

# Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004  
banyanschool.com



## *Upcoming Events*

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
<b>Early Dismissal</b>	<b>Students</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>12:30</b>
<b>No School</b>	<b>MLK Jr. Day</b>	<b>January 20</b>	

## MR. HAIN'S CLASS NEWS

Mr. Hain's seventh and eighth period FIRST class has recently completed step 3 of the Wilson Reading System program and are currently in substep 4.2. This substep teaches multisyllabic words that contain a VCE (Vowel Consonant E) syllable making the vowel a longer sound. In addition, this substep also reviews and builds off of previously mastered concepts in the Wilson program and continues to develop and strengthen student vocabulary through sentences and short stories. This class has consistently worked hard and I am looking forward to continue to work with them throughout the school year.



## Basketball Schedule:

Jan 17 - Home – Deron

Jan 24 – Windsor

Jan 31 - Home – Center School

Feb 7 – Winston Prep

Feb 21 - Home – Center School

Feb 26 - Home - Mount Carmel

Feb 28 - Home - Windsor

## MS. ZATUROSKA'S CLASS NEWS

Periods 1 & 5: We are almost at the end of the semester in Social Studies. We are in our final unit: Ancient China! We talked about the Great Wall of China, the Yellow River, and the Himalaya Mountains. We talked about how China was ruled by dynasties, like the Shang Dynasty. Dynasties are family groups that maintain control or power for many years. We also discussed how poetry and silk were important products in Ancient China. Finally, we talked about things that were invented in China, for example: kites, the compass, gunpowder, fireworks, wheelbarrow, paper, and printing. We looked at images of calligraphy and watched the Brainpop video on Ancient China. We also did a hands on project where the students created the famous Chinese red lanterns that are hung during the Chinese new year and a dancing dragon. We read a story about the Chinese New Year as well, and how this year is the year of the rat!

Periods 4 & 9: We are almost at the end of the semester in Social Studies. In this unit, we are talking about the first and second industrial revolution. Some of the inventions we talked about were: the steam engine, the steamboat, steam locomotive, power loom, and the telegraph. We completed a project where the students had to translate a message in morse code. This week, we've been learning about the second industrial revolution. Some of the inventions we talked about were: the telephone, sewing machine, and automobile. We also learned about Thomas Edison and his famous inventions like the lightbulb and the kinetoscope. We watched two Brainpop videos on The Industrial Revolution and Thomas Edison.

Period 8: We are almost at the end of the semester in Social Studies. In this unit, we are learning about the four major regions and cities of New Jersey. The four major regions are North Jersey, Central Jersey, South Jersey and the Jersey Shore. The students completed a cut and paste activity where they had to identify each location. We also talked about the major cities, Paterson, Newark, Jersey City, and Elizabeth. We talked about the word population. Talk about these cities and regions anytime you're traveling somewhere with your child!

F.I.R.S.T (Period 2 & 3) In this step (2.1) we are working very diligently on the glued sounds ang, ank, ing, ink, ong, onk, ung, unk. We've been building words that contain these sounds on the magnetic journal. We've also been practicing our sight words: some, come, comes, coming. We talked about closed syllables and practiced identifying words with a closed syllable in a sentence.

## MS. MITOFSKY'S CLASS NEWS

In my reading class we have started a new book, The Bridge to Terabithia . We are answering comprehension questions after each chapter as well as summarizing the main events. We are learning new vocabulary words as well as making great predictions about where the story will go! In my FIRST class we are making great progress through step 4 and should complete the step within the next few weeks. In my period 4 TMC class we have started Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. This is a great book for visualizing and I think the class will really enjoy it. In my period 7 TMC class, we are applying the structure words as we read short stories. The class is learning new vocabulary words as well as finding synonyms and antonyms for those words. The class does a great job of illustrating what they are picturing. In my period 8 reading class, we are have started Mummies Don't Coach Softball . We are making great predictions and summarizing the chapters as we read. In my period 9 math we are working with multiplication, fractions, and place value. Fridays are devoted to working on improving our skills with time and money. Our next Saturday school will be held on February 1!

## MS. MEGNA'S CLASS NEWS

I'm so excited for the new year and I still can't wait to see where we go from here. In my 1st period reading class we are reading the Geodes Series 2, We are about to finish the Winter series which includes arctic caterpillars and daytime darkness. We will also begin reading the summer series which includes road trip, bathers, nature's thermometer, and summer snow. They are enjoying reading about how winters are different all over the world and how different animals survive in the winter. We are also watching videos on where it's warm in the winter and different animals that call wintery areas their home.

We have been reading, reading, reading, showing our skills and really making an effort to show fluency, accuracy, and decoding.

In my 2nd and 3rd periods and also my 7th and 8th period Wilson or FIRST classes we are about to finish Step 3 which includes prefixes, suffixes -ing and -ed, multisyllabic words, compound words, the blend -ct, base words, schwa, and so much more, which they have really been pushing themselves to do well.

In my 4th period reading class we are continuing to read the Geodes series and are going into the curious creatures books which include Small wonders, a wish to fly, one look, and slug study. We are excited to learn about some insects, birds and sharks and where they live, how they survive, and what things make them different.

In my 5th period Writing class we are working on descriptive writing, each student is writing about their favorite animal, explaining how they look and what makes them so cool.

We have been working so hard and will continue to work on our skills as well as push ourselves to learn more.

## MRS. PERKINS' CLASS NEWS

We have been working hard in our FIRST classes. During 2nd and 3rd period, we have moved into sub-step 7.4. As part of this sub-step, we are learning the two sounds of -sion and the sound of -tion. Additionally, we are working on applying the syllable scooping strategy to decode and encode longer words. I am proud of the skills we are acquiring and the ability to apply the skills when reading non-controlled stories.

My 7th and 8th period classes have moved onto sub-step 3.5 of the Wilson Reading System. The students are working on reading and spelling words with the suffix -ed and -ing. The students are continuing to work on their visualization skills while reading a text independently. The students are beginning to sketch pictures to assist with retelling a story they have read.

Keep up the good work!

Mrs. Perkins

## MS. KRSULIC'S CLASS NEWS

We are all off to a great start in the new year. My reading class is continuing to read The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney. They are enjoying reading all about Humphrey. My writing class is working on descriptive writing. We just finished writing about the different snowmen that they created. Both of my FIRST classes are progressing along nicely. In 4th and 5<sup>th</sup> we are going over closed syllable exceptions. The students are doing great remembering that their exceptions have a long vowel sound. In 7th and 8th we are finishing up Step 1. All of them are doing a terrific job remembering all of their concepts they learned in that step. In math we are starting greater than, less than, and equal to. They are all doing very well with this new topic.