

**Washington Oak School**  
**May/June Newsletter**  
**Believe, Achieve, Succeed**



**Principally Speaking...**

*With all of the cold, rainy weather in April, we are ready for some nice, warm, sunny weather in May and June! Our Reading Week festivities were a huge success. Thank you for all of your help with assisting your child during Reading Week. Once again, I would like to thank all of our parent volunteers for their assistance during the 2009-10 school year. Without you, many of the fine programs and activities at our school would not be possible.*

*A notice will be sent home that we would appreciate you filling out and returning to school if you plan on moving during the summer months. We are in the process of working on class lists and this information is needed as we finalize our number of students.*

*Our May Feinstein Good Deeds Project will be having the students beautify our school grounds during the week of May 24<sup>th</sup>. Garden donations will be accepted on May 24<sup>th</sup> or students may bring in a monetary donation so that we may purchase additional items needed. On Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup> students may wear mix-matched clothing and also have a crazy hair day all in one!*

*Students in grade 4 will be participating in the State Science NECAP assessment on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. We ask that the children arrive to school on time and have a healthy breakfast.*

*Lastly, I'd like to personally thank all of our families for their cooperation and understanding with the redistricting that occurred during this school year. Even though Washington Oak has 712 students, we strive to personalize each child's educational program. My door, as always, remains open to assist you at any time. I wish our grade 5 students well, as they proceed to the middle school for the upcoming school year. Mark your calendars now for the first official day of school which is Tuesday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Kindergarten orientation will be held on Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.*

*Putting Children first,*

*Dr. Donna Raptakis, Principal*

## Library News



Don't miss the **Night of the Arts!** This year we will be holding our **Spring Book Fair** on Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. Join us in the library from 5 – 8pm to choose some great books for summer reading. It has been a pleasure to work with all of the students at Washington Oak again this year. As the school year comes to an end, it's time to think about summer reading. Research has shown that elementary school children who read just four to five books over the summer do much better when school resumes in the fall. Here are some resources for suggestions, books, activities, and programs for you and your child to use over the summer months.

<http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents>

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com/summerreading/>



## From the Health Office

It has been a very busy year in the Health Office with additional students, the H1N1 virus and subsequent clinics for vaccines, the stomach virus, strep throat, the injuries on the playground, and the day to day management of the Health Office. I'd like to thank all my parent volunteers for assisting me when I needed help, especially at the clinics.

Parents please remember that Coventry Schools has adopted the new Wellness Plan for all schools and sending in snacks with your child should be on the approved foods list- this can be found at [www.kidsnet.ri.org](http://www.kidsnet.ri.org).

I will be sending dental cards home in the report cards—the school dentist visits us usually in February, and the yellow dental cards/notes from your dentist are due every year. Your child will not see the school dentist if I have one of these dated February 2010 or later. I will be available here at school the week before school officially begins, working on health records and getting my office organized, in case you have any questions/concerns. I can also be reached over the summer at [hennessydenise@coventryschools.net](mailto:hennessydenise@coventryschools.net). I hope everyone has a wonderful summer and *I'll See You In September!*



## Physical Education News

It's hard to believe that another year is almost over. The last two units we will be doing are walk/run conditioning and field day activities. The walk/run unit will allow all grades to understand how long a mile really is by walking or running around our track. They will also learn about the benefits of cardiovascular training and how important it is to stay physical fit throughout their lives. At this time children in grades 3-5 are welcome to bring in music (ipod) to listen to on the track for a one dollar donation to the PE department. To close out the year, I will be doing a unit that consists of fun family activities that the kids can bring home over the summer to enjoy with you!



## Reading News

Now that we are in the month of May the Reading Department, as well as all the teachers in the building, need to begin preparing for end of the year testing. To begin, on May 11, 12, and 13th the reading department will be assisting the grade four teachers with the NECAP Science testing. Some students will come to the reading room for testing accommodations. In addition, grade five students have just finished DRA testing and results will be forwarded to the middle school. Grades k through four will be tested in reading in the latter part of this month as well as the first week in June. Parents can help at home by asking their children to provide a retell or summary of the events that occur in a story their children may be reading at home. Please reinforce that character's names, connecting words (then, next, after that...), vocabulary from the story, important events, supporting details, and the author's message are components of the test that need to be mastered in order to receive an independent score. Please contact the reading department if you have any questions on the end of the year testing.

Lastly, please continue to read with your children over the summer. Keep in mind, that Dr. Raptakis has provided an online reading program for those students enrolled in the reading program. Your child may read on a computer in the convenience of your home throughout the summer. Contact the reading department for more information.



## Preschool News

The preschool children are looking forward to a visit from the Roger Williams Park Zoomobile during the first week of May. The program is called **Fur, Feathers and Scales**. The children will learn about different coverings which help animals survive in various environments. Follow-up lessons in class will emphasize sorting and classifying by group, environments and coverings. This will lead into the letters J, Z, and O for jungle, zoo and ocean.

The teachers will be spending time during the last six weeks of preschool assessing the children and preparing end-of-the-year reports for families. We will continue to go outside daily and would like to keep all of our students safe in the warmer weather. Please have your child wear closed toe shoes or sneakers and please apply sunscreen before leaving home. We are planning an End-of-the-Year Celebration for families and friends. More information will be sent home in our weekly newsletters before the end of May.



### **Kindergarten News**

This month we will continue our exploration of “Animals Two By Two”. We are expecting our fish and snails to arrive within the next couple of weeks. We will also be focusing on how seeds grow. That upcoming unit will incorporate many of the math and reading experiences that we have been working on throughout the year. Mathematically, we will be focusing on creating graphs, addition, and subtraction. In reading, we will be focusing on rhyming and sight word recognition, as well as continuing to reinforce and expand our reading skills. Please remember to save the date of May 27<sup>th</sup> for Reader’s Reception. We are very busy preparing for this special event!



### **Grade One News:**

As the end approaches, we have much to do. New Science kits arrived and this topic is Balance and Motion. The students will participate in activities in which force and balance creates motion. In Reading we are moving along. End of year Reading Assessments will begin May 15<sup>th</sup>. We are focusing on fluency and retelling events in order. Thank you for your help with the nightly reading. Together we all make great things happen. A field trip has been planned to Mystic Aquarium. This will be held on Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. Washington Oak PTA has helped defray the cost of this trip. Thank you PTA. A brown bagged lunch is required along with \$8.00 due by Friday May, 21<sup>st</sup>. Sneakers are always a good idea for this trip. If you need a permission slip, please contact your child’s teacher.



### **Grade 2 News**

May is a busy month! The children continue working on a variety of reading strategies that ensure life long readers. Please encourage nightly reading as it works on building fluency and comprehension. In math, the children are working on unit 9. They are learning how to find the perimeter and area of shapes. In science, the children continue to work on the Pebbles, Sand and Silt kit. Not only are they exploring a various types of rocks, but they are learning about their physical properties as well. Remember to ask your child about their field trip to URI’s Learning Landscape. They are discovering many interesting facts about our environment.



### **Grade 3 News**

We are very busy in 3rd grade with all kinds of special learning activities. To begin 'Project Chick', students attended a presentation given by a farm education worker at Casey Farm and learned a lot about the endangered Dominique chicken as well as other breeds of birds. There were some incredible looking eggs to observe, too. Our eggs have now been in the incubator for a week and students were able to observe the developing chick using a process called candling. Ask your child about it; It was amazing!! The fieldtrip notice was send home for our culminating event for 'Project Chick'. We have divided the 3rd grade between two dates: Monday, June 7th and Thursday, June 8th. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions regarding the trip.

Mini-Society is in full swing in all of the classrooms! Societies have been named, flags have been made, money designed and printed, and students are earning money for various classroom responsibilities (homework, neat cubbies, being prepared for class). Our first business session, where students sell their goods/services will take place on Friday, May 14th. This session will only include the 3rd grade and students will be 'shopping' in three classes. There will be a potential for a business owner to have 75 customers. We have worked with students to conduct market surveys to determine appropriate pricing and inventory. The following two business sessions take place on May 28th and June 3rd. The second session will be open to third graders and second graders and parents/siblings will be invited to the last session. It is important for students to pay their parents/siblings for any work they have helped with or materials they have bought. Please remember that our focus for Mini-Society is on recycled products, so spending on new materials should be kept to a minimum of \$10-15.

A notice went home regarding the RAD KIDS program, a fun and informative in-school safety program. Curriculum topics include: Home, School, and Vehicle Safety, Out and About Safety, Bullying, Realistic Defense Against Abduction, Good-Bad-Uncomfortable Touch and more. For more information on the program, go to [www.radkids.org](http://www.radkids.org). Program dates are May 18, 24, and 25th. The cost is \$5 and should be returned by Wed., May 12th. There will be an evening presentation for participants and their parents in June (date TBA).

We appreciate all supplies you provide for the children and encourage you to continue to do so. We are extremely low on pencils, glue sticks, crayons and markers. Also, many children have lost their scissors and need a replacement pair. We ask you to please check with your child to see what supplies they may need.



### **Grade 4 News**

Many things are going on during the month of May. We are looking forward to our Pizza book report which is due on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be presenting the pizzas during the week of May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Science NECAP will take place on May 11, 12, and 13<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to have your child here on time, get a good night's sleep, and eat a good breakfast. Testing will begin promptly at 9:30. Any student who arrives after this time will have to wait in the office and make up the test they missed on makeup day on May 14<sup>th</sup>. Homework will be limited during this time. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have a visit from the Zoo mobile from Roger Williams Zoo on May 19<sup>th</sup>. This program correlates with our ecosystems unit for science. RIC Science students will join us the first week of June to teach a unit on Fingerprinting. They will be with us for 2 weeks. The High School Italian students have been teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> graders Italian as part of their service learning project. Students have been working hard on learning their states and capitals. They are doing a great job. The 4<sup>th</sup> grade would like to congratulate Miss Pacheco and Mr. Perry on their completion of student teaching. 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers would like to wish all our families a happy, healthy summer vacation.



### **Grade Five News**

It is hard to believe that we only have two months left of school. The fifth graders have been working hard getting ready for middle school. The students worked hard on the toy projects which will be displayed for your enjoyment on Arts night, May 13, 2010.

Spanish students from Coventry High School have been working with our fifth graders once a week introducing the Spanish Language. Gilbert Stuart Museum field trips are on May 28<sup>th</sup> and June 7<sup>th</sup>. Half of the fifth grade will go each day. Refer to the notices that have already gone home. The principal and guidance counselors from the middle school will meet with our fifth graders on May 13<sup>th</sup> for an informative assembly.

Save the dates! On Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>, the fifth graders will celebrate their elementary school years with a trip to Camp Westwood. All parents are invited to come celebrate with us. Siblings cannot attend. Notices about this trip will be sent home soon. May 26 at 6:30 pm there will be a parent orientation night at the middle school for all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents. August 23, 4:00-7:00 will be a meet and greet for all students and parents of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the middle school. We look forward to seeing everyone at Camp Westwood.

## Dates To Remember

### MAY



Monday, May 3-7	Teacher Appreciation Week
Tuesday, May 4	Grade 2 fieldtrip- Mrs. Easton & Mrs. Nadrowski
Thursday, May 6	8:20 School Improvement Team meeting
Friday, May 7	Midtrimester 3 closes
Sunday, May 8	Happy Mother's Day
Monday, May 10- Friday, May 14	Grade 4 Book Report Week
Tuesday, May 11-Thursday, May 13	Grade 4 NECAP Science Assessment
Tuesday, May 11	Service Learning Celebration 6 p.m. CHS auditorium
	School Committee meeting 7:30 at CHS
Thursday, May 13	Arts Night & Book Fair 5-8 p.m.
Friday, May 14	Midtrimester 3 reports home
	Grade 3 Mini Society
Tuesday, May 18	Kindergarten Audubon Society
	Principal's Coffee Hour 9:15-10:45
	Grade 3 Rad Kids Program
Thursday, May 20	PTA free popcorn day during recesses
Friday, May 21	PBIS end of year reward
Monday, May 24	Grade 3 Rad Kids Program

	PTA installation dinner 6:00 CHS
Tuesday, May 25	Grade 3 Rad Kids Program
Thursday, May 27	Mrs. Tyree's Kinder Reader's Reception
Friday, May 28	Grade 3 Mini-Society
	Grade 5 (rooms 152, 151, and ½ of room 153) to Gilbert Stuart Museum fieldtrip
Monday, May 31	No School- Memorial Day
	<b>JUNE</b>
Wednesday, June 2	PTA free popcorn day during recess
	PTA meeting 6:30 p.m. in Library
Thursday, June 3	Grade 3 mini-society
Friday, June 4	May/June Math Master's Celebration in gym at 2:15
	PTA ice cream social
Monday, June 7	Grade 5 (rooms 133, 150, ½ of room 153) to Gilbert Stuart Museum fieldtrip
	Grade 3 fieldtrip to Casey Farm
Tuesday, June 8	Town Financial meeting
Wednesday, June 9	Grade 5 Safety Patrol fieldtrip
Thursday, June 10	Grade 3 fieldtrip to Casey Farm
	Grade 1 fieldtrip to Mystic Aquarium
Tuesday, June 15	Itinerant Day grades 1&2
Wednesday, June 16	Itinerant Day grades 3, 4 & 5
Friday, June 18	Grade 5 end of year celebration to Camp Westwood
	Mrs. Patrie's grade 1 class play