

# Messages from Mittineague



## News from Mrs. Paier:

Happy March! We are getting closer to the end of the school year! :)

We just finished our class read aloud, *The Chalk Box Kid*. Gregory, the main character, is in a new neighborhood and is the new kid at school. Gregory has trouble making friends and doesn't fit in. On his way home from school one day, he finds an abandoned chalk factory that he turns into his own happy place where he spends most of his time. Gregory learns that it is okay to be your own unique creative self. After reading the book students created their own chalk drawings on black construction paper.

In math, students are continuing to make progress each and every day! We are currently working on fractions: locating them on the number line, comparing fractions, equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. Students should still be practicing their multiplication facts at home on a daily/weekly basis.

In ELA, we are just starting our next unit, biographies. We will learn all about Wilma Rudolph and how she became the world's fastest women. We will explore her childhood, adulthood and accomplishments. Students will then choose a person of their interests to complete a biography project.

As a reminder, your child should be coming home with math homework every night. Reading homework is also assigned Monday- Thursday. They are expected to read at least twenty minutes per night.

## News from Mrs. Joyce:

The students in the learning center have been working hard in ELA and Math. We have been learning strategies that will help in both of these subject areas. In ELA the students have been using the TTQA (Turn The Question Around) strategy to help with answering questions with complete sentences.

On April 2nd, we will be celebrating Autism Awareness day here at Mittineague. Autism Awareness Day recognizes people on the autism spectrum, as well as the researching and fundraising initiatives which promote inclusivity.

Our notion of autism as a disorder has changed drastically over time. Until the second half of the 20th century, only people with severe symptoms were diagnosed with autism, and those who were diagnosed were often institutionalized. Autism was believed to result from poor parenting or vaccinations, instead of being understood as a neurological disorder.

Take time on April 2 to celebrate how far we've come.

## News from Mrs. Penna:

Grade 4 is moving along in all areas. We are excited to see what the projects look like for our state floats. We finished our unit on the regions of the United States and we learned lots of information about each region. The students are creating floats for their state and a slide show about each state. The children are excited about it and are ready to share what they have learned.

In math, we are moving from fractions and decimals and connecting the decimals to money concepts. Your child should be able to tell you about what fractions are and how they are connected to decimals.

We started reading biographies in reading and are excited to share what we know with you. Each student is reading about a famous individual.

Next week our homework will be researching famous women in history seeing that March is National Women's month.

As always, please reach out with any questions that you may have for me. Thank you again for your continued support. We are fully prepared with tissues and disinfectant wipes at this point in time but we could use fine point dry erase markers if you are able to donate any of those.

We are approaching MCAS testing time and I would like you to send your child in with a plain white T-shirt. It can be a t-shirt that they already have or a light-colored t-shirt that you don't mind being painted. As part of our preparation for the upcoming testing, we will be making t-shirts using fabric paint that we wear on our testing days. This is something that I like to do with the students to get them excited about the testing because the testing process is just an opportunity to show off what they know. I try to keep it as stress-free as possible. Our testing dates are at the beginning of April so you have the entire month to send a t-shirt in with your child.

For your Calendar	March 10 Banking	March 10 Band Rehearsal 7:30A.M.	March 12 All Town Band Concert 7:00 P.M. WSHS	March 13 No School Professional Day	March 16-20 Spirit Week	March 17 Banking
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### Art News from Mr. Rathaus:

Hello, Mittineague community! The cold and rainy weather has brought to mind warmer climates. Our second grade has been studying the Maasai Tribe of eastern Africa and their rich tradition of adornment. The Maasai once occupied a huge swath of eastern Africa but through years of strife and upheaval, they are now constrained to southern Kenya and Tanzania. However, this land contains the famous Serengeti National Park and is home to many of Africa's best known animal species such as elephants, lions, rhinos and zebras. The Maasai continue to live in the traditional fashion of mud huts surrounded by thorn bush fences which contain their cattle herds at night. The Maasai have strict policies against killing wild animals and each clan is associated with a specific wild species which they often keep close to them and treat as a clan member. They are considered one of the earliest proponents of cultural environmentalism on the African continent. Second graders will be recreating the Maasai aesthetic by creating colorful necklaces and bracelets using paper plates by adorning them with traditional patterns and motifs and coloring them in. They have also been learning about the significance of certain colors in Maasai culture. Red symbolizes bravery, orange symbolizes friendship, blue symbolizes health, and so forth.

Fourth graders are working on a transformation drawing project in which they change an inanimate object into a living animal in a series of five panels. This is great fun and comes from a lengthy tradition in art, from M.C. Escher to the great surrealists Rene Magritte and Salvadore Dali. Fourth graders have been preparing for this project through a series of lessons that stress the foundations of realistic drawing such as value, shading, and the rendering of various textures.

In the local art scene there are some great upcoming shows for all ages. Gary A. Lippincott has a fun show of fantasy art starting March 6 at the ArtWorks Gallery in downtown Ware that is sure to delight kids with his depictions of dragons and other mythical creatures. A group show titled Illusion of Away is ongoing until March 8 at the R.W. Kern center in Amherst. This is an exploration of "away": where our waste goes, and how we reconcile our role as consumers and humans. It features work by Pioneer Valley and student artists and can serve as a valuable starting point for discussing environmental issues with kids. Also in Amherst is a show of acrylic/collage works by Chicago artist Rodney Madison. This show opens March 5th at the Amherst City Hall. Although his work is abstract it really appeals to kids with its colorful shapes and playful lines. Mr. Madison was a teacher most of his life and his connection to children's art shines through.

**Don't forget Mittineague's Spirit Week March 16-20!!**

**Monday: Mis-match Day**  
**Tuesday: Wear Green Day**  
**Wednesday: Dress as Your Future Career Day**  
**Thursday: Crazy Hair Day**  
**Friday: Hawaiian Day**

### PTO

The next PTO meeting of the year is **Wednesday, March 4, 2020, from 5:00-6:00.** We would love to welcome even more new members! Please come if you can!!

### 2020 MCAS Schedule

Monday, April 6	Grade 4	ELA
Tuesday, April 7	Grade 5	ELA
Wednesday, April 8	Grade 4	ELA
Thursday, April 9	Grade 5	ELA
Monday, April 13	Grade 3	ELA
Tuesday, April 14	Grade 3	ELA
Wednesday, April 15	Make ups	all
Tuesday, May 5	Grade 4	Math
Wednesday, May 6	Grade 5	Math
Thursday, May 7	Grade 4	Math
Friday, May 8	Grade 5	Math
Tuesday, May 12	Grade 3	Math
Wednesday, May 13	Grade 5	Science
Thursday, May 14	Grade 3	Math
Friday, May 15	Grade 5	Science
Monday, May 18	Make ups	all

### Word of the Week: dependability:

Able to count on, depend on and trust...

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Be a pineapple  
stand tall  
wear a crown  
and be sweet on the inside!"



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