

# Paterson Chatter



*"Happiness is learning"*

**John Paterson School**  
**120 Church Street**  
**Newington, CT 06111**  
**Stephen J. Foresi, Principal**

## **Paterson Staff**

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Mrs. Gina Prange, Administrative Clerk  
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Miss Nicole Chamberlain, Kindergarten  
Mrs. Catherine Flint, Kindergarten  
Mrs. Jill Hinton, Kindergarten  
Mrs. Lesley Keener, Kindergarten  
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Mrs. Patricia Olson, Grade 1  
Mrs. Gail Pellegatto, Grade 1  
Mrs. Stephani Sanzo, Grade 1  
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Mrs. Melissa Delaney, Grade 2  
Mrs. Linda Miga, Grade 2  
Mrs. Christine Senatro, Grade 2  
Mrs. Susan D'Alessandro, Grade 3  
Ms. Julie Fischer, Grade 3  
Mrs. Beth Lucas, Grade 3  
Ms. Katherine Michaud, Grade 3  
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Mrs. Marsha Carson, Grade 4  
Mr. Jason Koski, Grade 4  
Mrs. Rebecca Powers-Tibball, Grade 4  
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Mrs. Tynne Kelly, Speech Pathologist  
Ms. Ann Bouchard, Occupational Therapist  
Mrs. Karen Daigle, Occupational Therapist  
Mrs. Joyce Schwalenberg, Physical Therapist  
Mrs. Kim Luiz, Gifted Teacher  
Mrs. Marisa Stark, ELL Teacher  
Mrs. Betty Lasker, Reading Consultant  
Mrs. Karen DiFrancesca, Reading Recovery  
Mrs. Denise MacDonald, Reading Teacher  
Ms. Kathryn Barry, Learning Tutor  
Mrs. Liz Condon, Learning Tutor  
Miss Victoria Failla, Learning Tutor  
Ms. Melissa Meyer, Learning Tutor  
Ms. Amanda Feola - Dudzinski, Art  
Mr. Stephen Bennett, Wellness Education  
Mrs. Dorothy Franco-Reed, Wellness Education  
Mr. Paul Kemp, Music  
Mrs. Mary Polezonis, Music  
Dr. Rachel Pac, Computer Specialist  
Ms. Gail Elston, Media Specialist  
Mrs. Rosemary Breen, School Nurse  
Mrs. Ann Marie Andrews, Spec. Ed. Learning Tutor  
Mrs. Lisa Abrams, Tutor  
Ms. Jennifer Bunger, Tutor  
Ms. Jennifer Corriveau, Tutor  
Ms. Ashley Fasolo, Tutor  
Mrs. Susan Kosnoff, Tutor  
Ms. Suzi Klatt, Tutor  
Mrs. Lisa Murphy, Tutor  
Mrs. Kim Diamond, Assistor  
Ms. Elaine Gaudette, Assistor  
Mrs. Carlene Pac, Assistor  
Mr. Mark Joseph, Lead Custodian  
Mr. Jim Pierce, Custodian  
Mr. Robert Tipton, Custodian  
Mrs. Connie Jascowski, Cafeteria Aide  
Mrs. June Ryan Cafeteria Aide  
Mrs. Naomi Saccavino, Cafeteria Aide  
Ms. Michelle Grenier, Cafeteria – Kitchen  
Ms. Judith Perodeau, Cafeteria – Kitchen

## **SEPTEMBER 2010**

Dear Families:

Welcome, and thank you, for your support to an impressive start to the 2010-2011 school year. My goal this year through the Paterson Chatter will be to communicate to you, in a practical sense, the initiatives of focus for this year in relation to our school goal. These initiatives include: Character Development through Paterson PRIDE and Bucket Filling; The Readers'/Writers' Workshop Model; and Scientific Research-Based Interventions (SRBI). I will present information pertaining to each initiative with the intent of answering three essential questions for you:

1. What is it?
2. What does it look in my child's classroom?; and
3. How can I support it?



## **Spotlight Initiative:**

### What is it?

The [Bucket Filling](#) concept implies that we all have an invisible bucket. When our bucket is full, we are happy and healthy. This allows us to be [confident, resilient, caring and responsible](#). Our bucket can also be dipped into. This is called bucket dipping. When someone, or a situation, dips into our bucket, we are sad. An empty bucket can greatly impact our ability to be [confident, resilient, caring and responsible](#).

Children quickly understand that they can fill buckets when they do and say things that are kind, considerate, caring, and respectful. They also learn that when they are mean, inconsiderate, uncaring, or disrespectful, they dip into buckets and remove those good feelings. Even the youngest child understands that actions and words can either fill a bucket or dip into it.

The goal of bucket filling is to develop the following character attributes:

- Happy, confident children who are able to express kindness, respect, and appreciation toward others
- Compassionate children who are other-centered
- Resilient children – who are able to bounce back from bucket dipping

**Bucket Filling**



- Strong, positive families, classrooms, schools, businesses, and communities
- Children and adults who are healthy mentally, emotionally, and socially
- Safe, positive, nurturing schools where all children are well able to learn and succeed
- A world where people focus on the good and best in others

### **What does this look like in my child's classroom and in our school?**

During this school year we are encouraging, reminding, and recognizing everyone's efforts to be bucket fillers at home, at school, and everywhere they go. Each classroom and learning area (art, music, wellness, media...) in our school has a bucket. Each time a Bucket Filling deed occurs, the teacher will place a pompom in the bucket to represent that deed. When a bucket has 30 pompoms in it, the principal will come to that classroom/learning area and present a Bucket Filling Certificate. Certificates can hang proudly in that room; and then children and staff can work hard again to earn another certificate by demonstrating 30 additional bucket filling deeds. This process will continue throughout the year.



As a school, we have set a goal. Our school-wide goal is to earn 100 certificates by the December holiday break. We have a giant bucket in our cafeteria to show how many classrooms and learning areas have earned a certificate *and* our progress toward 100 certificates by the December holiday. We will set another goal after this one is achieved.

*If each classroom/learning area earns one certificate a month, we will reach our school-wide goal!*

We are excited about introducing the bucket filling concept to demonstrate Paterson PRIDE in our school; and look forward to your support.



### **How can I support it?**

1. **Simple, be a bucket filler at home, too.** The bucket filling concept is one that is applicable in all situations, and in all settings. Encouraging and supporting bucket filling at home, while helping your child recognize bucket dipping and correct actions to replace dipping; will provide a unified approach to character development between home and school.
2. **Join the Bucket Filling team – it's free!** If you would like to learn more about bucket filling, and get weekly ideas, visit the Bucket Fillers website, [www.bucketfillers101.com](http://www.bucketfillers101.com). Bucket Fillers offer a free weekly e-newsletter for parents and teachers.

### **Other Important Information:**

#### **What about safety and procedures?**

The safety of your child is a top priority at John Paterson School. Each day we take a proactive approach to safety as classrooms engage in the Responsive Classroom Morning Meeting to develop a social and emotional climate of respect, responsibility, care, and independence. Our school functions as a school family, gathering as a group six times a year for school-wide family meetings. We also meet once a month as smaller school families, pairing ten children with one adult. Each time we meet, we work on a school-wide lesson based on this year's theme of Paterson PRIDE through Bucket Filling. In addition, we have established procedures for a safe arrival and dismissal system. Please review the following information regarding arrival, dismissal and the bus on the following pages.

#### **ARRIVAL**

We have two circle driveway areas in the front of our school that ensure a safe traffic pattern. The circle driveway that is located in front of our early childhood wing is designated for school buses.

The circle driveway in front of our main lobby and gym lobby doors has been designated for regular school traffic and school vans.

### **Arrival Procedures:**

- **Bus Arrival** – Students in K-4 arriving by bus will be dropped off at the bus circle area. Students in kindergarten arriving by bus will enter our school through the early childhood wing doors. Students in Grades 1-4 will enter through the gym lobby doors.
- **Van/Daycare Van Arrival** – Students riding school vans and authorized daycare vehicles will be dropped off at the gym lobby doors.
- Students who are not transported to school by bus should **arrive no earlier than 8:35 a.m.** unless given permission by a staff member.
- **Parent Drop Off** – Parents may use the circle area in the front of our school to drop a student off at school. Students will be greeted outside the front lobby doors by a staff member and let into the building at 8:35 a.m. Students will be organized by grade level prior to entry. Children arriving earlier than this time should remain with their parent/guardian. It is very important that parents using the front circle area drive **SLOWLY** and **WAIT PATIENTLY** to allow children to get out of the car and to a safe walking area. Please move forward all the way in the circle area to accommodate more cars dropping off students. We emphasize the need for parents to allow children to get out of the car using the **RIGHT SIDE DOOR ONLY** so that children will have a very short distance to the sidewalk and will not need to enter near traffic.
- Parking is available for parents in designated parking areas only.
- **Walkers** – Students arriving to school as walkers will enter the door near the media center/computer lab hallway.
- **Bike Riders** – Those students in grades three and four who have written permission to ride their bikes to school will enter through the door by the media center/computer lab hallway.

**Please do not park in fire lanes. in the drop off area**

### **DISMISSAL**

### **Dismissal Procedures:**

- **Bus/Van/Day Care Van Dismissal** -- Pre-K and kindergarten students are escorted to the bus and van by the classroom teacher. Students in Grades 1-4 are escorted by student leaders by bus letter or van and are expected to board their assigned bus or van.
- **Parent Pick Up** – The front lobby door entrance will open at 3:05 p.m. for parents/guardians of students being picked-up. Students will be dismissed to parents/guardians only after they have signed-out with a certified staff member through our designated “Pick-up Line.” Parents/Guardians of students being picked-up should have identification available at the time of pick-up. Students being picked up at the end of the school day by a parent or by a designated person will be sent to the main lobby area.
- **Walkers** – All students who are designated by our transportation department as “Walkers” will exit out the Walker’s Exit located between the Computer Lab and Music Room each afternoon. Students who are walkers should only be designated a pick-up if leaving early from school. A note should accompany your child to school that morning if leaving early. No child may be dismissed to a middle school sibling as a pick-up. Parents who meet their child outside are not allowed to park in the staff only lot. Walkers must walk on the path and not cut through the staff only lot. Please make proper pick-up arrangements so that no student needs to walk through this lot into a potential hazard of cars moving in and out during dismissal.
- **NECCI** – students who are in the NECCI (Newington Elementary Children’s Center Inc.) program will be dismissed from their classrooms to the cafeteria area.
- **Bike Riders** – Those students in grades three and four who have written permission to ride their bikes home will be dismissed with walkers through the door by the media center/computer lab hallway.

- **Dismissal During the Day** – If an occasion arises when an early dismissal is necessary for dental appointments, doctor appointments, or other reasons, please send a note to the teacher. Any child being dismissed early must be met in the office lobby by their parent or guardian and signed out in the dismissal logbook.

**If there is a change in a student's dismissal, written notification is required.**

### **Attendance**

Attendance at school is not only pivotal to your child's learning, but it is required by state law for all children ages 6 and older. Last year, we noted the highest absentee and tardy rate in John Paterson School history. This can have a negative impact on learning. I ask that you please make every effort to get your child to school and on time. If your child is going to be absent, parents are expected to call the school before 8:45 a.m. to verify these absences, which are considered unexcused. Out school has a voice mail system (860) 666-4657 that you may call any time to verify an absence. If your child is absent but you have not verified the absence, the school office will attempt to contact you at work or home.

### **Scholastic Book Fair**

As we continue to promote literacy as a school community, our PTO will sponsor the Scholastic Book Fair September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. This is a wonderful opportunity to acquire literature for you and your child's enjoyment at home. Special guests will read to students from 6:15 to 7:00pm during the Tuesday evening Book Fair event, located in our library media center.

### **Other Important Information Regarding Delays, Closings and Other Events:**

**School Closings:** At times, it becomes necessary to close school early after the school day has begun due to adverse weather conditions or other emergencies; or, there may be a need to delay school due to an unexpected event. **All delayed openings will be 90 minutes.** This decision will be made by the superintendent of schools and is broadcast over all participating radio and TV stations. The following stations have agreed to broadcast all announcements related to inclement weather.

<b>Station</b>	
WTIC - AM	1080 on the dial
WDRC - AM	1360 on the dial
WRCH - FM	100.5 on the dial
WVIT	TV Channel 30
WTNH	TV Channel 8
WFSB	TV Channel 3

In addition, you may receive a call from our **Rapid Notification System.**

### **Rapid Notification System**

The Newington Public School district uses a rapid notification system to quickly contact our school community by telephone. This system supports two telephone numbers per student. These numbers are designated as "home" and "cell". Routine announcement calls are made to the telephone number on file listed as the "home" phone.

The school or district may determine that a communication is an "emergency", such as the cancellation of a school day or event. In this case, both telephone numbers on file will be called.

#### **To replay a message:**

During a call you may return to the beginning of the message one time by pressing any number on the keypad. This option will only work one time, pressing a second number will disconnect the call. Parents can visit [www.alertnowmessage.com](http://www.alertnowmessage.com) to replay the last message sent to a particular phone number by completing the form on the web page.

Parents or guardians can designate any number they choose as the "home" and "cell" number so that they have a choice in determining which number will receive "routine" calls. Parents or guardians wishing to confirm or change the phone numbers on file should contact the school office for each child.

You may also call the school cancellation hotline (860-665-8665). Please keep this number handy. Remember that it is a parent's responsibility to make sure that your child knows what to do if you are not at home should an early closing ever be necessary. A plan should be established that your child clearly understands.

### John Paterson Calendar of Events

Sep 20	Lucy Robbins Welles Summer Reading Program Assembly - Grades K-2	1:20 pm
Sep 20	Lucy Robbins Welles Summer Reading Program Assembly - Grades 3 & 4	2:15 pm
Sep 22	School Wide Meeting	9:00 am
Sep 27 - 29	PTO Book Fair	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Sep 28	PTO Book Fair Family Night - All Grades	5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
<del>Sep 29</del>	<del>PTO Book Fair Family Night</del>	<del>5:30 pm - 7:30 pm</del>
Sept. 29 & 30	Parent/Teacher Conferences	1:25 pm dismissal
Oct. 5	PTO Meeting	7:00 pm
Oct. 6	School Family Meeting	9:00 am
Oct. 7	Fire Truck visit for grades K & 1	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Oct. 8	Professional Development for Staff	1:25 pm dismissal
Oct. 11	Columbus Day - No School	
Oct. 13	Cafeteria Workers' Day	
Oct. 13	Douglas Florian Author Visit	9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Oct. 18 - 21	Grandparent & Special Friends' Week	
Oct. 20	School Bus Drivers' Day	
Oct. 21	Mrs. Sanzo & Mrs. Olson to Hungerford Nature Center	9:00 am - 11:30 am
Oct. 26	Mrs. Klimas to Rose's Berry Farm	9:00 am - 11:15 am
Oct. 27	Preschool Field Trip to Aver Farm	9:30 am - 12:30 am
Oct. 28	Miss Campanelli & Mrs. Pellegatto to Hungerford Nature Center	9:00 am - 11:30 am
Nov. 2	Election Day - No School	
Nov. 4	School Family Meeting	9:00 am
Nov. 4	PTO Meeting	7:00 pm
Nov. 10	Author Visit at NHS for Grades 3 & 4	9:00 am - 11:00 am
Nov. 11	Veterans' Day - No School	
Nov. 15	Indian Rock Turkey Presentation for Kindergarten	
Nov. 17	Custodial/Maintenance Workers' Day	
Nov. 17	School Wide Meeting	9:00 am
Nov. 24	Early Release Day	1:25 pm dismissal
Dec. 7 - 9	Parent/Teacher Conferences	1:25 pm dismissal
Dec. 7	PTO Meeting	7:00 pm
Dec. 15	School Family Meeting	9:00 am
Dec. 16	Winter Concert	1:50 pm & 7:00 pm
Dec. 23	School Wide Meeting with Sing-a-Long	2:00 pm
Dec. 24 - Dec. 31	Holiday Vacation - No School	

## Kindergarten Korner



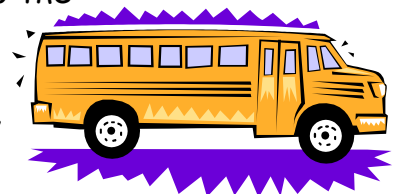
We have enjoyed meeting this great group of children! All kindergarteners are busy getting to know each other, their classroom, and the school. It takes time and they have been patient. So many routines and rules to learn can be difficult so repetition helps at this point. Each week it gets a little easier as they adjust to the school day.

We jumped into learning right away. Besides rules and routines, we are busy working on reading, writing, and math. We are learning to read and write names "the kindergarten way" (first letter upper case, the remainder lower case), name the letters of the alphabet, rhyme, and why we read and write. In math, we are learning about the calendar and the days of the week, and how to sort, pattern and graph. We are also learning our friends' names and how to share classroom materials. We have drawn and written stories, listened to many stories read aloud, and played a number of classroom games to help us get to know each other. The day is long and very full of activities so many children are probably not yet too talkative about their day. It's hard to remember everything that happens!

Mr. Foresi visited each kindergarten to welcome us and talk about how we can show "Paterson Pride" every day. We learned how we can fill each other's buckets by being kind, caring, and trying our best, no matter what the task! We already earned pompoms in our class bucket to show our efforts.

We will be part of the Lucy Robbins Welles Summer Reading Celebration on September 20th with awards for participants in the summer reading program. What a great way to kick off the school year! There are many kindergarteners who participated in the summer reading program. We hope everyone participates next summer. Reading brings the world to our doorsteps.

We have practiced fire drills and a bus evacuation drill. We will continue to review safety rules as the year goes on. The children have adjusted to the cafeteria and our recess procedures very well. Please continue to check folders and backpacks at home. Display any work to build your child's sense of pride. Remember to read aloud daily to your child. Provide a quiet space at home for reading and writing. Having books, papers, and writing tools accessible motivates children to do more.

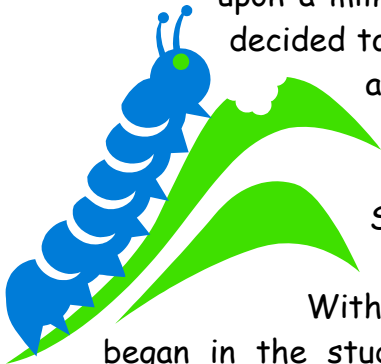


Thank you for all you have done to help us start the school year and to help your child understand his/her responsibilities for appropriate behavior, a positive attitude,

trying his/her best, and taking care of personal belongings and oneself. We are looking forward to a great year together!

## Grade 1

Our beginning days in first grade started out rather ordinary, except for the tropical weather conditions! By the fifth day of the new school year, however, definite excitement filled the delightfully cooler air as we welcomed an assortment of miniature-sized members into our classrooms. Mrs. Olson and her husband happened upon a milkweed patch in the Berkshires over the Labor Day weekend and decided to surprise us with ten plump monarch caterpillars, a few eggs, and a newly hatched caterpillar! Our first science unit was officially launched and the children were thrilled to accept the surprise! All four first grade teachers took a field trip after school on September 7th just a few blocks away to the fields at the Deming Young Farm in search of more eggs or early stage caterpillars.



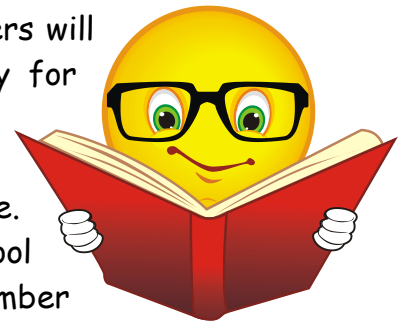
With variations in the size of each caterpillar, an incredible journey began in the study of the life cycle of the monarch butterfly. Some of our Massachusetts critters and one Newington native were already fairly large, so within a span of one or two days those "classroom pets" had transformed from a caterpillar to a regal green chrysalis, complete with a line of dots that looked like golden jewels, while their "housemates" were just beginning to indulge in a daily diet of milkweed. Eric Carle's familiar book, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, took on a whole new meaning as our enthusiastic first graders peered through magnifying lenses to get a closer look at the tri-colored "milkweed munchers". Another book describes them quite appropriately as eating machines! Through observations, inquiries, predictions, and conclusions the children are rapidly becoming experts on the various stages of development of the majestic monarch. Metamorphosis, pupa, chrysalis, and j-formation are terms that the children are using automatically in discussions and journal entries. Using their emerging writing skills the children wrote and illustrated individual reflections of their daily discoveries and created class accounts of our amazing unit of study.

This month your child has been introduced to our new Language Arts curriculum. Although the Harcourt reading program, *Trophies*, will continue to be a valuable resource in developing essential reading and writing skills, multiple phonics, spelling, and writing resources have been added that will enhance learning for each student. Our beginning weeks will focus on why readers read, how they read, what they read, favorite reading treasures, and the differences between readers. With the theme of friendship the students are using literature and their imaginations to learn about friendship and understanding feelings. In the grade one classrooms, a Readers

Workshop, balanced literacy approach to reading is being used. You may hear your child talk about "read alouds", "shared readings", "guided reading groups", "independent reading" or "writers workshop". Teachers utilize a variety of strategies to teach beginning readers at their appropriate level. Grade One students and teachers also receive a great deal of assistance from the language arts consultant, reading teachers, and learning tutors to assist in reading instruction and small flexible reading groups.

Learning flourishes with our revised math curriculum. Select units of study from the Math Trailblazers program and fact fluency, along with supplemental resources and materials, will be incorporated to ensure alignment with the state standards. In the initial stage of our first grade unit the children are striving to answer two important questions. How we use numbers and how sets and numbers can be compared and ordered will be the focus during our first month of mathematical exploration. Hands-on activities and guided inquiry will assist our young students in answering those two essential questions.

The S.T.A.R. (Sit Together and Read) program for first graders will be beginning shortly. This program provides an opportunity for children to develop good study and reading habits while nurturing a strong school/home connection. Each teacher will have her own system for disbursement of the books sent home. As a general rule, all books must be returned on the next school day. There's nothing better than relaxing with a family member and having an adventure with a new book.



We enjoyed meeting many of you at Open House and look forward to a productive and exciting year of learning and growing!

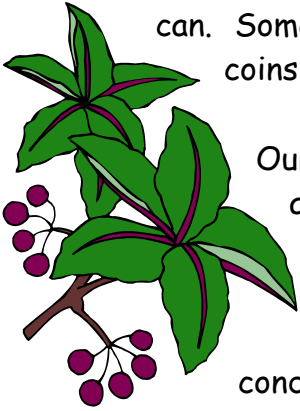
## **Grade 2**

Second graders are off to a great start this school year! They have been very busy learning new routines and schedules. We have already begun to discuss and practice getting ready to read and write. We are talking about the things that good readers and writers do. We know that good readers pick books that are a good fit for them and that writers select topics in which they are interested. We are looking forward to exploring more in Language Arts.

In math, we conducted our first investigation of students' birth months. We planned our lab, collected data and put the data on a data table and graph. We then used the graph and data table to explore the data and answer questions. Please remember to practice math facts with your child at home. Learning addition and subtraction facts



with speed and accuracy in second grade will help students learn multiplication and division facts in third grade. Please try to incorporate math at home as much as you can. Some ideas for math fun are telling time, and counting money using real coins, and cooking and baking together while reading recipes.



Our first science theme this year will be the study of seeds and plants and how they grow and survive in the environment. Students will learn to identify parts of plants, to describe the needs of plants and how they reproduce. They will discover how to classify plants according to their various structures. Second graders will be conducting investigations using a scientific approach, which includes observing, predicting, communicating, classifying and experimenting.

Second grade teachers enjoyed meeting so many of you at Open House. We are looking forward to a wonderful year working together!

### Grade 3

We're off and running! Welcome to a new school year. The anxiety of what to expect on the first day of school has subsided and now all of us can enjoy the journey that accompanies a brand new start.



The third grade teachers have been working especially hard at creating a safe, inviting and friendly working environment. To accomplish this, we have been establishing class rules, discussing learning goals and expected behavior, as well as setting great homework routines. The school's "Paterson Pride" slogan that students were introduced to last year will roll right into our "Bucket Filling"! Students are encouraged to fill each other's buckets by doing and saying kind things, as well as showing Pride, Respect, Integrity, Dedication, and Effort!

The academic portion of your child's school day is beginning to take shape. Students are encouraged to apply newly learned spelling words and writing techniques to their independent work in writer's workshop in addition to written responses in science, social studies, reading and math. Students share in reading from our Trophies anthology and great picture books to build vocabulary and strategies for better comprehension. Students and teachers will be utilizing six strategies (predicting, connecting, visualizing, figuring out, noticing, and wondering) to improve comprehension through read alouds, guided and shared reading as well as independent. As students read independently they are expected to respond to what they read in

many different ways. Teachers will conference with students one-on-one and give tips to becoming a better reader! In math we are reading, creating, and interpreting graphs has been our focus as well as patterning and probability. Students are being held accountable for knowing their basic math facts beginning with addition and moving towards subtraction quickly. Please find 5-10 minutes each evening to practice with your third grader! A key feature of the third grade science curriculum is the scientific process. To emphasize this and to pique interest in science, your child will engage in a few fun science activities.



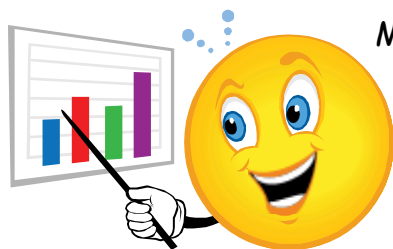
Before closing, the third grade teachers would like to thank all of you for making John Paterson's Open House a success.

Through hard work, dedication and collaboration, let's all strive to make this school year a great one!

#### Grade 4

The fourth grade team would like to thank all parents for helping their child smoothly transition from summer vacation to school. The first week of school was a success thanks to your guidance and support. Students were well prepared for the many routines established at the onset of the school year.

As we make our way through September, your child's schedule is beginning to take on a definite shape. As soon as your child arrives to school, they work on morning work until 9:00. The morning work ties into lessons taught the previous day and serves to provide valuable practice for essential fourth grade skills.

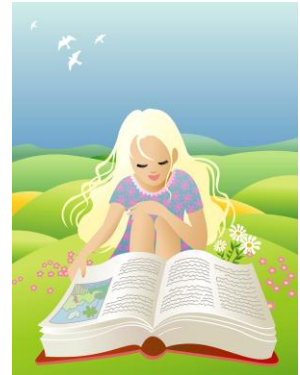


Math is taught following the morning work. The current focus in math is graphing. Students are expected to create their own graph using a given set of data. Math fact practice is encouraged at home on a weekly basis. Basic fact mastery will help your child in the area of math computation.

Your child has a special in the morning and after the special we begin our word study and spelling block. It is during this time that we all have a healthy snack as we work. After our word study and spelling block, we begin Writer's Workshop. Writer's Workshop begins with a mini-lesson on some type of writing skill. Students are then encouraged to apply what they've learned at the independent level. Additional guidance and practice is provided within a small group setting if students need additional reinforcement with a particular skill.

Just before lunch we move into science or social studies. The first science unit is Land and Water. Through weekly hands-on experiments, students explore the effects of water when it comes into contact with land. Students record their observations in a science journal and work cooperatively with other students during this entire unit. Student will have an opportunity to study the water cycle using teacher selected websites in the computer lab.

After lunch and recess, the afternoon is dedicated to Reader's Workshop. Like our Writer's workshop model, Reader's Workshop allows students to apply newly learned strategies at the independent level. Students are focusing on making predictions before, during and after reading a passage or book. Encourage your child to read on a daily basis. Practicing newly learned reading skills through daily independent reading will help your child grow as a reader.



In the fall, the fourth graders will be going to Indian Rock Nature Preserve. Permission slips will be sent home soon. You're always more than welcome to chaperone. Field trips are a great way to broaden student understanding of the concepts covered in class.

The fourth grade team looks forward to building a lasting partnership with you this year. Please feel free to stop by at any time with questions or you may contact us via e-mail or phone.

### Music Notes



Mr. Kemp & Mrs. Polezonis welcome everyone back for what looks to be a terrific year! This year Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Polezonis will be working together teaching our 4<sup>th</sup> grade instrumentalists.

If your 4<sup>th</sup> grader is taking an instrument, please keep in mind that they have just begun their instrumental journey. They should only be practicing for 5-10 minutes for the first week or 2 because they are only learning how to create a sound and how to put the parts of their instrument together.

The real key to these musicians' **success** will be in **practicing every** day! Parents should help their children develop a routine or a set time that is always practice time, (similar to what they might already do for homework.)

Announcing "Mr. Kemp's Instrument Videos"! These are beginning videos for Flute, Clarinet, Trumpet, Saxophone, Baritone Horn, Trombone, and Violin. We strongly encourage parents of our 4<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental students to help their child download the appropriate video at PatersonMusic.net (click on "Instrumental Corner"). If you have trouble downloading, please contact Mr. Kemp. He has these in a DVD format if needed.

### From the Art Room

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing summer and is ready to start another year here at John Paterson School. We are starting off the school year full speed ahead in the art room. Students are reminded to bring in smocks with their name clearly printed on the front. I will not be collecting recyclable materials this year because my shelves are still very full. I have enough egg cartons, tubes, cans and containers to get us through this school year. If you have something special you would like to donate to the art room, give me a call so we can discuss the item.



Kindergarten students have started out the year learning about line and shape. The students have been creating and identifying different types of line using crayons and paint. In the next lesson, students will use line to create geometric shapes and then use these shapes to create a work of art. We are focusing on basic art concepts and learning about using tools in the art room.

First graders are starting off the year studying the art of Jacob Lawrence. The students responded to a cityscape by Jacob Lawrence. Students described, analyzed, interpreted and judged his work. Students are now creating their own cityscapes using shapes, patterns, rulers and oil pastels. The students will next begin a unit on textiles and will weave using a variety of materials.

Second grade students are studying the artist Joan Miro and learning about abstract art. They are creating and naming their own abstract designs using marker and crayon. Second graders will move on from here to study the art of Henri Matisse and will create landscapes that illustrate the concept of overlapping.

Third graders began will begin this year working in collage. Students will draw a realistic self-portrait then play with color, using collage techniques to finish the work. Third graders will also look at the work of Henri Matisse, a portrait, and will discuss how he used both realism and abstraction within the same work of art.

Students in fourth grade started off the year learning about Pop Art. Students will be creating self portraits that are similar to the style of the artist Andy Warhol. Students will learn how to create relief prints using foam sheets and other print making tools. Students will also learn how to use colors that are complementary and create a strong sense of contrast within their work.

If anyone is interested in volunteering or visiting the art room, please give me a call or email. (860-666-4657x 109 - afeola@npsct.org) I hope that everyone's school year has got off to a great start and I look forward to seeing you all in the art room.

### Wellness Education

Welcome Back! We are off to a great start this year in Wellness Education Class. John Paterson has been selected as the pilot school to implement Wellness Education at the elementary level. Already, our students and teachers have done a great job embracing the new lingo: Physical Education, PE, Gym, is now called Wellness. The students and teachers have done a remarkable job of making that transition.

Kindergarten and 1st grade students are working on locomotor skills/movements. We are also working on direction following, understanding personal spaces and safety, and respect for self and others. Students have done a great job with each of these learning objectives and we will continue to work towards making positive progress.



The second grade students are being introduced to fitness test preparation and strength training. Classes have been working diligently on improving their skills specifically in the areas of cardiovascular training with running activities and muscular strength training with the emphasis on push-ups and curl-ups at this time.

Third and fourth grade students have been emphasizing all components of the physical fitness test. (Cardiovascular fitness, Muscular strength, Muscular endurance and Flexibility) We are preparing all students to be successful in these tests. We're looking forward to the results.

As a school in Wellness Education, all of our students (K-4) are learning "A Muscle of the Week." The goal is to learn 12 major muscle groups of the body in 12 weeks. The first major muscle group was Abdominals. We look forward to a great school year.

## Notes from the Geraldine C. Mullins Media Center

It's library time  
And I read to myself  
A book about knights  
I found on the shelf.  
The more that I read  
The more I understand  
I can do anything with that book in my hand.



This month second, third and fourth graders will be learning more about the different library collections and /or reviewing how to use our online public access catalog called Destiny. This easy-to-use interface allows students and staff to increase their access to library resources as well as help find interesting books to read.

Kindergarteners have begun learning how to care for their "library treasures" .When your child brings home his/her first library book try sharing the following acrostic poem. It will help you review with your child the steps to insure a successful library experience.

When caring for your library book remember:



**L**ibrary books are "treasures" take care of them  
**I**f you forget your book on library day return it the next day at "morning book time"  
**B**ooks should be kept in a "special place" in your home so pick this place with your parents  
**R**eturn your book to the book box on "Library Day"  
**A**sk someone at home to share your book  
**R**eread your book; look for new words to learn  
**Y**our book must be returned before you can take out another treasure.

**Happy Reading!**

## **FROM THE NURSE'S CORNER**

Welcome to a new school year! Here are a few reminders for parents:

- \* Remember to call the school if your child is going to be absent or tardy. If you do not call before 9:45am; you will get a call at home or work to verify the absence. This is to ensure your child's safety.
- \* If your child is absent please let us know if they have a fever, cough or sore throat.
- \* If your child is tardy, they need to sign in at the main office before proceeding to class.
- \* Send in a written note when your child returns to school after an absence. Please be sure to include your child's FIRST and LAST names when sending a note to school. Also the reason why they were out.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Each child's must emergency contact information is on file in the Health Room. Emergency Contact Information Sheets are sent home at the start of each school year. Please remember to **update** the school during the year if you have any changes in home, work or cell phone numbers.

The information you provide is used in the event your child becomes injured or ill and must be picked up or taken to the hospital.

### **ANNUAL SCREENINGS**

Audio and visual screening (for distance vision only) is performed on all students in grade K to 4 each year, starting in the fall. Any student failing to meet any of the standards established by the State of Connecticut on these screening will be re-screened, prior to giving the parent or guardian written notice describing the findings and recommendations.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's hearing or vision, please feel free to contact me. In order for students to get the most out of their school experience, they need to be able to hear and see clearly!

### **PEDICULOSIS (Head Lice)**

During the course of the year a number of students are found to have head lice. At times the lice are detected in school or at home. If detected at school your child must be picked up to start proper treatment. At home a child's hair should be checked weekly for head lice. Information regarding head lice is included at the end of the chatter.

I hope this information will be helpful and will contribute to a program of PREVENTION.

Any questions please call me @ 666-4657 Ext. 1.

### **ATTENTION PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN GRADE THREE**

Each student in grade three is required to have a physical examination this school year, either by his/her private physician or by the school doctor. If you have not as yet returned either the completed physical examination form or the short white form indicating your intentions regarding this matter, please do so immediately. School physicals will be scheduled after the first of the year. Forms are available in the school nurse's office.

### **SCHOOL NURSE SUBSTITUTES**

If you are a R.N. and interested in substituting as a school nurse, please call Pat Krin, Head Nurse @ Newington High School, 666-5611 Ext. 164.

Thank You,  
Rosemary Breen, R.N.  
School Nurse