

# DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## Upcoming Events

- **April 1st - DRES PTO Meeting - 6:30 PM in the DRES Media Center**
- **April 11th - DRES Spring Band Concert - 2:00PM & 7:00PM**
- **April 12th - Early Dismissal Day - 1:00 PM: Teacher Professional Development**
- **April 15th - April 19th - NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK**
- **April 22nd - NO SCHOOL SNOWFLAKE Day**
- **April 23rd - Students return from Spring Break**
- **April 24th - DRES Annual "Tip-a-Teacher" Event - 5:00 - 8:00 at Saint Joseph's Parish Center in Chester, CT**
- **April 25th - Fire Fighter Phil Assembly Grades K - 4 - 9:00AM**
- **May 6 - Smarter Balanced Assessment Begins - Grades 3 - 6**



## Classroom Placements for 2019 - 2020

Each May, the DRES staff begins to formulate class lists for the upcoming school year. Below is the process that we use to help us with this challenging task.

When the staff considers placement of children for the following school year, many variables are taken into consideration. These include heterogeneous groups, reading groups, social interactions, number of girls and boys, number of children requiring additional assistance and enrichment, the total number of children in a classroom, and teacher observations and judgments.

During May, grade level and special education teachers will meet with the administration and support staff to consult about student placements. The process is a thoughtful and deliberate one.

I know that you have always trusted the staff's judgment and have had confidence in their recommendations and professional competence. We are requesting that you continue to rely on their professional expertise. This team will place your child in the best educational environment to ensure optimum learning and growth. Recommendations made by the special education team for grade placement are diligently implemented.

**Please know that we cannot honor specific teacher requests. However, we welcome, in writing, your input and observations about your child's learning style, learning needs, and the type of environment in which you believe your child will be most successful. These letters should be addressed to Mr. Strickland, Principal, and should be received by Wednesday, April 24.**

As has been the practice for the past few years, placements for the next school year will be indicated on your child's report card which will be sent home on the last day of school. Placements will not change after they are sent home. We thank you for your support and cooperation.

**DRES Science Fair and Invention Convention**

Once again the DRES Science Fair and Invention Convention were a tremendous success. We would like to thank all of our community volunteers who came to help judge the various experiments and inventions. Our students did not make it easy on them! We are incredibly proud of all those who participated. Below is a list of students who were recognized in the top three of each of the grade level bands.

**Winners for the Invention Convention**

- 1st - Kenny Batt - No Time 4 Leaves
- 2nd - Madelyn Riebold - George The Magic Bag Opener
- 3rd - Addie Guzalis - No-Nightstand Stand

**Winners for The Science Fair**

**Kindergarten Band**

- 1st - Kallen Whaley - Yummy Gummy Bear Lab
- 2nd - Miles Lewis - Down the Ramp We Go
- 3rd - Ivy Bauer - Which Nail Will Rust First?

**Grades 1 -2 Band**

- 1st - Tyler Bianco - Gummy Bear Investigation
- 2nd - Henry Tressel - Lego Car Speed
- 3rd - Hutch Guzallis - The Best Ramp

**Grades 3 -4 Band**

- 1st - Jonah Morrissey - What Type of Light Bulb Makes a Plant Grow Taller
- 2nd - Scout Kornacki - Yeti or Not
- 2nd - William Tressel - Rocket Science
- 3rd - Caterina Wilson - Plants Living Without Water

**Grades 5 -6 Band**

- 1st - Regan Grow - Which Battery is Best?
- 2nd Corallina Giuliano - Which Brand of Bread Will Mold Faster?
- 3rd - Holly Board - Which Cake Brand Mix is Worth the Price?

**TIP A TEACHER RETURNS!!!**

The DRES Annual Tip-A-Teacher Pasta Dinner is returning. Each year we have used this event to raise money for important causes both locally and globally. We would love to keep the momentum going forward!

This year we will be hosting this event at Saint Joseph’s Parish Center in Chester. So...mark your calendars! The Thirteenth Annual Tip-A-Teacher Pasta Dinner night will be on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at Saint Joseph’s Parish Center in support of Bikes for Kids is a Connecticut based organization that brings smiles to children one bike at a time. Their volunteers collect, repair and safety test donated used bicycles. The refurbished bicycles, along with new helmets, are given away to individuals of all ages and needs. Most donated bicycles remain in Connecticut, but some have reached children in other states and countries. More than 1,000 bicycles are given away annually! The mission at Bikes for Kids is for every child to be able to experience the enjoyment of owning and riding their own bicycle. Bikes for Kids believes that the freedom and friendship that comes from exploring a neighborhood by bike is invaluable. Riding a bike is a skill that contributes to a sense of independence and self-esteem while supporting a healthy lifestyle.

Similar to the last two years there will be two seatings. One will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 and a second seating will be from 6:30 - 7:30. We hope that you can come and join us for an evening of fun, great food, raffles and prizes while being served by staff members of DRES and supporting these important causes. Tickets are available through the office. The ticket form and additional information can also be found on the DRES School Website.



# Smarter Balanced Assessment

As you may be aware, the Smarter Balanced Assessment is taken state wide in grades 3- 6 to assess their knowledge in english/language arts and mathematics. AT DRES this will begin on May 6th.

As we begin testing, we are looking to partner with our Deep River families as we have done so many times in the past. Working together, we can help our students persevere and be successful as they take the Smarter Balanced Assessments. Here are some ways you can assist us in doing what is best for our kids:

- Try to tailor activities so that children get a good night's sleep prior to testing.
- Be sure that your child has a good breakfast and/or a fulfilling lunch as testing sessions will vary between morning and afternoon.
- Be on time to school. Tardy students cannot be admitted into classes once testing has started and have to make up tests during class time.
- Prepare your child with realistic expectations by reminding him or her that while this test is challenging, they can do it! Reinforce daily that all anyone is looking for is their "best effort."
- Anticipate that some children will naturally be a little nervous or stressed, but if you see signs of extreme stress or anxiety please contact the classroom teacher so that we can reassure your child.
- Encourage your child to work slowly and carefully, read everything on the screen, and avoid the urge to just "click" their way through the computerized questions.
- It is without question that our Deep River Students will make us proud by doing what they have always done by rising to the occasion and giving their very best.



## April Math Corner

How often do we, as adults, use estimation in our daily lives? Frequently!

*I used about a teaspoon of salt in that recipe. I ran close to 3 miles. Dinner will be ready in a little less than an hour. We need about 4 large pizzas for the party--that should cost approximately \$80.*

From a very young age, students are taught the concept of estimation. As children get older, they are instructed in how to use educated guesses and move toward strategies that include rounding, front-end estimation or using compatible numbers. Why is estimation so important? Students develop number sense and problem solving abilities as they move toward the skill of determining whether a value, an amount or a solution to a problem is reasonable. They learn to mentally manipulate numbers to perform calculations. The ability to understand a quantity and present a rough estimate is a skill adults use every day. We don't always have exact facts and figures available to us. Even though we rely on technology and often complete calculations on a cell phone calculator, it's important to know whether an answer is reasonable....sometimes we may type in the wrong number!

Find opportunities to help your child make estimations that involve time, money, volume, distance and quantity. Use vocabulary that includes *about, approximately, a little more than, some, etc.*

Compare unknowns to knowns. Example:

- If it's 50 feet from the fence to the mailbox, how far is it from the garage to the end of our driveway?
- If this plastic container holds 1 cup of water, how much water would fill this spaghetti pot?
- If we usually buy one large pizza for our family, how many pizzas should we order if we're inviting 12 people for dinner?

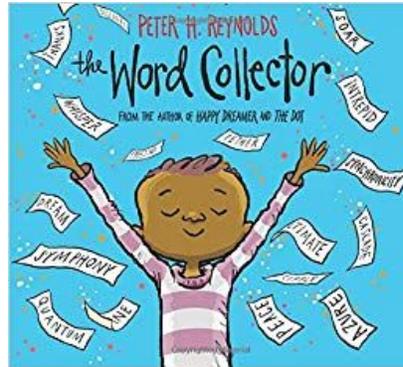
Help students round numbers to estimate. Example:

- Our purchase includes a gallon of milk at \$3.99 (about \$4), eggs at \$1.79 (about \$2) and a loaf of bread at \$3.69 (about \$4). I'll spend about \$10, or a bit less, since I rounded up.
- It's 3:17 pm now and we have to leave for dance class at 4:30. We need to be ready about an hour from now.
- If you're adding  $468 + 213$ , I'm not sure how your sum is 1,181. That seems high since  $500 + 200$  is closer to 700. Please check your calculations.

Encourage compatible numbers:

- When finding the solution to  $276 \div 89$ , encourage rounding to  $300 \div 100$  or  $270 \div 90$  since these combinations are easy to divide mentally.

**-Mrs. Shakun**



**Words Have Power, Wordless Picture Books Have Power Too!**

*By: Dana Kerop DRES Intermediate Reading Consultant*

We have all heard the old adage “words have power”, if anything could be added to that, it would be that they have particular power for the young minds that are growing and expanding daily at Deep River Elementary School. Recently, I came upon a new book by a favorite author, Peter H. Reynolds, who wrote The Dot, Ish, So Few of Me and many others. The Word Collector is his latest title that in his usual writing style, holds a simple and lovely message. The more words that your children “collect”, “string together”, and “share” will increase their reading and writing skills but will also inspire others to do the very same. I have taken apart and posted this new title in the hallway heading up to the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade classrooms for students to read as they travel up and down the stairs. It has received lots of attention so far as it’s message is being heard by our intermediate students!

Wordless picture books are perceived by older children as “easy” to read but in fact are as complex as their worded counterparts. Wordless picture books provide a space for older readers to think deeply and critically about story elements such as character development, story structure, theme, plot elements, morals and many more higher level thinking, reading and writing skills. One area in particular is the interpretive skill of inferencing. Some describe this as reading or writing between the lines as there are many clues that our minds must pull together to understand what is really being said by the author. Thus far, I have posted Tuesday by David Wiesner, Pancakes for Breakfast by Tomi dePaola, and Zoom by Istvan Banyai. We have found students making up their own words to accompany the pictures and working their minds to infer what these wordless stories are really about.

**Check out what's happening behind the scenes in Instrumental Music...**



**\*\*\*The Instrumental Music Spring Concert will be held on Thursday, April 11th at 7:00 pm** in the DRES gymnasium. This is a change in both date and time to resolve scheduling conflicts within the community\*\*\*

Our **Beginner Band** students in grade 4 having been doing an excellent job in instrumental lessons. They have been steadily developing their skills to become more proficient on their instruments, building their musical vocabulary and deciphering more challenging music. In addition, the students have been working together in band rehearsals to prepare for their concert, focusing on bridging more intricate interactions within the ensemble.

Grade five & six students in the **Advanced Band** have continued to enhance their articulation and dynamic skills within the band, They have expanded their understanding of musical terms and their application within their music. In addition, they have been challenged with more technically demanding repertoire. All of this translates to a more effective and engaging final performance.

Finally, students in our **Jazz Band** have been hard at work during their rehearsals after school. They have been developing keen skills in interpreting music of different styles and adjusting their performance accordingly. They have also been learning about the nuances of incorporating a rhythm section into the band. They're doing a fantastic job!

**Media Minute**

Karen Macaione  
Media Specialist



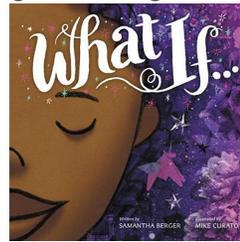
On March 1, students at DRES celebrated Read Across America Day. Grades K-2 spent the morning in their pajamas, in the library reading.



In the afternoon, all students listened to the book *What if*. The books were read by students from Valley's National Honor Society. After the story, students had the opportunity to create.



**Habits of Mind-Creating, Imagining, Innovating- Persisting**



**What If...** This girl is determined to express herself! If she can't draw her dreams, she'll sculpt or build, carve or collage. If she can't do that, she'll turn her world into a canvas. And if everything around her is taken away, she'll sing, dance, and dream...Stunning mixed media illustrations, lyrical text, and a breathtaking gatefold conjure powerful magic in this heartfelt affirmation of art, imagination, and the resilience of the human spirit. *Review from GoodReads*

**3D Printers!**

Thanks to the Gray Foundation and DRES

PTO, our students now have the opportunity to imagine, design, create, and print in 3D.





Bikes for Kids is a Connecticut based organization that brings smiles to children one bike at a time. Their volunteers collect, repair and safety test donated used bicycles. The refurbished bicycles, along with new helmets, are given away to individuals of all ages and needs. Most donated bicycles remain in Connecticut, but some have reached children in other states and countries. More than 1,000 bicycles are given away annually! The mission at Bikes for Kids is for every child to be able to experience the enjoyment of owning and riding their own bicycle. Bikes for Kids believes that the freedom and friendship that comes from exploring a neighborhood by bike is invaluable. Riding a bike is a skill that contributes to a sense of independence and self-esteem while supporting a healthy lifestyle.

**WHERE:** Saint Joseph's Parish Center Chester, CT

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 24th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm

**COST:** Adults: \$10.00 Children(12 & under): \$5.00  
Dinner includes: salad, pasta, bread, drinks and dessert

**Enjoy some family fun and yummy food for a great cause!**

Raffles and Prizes!



Games and Activities



Face Painting and more!

Contact Karen Beni or Laura Kaspro at Deep River Elementary School (860) 526-5319 for information.

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