

School #14 Newsletter



Have a Happy Valentine's Day!

**I wrote your name in the sky
And the wind blew it away
I wrote your name in the sand
But the waves washed it away
I wrote your name in my heart
And forever it will stay**

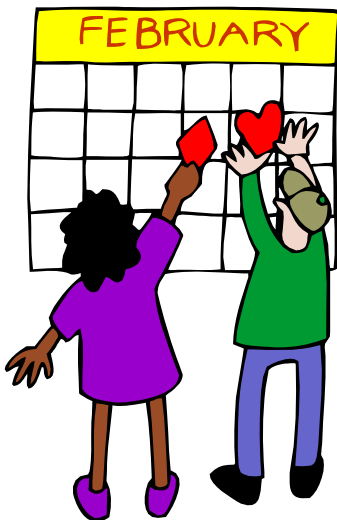
It's February and the first thing that comes to mind is Valentine's Day. This month has many events to be celebrated.

Month:

American Heart Month
Black History Month
Canned Food Month
Great American Pie Month
National Cherry Month
National Children's Dental Health Month
National Grapefruit Month
National Weddings Month

Day:

1 National Freedom Day
2 Ground Hog Day, Candlemas
3 The Day the Music Died – Buddy Holly, Richie Valens and the Big Bopper died in a plane crash in 1959
4 Thank a Mailman Day
5 National Weatherman's Day
6 Lame Duck Day
7 Send a Card to a Friend Day, Winter Olympics – Not Until 2014
8 Boy Scout Day, Kite Flying Day
10 Umbrella Day
11 Don't Cry over Spilled Milk Day, Make a Friend Day
12 Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Plum Pudding Day
14 Valentine's Day
15 National Gum Drop Day
17 Random Acts of Kindness Day
19 National Chocolate Mint Day
20 Cherry Pie Day, Love Your Pet Day, President's Day – 3rd Monday of Month
22 George Washington's Birthday, Be Humble Day, Walking the Dog Day
23 Tennis Day
24 National Tortilla Chip Day
26 Carnival Day, National Pistachio Day – it's a nutty day!
Tell a Fairy Tale Day
27 Polar Bear Day
28 Floral Design Day, National Tooth Fairy Day
29 Leap Day – 2012, once every four years



Let's not forget **SUPER BOWL SUNDAY** on February 5th!

HoneyWell Alert System

All parents must register on the internet with the Honeywell Alert System to receive school closings etc. Go to the Woodbridge Township Schools Home Page at <http://www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us>. Click on "District Information" and Honeywell will be found at the bottom of the page. Each Honeywell subscriber receives a "password". The password must be used to change the information you have registered with Honeywell. Any parent not having the internet can go to the local library and use the internet to register.

***The school does not register parents and/or change information due to the confidential password provided to the parents.**

Please remember to always update your information with the Honeywell Alert System if it changes during the school year.

Winter Weather

The doors open at 8:50AM. During inclement weather staff supervision begins in the gym at 8:50 AM. Do not leave your child standing out in the cold, snow and/or rain prior to 8:50 AM.

Safety

No snow balls

No climbing snow mounds on playground

Delayed Opening Schedule

Kindergarten AM – 10:55 AM – 1:30 PM

Grades 1 - 5 – 10:55 AM – 3:30 PM

Kindergarten PM – 12:55 PM – 3:30 PM

Unscheduled Early Dismissal Schedule

Kindergarten AM – 8:55 AM – 11:35 AM

Grades 1 - 5 – 8:55 AM – 1:10 PM

Kindergarten PM - Cancelled

Parking Reminder

Please do not pull in parking lot in the morning or afternoon to pick up or drop off your child.

Report Cards

Report Cards will be distributed on Tuesday, February 7, 2012.

Congratulations







Margaret Deignan, a 5th grade student in Mrs. Mosca's class was selected as Ford Avenue School #14's winner for her outstanding essay in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. essay contest.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for the September 2012 kindergarten class will take place, Tuesday, February 14 and Wednesday, February 15. Registration will take place from 9:30 to 11:30 AM and 1:15 to 3:00 PM. You may access the Registration Packet from the School District Web Site at: <http://www.woodbridge.k12.nj.us>. Click on District Info – Student Registration – Kindergarten Registration Packet.

Citizens of the Month - January

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS CITIZENS OF THE MONTH:

 Ms. Annetta – Morning – Rosemarie Leonard Afternoon – Madelyn Swenson	 Mrs. Delli Santi – Omi Mehta Mrs. Pakla – Anthony Sclafani
 Mrs. Hoppock – Xailene Voon Mrs. Triola – Briana Abruzzo	 Mrs. Whorton – Jacob Guiro
 Mrs. Fibraio – Shakthi Venkatesan Mrs. Jarema – Timothy Roche	 Mrs. Mosca – Taylor Barto Mr. Recchione – Austin Reinhart

What's Happening in Our Classroom?

IN THIS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER, WE HIGHLIGHT ACTIVITIES IN SOME OF OUR CLASSROOMS.

From Ms. Annetta's Kindergarten Class

Happy New Year! I can't believe it's February already. Hope everyone is staying warm. Kindergarten has been very busy at work. This month we will be celebrating the 100th Day of School. We have been looking forward to this day all year. We have been counting on our 100 charts everyday in anticipation of reaching that 100th day. We will also be learning about all of our famous presidents.



Last month students learned about Martin Luther King and all the accomplishments he made for our country. Students have also been learning about proper nutrition and healthy ways to take care of their bodies.

I hope everyone has a great 2012 and remember please read to your child every night and practice their sight words with them!

From Mrs. Hoppock's 1st Grade

I would like to thank all of my students and their parents for the warm welcome I received when I returned from my maternity leave. I am very lucky to come back to such a wonderful class. I am excited about working with the children for the rest of the school year and getting them ready for Second Grade.

In Reading Workshop, we have learned to create mental images, ask questions, make predictions, make connections and identify the important parts of the story while we are reading. These strategies are helping us become better readers. Please practice using these strategies at home. We also completed our first book report. In Math, we learned how to tell time to the nearest quarter hour, solve number stories, measure to the nearest inch, and read a thermometer. In Health, we learned the importance of eating healthy.



In Science, we learned that land and water make up the surface of the Earth. We also learned ways to care for the Earth at home and in school. In Social Studies, we learned that people live in many different places throughout the world. We also learned that people speak and write in many different languages.

We would like to thank the PFG for the Laser light show! We are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of School this month. We can't wait to show off our reading skills at our Reading Celebration on February, 13th.

From Mrs. Triola's 1st Grade

Can you believe we are half way through the school year? I hope you have noticed how much your child has advanced since the beginning of the school year. It is just amazing how much they have grown!

Everyone has made excellent strides in Reading and Writing. The best way to keep improving is to keep practicing. Don't forget to fill in and hand in your Independent Reading Log so I can hang it in the classroom. I love to know how much you're reading at home!

We will celebrate the 100th day of school this month so begin thinking about what collection you can bring in to share with the class.

We continue to practice good manners in class like saying please and thank you, helping our friends, and using kind words. Discuss with your child what he or she can do to be a good friend at school.

Lastly, please check your child's folder **daily**. It is important to help your child be organized and responsible and ready for 2nd grade.



From Mrs. Fibraio's 2nd Grade

During the month of January, in Math we completed Unit 5 where we identified and classified polygons, explored symmetry and developed the concepts of point and line segments. In Unit 6 we reviewed strategies for solving addition and subtraction problems, and we developed procedures for multiplication and division problems. In February we will be taking the Mid Year Math Assessment. We will begin Unit 7 where we will be working on Patterns and Rules.

In Writing Workshop we completed our study of Poetry. We learned all about Couplets, Triplets, Quatrains, Acrostic Poems, Alliteration Poems, Name Poems, Autobiography Poems and Sensory Poems. What fun we had writing our poems and being poets! Then, we began a unit of study on Pattern Books. Being able to write and illustrate short pattern books are a fun and exciting way to learn writing. In February we will begin learning how



to write a friendly letter. Once we learn how to write letters, we will be able to compose letters to some of our friends and family members. Maybe *you* will receive one of our letters!

In Reading Workshop during the month of January we focused our attention on Questioning. Being able to ask questions and look for answers to our questions before, during and after reading is an important comprehension skill. Also, in January we took our #2 Literacy Test during the week of January 23rd. In February we will be focusing on Predicting and Inference. We are not only becoming fluent readers, but we are learning to understand what we are reading and we just love reading all the books in our classroom library. We are going up and up in levels during Guided Reading. The higher up we go in leveled books, the more interesting the books are getting. What fun!

In Science we are using our Reading and Writing skills to predict, compare and contrast, discover cause and effect, and infer while we learn Life Science and study all about plants and animals.

During February we will celebrate our 100th day of second grade and begin our eighty day count down to the end of the school year. The year is going by so fast. Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

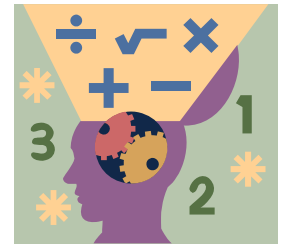
From Mrs. Jarema's 2nd Grade

The new year has finally come upon us, and the second graders have been working harder than ever! Whether it is mastering our addition and subtraction facts or learning new strategies that help us become better readers, our brains are always kicked into high gear!

In Language Arts, we are learning how to predict and infer while reading a story. This will help us better understand what we are reading. In Writing Workshop, we are finishing up the unit on pattern books and beginning to learn about letter writing. Maybe we will write some letters to you!

In Mathematics, we are beginning to learn about multiplication and division. We're so excited to start multiplying and dividing like the third graders! Remember to practice your addition and subtraction facts daily, so that these new skills will be easier to learn.

Keep up the good work second grade! I am so proud of all of you!



From Ms. Andersen - Academic Literacy Coach

Hello everyone! It's February already and the time is just flying by! All of the first and second grade students have been working VERY hard practicing their reading. I am extremely pleased to say that all of the students have increased their reading levels and are working towards becoming better readers! The first graders have been practicing the concept of contractions and recognizing word patterns. While the second graders are connecting and comparing word patterns that sound the same but look different. In the month of February, the first grade students will have their reading celebration, where they will be able to show their parents and peers how successful they have become. Keep up the good work and don't forget to read each and every night!



From Mrs. Boulton's Instrumental Music

Greetings from the Elementary Instrumental Music Program!

Your young musicians have been working very hard in this New Year! Beginning string ensemble members have been focusing on using proper bow technique (Don't forget to use your straws to keep the bow straight!) and reading note names at a faster pace. Our beginning percussionists have been learning to play in different time signatures while keeping a steady beat (Tap your toe!). Our beginning band members have been focusing on using correct articulations (Use your tongue to start every note!) for the Concert Bb Major Scale as well as quarter, half, and whole note rhythms. Our second-year violins are working on various eighth-note patterns and our



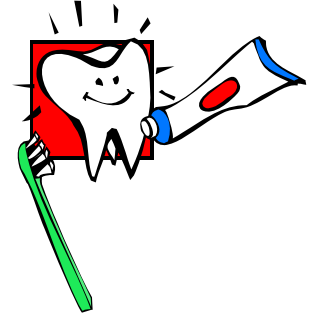
second-year band members have been focusing on dynamic markings. All band members continue to focus on longer phrases (Don't breathe after every note!). Both the band and string ensemble have started preparing for the Spring Concert in May.



Please remind your student to bring his or her instrument, folder, music, and a pencil every Thursday and continue to practice at home. **DAILY** practice is the **KEY** to success! And remember...15 minutes of practice a day keeps Mrs. B. away! ☺

From the Nurse's Corner

February is Dental Health Month; therefore, during this month the nurse will be going into some of the classrooms to discuss dental health. Videos and tooth models will be shown, and the children will be given toothbrushes and dental floss. This month should also be a reminder for parents on healthy snacking.



Student Council

Thank you to everyone who participated in our January special days. We will be saving our dollars to include them in our next local donation. We have received a warm letter of thanks from the St. James Food Pantry thanking us for the generous donation we sent during the holiday season to help them with their dwindling food supply.

On February 3, 2012, Student Council will have "Souper" Bowl Day. In celebration of the Super Bowl, students can wear their favorite football team shirt and bring in a can of soup which will be donated to the local food pantry. If students do not have a team shirt, they can still donate a can of soup!



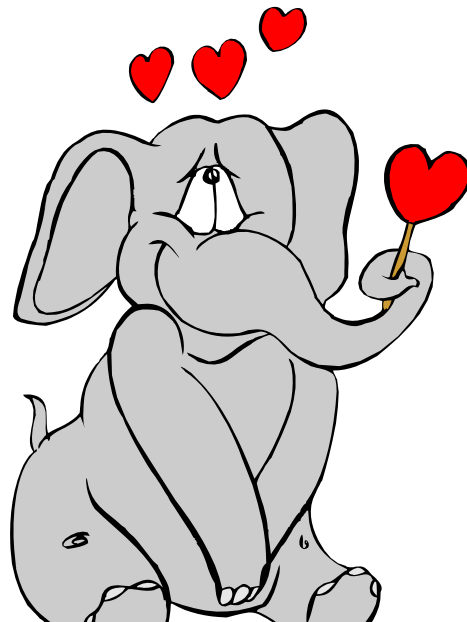
Special Days

- ♥ February 1st – Red Day (American Heart Day)
- ♥ February 3rd – "Souper" Bowl Day (wear your favorite football jersey and bring in a can of soup)
- ♥ February 14th – School Spirit Day (wear your blue and gold)

PFG News

Thank you for participating in the Candy Gram fundraiser. Yearbook photos are due by Thursday, March 1, 2012. No photos will be accepted after that date!

- ♥ February 1 – Candy Grams due
- ♥ February 7, 8 – Scholastic Book Fair
- ♥ February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Pretzel Day
- ♥ February 3, 24 – Pizza Day
- ♥ February 10 – Ice Cream Sale
- ♥ February 13 – Valentine Raffle Due

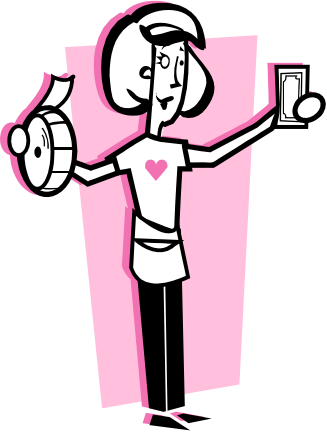


FORD AVENUE SCHOOL #14 PFG

\$100.00 in Lottery Tickets

13 1/2 L x 8 1/2 W Villeroy Boch Crystal Vase (\$100.00 value)

Donated by Chuck and Christine Kist (Braiden – Gr. K) (Brody- Gr. 1)



Happy Valentine's Day

\$5.00 each raffle

Drawing February 14th @ 12:00 PM
Winner will be notified by phone

\$5.00	RAFFLE TICKET	\$5.00
Name: _____		
Phone # _____		
Child's Name _____ Gr. _____		
Money and tickets must be returned by <u>Monday, February 13, 2012</u>		

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