



Booth Free School

Star Tracks

March 2018



A Note from the Principal...

Dear Parent/Guardians,



It is hard to believe that it is March! This school year is flying by! March is a busy month with lots of activities scheduled and the time of year that many field trips are scheduled. Watch for information sent home to you by your child's teacher.

Report cards will be sent home on Friday, March 16th. This report card signifies that two-thirds of this school year is complete leaving us with one-third remaining. We have much to do and with your support I am confident that all our goals for the year will be met. Report card time is a good time to set specific goals with your child and to recognize their strengths and help them to build areas of weakness. The staff and I are always so proud of our students and recognize how hard they work. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

Following the report card distribution will be Parent Teacher Conferences. They are scheduled for March 22nd and 23rd. Scheduling information will be sent home within the first week in March and you will receive confirmation of date and time. The staff and I look forward to seeing you then.

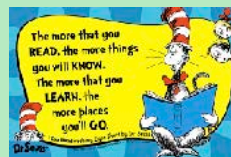
Our Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Patricia Cosentino, will present the school budget for the 2018-2019 school year on March 5th at Shepaug at 6:30 p. m. There will also be a budget workshop with the Board of Education on March 12th at 7:00 p. m. The administration worked hard to put forth a very thoughtful budget that is sensitive to the economic challenges facing us all. It is also a conscious commitment to the vision of Regional School District 12 and represents an effort to support the district goals and objectives.

As a reminder, students in grades 3-5 will take the Smarter Balanced Tests during the first two weeks of May. The students in grades 3-5 will be tested in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics and it will once again be technology based. Grade 5 students will also be tested in the area of science on May 22nd. This year the students will participate in a Science Field Test. As is the Smarter Balanced, the science test will also be technology based. There is no longer a CMT Science test. Please keep the testing schedules in mind as you plan activities for your family. It is important to have all our students in school during this time.

Specials during the testing cycle may be rearranged to accommodate our testing schedule. Art, music, physical education, computer, and library will be placed into a schedule to ensure every child has their special classes. During this testing time, the teachers will also continue to instruct in all the areas of the curriculum to maintain students' academic growth.

Lastly, the school community and I are continuing our celebration of reading this month in honor of Dr. Seuss and his contribution

to children's reading. Throughout the month we hope children will remember books and other new favorites. Of course I can't There are many that through this students' love for following poem significance especially in the month of March. I do hope you enjoy it and find time to read it with your child.



Sincerely,

Cathy G. Colella
Principal



Superintendent of Region 12 Schools Search

Booth Free School Opportunities

The Region 12 Board of Education has begun its Superintendent of Schools search and is seeking your input and opinion on what you believe are the needed characteristics and attributes of a highly successful district leader.

Former superintendent of Newtown Schools, Dr. Joseph Erardi, is the consultant assisting Region 12 with the search. Come meet Dr. Erardi for a brief information session at our **March 14th PTO Meeting, beginning at 6:00 PM.**

There will be another opportunity to meet with Dr. Erardi on the evening of **Thursday, March 22nd at 7:00 PM** at a Community Meeting also at Booth Free School.

A survey regarding the superintendent search is now up on the Region 12 website, www.region-12.org.

More information on the search will follow from our regional office soon.

Kindergarten: The 100th Day of School!

We were eagerly awaiting the 100th day of school, so when it finally arrived, we had to celebrate in style: Super Hero Style! We spied special skills from "Petal Power" to "Penny Power" and everything in between—even a hundred dinosaurs! We took to the halls faster than you can say "Wonder Woman!" Along the way, we searched for clues like these: "What is 99 plus one?" and "How many pennies are in one dollar?" Amazingly, the kids were able to solve each one with confidence. There's no doubt these kids are super mathematicians!



Grade 2: Save the City!

Save the city!
Second graders were asked to use the engineering design process to help prevent a landslide and save the houses at the bottom of the hill.



Students have about the forces w a t e r , ice and how these changes to the learned about materials that can prevent landslides. then created a with houses and materials to use to help prevent the landslide. Finally,



been learning of erosion: wind, earthquakes, and can cause land. They also different be used to help Second graders model of a hill chose different

they tested their hills with water to see which materials worked the best to prevent the landslide. Ask a second grader which material worked best!



Grade 4: Natural Disaster Reports



Mrs. Russell's fourth grade class has been researching natural disasters. Using a variety of sources, students prepared media presentations for their peers. During this process, they acquired the necessary knowledge, organized their ideas, created slides or scripts, and made edits and revisions. They also were introduced to how to create a proper citation at the web site [http:// oslis. org/@@mla-](http://oslis.org/@@mla-elementary)

[elementary](http://oslis.org/@@mla-elementary). Students were very excited to see their hard work come to life and share it with our class.



Congratulations!

Our own Booth Free School fifth grader Matilda Skiles recently received a perfect score in the first of three meets in this year's WordMasters Challenge™, a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually.

Competing in the very difficult Gold Division Tilly earned a perfect score of 20. Nationally, only 13 fifth graders achieved this result. Matilda was coached in preparation for the WordMasters Challenge™ by Mary Ann Zoeller.



The WordMasters Challenge™ is an exercise in critical thinking that encourages students to become familiar with a set of interesting new words and then challenges them to use those words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically. Way to go Tilly!

MARCH DATES TO REMEMBER

3/1	Spring Photo Day
3/2	Dr. Seuss's Birthday/Read Across America Day
3/2	Talent Show, 6:30 PM
3/6	Invention Convention, 6:00 PM
3/9	Grades Close
3/9	Grade I Trip to Litchfield Historical Society
3/14	PTO Meeting, 6:00 PM/Superintendent Search Consultant
3/16	Report Cards Sent Home
3/19	Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 PM
3/22	Superintendent Search Community Meeting, 7:00 PM
3/22-23	Parent-Teacher Conferences, 12:45 PM Dismissal
3/26-27	Garden Club Program
3/30	Good Friday, No School

Student Council News

BFS Student Council had an extremely successful Valentine's Day flower sale. We sold every flower that we had ordered. A big thanks should be given to the 5th grade class who helped to organize and deliver the flower orders. The Student Council is planning to buy new equipment for the playground with our earnings from the sale. We will vote at our next meeting for what to purchase. At our March meeting, we will also discuss our kindness tree and how we can spread kindness into the community of Roxbury. Stay tuned for updates!



REMINDER:

BFS Student Council's School Store is open every Friday from 8:40 - 9:00! All items are \$1 or less!

Visit Our Website!

Our web address is www.region-12.org. Once you are at the district's home page you can visit Booth Free School's website. The staff will be adding information regularly. Please use it as an additional resource for information gathering.





Notes and News from the Nurse...

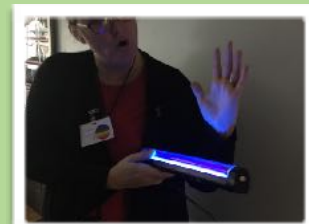
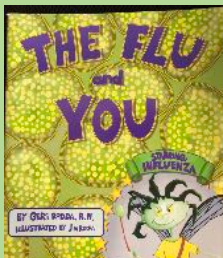
Go Red for Women!

On February 1, 2018, Booth Free School joined thousands of hospitals, small businesses, multinational corporations, and many others to help raise crucial awareness and significant funds in the fight against heart disease and stroke in women. The staff participated in "Go Red" by giving a donation and wearing red to school. Most women don't notice the symptoms of heart disease until it is too late, and it is the number one killer of women. For more than a decade The American Heart Association has led the fight to protect women's hearts through research and education. The more women are aware, the more lives can be saved. Kudos to staff for participating in this important fund raiser.



The Flu and You!

On February 23rd our school was fortunate to have a visit from New Milford VNA nurse, Heidi Bettcher, who came to Booth and read the book The Flu and You written by Gerri Rodda, RN. The book explains what influenza illness is, and how it can be prevented. After reading, Nurse Heidi performed an experiment where she applied pretend germs light so the children could visualize the "germs". She then washed her hands and when the light was held up to her hands the "germs" were magically gone.



What a great review on healthy habits that will help us all prevent the spread of the flu and other illnesses. Good information to keep us healthy and happy at BFS.

The book The Flu and You is available in the Booth Free School Health office if anyone is interested in borrowing it to share with your family.

Dental Visit

On February 28th our school community was treated to a visit from Caceci Family Dentistry. Dr. Matt Caceci and dental hygienist Wendy Bonomonte, our very own Isabella's mom, spent time with each of our combined grade levels going over many important things about healthy teeth.



Our students played an interactive game with various foods to decide which were good for your teeth and which weren't. The team went over when to brush your teeth, how to brush, and the importance of flossing and nutrition. Our students were very engaged, involved, and



excited about the things they were learning during the program. There were lots of wonderful questions asked and answered. This was a fun program for our students and they are full of important facts to keep those healthy smiles!!!

Words from the Library from Mrs. Sass

Happy birthday, Dr. Seuss! March 2, 2018 is a national celebration for the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the beloved children's author of the famous Cat in the Hat and the creator of so many other famous stories and characters. Dr. Seuss (born Theodor Geisel in 1904) changed reading for young ones into a rhyming odyssey with unusual characters filled with fun...and important messages. It's no wonder that the NEA celebrates with "Read Across

America" every March 2nd! For more information about Dr. Seuss, go to: http://www.seussville.com/activities/AllAboutSeuss_BOYONFAIRFIELDSTREET_0.pdf

At BFS, we will be celebrating the day by sharing Seuss books with buddies from another grade, as well as reading more of his famous tales and enjoying Seuss trivia challenges in the library. We have over fifty books either by or about Dr. Seuss in our library, so encourage your child to check one out to enjoy reading together at home too.

Leading up to Read Across America Day, we celebrated reading during the month of February by being **Olympic Readers**. Super readers in every grade used their Olympic Reading Passports to record how much time they spent reading after school. Every hour that was spent reading earned a visa stamp from a different country, and Olympic Reading medals were awarded to those with the most stamps. Congratulations BFS for being award- winning readers!

You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child. ~ Dr. Seuss



Good Character Traits:

(Referenced in Board of Education Policy #0210.3)

Good Character Traits are essential to the learning process. We work throughout the year in developing the following:

1. Trustworthiness
2. Respect
3. Responsibility
4. Fairness
5. Caring
6. Citizenship



Good conduct is synonymous with good citizenship. Students are expected to exercise good citizenship at all times while in school, attending school-related activities and after school activities conducted at the school. This includes showing respect for the rights of others and regard for personal and school property. Students should strive to contribute to the climate of the school by being courteous and well mannered.

Booth Free School also utilizes The Second Step Program to promote social skills necessary to be a caring community. Additionally, grades three through five have access to a second program, Steps to Respect when needed.

It is our hope that the power and influence of the school-family partnership will provide consistent messages to our students regarding the development of positive student behaviors and thus, improve student learning.



Parents are our partners in the important job of educating all our children. I urge you to attend and support the P T O , become a member, volunteer, and take part in helping your child to grow academically. PTO meetings will be held each month at 6:00* p.m. The next scheduled PTO meeting is March 14th.

*Note time change!



The 19th Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts



Creativity filled the air on February 13th at the Aqua Turf as elementary students across the state were recognized for their achievements in the visual and performing arts. This is sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools. Each year, elementary schools select two students who excel in the arts and who exhibit high levels of citizenship and cooperative skills. Students and their special guests were treated to a dinner and entertainment from the Encore Acapella Group of Daniel Hand High School in Madison. The honored students were also presented with a certificate recognizing their achievements. The Booth Free School honorees were the following: Peyton Ongley and Matilda Skiles. Congratulations to both.



5th Annual Regional Elementary School Dance



Principal's Weekly Schedule



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Burnham	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Booth Free	A.M. Burnham
P.M. Burnham	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free	P.M. Burnham	P.M. Booth Free

Report to PARENTS

Helping Children Cope With Tragedy

Young children shouldn't have to learn about tragic events, but they do. Some are exposed to disasters firsthand, as victims. Others discover the tragedies by watching the news or overhearing adults or other children discussing the events. It is a sad fact that all children need to know how to deal with tragic events—and their parents and caregivers need to know how to help them cope.

IF YOUR CHILD IS THE VICTIM OF A DISASTER:

Try to stay calm. Children often react the way they see adults react. As difficult as it is, it is very important for you to remain calm and reassuring, and to let your children know that, no matter what, they will be taken care of.

Explain, but don't provide unnecessary details. Clearly, children need to know the truth, but they don't need to hear about all of the consequences. Give them the facts that they need to know at that moment, but don't share with them your fears about the future.

Make time to talk to your children. In disastrous situations, adults are often so preoccupied with the immediate needs that they forget their children are aware of what's happening. Make sure they know they can talk to you, and that you'll spend the time they need answering their questions and comforting them.

Get counseling. It is important to help children cope with serious life-changing events. Talk with the school counselor about the situation, then set up a time for your children to come in and "vent." Follow-up appointments with the counselor or other experts can help your children overcome their fears.

IF YOUR CHILD IS AWARE OF A TRAGIC EVENT

Limit TV coverage. Because children can be overwhelmed with the tragedy, limit their TV exposure of the event. Instead, check in periodically with the news, and focus on finding ways to distract your children with other activities.

Be extra comforting. Even if they don't seem to be alarmed, children who are aware of disastrous events can absorb the trauma and be quietly disturbed. Make extra time for quiet activities with your children, such as reading or taking a walk; and give them plenty of hugs.

Watch for behavior changes. Children often don't talk about being afraid, but their behavior can be a clue that they're scared. They might have a hard time sleeping or might wake up from a bad nightmare. Sometimes, they adopt behaviors, like thumb sucking, bedwetting, or baby talk. Others get irrationally angry or sad, and many withdraw and stop socializing. If you see any of these behaviors after a traumatic event, it means your child needs extra help and comfort.

Make sure they know that there are people in charge who are helping.

Children need to know that things will eventually be okay again and that there are adults in charge who are helping to make it right. Talk to your children about the people who are helping resolve the consequences of the disaster, and share your admiration with them about the great work these people are doing.

Do something for others. One way to help children cope in the aftermath of a disaster is to find a way, through your community, to help those affected. Schools, churches, temples, synagogues, and organizations like the Red Cross are great places to go to find out how you and your children can help.

