

The Observer

April 2012

1283 Asylum Ave.
Hartford, CT 06105
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Principal: Shandra Brown
Assistant Principal: Julie Martin-Beaulieu



Principal's Corner

Dear Museum Academy Families,
Happy spring to everyone! It is hard to believe that we are now in our final trimester of school. The end of school is fast approaching but we still have important work to do in the remaining two and half months of school. Our last day of school is scheduled for Friday, June 15th.

Best regards,
Mrs. Shandra Brown

Parent/Teacher Conferences:

We were delighted to see so many of you at parent/teacher conferences. Thanks to all of you who came to talk with your child's teacher. Research tells us that children whose parents are involved in their education are more successful in school. We appreciate your involvement.

Congratulations to all third grade students for successfully completing the Connecticut Mastery Test. We also would like to extend a HUGE thank you to all third grade teachers, parents and our entire school community for encouraging the students to work hard and put forth their best effort on the CMT.

Attendance/Tardies

Regular attendance is an important indicator of school success. We respect the importance of quality instructional time. Students should be on time and ready to learn. Promptness to class is extremely important. Students are to be in their seat and ready for instruction by 8:30am. Interruptions due to tardiness take away from learning time and are disruptive to the class. Tardy students are to report to the

office as soon as they arrive at school accompanied by an adult.



News from Nurse Gale

Do you know your child's BMI or Body Mass Index? That's the number that measures height against weight and lets you know if your youngster is at a healthy weight. The purpose of BMI measurements in school age children is to act as a guide to determine a child's healthy weight. BMI is used as a screening **not** a diagnostic tool. BMI measurements can help families make good choices and highlight the possibility of potential health problems. Ask your pediatrician to figure your child's BMI at your next visit.

Gale Musso, R.N. B.S.



April 15 – 21st. www.tvturnoff.org

Purpose: To re-think the role of television, why we use it and how and what for. Assess its impact on students, teachers, parents, children, individuals, etc.

How: Simply switch off or unplug your TV set for seven days and engage in a wide range of substitute activities.

Who: Individuals, children, families, students, groups, etc.

Where: In your homes, schools, libraries, businesses, congregations, etc.

SOME ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

- Learn to play the guitar or other musical instrument.
- Go to a museum
- Organize a community clean-up.
- Put together a puzzle.
- Visit the library. Borrow a book. Attend library activities.
- Go ice skating or roller skating.
- Visit the zoo.
- Paint a picture, a mural or a room.
- Find out about your area's community center or park's activities.
- Read a book aloud to your younger sister/brother.
- Plan a picnic or barbecue.
- Plant a flower, vegetable or herb garden.
- Read magazines or newspapers.
- Plan a slumber party.
- Start a neighborhood basketball, soccer, or kickball game.
- Go camping (even if it's just in the backyard!).
- Take a nature hike. Collect seeds and leaves. Make a collage with the materials you collected and post it on the refrigerator.
- Play cards.
- Go to a movie with your family or friends.
- Go fishing.
- Begin a family project.

- **HAVE A PARTY TO CELEBRATE A TV-FREE WEEK.**

Dates to Remember

April 6th- Good Friday (No School) April 16-20 Spring Break (No School) April 25 th - Early Dismissal (Teacher PD)

Grade Level News



Prekindergarten News

In March, the preschool students were busy learning about colors through both our OWL's curriculum unit and our museum unit of study. They have been engaging in color experiments with primary and secondary colors using a variety of mediums including paint, water, food coloring, markers, crayons, and clay. The Children's Museum outreach program visited The Museum Academy to present a special program on colors. The students had fun learning how new colors are created with color discovery tubes and different color mixing experiments. The students also enjoyed our two week unit on Dr. Seuss and greatly increased their rhyming skills. Congratulations to Ms. Dana's and Ms. Alicia's classes for winning the Dr. Seuss door decorating contest with their creative designs.

This month, we will be working on our next OWL's curriculum unit related to shadows and reflections. Students will examine the concepts of shadows and reflections through both fiction and non-fiction books, observations and experiments. Students will be learning how shadows are formed and what makes shadows vary in sizes. They will also learn what reflections are and where they can see their reflections. We are looking forward to a very productive and exciting spring!

Ms. Melissa, Ms. Dana, Ms. Alicia, Ms. Kelly and Ms. Sue



Kindergarten News

Welcome Spring! Kindergarten is very excited about all the things spring will bring. We will continue to track weather and begin our next unit on living things. The CT Science center will visit our classroom on April 11th to teach us about wind. We will take a trip to the CT Science center to explore their weather exhibit on April 26th.

In the classroom we will focus on monitoring our reading, retelling a story in sequence and making connections. You can help your child at home by asking the following questions after reading:

- *What is this story all about?
- *Can you start from the beginning and tell me everything that happened in the story? (include characters, setting, sequence of events)
- *What does this story make you think of?

We will begin sending "just right" books home for your child to read independently. Happy Reading!

Kindergarten Team



First Grade News

Literacy

We have been working on finding the main idea for non-fiction and finding the theme for fiction stories. This is what the author is trying to teach us.

In writer's workshop we have begun writing scripts for our documentary for our next exhibit. This helps us learn how to ask and answer questions.

Math

We have been working on learning solid shapes, the attributes of polygons, and the use of the hundreds, tens, and ones place.

Science

First grade is continuing to work on our unit on living things. We are working on defining what a living thing is. All living things need air, water, food, reproduce, grow and change and move on their own. We have also been learning the

different classifications of animals such as fish, mammals, birds, and reptiles.

The First Grade Team



Grade 2 News

In reading, we are beginning our unit on Fairy Tales, Fables, and Folk Tales. We will begin by discussing the characteristics of each genre. Students will build upon their comprehension skills by noticing and analyzing character actions and emotions in different fairy tales, fables and folk tales. The children will also be using Reader's Theater scripts to act out their favorite stories.

In writing, we are beginning our unit on Writing Adaptations of Familiar Fairy Tales and Folk Tales. We will begin by reading several versions of the same story. Students will be learning about the language the author uses, how to create tension in a story, and how finally how to write their own version of their favorite fairy tale or folk tale.

In math, we have been learning about fractions and will begin the next topic on measurement this month. Students will focus their learning on measuring length as well as being able to choose appropriate measuring tools. We will be using both standard (rulers) and non-standard (paperclips) units of measure. As we continue our science unit on matter second graders will be taking an expedition to the CT Science Center in Hartford. There students will learn about and experiment more with solids, liquids, and gases. Please be on the lookout for the permission slip coming soon!

Second grade Team



Grade 3 News

Reading

In reading, we will be moving into non-fiction reading. We will continue with find the main idea and supporting details, the most important part of the story or article and why we liked or did not like about the story.

Please feel free to practice these skills at home with kid friendly newspaper articles, magazines and web resources such as National Geographic for Kids.

Math

In Math, we will be learning the rest of our multiplication and division facts, which includes 3's, 4's, 6's, 7's, 8's, 9's, 11's and 12's for the remainder of the school year.

We will also be learning about probability, tessalations and preparing for fourth grade material.

Third Grade Team

Music

Preschool musicians continue to learn about color in music. The students have learned how music can make us feel happy, sad, angry, sleepy, etc. Now they are busy listening to music selections and selecting a color that best represents the music. The students are also doing movement activities with different colored scarves. A favorite preschool song this month was "One Green Jellybean." Ask your child to teach it to you!

Kindergarten rhythm bands are really rocking this month! The kindergarten musicians continue to practice our rhythm band music. One of the kindergarten's favorite activities is "The Old Gray Cat." Ask them to tell you the story and show you how to play the game!

First grade musicians are finishing the "Carnival of the Animals" unit. The students have learned about the lion, hens and roosters, tortoises, elephants, kangaroos, the aquarium, donkeys, the cuckoo, birds, pianists, fossils, and swans. The students have talked about each animal and performed creative movements for the animal to the music. Download "Carnival of the Animals" by Camille Saint-Saens to your iPod and see how many animals your child can identify!

Second grade musicians are busy working on their Egg-cellent Rhythm Compositions! They also continue to work on their music reading

skills. A favorite song this month was "Stella Ella Olla." Ask your child to teach it to you!

Recorder Karate has officially started at the Museum Academy. Third grade musicians are busy practicing to earn their recorder karate belts and certificates. Most students have earned their white belts by performing "Hot Cross Buns." Encourage your child to practice for their belt tests at home. Have them play the song for you and you can be the judge!

Mrs. Jennifer Kansler, Music Teacher



Physical Education Basics

Pre-K, K, 1: We will be building on our manipulative skills unit by beginning games that we use on field day such as relay races, bowling, target tosses, hula hoop around the world, and pass it on. In addition to the skills being learned students will also be working on turn taking, teamwork, and cooperation through play.

Grades 2- 3: Students will be finishing up taking our 2nd practice physical fitness test which right now includes the 90 degree push-ups, partial curl-ups, and the PACER tests. We will be working towards reaching our personal goals. We will be taking the practice tests one more time this year so working on skills at home is great practice for them and will help to improve those skills greatly. Once we complete our testing we will also begin a review of our field day games.

As the weather gets nicer please make sure that our students are dressed appropriately for movement and Physical Education activities. Sandals and flip flops are not safe footwear so please send sneakers if they do wear them. Also encourage your children to play outside when it is nice out, the good weather provides a great opportunity for family walks or trips to the park!

Mr. Vaccarelli, Physical Education Teacher



Noticias de la Clase de Español (News from Spanish Class)

Our K-3 students continue to watch and learn from our Salsa videos. They have all picked up so much vocabulary. In the next few weeks we will finish up our unit on Los Tres Chivos Vivos (The Three Clever Goats) and will move onto La Gallina Roja (The Red Hen).

Recently, the students have played a Quiz Show game called "Que es?" (What is it?), and some of them have even volunteered to ask the questions!! This demonstrates how their confidence and comfort with the language is growing. All grades also practiced acting out an abbreviated version of Los Tres Chivos. The third graders even performed it in small groups for their classmates. We have a lot of talented actors at the Museum Academy!!

Please remember that our Salsa videos are online and you and your child can watch them at home. The web address is: gpb.org/salsa. Click on episodes, and from there choose which you would like to watch.



Museum Academy's PTO

Last month we sponsored a successful Read Across America week for Dr. Seuss's birthday. Our school really got into the spirit in promoting the importance of reading. Thank you to our parents and Museum Academy staff who made it such a fun and enriching event. PTO also was involved in supporting our 3rd graders in taking the CMTs. The 3rd grade hallway was decorated, there were goody bags, and we capped it all off with an ice cream party on Friday.

SAVE THE DATE: Wednesday, April 25 from 4-8pm will be the Museum Academy Family Night fundraiser at Moe's Southwest Grill in Blue Back Square. Ten percent of the proceeds go to our school.

At the next exhibition night we will have a vendor night with our spirit wear, bumper stickers, coffee, tea, beads, clothing and accessories. Come and see us in the gym. Check us out on Facebook: Museum Academy PTO

GREEN FUNDRAISER COMING TO THE MUSEUM ACADEMY -MIXED BAG DESIGN-ECO-FABULOUS REUSABLE BAGS AND ACCESSORIES MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIAL

THINK STYLE, FASHION, FUN, AND SUSTAINABILITY **KICK OFF AND SALE STARTING APRIL 11-25**



Box Tops for Education!

Parents please continue to send in your box tops. We welcome comments, suggestions and volunteers. Our email address is museumacademypto@gmail.com