

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004


banyanschool.com

Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Holiday Shop	All	December 12 – 14	
Picture Re-takes	All who need	December 14	
Ugly Sweater Day	All	December 19	
Early Dismissal	All	December 21	12:30

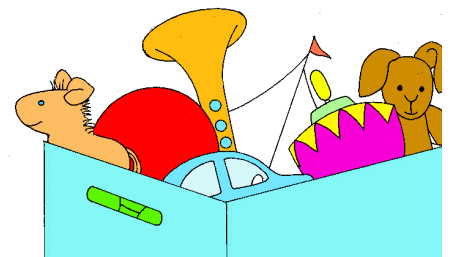
MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

Moby Max Update--For the past two weeks, my math students put in much effort and math practice using the MobyMax online program. Moby Max sponsored a challenge called "The Massively Monstrous Party". All of my students accumulated 138,032 points--enough to have a small class party. We are voting on the possible party options with the e-gift card reward we earned so be on the lookout for the news! We did have fun during the challenge. We found out that we could send messages within the MobyMax program to each other. The students earned game time and sweepstakes tickets. I even set up a poll asking the students if they were enjoying the challenge. 16 students responded with a "yes" answer and 1 student responded with a "no" answer and 11 students did not respond. The bottom line--we practiced math and had fun! Remember MobyMax is available all the time (along with our other favorite--the IXL program). The next challenge will start after the holidays on January 7th--more details to follow!

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Math



Reminder:
Toys for Tots last day for donating is this Friday the 21st.



MRS. ONSDORFF'S CLASS NEWS

During this season of giving, students in both TMC classes and FIRS T classes have been using visualization skills, as well as other comprehension strategies to enjoy stories about Joshua Williams, a boy who is president of Joshua's Heart Foundation. This hunger relief organization was started when Joshua was four years old and discovered that people right in his own neighborhood went without food. The concept confounded the young Miami resident, so with the support of his family, Joshua founded this organization run through the community service of young people. Besides sharing the creation of their images while reading stories about Joshua, the students enjoyed engaging videos, interviews, and Joshua's speeches to help develop background knowledge. During our discussions, it was very heartwarming to find out while the students were making their own connections, how many of them are involved in acts of kindness towards others in their own lives.

SOCIAL SKILLS NEWS

The strategy of December is "Body in the group". For our students, initiating conversation and sharing space in a large group can be difficult. That is because there are several steps that needs to be taken.

1. Notice what the group is looking at.
2. Notice where their bodies are facing.
3. Guess what they are thinking about.
4. Regulate your own body to be in the group.

When we are in a group, we all look at each other and face each other. This is to show we are listening to the group and to read their social cues. By doing this, we can keep track of the topic of conversation and stay focused in the group.

Often our students may become distracted. Their body may physically leave the group and they wander away. Or their brain may leave the group, and they will talk about something off topic. We use the terms "body in the group" and "brain in the group" to help prompt our students if they become distracted.

In social skills, we explore this strategy by having one student be an observer during a group activity. The student will notice if everyone's body is in the group and if everyone is thinking about the group. This allows the student to notice different social clues.

For our older students, we use the Unthinkables to teach how they should regulate their body in the group. There is "Body Snatcher" who leaves the group during mid activity. And "Space Invader" who gets too close to people. We want our peers to have comfortable thoughts about us and we do that with our expected behaviors. This lesson helps them learn how to appropriately utilize social space.

Dr. Rick

MS. DREHER'S CLASS NEWS

My Math class has been working on our addition skills using a number line. We have been creating our own addition problems using manipulatives on the SmartBoard as well as counters. We have also begun to work on and discuss AB, ABAB, ABCABC, AABB, ABB, AAB Patterns. My Math class has been working very hard on all of their skills. My students are very excited about creating their own patterns using blocks, crayons and other programs on the SmartBoard.

MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

My reading class started a new book "A Job for Zack." They are working on reading and write their sight words in school and at home. They take turns reading to each other and we practice scooping the sentences to help with fluency. The book is sent home to practice reading each night.

My period 2 and 3 FIRST class is working in substep 2.4. They are working on reading and writing words with 5 sounds in a closed syllable with suffix **s** and without.

MRS. KOWALSKI'S CLASS NEWS

In Reading, we have been working on the skills that the students are currently working on in their FIRST classes, as well as reading/writing HFSW (High Frequency Sight Words), and practicing our reading fluency daily. In my first period class the students have been reading with their peers An Unlucky Number and listening to Mrs. K read Ramona Quimby, Age 8 every week. They are really practicing their V&V skills to picture what we are reading about. We are also practicing our comprehension by answering questions after we read each chapter and taking chapter notes. My fourth period reading class is broken into two groups. One group has been practicing their rhyming cvc words with the letters that they have mastered in FIRST, while my other group is practicing the reading of real and nonsense words/sentences/paragraphs from the Wilson Student Reader. All of my reading students have been doing a good job practicing their HFSW and reading fluency!

MR. MALDONODO'S MUSIC CORNER

Wow! What an amazing concert! I am glad you all got to come and see a part of the magic that I get to see each and every week. The instrumentalists did an amazing job playing "Little Drummer Boy" and "Candle on the Water". The vocalists sang "Candle on the Water" and "Something Wild" with such gusto and strength that it took even my breath away. I hope you all had an amazing time looking at all the elementary students play, sing, and dance into your hearts.

