

#### October 31, 2014



# From the Desks of Ms. Gensel & Mrs. Shober

Happy Halloween! It's hard to believe that it's almost November already! Students have been learning a whole lot and this week selected many great books from the Book Fair!

#### Dates to Remember:

- □ 11/2 Fall Back 1 Hour
- □ 11/3 Single Session, Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:45-3:30)
- □ 11/4 No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences (1:00-9:00)
- □ 11/5 No School, Staff In-Service Day
- □ 11/6-11/7 No School, NJEA Conference
- □ 11/20 Picture Retakes
- □ 11/26 Single Session
- □ 11/27-11/28 No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
- □ 12/5 Single Session, Staff In-Service

#### Parent Pick-Up Safety

- Please drive on the RIGHT side of the road
- D Please be careful when pulling out of parking spaces, as children are small and cannot be seen well
- Children need to walk with their parents at all times







# Fire Safety

In the month of October fire prevention we do study, As we learn from our teachers and read books with our buddy. Our town was all safe so they came to our schools, To make sure we knew all of the fire safety rules. From never play with matches to for help dial 911 We learned being fire safety smart could be so much fun. Firefighter Modrowsky all dressed in his gear May look pretty scary, but we have nothing to fear. We checked out the fire trucks as Firefighter VanGlahn showed them with pride Reminding us that under our bed was no place to hide. Firefighter Suarez told us if detectors make noise get out and stay out And if clothes catch on fire stop-drop and roll we did shout! Firefighter Zaharko was told us fresh air is on the ground so stay low as you go If you're not really sure ask your kindergartner they know!









# Mrs. Apsley's Class

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THE FIREMEN AT THE NESHANIC FIRE COMPANY! Mrs. Apsley's Class and the Kindergarten classes loved our Visit from the Firemen at the Neshanic Fire Department! We listened and learned that we should have a family fire drill at home, our smoke detectors should be checked every season and to crawl low in smoke. We learned that our family should have a safe family meeting place to go if there is a fire. Once we get out, we call 911. We learned that we get out and stay out! If we are in the house and can't get out, we learned to crawl to a window and yell out to the firemen. We also learned to never hide in the house! If we see the fireman, we crawl over to the fireman and grab his leg or coat and shake it and say, "here I am"! We love, loved, loved sitting in the fire truck looking at all the fire equipment and taking pictures with the firemen and by the truck. Lastly, we learned that we talk about fire safety in October but we must practice our fire safety all year long. Thank you to our special fire fighter friends for coming to see us at Whiton School!!



BOOO SOUP!!!! Students in Mrs. Everson's class made Halloween packaging for Campbell's Soup cans.

After searching the Campbell's Soup website we found monster costumes to design, color, and dress our soup cans in for Halloween fun!

Check out our Monster pyramid but don't get too SPOOKED!!



### News from Mrs. Buffa's Class

- Happy Autumn from Mrs. Buffa's third grade class! We are working hard as we "fall" into our new routines, learning new names, and making new friends. We really enjoyed wearing all the colors of great character, as we talked about how to be good citizens of our classroom, our school, and our community. Here are some of the other things that we've been working on:
- In writing, the students have been blossoming into aWESome writers! They have learned how to generate ideas for writing by thinking of important people, places, and things in their lives. They are also writing about big feelings, first times, and important lessons they have learned. The students have been learning how to use good word choice, dialogue, strong leads and ending, similes, and even onomatopoeia! Writing can be so much fun!
- In math, the students are learning multiplication and division facts, as well as solving number stories. They are working hard to learn different strategies and to memorize the basic facts.
- In reading, students have been learning that "Reading is Thinking!" What do you think about as you read? Students have learned to read "just right books". They are continuing to learn how to activate their schema, ask questions as they read, summarize, synthesize, monitor comprehension, visualize, and make inferences. One of our reading goals is to increase our reading stamina. We love reading!
- In social studies, we have been learning about different kinds of communities and map skills. The students enjoyed making drawings of rural, suburban and urban communities. As we wrap up our social studies unit, we will be learning about fire safety rules for Fire Safety month. Do you have an exit plan for your family?
- The first two months of school have really flown by! We are looking forward to many exciting things as we go through the fall, such as our Spooktacular Halloween parade and the Book Fair. The students have come so far in a short amount of time. We are looking forward to a fun and successful school year.





# Mrs. Eelman's Class

- On a bright, sunny, crisp fall day, three fire trucks and seven firefighters from the Three Bridges and Neshanic Volunteer Fire companies came to Whiton Elementary School. These heroes spent the whole day reminding first and second graders about fire safety. Some things we want to remember are:
- Firefighters are our friends,
- When fire strikes, get out and stay out,
- Fire safety starts with me,
- In case of an emergency, dial 911 and ONLY in an emergency,
- Never play with matches or lighters.
- A really important topic was when they cautioned us about the fire hazard of dry leaves at this time of year. It was a busy question and answer period, too! They were very generous and gave us pencils that turn colors with heat. The sessions ended with an exciting time where we each got to spray the fire hose! Even the teachers got to participate! With the rumble and roar of the engines, we thanked the brave fire fighters for all they do for our communities.
- (written by Mrs. Eelman's second graders as part of shared writing!)







### Whiton Library and PebbleGo ...

- Thanks to a gift of funds from the PTO, Whiton now has PebbleGo available throughout the school. Animals, Earth and Space, Biographies and Social Studies are the four databases it includes. Voice over with highlighting, to support the early reader or listener, is available. Second and third graders are investigating PebbleGo during Library time. PreK, K and first grade will have library involvement with PebbleGo in the near future.
- Busy with books, PreK's bring book characters and other objects to story corner and, before the reading, picture walk the book of the day locating items included in the illustrations. When story time is over, each shows how careful they can be as they place a character back in the box.



Kindergarten is comparing the works of Ezra Jack Keats noticing characters, places and thoughts that connect. Titles used thus far are Whistle for Willie, A Letter to Amy, Dreams and The Trip.

First grade extended <u>Bigmamma's</u> in booklet form, drawing and writing about personal memories of which the story reminded them.
Their borrowing began with one book as in kindergarten but they have progressed to two books, and this cycle they could add the long awaited magazine, knowing that they need to avoid the danger of home recycling and recycle it back to the library instead.

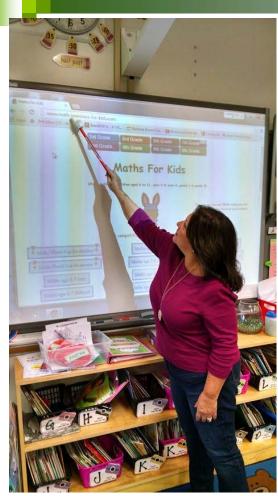
 Second graders reported on story elements as they considered the Caldecott Award winning book, <u>Time of Wonder</u>. As this book required several sessions to finish, we were left with the cliffhanger of what was going to blow. Some of the thoughts were:

> a volcano, a whale, a storm, a steam engine, a whistle, a tea kettle. It was a hurricane.





 Third grade continues to develop the skill of independent use, especially at borrowing time. Though <u>The Library Gingerbread Man</u> ran away from his home in the Library, third graders search the shelves looking for book home addresses. No need to wait for help if you can interpret a call number clue.



### Ms. Trubin's class uses the Chrome Books during Math Lessons





#### SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

#### By: Sandy Koscielski

Incorporating movement during speech sessions stimulates the mind body connection and can facilitate improved speech and language skills. Students require movement and novelty to stay engaged when learning. This month I have adapted the Twister Hopscotch game and I turned it into a "spooky sidewalk". I used this game to teach various speech and language skills as I individualized the game for each student. Some of the goals that were targeted included the following: producing /s/ blends (ex. skeleton, scary, scarecrow) in words or simple sentences, following directions (ex. put the witch next to the second red circle), taking turns, counting, rhyming (ex. bat and cat), understanding concepts (ex. beginning, end, start, finish, right, left, next to, behind, in front of), describing objects and responding to "who", "what", and "where" questions.







# Writing Workshop

By Mrs. DeLorenzo

- Writing Workshop is a time used for brainstorming ideas and getting thoughts down on paper in story form.
- The students have been learning about the routines and procedures for Writing Workshop.
- We sit with each child and conference them on how to generate their own ideas.
- They have been practicing writing beginning, middle and ends to their stories.
- The students focused on writing Personal Narratives.

- The students have been writing about special places they have been and a special people in their lives.
- They are also focusing on adding details to their illustrations.
- We ended the unit with a celebration of all the students sharing their stories with one another.
- The children were very excited to take part in their first Book Sharing Party!
- We have displayed the students' first published stories in the hallway for everyone to read and enjoy!

### From the Desk of the School Counselor Circle of Friends

Intended to promote a positive school climate and pro-social skills in our elementary students, Whiton has developed a Circle of Friends. Membership in the "circle" is open to all students and lasts for the remainder of the year. Each student earns a ticket from their classroom teachers for random acts of kindness they observe and displays of good character while at school. The greater the number of acts a student completes, the greater the number of tickets earned. At the end of each month, teachers randomly select two tickets, and those students become our new Circle of Friends members. All members receive a Circle of Friends bracelet to wear while at school so that other students can look to them as good role models and leaders. Special tables were also set up in the Cafeteria for members; however, it is optional for students. The students also meet with Mrs. Ryan, School Counselor twice during the month to discuss ways to promote a positive school climate and the many forms of kindness toward others. The culminating activity is a large paper quilt comprised of panels created by all members that depict them engaging in a random act of kindness. The completed quilt will be displayed in the school in June.

