



KEEP
CALM
AND
HOOT
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a WES me news



October 30, 2015





From the Desks of Mrs. Shober & Mr. Fornaro

- October has been an exciting month at Whiton Elementary School.
- Dates to Remember:
 - 11.2-4 Halloween Candy Selection
 - 11.3 Single Session day (Parent Conferences)
 - 11.4 No School (Parent Conferences)
 - 11.5-11.6 No School (Teachers' Convention)
 - 11.16-11.20 Thanksgiving Thoughtfulness
 - 11.19 Picture Retake day
 - 11.26-27 No School (Thanksgiving Break)
- Reminder
 - In the Whiton parking lot, please remember to keep our children safe by driving responsibly.
- Halloween Candy Collection
 - Please bring in wrapped candy on November 2-13 to be distributed to needy children.
- Thanksgiving Thoughtfulness
 - Please consider sending nonperishables with your child the week of November 16th. There will be a box in the lobby to collect these items. The PTO will compose food baskets to donate on the behalf of Whiton Elementary school.

Halloween Tips

- Choose a light-colored costume because these are easily seen at night. Add reflective tape or glow-in-the-dark tape to the front and back of the costume and to the trick-or-treat bag.
- Make sure wigs and beards don't cover your kids' eyes, noses, or mouths.
- Kids shouldn't wear masks — they can make it difficult for them to see and breathe. Instead, use nontoxic face paint or makeup. Have younger kids draw pictures of what they want to look like. Older kids will have fun putting the makeup on themselves. Test the face paint or makeup on your child's arm or hand before applying to make sure the paint doesn't irritate the skin.
- Avoid colored or decorative contact lenses, unless they have been prescribed by an eye doctor for your child.
- Put a nametag — with your phone number — on your children's costumes.
- Avoid oversized and high-heeled shoes that could cause kids to trip. Make sure the rest of the costume fits well, too, which can help prevent trips and falls.
- Make sure that any props your kids carry, such as wands or swords, are short and flexible.

- From <http://kidshealth.org/>





MOMS Club of
Somerville/Raritan, NJ

Teach the Reader Not the Text

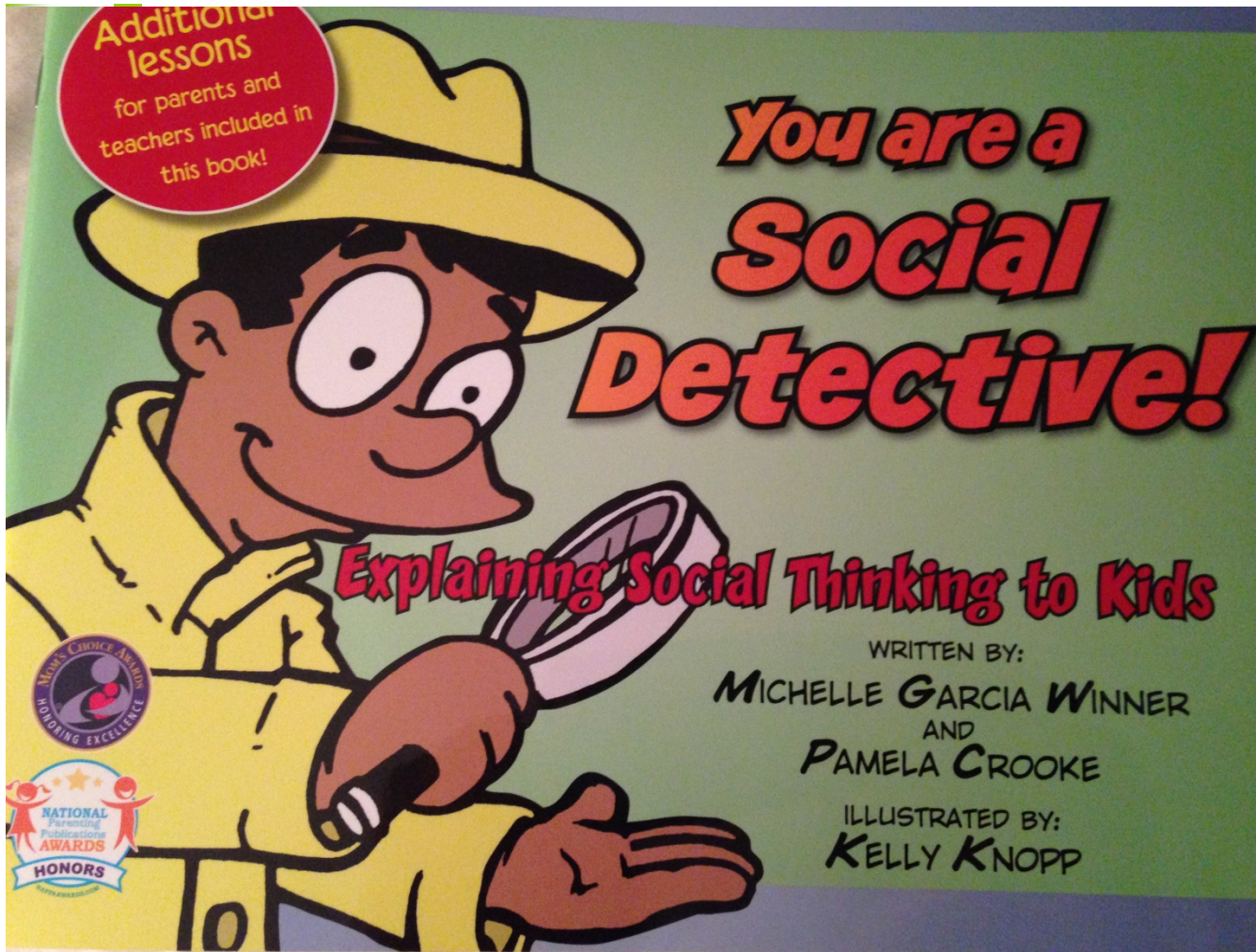
When reading a story, where does comprehension begin?

- The comprehending begins way before a child sits down to read a book. It starts with hearing the title, thinking about the story, and giving the child the language of the book. This is an authentic way to help the child process the story. By having a child read a story that is either on an independent or instructional level, the child can process the words more quickly, and spend more time on meaning and comprehension.
- If a child struggles with word analysis skills, the story becomes too laborious and the child is not comprehending what he/she is reading. We need to teach the reader not the text.
- We need to model and scaffold for each child. We need to support and help expand the reader's "processing powers". In guided reading, our role is to introduce the story so well that they can be successful and read it well. A child must be able to decode and comprehend simultaneously.
- All of the above helps the reader to:
- Use their prior knowledge for support of their reading
- Move toward becoming an independent reader
- Engage in learning and develop inner control
- Practice effective reading strategies on easy material
- Develop all the reading behaviors to become an independent reader



Children need to be successful when they are learning to read. When children are allowed to read independently, they are learning to help themselves as readers. They need to solve words, monitor, correct, gather information, predict, adjust, analyze, synthesize, summarize, infer, and make connections. You can help your child by asking, "What have you read today?" Have your child engage in a quick conversation about the story that he/she read. Have them give you the highlights to the story, and offer them encouragement for their reading efforts.

Happy reading! Donna Meehan ☺



Mrs. Everson's Detectives
Our class is embarking on a new adventure! We are going to become Social Detectives! We will use our social smarts to help us along this journey. Social Detectives use their eyes and ears along with what they know in their brains to figure out what is expected and what may happen next.

We will use our eyes to figure out what people might be thinking, feeling, or planning to do next.

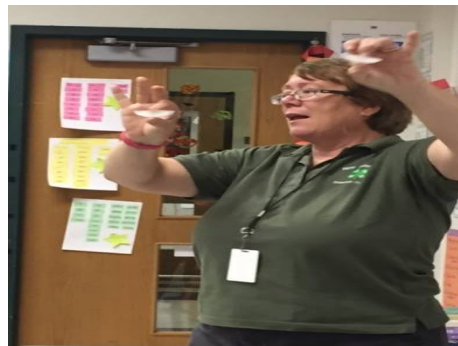
We will use our ears to do the exact same thing.

When we mix our thoughts from our eyes and ears and send them to our brain we can make smart guesses about our friends and teachers. We can make social guesses when we are in class, on the playground, in the lunch room, and with our family.

Stay tuned inLook.....Listen.....Think....A social detective could be thinking near you....or you may be thinking about them too!

Learning about Matter

The second graders are studying matter. They have been looking at liquids and solids and learning about the different properties of each. Mrs. Bjaszik from 4-H come to present the workshop Matter Matters to Mrs. Cole's class on Wednesday, October 28th. They learned that mass is how much "stuff" makes up matter. They were given many different items to classify into the 3 categories of matter: solids, liquids, and gas. They discussed the different properties that each item has. They observed water in 3 different forms. They passed around an ice cube from student to student, watched one sitting on the table, and watched one sitting on a heating element. They were surprised to observe that the cube that was passed around from hand to hand was the cube that turned to water the fastest. Would you have guessed that?





Awesome News from Mrs. Apsley's Kindergarten:

We would love to send out a Big Thank You to the Firemen at the Neshanic Fire Company!

Mrs. Apsley's Class and all of the Kindergarten classes loved our visit from the firemen. We listened to Firefighter Mr. Suarez and learned that our family should have a way out of our house and a safe meeting place. We learned never, never to go back into the house! We practiced, "Get out and stay out!" We learned to crawl low in smoke, call 911 if there is ever a fire and to stop, drop and roll if our clothes ever catch fire.!

Firefighter Matt put on all of his firefighter gear and crawled on the ground so we could hear and see him. It sounded strange but we learned to crawl over and pull on his coat if he is looking for us. The firefighters are trying to help us and we need to say, "I'm here!" so they can get us safely out of the house. We loved sitting in the fire truck and looking at all of the fire equipment. We learned that we talk about fire safety in October but we must practice fire safety all year long!

Thank you to our special firefighter friends, Mr. Suarez and Mr. Matt for coming to see us at Whiton School



Week of Respect



Again this fall, Whiton Elementary School joined thousands of schools and organizations across the nation in celebrating the Week of Respect (October 2-9). This week reminds us to focus on the importance of character education and the prevention of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying, conflict resolution, the critical need for diversity and acceptance. Whiton celebrated this week by dressing in the colors representing each of the character traits from the Josephson's framework of character education: *trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship*. On Tuesday, October 6, students were treated to a special school-wide assembly called, "It Pays to Be Nice" which focused on being kind to one another and stressed non-violent ways to manage conflicts. In the classrooms, teachers focused Morning Meetings on themes such as getting along, being kind and how to be a good friend. The week of Respect has been intentionally tied into our ongoing Character education program, School Violence Awareness Week and Red Ribbon Week. This year, the focus of these important celebrations is incorporated into the daily experiences that our students have while at school in their classrooms, in the cafeteria, on the playground and on the bus. We believe that it is important for our students to recognize that they each have an individual responsibility to "take care of themselves, take care of others and take care of our school"!

First Graders Celebrate Writing

Writer's
Workshop



KEEP
CALM
AND
BE A
WRITER

Mrs. Fitzgibbon's Fabulous Authors

First graders have been busy writing personal narrative stories in our first unit of writer's workshop. In this unit we learned the steps authors take to write stories, how to make our sketches help tell our story, and strategies for sounding out tricky words. We recently wrapped up this unit by celebrating our accomplishments as authors and are eager to share our published writing with the world. Walk through the first grade hall where our stories are displayed and enjoy reading some of our personal narratives!

Dooley Noted: 3rd Grade Edition

Our class is excited to announce that they are publishing their personal narratives on the Chrome books. During this unit we wrote exciting leads, revised stories to add writer's craft and wrote awesome endings. As part of the publication process each student wrote a dedication, copyright and an "All About the Author page." The parents sent in pictures of our authors and each student inserted their pictures into their documents.

The students even resized and cropped their photos when needed.

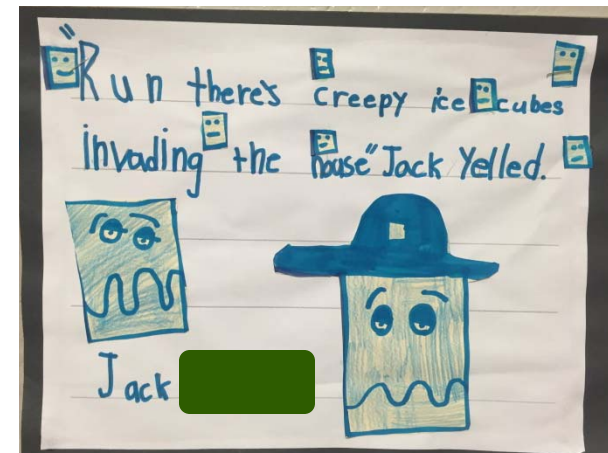
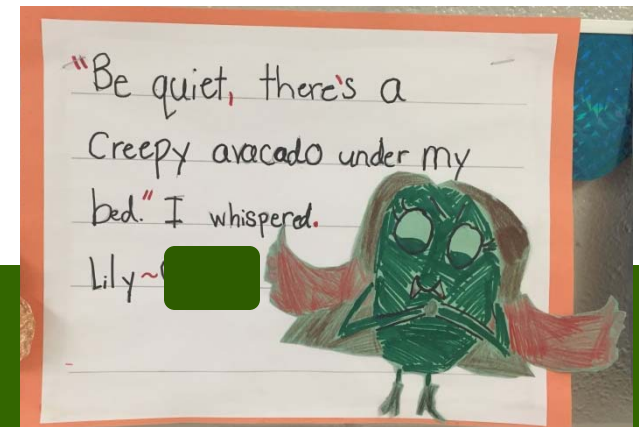
These stories look and sound very professional!

Did you know that Rhode Island has over 30 islands? In Social Studies our class has been enjoying learning about the states in the North East Region. Each day we visit a different state. We take notes on a map of the state highlighting physical characteristics. Then we take notes on the state facts. This includes state nick names, capitals and fun facts. When we finish this region we will have a quiz on these states.

One night they had homework where they were asked to record facts about each state we visited. They could even research new facts on the computers at home. Xander asked me if we could do it again because it was the best homework ever!

During interactive read aloud we read, "Creepy Carrots," in which carrots keep following around a bunny. We utilized this book to become better reader and writers. In reading we practiced making and revising our prediction. We also discussed character change throughout the story. As writers we used this fun Halloween themed book to practice punctuating dialogue. Each student had to write their own sentence with dialogue based on their own imaginative creepy character. There were creepy avocados, bananas, cupcakes and watermelons! Then the students used what they learned about quotation marks and edit their stories using correct punctuation on the Chrome books.

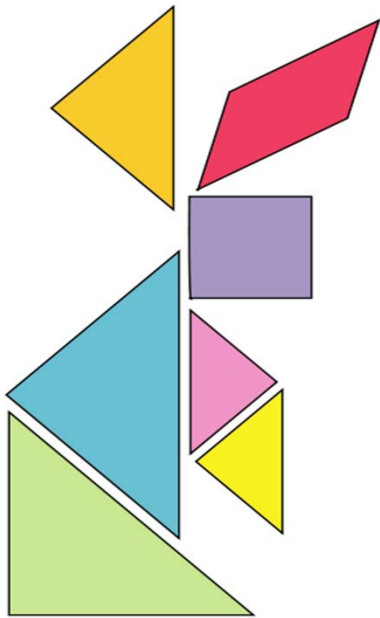
It's been an incredibly busy and productive October!





Whiton Library *Happynings*






PreK students are working at showing careful use of book related characters, as they bring them to story corner for animal and autumn related stories, as well as care for books. While some students prefer to end the class sitting quietly perusing a chosen book, others use learning activities such as puzzles, matching games or the art table covered with 6 ft. of paper. The latter collaborative works have been a delightful combination of realism and impressionism.

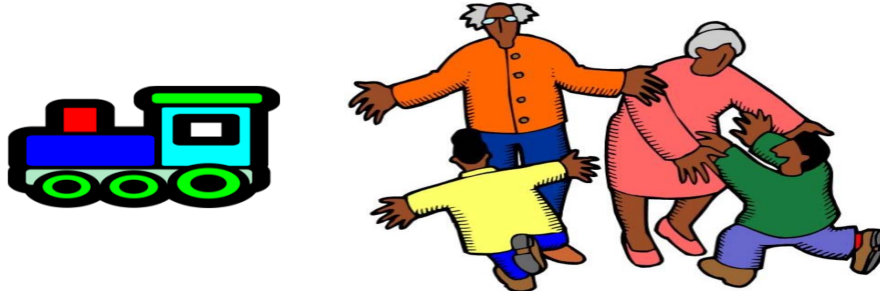


Kindergarten also has been choosing from preselected fiction and nonfiction books as well as the dinosaur display. In November they will learn shelfmarker use and get acquainted with shelved areas of the library. The neighborhood of Peter, Willie the dachshund, Amy, Roberto and Archie's cat is becoming familiar territory. Ezra Jack Keats' characters, they are. Check with the





First graders finished a “text to self” connection project this month. After hearing and thinking about Donald Crews’ biography, Bigmamma’s,



they folded a booklet, then inside drew and colored their connection to the story and on the back cover added text to explain why it was their choice.



Second graders are talking about characters, problems and solutions related to the happenings of Robert McCloskey's Time of Wonder, which is set in Penobscot Bay, Maine, during one spring to hurricane season. As it is a Caldecott Award winner, origin and requirements of the award will be November topics.



October is anti-bullying month.

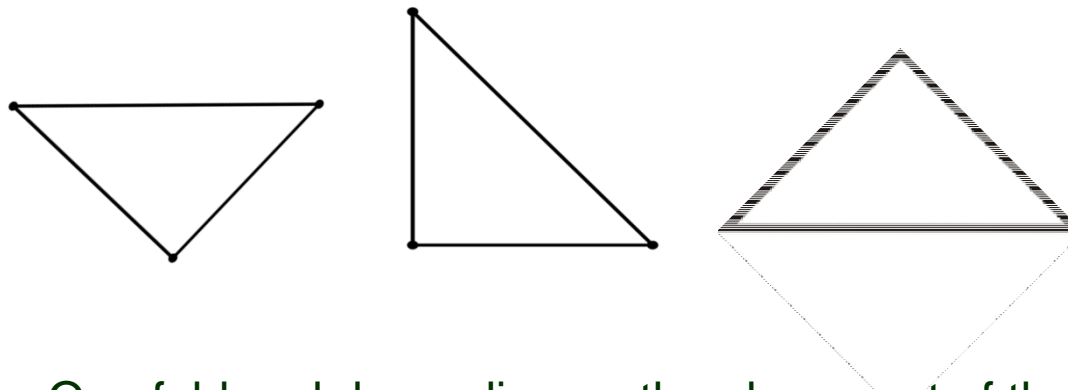
Third graders have a local author,

Karen Rostoker-Gruber,

to thank for the Reader's Theater of Ferret Fun now in first reading in the Library. Our **Mrs. DePaolo** also has our appreciation for relaying a message, at an author meeting, that the book would make good reader's theater and just days later the gift of the script was in the email.



In addition grades **K to 3** have a once a year cycle of four classes, not a part of their regular library lesson/borrowing time, during which with origami we are seeing beyond the obvious. Without even a fold, half of a 3" square divided on the diagonal can be a piece of paper, a triangle, a color, a fox, a sail, a mountain...



One fold and depending on the placement of that fold the triangle becomes one of several bird possibilities or... Try two folds and ...