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# a WES me news



May 23, 2014

PLEASE obey OUR RULES



owl Be Watchful

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



- Thanks for a GREAT year!
- June is upon us! As the weather gets warmer, please be mindful of our dress code which includes not wearing flip-flops.
- Dates to Remember:
  - 5/26 – Memorial Day – School Closed
  - 6/2 – Field Day (rain date 6/3)
  - 6/4 – Pre-School Field Trip
  - 6/5 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Author's Day
  - 6/6 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Carnival
  - 6/12 – Seeds to Salad
  - 6/13 – Move-Up Day
  - 6/18-6/20 – Single Session
  - 6/23 – Last Day of School (Single Session)



## Parent Pick-Up Safety

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



# From the Teachers' Desks

## ■ Ms. Roper

- Students in Miss Roper's first grade class have been studying character in Character Clubs! Some of the characters that were studied were: *Fly Guy*, *Henry & Mudge*, *Sam*, and *Jack & Annie*. Each club read many many books about their character in order to learn: how their character looks on the outside, what their character likes/dislikes, how their character's feelings change, character traits & much more! As a celebration of all the hard work we did studying character, each club made a quilt about their character. Each patch on the quilt presented an important fact about the character. The quilts are hanging outside our classroom, stop by and check them out!



# Ms. Sydlowski

- The third grade's Salad Extravaganza is next month! The children have done a terrific job in their Sharing and Caring garden. They are growing a wide variety of vegetables: radishes, lettuce, onions, spinach, beets, arugula, and swiss chard. The children have learned about insects, composting worms, how to identify weeds, and how to tend to a vegetable garden. The weather has not been very cooperative this year, but our crops are growing, especially the onions! It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and pride that the children have for their garden.

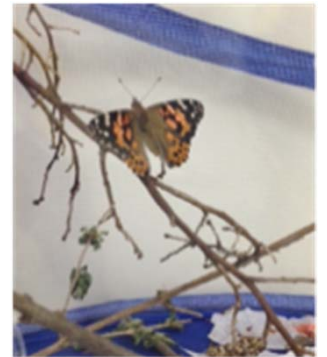




# Diary of a Butterfly

## By Mrs. Zelnick & Mrs. Piano

- The butterflies have emerged! Our unit on the butterfly life cycle started a month ago. When we received the caterpillars, they were so tiny. They were barely one centimeter each. I told the students that the caterpillars would become adults (butterflies) in only one month, much quicker than people. They observed the caterpillars as they ate the mallow plant and grew too big for the little plastic cups that they were living in. In just a couple of weeks, the caterpillars had crawled to the top of the net to get ready for the next stage, the chrysalis. Days and days passed. Other classes had butterflies. ("Uh, oh," I thought.) Then this Monday, we came in to find butterflies in the net. (Phew!) The students were so excited. To culminate the butterfly experience, the students are going to write a book about the butterfly life cycle. The books will be written from the butterfly's perspective, just like the Diary of a Worm and Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Mrs. Cashin suggested we title the books, Diary of a Butterfly. The students are doing a great job writing and publishing their books. Keep an eye out for the books to appear on display in the library.





# Mrs. Willard

## GATE News

- Grade 1- Chemical Engineering- Students are learning about what chemical engineers do. They are also learning about the Engineering Design Process. (Ask, Imagine, Plan, Create, and Improve). The students imagined that they were chemical engineers and used this process to design a new raspberry-orange juice color for a fictitious company called, "The Creative Juice Company". The children had the opportunity to complete a product research survey and made recommendations on their products results. The students also made and experimented with different ingredients to make a high quality Play- Doh. The students had great fun learning about how solids and liquids can be combined in a certain way to make great dough product.



- **Grade 2: Ancient China:** Students have been busy studying ancient China. Students learned about the Great Wall of China and why it was built. They learned about the geography of China and all the things that were invented throughout the different dynasties. Students read facts about China and created items from the Chinese culture like fancy paper cutouts and fans. Students practiced writing in Chinese and counting 1-10. They also read about ancient China in the *Appleseeds* publication called, *Children of China Long Ago*. Students also read a story about a girl from Beijing who dreamed about being a materials engineer and building a wall around her garden. Next, the students will learn about what a material engineer does and experiment with different mortars to try to build a mini wall of their own. The students clearly love learning about material engineering and how the rich Chinese culture has influenced our lives.

# Mrs. Willard

## GATE News (Cont.)

- Grade 3 – The People Puzzle Project- Hooray for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE classes. They have had the opportunity to work together and collaborate on an exciting research project. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade GATE students began the project by creating an original “People Puzzle” where they had to think of and create clues and artifacts from a famous person’s life. They worked hard in class to think of original ways to present their clues. The clues and artifacts were then sent to Mrs. Burke’s 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to decode. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders worked like CSI agent’s genealogists, and historical researchers, carefully examining the clues to find the meaning behind them. Once the 5<sup>th</sup> grade GATE students figured out who the famous person was, they wrote a letter back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade GATE class about the results of their findings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> graders really enjoyed working on this research project knowing that their hard work paid off and had value. They also looked forward to receiving positive feedback from the older children. The students in both schools really enjoyed participating in this type of student research and vertical articulation project.



# Ms. Garner

- Do you know what multisensory reading instruction is?
- Multisensory reading instruction is one important aspect of instruction for a student who struggles with decoding and encoding words. Instruction is explicit, direct, cumulative, intensive, and focused on the structure of language. Students are taught the structure of written language, including the sounds (phonemes), meaning units (morphemes such as prefixes, suffixes, and roots) and common spelling rules. Multisensory learning involves the use of visual, auditory, and kinesthetic-tactile pathways simultaneously to enhance memory and learning of written language. Links are consistently made between the visual (*language we see*), auditory (*language we hear*), and kinesthetic-tactile (*language symbols we feel*) pathways in learning to read and spell.
- Tell me and I'll forget. Show me, and I may not remember. Involve me, and I'll understand.

*Author unknown*





# Whiton's Occupational Therapy (OT) Story

## by Nancy Ryan O.T.R/L

- OT provides a sensory diet  
To help your students stay calm and quiet.
- We can provide balls so chairs aren't slipping  
To help prevent those chairs from tipping.
- If your student can't hold a steady grip  
Come see OT for a professional tip.
- If you have a student who doesn't take care  
We can provide a rocker chair.
- OT has adapted crayons and pencils  
To use with all your tracing stencils.
- Special paper to write and draw  
So students can follow the grammar law.
- We have special scissors to cut out shapes  
OT and school are perfect mates.
- OT is a great place to learn and grow  
When the school year is done you will be a pro.



# “Red, White & Blue”

By Mrs. Roman, Mrs. Minette & Mrs. VanGlahn

- Our class has been very patriotic this month. We learned about Memorial Day and the sacrifices the soldiers made for our freedom. We talked about how we honor soldiers. One way we do this is by flying the flag of the United States. We also honor our soldiers by saying thank you when we see them, and we go to parades to show our respect. We also read that 5 other countries celebrate Memorial Day, but during different times of the year. We sang many patriotic songs and made our own red, white, and blue posters to show we are proud to be Americans!!!



# Grand Falloons Assembly on Environmental Safety

