



Banyan School

12 Hollywood Avenue – Fairfield, NJ 07004

banyanschool.com

Upcoming Events

| Event: | For: | Date: | Time: |
|----------------------------|------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Basketball Games | | Feb. 21, 26, 28 | 10:00 AM |
| Talent Show | All | Feb 25 | 12:30 – 2:00 |
| Read Across America | All | March 2 - 6 | |

GIRLS GROUP NEWS

This Tuesday was an extra special day in GIRLS' GROUP !!! We took our "share and care" to the next level!!!

Mrs. Paneri surprised the girls with not one, but TWO puppies from her American Lab Rescue group! The girls just loved asking questions to find out all about Gil and Gelato!!!

Thank you Mrs. Paneri for being our Special Surprise Guest this week!!!



READ ACROSS AMERICA WEEK ACTIVITIES

Monday – Pajama Day

Tuesday – CrazySocks Day

Wednesday – Dr. Seuss Day – Crazy Hats/Hair Day

Thursday – Hot Chocolate in Reading Class Day

Friday – Read Across the World Day – Students will listen to short stories about the following countries, Mexico, Kenya, France and China



CHEERLEADING NEWS!!

This Friday we have a HOME game! All cheerleaders will be attending! Our mascot will be singing the National Anthem! You don't want to miss this game! 2-4-6-8 Who do we appreciate? Banyan, Banyan, Goooo Banyan!!!

ALL SCHOOL NEWS

Banyan Elementary School's National Read Across America Week will kick off on Thursday, February 27th with a live author webinar via Learning Ally. All students will hear famous writer, Dan Gutman- author of the series, My Weird School, which has more than 60 books in this series, and has sold more than twenty-five million copies! Dan's talk, "There's Nothing Weird about Reading," will be a hit with students of all ages!

National Read Across America Week-March 2-6

Monday-Thursday **DEAR** (*Drop Everything And Read*) will take place throughout each day. Please send your child to school with a book or he/she may borrow one from the school library.



MRS. MARTIN'S CLASS NEWS

In my period 4 and 5 class we finished working on the glued sound "all." The students practiced reading one syllable words with the sound "all". They are working on one syllable words that have the new glued sounds "am" and "an." They will keep practicing reading their sentences by scooping to help with fluency. Also, we have been working on reading a paragraph at a time and taking turns retelling the paragraph. They use the structure words to help visualize the paragraph that they are reading. They will keep practicing using the structure words throughout each class period.

MR. HAIN'S CLASS NEWS

Mr. Hain's fourth period reading class continues to work on specific skills passages with follow up questions (main idea, drawing conclusions and sequencing) once a week in addition to reading the novel *The Wave*. Each chapter is read aloud by the students and discussed in class. After completing a chapter the students have started to write their own chapter summaries, answer the comprehension questions referencing back to the story, and making predictions for the following chapters. This class has worked very hard and I look forward to continue to work with them this year!

SOCIAL SKILLS NEWS

The strategy of February is "Body in the group". For our students, initiating conversation and sharing space in a large group can be difficult. That is because there are several steps that need to be taken.

1. Notice what the group is looking at.
2. Notice where their bodies are facing.
3. Guess what they are thinking about.
4. Regulate your own body to be in the group.

When we are in a group, we all look at each other and face each other. This is to show we are listening to the group and to read their social cues. By doing this, we can keep track of the topic of conversation and stay focused in the group.

Often our students may become distracted. Their body may physically leave the group and they wander away. Or their brain may leave the group, and they will talk about something off topic. We use the terms "body in the group" and "brain in the group" to help prompt our students if they become distracted.

In social skills, we explore this strategy by having one student be an observer during a group activity. The student will notice if everyone's body is in the group and if everyone is thinking about the group. This allows the student to notice different social clues.

For our older students, we use the Unthinkables to teach how they should regulate their body in the group. There is "Body Snatcher" who leaves the group during mid activity. And "Space Invader" who gets too close to people. We want our peers to have comfortable thoughts about us and we do that with our expected behaviors. This lesson helps them learn how to appropriately utilize social space.

Dr. Rick

MS. ZATUROSKA'S CLASS NEWS

In periods 1, 4, 9, we just finished learning about the 13 colonies and life in the colonies. We discussed the daily life of a colonist and compared it to what we do today. Periods 1 and 9 completed a project where they had to write their name with a quill pen. In my 4th period class, they created a hornbook. We also compared what school was like during the colonial times than today. This week, we are starting the American Revolution and different events leading up to the American Revolution.

In periods 5 and 8, We just finished learning about the four major regions and cities of New Jersey. We also talked about the major cities of New Jersey (i.e. Paterson, Newark, Jersey City, and Elizabeth). We talked about the word population. This week, I introduced the topic on Lenni Lenape Native Americans. We talked how they were the original people of New Jersey. We about the daily life of a Lenape Indian. We look at images of Wigwams and Longhouses. We also talked about what they wore and how they made their clothing. We also talked about the food they ate and how they dried many of the foods they collected and grew so they had something to eat during the cold winter months.

MRS. KOWALSKI'S CLASS NEWS

In Math, we have been working on number identification, computation, telling time, counting money, comparing numbers (greater than, less than, and equal to), and place value (ones, tens, hundreds). In Reading, we have been working on identifying the main character, 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. We are currently in Unit 2 and blending sounds into cvc words. Some of our favorite words are map, mop, fun, fig. We also added the sight word we to our list this week. My students have been doing a wonderful job! 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 crossword puzzles. The students work on these puzzles in groups. Working on crossword puzzles is an extremely entertaining and social learning tool when done together. They help improve memory, logic, and concentration. At first, the students found it a bit of a challenge to comprehend the clue and transfer the words to the correct boxes, but after completing a few puzzles, they became very good at it! Doing crossword puzzles encourages research on the iPad to come up with some words on which they were stumped, and they also help promote vocabulary and increase knowledge.