

JV FORRESTAL SUPER STARS NEWSLETTER



Happy Valentine's Day! Kindergarten, first, and second graders are working with various percussion instruments, musical opposites, and rhythm reading. Third, fourth, and fifth graders are working on musical literacy and recorders.



The band students are hard at work. The 2-hour delays and snow days are making their schedule of when to bring their instruments to school more complicated but they are doing a good job figuring it out! Keep bringing their instruments on their designated days even if there is a delay. Fifth grade band students will perform in the Music in our Schools concert on March 5th. More information will be sent home about this concert including a permission slip towards the middle of the month.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear JVF Family,

Happy Friday JVF and Happy February! This month, in honor of Black History Month, our JVF Equity Team is helping to lead a school wide research project, in collaboration with classroom teachers, focused on extending student learning of African American pioneers. We also are excited about our assembly and visit from Violinist Gwen Laster and the New Muse 4tet on February 8th! Ms. Laster and the New Muse 4tet provide an interactive educational performance, exploring "Classical Connections of the Afro Atlantic, 21st century and Beyond" featuring music by composers of color. Throughout this month we continue our Kids Heart Challenge and with the leadership of our P.E. teachers, Ms. Ceriello and Mr. Zehner, we incorporate healthy heart exercises and discuss the importance of nutritional and emotional well-being!

Don't forget to come out and support the BCSD community and JVF Heartbreak Players (including myself) on Feb. 14th at the Harlem Wizards game which takes place at 7pm @ BHS

With love,
Ms. Sessoms

"Educate the minds and Embrace the hearts of Every student in Every classroom, Everyday!"

In Physical Education,

The Kids Heart Challenge is under way! Students are being encouraged to continue healthy habits for eating, drinking water, and being active every day. Many students have registered on the American Heart Association website, and have earned instant gifts for donations. All students will be learning and practicing JumpRope skills in PE classes, and will be encouraged to meet challenges for new skills.



PLEASE REMEMBER SNEAKERS FOR PE DAYS!



ART

In art class this month we are working on Valentine's Day themed art. We are using the elements of art, including shape, line and color. We will also be working on a surrealism based artwork for the Garrison Art Center show. Fourth graders in Mrs. Waage's class are drawing patterned cats inspired by artist Laurel Burch.



Grade Level News

Kindergarten is looking forward to warming things up at the Norwalk Maritime Aquarium. Our mini-marine biologist are so excited to show off their knowledge at the Kindergarten Ocean Expo.

For January our Fabulous First Graders are just about finished with their Science unit on Animals: How Animals Survive in the Winter, Animal Groups, and Animal Habitats, and Endangered Species/Habitats. We also learned at an important figure in history, Martin Luther King, Jr., and his accomplishments. In math we finished Module One and have started Module Two. Our first new strategy is the "make 10" strategy. Ask your 1st grader to show you this strategy. For Reading the children were formally assessed for their independent reading level for quarter to report cards. We are very happy with how much progress has been made by our young readers. And in Writing the children have been practicing non-fiction writing by collecting facts on animals and other topics and then taking those facts to draft a book, complete with Table of Contents and Title Page. They really have been enjoying this writer's workshop piece. See you next month, Mrs. Joyce & Ms. Keogh

For the month of February, second grade will be celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. We will be creating some fun matter projects in class, learning about heroes for a cause, adding and subtracting within 1,000 and working on map skills in Geography. We also continue to work on strengthening our reading, writing and editing skills.

3rd quarter is upon us and we are busy in 3rd grade! Students have been working on their final project in ELA-becoming "Freaky Frog Experts"! After studying many different frogs and their adaptations using multiple non-fiction sources, students chose one frog to "become an expert" on. They have written about their frog in the first person, as if they were the frog speaking! We have many creative writers in 3rd grade who made these writing pieces exciting! In math, we will be switching it up soon and head into the land of fractions. We have just completed our weather unit in science, where students were meteorologists for a week, tracking our local weather. In social studies, we will be learning about our first country to coincide with Chinese New Year, China! After that, we will start exploring different countries around the world as we prepare for the SUPER EXCITING, Calico Ball. We are pleased to announce that Ms. Johnson's class will be learning a native dance from Jamaica, and Mrs. Ciotoli's class will be studying Ireland! Stay tuned for more exciting updates in 3rd grade!

Happy New Year from Fourth grade! As always, we are working hard! We worked our tails off in multiplication and long division! We will be moving on to fractions very soon. Speaking of tails, did you know certain tails are body part adaptations for an animal? We have had a great time studying animals and their adaptations. We will be creating a google slide of our own animal that we create. We will be telling what adaptations it has to help it to survive. Soon we learn about how all the plants and animals work together in their environment to maintain a balanced ecosystem. New Netherland will become the colony of New York soon in our study of Colonial Times. Stay warm, JVF!

Fifth grade is ready to start their final stretch of elementary school!! We are eager to continue our learning about fractions. We are also excited to continue to do some investigations about the Earth and our seasons. 5th grade is working hard on writing rainforest animal reports and learning all about the rainforest. February is going to be a great month.

IMPORTANT DATES

Feb 5, 12, 19 ELA - IRP - Grades 3-5

& 26

Feb 7, 14, 21 MATH - IRP - Grades 3-5

& 28

Feb 13 PTSO meeting @ 7PM

Feb 15-18 President's Day - School Closed

Here is what is happening in MAPS Grades K-1

We continue to learn about the five senses. We are noticing the characteristics of the season and reading about winter and snow. We will be learning about penguins and polar bears. We are working with numbers 1-10, on letter and letter sound recognition, sight words, reading and writing letters, numbers and words.

Here is what is happening in MAPS Grades 1-3

January was a great month in our class. In February we are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day with the other MAPS classes as well as learning about President's Day. We are also going to begin studying some non-fiction texts. Through non-fiction texts, we are planning to spend time studying animals from the Arctic and Antarctic. We are also excited to begin writing informational texts about our animals.

Here is what is happening in MAPS Grades 4-6

This month MAPS 3-5 will be celebrating the Chinese New Year and President's Day. For ELA we will be learning about different people in history that have fought for a cause. We will continue to work on computation and word problems within 100 for Math. Students are working on developing their narrative writing skills. We look forward to a fun February!!

The Learning Differences Parent Group (formerly the IEP/504 Parent Support Group) will be meeting at Beacon High, October 18, from 7-830 pm, room C138. Please come if you have any questions regarding your child's IEP or 504. Parents and caregivers are welcome to attend and if childcare is needed it can be arranged through the National Honor Society.

HEALTH SERVICES MESSAGE

ILLNESS—Students are coming to school not feeling well and complaining of symptoms of illness after they arrive at school. Once these students board a school bus and/or arrive to their classrooms, they may have already contributed to the spread of contagious infections or disease.

Students should not be sent to school with instructions to "go to the school nurse and see what is wrong." The function of school health services is not to diagnose or treat the sick child. We may only administer First Aid/Emergency care.

We ask that the parents not send students to school with any of the following symptoms:

ELEVATED TEMPERATURE: A student should not be sent to school until his/her temperature has been normal for 24 hours.

NAUSEA OR VOMITING: If a student has vomited during the evening, night or prior to coming to school, he/she should not be sent to school.

OTHER SYMPTOMS: Excessive cough, complaint of sore throat accompanied by headache, muscular aches or pain are also symptoms of illness.

The student who is not feeling well cannot benefit from instruction and in addition he/she may cause a spread of infections. Also, once a child returns to school from an illness, he/she should be ready to participate in all school activities, such as physical education, outside recess, etc. The only exceptions are current medical exemptions that we have on active file. Generally, a note from a parent requesting that a child not participate in regular school activities is not acceptable.

CAST AND/OR CRUTCHES—Before a student returns to school wearing a cast or using crutches, the parent should obtain a note from the physician stating the diagnosis and also, a statement that they may attend school and if there are any physical restrictions. Parents should contact the Health Office prior to the day the student will return to discuss any adjustment necessary to the student's program.

Please be aware that some of our students here at JV Forrestral suffer with **severe** and **sometimes fatal food allergies**. We are asking that if parents want to distribute goodie bags to the children, **no candy or home baked foods be in them**. We are also asking that any food brought into school be **cleared through the classroom teacher**.

RN

JV Forrestral School Nurse



LIBRARY NEWS:

In February, all classes will be exploring biographies to help celebrate Black History Month in the library media center. We are continuing 3D printing initiatives in grades 4 & 5 and 3rd grade will be starting out as well.





March

- 3/12 - PTSO meeting @ 4 PM in the Library
- 3/8 - Professional Learning Day - No School
- 3/11 - 3/15 - Book Fair

The following are a few important reminders:

- **Keep the main office updated with any address/phone changes that may occur throughout the school year. If there is a change from your child's normal routine for dismissal a note must be sent to your child's teacher. Call the school only if an emergency arises before 2:00pm. Any calls received after 2:00pm cannot be honored due to the safety of your child and his/her normal dismissal procedure will be followed.**
- **It is very IMPORTANT that each child arrives on time every day especially if they are going to eat breakfast in school. Breakfast will only be served between 8:30 A.M. and 8:45 A.M. Please instill in your child an awareness of the importance of being in school and on time each and every day. Please note, no student will be allowed to enter until 8:30am.**
- **Arrival:**
 - Only bus students will be permitted to enter into through the main entrance. Parents in need of assistance must have ID, sign in, and enter in through the main entrance only. All walkers in K – Second Grade will enter in through the Kindergarten Entrance.**
 - All walkers in grades 3-5 will enter in through the Valet Entrance.**
 - When using the valet service, please remember to have your child exit the vehicle from the passenger's side only.**
- **Dismissal:**
 - Only bus students will be permitted to exit through the main entrance. Parents in need of assistance must have ID, sign in, and exit through the main entrance only.**
 - All walkers in K – Second Grade exit through the Kindergarten Entrance.**
 - All walkers in grades 3-5 will exit through the Valet Entrance ** Including Ms. Gall's class.**

Thank you to all that are making our new arrival and dismissal procedures safer for our students and each other.

NEWS FROM JVF PTSO

The Family Sweetheart Dance is back on Feb. 22! We need volunteers to help make this a fun night for our school, so please email jvfptso@gmail.com if you are able to help plan or work the event.

Calling all party and event planners! The JVF night-time fundraiser is set for Thursday, **May 2**. If you are interested in working on the super fun **Night time Fundraising Committee**, please contact the PTSO. Let's make it awesome! .

The next **PTSO meeting** is Tuesday, February 12th at 7pm in the JVF Library.

If you want to get involved or be added to the PTSO newsletter email list, please email jvfptso@gmail.com

