

# Winter

2012 Edition

## PTA President's Message

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2012. A very happy and healthy New Year to all ☺ I am hoping that 2012 will bring only great things for all of us. I love a new year. It's a time to reflect, a time to plan and a time to start over again.

So in reflecting I once again say with pride Dwyer staff, PTA and families are top notch. In the past few months we have held our book fair, which the kids always enjoy. And what better way to spark the reading bug within our children. In November we held our annual food drive. Again this is the area where our school family makes me the proudest. We were able to provide food for over thirty families here at Dwyer. Our school is amazing and does make a difference. Our Cultural Arts committee also held two fun assemblies. In December we held our Holiday Gift Shop. The kids just love this one. As a volunteer this is the one that makes me smile from ear to ear. I just get amazed with how much effort and thought the children put into purchasing gifts for their loved ones. My favorite item was Splat Pig!!! Then there were the holiday parties. Again class moms you did a wonderful job. Thank you to all the wonderful people who ran these events as well as to all the volunteers. One person that I always seem to never mention which is ironic being she is the editor of Dwyer Crier is Maria. Maria thanks so much for all your hard work and efforts to make the newsletter look fabulous. I know how hard it is to chase after people to get their articles in to you on time. I know there are two major offenders of this....I am one (a big sorry) but I will never tell who the other is.....men!!!

Our PTA is planning several fun assemblies. Come join us for a fun evening out on January 26th for family bingo. Our children will begin to work on their art projects for our Square 1 Art fundraiser. I am excited about this as I just love "stuff" that my children have created. In March we will hold our spring book fair that will lead up to Literacy Night. Sometime soon you will also be receiving 50/50 tickets, which leads up to our 2nd annual Nite at the Races. For those who didn't attend last year I highly recommend it. This truly is a fun adult night out, with lots of laughter and wonderful prizes. Due to some issues with the state we have had to change the date but look for information coming home on this shortly. Also coming up in the spring we will host another game night and family movie night. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

As for the starting over...It is time for several of us to say good bye. We will soon be looking for a new president, 1st vice president, treasurer and recording secretary. Please consider one of these positions for the new school year. Maybe YOU could be the one writing this portion of the newsletter in September.

Rosemary Chabala, PTA President

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## *Principals Message*

### Happy New Year 2012!

Welcome to 2012! I have to say it didn't start out to great with the two room floods, but we have rectified the problem and foresee no others moving forward! What I can say is that our children and staff are tremendous in adverse situations whether there are bats, bears, inclement weather, floods, or anything else mother nature throws at us; we are prepared and can move forward quickly and effectively to create diverse and well educated children!

As we move forward into the New Year I would like to take a minute to review and acknowledge some procedures and events that recently occurred in our building.

As you should already know, Dr. Debra Grefe has taken over as Acting Superintendent of Schools. I am positive in the fact our district will continue to move forward under her leadership and the strides we are making across the board in the classrooms and fiscally will continue to benefit our children and parents.

As a reminder, student drop off by parents is in the southern parking lot. We have staff outside by the reading garden to assist children being dropped off by their parents so they do not have get out of their cars or cross through busing lanes. When parents and students cross through busing areas it creates a dangerous situation for everyone. If you do have to park, please park away from the busing and/or drop off areas to avoid traffic congestion and as a safety concern for children walking.

On a very positive note, Johanna Anderson was recently honored in the Daily Record for her accomplishments as an educator in our community. In the article Mrs. Anderson was quoted as saying, "I think learning should be fun...if something we're doing in class isn't fun then maybe we shouldn't be doing it!" What a powerful statement to make about learning and how learning should be addressed; congratulations Mrs. Anderson!

I want to thank our music department, Miss Aron and Mr. Voiner in producing a wonderful and festive holiday concert. It was a great way to start the holiday season and send everyone off on a great note to enjoy their families and friends.

Our newly updated sound system has now been installed in the gymnasium thanks to a collaborative effort between the PTA and school. This new system will meet the many needs we have during the course of the year in gym, assemblies, concerts, and our play! A special thanks to Miss Aron for working with the sound company to insure all of our needs are met. To further beautify our gymnasium the district's maintenance staff has been giving the room a fresh coat of paint.

Our new email system is up and ready for a test, which was completed on Friday, January 13th. If you have not signed up for this system you can do so by going to the Dwyer website and clicking on "Principal's email list". Once you are subscribed you can add/delete yourself at your convenience.

Well, we're off and running; the marking period will be coming to a close shortly and the next round of report cards will be sent home on February 10th.

Michael J. Mc Govern

Principal

# CLASS NEWS

## Kindergarten

The Kindergartners are weathering the winter with all their new skills ☺! We have been so busy learning about many different topics. All classes have been working hard to learn their letters, sounds and sight words. Classes have also been increasing their vocabulary through the use of WOW words. These exciting words are helping to develop our speaking and writing skills.

In math, we are working with numbers all the way through 100!! We will soon be looking to explore addition and subtraction concepts as well.

We are looking forward celebrating Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school. Shortly, the planning of the festivities will begin. We hope everyone will be able to come join the fun, and we will send dates home soon. Kindergarten is proving to be a journey of learning, fun and friendship.

We hope you are enjoying every minute ☺

Mrs. Ranft and Mrs. Scheetz

## First Grade

The first graders continue to be busy! December was filled with holiday activities and a gingerbread reading unit. The students worked on many activities including sequencing the events of the stories read and comparing different versions of The Gingerbread Man. As part of this unit, the children created wonderful gingerbread houses at home with their families. We really enjoyed seeing the different ways each family decorated the houses. Thank you for your continued support at home.

January is off to a wonderful start! In language arts, we will be working on long vowel sounds, elements of a story, and the students will begin creating their own personal narratives. In math, we continue working on addition and subtraction facts. The children are learning new strategies to help them master these facts. In science we will be exploring the moon and the sun.

The first grade is looking forward to February when we will be celebrating the 100th Day of School!

The First Grade Teachers

## SECOND GRADE

The students have been working hard with our "Reading Challenge". Most second graders have been reading a minimum of 15 minutes nightly and are turning in creative book projects. There's only one way to become a "gr-8 reader" and that is to practice reading daily.

Exploring different ways to add "2-digit" numbers is our current focus in math. Basic number facts still need to be mastered and this only comes with continued practice. Board games, flash cards, dice activities, a deck of playing cards, or computer programs can all help to increase the speed/accuracy of these facts.

Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Mc Kenna (Mrs. Mc Kenna is a staff assistant in our school), second graders have planted 250 daffodil bulbs around the C.A. Dwyer sign in the front of the building. We are looking forward to the warmer spring weather so that we can see the "fruits" of our plantings.

The second grade Teachers

## ***Third Grade***

It's hard to believe that half of the year is already behind us. We have finished three and four digit subtraction and addition. Most of our third graders understand the concept of regrouping. Errors are made, however, because the basic facts have not been mastered. Children need to continue to practice their basic addition and subtraction facts (Up to 20) at home as well as in school.

You have all met our newest friend in third grade- Flat Stanley. The children are anxious to learn about his travels and adventures. We will be tracking his progress on assorted maps as he discovers our country, continent, and hopefully other continents. He certainly makes many friends along the way and is always on his "best behavior".

In May, the third graders will be taking the New Jersey ASK. There will be many timed open-ended questions both in the math and the language sections. The children will be responsible for not only answering the questions but explaining the process of how they arrived at the answers. We have been practicing these skills throughout the year and will continue to do so. Encouraging your child to carefully follow both oral and written directions would be helpful.

Thank you for your continued support. We know that third grade is a "BIG" step and can be very challenging.

The Third Grade Teachers



## **Fourth Grade**

The New Year brings many new changes to the fourth grade. Our writing focus for the second quarter is memoir. Even though the students are only 9 or 10 years old, they still have some wonderful memories to draw upon. We have read so many engaging books that illustrate the skills we are trying to learn. Students are using these mentor texts as a springboard for their own writing. Moving forward in the New Year, the students will be writing all cursive, all the time.

In preparation for our visit with our Jersey City pen pals, we have been reading the novel, *A Real American*. We have received letters from our Jersey City pen pals and have responded with type written correspondence. The Jersey City PS 20 students will be visiting Dwyer towards the end of February, where they will tour the school, and will continue the tradition of a Tilcon bus tour.

As a conclusion to our Lenape unit in Social Studies, the staff at Waterloo Village came to Dwyer and recreated Lenape life. They set up five stations in the cafeteria where the

students had a chance to play Lenape games, learn the language, start a “fire”, grind corn, and feel actual animal hides. The presentation culminated with the children creating their own pottery from clay. All of the students had a great experience.

Social Studies this marking period focused on the explorers and the early history of New Jersey. The students used the Thanksgiving break to conduct oral history interviews with their grandparents. The creative projects are on display in the fourth grade hall. We are now studying the history of Rockaway Township. As always, friends or relatives with Rockaway roots, are welcome to share their experiences with us.

In Science, the children have finished ecosystems. Our current area of focus is Body Systems. We’re creating our own little body doubles which include the vital organs of the body.

Variety was the name of the game in Math. We learned double digit multiplication, long division, mean, median, mode and range, as well as function machines. We covered a lot of material in a short amount of time, but the students are proving to be successful in all areas. Soon to follow, we will begin our less labor intensive chapters of geometry. I’m sure the students are looking forward to a change.

The Fourth grade Teachers

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## NEWS FROM MS. STRUBLE’S FIFTH GRADE CLASS

D.A.R.E: The fifth grade students will be starting The D.A.R.E. Program in January.

Language Arts: Poetry Publication

We have been writing poetry in fifth grade. We submitted our poems to Creative Communications in the fall. We have just received notification of the winners of the Poetry Contest. I am proud to announce the winners of the Creative Communications Poetry Contest:

- Kelli Jose: “Fall Leaves”
- Elysa McHugh: “Jump-Roping”
- Arianna Moudatsos: “The Ocean”
- Andrew Clementoni: “Kitten”
- Demia McGowan: “The Boy Who Couldn’t Blink”
- Hannah Lefkowitz: “Fall”
- Madeline Hammond: “Fall”
- Emilee Teran: “Winter”

Language Arts: Literature Lunch

Many students have volunteered to participate in the next Literature Lunch. The novel is entitled, Bridge to Terabithia. I am pleased to see fifth graders enjoying reading.

Language Arts: Biography Book Report & Project

My fifth graders have been working on the next book report & project. The assigned genre is biography. Students have selected to read about a person they admire or want to learn about. The project is to use a plastic bottle and create a replica of that person. The report & project is due Jan. 25th. I can't wait to see the bio-bottles!

Social Studies: All fifth graders have been studying about colonial times. The objective of this unit is to comprehend when, where, and why groups of people colonized and settled in our wonderful country. For the next project students have chosen a colonial name and colonial occupation. They will research their occupation and write a journal entry pretending to be a colonial person living in their colony. Each class will produce their own colonial journal.

All fifth graders are currently in the planning stages of creating our first Dwyer Colonial Village. My students are very enthusiastic about creating this historical colony. In observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Day, all students will be completing a study packet on this great man. This will count as a quiz grade.

Ms. Struble

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## **Mrs. Parisi and Mr. Warnock's Fifth Grade**

"Brrrrr-avo work" is taking place in 5th grade this winter! In math the students have been stretching their minds with pre-algebraic expressions and number theory concepts such as PEMDAS. Maybe "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally" can help you figure out the order of operations when solving equations, if not, just ask any fifth grader and they should be able to tell you the rule to follow. Students will also be doing some chilly calculations in the upcoming month.

Mr. Warnock's Language Arts class just completed wonderful Cereal box book reports and made really great commercials, which were videotaped. I can see a future in advertising for many of them. We had two literature lunches for the books Matilda and Terror at the Zoo and I was very happy about the large attendance for each lunch. Keep up the wonderful work.

In Mrs. Parisi's Language Arts class the creativity keeps flowing as we integrate reading, writing, and the arts! We just completed Night of the Twister which brought back memories to the storms that we have experienced in Rockaway just this year. Like Mr. Warnock's class, Mrs. Parisi's class also completed wonderful Cereal Box Book Reports. The students crunched into the details of the stories as they presented commercials to help persuade us to read the books.

In science, the students have just completed the unit on cells and classification of all living things. Our 5th grade scientists are on their way to learning about environments during the next unit. This is where they will dig their hands into some dirty science as they build their own terrariums.

The fifth grade would also like to thank all of the parents who came out to make our fifth grade winter celebration "SnOOOw Good" for us.

Happy New Year.

# Mr. Pinajian/Mrs. McFadden 's ELL

This month we would like to focus on interviewing one of our twenty-seven ELL students, **Dario D'lapico**, (Grade 4) who arrived at Dwyer School from Germany in September, 2010.

## WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT DWYER SCHOOL?

The best thing I like about Dwyer School is Field Day.

## WHAT IS ONE WAY THAT CAD IS LIKE YOUR SCHOOL IN GERMANY?

One way that CAD is like my German school is that we had lunch when Dwyer School does.

## WHAT IS ONE TRIP YOU HAVE TAKEN IN THE USA SINCE ARRIVING HERE?

My family and I went to Virginia Beach, VA together.

## HOW MANY LANGUAGES ARE SPOKEN AT HOME? WHAT ARE THEY?

The languages spoken at my home are German, Spanish, and English. My dad speaks Spanish and German, my mom speaks German, English, and Spanish, and so does my little sister.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MEAL IN THE CAD LUNCHROOM?

My favorite meal to eat at CAD is bagels with cream cheese.

## *From the Desk of the School Nurse*

### *Rosa De Candia RN, BSN, CSN*



Happy New Year!

It's that time of year when the weather is cold and we battle cough and cold season. There are no cures for viruses that can cause the common cold. A child that has a cold, on average, can be expected to be sick for about a week. Most colds can be treated at home. In most cases, all you need to do is make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats a balanced diet. If your child's cold does not seem to go away, or seems to get worse, call your pediatrician. Consult your pediatrician before giving any cold medicines especially to children under two.

#### TIPS TO HELP PREVENT and FIGHT A COLD

There is no way to keep a child completely away from germs, but there are steps you can take to help minimize the contact.

**Hand washing.** Everyone should wash his/her hands regularly to help prevent the spread of germs.

**Avoid Contact.** Keep your child away from anyone who has a cold, fever, or runny nose. This would mean keeping your child home if he/she is sick. Colds can be contagious for at least 48 hours.

**Do Not Share**, eating utensils, drinking cups, toothbrushes. Washcloths or towels should not be shared especially with someone who has a cold, fever, or runny nose.

**Hot water.** Wash dishes and utensils with hot soapy water to kill germs.

**Keep your child home** if he/she has symptoms that prevent him/her from participating in school such as, excessive tiredness, lack of appetite, productive coughing, sneezing, headache, body aches and a sore throat.

**Relieving a Stuffy Nose: Steam it Out.** Run steamy water in the bathroom with the door closed and let your child take in the steam. Do not put the child in the tub with hot water! And don't leave the child unattended! Consult your pediatrician for other possible interventions.

**Prevent Dehydration: Drink lots of Fluids.** Water, juice, clear broth.

If you're unsure about the best way to treat your child's cold seek advice from your health care provider!

ON ANOTHER NOTE.....we are now celebrating birthdays at Dwyer without the use of food.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued effort in helping our kids eat and stay healthy.

# Cultural Arts

On November 28th, The Catherine A. Dwyer School Cultural Arts/PTA showcased The Kidson the Block Program on Bullies & School Safety for first and second graders. The show utilizes Bunraku puppetry to create awareness of what constitutes bullying. They also focused on present problem solving strategies, encourage empathy for the targets of bullies, and explore ways that students may be involved in promoting safety in their school.



Mrs. Kerin (School Counselor), 1st Graders Tia Levinson, Eric Scheidecker and Principal Michael McGovern Joined by puppets Eddie, Clare, and Brenda ( puppeteers April and Marsha )

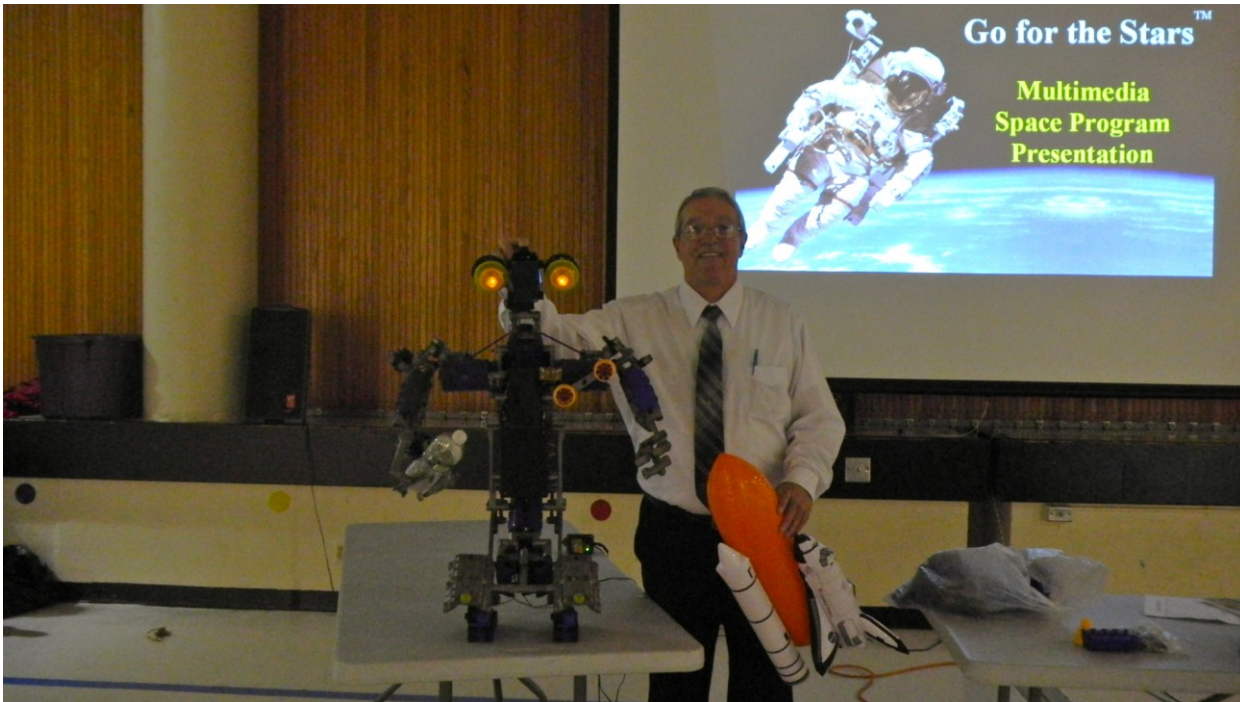
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## Go for the Stars™ Space Program

On November 29, 2011, grades 3-5, enjoyed Go for the Stars™, a multimedia space program presentation by Gary “The Space Guy” Pozzato. Gary showed students how he built Robo the Robot out of a toy rocket launcher kit in two days using his imagination to guide him. He used a motor instead of muscles and a computer for a brain.

Students learned about the Hubble space scope, The International Space Station, NASA robots Spirit and Opportunity, and the newest robot, a full science laboratory named Curiosity that was launched to Mars on Saturday November 26th. Curiosity has a long trip, expected to arrive on Mars August in 2012.

Students also learned about Isaac Newton's Third Law of Motion, orbiting, gravity and microgravity. The presentation concluded with an experiment demonstration of microgravity. Microgravity is created while falling. Students witnessed a bottle of water with a hole in the side of it drop from a ladder without spilling a single drop!



Gary “The Space Guy” Pozzato

## Upcoming Events:

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- January 13th- "Professor W's Earth Science
  - Circus: Our Earth: What a Gas!"
  - January 17th- Earth Balloon Program- an interactive journey around and inside a 17 foot Earth Balloon
  - February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Morris Museum Presents “Dinosaurs”. Kindergarten only
  - March 13<sup>th</sup> – Health Barn (*Preview below*)
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## **Health Barn – Healthy Lifestyle School Assembly**

It's A New Year and It's All About Doing Things Differently! For the new year our Cultural Arts/PTA has invited Health Barn, for a Healthy Lifestyle School Assembly on March 13th. March is National Nutrition Month Please see some tips from our guests: At Health Barn USA our #1 priority is teaching children and families how-to live a healthy-lifestyle through a fun, hands-on experience. No matter where you are in your journey to be healthy, now is the time to embrace new concepts and put them into practice. We put together our top healthy-lifestyle action items to keep it simple and to help you focus and succeed in 2012 and beyond!

**Be Positive:** Keep a positive attitude about new ideas and smile every day!

**Eat Fresh Food:** Buying fresh food (including frozen veggies) will naturally keep you away from highly processed "boxed" food and cut down on your grocery time by minimizing your food label reading time!

**Cook at Home:** Moms "in the know" are cooking with their kids and sharing simple and fun recipes with family and friends.

**Grow Food:** The best way to appreciate food is by getting your hands dirty. Don't be overwhelmed with a vegetable garden, start simply by planting a windowsill herb garden and snipping away while cooking.

**Play:** What's your favorite way to play? Dance, yoga, taking a walk to clear your head, hoola hoop, Wii Fit...go for it every day!

**Be Down to Earth:** Look for ways to conserve energy (simply switch your light bulbs!) at home to help protect our precious planet -- she needs help!

**Eat meals as a Family:** Focus on sitting at the table and participating inspired conversations with your family while turning off the TV, phone and blackberry... it's amazing how much you will learn about each other.

See everyone at the assembly! Good Eats!

Happy New Year from Cultural Arts!

Judy Levinson and Brenda Brickner

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