

Noah Wallace School

Educational Excellence Since 1904

Farmington Public Schools

www.fpsect.org

2 School Street, Farmington, CT 06032

Noah Wallace Community Newsletter

Dr. Diane B. Cloud, Principal

February 2012 Edition

Office: (860) 677-1659 ♦ Fax: (860) 677-8024

Message from the Principal

February can be one of the shortest months in the year, but it is always long on special holidays. It is the perfect month to talk about current and historical events with your child. Libraries and book stores are chocked full of wonderful books on American history, biographies and non-fiction topics.

February begins with Black History Month. Originated by Dr. Carter G. Woodson in 1926, his modest celebration has evolved into a national celebration of the work and achievements of African American citizens throughout the month of February. The month begins with Ground Hog Day and an opportunity to explore books about animals and the weather. February 14th marks Valentine's Day and a time to remember our loved ones. February 12th marks the 201th birthday of President Abraham Lincoln. Born in 1809 in the woods of Kentucky, this self taught man rose to become a successful lawyer, U.S. Senator and the President who united the nation after the Civil War. February 22nd honors the birth of George Washington – our first president. It was Washington's military prowess and great leadership skills that helped America win the War for Independence and establish a new government. By reading the history of our country and biographies of great leaders, children are able to identify many admirable traits and life lessons that will help them form their thinking and actions for a lifetime.

Enjoy this month filled with history, biographies and non-fiction with your child. We will be learning about these important events here at school. You can also make them come alive for your child at home by reading and talking about these exciting topics and figures in our history.

Best wishes,

Dr. D. B. Cloud

Calendar of Events

February

Tue Feb 7	PTO General Meeting 6:30p
Wed Feb 8	Student Council 7:45a
Wed Feb 8	I Am An Artist Senufo Cloth from Africa Workshop @ NWS 6:30p
Fri Feb 10	Valentine Bingo 7:00p
Sun Feb 12	Lincoln's Birthday
Mon Feb 13	Board of Education Meeting 7:00p
Tue Feb 14	Valentine's Day
Mon Feb 20	No School , President's Day
Wed Feb 22	Washington's Birthday
Tue Feb 21- Fri Feb 24th	SCHOOL IS IN SESSION
Mon Feb 27th	Board of Education Meeting 7:00p
Tue Feb 28th	Gr 4 Parent Night @ WWUES 7:00p
Feb 1–29th	FPS Annual K-12 Art Exhibition on display at Farmington Public Library

March

Thu Mar 1st	Read Across America-Concept of Community and Keeping it Green
Fri Mar 2nd	Sharing/Caring Assembly: The World is Full of Good People, a play by the Drama Club 9:00a
Fri Mar 2nd	Munson's Chocolate Fundraiser Due
Fri Mar 2nd	Preschool Screening Clinic 860-677-1791
Mon Mar 5th	CT Mastery Testing begins
Wed Mar 7th	Student Council 7:45a
Wed Mar 7th	A Good Start 6:30p
Mon Mar 12th	Board of Education Mtg @ NWS 7:00p
Tue Mar 13th	PTO General Meeting 6:30p
Tue Mar 20th	WWUES music program visits Gr 4
Wed Mar 21st	Visiting Author Lauren Tarshis Gr 3 & 4
Fri Mar 23rd	Report Cards Go Home
Fri Mar 23rd	Hollywood Nights Dinner Dance Auction
Mon Mar 26th	Parent Conferences
Tue Mar 27th	Parent Conferences

Kindergarten News

Mrs. Remillard, Ms. Vitrano

Kindergarten students just completed a unit on traditional tales. They listened to different versions of the same story to compare them. Students demonstrated understanding of these stories through retelling the stories and/or acting them out. This unit helped students develop the ability to retell a simple story in sequence and include story language in their own writing. During our Reading Workshop and Interactive Read Aloud, students are beginning to listen to nonfiction texts. The key teaching points are:

- Readers gather information from nonfiction books.
 - Readers notice how texts are different from each other (fiction vs. nonfiction)
 - Readers bring background knowledge to help them understand the content of a nonfiction book.
-

First Grade News

Mrs. Petro, Mrs. Schlegel, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Abraham

Number fact power is the instant recall of sums and differences of numbers without stopping to figure them out. Having fact power is like being a good reader. Reading is easier and more enjoyable if you recognize many words automatically. The same is true of number facts. Solving problems is easier if you automatically know the sum or difference of two numbers. We are working on knowing the facts to 10. You can support your child through playing games they have learned in the classroom and going on-line to access Everyday Math Games as well as *xtramath.org*

Second Grade News

Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Rosenberg, Ms. Castiglione

Sneak a peek at 2nd grade and you'll see:

- Reading Clubs, where reading partners are helping each other read, think, and talk about books.
- Enthusiastic writers, who stretch out their stories so they have a beginning, **middle, middle, middle**, and end.
- Scientists, who work cooperatively to learn about balancing and weighing.

At Noah Wallace School, 2nd graders are SO cool!

Third Grade News

Mrs. MacDermott, Ms. Jusseaume, Mrs. Gilligan, Mrs. Myers

We have lots of exciting things coming up in third grade! In science, we are studying rocks and minerals! Why not go on a rock hunt and see what kind of interesting things you can find! Check out <http://www.kidsgeo.com> and play the "Who Am I?" rock game together! Also, visit the Earth and Space database on <http://www.pebblego.com/> for some fun information and games all about our planet!

Fourth Grade News

Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Heintz, Mrs. Casioppo

Save the date! Save the date! The annual fourth grade field trip to Boston is set for June 5, 2012. This wonderful trip culminates our springtime study of the American Revolution, and is a terrific opportunity for all fourth graders AND their parents to walk Boston's historic Freedom Trail where history comes alive. Look for more information and details about this trip to come home with your fourth grader over the next few months. We hope that you can join your child for what always proves to be a great way for students to cap off their Noah Wallace careers.

Student Council

Mrs. Myers, Mrs. Heintz,

The next Student Council meeting will be on Wednesday, February 8 at 7:45a in Mrs. Myers' classroom. The student council has been learning about bullying and strategies that can be used to prevent bullying. They are discussing and planning ways to teach other children what they are learning. At our next meeting we will decide what kind of charity work we will do next. The Student Council school store will also open on February 8th. All items are under \$1.00 and all money raised will be used to help others. Upcoming meetings are: March 7, April 4, May 2, May 28, and June 6 at 7:45 a.m.

Welcome to the Atelier!

...an art studio for young children at Noah Wallace School

Ms. Turner

Congratulations

This month first graders:

Sarah Hileman, Noah Kim and Gayathri Arivazhagan have their art work displayed in the **Town Hall, Board of Education** Conference Room.

Grade One did observational drawings from traditional carousel animals

Open ~ Monday to Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

note: Sometimes the room is unavailable, if in use. Please call BOE secretary to inquire.
860-673-8279

The following students have their art work on display at the town's Main Library for the **Annual Farmington Public School K-12 Art Exhibit.**

Ally Kann, Alyssa Patrick, Alexander Piteo, Jack Ginter, Gianna Coletti

All students learn in the art atelier. These particular young artists have been chosen because they emulate exemplary work habits of learning & good citizenship, as well as creating beautiful art.

- Open ~ during library hours
 - Reception for students and families on February 1st from 5:00- 7:00 pm
-

Gym Shorts

Mr. Sheely

So, there was an October snowstorm and now a small January snowstorm. I guess that winter is just dates on a calendar and has little to do with the weather. I do think that we'll see another storm or two or three before the days become too long and too warm. Did you and your children have to move or remove some of the snow? Shoveling is great exercise and you end up with a clean driveway or walkway. Did your children get to play in the snow before it melted? Did you play with them?

In class, the students have been learning about the importance of upper body strength and they have explored various and unique methods to improve their strength. Intramural basketball has been popular with the third and fourth graders. Gymnastics coming soon.

Library News

Mrs. Gilroy

I hope you are all enjoying this easy winter! When your child comes to library they check out books and have time for silent reading but they also do so much more. I work closely with all of the classroom teachers so that I can connect library lessons to what students are studying in the classroom. Depending on the grade level we may be comparing and contrasting similar folk or fairy tales or looking at a video clips and learning about a continent students are studying in Social Studies. In the library lesson we focus on the author's purpose for writing a story or other strategies for understanding so that I can connect with literature lessons in the classroom. Science themes such as balance, electricity or weather are looked at in different ways through fiction stories or magazine articles, video clips or websites dedicated to those topics. These are just some of the ways the library lessons compliment and reinforce lessons in the classroom.

The library is a place of learning, a place to make connections and find answers to questions and deepen knowledge by studying topics in different ways.



Community and Keeping it "Green"

The theme is green for a very special 2012 Read Across America celebration. NEA's Read Across America campaign will showcase the Lorax book as well as NBC/Universal's *The Lorax* (featuring the voices of Taylor Swift, Zach Efron, Danny Devito and Betty White).

Music News

Mrs. Kenyon, Ms. Clemmons, Mrs. Mattie

We have begun Chorus again in preparation for our annual Spring Concert with the Orchestra. The Chorus now includes 50 enthusiastic 4th grade students. They are excited to learn new music and look forward to sharing it with you at our concert on Wednesday, May 9th at Farmington High School.

Congratulations to the Noah Wallace 4th Grade Orchestra on a very successful 1st concert! We are now beginning NEW music in preparation for our District-wide Concert to be held at FHS on April 10th, and our Noah Wallace Spring Concert on May 9th. Rehearsals are every Tuesday at 7:30 am, and **our next rehearsal is on February 7th**. Please be advised that in the event of a delayed opening, there is no before school orchestra rehearsal.

Mini Strings lessons

Mini 15-20 minute one- on-one strings lessons are available with Miss Clemmons after school from 3:15-4:00 on most Tuesdays. Just a few minutes of private instruction can really improve playing and confidence. Parents may sign their child up for a Tuesday on the calendar outside the strings room. Please limit your mini lessons to one per month, as time is very limited. You may contact Miss Clemmons via email if you have any questions: clemmonse@fpsct.org

PTO News

Co-Presidents: Shannon & Noel Rutherford

Secretary: Andrea Sobinski, Treasurer: Carla Silva

Our general PTO meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. Childcare is provided. Dr. Cloud will speak to parents about the new Common Core State Standards, which has been adopted by 40 states.

Mark Your Calendars:

February 10 – Valentine Bingo

February 14 – General PTO Meeting

March 1 – Read Across America

March 2 – Munson's Chocolates – 4th grade fundraiser – Order Deadline

March 7 – PTO Executive Board Meeting

March 13 – General PTO Meeting

March 23 – HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS SPRING DINNER DANCE & AUCTION AT THE FARMINGTON CLUB

Upcoming Spring Events

Annual Noah Wallace Talent Show; Eagle Open Golf Tournament. Watch your Virtual Friday Folder for more information!



Message Board . . .

A Good Start for Kindergarten

A Good Start date; for 2012—March 7, April 4. Kindergarten registration for September 2012 is underway. Please call the school office if your child is eligible to begin kindergarten in September. The child must be 5 years old by December 31, 2012.

FPS Preschool Screening Clinics

The Farmington Public Schools encourage parents who are concerned about any aspect of their preschooler's development to call the Office of Special Services at 860-677-1791 ext. 1207. Preschool screenings will be held at IAR Middle School in the preschool classroom on the following dates:

Preschool screening dates for 2012—March 2, April 13
