

# Messages from Mittineague



### News from Mrs. Penna:

Grade 4 is beginning our largest math unit of the year on fractions and decimals. Please be reminded to continue practicing multiplication facts for those students who have been struggling on that throughout the year. When students see connections between numbers through multiplication and division, they are able to find equivalent fractions, understand when one fraction is larger than the other and even add, subtract and multiply fractions. The students are very excited to begin this unit. Sit down with your child and ask them to tell you what they've learned so far about fractions and throw some of that math language their way and they should be able to explain their thinking.

We have begun a social studies unit on the five regions of the United States. I will be starting more research based homework and building up to a larger project for the students to complete at home. More information will follow. This past week we were fortunate to be able to attend the UMASS Minutewomen basket ball game against the Richmond Spiders at the Mullins Center! UMASS won!! It was a great experience and a long day!!

Thank you again for all of your support in making sure your children are at school every day, here on time, doing homework, and giving me their best each and every day. Please do not forget that Parent/Teacher conferences are this Wednesday.

I would like to ask for more disinfectant wipes and Kleenex at this point of the year. Thank you for all of your support!

**Please don't forget Early Dismissal at 11:00 for Parent Teacher Conferences... Wednesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

### American Heart Association Challenge:

Our school has once again opted to join the Heart Association Challenge! The students participated in an assembly where they learned that there were three important components to a healthy heart: exercise, healthy eating habits and happiness. The students all agreed to do their best to keep their hearts healthy! All students have to do to participate is to sign up for the challenge. A flyer went home outlining the program and explaining the process.

### Families are encouraged to register their child for the Kid's Heart Challenge at

[www.heart.org/kidsheartchallenge](http://www.heart.org/kidsheartchallenge) or download the free app "Kids Heart Challenge". Just for registering, kids will earn a free power band! Participate in all three challenges and earn a Finn badge for your band! Let's all pledge to have healthy hearts!

### News from P.E.:

Our Mittineague students have been busy working on basketball skills, throwing, jump rope, and cooperative games. We have seen a lot of progress and the children have increased their stamina while practicing these skills in the gymnasium.

Wednesday, a representative from the American Heart Association, spoke to children about the importance of exercise, diet, and lifestyle for a healthy heart. Our students will be working on a "Jump Rope for Heart Challenge."

Next week we will start our bowling unit. There will be six bowling lanes set up in the gymnasium. The children will learn bowling rules, scoring, proper technique and have fun trying to get a strike or spare.

For your Calendar	February 4 Banking	February 5 Parent/Teacher Conferences	February 6 PTO	February 7 Mr. Gillen visits grade five	February 11 Banking	February 17-21 Winter Break
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### News from Mr. Rathaus and Art:

Hi there Mittineague students, staff and parents! We are almost at the halfway point for the year and things are ramping up in art. Students in grades 2-5 at Mittineague, Tatham and Coburn Elementary Schools have been embarking on a large multi-school art project that will create a 26 ft-by-12 ft abstract wall piece to be hung at Coburn Elementary. Each student has been making a 6 inch-by-6 inch square of unique geometric paper art that will be placed into a huge mural. This has been received extremely well by students who have enjoyed contributing to a larger work. It is important that kids take part in a project that can be experienced by the community at large.

Fourth Grade is learning about the fantastic Canadian artist, Doris McCarthy, and her modernist arctic landscapes by making iceberg landscapes of their own. Many kids have included the Northern lights in these landscapes as well as the myriad otherworldly icebergs shapes that make this kind of landscape so intriguing. It seems doubly important to be thinking about this region of the world since the future of the arctic is in peril due to the advancing effects of climate change.

Fifth graders have been learning more about the American Sculptor, Alexander Calder, and his "Stabiles." "Stabiles," as the name implies, are the non-moving cousins to his more famous "mobiles." They are large, abstract, static sculptures that are usually made of sheet metal and painted in bright, primary colors. Manhattan and Boston have a few in front of office buildings or in public areas, as do many other cities. Before making these large works, which can weigh 70 tons or more, Calder would build small models called "maquettes." Fifth graders are making their own desk-sized maquette out of card stock in primary colors. These pieces can incorporate geometric and organic shapes and really let students use their imaginations.

In the local art scene, there is a small show of elementary art work at the West Springfield Public School Department at 11 Central that includes four Mittineague students! Also, the Smith College Museum of Art has a wonderful new show, Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum of Harlem, which showcases artists of African descent and explores how museums can be sites for exchanging ideas about art and society.

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**This is the height of the flu season and we have had many students test positive for the flu Just a reminder., if your child has a fever or exhibits other flu-like symptoms, please keep them home. Children should not return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without medication. Please contact the nurse if you have any questions.**

### PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year has been changed to **Thursday, February 6, 2020, from 5:00-6:00.** Officer Johnson and Mrs. Ranstrom will speak on the Anti-Vaping curriculum WS will be implementing. We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

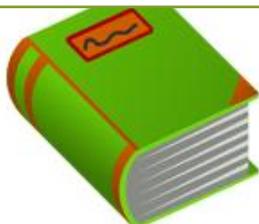
**\*\* Ms Jennifer Ciollaro will be taking over as recording secretary as a member of the PTO Board. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering to help out!!**

### Word of the Week : principled

"A person acting in accordance with morality and showing recognition of right and wrong."

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Integrity is choosing your thoughts and actions based on values rather than on personal gain."



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