape! The proceeds from the store go to purchasing items for our school.

...before our February vacation, we had a student appreciation assembly with a teacher created movie for all students to hear about how we love coming to school each day to help grow our students? We also created a dance for all for all of the teachers here at school and we even sang a song to go along with the dances?

...on March 11th we had a singer and songwriter come and do a performance for all of preschool, kindergarten and first grade? His name is Steve Blunt and he played the guitar and sang to our

(Did you Know cont'd Page 8)

PATT Presidents' Message

The third quarter for the PATT wasn't as busy as previous quarters. However, our Book Fairs were our second most successful fundraiser this year. The families of JMES brought in almost \$5000 for our school. Not only did we raise money for our school, we raised money for kids in other schools who don't have books, and also put many new books into the teachers' classroom library.

This last quarter will certainly be another busy one. Be on the lookout for the Art Show and Silent Auction, our Author Visit, the Artist in Residence, and much more! These programs would not be possible without the help of our MES families and great volunteers. Thank you so much for supporting our school!

We try to keep everyone in the loop with upcoming events and information from the PATT with our weekly newsletter and sending home paper fliers. Did you know we also have a Facebook group? Just search JMES PATT (closed group). It's a great way for us to send out a quick reminder for upcoming events and last-minute changes.

*Sam Heighton
PATT President*

Preschool News

Preschool Happenings – April 2019

Preschool classes started out the quarter working and playing in their own Preschool Post Office! They did lots of writing and mailing! Some even received letters at home from their 3rd grade reading partners. Ms. Angi's class explored maps around the world, around our town, and even treasure maps of their classroom, while Ms. Stephanie's students were working hard in their Preschool Auto Shop; building and fixing their own cars and motors!



Since the first day of Spring, all the preschool students have been studying and watching for signs of spring around the playground and their homes. Ms. Angi's class conducted wind and air experiments and painted with "wind" to make wind catchers. They have been recording their observations on their "Senses of the Season" chart, including making waffles to taste maple syrup! Now they are making a Spring basket and publishing a riddle book about eggs.



Ms. Stephanie's class changed their housekeeping from an Auto Shop to a Flower Shop for Spring, where they are arranging, sorting and delivering flowers to their friends. All the preschoolers will stay busy with spring fun and hope to find many signs of Spring on our hike to Grater Woods in May!



*Mrs. Perron
Room 2*



*Mrs. Womersley
Room 4*



Kindergarten



We can't believe it is almost April! The children have really adjusted well to their full day routine. Our days in Kindergarten are filled with reading, writing, math, science, specials, fun crafts, school assemblies, and book buddies! We continue to highlight our school theme of the "Big 3" which are safety, respect and responsibility. We talk about what it looks like to be safe, respectful and responsible and frequently hand out our "Gotcha" tickets when we see students showing these qualities throughout the school day!

In math, we have introduced the numbers eleven through twenty. Students have now become familiar with this new set of numbers by writing, counting and modeling in their math pages. Students are currently using a one hundred number grid to practice identifying numbers, counting by tens and recognizing numerical patterns. We have also practiced how to represent these two digit numbers using base ten blocks.

The children have really been working hard during our writer's workshop. We just completed our narrative unit of writing in which students composed multi-page stories to tell about a "small moment". We worked hard to be able to identify the beginning, middle and end of our story and to even include transition words between each page. We talked a lot about the writing process including the revising stage. Students conferred with teachers as well as their peers to make changes or to add more details to their stories. Students will continue to use these similar writing skills as we begin our new unit of persuasive writing!

We continue to have our daily-guided reading groups in which students practice reading books at their instructional reading level. The children now recognize a majority of the Kindergarten sight words and actively use their segmenting and blending skills to sound out the unfamiliar words in their books! The children have really grown as readers and enjoy the challenge of a new book each week!

It is amazing to see the growth from September until now! We look forward to continue watching them grow! Thank you for all of your support! Please call or email if you have any questions.

*Miss Boghigian
Mrs. Bolduc*

*Mrs. Fournier
Miss Ricard*

First Grade

How to spot a first grader at MES this quarter...Look for them writing teaching chapter books. Spot them playing joyfully in the snow piles. See them learning about research in the library. Observe them collecting data and creating picture graphs. Receive a feel good letter from them straight from the heart. See them visiting the office to turn in their GOTCHA ticket. Listen to them reading books by the bagful. Listen to them talk about books and what they think. And enjoy them talking, laughing, learning and sharing with their classmates.

*Miss DesRoches
Mrs. Lubelczyk*

*Miss Mills
Mrs. Steadman*

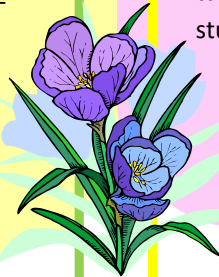
Second Grade

Second grade students have worked very hard this quarter! Through an integrated writing and science unit, our second grade scientists designed and conducted multiple trials of an experiment, documenting their work by creating a formal lab report. Towards the end of our unit, they created informational writing books that taught readers about a topic that they knew a lot about that also relates to our science standard: force and motion.

In reading, they practiced the reading comprehension strategy, wondering, in both fiction and non-fiction texts. Students use wondering to help them comprehend the stories they read independently. They continue to visualize, make connections, and infer to help them make sense of what they read.

In math, students have learned many different strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems within one hundred. We have expanded upon this concept by using these strategies to then solve one and two step word problems. We have also focused on solving problems involving coins and bills and telling time to the nearest 5 minutes using a.m. and p.m. Lastly, we are getting excited for our field trip this month to learn about how money and resources impact a local business.

*Mrs. Champigny
Mrs. Pearson
Miss Ireland
Mrs. Peña*



Third Grade

The third graders have been very busy this quarter. We would like to thank everyone who came to our Solar System Exploration Day. The kids loved showing their activities and projects. We are now exploring weather using multiple texts, technology, and hands-on activities.

We also are learning about text features through Scholastic News and our Making Meaning Program learning about how different nonfiction authors use text features to enhance their books.

We are focusing on Opinion/Persuasive writing in our Writer's Workshop. Ask your child about the topic he/she has chosen to write about.

Math has been fun continuing to learn about multiplication and division and solve multi-step word problems. We also learned about using data and creating and analyzing graphs. The students are investigating the use of fractions in the real-world.

We enjoyed our Spring Book Fair, and having the opportunity to meet with parents to discuss the progress of our students!

*Mrs. Adams
Mrs. Bradford
Mrs. Ortega
Mrs. Theriault*

Fourth Grade

In the third quarter, fourth graders rotated classrooms to review math concepts from the first half of the year. They have been working on comparing fractions, finding equivalent fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions with like denominators.

Our literacy block has been exciting this quarter! Students have been engaged in a March Madness book competition to share their passion of reading and understanding of story elements. Students also conducted a research project to study an inspirational person of their choice. They created an argument to persuade others why that person was the most important person in history. Additionally, students wrote personal narratives and are working to publish them for an upcoming Author's Celebration.

During the science block, students completed the Fit Kids program and continued to learn about the human body through projects such as creating a robot finger, protecting a Jell-O brain, and dissecting owl pellets. In social studies, students researched the regions of New Hampshire and filmed commercials using green screen technology. Our quarter will end with a field trip to the Currier Museum of Arts to extend the art curriculum.

*Miss Ackroyd
Mrs. Cordeiro*

*Mrs. Donahoe
Mrs. Marble*

Music

In Kindergarten we continued exploring (and correctly using) our speaking, shouting, whispering, and singing voices. This quarter we launched propellers and used our voice to sing the ups and downs of the propellers journey. We've also been visiting the Arioso Café ordering off the menu while creatively using our singing voices!

Did you know there is a lot of math in music? In first grade we have been busy counting, adding, and subtracting notes to form complete measures! We learned all about time signatures and created measures, as well as whole musical lines. We have become quite skilled at clapping and playing lots of different rhythm patterns!

Second graders are singing, playing, dancing AND learning how to read music! We've learned all of the line and space notes on the (treble clef) staff and have been working very hard to remember where they all go. Second graders have also started working on part singing...performing 4 parts at the same time in music class!

It has been a "hands-on" quarter for third graders as we started learning to play the recorder! We are well on our way now, having learned the first six notes as well as a whole collection of songs! In addition, we have learned proper finger position, posture, and breath control as we navigate the instrument.

In fourth grade we have been busily preparing for our musical coming up on April 19th! Students have been singing, dancing, acting and learning lines all in preparation for the show. Our musical this year is titled, "It's A Circus!". Each class will play instruments, present skits, perform dances and songs creating

Mrs. Beaudet
Music Teacher

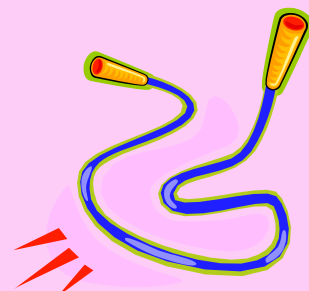


Fitness Fun News

The Kindergarteners have completed an introductory jump rope unit and a unit on non-locomotor movements. They are now moving into a manipulative skills unit, or their ability to control objects (throwing, catching, rolling, dribbling, etc.).

The 1st & 2nd graders have also completed a jump rope unit and a unit on non-locomotor movements. They have greater expectations in these units and are also moving into a manipulative skills unit.

The 3rd & 4th graders have completed their Fitness testing and a brief jump rope unit. They are now entering their Territorial Games unit. These are the most complicated and difficult classification of games. This year, their game will be basketball. They will be in the unit for a couple of months, culminating in an assembly where a select group of fourth graders will play an actual game vs the staff. The remaining fourth graders and all of the third graders will watch and cheer the game from the bleachers.



Mr. Croteau
PE Teacher

Nurse's Corner



Spring Safety Tips

I know it's hard to think about with snow still on the ground, but spring is here, or at least around the corner! With warmer weather and shining sun, it's a wonderful idea to get out of the house and enjoy some fresh air and outdoor playtime with your children. But it's also important to keep spring safety topics in mind so your family is protected.

SUN SAFETY

The warm sun can feel wonderful after being cooped up during cooler months, but without proper precautions, kids can end up with nasty burns that could put them at risk for future health problems. It's recommended that all children over the age of 6 months wear sunscreen with an SPF value of at least 30 when outdoors, even on cloudy days. Apply 15-30 minutes before going outside and reapply often!

WATER SAFETY

Children are drawn to the water, and outdoor play during the early spring months can lead to many accidents including drowning. Even though lakes and ponds may still have some snow/ice on them, with the warmer temperatures, thawing has occurred.

(Nurse's Message Cont'd Page 6)

Nurses' Message cont'd

Always supervise your children when playing around water and bear in mind, heavy rains can cause rising water levels and flooding which can lead to unsafe conditions.

INSECT BITES

People aren't the only ones who love the outdoors when the weather warms; insects flourish during the spring, and some insects can bite and sting causing problems for children. Bites that parents should be more concerned about include spider bites, tick bites and bee stings. If your child is stung by an insect of concern, keep a close eye on his health. If he experiences difficulty breathing, swelling, faintness or vomiting, get medical help right away.

SPRING ALLERGIES

One of the most common spring health issues is allergies. Children can have allergies just as severely as an adult and can develop them at any time. Look out for common symptoms which include repetitive sneezing, heavy breathing, runny nose, and itchy eyes, ears and throat. Fever is not associated with allergies, so if your child is running a high temperature he/she is likely sick versus experiencing a seasonal allergy.

Please contact your healthcare provider or school nurse if you have any questions or concerns about your child's health.

Stay safe and enjoy the warm weather!

Michelle Webster, RN



Art

The end of the year is fast approaching and the art room is filled to the brim with your child's wonderful art ready to deck the halls of JMES for the upcoming Art Show on May 9th.

After doing research fourth grade students chose different owls to portrait in their pastel owl project. They had the opportunity to layer the pastel colors and use particular types of drawing strokes to build volume and the texture of an owl's feathered body. Everyone agreed that the most fascinating feature of the owl were their eyes. They learned how to capture the viewers' attention with piercing eyes that drew you into their pictures!

Third grade created stunning pastel portraits in the artistic style of Sandra Silberweig as part of an exploration of the portrait. In this study they used the color wheel to help them select analogous or complementary colors that would help along with the quality of their lines to create a unique individual mood to their work.

Heather Galler is a contemporary artist whose colorful artwork was super fun to introduce to grade two students and use as an inspiration for our hot cocoa multimedia project. This project emphasized pattern, repetition and some of the elements of art. Using the color wheel as a tool the kids used contrasting complimentary color and pattern to allow their designs to stand apart from each other.

Grade one had opportunities to experience the process of origami, learn a new use for tissue paper, paint giant cakes and worked with collage this term.

Kinder kids were quite surprised to see they would be observing their reflection from mirrors to create their very own self portrait.

The kids are very excited to see the work going up in the halls for our annual Art Show. They are looking forward to showing off their amazing pieces of art to their parents, family and community.

Mrs. Bosiak
Art Teacher

Literacy Corner

MES Enjoys Visiting Author Ralph Fletcher

On Tuesday, April 16, Ralph Fletcher visited MES. Mr. Fletcher is a local author from New Hampshire. Mr. Fletcher has written many children's books including the bestselling books, *Hello, Harvest Moon*, *Fig Pudding*, *Twilight Comes Twice* and his newest book *Marshfield Memories*. In preparation for his visit, students read books written by Mr. Fletcher. During his visit Mr. Fletcher met with students at each grade level and talked about what it is like to be an author. During these presentations, he inspired many young writers!

Thank you so much to the MES PATT for making this day possible! It was a wonderful experience and our students (and teachers) really enjoyed it!



Mrs. Newcomb
LA Coordinator

Technology Corner

Students in all grades did a great job with a 4-week Coding Fundamentals unit through Code.org. This unit reinforced skills such as computational thinking, problem solving, and programming concepts.

All students got exposure to Microsoft Excel through various Pixel Art activities. Kindergarten and Grade 1 students practiced their keyboarding skills - as they typed the sight words that were in Column A into Column B, a mystery pixel art image was revealed piece by piece. Students in Grades 2, 3, and 4 did the same type of activity, except they saw math problems in Column A and had to type the correct answer into Column B. They knew their answer was correct if they saw pixels appearing!

Students in Grades 2, 3, and 4 are publishing original designs using various digital tools. Grade 2 students are working to publish a digital picture book about living things. They are creating original illustrations using Autodraw, and will publish their books with BookCreator. Grade 3 has begun learning about 3D Modeling. Using Tinkercad, they are learning how to publish a model created in a 3-dimensional work space. Grade 4 students are creating original illustrations using Autodraw that they will use to publish a poster for the national 5210 Healthy Kids program.



*Mrs. Robie
ETI*



*Mrs. Donahoe
Math Facilitator*

Math Corner

Happy Spring and the start of a new season. This past quarter has been very busy at each grade level in math.

In kindergarten, they have been comparing numbers 0-30, counting orally to 115, counting backwards from 20, representing numbers to twenty using tens frames, solving number stories using addition and subtraction and writing addition and subtraction equations.

In first grade, students have worked on understanding place value, building numbers with 10's and 1's, comparing 2-digit numbers, and adding 2-digit numbers using models.

The second graders are adding within 1,000 using strategies, learning about time and money, as well as understanding place value with numbers to 1,000.

In third grade students have been exploring the area of regular and irregular polygons, perimeters, representing and interpreting data using picture, line and plot graphs, adding and subtracting numbers through the thousands, understanding fractions as numbers and measuring to the nearest quarter and half inch.

The fourth graders started the quarter working on multi-digit multiplication and division problems. Then moved on to exploring fractions including equivalent fractions, comparing fractions, adding and subtracting with like denominators as well as converting improper fractions to mixed numbers. The quarter ends with multiplying fractions and whole numbers.

It has been a very busy quarter for all!



Wellness Notes

The Wellness Committee has been working on many activities for both the students and staff. We are looking at having a school wide Winter/ Spring Activity day in March/April and a 4th grade (team) vs staff basketball game in April. We are working with the lunch crew to provide new fruit & vegetable options for the students to try in April.

The Staff has had Secret Snack day, and we are coordinating with the Sunshine Committee to have an April Appetizers day. Plus, we are currently in a Spring Step Challenge.



The Wellness Committee



Did You Know ... cont'd

youngest students for an in-house fieldtrip at school. What a musical festivity it was! Thanks to all who helped make it possible!

...on March 12th, half of our first graders got to visit the SEE Science Center and on March 13th, the other half of our first graders went to the SEE Science Center? They got to be archeologists, scientists and see all of the fascinating things there!

...on March 13th we held our second round of Parent Conferences and were able to discuss all of the wonderful things our students are doing at MES.

...from March 4th to the 15th, we held our annual spring book fair here at MES and kids bought over 1,000 books? Thanks to all who helped make this possible and keep reading, kids!

...the annual Celebration of Song concert took place on March 19th? Kids did an amazing job and we give a huge thank you to our incredible music teacher, Mrs. Beaudet! She makes school hit another octave here at MES! Thank you tremendously to all of the teachers and staff who made the night possible.

...the second grade got to have pancakes and see maple syrup being processed at Parker's Maple Barn? Half of the second grade went on March 20th and the other half of the second grade got to go on March 21st.

...on March 27th, the 4th grade attended the Currier Art Museum and became even more knowledgeable about art and beauty available to them at a local museum?

...the first graders were able to have the New Hampshire Audubon Society present to them on April 1st and 3rd about the wildlife here in our state? They learned incredible facts and trivia about the animals around us.

...we thank you for a smooth 2018-2019 school year so far and we hope you all had a safe, respectful and responsible April vacation!

Alisha Hansen-Proulx
Assistant Principal

Principal's Message cont'd

The last few months seem to have flown by and the end of the year is quickly approaching! We have many exciting events happening over the next weeks so be sure to check your child's backpack for information about Field Day, The Art Show, concerts, and end of the year events. As a reminder, we try to send notices out on Thursdays.

I want to thank the PATT (Parents and Teachers Together) for organizing our 80's Dance on April 12th. This family event was so much fun and everyone looked amazing! I hope this was the first of a new tradition at Masticola!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or email me at 424-6218 or michelle.romein@sau26.org.

Michelle Romein
Principal

