

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com



Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Picture Day	All	October 26	9:00 am
Halloween	All	October 31	TBA
Early Dismissals	Students	November 5,6,7	12:30 pm

SOCIAL SKILLS

This month's Social Thinking strategy is mind and body in the group. With any given task, we have to focus on what needs to be done. To do this we have to remind ourselves what the task is and filter out any thoughts that are unrelated. This can be hard for our students with attention difficulties.

A strategy we use is creating a visual. On the board we would write "Group Plan" and everything we are going to cover that day. We then draw a "thinking bubble" around it with a stick figure of every person in the group. This represents that we are all thinking about this topic. If the student goes off topic, we can redirect them to this visual.

We also may take a "brain break" during a session. We know that we can have individual thoughts that would interrupt our focus. We have the students each state what their individual thought is, anything that is not related to our group plan. This allows them to notice and have awareness of their minds, and then push those thoughts to the back of their brain.

If we notice the student going off topic, we can prompt them with "is your brain in the group?". This allows them to refocus. At home, use these terms. You can also use the visual of the group plan to show what tasks need to get done. I have attached the visual.

Please note there was an error in last week's Banyan News.

Picture Day is OCTOBER 26 not the 24th as stated.



MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

My period 2 and 3 FIRST class has moved onto Substep 1.6. They will be working on word elements, base word and suffix. They will add suffixes **-s** and **-es** to closed- syllables words with three sounds. Keep working hard girls!!

My period 7 and 8 FIRST has moved onto Step 3! They just started Substep 3.1 and will be working on decoding and encoding two-syllable words with two closed syllables, including blends. GREAT JOB BOYS!!

MRS. SANSONE'S CLASS NEWS

My period 7/8 student recently completed Step 6 of the Wilson Reading System. He is able to read and spell words with two suffixes and has also mastered the "consonant-le" syllable type. This student is ready to move onto Step 7, which starts with spelling options for the soft sounds of "c" and "g." Great job!

MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

Students have been using the IXL program in school and at home. Here are the most current "stats"—

9,013 completed problems

34 hours of practice time

216 skills practice!!!!!! Keep it up, students—you are the best and are working very hard!!!!!!

Students have been working on length these past 2 weeks. We have been exploring inches, feet, and yards. Students learned that an average man's foot (about a size 9 ½) is actually a foot—12 inches and that the distance from the tip of a man's nose to the tip of his longest finger, when his arm is outstretched, is a yard. Students enjoyed measuring things in the classroom. Next week we will talk about miles and learn the "5 tomatoes" rule—5,280 feet in a mile.

Last Friday, some groups formed a human clock to practice telling time. We made a very large clock face on the gym floor and then practiced making times with students as the hands on the clock fact—a shorter student paired up with a taller student to do this and represent the hour and minutes hands on a clock.

MRS. ONSDORFF'S CLASS NEWS

My fourth and fifth period FIRST class is off to a great start. These "Super Readers" have been reviewing Step 10 of the Wilson Reading Program. The students are ready for the challenge! They will be learning advanced principles, such as Greek combining forms (examples of words: stratosphere, philosophy). This year they are looking forward to completing the program working through Steps 11 and 12. While learning advanced spelling rules and generalizations, the students will be advancing their vocabularies using academic words. As a part of this class, the students will be developing auditory processing of language and comprehension using literature and informational text.

MS. ZATUROSKA'S CLASS NEWS

This week, my writing students have been working really hard on their student council speeches. For some of the new Banyan School parents, every year, all Banyan School students participate in running to be a class representative for their grade. They each write a persuasive speech explaining why they would make a great representative. In their speeches, they use adjectives to describe themselves and create different ideas for school activities, fundraisers, and spirit week. They even make their own poster with a creative slogan! Once my writing students complete writing and typing their student council speeches, I will send a copy home so you can practice reading it with your child. They have the option to read their speech to the school (with a teacher), or have it recorded.

Great job my writing students, keep up the good work!

THE POWER OF *Writing*

GIRLS GROUP

It's Kindness Week in Girls Group! During our Tuesday lunch, the girls brainstormed ideas for being kind/showing kindness to friends, family and teachers.

Their mission this week is to put this into action!!! They are all ready and will report their acts of kindness to Ms. Gross in the speech suite. We can't wait to hear what these girls came up with this week!

Ms. Gross, Dr. Rick and Miss Miranda

