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Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Newsletter - May 2016



Principal's Pen

Dear Danville Families,

Just before April vacation, students were treated to a “Seuss Style” school-wide enrichment day focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math (STEAM) learning. The idea for this enrichment day came about as classroom teachers have been collaborating with Specialists in the building around STEAM learning all year. One of the many ways necessary for helping children be 21st century ready, is to offer an environment where students are taught to think deeply and problem solve while working with others. We believe allowing students time to design, experiment, and assess a plan offers an environment where children learn not only from successes but also from failures. Being able to converse about one’s work and being comfortable taking risks, are helping students to gain confidence. The energy level observed when students are involved in this work is inspiring! We hope to continue to grow this learning for all of our students. To read more about our enrichment day please visit EagleTribune.com for the article included on

April 21. We know we are preparing students for jobs that don’t exist yet; isn’t it exciting to think we are teaching students how to effectively create and discover at their young ages?

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 have been very busy with Smarter Balanced Assessments. We hope to have all makeups completed by the end of this week. These tests are designed to be adaptive, meaning when a student answers a question correctly, it asks them a harder question and conversely when a student answers a question incorrectly, the computer picks an easier question. The experts say that when the test is scored, it gives a more accurate evaluation of the students’ academic level. The Smarter Balanced assessment will give our schools information on our areas of strength and weakness and allow us to improve our instruction. But, it is not an assessment we use to help our children day to day. We have many other more effective tools that probe a student’s growth in literacy and numeracy. Smarter Balanced is more of a “school report card”. We are hoping results will be sent home with students next fall.

It is that time of year when we begin to think about placement for next year. We will be conducting Kindergarten screening May 11-13. At this time we are offering one full day session and one morning session. There is a strong

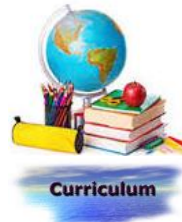
possibility we will need to add an afternoon session to accommodate student registrations. Please help us plan accurately by calling the school office (382-5554) and let us know of your intentions. If you have a student entering grades 1-5 next year, you can expect a form from me in Danville Delivery asking for feedback in describing the environment your child best learns. Please do not ask for teachers by name, rather focus on the qualities that make for an optimal learning environment for your child. We take class placement serious and consider many things to meet students' learning needs.

We continue to offer paper recycling at school. Feel free to recycle your newspapers and magazines in our bin located near the main entrance of the building. We also recycle printer cartridges. They can be left at the main office. All funds collected from recycling efforts benefit our students.

Currently the last day of school is scheduled for June 13 barring any unforeseen weather.

Best,

Nancy Barcelos



Assistant Principal News

Mr. Shawley's Corner

This past spring, your child took new statewide assessments in Math and English Language Arts called Smarter Balanced. They were designed to match the new, more rigorous state standards that focus on the critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills students need in today's world.

I would like to thank the students of Danville for all their hard work.

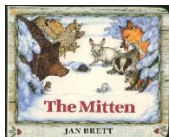


Grades 3-5 worked extremely hard during this time through the English and Math portions of the assessments. Teachers were flexible and worked as a team to provide the best testing environment for the students.

With April vacation now behind us, the end of the school year tasks begin to take shape for teachers, administrators and students. Much has to be completed by the time school closes in mid-June.

That said, the fourth grade students will be taking the state's NECAP Science Test on May 16th through the 18th. This test allows us to know the success of our science curriculum as well as student performance on both individual and group aspects of the test. Results from this test will be available in the fall.

In addition to assessments, the students and staff will be involved with many activities that help build our school culture. Field trips, Enrichment Day and many other activities will add to all the learning and excitement of our Danville students.



[From the Danville Elementary Library Media Center](#)

As the school year begins to wind down, I have reflected on all the amazing learning that has taken place in our library. It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to watch our children grow, in so many ways.

Little ones learning to read and how to find that favorite book. Learning the ability to navigate through the Library Media Center, with respect. And the pride that shines in the eyes of a child who knows how to locate a book on the shelf, by the spine label, or the address!

The Danville students are elementary leaders in the area of information literacy. At a very young age, they are learning the importance of inquiry, or asking questions. They know that their "wonder words" can help them develop

this skill, as they dig to find answers for better understandings. They are practicing how to extract key words from a sentence in order to take proper notes, and use these notes to develop a research project. They understand plagiarism and why we give the author credit in our research. They are using the information literacy skills that will help them to be successful as they move on in their education.

Readers are also very strong here in Danville. Our students love to read about interesting characters and their adventures in life. Several check out the same picture book or fiction title, over and over, their favorite! They even love to share what they have learned in their stories, and ooze with excitement over the next book in a series. Or they get excited about the next book in Book Club.

At the end of each year, our students will be stronger learners and continue to grow in this wonderful community of collaborative teaching and learning, that students are so fortunate to be a part of.

Happy spring!
Beth M. Kisiel, LMS

READ ALOUD
with Mrs. Dube



The kindergarteners had great fun performing some fairy tales this month! They acted out the "Three Little Pigs", "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", "The Little Red Hen", and the "Three Billy Goats Gruff"! What great little actors they are!

The second graders spent the month of April with an old friend, Keena Ford, as we read "Keena Ford and the Secret Journal Mix-up". Keena is just the right mix of naughtiness and goodness to make the students feel happy for her accomplishments and sad at her mistakes.

Third graders spent the month on a new storybook called "When Mischief Came to Town". She, too, is mischievous and silly. The children are engrossed listening to her become accustomed to her new living environment.

Most of the fourth grade learned about idioms and personification this month. First, they learned some of the history behind some of the things we say. For instance, did you know that "sleep tight, don't let the bed bugs bite" comes

from the colonists? Their straw beds often held biting bugs, and the ropes that held the mattresses to the bed frame often needed tightening. Next, they created a cartoon that told a story from an inanimate every day object's point of view.

The fifth graders worked on some logic puzzles and brain challenges as a way to stay sharp during their testing.



Music Note

Mrs. Cook
Join Band or Strings!

Parents of current 2nd , 3rd or 4th grade students:

If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument NEXT YEAR, they must sign up **NOW!** There are NO fall sign ups. (If your child is already a band/string member, they will automatically be enrolled for next year.)

Current 2nd graders are eligible for violin, viola or cello.

Current 3rd graders are eligible for violin, viola, cello, flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, percussion, French horn, oboe.

Come to the Timberlane Performing Arts Center on ONE of the following days:

Friday June 3rd at 5:00pm OR
Saturday June 4th at 8:00am OR
Wednesday June 8th at 5:00pm

Please arrive on time for an informational meeting and plan to stay for 2 hours to let your child try 3 different instruments and sign up. Rentals will be offered if you do not already have an instrument that is in good working condition.

This is a free event to help students decide which instrument best fits their body structure and personality. Experienced instructors will be available to help you and your child with their decision.

After you have signed up, there will be three lessons, held on June 14, 15, 17 from 4:00 – 5:30pm OR 6:00 – 7:30pm. Plan on attending one lesson each day. The lessons are offered at a reduced rate and will give your child the tools they need to begin learning songs over the summer. This is a wonderful opportunity to try a band or string instrument before you commit to an instrument. Come join the fun and enjoy beautiful music all summer long!

Questions: Kathy Giacobbe, music dept. secretary 382-6541 X 3982



Physical Education

Hello Everyone!

Happy May! Thank you to everyone who stopped over and said hello at the Academic Fair before vacation! It is great to see so many parents who are excited to see what their

children have been up to during P.E. class! We are starting off early May with a Dance unit and are flying into Whiffle Ball / Baseball / Softball directly after that. This will be followed up with some Capture the Flag for our older students.

As the weather warms and our field dries out, I am hoping to get outside and enjoy the spring weather with my classes.

Please continue to make sure that your son or daughter brings sneakers to change into for P.E. class!

I hope this note finds you happy and active!

-Patrick Ard

Danville P.E.

Patrick.Ard@timberlane.net



Enrichment Program

Mrs. Wood

Friday, April 22, 2016 was a lively day at Danville Elementary School. We celebrated the writings of Dr. Seuss and tied his work into Earth Day and STEM activities and lessons. Every grade level used the early release day morning to allow students extended time to use Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics to design and create various models to solve a specific



problem related to Dr. Seuss stories or Earth Day. The Cat in the Hat also visited each



grade level and worked with students on a special activity.

Photographs of the activities are available for viewing on the Danville Elementary School site.

On Friday, May 27, we will be using this early release day for another enrichment day entitled "Ways To Be A Healthier Me!" The TIGER group from Plymouth State will come to share through drama and song ways to interact with others in a positive way. Staff will share workshops with small groups of students on many different health and wellness topics.

Cindy Wood, Enrichment Specialist
Cindy.wood@timberlane.net