

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004
banyanschool.com



Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
PTO Valentine Day Dance	All	February 7	7:00 pm
No School	President's Weekend	February 14 & 17	

MS. KEMPTON'S CLASS NEWS

My 4th/5th period FIRST class has successfully completed Step 1 of the Wilson Reading System. These students are now working on sub step 2.1, which contains "glued" or "welded" sounds ending with the letters -ng or -nk. The students have learned that these sounds stick together like glue. When we read and spell words containing "glued" sounds, it is best to think of these as one unit. We tap "glued" sounds as one tap (two fingers glued together if possible). We also practice the sounds using special keywords to help us remember and apply the sounds when reading and spelling. Great job to my students for getting a strong start on Step 2!

MRS. MICHEL'S CLASS NEWS

The duck eggs have arrived at Banyan School. All of the science classes will help in taking care of the duck eggs. The science students will turn the eggs three times a day and refill the incubator with water. They will also make a hypothesis on which egg they think will hatch first. After the duck's hatch, the science students will weigh the ducks once they are able to leave the incubator and before the ducks leave to go back to the farm. Then we will compare the difference in growth. The science students will also be in charge of feeding and giving fresh water to the ducks each day.

THE DUCKS HAVE HATCHED!

Basketball Schedule:

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

MRS. RALLO'S CLASS NEWS

READING-Period 4 has begun reading about Greek Mythology. After watching a video introducing the Greek Gods, the students starting making a chart listing the name of the God/Goddess, their Roman name, area of power, symbol, and family members. I think everyone is excited to begin reading!

WRITING- In addition to continue writing narratives, Period 2 is reading for facts. The students are presently reading an article about an anteater and highlighting important information. After completing a graphic organizer, the students will write a short essay including many facts. They will be anteater experts!

VOCABULARY- We have 4 new "Word of the Week" words under our belt! The students are getting used to the routine of defining words, using the thesaurus to locate antonyms and synonyms, and writing great sentences. Most students have begun using Vocabulary Spelling City which is a fun new resource we have added to our program. All new words are displayed in the classroom. Would you be able to define: abolish, aroma, aggressive, and barren AND provide an antonym/synonym?

Dear Parents of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students,

It is the mission of Banyan Elementary school to provide your child with the knowledge base and skill set to enhance their ability to make intelligent, informed decisions, therefore nurturing their physical and emotional well being. To reach this goal, the following current curriculum topics are discussed during your child's health courses at Banyan. These topics are mandated by the New Jersey State Core Curriculum Content Standards: In addition to these requirements and in an effort to further expand our program offerings, we have enlisted the services of Melissa Keyes DiGioia, CSE, of *Finding Your Individuality*. Melissa is a Certified Sexuality Educator and Co-Founder of *Finding your Individuality*. (For more information, see: <http://www.findingyourindividuality.com>)

Ms. DiGioia brings along a specialty in working with young people who have special needs. The *Finding your Individuality* program was developed with the goal to "identify, address, support, advocate and advance the individual rights of all people across the lifespan with special emphasis on abuse prevention and sexual rights of people with disabilities." With the emphasis of teaching sexuality from a social skills lens, this program supports our students' needs and our work in developing our children's social skills.

Ms. DiGioia will be presenting a Student Workshop on four Thursdays in the months of February and March. These will be a 40 minutes in length. Students will be pulled from classes into appropriate groupings. Students will be pulled on a rotating basis so they do not miss the same class twice. Some of the topics that are expected to be included are information on puberty, boundary setting and dating. These workshops do not attempt to teach values; rather they are designed to help the students be more aware of changes that occur during puberty, how that affects them, and how to develop healthy relationship skills.

Please send back the permission slip by **January 29th**. Ms. DiGioia will also be giving a parent presentation on **February 6th from 2:00-3:00**. Here she will discuss her program and take any questions. If you wish to attend, please RSVP with Dr. Rick at rmanista@banyanschool.com.

Dr. Rick Manista

PsyD, Ma, Edm

BASKETBALL NEWS

The following players will be traveling to Windsor (Pompton Lakes) on Friday, Jan. 24.

1. Sacha
2. Jeremiah
3. Keith
4. George
5. Ryan
6. Ethan
7. Anthony
8. David D.
9. Eric
10. Aiden Z.
11. Aiden C.
12. Matthew W.
13. Taylor
14. Boone
15. Sam

CHEERLEADING NEWS

There is an away game this Friday, January 24th.

The following cheerleaders will be attending the game at Windsor in Pompton Lakes:

Jade
Erin
Kiera
Allie
Siena
Adrianna Catrone
Emma
Minsuh
Jane

These students should wear their uniforms to school and bring a change of clothes!

Let's Go Banyan – Let's GO



VANDENBREE'S CLASS NEWS

My period 1 Reading class enjoys reading and retelling stories. They are almost done reading the Primary Phonics stories and will begin reading other stories. This week we are reading and learning about Martin Luther King Jr. They are doing a fantastic job! My FIRST class periods 2/3 are now in substep 1.4! They just learned about bonus letters and their first welded sound "all." They have also been learning to read and spell new sight words. My period 5 Writing class has been busy writing how-to's and just wrote, "How to Make Hot Cocoa." They loved writing it, and especially drinking it after! My FIRST class periods 7/8 are working on reading and spelling multisyllabic words. They are now in substep 3.4! They are doing a great job scooping and reading smoothly with fluency! My TMC class period 9 has been working on their visualizing, verbalizing, and reading comprehension skills. They are doing a great job identifying and using the structure word cards for each story.

Keep up the great work everyone!

MR. CUELLAR'S CLASS NEWS

In my FIRST class, I want to give a big shout out to Tristen for completing Step 7 in the Wilson Academy Program! He has moved on to Step 8 and has continued to make great strides in the program.

In my 4th period TMC class, we have moved into the book Holes, and the students are using Google Classroom to integrate their classwork and homework. Along with listening to the book in class, each student is also assigned sections to listen to it through their Learning Ally account on their own. So far, the students are enjoying Holes and the comprehension activities they are doing through google classroom.

In my 8th period TMC class, the students have finished Level 2 in the Lindamood-Bell book series and are listening to paragraph by paragraph in Level 3 of the book series. Recently, we are listening to multiple paragraphs using NewsELA articles, and then having the students retell and answer comprehension questions afterwards.



NEWS FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

How can you avoid the flu this season?

The two most important things you can do to avoid the flu are getting the flu shot and proper handwashing. Germs can contaminate common spaces such as door handles, faucets, bannisters and cell phones. It is possible to get the flu by picking up germs from these surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

Handwashing the right way is different from the quick soap and rinse most people do. Research has shown that a full 20 second scrub, including lathering the back of hands, between the fingers and under the nails is necessary. If soap and water are not available, an alcohol based hand scrub is the next best thing.

SOCIAL SKILLS

Hi Banyan families!

This week is our last field trip for the first group of life skills. We will be going to the post office to send our letters! In our weekly groups we have been practicing our expected behaviors at the post office and writing our letters. Some students are sending letters to celebrities and some to family members or friends. Each student took the time to think about questions to ask or make connections to the person's interests or similarities. We spoke about how to act when the line gets too long at the post office and how to keep ourselves occupied. After the post office we will be going to Dunkin Donuts to practice ordering and money skills. We will be starting our next social skills group soon so stay tuned!!

Mrs. Miranda