



# Washington Township Schools

## "Making a Difference"



### Blue Ribbons for Study Island at Home

Port Colden School  
Brass Castle School

Volume 7 Issue 2

October 2014

Our school district continues to utilize a subscription to a research-based standards mastery program called Study Island. This online subscription is completely Web-based, which allows students to access the program from any computer with an Internet connection using a standard Web browser.

The program is divided into sections based on subject (Mathematics & Reading). Each section includes 15 to 30 topics, with each topic containing approximately 20 to 30 questions. Topics are accompanied by a lesson, which contains a brief overview of the material covered in that topic.

Students in grades 3-6 are strongly encouraged to use the Study Island subscription while at home. Each week, we will run reports to determine which Brass Castle and Port Colden students have completed the most at-home lessons and those scores will be tabulated by homeroom. A blue ribbon will be awarded to the homeroom that showed the greatest at-home use.

Log in to help your class earn the blue ribbon for Study Island at home!

**Instructions to use the program:**      **Go to [www.studyisland.com](http://www.studyisland.com)**

- ◇ Enter your username and password at the upper left side of the screen, and click "Submit." Students will receive a username and password from school.
- ◇ Click on a subject (math, reading, etc.).
- ◇ If this is the first time using the program, click "Pretest."
- ◇ You must complete 10 Pretest questions to unlock the rest of the content in that subject. If there is no Pretest option, or if you have already taken the Pretest, you may move on to the other content topics.
- ◇ Choose a Session Type. The default setting is Practice Mode, however students may also select Printable Worksheet or Game Mode if permitted by the school.
- ◇ To pass a topic, you must meet the passing requirements, which are based on a minimum number of questions answered (usually 10) and a minimum percentage correct (around 70%). A blue ribbon icon is displayed next to all passed topics.
- ◇ Once you have completed the Pretest, you may work through the remainder of the topics in any order. You must pass all topics before taking the Post Test. Once you have passed all the topics, you must pass the Post Test to complete the subject. Ignore this step if the subject has no Post Test.

## Washington Township PTA

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Brass Castle Library. Stay up to date with PTA events by visiting the Washington Township PTA website at:

<http://www.washingtontownship.my-pta.org>

PTA Book Fair - Coming Soon — October 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

## Parent Visitation Day - Wednesday, October 15, 2014

The Washington Township School District will be hosting a parent visitation day this year on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. We invite parents/guardians to visit their children's classrooms. We will be sending home an invitation with two times listed. Please check your schedules and indicate the session you plan on attending by returning the bottom portion of the invitation to your child's teacher.

In order to have the least amount of disruptions to our classes, we ask you to adhere to the following guidelines:

- For security reasons you must check in at the main offices before proceeding to your child's class;
- Quietly enter the room without speaking to the teachers, students or other visitors;
- Please limit your stay to the times indicated on the invitation during Session A or Session B;
- Siblings may **not** accompany you in the classroom. Please make childcare arrangements;
- Please turn off cell phones while in the classroom.

We hope you will be able to attend one of the sessions to see your child in his / her classroom environment. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact your child's teacher or building principal.

## Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences are scheduled for Monday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> through Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Many parents were able to sign up for a conference at their Back-to-School Night. Those parents who did not attend Back-to-School Night or were unable to sign up for a conference, should watch for a letter coming home about conference schedules. If you have any questions you may call the main office of your child's school.



## News from the Nurses: Vaccines Required to Remain in School

IMPORTANT IMMUNIZATION REMINDER FOR PRESCHOOL/PRE-K PARENTS

All children attending a Preschool or Child Care program in the state of NJ must annually receive one dose of **influenza vaccine** between September 1 and December 31 of each year.

Please provide documented proof of your child having received this vaccine by **Tuesday, December 23, 2014**, before we dismiss for winter recess, so that your child may remain in school in January, 2015.

### All Parents: Health Updates

When you take your child to the doctor/ER for: immunizations, physicals, stitches, broken bones or sprains, surgery, etc., please provide documentation for the School Nurses. This should indicate the date and name of immunization(s), diagnosis of injury/illness, and gym status as necessary. Gym/physical activity restriction notes: must indicate participation level (if any), and date student may return to all activities without restrictions. This ensures maintenance of your child's optimal health during school and keeps health records current.

### Absent or Running Late? Call the Absentee Line

Please call your child "out absent" on the school Absentee Line. If they will be late, please call the line as well. If there is a scheduled day for an absence, please also notify the School Nurse besides your child's teacher. Thank you.

Port Colden School: 689-0681, press "1" for absentee line.

Janine Barzdines, RN: ext 507

Brass Castle School: 689-1188, press "1" for absentee line.

Katie Wikander, RN: ext 607



## Is Your Child Too Sick for School?

As we start the cold and flu season, and many other fall and winter illnesses, please keep these tips in mind for when to keep your children home from school:

**A bad cough or cold** symptoms can indicate a severe cold, bronchitis, flu, or even pneumonia. A typical cold should not be a reason to miss school. But if your child is not acting right, has a fever, has difficulty breathing, or is becoming dehydrated, it could be serious. Contact your doctor right away.

**Diarrhea and vomiting** make children very uncomfortable. If your child has repeated episodes of diarrhea and/or vomiting, consult your doctor and keep your child out of school until the illness passes.

**Fever** is an important symptom. When it occurs along with a sore throat, nausea, listlessness or a rash, your child could be carrying something contagious. *Always keep your child home during the course of a fever and for an additional 24 hours after the fever has passed, without the use of fever-reducing medications.*

**Strep throat and scarlet fever** are two highly contagious conditions caused by streptococcal bacteria infection. They usually start with a sore throat and fever. Sometimes, 12-48 hours after the onset of a fever, a rash may appear. A child with either strep throat or scarlet fever should be kept home and treated with antibiotics, as prescribed by a doctor. After 24 hours on an antibiotic and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, the child may return to school, with doctor permission.

**Conjunctivitis, or pink eye**, is highly contagious and uncomfortable. If your child has an eye or eyes that burn, itch, and produce a white, yellow, or green discharge, contact your doctor. Minor causes (caused by a virus) and severe cases (caused by bacteria) require treatment with prescription eye drops. Keep your child home until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours, and the discharge is gone.

**Ear infections**, unless properly treated, can cause hearing damage. Contact your doctor for treatment.

*Sending children back to school too early before they are well can result in their illness lasting longer, and risks spreading illness to others.* Please help us to keep our schools healthy!

Any questions? Please contact your School Nurse.

Port Colden: Janine Barzdines, RN, 689-0681, ext 507

Brass Castle: Katie Wikander, RN, 698-1188, ext 607

## Kindergarten Grandparents' Day 2014

In honor of National Grandparents' Day, our kindergarten students welcomed approximately 100 "grand" guests to the All-Purpose Room in Brass Castle School on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. The day began with a song about grandparents to the tune of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game". Next, there was a special reading of the book, "The Ultimate Guide to Grandmas and Grandpas", projected on the big screen. Grandparents were able to share their favorite book with their grandchildren; a project involving a poem and child's handprint followed. The day was concluded with some delicious refreshments provided by family members. It was a "grand" day for all!

## First Grade News

The first grade students have had a busy month! Many of the first grade students and their parents joined us for a "Meet and Greet" prior to the beginning of the school year. This month we have been reading and learning about apples! All of the first grade students stamped apples on t-shirts. Later in the week, the classes celebrated Grandparents' Day. Students showed their grandparents or special visitor their classroom, read stories, and created patchwork apples as keepsakes. Everyone had a great time! The following week, the students celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday by having an apple-themed day. The children brought in apples to contribute to the class's applesauce. The types of apples were graphed and then the apples were cut up by the parents. The children also used their five senses to write about apples. The children enjoyed tasting the applesauce. It was a great way to welcome fall!



## Welcome Ms. Wikander, School Nurse!



The Brass Castle School is happy to introduce our new school nurse, Ms. Katie Wikander. Ms. Wikander received her Master of Science Degree in Nursing from Columbia University and her School Nursing Certification from Rutgers University School of Nursing. Prior to moving to New Jersey, Ms. Wikander most recently served as a nurse at Hackettstown Regional Medical Center. She is very excited to be on the Brass Castle staff and is looking forward to a great school year getting to know our students and parents.

## News from 4W

Mrs. Watters' fourth grade class was honored to have a visit from Airman First Class Tucker on Friday, September 26. Airman Tucker is Mrs. Watters' nephew who just recently completed his RF training at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Airman Tucker shared with the students the steps he went through to enlist as well as his training, schooling, and opportunities. On October 6, he will be leaving for his first assignment at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska where he will specialize in radio communications. He will be there for three years unless he is deployed overseas. The students enjoyed learning first hand the dedication and commitment it takes to be in the Air Force. The students plan on becoming pen pals with Airman Tucker. We all wish him a safe trip, and we are all proud of his service and loyalty to our country!



## International Day of Peace

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the General Assembly Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace, Brass Castle students participated in several activities throughout the day on Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students and staff all wore white shirts to acknowledge the observation. Mrs. Watters, coordinator of the day's events, gave background information to students during morning announcements. There was a moment of silence at noon, such as was observed on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. In the afternoon, all students and staff assembled outside to form the word "PEACE" which was photographed from an aerial viewpoint. The conclusion of the day's events included a silent school-wide walk around the back field of the school. As the Secretary of General reminded us: "Peace is a long road that we must travel together - step by step, beginning today."



# News from 3M!

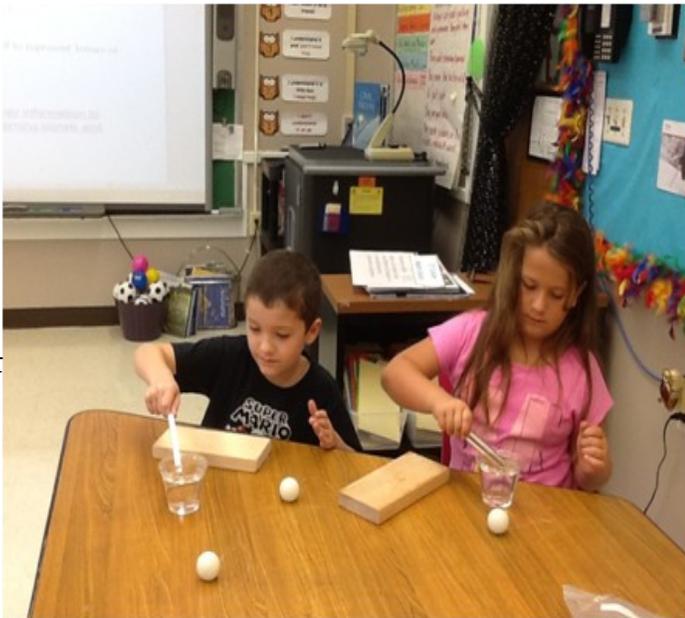
## Blast Off To a New School Year!

Students in Mrs. Melhem's third grade class had a fun time using the new T.C. I. Social Studies Alive books! Students took part in a visual discovery simulation activity to learn where their community was located in the world. They acted as space shuttle astronauts who are returning to Earth and learn about the geographic features of the globe as they got nearer and nearer to the landing site.



## The Sound of Science

Mrs. Melhem's third graders are investing Sound in the Physics of Sound Module. Here, students learn to discriminate between sounds generated by dropped objects, how sounds can be made louder or softer and higher or lower, how sounds travel through a variety of materials, and how sounds get from a source to a receiver. The investigations provide opportunities for students to explore the natural and human made worlds by observing and manipulating materials using simple tools. Students in the photo are seeing how vibrations create sound and travel through water and air.



## Counselor's Corner — October 2014

So it was a typical weekend... planning my almost 8 year old's Frozen themed birthday party (and yes, I'm trying to 'let it go,') discussing college selection with my 17 year old daughter (interesting - at best,) chatting over the phone with my son about the BIG football game (by the way former President George Bush was in attendance complete with snipers along the stadium roof - *yikes*,) throw in some Irish dancing and field hockey with my 8<sup>th</sup> grader with the sprained ankle... and it's a *wrap!*

I often feel that my weeks go happily by in this manner as well- I so enjoy visiting your child's Kindergarten class to remind them about personal space with *Hands Off Harry*, reading the book *Chrysanthemum* to first graders to reinforce how important our kind words are, refreshing our bus conduct with our older students, working with our 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and helping them to understand how to manage their frustration through breathing (and blowing bubbles - slowly in and out... J with my wonderful intern 'Miss Beth' a graduate student from Centenary College,) reassuring our sixth grade Stokes campers (some leaving home for the first time,) lending comfort and perspective to a sweet child whose family member is ill... and so on... We are all busy - yes... but though these moments are intense, they are simply WONDERFUL! You should know that just as my own children are a gift, so your children are a **gift** to me each day...

The month of October promises to continue on a busy path with the **Week Of Respect** October 6-10. This is a time where our character education classes focus on the core character trait of *Respect*. At Brass Castle we will be beginning a new program that recognizes that **Kindness Counts - Pass it On!** Students who demonstrate kind and respectful behavior without being reminded will be recognized - while the recipient of that kind act must 'pay it forward.' Intrinsic rewards are the focus - *doing good means feeling good!* At Port Colden we are continuing with our **Bucket Filler Program** - filling a bucket means that students are caring for others while caring for themselves. Bucket Dipping means using unkind words and disrespectful actions and words results in negative feelings towards ourselves... Our students are really stepping up to the challenge of showing positive character and it is worth repeating that... "Our character is what we do when we think no one is looking."

Thank you for an amazing start to our 2014-2015 school year - whether you are just joining our Washington Township family or have been here for awhile, I am thankful that you are sharing your children with me! If you have any questions, concerns or would like to chat, please call me at 908-689-1188 ext 611 or email at [dtierney@washtwpsd.org](mailto:dtierney@washtwpsd.org) or stop in anytime.

Deb Tierney



# October 2014— RESPECT

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Be true to yourself - this shows others that you respect YOU!	2 Use your manners in the cafeteria - <i>please</i> and <i>thank you</i> show respect	3 What is one character trait that your friends respect about you?	4
5	<b>6 WEEK OF RESPECT!!! Let's Celebrate Respect for Each Other!</b>	7 Remember we must give respect to get it in return	8 Honesty will always be respected - Tell The Truth	9 Respect is catching- show respect and others will follow your lead	10 Respect your bus driver-follow your bus rules every day!	11
12	<b>13 NO SCHOOL for Students</b> Show respect at home by doing your chores without being reminded...	14 SMILE - this shows you have a positive attitude! Have a great day!	15 Doing your best shows you respect yourself- be proud of your efforts	16 Respect the differences you see in others - you may learn something new	17 Listening is a wonderful way to show respect to your teachers	18
19	20 It's worth remembering to Treat others the way you want to be treated	21 Accept and Respect people who are different than you	22 Even when you do not agree with your friends, please respect their opinions	23 Our environment deserves respect too - if you see trash pick it up	24 "Never look down on anybody unless you are helping him up"	25
26	27 We have 2 ears, 2 eyes and only 1 mouth - show respect by listening more than you speak	28 You are accountable for your own actions - Make respectful choices	29 If you want something you've never had, you need to do something you've never done - Respect yourself & try something new	30 You show Respect for others by standing up for a friend who is not being treated respectfully by others	31 Happy Halloween! Say 'thank you' when you are trick or treating J	