

Deep River Elementary School

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 3, 2012

VOL. XIII

NO. IV

Principal's Corner by John F. Pietrick, Ph.D.

OPEN LETTER TO PARENTS



Dear Parents,

This past Monday, I submitted my letter to Dr. Levy announcing my decision to retire this coming June. My retirement will be effective June 29, 2012. This June will be the end of my 39th year in education. I have been an administrator for 27 years and this year I complete my 20th year as an elementary principal.

My legacy at D.R.E.S. will be the staff that will remain here at the school after I leave that I had a part in hiring. I had a part in the hiring of 42 of our current certified and non-certified staff members. Many of them are looking ahead to 30 plus years of serving the children of Deep River. This year will complete my 13th year as principal of the Deep River Elementary School. I have certainly enjoyed my years here and have over time shared many experiences with many of you. The students graduating this year from Valley Regional High School and live in Deep River were in kindergarten when I began here as principal. They will graduate from Valley this June and I will begin a new chapter in my life—we will all move on together.

Dr. Levy will shortly begin the task of selecting my replacement. It was my desire to announce my plans early in order to allow her additional time for the principal search. I certainly leave with mixed feelings. I have had the pleasure to watch many of the children pass from kindergarten through sixth grade. I have also had the opportunity to interact with parents over the years with multiple siblings. Although at times we have faced challenges together, it was always my desire to treat others in a fair and respectful manner. Together, I believe we have moved the school forward and helped many children grow and mature.

I certainly look forward to having more time to spend with our grandson Andrew and the flexibility to take more trips to Virginia to visit our daughter and our son-in-law. Thank you again for the kindness you have shown me over the years.

Sincerely,

Jack Pietrick

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D.R.E.S. PTO BINGO NIGHT

Friday, February 10

J.W.M.S.

6:00—8:00 p.m. Doors open at 5:30

NOTE: CHANGE IN TIME

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 9.....Board of Education Budget Workshop #1
Central Office 6:00 p.m.
- February 10.....Early Closing Day—Professional Development
- February 10.....PTO BINGO NIGHT J.W.M.S. 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Doors Open at 5:30—Note new Start Time
- February 20-24.....Winter Vacation—School Closed
- February 27—March 2.....Read Across America Week



To: Parents of students in Grades 4-6

Please mark your calendar—The Annual Region 4 Civics Bee is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17. The students will be taking the preliminary test during the week of April 2nd in their classrooms. The winners and alternates will be invited to participate in the region wide bee.

Location: V.R.H.S.

Times: 6:30—8:15

Additional Information will follow



**D.R.E.S.
PTO
Tuesday, March 13
7:00 p.m.
Please plan to attend**

**Reminder:
D.R.E.S. PTO BINGO
Friday, February 10
6:00—8:00 p.m.
J.W.M.S.**

Note: New Times

**We are on the web:
www.dres.k12.ct.us**

**WINTER
VACATION
February 20—
24**

School Office will
be open T-F

**HAPPY
VALENTINE'S
DAY
February 14**



**Next DR Board of Education Meeting:
Thursday, March 15, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

**DRES Annual PASTA Night
J.W.M.S. Cafeteria
March 9
5:00—8:00 p.m.**

Deep River Elementary School PTO

BINGO



***New Time!**

Friday, February 10, 2012

John Winthrop Middle School

*6:00pm to 8:00pm

Doors Open @ 5:30pm

PIZZA, DESSERTS, REFRESHMENTS

~RAFFLE, LOTS OF PRIZES~

BINGO with **Guest MC—Dr. Pietrick**



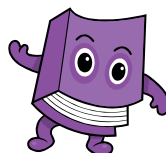
Read Across America Week

February 27—March 2

Our school will be participating in this national celebration of reading that will culminate on March 2nd—the birthday of Dr. Suess!

Some special events to look forward to include:

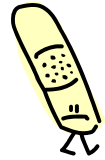
- A Daily Dr. Suess trivia contest
- School Wide Silent Reading
- “Celebrity” Guest Readers
- School Wide lunch of Green Eggs & Ham
- Reading Buddy Activities
- Reading “Theme” Days



Important Health Room Information

by

Mrs. Kathy Kalapos, R.N.



Presently most visits to health room are due to upper respiratory illnesses, i.e. colds, sore throats, coughing. For the most part they are caused by viruses, and just need to run their course. Unfortunately, there is a cough going around that takes 2-3 weeks before it is over.

Things you can do to make your child more comfortable:

1. Administer Tylenol, Motrin etc for fevers over 100, and or discomfort
2. Encourage drinking water, or other liquid
3. Cough drops and popsicles help to soothe a sore throat
4. Make sure they are eating well and get plenty of rest

If the fever persists for several days, or your child is not able to sleep at night, or is very lethargic- you need to contact your physician.

Please do not send a child to school until their fever has been normal for over 24 hrs, without giving fever reducing medicine.

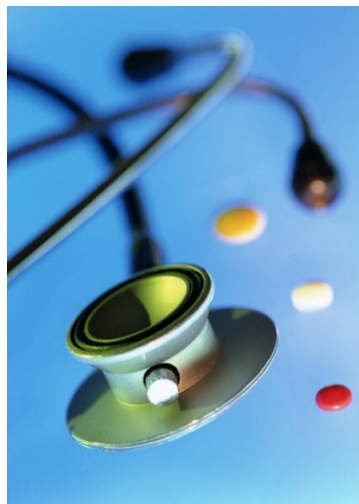
Do not send a student to school who is coughing a lot or has copious amounts of nasal drainage as this will only spread the illness.

There have been many musculoskeletal injuries this year requiring crutches, splints, etc.

If your child is injured and needs any of this equipment-please bring a Doctor's order stating that these are required, how long they are required, and what activity level is permissible at school.

We need a doctor's note for a child to be excused from gym if they will be unable to participate for more than 1-2 days.

We advise that any student needing crutches be brought to school by an adult and taken home from school by an adult as riding the bus could put them at risk for more injury.



School Openings & Closings
 High School 7:40 AM - 2:23 PM
 Middle School 7:45 AM - 2:17 PM
 Elementary Schools 8:25 AM - 3:00 PM
 Kindergarten AM 8:25-11:12 AM
 PM 12:12-3:00 PM

**Regional School District No. 4
 Chester, Deep River, & Essex Elementary
 Academic Calendar
 August 2012-July 2013**

Early Dismissal Time
 High School 12:20 PM
 Middle School 12:12 PM
 Elementary Schools 1:00 PM

August 2012 (2) (2)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2012 (17) (19)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2012 (22) (41)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November 2012 (18) (59)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2012 (15) (74)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

January 2013 (20) (94)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 27-29 Professional Development Day (Staff Only-No Students)

August 30 Students' First Day of School

September 3 Labor Day

September 17 (Rosh Hashanah) School Closed (if needed) (Priority begins semester Oct. 18th)

September 26 Yom Kippur (School Closed if weekday) (Holiday begins semester Oct. 28th)

October 19 Professional Development Day (Staff Only - No Students)

October 24-26 Early Dismissal/Elem ONLY (gr. K-6) for Parent Conf.

November 6 End of Quarter Grades 7-12

November 9 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools (Prof. Development for Staff)

November 12 Veterans Day Observed (School Closed)

November 21-23 Thanksgiving Break (School Closed)

December 3 End of Trimester Grades 1-6

December 7 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools (Prof. Development for Staff)

December 21 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools

December 24-31 Holiday Break (School Closed)

December 25 Christmas (School Closed if weekday)

January 1 New Year's Day (School Closed)

January 18 Professional Development Day (Staff Only - No Students)

January 21 Martin Luther King's Birthday (School Closed)

January 25 End of Quarter Grades 7-12

February 8 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools (Prof. Development for Staff)

February 18-22 Winter Recess (School closed)

March 15 End of Trimester Grades for 1-6

March 20-22 Early Dismissal Elem ONLY (gr. K-6) for Parent Conf.

March 26- April 2 Passover (Holiday begins weekend the 28th)

March 29 Good Friday (School Closed)

April 8 End of Quarter Grades 7-12

April 11 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools (Prof. Development for Staff)

April 15-19 Spring Recess (School Closed)

May 19 Early Dismissal for ALL Schools (Prof. Development for Staff)

May 27 Memorial Day (School Closed)

June 20 Last Day of School (Early Dismissal ALL Schools)
 End of Trimester Grades 1-6 / End of Quarter Grades 7-12

June 20 GRADUATION Fixed Date- will not change

(180) Total Student Days

- ★ Student's First/Last Day of School
- Professional Development Day
No School for Students
- ◇ School Holidays
- School Break
- ◊ Early Dismissal Elem ONLY (gr. K-6)
for Parent Conferences
- ▽ Early Dismissal ALL Schools

Date in BOLD - End of Quarter Grades for 7-12

Date in italicized BOLD - End of Trimester Grades for 1-6

Spring Recess Subject to Change: If on March 1, 2013 we have exceeded our Emergency Days, each additional day will be deducted from the end of Spring Recess, starting with April 19 and working back to April 15.

◊ High School graduation, is a fixed date of June 20th

February 2013 (15) (109)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2013 (20) (129)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

April 2013 (16) (145)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

May 2013 (21) (166)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2013 (14) (180)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2013 (0) (0)

S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

◊ Make-up Days for Emergency Closings: April 22, May 24, June 21, 24, 25 (April 19,18,17,16,15)

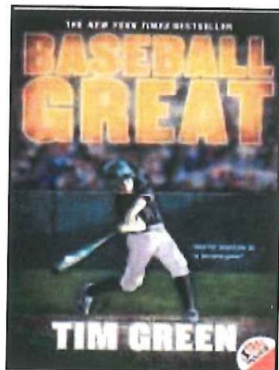
APPROVED January 17, 2012 by the Regional Supervision District Committee

School Events, BOE Meeting schedules, agendas and minutes are available through the district website at www.reg4.k12.ct.us



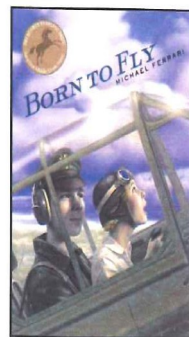
2013 Intermediate Nutmeg Nominees

Students in grades 3-6 are encouraged to participate. Students in grades 4-6 will vote in January of 2013. Let's get started now! The Nutmeg Book Award is the Connecticut Book Award. Competition is held each year. Winning books are selected by Connecticut Public School students. How many of the nominated books will you read this year?



Baseball Great
Tim Green
Realistic

Something is not right with
Josh's new team



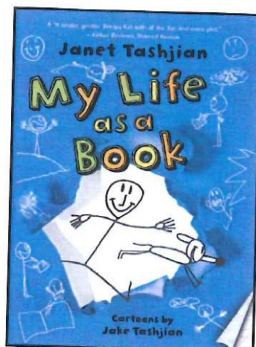
Born to Fly
Michael Ferrari
Historical Fiction

World War I spy story



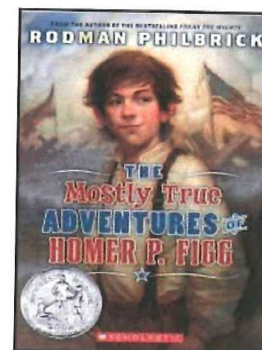
Because of Mr. Terupt
Rob Buyea
Realistic

A special teacher inspires
students



My Life as a Book
Janet Tashjian
Realistic

Derek and his summer camp
friends solve a mystery

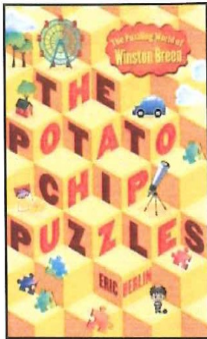


The Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg
Rodman Philbrick
Historical Fiction

Boy joins the Civil War

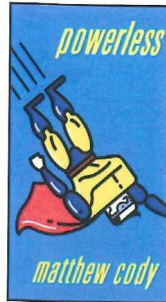


Nutmeg Nominees—continued



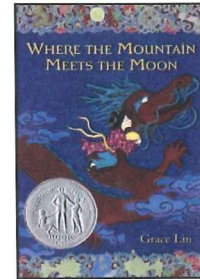
The Potato Chip Puzzle
Eric Berlin
Mystery

Who is cheating at the puzzle hunt contest?



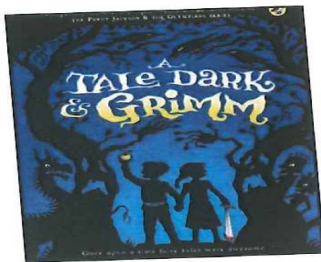
Powerless
Matthew Cody
Fantasy

Superhero kids meet comic book mystery



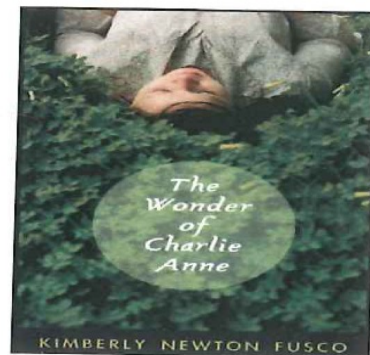
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon
Grace Lin
Fantasy

Minli journeys to find the Old Man in the Moon



A Tale Dark and Grimm
Adam Gidwitz
Fantasy

Hansel & Gretel star in 8 other Grimm tales.



The Wonder of Charlie Anne
Kimberly Fusco
Historical Fiction

Friendship amidst racial tension



Little Things Mean a Lot

All kinds of small, simple actions can mean a lot to children and youth. Whether done by adults, young adults, or young people themselves, the action ideas listed below are ways to start asset building or to expand the asset building you're already doing. Read the ideas and choose one (or make up one of your own) that you'd like to start doing right away.

Ideas for Young People

- Start a book club with friends and read just for fun.
- Volunteer at a local animal shelter, nursing home, or community center.
- Discuss with other young people in your neighborhood what's good about where you live and what you could do to make things better.
- Get to know an adult you admire.
- Make a point of saying hello to your neighbors.
- Watch a little less TV and find something new and interesting to try. (How about arts and crafts? crocheting? playing an instrument?)
- Identify something each member of your family is good at and learn from them.
- Say more positive things to friends and family than negative ones.
- Offer to help a younger child with school work or hobbies.

Ideas for Adults

- Speak positively about young people and defend them when other adults put them down.
- Organize a musical instrument drive to encourage people to donate used but working instruments to a school or youth program.
- Take time to play or talk with young people who live or work near you.
- Find out whether young people in your neighborhood have safe, healthy places to go after school.
- Learn the names of children and teenagers in your neighborhood and greet them by name.
- When young workers at a grocery store, drug store, or fast-food restaurant wait on you, greet them in a friendly manner and compliment them on something (their unusual hairstyle, their good work).



Nurture in young people a commitment to learning

One of the keys to a successful adulthood is getting a good education. It's something every parent wants for her or his child. But getting that good education requires – from both students and parents – a strong commitment to learning.

Commitment to learning includes the desire to succeed in school, a sense of the lasting importance of learning, and a belief in one's own abilities. This commitment is strongly influenced by relationships with family and peers, as well as by the school environment.

How can you nurture that commitment in the young people you know? Studies include a number of ways, including support, school reforms, and reading aloud:

- By supporting young people and reminding them of the intrinsic rewards of learning, schools, family, and community members can help them deepen their engagement in learning.
- In a national sample of nearly 9,000 young people in grade 8, researchers found that students in schools employing team teaching, less departmentalization of subjects, and less tracking had somewhat higher average levels of engagement and achievement.
- When children are read to, especially by more than one person, have book collections in the home, and have limits on TV watching, they are more likely as adolescents to read for pleasure and for lifelong learning.

But how do those study findings translate into everyday actions? Search Institute asked a group of young people for their ideas, and the students offered these suggestions:

Keep classes small; keep hallways friendly; pay attention to me; help me treat school as if it is my job; welcome me; respect me; treat me like a human being; introduce me to a new author; be excited about your subject; be sincere; and give me a chance (and a break every once in a while).

March

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS CMT SCHEDULE FOR GRADES 3-6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	27	28	29	1	2	3
4	5	6 DAW - Direct Assessment of Writing	7 DRP - Degrees of Reading Power	8 Reading Comp I	9 Make-up Day	10
11	12 Make-up Day	13 Math I	14 Reading Comp II	15 Math II	16 Make-up Day	17
18	19 Make-up Day	20 Editing & Revising	21 Math III (15&6) Make-up Day (5&4)	22 Science (5) Make-up Day (3, 4, 6)	23 Make-up Day (12 DAY)	24
25	26	27 Supplemental Testing Make-up Day	28	29	30	31 ADVANCED STUDENT

2012