

Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com



Upcoming Events

Event:	For:	Date:	Time:
Early Dismissal	Professional Development	January 17	12:30
No School	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 20	All Day

MS. KRSULIC'S CLASS NEWS

All of my students are doing a terrific job in their classes. My reading class is continuing to read The World According to Humphrey by Betty Birney. They are enjoying reading all about Humphrey and are excited to see who he gets to go home with next. My writing class is starting to work on descriptive writing. They are working on one about Winter and how they would describe the season. Both of my FIRST classes are progressing along nicely. In 4th and 5th we are going over blends, diagraph blends, and closed syllables. In 7th and 8th we are working on words with suffix -es and -s. The students are doing very well with remembering their suffix rules. In math we are going over place value.

MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

Happy New Year! This week we will finish our book *Jen Sets Out*. The students will work on comprehension questions, vocabulary and a summary. Before moving onto our next book we will work in Specific Skills Series. They will focus on finding details and sequencing. Once we have worked on details and sequencing we will start our new chapter book

Basketball Schedule:

Jan 10 - Deron

Jan 15 - Home-Windsor

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

Reminder!

**Valentine's Day Dance
on February 7**

**O'Connor Hall
7 – 9 pm**

Details to follow



MRS. RALLO'S CLASS NEWS

Happy New Year to everyone! May this new year bring health and happiness to you and your families.

READING- As the new year begins, I will be assessing my reading students on the novel they recently completed in class. Each student will fill out a graphic organizer and include some of the following story elements:

1. a list of characters
2. the setting
3. the conflict (problem)
4. the solution

Some students will be asked to provide the antagonist and protagonist. These students will also be expected to write about the rising and falling action as well.

WRITING- Before beginning a new genre, my writing students will spend some time developing sentence structure and reviewing some basic rules including capitalization, the use of commas, and/or sentence building with conjunctions.

MATH- After reviewing some two and three digit addition/subtraction problems, my period 9 math class will practice reading a menu. They will solve word problems using these menus and use a calculator to check their answers.

MS. DREHER'S CLASS NEWS

Happy New Year and welcome back! We have started the new year off with a bang in all of my classes. My 1st period Reading class has continued to read our book [A Week In The Woods](#). We have 3 chapters left, then we will have a classroom activity as well as a quick assignment regarding the story. My 2nd period Writing class will be completing our persuasive writing, then we will begin to discuss our how- to writing assignments and select a topic. My 3rd period Reading class has completed our story before break, and this week we have been working hard on our own book reports. My 4/5th period FIRST class has worked very hard making it halfway through Step 2. My 7/8th period class has been working very hard making our way through Step 3.

BANYAN BASKETBALL NEWS

Please check your email before the away games for a list of players who will be traveling.

Basketball players should bring water to the away games.

Any questions should be directed to Mr. Hofmann (jhofmann@gmail.com).

MRS. WILSON'S MATH NEWS

Happy 2020 to All!!! Last week when we returned from our break, my classes discussed what a decade was. We imagined ourselves 10 years ago and imagined ourselves 10 years from now. It was an interesting discussion in my groups. We also talked about 2020 being a Leap Year and how all Leap Years are multiples of 4.

IXL problems completed--over 25,000!!!! Can we double that number by June--I am sure we can.

Moby Max News. In the Massively Monstrous Party competition in December, there were 3 top groups-- Periods 4, 3, and 8. Each group won a \$25 giftcard that can be redeemed at various merchants. We have been discussing ways to spend the \$75 winnings. So far, it looks like the students would enjoy a classroom movie treat with some snacks as their reward for all their hard work. Stay tuned for the final decision. The next competition will start on January 27 and run for 3 weeks. This is an individual point accumulation event and students could win either a hat, t-shirt, or backpack. These events are always fun and the bottom line is that the students are having fun practicing their math!

IMPORTANT CHEERLEADING NEWS

We are happy to report that our cheerleading squad is up to 19 members!!

Please check your email before the AWAY games for a list of cheerleaders who will be attending!

ALL cheerleaders should wear uniforms on game days and bring a change of clothes for after the game.

Our boy cheerleaders have Banyan t shirts to wear until their uniforms arrive (please wear sweatpants on game day)

Our girl cheerleaders may wear leggings under their uniforms.

Any questions, please contact cheerleading coach Ms. Gross – lgross@banyanschool.com

2-4-6-8 Our Cheerleaders are doing great!!

HEALTH CLASS NEWS

In Mr. Hofmann's Health class, the students discussed the meaning of New Year's resolutions and how to stick to them throughout the year. Students wrote down on index cards two personal New Year's resolutions, one pertaining to what new accomplishments they'd like to achieve in 2020 and the other regarding how they can improve their health in the new year. They were then encouraged to post the index card on their bedroom night stand, bureau, mirror or even refrigerator as a daily reminder of whether they are working to attain their personal goals for 2020. Some of the resolutions included learning how to ride a bike without training wheels, learning a new language, doing more chores around the house, and making new friends.

MRS. PRICE'S CLASS NEWS

Happy New Year!!! Our word of the month is CALM. We are going to try to stay calm, be happy, and hardworking students this year.

In Math, we have been working on number identification, computation, telling time, and identifying our coins. In Reading, we have been working on identifying the characters, setting, and main idea in stories that we read and rhyming picture and orally spoken words. In Writing, we have been working on our letter formation as well as writing sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with a punctuation mark. In FIRST, we have been working on our letter, keyword, and sounds. My students have been doing a wonderful job in reading and writing their letters, both consonants and vowels. In TMC, my students have been doing a wonderful job describing in as much detail as possible the picture in front of them. They have also been applying the structure words and skills they have learned to create a movie in their mind as they listen to a story. I am so proud of all of my busy bees and the hard work that they do every day in my classroom! Keep up the great work!

MRS. ONSDORFF'S CLASS NEWS

My TMC classes have been working on making inferences. Making inferences is one of the most important reading skills. It's crucial not only because it helps the students comprehend text, but it is a key aspect of many other reading strategies, like determining character traits, cause and effect, using context clues, and more. I bring up lots of different scenarios and ask them to tell me what kind of inference they would make in that situation. For example, if we wake up and see tree branches on the ground and lawn chairs turned upside down, we might infer that it was windy last night. If a friend comes to school on crutches, we infer that he/she had some kind of accident and was injured. If we have a pizza party at school and at recess someone has a big greasy stain on the front of his/her shirt, we infer that probably that person dropped his/her pizza. If we see grey clouds in the sky, we infer that it's going to rain...

We watch Pixar short films in class. They are extremely educational for so many reading lessons. As we watch the film, we pause the film and the students make some inferences. These are some of my favorite Pixar Short Films for inferences: *For the Birds*, *The Blue Umbrella*, *La Luna*, *Presto*, *Lifted*, and *Gerl's Game*.

We look at illustrations and no textbooks which force the students to carefully observe what is going on and to notice small details in order to understand the story's meaning. I also model *how* to "read" them. Every now and then, I'll stop and do a "*think aloud*" to model for students the thinking processes which are involved in making inferences. For example, I might say... ***On this page***, the baby is crawling out of the crib and climbing on the dog's back. ***I know that...*** babies cry when they're scared and this baby looks happy, so...that makes me infer that the baby knows the dog very well, likes the dog, and is comfortable with him. The students are doing well understanding the thinking process behind making inferences (illustrations + background = inference and meaning). As we read text, one of the students' favorite inference activities, is inferring what a character is thinking in the story, and then adding a thought bubble to explain it. Inferencing is a game to them as they become detectives and look at all the clues or evidence in our illustrations and stories.

With lots of practice under their belts, the students are now becoming inference experts!