



# Washington Township Schools "Making a Difference"

## Important Immunization Reminder... ...for Pre-school/Pre-K

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.

## ...for 5th Grade Students

All students are required to have one dose of Tdap and one dose of Meningococcal vaccine prior to starting 6th grade. If your child is already 11 years old, consider having them receive these vaccines now. Documentation can be sent in any time during this current school year. Do not wait until the summer to get these vaccines when doctor's offices are booked and busy.

Port Colden School  
Brass Castle School

Volume 7, Issue 3

November 2014

## Veteran's Day November 11

The Brass Castle  
Veteran's Day  
Program will begin at  
9:15am.

The Port Colden  
Veteran's Day  
Program will begin at  
2:00pm.

## National Custodial Workers Recognition Day

October 2, National Custodial Workers Recognition Day, is a day set aside to show appreciation to custodial workers across the nation. These people are an important part of the success of many businesses as a clean, well maintained, and operational building is a reflection on the business itself. Our custodians work behind the scenes, working hard day after day keeping our schools clean and well maintained.

To show their appreciation to our custodial staff, Mrs. Watters' fourth grade class wrote personal "thank you" cards and made up platters of homemade cookies for them. They wanted to make sure that the custodial staff knew how important they are to all of us!



In photo: Theresa Collacchia, Ryan Van Nest, Brogan Wooley, Giovanni Bucca, Ava Rhinehart, Daniel Schlawfer, Richard McDonald, Curtis Roth, Gabriella Garay

## Exercise Club

Like adults, kids need exercise. Most children need at least an hour of physical activity every day. Regular exercise helps children:

- ★ Feel less stressed
- ★ Feel better about themselves
- ★ Feel more ready to learn
- ★ Keep a healthy weight
- ★ Build and keep healthy bones, muscles and joints
- ★ Sleep better at night.

During the month of October, almost thirty of our second and third graders have been participating in an afterschool Exercise Club, led by Mrs. Nalepa and Ms. Graham. During this five week club, these students enjoyed a thirty minute workout on the big screen called Shaun T for Kids! Shaun T has made many workout DVD series, but this one is designed just for kids! He does a great job teaching kids how to stretch, move, and have fun at the same time. Fortunately, exercise doesn't have to be boring! Other forms of exercise were also incorporated to give the students a variety of experiences showing them how fun exercise can be! Each week we discussed the importance of proper nutrition and healthy eating. The kids (and teachers) had a great time being silly, learning proper nutrition, and getting in shape together!



## Fourth Graders Travel to Mindnastics

Mindnastics is gymnastics for the mind! On October 28th a group of our fourth graders travelled to Hackettstown where they teamed up with other fourth graders from around the county to solve a variety of problems, puzzles, and challenges. A great day was had by all!

Students refuel their brains during a lunch break at the County problem solving event.

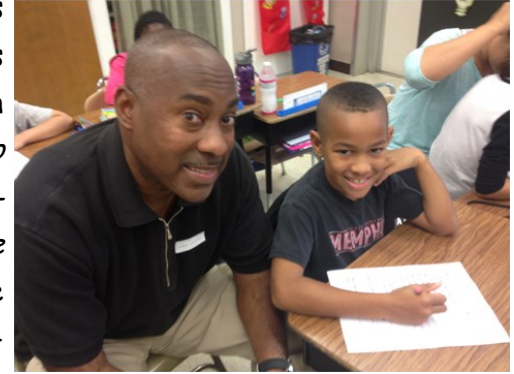
In Photo: Ilya Chernykh, Allison Slovak, Alia Wimmer, Tess Errickson, Daniel Schlaffer, Anthony Mammaro, Max Wulff, Kaitlyn DeGeorge, Gianna Cozzolino



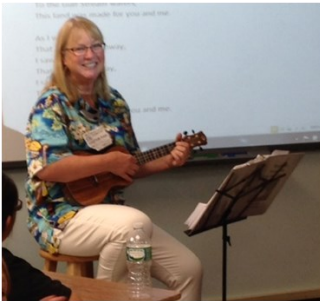


## Sit For a 'Spell'....

Parent Visitation Day at Port Colden was enchanting. Parents were warmly welcomed to Mrs. Melhem's writing class. Students had the help of their parents in the recipe writing of some fun Halloween spells. Spells were diverse in topic such as *How to Turn Somebody Into a Frog*, *How to Turn Someone Into a Zombie*, *How to Make Someone Green* and *How to Make Someone Happy*. Students were so excited and 'bewitched' by this free writing topic that they couldn't wait to write one after the other. Sharing time was full of giggles and applause. Students didn't need magic to be creative this day.



## Ukulele Sing-Along



Fifth-grade students in Mrs. Hussey, Mrs. Peterson & Mrs. Mitch's classes participated in a Patriotic Sing-Along with Mrs. Roberta Foster and her ukulele. Mrs. Foster took up the ukulele after retiring from teaching after 32 years. Although music is nothing new to her, she's been a member of the a cappella group, Moderately Bright Four, for years. Since taking up the ukulele, she's been playing at local senior centers, and was excited to play for our students, teaching them all about her instrument. She was recently interviewed by, and will be featured in a New York Times article about retirees who have turned to music as a second career. Our fifth-graders had a great time singing along as she strummed familiar tunes, and everyone is excited for her to return for Brass Castle's Veterans Day program next month.

## News from 3P

On October 17th, Mr. Griffiths, a grandfather to one of our students, came in to teach a lesson to Mrs. Page's class about inventions that were made in the 1800s and 1900s. He taught the class about when the inventions were created, and he discussed the effects that the inventions had on society. The students in Mrs. Page's class made many wonderful connections to the things Mr. Griffiths shared, and some of the students now have invention ideas of their own!



Fifth grade teachers dressed up to the theme of the Wizard of Oz on October 31<sup>st</sup> (Left to right: Mrs. Hussey, the Cowardly Lion; Mrs. Mikitiuk, the Scarecrow; Ms. Mahon, the Tin Woodman; Mrs. Peterson, Dorothy (with Toto); Mrs. Mitch, Munchkin; and Mrs. Baxendale, the Witch of the West. There was even a Yellow Brick Road in the hallway for students to travel as they went to class that day!

# Learning and Fun Beyond the Classroom Walls



Who says that teaching only takes place in the classroom? Mrs. Watters' fourth grade class spent one Saturday in September at Mackey's apple orchard where they learned the process of growing apple trees as well as learning about the various types of apples that are grown in New Jersey. With the freshly picked apples, her class made some delicious apple sauce and apple pies. The aroma filled the halls at Brass Castle.

Last Saturday, Mrs. Watters' class visited Donaldson Farm for an educational outing where they learned how to test the Ph balance of soil and actually got to test soil samples from around the farm. While taking a hay ride, they learned about the history of the farm, the process of grafting apple trees, the planting process of various fruits and vegetables, and then got to pick their very own pumpkin. The students had so much fun that they didn't even realize how much they were truly learning.

What a great time the students and Mrs. Watters had! They all look forward to their next outing.

Back: Daniella Garay, Peyton Mammaro, Ryan Van Nest, Curtis Roth, Owen Case, David Erickkson Front: Brogan Wooley, Anthony Mammaro, Tess Erickkson, Mrs. Watters, Olivia Lanfrank, Gabriella Garay, Kyle Roth



Tess Erickkson



Curtis Roth



Anthony Mammaro



## Fun in First!



In late September, the first graders had a "ball," getting to know David Buchanan, a starting pitcher from the Philadelphia Phillies. With the classes combined, Mr. Buchanan sat down with the children and read them a baseball story.

It was a beautiful day outside; therefore, the second portion of the lesson was taken outside where the students learned different stretching techniques, as well as warm up exercises. The children learned how to throw and catch a ball, by taking turns with Mr. Buchanan. The day was wrapped up with signing autographs for all, and a great big "Thank You"!

The high momentum flowed into October as the First Graders dove into the Adventures of the SuperKids. Their reading and writing is really beginning to soar, as is their math fluency. The students now have a solid foundation with both addition and subtraction. The first grade team held a Parent Information Night on October 14, where parents were invited to join the teachers for a night full of tips and resources to use at home to continue and enhance the learning flow.

The first graders got crafty this month with various fall related crafts. Parent volunteers were much appreciated, as they assisted in making the fall decorations a success. The month was wrapped up with a fun-filled festive day on Halloween. Both students and teachers dressed up, and paraded around the halls to celebrate the holiday. Halloween Centers and a Party summed up the day! As the month comes to an end we remember...



"Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever"- Walt Disney



## Junior Troop 94356 Bronze Award

On Wednesday, October 22 at 3:45 Junior Troop 94356 met in the Brass Castle art room for a presentation to Mrs. Tierney, Officer Loprete and Mrs. Mattes. The Girl Scout Junior Troop based their Bronze award on being aware of students that are in need of a friend, the importance of being a good friend and dealing with bullies.

Working with Mrs. Tierney to help with ideas to complete the requirements of this award, each girl made a banner with a positive message that will be displayed at Brass Castle. In addition, the Troop purchased seven books dealing with friendship and bullying that were donated to the Guidance office.

It is with great pride that this Junior Girl Scout Troop, now Cadettes, have earned their Bronze Award from the Girl Scout Heart of New Jersey Council. The presentation of the banners and books were the culmination of the project.



Front: Julia Fox, Avery Acevedo, Julia Hanshaw,  
Mckenzie Patti

Back: Mrs. Mattes, Zoe Chupeck, Emily Leidner,  
Officer Loprete, Mrs. Tierney



Julia Hanshaw, Zoe Chupeck, Julia Fox, Mckenzie Patti,  
Emily Leidner, Avery Acevedo, Mrs. Tierney

## Counselor's Corner — November 2014

*"Sometimes we focus so much on what we don't have that we fail to see, appreciate and use what we do have."*

As the holiday season approaches it is easy to be consumed by material possessions. For our youngest, the Toys R Us 'big book' came in the mail and wishes for new toys are the buzz... for our older ones, plans for new boots, clothes or laptops are in their dreams. It takes effort, discipline and yes - *courage* - for parents to positively guide our children through the minefield of materialism.

This month, I am hopeful to remind our Washington Township children, as well as my own, that the greatest gifts are ones that we do not hold in our hands, put on our body or use to play games. Take a moment to reflect on your own personal favorite memories - did they include a video game that you played alone in the basement, a new sweater (that shrunk in the dryer anyway,) the latest electronic device (which was obsolete in a blink?) ... or do you recall the time spent together at the shore, a picnic at the park, your child's expression when they got an 'A' on a test, the glory of watching your child score a goal... When we are not always looking for the next 'thing' we open up our world to reflecting on the beauty of what we do have. We have each other - and quite quickly these precious moments of childhood will fade. Embrace them now and enjoy the moments not the material items this season.

I hope you take some time to review November's Character Calendar. Our focus is on sharing and being thankful for the gifts that we each have to share. I am thankful for your children and am honored to share this sliver of time with them!

Finally, I would like to take a moment and remind our Washington Township families of the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act which was effective in the state in the fall of 2011. This law is considered to be the toughest anti-bullying law in the country to date. All public schools in NJ must be in complete compliance with the law. We are fortunate in Washington Township to have a clear and strict policy regarding intolerance for bullying, and in fact a clear intolerance for any behavior considered disrespectful or "mean." Our success in meeting and exceeding the law's requirements have been positive as our expectations for appropriate, respectful student behavior is very high.

As our children's caregivers, we can help them become resistant to bullying by:

- ◆ Assessing or requesting assistance to assess whether your child may have a lack of appropriate social or learning skills
- ◆ Developing positive talents or attributes of your child; growing their self esteem with true accomplishments, talents and achievements
- ◆ Encouraging contact with a diverse cross section of students in his/her class to see first hand who they get along with; encouraging those relationships while reinforcing respect for all
- ◆ Helping your child meet friends outside of the school environment



## Counselor's Corner — November 2014 (cont.)

- ◆ Broadening your child's world and remind them that their school environment is a small place in the scheme of their lives; helping them to see the "big picture" while functioning successfully where they are
- ◆ Reminding your child of their safety strategies, how can they can seek help and from whom
- ◆ Reviewing the rules of tattling vs. telling
- ◆ Modeling active listening skills to show your child that they can always come to you with their concerns, thoughts and challenges - and successes!

*(adapted from [bullyinginfo.org](http://bullyinginfo.org))*

- ◆ and most of all, understand that conflict is not only natural, but learning how to handle conflict in a positive manner will provide a solid foundation for our children in their future endeavors.

I can be reached at Brass Castle at 908-689-1188 ext 611, Port Colden 908-689-0681 ext 567 or at [dtierney@washtwpsd.org](mailto:dtierney@washtwpsd.org). Many of you have my cell number; if you find it easier to reach me after school hours, I am happy to share that contact with you - just let me know.

Wishing you a happy Thanksgiving and the hope that gratitude and happiness will be a part of your lives!



# NOVEMBER 2014 - SHARING

...reflecting on being thankful for all that we share

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 Share your friends - don't exclude a classmate intentionally	4 What can you share in school today?	5 Today remember to share your toys, your time, your space and your great ideas!	6 <i>No School</i>	7 <i>No School</i>	8
9	10 Share with a willing heart - it will be more fun!	11 <b>Thank you to our Veterans for sharing their lives by protecting our country</b>	12 When you work as a team, sharing ideas and skills, everyone is more successful	13 Reflect on a person that you are thankful for. What did they share with you? (love, ideas, time, gifts?)	14 Be a good listener and let a classmate share an idea or thought with you	15
16	17 It is fun to share in others happiness, but be willing to share and support the hard moments too	18 Wake up with a positive attitude and be prepared to cooperate and share today	19 Sharing is the first step toward compromise.	20 Share a smile today! J It's so easy and means so much to those around you!	21 Write something today - when you write you share a piece of you with the world	22
23	24 When you share willingly, you will always receive something in return	25 Remember to be careful what you share on social media (instagram, facebook, texts...)	26 I am thankful for each one of YOU! Who are you thankful for?	27 <b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b>  <i>No school</i>	28 Did you eat too much turkey and mashed potatoes? I hope you shared J <i>No School</i>	29
30						

"If you have a candle, the light won't glow any dimmer if I light yours off of mine." *S. Tyler*