

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com



Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Crazy Hat Day	All	November 30	All Day
Social Skills Workshop	Parents	December 11	10:00
Winter Concert	All	December 11	1 – 2:30

MR. MALDONODO'S MUSIC NEWS

Hello everyone! The Winter Concert is just 4 weeks away! It will be here before we know it. I know that the Elementary School is getting ready to play their instruments and sing their hearts out. The theme of this year's Winter Concert is "Movie Magic." Most of the songs will be songs either played or sung from movies. I hope all of you come to see your child shine.

The concert will be on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 1 P.M. Hope to see you all there!!



MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

In my period 2 and 3 FIRST class we are working in substep 2.2. In 2.2, we will talk about the difference between a blend and a digraph. The girls are working on reading real words with suffix -s and reading nonsense words. They are reminded to tap out the word if they struggle reading or spelling it.

In my period 1 reading class we are reading "The Tug." The students practice reading and spelling their sight words from the book. Also, they are working on comprehension questions. The students enjoy the book and love reading it in class. Keep practicing your reading at home.



SOCIAL SKILLS

Many parents come to us with the same problem: their child does not know what to say in social situations! They may talk about the same thing over and over again. They may shy away and not want to speak to friends and relatives. Or they may talk about something completely unexpected to the situation!

This is a difficult skill since it depends on perspective taking. This is abstract and difficult for our students to understand: what someone else might be thinking. To help with this we use the *People File* strategy.

We have students create people files of persons they know. In this file they list things they know about the person: their interests, hobbies, and/or experiences. From there, we can have an idea of what to talk to someone about. We can *ask a question* relating to the topic. Or we can *add a thought* about that topic. If we do both, we are able to hold a conversation with a person.

In groups we help practice this by having the students start the session with a check in. After everyone has a turn, they can ask a question or add a thought. Afterwards we give them a pop quiz! Therapists ask the students who said what in the session. This helps the students learn to attend to that information, recall what was said, and form ideas on topics to talk to others about.

This can be practiced at home as well. Before a social event, review people files for who the learner will see there. Go over that person's interests and prompt the learner with questions and statements they can share. On the ride home, ask them "who shared. . ." to help them recall that information. This is also a great strategy to practice at the dinner table! After someone shares a topic, ask the learner to add a thought or ask a question.

Don't forget: **Tuesday December 11th at 10:00** is our social skills workshop. Please RSVP with Mrs. Withers. It is bound to get you back into the green zone for the holiday season!

Dr. Rick

MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

Happy Thanksgiving to all the wonderful Banyan School families.

IXL update--20,000 completed problems benchmark attained!!!!!!

Moby Max update--All students have received their login information and have completed a placement test. Moby Max assigns lessons that fill in the gaps for individual students after the placement test is completed. Moby Max is sponsoring a contest called "The Massively Monstrous Party". For the two week time period of November 26 - December 7th, students are going to increase their time practicing and see if we can win a classroom party!! During the "Get Cracking Fall Kickoff" promotion, Neomah was awarded a MobyMax t-shirt and Matt S. won a MobyMax baseball cap!! Good practicing students.

MS. VANDENBREE'S CLASS NEWS

Congratulations to my Period 3 FIRST class! They have successfully completed Step 1 of the 4th edition of the Wilson Reading System! Great work!

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! Enjoy the time off with family.

MS. DREHER'S CLASS NEWS

My Writing students have been working very hard at completing their written assignment. We wrote about different people or things that we are thankful for. As a whole we read a book Thanksgiving is for Giving Thanks then had a whole- class discussion about different things or people that we are Thankful for. The students were asked to complete a pre-writing activity which included the students writing down what they were thankful for as well as explaining why for example- "I am thankful for my family because they love me." Each student has done an amazing job! I look forward to our next topic, descriptive writing.

MRS. ONSDORFF

My second period TMC class has had Dr. Garcia-Albea, a behaviorist, join us each Friday to focus on social skills. Through the use of interactive games, the students have been confidently engaging in conversation. Taking part in play and competition, they are improving their conversational skills such as joining a conversation, beginning a conversation, maintaining a conversation, and ending a conversation. The students are learning and attentively listening in order to ask appropriate questions and make personal connections to what their friends are saying, while laughing and having a great deal of fun. They are practicing reading body language while watching exaggerated facial expressions, tone of voice, and other non-verbal cues which are key to having a conversation. Role playing these activities is especially enjoyable to the students. In this fun environment, they are building confidence and skill.

