

The Learner, Too

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 12

FEBRUARY 24, 2010

**A school of independent readers, writers, thinkers, performers and health lovers.
Make it a great learning day... or not, the choice IS YOURS!**

ATTACHMENTS

Calendar

Boxtops fun

Menu

Boosters

Nominating Form

Book fair schedule

Caps for Haiti

Principal Corner - Liz Garavuso, Principal

Reading for Under- standing

We need your help!!!

I have been visiting classrooms on a regular basis in order to witness reading and writing workshop. I am seeing wonderful lessons around helping children to understand

the structure of fiction, the importance of fluency, reading for the big idea, the need to attend to punctuation and hundreds more mini-lessons of great importance. I also have been listening to children read to see if they are in books that are good for their growth as a reader (we call them JUST RIGHT books). In almost every case, the student can clearly read with accuracy, meaning they are decoding words

with no problem. When students are in a book with little decoding work, they are free then to do the important work of trying to understand what they read. All of what I see is exactly what I hope to see...until I ask a child to tell me about what they have just read and have been reading. Despite daily modeling of the kind of thinking work readers need to do across text, many students are not actually doing the work readers need to do to un-

PTA PLACE

**From Kim Donohue,
President, Northside
PTA**

Letter from the President:

Well, February has come and (almost) gone, we celebrated Groundhog's Day (Thanks to all my helpers and to Dot Hansen, our local "Groundhog Aficionado" who made it fun and entertaining!), Northside's Birthday and we formed a nominating committee for next year's PTA officers. Reminder: nomination forms are due by 2/25, so get them in!

On February 2nd, I had the honor of representing Farmingdale Schools, along with a bevy of the best Farming-

dale has to offer: teachers, students, social workers, union reps, administrators and PTA representatives. We made our case to our appointed legislators and stressed the importance of keeping our programs intact in the wake of unprecedented cuts to educational funding. I am pleased to report that the most eloquent and well-received advocates were our children. I have no doubt that they left a very strong impression on our state representatives, and I was proud to observe how well spoken and earnest they were. You should be proud as well. I also encourage you to attend all budget meetings and be aware of the difficult choices we face in the near future. This is YOUR future and your child's education is paramount to it's success. Be informed, be pro-

active and be a part of the process

This week we have our Kindergarten Roundup, which welcomes incoming kindergarteners and their families. PTA provides amblyopic screening, resource information and offers the new (and returning) Northside parent a hand in partnership for their child's experience here.

Wednesday night is the Harlem Magic Masters Basketball game at FHS. All proceeds go to scholarship for high school seniors. Please come out, show your support and cheer on Glenn Zakian and his Farmingdale Tornados. Tickets are still available, I have some and some will be available at the door. Join us for a great cause!!!

NOTEWORTHY ITEMS

*Due to a
conflict with
the Harlem
Wizards
Game,
5th Grade
Family
Fun Night
is
now
3/19/2010*

derstand text.

Assessing the extent to which a child is actually doing comprehension work requires one on one time with the teacher. That is because the work a reader does is all inside the head. There is no way to see it. There is no way to get at the work a reader is doing other than to listen to the thinking of the reader. Such one on one time with the teacher can be fifteen to 20 minutes per student meaning that the teacher can only do that with students maybe once a week or once every 10 days. That's why we need your help. Your child needs lots of feedback about what they are and aren't doing while reading and the only way they can get more is if they have to sit and explain their thinking to you. Without enough feedback, some children are simply avoiding doing work they need to be doing.

As I sit and listen to the thinking of our readers, many are giving me cursory thinking, sometimes called immediate thinking. In other words they will tell me about a page just read, but they are unable to tell me in any depth about prior pages read. I suspect it is an issue of what Robert Marzano calls the "habits of the mind," rather than a lack of ability.

"Habits of the mind" have to do with the willingness and discipline to do work. The following are "habits of the mind":

- takes the time to be aware of one's own thinking
- takes the time to evaluate the sense of one's own thinking
- recognizes a lack of

understanding

- is willing to ask clarifying questions
- is willing to work
- is open to and accepts feedback
- takes charge over being impulsive in order to think through the first thoughts.
- evaluates self

Here are examples of lack of habits of the mind:

- 1) The student won't ask for the meaning of a word they don't know.
- 2) The student will literally jump over words they can't decode as if they are expendable.
- 3) The student will read very little in a sitting.
- 4) The student will appear to read fluently, but then won't be able to talk about what they read.
- 5) The student will literally call out words, but aren't thinking at all about what the words that they just called mean.

Readers need to be able to do the following when reading:

- 1) Read almost all the words (96/100) without stumbling or hesitating.
- 2) Summarize what they just read accurately.
- 3) Relate what was just read to parts read prior. That means holding onto ideas of a book across chapters or sections.
- 4) Relate what was read to what they know about that same action, event, behavior or emotion

in the real world.

- 5) Infer meaning from textual clues where the author didn't come out and say exactly that.

Habits of the mind are developed in the same way that all habits are developed:

- 1) Recognize the lack of a habit or the presence of a bad habit,
- 2) Commit to develop a good habit,
- 3) Build a plan for practicing the new habit,
- 4) Practice until it becomes automatic.

These habits of the mind are essential for students to be able to read, write and problem solve. As relates to reading, here is what you can do to help your child:

- 1) Read to them. Model the actual reading and then model you summarizing the parts of what you just read.
- 2) Set the expectation that they will do the same.
- 3) Have them read a section of a book and retell the important events of the story from the beginning to the part they are at without you questioning them, prompting them or helping them.
- 4) What they do give you—praise. Be rigorous. If they don't give you all the parts, tell them that. Tell them you expect them to reread the book to this point and ask for another summarizing. If they still don't retell the parts accurately, suggest they take notes, stop more often to mentally review or ask questions,

Great Community Spirit

All District Band

Tonight is the annual all district concert featuring, this year, the BAND. Congratulations are in order for the following students who volunteered to learn more music and practice more so as to be a part of this neat experience:

Caroline Bleck, Sam Croes, Abigail Grote, Angelica Kurdziel, Christian Marrone, Angus McCloskey, Ashley McGuinness,

Grace Murphy, Rachel Pugliese, Thomas Rodenburg, Joan Schweibert and Dylan Zubiria. Your commitment to this community event is so appreciated.

Cheering Competition

Two of our students were a part of a championship first place cheering team that competed in NJ over the break. Congratulations to Jenna Barrette and Ashley McGuinness.

CAPS for HAITI

Please see the attached flyer. Four caring fourth graders are coordinating this easy way to help the Haitian people.

THANK YOU

Troop 3742 wishes to thank all the wonderful families that donated first aid supplies for the Haiti effort. The collection was a huge success.

principal corner continued

but they still have to reread until they are able to tell you all the parts.

Forcing students to reread is the most effective way to move them to success. Allowing them to move through text and then not understand completely what was read sends the message that reading is just about calling words, not about the meaning. It also sends the message that thinking isn't something we have to work on. On the contrary, thinking about something requires a lot of work, especially when we are thinking about something that we didn't choose to think about at that moment. Kids have to do stuff. Adults have to expect them to do stuff. That's how kids get smart at doing stuff so that they can become successful adults who do stuff.

Please become a part of your child's reading life. Simply listening for accuracy of thinking can help them develop important habits of the mind.

THE YEARBOOK

Mrs. Murphy has asked me to place the yearbook booster form in this and future Learner, Toos. This form is used to purchase boosters which are personal messages sent to graduates.

May 11th

I will be reminding you in future Learner Toos about the May 11th change to the district calendar. On that day, all elementary schools and Howitt will be closed for students. The high school will be operating as usual on that day. This Superintendent's Conference day is to facilitate the grading of State tests.

BOXTOPS by Mrs. Faber

Please consider signing up on the website for Boxtops for Education www.btfe.com. Sign-up is for free and the PTA will get money simply for people signing up. In addition, money back is offered for any purchases made online through the website. This is an easy and free way to support the

PTA efforts.

I wish, also, to thank Mrs. Fernandez, Mrs. McGurk and the Civic Responsibility Club who volunteered to help count boxtops with me after school on January 21st. We counted over 4500 boxtops in 45 minutes, which will result in a check to the PTA for \$421.20. Recently, the PTA received a check for \$500.00 for boxtops submitted in October. I will now focus on the CAPRI SUN collection for additional PTA funds.

Book Fair

Please note the attached Book Fair notices.

Northside Elementary School
55 Powell Place
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Phone: 516 752-6575

Fax: 516 752-7026

Email:

lgaravus@fpsmail.k12.ny.us

Website -

Farmingdaleschools.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

- Nurse/ Mrs. Gehlbach
752-6685
- Attendance/ Mrs. Owens
752-6585
- Psychologist/Dr. Baltar
752-6598
- Social Worker/Pam Ball
752-6575
- Lost bus items 752-9310
- CARE 752-6652

Arrival/Dismissal

- Arrival time: 8:50 - 9:10am
NO EARLIER unless by note from a teacher.
- CARS drop students at back door -BUSSES drop in circle.
- Music Program: 8:25-9:05am
- Regular dismissal - 3:20 All students exit onto playground.
- Modified dismissal/Rain -3:10 Walkers meet parents in front lobby. Bussers move to busses as the busses arrive.
- Incident dismissal -Bad rain or snow - 3:05 walkers meet parents in lobby. Busses are loaded and leave one at a time.

Health Issues

- Need doctor's order for all meds
- “No gym” order means no recess
- Contact nurse for all contagious diseases.
- Physicals required K, 2, 4, 7 & 10

NO-NOs

- No Homework pick-up after 6pm.
- No early release from 3:00 to 3:20.
- No parking in circle from 8:30-9:30 and from 2:45-3:30.
- No parent/teacher discussions at 9:10am
- No homework sent with neighbor unless approved by parent of neighbor.

Northside AM Schedule

Early Morning Performance

Starts on September 21, 2009
Bus arrives 8:20am

MONDAY—8:25-9:05
Sr. Chorus 4,5
Jr. Recorder 4
Jr. Band after 1/1/09

TUESDAY—8:25-9:05
Senior Band 5
Orchestra 4,5
Jr. Recorder 4

WEDNESDAY—8:25-9:05
Sr. Chorus 4,5

THURSDAY—8:25-9:05
Sr. Band 5
Orchestra 4,5
Jr. chorus 3

FRIDAY—8:25-9:05
Sr. Chorus 4,5
Jazz Band 5

Senior Recorder will be held during Tuesday & Thurs. lunch periods

LUNCH INFO (Lunches are \$1.50 / Snacks are \$.60 and up)

- www.farmingdaleschools.org and click on MyNutrikids.com link
- to offset the \$1.75 fee, one free meal is credited for every \$30.00 put on the account.

PTA PLACE continued

Next week we kick off Book Fair and PARP, I hope to see everyone there. At our next PTA unit meeting, March 2nd, we will be presenting certificates to our Reflections winners and presenting the nominating slate for the 2010-11 school year. Coincidentally, it is also the birthday of Dr. Theodore Seuss Geisel, (better known as Dr. Seuss) and we will have a free raffle of two baskets featuring his books. Membership has its privileges, so come join us!

Northside Staff

Admin.

Liz Garavuso
Diane Anderson
Kindergarten
Rosanne Lee
Vivian Knudsen
Marilyn Setteneri
Lesley Garziano
Danielle Beers
Grade 1
Lisa Cullinan
Nancy M^cGurk
Katie Fernandez
Tracey DeTommaso

Grade 2

Valerie Hecht
Terry Androlowicz
Lynn Costello
Amy Gallino
Grade 3
Fran Ryan
Melissa Tyler
Ellen Vahling
Robin Fruman

Grade 4

Agnes Jahrsdoerfer
Susan Molloy
Hillary Siegel
Liz Ryan
Deborah M^cKeough

Grade 5

Beth Knispel
Katie Boger
Ginny Dalton
Janice Dalton
Jen Kalter
Paula Kelly
Resource Room
Catherine Turano
Psychologist
Yuvelin Baltar
Computer Tech
Bridget Rosenthal

Secretaries

Kathy Proto
Dottie Cantos
Art
Jean Napolitano
Music
Pat Facchiano
Katie Duke
Diane Block
Judy Feuss
Jennifer Dzielak
Phil Greco

Phys. Ed.

Bridget Satriano
Dave Stein

Math

Jackie Wedner

Library

Karen Marulis

GATE

Ellen Shapiro

ESL

Allison Nunez

JoAnn Green

Reading

Judy Fouad

Pat Bussewitz

Jane Hartigan

Carole Donohue

Speech

Tina O'Brien

Kelli M^cCarroll

Social Worker

Pam Ball

Nurse

Cindy Gehlbach

Linda Jachel

Kitchen

Annemarie Pittari

Angie Randazzo

Marta Sanchez

Susanna Perez

Sophia Savarese

Custodians

Kathy Chiusano
Ron Erdody
Peter Novick
Tom Adamo
Brian Loomis
Aides
Marianne Owens
Margee Erdody
Pat Bernot
Haydee Casino
Annemarie Meyer
Eileen Sarne
Lorraine Giambalvo
Dawn Haseman
Maureen Abel
Denise Speelman
Nicole Milianta
Jayne Benner
Joann Maroldo
Marie D'Ascoli
Andrea Hummel
Theresa Mullane
Terri Cambria
Toni Contona
Deirdre Hess
Linda Thompson
Elaine Arcuri
Rosemanry Peterson
Robert Kleinman
Debbie Lynch
Laura Gallagher
Mary Warshauer
Tina Migliorisi
Cathy Rice
Jennifer Melia
Karin Ivan
Jackie Tedesco

Hope you enjoyed your time off, now it's back to work and on to Spring!

Regards,

Kim Donohue

NOMINATIONS

Please see the attached nomination form. The forms will be analyzed by the committee whose job it is to select a slate of officers. Please share you important thinking regarding who you see as someone (including yourself) with

the skills to continue the great work for kids that is done by PTA members each year.

