

# Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com

## *Upcoming Events*

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Parent Conferences	Parents	November 5,6,7	Check for schedule
Book Fair	All	November 5 - 7	
Thanksgiving Feast	All	November 15	12:00

### MR. HOFMANN'S PHYS ED AND HEALTH NEWS

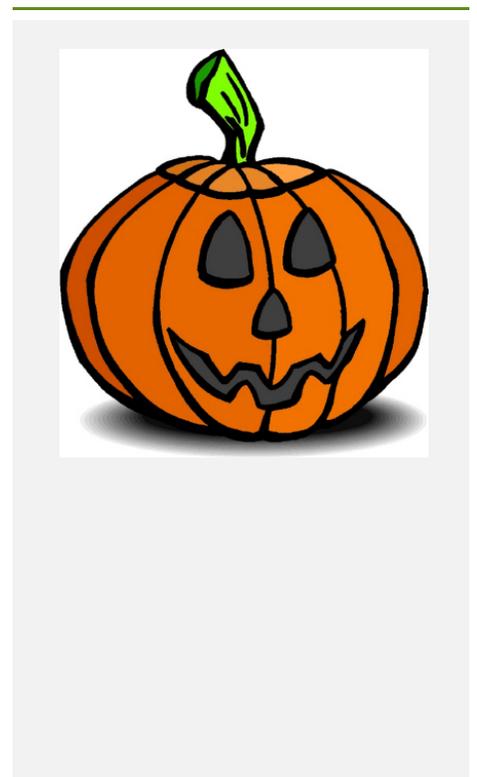
My Phys Ed students have been performing many different warm-up activities to begin the class period ranging from many variations of push-ups to abdominal exercises (sit ups, leg raises) to different types of aerobic activities such as walking or jogging.

Since we are in the midst of pro football season, students learned the many different positions and then put their knowledge to the test by playing touch football.

In Health class, the students learned how to avoid catching a cold and lessen the duration of having a cold if you do catch one. We also learned the differences between catching a head cold and catching the flu.

### MS. DREHER'S CLASS NEWS

In Ms. Dreher's first period Reading class we have begun to read the story Wonder. This story is about a young boy named August Pullman, who was born with several genetic abnormalities, causing him to look deformed. We have completed some pre-reading activities such as identifying vocabulary words and defining them in our Reading binders. We have had class discussions regarding the themes in the story such as bullying and kindness. We have discussed what it means to be a kind friend and what a bully does. I am really looking forward to reading this story and reading their journals / summaries of the chapters!



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!!**



## SPEECH NEWS

We are so excited to introduce our new Peer-Mentor-Pair-Up in Speech. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders have really shown a lot of initiative with using the tools they have learned in speech to help some younger students with their language skills. Once a month some of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will pair up with younger students in the speech suite to not only build their confidence but also help our younger students with social thinking strategies and overall language development.

We have already implemented our first P-M-P-U and it was a huge success!

Looking forward to a lot of growth in the speech suite!!

Ms. Gross

## SOCIAL SKILLS NEWS

With the month of October ending, we have a new strategy of the month! I want to thank Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Perkins, Miss Dreher, Miss Mitozky, Ms. Megna, Mr. Camp, Mr. Cuellar and Mr. Hain for working hard on bringing those strategies into clubs.

This month we are focusing on *thinking with your eyes*. We often teach eye contact as a socially expected behavior. But eye contact helps us with perspective taking. If we notice what someone is looking at, we can guess what they are thinking about.

It is important to reinforce this with our students who have a difficult time focusing. We use this strategy by prompting them with *What am I looking at? What am I thinking about?* This helps them to focus on the environment, read social cues, and infer meaning from those cues.

If a learner is not focusing on a person's expression or social cue, we may ask them to *think with their eyes* and point out the cue to them. We use this phrase because it tells the student what the function of our eyes are: to read social cues from the environment. Feel free to use these prompts and vocabulary at home.

Save the date for **December 11th!** We will be doing a parent workshop before the holiday concert reviewing our social skills program. The workshop will begin at 10:00 and conclude at 12:00. We will go over vocabulary, concepts, have demonstrations and some *unexpected* surprises.

-Dr. Rick

## LIFE SKILLS

On behalf of Dr. Rick, Ms. Yael, Ms. Gross, and myself I would like to introduce our Life skills group for the 2018-2019 school year. We had an overwhelming response to our life skills group this year, and therefore we created two small groups to accommodate our students in a smaller setting. Your student will either be in our first semester group or our second semester group. Each group will be doing the same Life skills curriculum and partaking in offsite trips. We are very thrilled for our first Life skills trip which will be to the Chit Chat Diner in West Orange. The students have gone over the menu, discussed expectations and expected behavior at a restaurant. Our Trip will be Nov. 15th and we will send more information home to parents when the time comes. Lastly, our Life skills room is coming along! We had students help to decorate our room with a few pieces we purchased with our last years Life skills group. The room is warm and inviting and we have your children to thank! We are excited to be using this newly designed room for our Life skills group!

Ms. Miranda

## **UPDATE ON MAKERSPACE IN THE MEDIA CENTER!**

We have just expanded our Makerspace center to include a vertical Lego Wall! This vertical Lego Wall will give our students an opportunity to use Legos in a whole new way; challenging their thinking as they create objects on a whole new plane! I'm imagining buildings, animals, shapes and scenes created by our students from a whole new perspective!

In addition to the Lego Wall, we have added several K'nex sets, a jewelry making set for our designers in training and several circuit sets for our future engineers!!

During bad weather days and in the winter when the weather gets nasty, these activities will give our students new materials to interact with and hopefully spur on some new interests!!

The media center has had an enormous re-design, thanks to the efforts of Trish Zwier, our new media coordinator! Please come and see our new space soon!!

Pat DiGiaino, Assistant Principal

## **MRS. KOWALSKI'S CLASS NEWS**

In Writing we have been working on our Student Council Speeches. Your child was responsible for identifying three adjectives to describe him/herself, they also had to list clubs, field trips, fundraisers, and spirit week ideas to share with their peers. First, your son/daughter had to fill in the blanks. Then, they had to type their speech on either an iPad or the computer. Next, they had to go back and edit their work. Finally, they printed their speech. We have been practicing reading our speech in Writing, Social Studies, and also during their speech sessions. Please look in their writing folder to see a copy of their speech. Feel free to continue practicing it at home for Thursday when they will either play their video (I will be recording them beforehand just in case they get nervous) or read their speech in front of the whole school. We also started a once a week group session with Ms. Yael (our occupational therapist) and are working on a new program called Handwriting Without Tears. All of my writing students have been doing a good job with their letter formation!

Thank you!

## **MS. MEGNA'S CLASS NEWS**

The students in my period 1 Reading class are reading books from the Moon Dog series, the students are working on skill like settings, characters, First, Then, Next, and Last. They are also practicing different spots where Capital letters are needed. My FIRST class during Period 2 and 3 are working hard on tapping out words and blending words when we read, also they have been learning new sight words so they can find these words all over the place and read. My period 4 reading class is reading books from the totum series, which follow a boy Zak as he tries to help keep himself and the Kid (his goat) alive. Hopefully he can conquer all the bad things that keep coming at him and his friend Mim. The students are eager to see what happens next. My Period 5 class is excited to keep reading about Zak and his quest to help his grandfather survive, even with all the obstacles he and his friend Finn have to overcome. They are reading from the Magic Belt Series. All of my reading classes are doing so well and putting in so much effort. Keep it up everyone! My FIRST class during period 7 and 8 are working hard on tapping, blending, sight words, and fluency. They keep working and trying their best even when they get something wrong they don't get upset but keep going and working hard. I'm so excited to see where all of us are in a few weeks. Have a Great Halloween!

## MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

My period 2 and 3 FIRST class started Step 2 this week! In substep 2.1 they will learn new glued sounds and will practice decoding and encoding using their new sounds.

My period 7 and 8 FIRST group finished with me last week and has moved over to Mrs. Sansone. Hope they keep working hard for her as they did for me. I welcome my new students to my classroom. We are starting at Step 7 and can't wait to see how hard of a worker he is.

## MR. MCCARTER'S CLASS NEWS

My 1st , 4th , and 5th period writing classes have all been working very diligently on back to school theme topics and seasonal narrative writing assignments. We do these both collaboratively and individually as a class. Not only are we practicing our writing skills everyday but we continue to review concepts of grammar, punctuation and sentence structure. Recently, the class has been reviewing subject and predicate and how to identify them. Everyone enjoyed listening to the old School House Rock Subject-Predicate song "Mr. Morton" and playing a game where each student must identify whether something written on the smart board is a sentence or a fragment. My First Class, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> period continues to work hard on tapping and scooping skills to build fluency when reading. We also continue to practice our sight words. 7th period math class students are working on money, time and number concepts throughout the week. The students really seem to enjoy math songs, math games and utilizing the smart board to practice these concepts. In my 8<sup>th</sup> period reading class we are reading the Magic Tree House series. During both teacher lead reading and student reading we continue working on fluency, vocabulary, text comprehension and visualization skills. Finally, students are practicing working on their predicting skills and sequencing of events within the story First, Then, Next, and Last. Keep up the great work everyone.

## MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

IXL update--Our total completed problems is just over 16,000 problems. That is great practice for the first two months of school. At this rate we could reach an all-time record this year!!! Keep practicing students--even 10 minutes a day is great!!

Students have been practicing area and perimeter this week. They have been applying the formulas and practicing measuring skills.

This weekend Daylight Savings Time ends and we return to Standard time. We gain an extra hour of sleep and we will notice brighter mornings but darker afternoons.



## DOG BONE SHOP IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

I am pleased to announce that the Banyan School Store, "The Dog Bone Shop," will once again be open for business on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The store will stock fun school supplies such as scented markers, stickers, and decorated pencils, as well as, some specialty/fun items. Prices range from \$0.10 to \$5.00. The store will be open to students regularly on Fridays during the lunch period and during home basketball games.

Students will have the opportunity to employ the money skills they have learned in class with real money. They will have the chance to select items and budget their money. In addition, students will staff the store and gain experience in providing change and managing inventory.

Please explain to your child that the store will be open each Friday and how, when, or if you will be providing him/her with spending money or if he/she may have the chance to earn some spending money at home. Establish a plan for a budget and determine how and where he/she will keep the money (pocket, backpack, wallet, etc.) while on the way to and at school. It will be a good idea to send in change, as it will allow the students practice in adding for their total purchase.

Students have the opportunity to make suggestions for future inventory purchases. We anticipate excited shoppers and staffers, so please support the school store! Please provide comments to Lyn Onsdorff at [lonsdorff@banyanschool.com](mailto:lonsdorff@banyanschool.com). Donations to the school store are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support of our school store!

Lyn Onsdorff

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Music at Banyan Elementary is growing wildly... I mean, going great! Did I say something wild? Well, that is because the students are practicing their winter concert songs, and one of the titles for one of the songs is entitled "Something Wild." It is a song from the movie *Pete's Dragon*. This year's theme for the Winter Concert is "Movie Magic," which illustrates various songs from popular movies like *Pete's Dragon* and so much more. The students are working hard on their songs, and they can't wait to perform in front of you all! Have a pleasant week!! See you next time in *Music Corner*!!