

# Messages from Mittineague



## News from Room 2:

We are wrapping up the school year with final projects and end of the year assessments. It is always such a rewarding time as we see the growth from the past year. The data I am collecting will help me in writing report card comments. Look out for suggestions of ways to maintain and grow areas in which your student may be struggling.

In reading, we have been finishing our read aloud, **Holes**. The class has been incredibly engaged with the story, and I see them using the new vocabulary in their writing and speaking. This has been a huge area of growth for us as a class. We can't wait to watch the movie when we have finished the book, and compare the two.

In poetry we have continued to solidify our understanding of the elements of poetry. It can be hard to keep track of the difference between metaphor and simile, or onomatopoeia and hyperbole, but we're starting to get it down. Students are not only identifying the elements of poetry, but also adding them into their own writing.

In math, we are reviewing multi-digit addition and subtraction with borrowing and regrouping. These are important skills for third and fourth grade. We have also been taking advantage of the chromebooks and doing some differentiated math practice on the websites Prodigy and Xtramath. Both websites can be accessed from home and over the summer for students to keep their skills fresh.

In second grade science we have been studying biodiversity, and habitats. Third graders are currently finishing a social studies unit of the American Revolution, and studying Biology for their upcoming trip to Mittineague Park.

As a reminder we have our ancestor project due on June 4. All of the work should be completed by the student. They will be graded on their understanding of what they have researched and are presenting. This means that while parental guidance for time management and finding resources is encouraged, all the work must be done by the child.

Enjoy the warm weather and the final days of school. It has been such a joy working with this group of learners!

## News from our Counselor: Building on your kids' friendship skills What's a friend anyway?

Don't assume your children know what being a good friend entails. Talk about taking turns, sharing, and showing an interest in others and how these actions will make peers and classmates feel good and want to spend time with them. Ask your kids how they feel when someone doesn't share with them or makes them feel left out. By explaining how other children feel the same way, this will help them develop empathy.

### Mingle more

The more your children interact with others, the better they'll get at it. And having them meet a wide variety of people in different situations will let them practice under different circumstances. Even if your family is planning to stay home this summer, make sure your kids get out to places where they'll meet other kids — for example, the playground, the public pool, and children's hour at the library. If they're going to camp or taking classes, encourage them to talk to new kids and try to make friends.

### One "Hi" at a time

If your kids are especially shy, make a plan to help them get comfortable making new friends. Set small, daily goals — the first step might be to encourage them to smile and greet one or two new people each day. Once they've mastered this, up the ante a bit and have them add a conversation starter (such as a question about the other person's day or a compliment).

### Just add drama

Since most social skills are learned by watching and imitating others, it makes sense to role-play the kinds of social situations that make your children uncomfortable or nervous. You might feel silly acting out an interaction between kids, but it really does help your children to practice in a safe place. Try several possible responses so that they understand there can be many outcomes to any interaction. If your children want to confront a friend who hurt their feelings, for instance, role-play an encounter where the other child apologizes, and another where the child continues to tease them. Talk about what the next step should be in each situation.

### Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative

When you see your children making a kind gesture, be sure to praise them for it. "That was nice of you to give Joe another turn after he dropped the ball. That's being a good friend." You've told your children what makes a good friend — now it's time to talk about what will stop a friendship in its tracks. Teach them not to brag, put others down, be a sore loser, or hog conversations. If you hear them doing any of these things, gently remind them that a good friend doesn't do that. Also ask your children how they think their friend responded: "How do you think that made him feel? Does it look like he's happy?" It's important for kids to understand the power they have on others, and this is a good way for yours to start.

## For your Calendar

June 4  
Banking/Chorus

June 4  
7:30 AM Band Practice

June 4  
Grade 5 to Plimoth Plantation

June 6  
Grade 5 to WSMS

June 6  
WSHS Grad Walk

June 7  
Field Day/Family Picnic



### News from Room 8:

The countdown to the end of the school year has begun! The students in fourth and fifth grade have been working to finish reading assignments, writing pieces, and projects in math and science.

In reading, I recently transitioned my teacher-center guided reading groups to student-centered Literature Circles. Literature Circles provide opportunities for students to work independently, manage time in class and at home, express their thoughts through writing, and present orally to a group of peers. The students have each taken on the role of discussion direction, stellar summarizer, adventuring artist, literary luminary, and word wizard. Each role provides students with the opportunity to ask questions and lead discussions, summarize important events, express their thoughts and feelings through illustrations, identify meaningful quotes, or discover new vocabulary. The students enjoy taking on different leadership roles and meeting with their peers during Literature Circle meetings.

In math, the students have been reviewing topics in preparation for our end of the year math assessment. As a group, we have reviewed multiplying and dividing whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, ordering and comparing fractions and decimals, measurement and angles, and how to find the area, perimeter, or volume of a given shape or figure. As a culminating project, the students will use what they have learned about these topics to plan a dream backyard! The students will use checklist to plan, calculate, and design a model of their dream backyard on a budget. Stay on the lookout for these dreamy backyard projects!

In science, the students recently chose a topic to research and teach to the class. As a group, we created a rubric for the project that can be used as a guide.. Each student is expected to create a google slideshow with information about the given topic. Students are expected to use text features including headings, photographs, captions, diagrams, key words, glossary, etc. to present their information. Students are also expected to provide real-world example(s), a demonstration, or a hands-on activity for their peers to take part in. Through our presentations, the students will once again take on the leadership role of teaching their peers about their chosen topic. These presentations will review many science topics covered from 1st through 5th grade.

In social studies, we have been learning all about the 13 colonies in preparation for the 5th grade field trip to Plimoth Plantation. Don't forget: our field trip to Plimoth Plantation is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4th! The bus leaves promptly at 7:15 AM and will return at 5:15 PM. Please encourage your child to get enough sleep the night before, pack a lunch, and plan for a fun-filled day!

**Congratulations to Our Girls' on the Run Team! You Rock!!**



A huge **thank you** to all of you and our wonderfully thoughtful PTO for all the support and “extras” that have been provided for us this year! Field, trips, pizza parties, box top incentives, school store, dances, fifth grade yearbooks and gifts, Teacher Appreciation luncheon, Scholastic magazine subscriptions and, oh, so much more than we can ever mention. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

## Happy Spring!!



**Word of the Week**  
empathy

Understanding and sharing others feelings and emotions

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

“A successful person never loses... They either win, or they learn....”



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