

# Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com



## *Upcoming Events*

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Early Dismissal	Staff Development	March 15	12:30 PM
Spring Fling	All	March 28	5:30 PM

### MR. HOFMANN'S PHYS ED NEWS

Tennis anyone? Mr. Hofmann's Phys Ed classes practiced their tennis strokes in gym class last week. We discussed how to grip a racket, how to position your wrists, where to focus your eyes when the ball is coming your way, and where to strike the ball when making contact with the racket. Who knows, we may have the next John McEnroe in our school!

### MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

Tomorrow is Pi Day 2019. On March 12, 2009, the United States Congress recognized March 14th as an important day in science and math education and encouraged all schools in the United States to make students aware of this important concept of Pi. All of our math classes at Banyan School have been doing some special "Pi"-related activities this week. **We will serve an apple pie treat tomorrow during lunch. If your child cannot eat apple pie, please send in an alternate treat with lunch.**

March 25th will be the start of our final MobyMax challenge of the year--*The Great Spring Party*. This contest will go for two weeks and students will have the chance to earn another party based on the collective points they earn during this 2-week period.

### **Remaining Basketball Schedule:**

**Wednesday, March 20 at  
Deron 9:30 am**

**Friday, March 29 All School  
game 1:10 pm**



## SOCIAL SKILLS NEWS

The social skill for March is the **Smart Guess**. Neurotypical learners have top down processing, which means they can get the general idea or the "gist" of something and remember a few details. This can be a social situation, a lesson, a book, or a movie. Students with social challenges often have bottom up processing. This is when they focus on details and miss the general meaning of a situation. This causes them to not be able to make inferences and have low skills in reading comprehension.

This often comes up in school. On the playground, students may struggle knowing what is going to come next and making guesses about someone's intention. In the classroom, students may make wild guesses if they do not know the answer to a question.

One way to build these skills is the smart guess. Smart guess means we use clues to deduct what is going to happen. A **wacky guess** means that we only focused on one clue or detail to make a guess. We use this vocabulary to emphasize that we need to gather clues to deduct what is going to happen next.

The best way to practice this skill is with games. There are many games that require the player to make guesses based on clues they receive. Some games we like to use during social skills are Heads Up, Head Bandz, charades, Pictionary, and Guess Who. Having a game night at home is a great opportunity to practice these skills and reinforce the idea of a smart guess.

Dr. Rick

## GUYS GROUP UPDATE!

As you know; Guys Group is scheduled every Thursday during lunch. We have implemented a "share and care" since it has been going so well with the Girls Group!

Please have your son think about an item he would like to bring in to share with the group.

The Guys Group schedule is as follows:

Mrs. Wilson, Ms. Dreher and Mrs. Rallo's homeroom is **March 14**

Mrs. Martin's homeroom – **March 21**

Ms. Vandebree's homeroom – **March 28**

Mrs. Kowalski, Ms. Mitofsly and Mrs. Cuellar – **April 4**

Looking forward to our Spring Time Share and Cares!!

## MR. CUELLAR'S CLASS NEWS

For math, we have focused on counting in groups of tens, fives, and then counting up from there with ones, up to 50. For example, I would give the students the number 37 then ask them to count to 45, and then asked which number was more, 37 or 45? After pointing it out that we had to count up to 45 we were able to understand that 45 is more than 37. I tied it in with a money activity. I gave each student a set of pennies, nickels, and dimes and they would have to make a given change amount. For example, I asked one student to make 0.46¢ using dimes, nickels, and pennies. They made the amount by getting four dimes, 1 nickel and 1 penny. From there I asked her a series of questions about the value of money and number sense questions. i.e. if you have five dimes, do you have more or less than 0.46¢?

For Reading, we are continuing the saga of the Super-Wild Kids in King Snake! This time the four super heroes have encountered a giant snake with super powers beneath the city whose main goal is to take over the city! The students have drawn inferences and conclusions, about how the snake gained his powers, and have made predictions on how the Super-Wild kids will stop the evil King Snake! Ask your students, in the coming weeks if the Super-Wild kids were able to stop King Snake from destroying their city.

## 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 just finished reading with their peers The Birthday Present 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 has been practicing their rhyming cvc words with the letters that they have mastered in FIRST, as well as reading/writing HFSW (High Frequency Sight Words), and practicing our reading fluency daily. All of my reading students have been doing a good job practicing their HFSW and reading fluency!

## MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

My period 9 TMC class used their structure words to help them visualize and verbalize the story we read in class. Last week we finished the story *Lunch Money*. The students enjoyed visualizing the story and making predictions. This week in class we are making our own comics similar to the students in the book. The students need to come up with their own short story and make a comic out of it. I can't wait to see all the finished comics!