



Term: Fall | Issue 1 | Date: December 20th, 2018

## KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten had a very productive fall. The children enjoyed reading and writing informational texts about the first Thanksgiving. We culminated this literacy unit with a Thanksgiving celebration for the parents and children to enjoy together. The children sang songs, read facts about the first Thanksgiving, and enjoyed traditional Thanksgiving foods. Thank you to the families for supporting this celebration!

In addition, the children have enjoyed several field trips this fall. All three Kindergarten classes enjoyed a trip to the Miller Library, where they were able to receive their own library card and books! Next week the students will create bird feeders and travel to Brooksvale Park to hang them for the birds. This is an extension activity after reading one of our favorite stories, *Night Tree*. Happy holidays to all of our wonderful Kindergarten families!



# FIRST GRADE



First graders spent the beginning of the year making new friends, learning classroom routines, and building a classroom community. They learned about classroom rules and created a classroom charter.

In Social Studies, we learned about the Hamden community. Students from the Quinnipiac University Occupational Therapy program came in and taught each of our classes about backpack safety. They taught students how to properly wear and pack their backpacks. The Hamden Firefighters also came to teach us about fire safety, and their jobs as fire rescuers. Our next unit explores learning about holidays and cultural celebrations. We will continue to learn about future cultural celebrations in the next term.

In Language Arts, we learned about good reading habits. Students learned about good habits to have when reading a book and when solving unknown words. We worked with fiction texts as we built on fluency and comprehension skills. Students created their own personal narratives, called Small Moment Stories. They also had the opportunity to write their own “How-To” books. Students are continuing to work on writing skills such as: generating ideas, spelling, editing, revising, and publishing. All of these skills will continue to develop as we learn about many other styles of writing.

Students immersed themselves in Math Workshop as they worked with hands-on addition activities. They reinforced these skills with various, differentiated math games. The workshop model affords the opportunity for students to work with partners, independently, and with their teachers to foster a love of math.

We are so excited about all of the learning and growing that the first graders have done so far and look forward to all of the learning that will continue this year! *Be on the lookout for a notice about our upcoming writing celebration in December.*

## SECOND GRADE

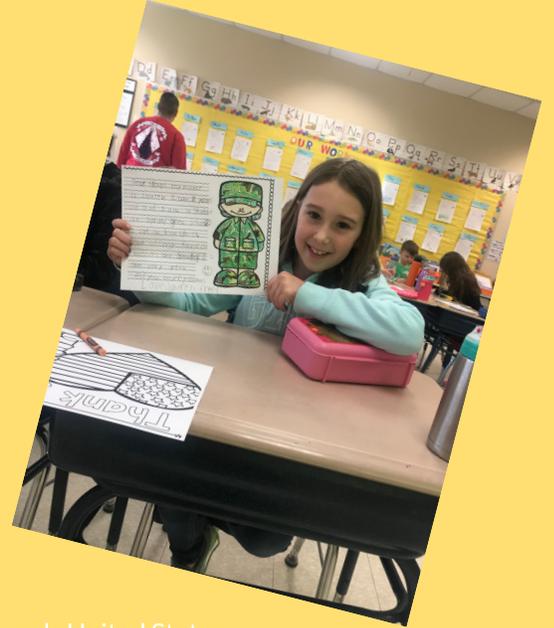
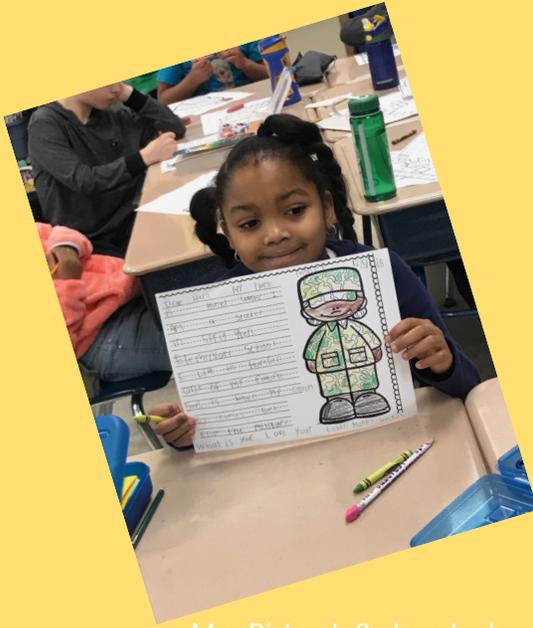
All of our classrooms continue to be busy and exciting destinations! We recently began to work on our non-fiction reading unit with the focus on using text features, identifying author's purpose, and finding main ideas and details. We also started to work on our informational writing unit that centers on creating and writing chapters about topics we could teach others.

In math, we have begun a numeracy unit. We are learning about place value, adding and subtracting within 100, and solving story problems with an unknown change or an unknown start. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts at home. Practice of telling time and counting money would also be helpful.

We will also begin new units in science and social studies. In science, we will begin a brand new unit about inherited traits! We are becoming "Crazy About Cats!" Social studies will focus on the three types of communities. We will discuss Hamden as the vibrant community where we live!

In closing, we wish you and your family a happy holiday season. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

# A LETTER TO MY HERO



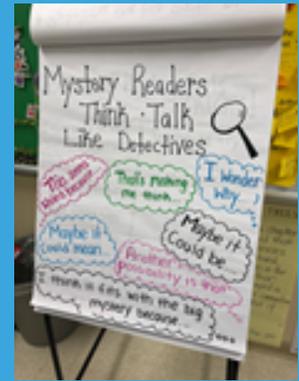
Mrs. Richards 2nd grade class was able to show extra gratitude towards United States soldiers who cannot return home for the holidays. With the help of three Quinnipiac University students, Mrs. Richards class wrote thank you letters to those individuals. The students wrote a bit about themselves and wished the soldiers a Happy Holiday .



# THIRD GRADE

Third Grade has had a wonderful start to the school year. The students spent time over the first few months learning about what it's like to learn with a growth mindset, and using their "grit" to get past any challenges that come their way this year.

During our reader's workshop students have been building their reading life by reading fiction stories. They have spent time learning all about the mystery genre, and challenging themselves to solve the mystery before the problem solvers do!



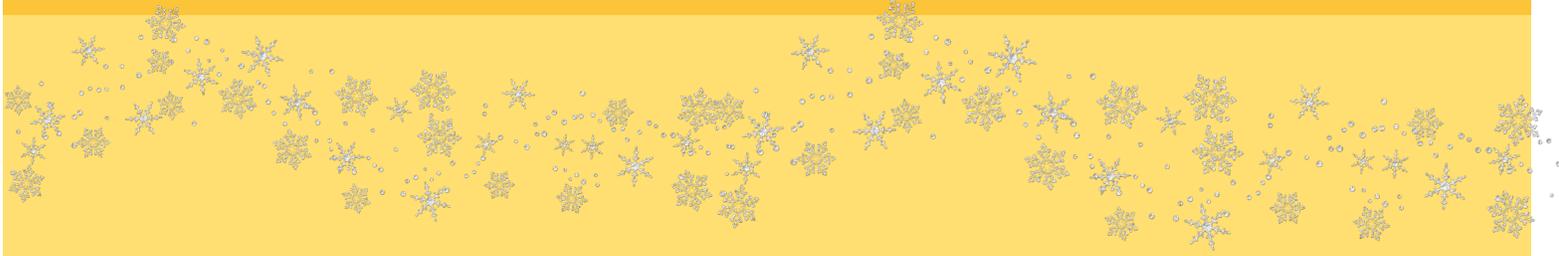
In math, students started the year by applying what they knew about repeated addition to multiplication. Students created array cards and played games to help build their fact fluency. We will continue this work in upcoming units.



In science students investigated what happened to an ear of corn when it got left out in the rain. After a series of experiments students learned all about the life cycle of plants and what plants need in order to grow.

These are just some of the wonderful things happening in third grade, be sure to follow your child's teacher on bloomz (Reynolds, Riley) and Dojo (Difonzo) for more updates!

# FOURTH GRADE



Season's greetings! As we continue to countdown to our well-deserved winter break your children are finishing up our non-fiction research unit in reading and our opinion/persuasive unit in writing. We are beginning to learn strategies for multi-digit multiplication and division. Please be sure your child is practicing their basic facts every night.

We will be starting to compose literary essays (writing about reading) and return to our study of fiction text in reading. Students will be focusing on character, theme, and story elements. After winter break we will begin our science unit on land and water where students will be modeling weathering, erosion, and the water cycle. In social studies we continue learning about regions of the United States. We will be studying the Southwest and Midwest regions.

Thank you for your continued support. Happy Holidays!

# FIFTH GRADE

## Math

Our first math unit focused on multiplication with multi-digit numbers, division strategies and concepts, order of operations, and applying those skills to geometry as we “built up” students’ prior knowledge of area to learn about a third dimension and explore volume. We ended our volume unit with an engaging hands-on project called Volume Town.



I hope you and your child have gotten used to my approach about homework and taking ownership of their own learning. I seldom collect homework. Instead I ask children to do it to the best of their ability and then incorporate it into the next day’s learning. Students who work to their ability level on their homework therefore get more out of the next day’s lesson.

You also may have noticed that students bring a homework assignment I give at the start of the week to class on Fridays along with their math morning work for the week. These become part of our “number talk Fridays.” This is a chance for students to discuss their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills and develop perseverance for longer, more complex tasks. As with regular homework, students are encouraged to work to their ability and enter the Friday conversation at their own level.

Our next unit is computation with fractions. This unit can prove challenging for many children as they adjust from working with whole numbers to working with “parts” of whole numbers. I highly recommend having your fifth grader cook or bake at home this holiday season for some delicious hands-on practice with fractions.

## Science

The students engaged in a number of lessons to figure out a Sound Phenomenon. The activities required the students to make observations through various learning inquiries and then record data about sound waves, decibels and vibrations. With their data, students made graphs and created conclusions to help solve the phenomenon about how the singer broke a glass with his voice.

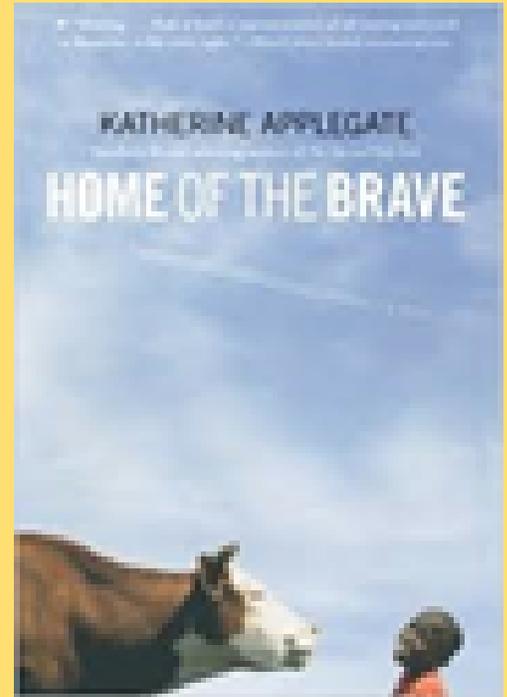


# 5TH GRADE CONTINUED

## Language Arts

Our first unit focused on fiction. We explored concepts around summarizing, identifying and a story's theme and noticing how it is carried out through not only character actions but also the story's settings and events. This unit also asked students to start reading A LOT to develop a "habit" of reading. Children read several novels in the span of just a few weeks and should now be reading for at least 150 minutes at home each week. During the unit we read aloud a wonderful novel written in prose called *Home of the Brave*.

We are finishing our second unit on nonfiction as well. Students learned about text structures and how in more complex fifth grade nonfiction there are multiple structures interwoven in one section of text. Students also learned about word morphology - how to figure out a word's meaning by breaking it into parts and thinking about the meaning of the word parts. This concept will continue throughout the year as students learn about the meaning of prefixes, suffixes, and Greek and Latin roots. Students chose a topic of study for this unit and are creating projects of their choice to present their expertise about their topic.



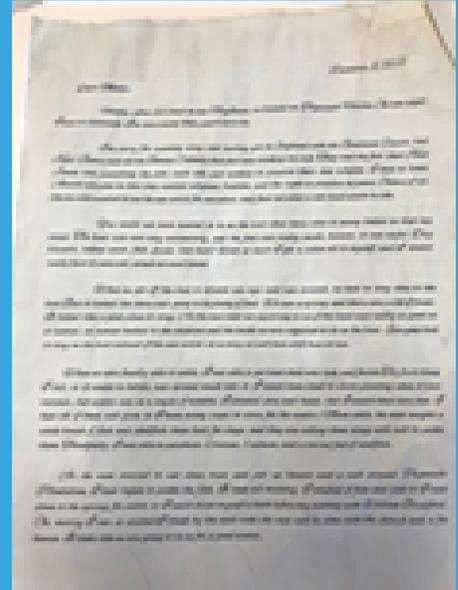
## Writing

We just wrapped up our Journalism unit and now have our sights set on literary essays. Students will be spending time reading and analyzing short stories both in writing and reading. They will develop ideas based off of their analysis, and they will write 5(five) paragraph pieces. This unit will challenge students to justify claims that they make. They will need to provide text evidence to support their opinions. In addition to our new unit, students will be spending time working on grammar. Parents should expect to see this type of homework a couple of times a week.

# 5TH GRADE CONTINUED

## Social Studies

*Coming to America* was the first unit in social studies. Students read and learned about the reasons the English colonized in the New World. They studied different reasons why the Roanoke Colony didn't survive and formulated their own opinion about what happened to the colonists at that colony. They took the role of a colonist from an early colony and wrote Pen Pal letters to other colonists nearby. This project took the students through the writing process of notetaking, planning, prewriting, and finalizing a written piece.



## Mindset

Class Dojo, classroom meetings, weekly fifth grade meetings, and shout-outs have all been opportunities for students to connect with their peers and practice using growth mindset. In November, students traveled to Ivoryton, CT to Nature's Classroom. This experience allowed students to work in small and large groups in team building activities. They began their rainy day partaking in a number of activities which required students to work together and problem solve. When the rain stopped, students ended their day with a group activity called Predator and Prey. Students were put into groups and had to use their knowledge of predators and prey to survive the game because in the end.. only the STRONG survive!



# SIXTH GRADE

## Language Arts

We are midway through our second reading unit on informational text. Students have read nonfiction chapter books and now will be curating text sets related to the topic of those chapter books, which will culminate in creating Ted Talks. Please remind your students to read 150 minutes each week and return their reading logs on the appropriate day.

In writing students are busy researching teen activism and will be publishing books on a teen activist topic of their choice. Parents will be welcomed in for a publishing party at the end of this unit. Stay tuned for details! Students also had a chance to share their SLAM poetry with the community at Best Video! It was a “slamming” success!

## Social Studies

Our sixth graders will be starting their regional study of Latin America soon! As we move through the unit, we will be investigating indigenous people of Mexico, Central and South America, as well as issues facing these regions, both in the past and currently, such as immigration, human rights, and environmental and economic issues. Students will be studying the regions of Latin America, as well as countries in those regions. They will be responsible for learning about various factors of the country, including its physical features, natural resources, government and economy, and culture.

## Science

Our students are hard at work in our Why Do Some Things Stop While Others Keep Moving? unit. This unit focuses on many different types of energy, how energy is converted, transferred and conserved. Our sixth graders have worked hard at understanding these concepts through many hands on investigations and rich discussion.



## Math

Sixth graders have completed our 3rd unit: ‘Decimal Ops’ where we determined the algorithms for all operations with decimals and applied those algorithms to solve real-world problems. We are excited to start December with our ‘Practical Exam’: A trip to FroyoWorld in North Haven to calculate the cost of our frozen yogurt sundaes, including tax.

We have also recently began our next unit, “Bits and Pieces”, which examines relationships between values using rates and ratios and continues our study of parts of a whole (fractions, decimals and percents). We will even delve into studying integers and looking at parts of a whole to the left of zero.

# EMPATHY WEEK

November has been a special month for our Specials Classes at Spring Glen School. Ms. B, Mr. Sullivan, and Mrs. Meurs dedicated the half days prior to Thanksgiving to implementing a school-wide instructional unit on empathy. The overall theme of this empathy week, is teaching children the value of focusing on the “We over Me” through a variety of activities. Using the books *Each Kindness*, by Jacqueline Woodson, and *I am Human*, by Susan Verde as a jumping off point, students had the opportunity to dig into important ideas relating to empathy and community building. The books served as inspiration for a series of class discussions and projects that students used as they worked in multi-grade level teams. These empathy lessons will continue through specials classes during the upcoming half-days this school year.



# P.E : MILE RUN



5th grade

6th grade



4th Grade



# MEDIA

Thanks to a very successful Spirit Day and incredible sixth grade helpers, we were able to collect over 100 bags of assorted toiletries which were handed out to people in need on Thanksgiving Day outside of Christopher Martins Restaurant. It was a great way to remind us what we are thankful for and how good it feels to give back.

We are very busy- as always- in the Media Center. Kindergarteners are starting a unit on illustrators and why illustrations are so important and helpful. First graders are starting a unit on notetaking and the difference between "important" and "interesting." Second graders will be writing book recommendations on Biblionasium (sort of a Goodreads for kids). Third graders are learning their way around the library and how to use the online catalog. Fourth graders are creating ads using Google Slides for inventions they have researched. Fifth graders are about to start the very fun and challenging Novel Engineering unit where they will design, build, and test an invention to help a character solve a problem. And sixth graders are learning all about their digital footprint and how important it is to make sure you know what's in yours.

Just a reminder:

You can access Worldbook Encyclopedia online from home . Just go to [worldbookonline.com](http://worldbookonline.com). The user name is **springglen** and the password is **library10**.

You can also access Pebblego and Pebblegonext from home as well. Go to [pebblego.com](http://pebblego.com) or [pebblegonext.com](http://pebblegonext.com)

The user name is **springglen** and the password is **school**.



# WELCOME MISS. GEREMIA

We are pleased to welcome our newest member to our 2nd grade team, Ms. Geremia! Ms. Geremia comes to Spring Glen with a degree in Elementary Education from Fairfield University. Her passion and enthusiasm are sure to be a great addition to the Spring Glen team!

