



2014: Year in Review

It is hard to believe that we are already finished with the first four months of school. The time has blown right past us with many activities and positive accolades already accomplished for the 2014-2015 school year.

This newsletter is a wrap-up of what has happened so far with a snapshot of what to expect as we roll into the 2015 portion of our school year.

COMMON CORE IN FULL SWING

The Common Core State Standards are now fully implemented for all grades in the areas of English Language Arts (Literacy) and Math. It is important to note that these standards are what your student is expected to know and be able to do by the end of the school year. Also important to remember is that these are the minimum expectations for the grade level. There will be times that students will meet and even exceed the standards for their grade level. The standards are written building blocks with the following year adding to where the previous year left off.

The standards for English Language Arts are broken into the same domains whether they written for Kindergarten, third, or fifth grade. These domains are Reading Foundational Skills, Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, Writing, Speaking & Listening, and Language. Each of these domains is broken into components, which are then split into specific standards that students are expected to know and/or perform by the end of the school year.

In Math, there are four domains that span grades Kindergarten through fifth grade, Operations & Algebraic Thinking, Number & Operations in Base Ten, Measurement & Data, and Geometry. In Kindergarten, an additional domain, Counting & Cardinality, is included and, for grades 3-5, Number & Operations-Fractions is added. As in English Language Arts, these domains are broken into strands that are then broken down into specific standards that are the expectations of the students at that grade level.

For more information on the Common Core State Standards, including a wonderfully produced three-minute video about the standards, you can visit www.corestandards.org/what-parents-should-know/. The site www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/myths-vs-facts/ will help to clear up some of the misconceptions about what the standards mean for your student and why they were developed. As always, if you have questions, feel free to contact me for more clarification at tlawrence@bergenfield.org.

Important Dates for January 2015:

5 School Re-opens
19 NO SCHOOL- Staff Professional Development
21 WSPA meeting 6:30
29 Progress Report Distribution
30 Frankfurter Friday

STANDARDS-ALIGNED REPORT CARDS DEBUT

On December 11, 2014, Washington School students were sent home with report cards for the first trimester of the year. These report cards should have looked a bit different. In an effort to create a method of reporting your child's progress toward meeting the Common Core State Standards, report cards were redesigned to align with the expectations of each grade level. Many of the domains and components listed on the report card for English Language Arts may seem vague or difficult to understand. To help the Washington School community understand just what the English Language Arts standards are for each grade level, you can visit www.bergenfield.org/Domain/240 and click on the Common Core Standards link under Shortcuts on the left hand side of the screen.

A couple important things to remember about the Common Core Standards:

1. It is the expectation that students will meet these standards by the end of the school year. Seeing an "X" in a box, simply means that this standard has not yet been addressed in class. A "W" means that the standard has been addressed but that mastery of the skill has not yet taken place. An "O" or "S" means that a student has met the standard as outlined in the standards.
2. While the components within Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text may look the same, the standards are somewhat different. To simplify, Reading Literature covers skills that pertain to fiction while Reading Informational Text deals with skills that are necessary for non-fiction type texts.
3. In English Language Arts in all grades the tenth standard for both Reading Literature and Reading Informational Text is titled Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity. To meet this standard (earning an "S" or "O" on their report card), a student must be reading at grade level. Included in this newsletter is a list of the reading level expectations by grade level. Seeing a "W" or an "N" for these standards on the report card doesn't mean that your student is doing poorly in reading; it does mean, though, that they are being successful on a reading level that is not yet on grade level as outlined by the Common Core Standards.

*Washington School's
First Trimester Honor Roll*

Grade 3

All A

Selma Abdalkadar
Kasey Allen
Marian Belen
Shaun Bulayo
Emily Carmona
Chenelle Castor
Kenneth Eric
Isabel Gevera
Stefanee Guinto
Gabrielle Hugo
Lisa John
Lillian Moncion
Alexander Navarro-Graves
Julianna Nunez
Ethan Ortiz
Dilan Patel
Brian Pita
Juliaross Ramos
Lorenzo Randazzo
Amber Resurreccion
Eiliyah Sarowar
Justin Trenado

A/B

Emily Avelino
Julian Batista
Jude Boyce
Jeremy Brack
Noel Chavez
Diana Coruna
Dave Descanzo
Matthew Gonzalez
Logan Hrenenko
Jasmine Kouame
Gregg Martin
Amanda Meshraky
Michael Mobley
Leighanne Mueger
Kevin Narvaez
Aaryan Patel
Jackie Rodriguez
Jayden Romero
Jordan Ruiz
Romielle Salcedo
Sarah Sarmiento
Francisco Valdez

All B

Beanette Garcia
Jazzlynn Lopez
Eric Paez

Grade 4

All A

Joseph Barlovic
Camila Carmona
Eiland Chai
Shawn Daniel
Bianca Del Campo
Ethan Luke DelaCerna
Sofia Hernandez
Thomas Lapinig
Richard Lopez
Aminah Sarowar
Stephanie Sulca

A/B Honor Roll

Obeydullah Abdalkadar
Alina Abraham
Gabriella Alba
Krissily Almonte
Jayril Aquino
Christopher Budiman
Isabella Carmona
Christian Chavez
Jayden Cornett
Daniel Cortez
Maria Frometa Lora
David Lugo
Rafael Marquez
Stephanie Valencia

All B Honor Roll

Emma Comfort
Ashlee Juarez



Washington School
Honor Roll
Grade 5



All A

Nicole Hernandez
Jeremiah Hugo
Susan Johnson
Romeo Lopez
Adam Senzon
Nikolay Sukhodulov
Joel Thomas

A/B Honor Roll

Abigail Alegria
Mandy Belen
Ethan Carnevale
Neil DeArmas
Gianna Gonzalez
Marcelino Morales
Denis Mujahodzic

Jodiefoss Ramos
Armando Rodriguez
Sarina Santiago
Tyler Senzon
Jason Suba

The Washington School Community Helps Others

So far this year, the Washington School Community has taken part in multiple projects to help those that are in need.

In November, students were asked to donate money to our 2nd Annual Turkey Stuffing Event. Run by the Washington School Parents' Association, members of the school community are asked to "purchase" feathers for our school turkey. All money collected is donated to a local organization that supports people who need support. Last year's collection raised \$320 for the Bergenfield Food Bank. This year's goal was to beat the \$320. If the school met our target, there was a promise of a fabulous Turkey Trot.



The students' efforts netted \$325 for charity. This year's Turkey made a special visit to each classroom to personally thank the students for their help brightening the lives of the less fortunate. A special thanks goes out to kindergarten teacher Amy Sulich for stepping up and appearing as our turkey this year.

Who will be Turkey for the Day for 2015? We will just have to wait to find out.

This year the fifth grade students, as part of the Youth Power Club under the guidance of Mrs. Linda Goldberg, learned that it is better to give than it is to receive. They worked together to donate and wrap Christmas gifts that will be distributed to those less fortunate. The gifts were delivered to a local organization that will send them to children who might otherwise receive nothing this holiday season.

2014-2015 Citizens of the Month

Washington School students have been learning about what makes good character this year through our Citizens of the Month program. Each month teachers focus on one character trait and teach about it through projects and books. At the end of the month, the students choose which of their classmates best exemplifies the character trait of the month.

This year's recipients so far are:

September: Perseverance

Angelina Glass

Ava Wittreich

Khael Maclang

Erik Vega

Joshua Schiattarella

Michell Marquez

Anisa Thomas

Emily Carmona

Emily Avelino

Kevin Jiang

Daniel Cortez

Camila Carmona

Alina Abraham

Mandy Belen

Joel Thomas

October: Respectful

Brandon Peralta

Madison Boyce

Grace Lima

Ashley Budiman

Xavier Sulca

Alyssa Delos Santos

Lillian Moncion

Julianna Nunez

Rose-lyn Manansala

Christian Chavez

Joseph Barlovic

Susan Johnson

Marcelino Morales

November: Responsible

Elijah Pineda

Stefanie Bulayo

Gisele Gonzalez

Francesca Randazzo

Mika Tampadong

Vanessa Wachausen

Shruti Patel

Ethan Ortiz

Jasmine Kouame

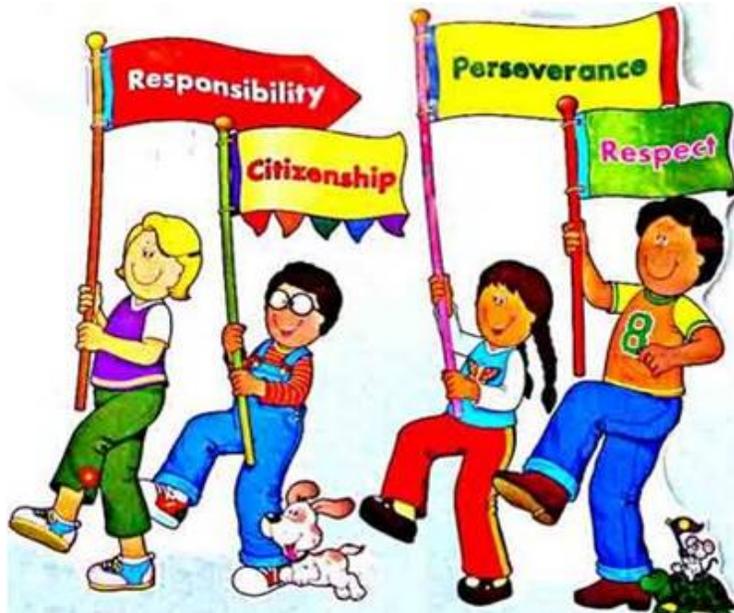
Lisa John

Camila Carmona

Maria Frometa Lora

Nikolay Sukhodulov

Joel Thomas



News From The Health Office

Linda Goldberg, R.N. CSN



What You Can Do To Avoid Influenza

Help to protect yourself and your loved ones from getting sick this season. Follow these simple steps to help stop the spread of germs.

Wash your hands

Washing your hands often with soap and water will help protect you from germs.

Avoid close contact with others

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

When you are sick avoid contact with others to protect them from getting sick too.

Stay home when you are sick

If possible, stay home from work, school, day care, and errands. This will prevent others from catching your illness.

Cover your mouth and nose

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Other ways to stay healthy during this influenza season and all year around:

- Get plenty of sleep
- Exercise regularly
- Manage your stress level
- Drink plenty of fluids
- Eat healthy foods
- Get vaccinated*

*The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends getting vaccinated before the flu season begins.

Please call me with questions or concerns.

FOURTH GRADE PARENTS REMINDER:

If you opted to have your child's 4th grade physical completed by your private doctor, please submit the completed physical form to me as soon as possible.