

# Messages from Mittineague



## News from Miss McDonough:

Hello from Room 18! Now that we have spent three weeks together as a new first grade class, our students are starting to feel more settled in our daily routines and have begun working hard!

In reading, we have been reading many different fairy tales and fantasy stories. After each story, we practice retelling the major events, describing the characters and the setting, and try to infer a moral or a central lesson of each story. We have been reading several different versions of classic fairy tales, including fractured fairy tales, such as *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs* by Jon Scieszka and *The Three Little Wolves and the Big, Bad Pig* by Eugene Trivizas. We are working on comparing the events, characters, and lessons of these variations.

We celebrated the 50th day of school on Tuesday, November 12 with an awesome (and delicious!) field trip to Classic Burgers. Students used the 50th day of school as an opportunity to practice counting and adding within the number 50, and the field trip gave the students an excellent chance to practice what we've been learning in social studies about being helpful members of a community. Students demonstrated excellent manners and proved themselves to be respectful citizens!

Lastly, if you were unable to attend a conference with me, I'd be more than happy to meet with you before or after school. Feel free to contact me at [cmcdonough@wsps.org](mailto:cmcdonough@wsps.org) by signing up for our Class Tag page. Thank you for welcoming me into the Mittineague family and for a great start together!

## News from Mrs. Bartolucci:

Third graders have been busy once again. We are in the final stages of publishing our first nonfiction text. The students learned all about main ideas and details and developed their own five paragraph essay sharing information about autumn. They are so excited and proud to show their work. We will share them in the classroom for the next week and take them home before Thanksgiving.

In science, we continue to learn about climate and weather and will be finishing up our unit with a STEM challenge. We will be designing a solution to a weather hazard. Students will work in small groups to plan out and build a prototype of a flood barrier.

We also have continued our learning of multiplication. Currently, we are focusing on the distributive property. Not an easy concept for kids to grasp but through our work with Legos, we are starting to better understand how a multiplication equation can be decomposed into two smaller multiplication equations. For example,  $8 \times 6$  is the same as two groups of  $4 \times 6$ . In other words,  $8 \times 6 = 2 \times (4 \times 6)$ . Look for a math game with the distributive property soon.

Thanks to all the families that have completed all the emergency forms on the Parent Portal. We have updated information for 3/4 of our class!! Way to go! If you haven't yet filled out the contact information and need help, please reach out. Mrs. Joyce has been actively helping families get this task done.

And finally, please consider making a donation to our DonorsChoose project. The project will expire as of January 6, if we do not receive full funding. Any amount will move us just a bit closer to our goal. Thanks for your support!

For your  
Calendar

November 19  
Banking

November 21  
Grade One Dress  
Rehearsal

November 22  
Lee Lang Luncheon

November 26  
Banking

November 27  
Early Dismissal  
11:00 AM

November 28/29  
No School



### News from Mr. Rathaus and Art:

Hello Mittineague students and staff! It's hard to believe November is here and Thanksgiving is already around the corner! In art class we are exploring the art element, *value*. Webster's Dictionary defines *value* as "the relative degree of lightness or darkness of a particular color." Through this month's units, students are learning the importance of *value* in achieving strong compositional clarity and focus through the interplay of light and dark areas in a picture. This is an intuitive skill many kids have from years of watching films and looking at photographs, and it is equally essential to graphic design and fine art.

First graders are beginning their Spinning Earth projects in which they will create mirrored day and night landscapes behind a rotating disk of the Earth. What better way to learn about light's effect on a sphere than with a model of the sun's interaction with Earth? Second graders are learning about value gradations through shading and modeling of geometric shapes, thereby converting 2-dimensional shapes into 3-dimensional renderings. Students will then be free to decorate and adorn these shapes as they wish. This exploration of value will culminate with an exciting self portrait project. Kids who want to participate will sit for a photographic portrait. Then one hemisphere of their photographed face will be printed on drawing paper. The students will then render the missing side of their face with pencil and charcoal. This makes for an exciting end result that is half photo/half drawing. The kids can then color their portraits as they wish.

In the local art scene, there are several exhibits worth checking out! You can see a beautiful show of landscape pastels by artist Richard Cohen at the Jewish Community Center of Amherst that really highlights the interplay of light, darks and color. Artist Deborah Garner has a wonderful show of colorful abstract paintings at the Hampden Gallery at UMass. Sculptor Rosemary Starace has an intriguing show at The Oxbow Gallery in Northampton that explores the meaning of "refuge" through house imagery. Children are never too young to see an art show or even be featured in one. For fun, check out first grader Welcome Rider Hersey's exhibit of drawings of Superheroes and Villains at Comics N More in Easthampton.

### Learning Place News:

Students have been working hard on reading and math with Mrs. Joyce and Mrs. Prior. They have been using the Lively Letters Program, working on short vowel sounds and sight words in first, second, and third grade. The fourth graders have been enjoying reading the first book in the Judy Moody series and the fifth grade has been working hard on using context clues while reading. In math, students have been working hard on using the math strategies that they have been learning.

### P.E. News:

All students in P.E. have been improving their cardiovascular fitness as they have fun doing different rope skills. This year the students are starting at a higher level since many of them can do beginning level skills such as the single and double bounce. There is no stomping them from creating new and interesting routines as they get strong and healthy.

A jump rope is a great gift for the holiday season. It fits all budgets and lasts a long time.

### PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2019, from 5:00-6:00. We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

### Notes from the Band Room:

Congratulations to all of our new band students who are making great progress learning their instruments! We are in full concert preparation mode and everyone is looking forward to our winter concert performances.

Mittineague Winter Concert is on Friday, December 13 with two shows, at 9:30 & 11:00. Mark your calendars now. Parents, you are an essential part of your child's success in Band! Please remember to support them by encouraging them to play often, and making sure they have everything they need (instrument, book and accessories).

### Word of the Week fairness

"being honest and just"

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Gratitude turns what we have  
into enough..."  
Anonymous



Contact  
Information

Email:  
[teacher@wsps.org](mailto:teacher@wsps.org)

School Phone  
413-263-3327

Address  
26 Second Street

Website:  
<http://mittineague.wsps.org/>