

MARY E. DARDESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

3RD GRADERS' TRAVEL

The intriguing city of Venice has become one of the world's top travel destinations. The third graders at MED have had the opportunity to experience the richness of Venetian culture and social history through various workshops that continue through November.

Mr. Tom Lee from the Spencertown Academy has led presentations using maps of Venice, as well as paintings of Canaletto, during a visual thinking lesson. With his storytelling skills, he exposes the children to the Italian language. He has the children observe the written language and make predictions of what the words mean by listening in Italian.

Emily McCully, the author of the Italian story The Orphan Singer visited and shared her book. She talked about her experiences in Venice while she was there conducting research.

This year Susan Grybas, MED art teacher, and Mr. Tom Lee took on the challenge of introducing the architecture of Venice. Kristen Wogen, a local architect, brought blueprints she drew to show common features between today's architecture to that of the buildings in historic Venice. She also gave samples of marble to Mrs. Grybas to use with the third graders on a marbling project.

The third grade was also

treated to the beautiful music of the Parnas sisters, Madalyn on violin and Cicely on cello, while they performed music from Vivaldi.



Mr. Tom Lee introduces Harlequin to Mrs. Mulica's class

The Mary E Dardess Newsletter is getting a new look. Inside you will find features from students, parents and teachers, as well as informational and fun websites, great books to read and much, much more.

PTA OFFICERS:

President: Elizabeth Powers

Vice President: Sara McKay

Treasurer: Sharyn Marks

Secretary: Tracy Kelly

Visitors:

As you know, classrooms are a busy learning place and interruptions may disturb the learning taking place. If the teacher is not expecting your visit, please do not go down to the classroom.

Parents are always welcome to schedule a time to meet the teacher and discuss your child's progress, or to arrange a time when you can volunteer in the classroom.

WE'VE GOT CHARACTER!

Each month MED focuses on a different character word. The words for November and December are APPRECIATION and COMPASSION.

At our monthly character assemblies, students

are acknowledged for the great character they have exhibited. Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Reno also give out a special character award and t-shirt to two students who they have witnessed exhibiting good

character! Our September and October winners were Tyrene Campbell, Haley Sherman, Zharion Wech and Emilee Myer.

“WE DO NOT
INHERIT THE
EARTH FROM
OUR ANCESTORS,
WE BORROW IT
FROM OUR
CHILDREN.”

*NATIVE AMERICAN
PROVERB*

IT'S EASY BEING GREEN!

Meg Everett found these suggestions for making your child's lunchbox "green":

We can all do little things to become more eco-friendly and teach our kids the same message. Here are some tips for minimizing the throw-out waste in our childrens' lunchboxes:

⇒ Buy snacks in bulk packages, not individually wrapped packages

- ⇒ Pack cloth napkins instead of paper
- ⇒ Store lunch items in reusable washable containers
- ⇒ Use reusable drink bottles for snack and lunch
- ⇒ Consider using new reusable lunchbox products such as lunchskins, wrap-n-mat and lunchsense, designed to wrap sandwiches and snacks

Important Numbers:

M.E.D Main office

392-1530

Transportation

392-2415

**Director of Pupil Services
Jean Scheriff**

392-2417

**Superintendent of Schools
Cheryl Nuciforo**

392-1501

The State Education Department has revised the testing dates for this year's state-wide assessments for students in grades 3-5. The new testing dates for MED students are as follows:

ELA grades 3 & 4	April 26-28
Math grades 3 & 4	May 5-7
Science grade 4 Performance Test	May 24-June 3
Science grade 4 written test	June 7

A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast provides a good start to the day!

Important

If you have a change in your child's schedule please call the mail office instead of emailing or leaving a voice mail for the teacher. It is difficult to find time during the school day to check and answer emails. Any information that needs to be passed along to your child will be done via the office.



SURFING THE WEB



Here are some great science websites to explore at home:

www.pbs.org/parents/

kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids

www.learner.org/interactives/parkphysics/index.html

www.billnye.com/

www.extremescience.com/index.html

www.mos.org/

www.hhmi.org/coolscience/forkids/

www.timeforkids.com/TFK/

Children's Choices!

Looking for a good book to read with your child? Here are some suggestions:

Beginning Readers (Grades K-2):

Bats At The Library by Brian Lies

The Donut Chef by Bob Staake

I'm The Best Artist In The Ocean by Kevin Sherry

Red Truck by Kersten Hamilton

Twenty-Six Princesses by Dave Horowitz

Where's My Mummy? by Carolyn Crimi

Young Readers (Grades 3-4)

Car Science by Richard Hammond

Vivaldi by Janice Shefelman

One Million Things DK Publishing

Singing To The Sun by Vivian French

Titanicat by Marty Crisp

Two Bobbies by Kirby Larson

Advanced Readers (Grades 5-6)

39 Clues: The Maze of Bones by Rick Riordan

The Crossroads by Chris Grabstein

The Diamond of Darkhold by Jeanne DuPrau

Pigling: A Cinderella Story by Dan Jolley

Reading Tips For Parents:

- * Set aside a regular time and place for books so that reading becomes as natural as eating and sleeping.
- * Have students make responses to the books through activities such as drawing, papier-mâché, or finger paints.
- * Read the book while your child points to the pictures.
- * Read alternate pages, ask questions and discuss the story.
- * Compare and contrast different books.
- * Retell the story and talk about the characters, plot and setting.
- * Become aware of the interests of your child and books that extend life experiences so they know what happens in the world around them.
- * Encourage children to develop an interest in a variety of genres such as biography, historical fiction and poetry.
- * Make regular trips to the library and attend storytelling sessions. Visit bookstores together to begin a personal library for a child.



“Books are the bees that carry the quickening pollen from one mind to another.”

-James Russell Lowell

MATH CORNER



Here are some tips for parents on how you can help your child succeed in math:

Be positive about math:

- Make mathematical interactions with your child enjoyable and risk free.
- Express confidence in your child's ability to succeed in math.

Connect math to daily life:

- Talk about ways in which you use math in your job and daily life (around the house, in the kitchen).
- Look for math in the environment by taking a "shape walk" or "number walk".

Help your child master basic facts:

- Play family and board games to add excitement to repetitive practice.

Be supportive during homework:

- Encourage your child to explain his or her homework assignments to you.
- Encourage the use of problem solving processes such as guessing and checking, looking for patterns, or drawing a picture.

HEALTHY LIVING



The weather is turning colder. Please remember to send your child ready for outdoor playtime everyday. Think hats, gloves, boots, jackets and snow pants. Please do not send in scarves, as the loose ends can become tangled with playground equipment.

Every year we have a limited number of gently used items donated to the Health Office. If your child is in need of something, give us a call and we'll see if we have something in the right size.

Did you know???

The snack and lunch your child eats impacts their learning and behavior. Pack a healthy snack and lunch. You are forming eating habits for life.

The Columbia County Department of Health has confirmed they will be offering a free H1N1 vaccination clinic in each of our schools on November 19th from approximately 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Please visit our website at www.chathamcentralschools.com for more information.

UP COMING EVENTS

November 16-20th	PTA Book Fair
November 20th	3rd Grade Carnivale 12:30 p.m.
November 19th	MED Ice Cream Social 6-8 p.m.
November 24th	Board of Education meeting - HS Library -6:30 p.m.
November 25th	No School-District Conference Day
November 26-27th	Thanksgiving Recess
Decemebr 8th & 22nd	Board of Education meeting - HS Library -6:30 p.m.
December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd	School Banking
December 10th	Canaries Concert 7p.m.
December 24th-January 1st	Holiday Recess
January 4th	School Re-Opens