

DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Upcoming Events

- **June 3rd - DRES PTO Meeting: 6:30 PM in the Media Center**
- **June 4th - Grade 6 Bushy Hill Day (Rain Date - June 5th)**
- **June 6th - Final DRES Town Meeting & Summer Reading Kick-Off 2:15 PM**
- **June 7th - 3-5 Field Day (Rain Date June 10th)**
- **June 10th - 11th - DRES Summer Book Swap**
- **June 12th - DRES Awards Assembly for Grades 2 - 6: 10:00 AM in the DRES Gymnasium**
- **June 13th - Grade 6 Promotion Night: 6:00 PM at Town Hall**
- **June 14th - Last Day of School: 1:00 PM Dismissal - Report Cards Sent Home**

Why Choose Love?

In the 1990's Region 4 started its formal Character Education with a Program called Project Charlie. It had a heavy emphasis on drug abuse prevention, decision making, self awareness and relationship skills. This program, in some form, stayed in place until 2011 when the DRES Social Development committee made a shift to monthly Character Education themes using the School Code of Conduct as our guide. Each month teachers would receive a lesson emphasizing a different theme. Eventually, we differentiated the lessons so they were grade level appropriate. Two years ago we made a shift to emphasize Mindfulness within the whole school. Each classroom has a mindfulness jar and we started doing a mindful minute after the recess/lunch time and putting mindfulness practices in place.

All of these things had value but in looking for a program that emphasized positive caring character traits we found the ***Choose Love Program***. Since it was developed by educators it is teacher friendly and it aligns with Common Core Standards as well as national counseling standards. So we get a lot of academic as well as social value with Choose Love. It's free, online and available to everyone. It spans toddler age to Senior year in High School and there's a home component. Of all the programs researched and used this one makes the most sense, is the most comprehensive and it works to integrate and build skills, not focus on deficits.

The Committee agreed and that started our journey with Choose Love. This year we have implemented the program with weekly teacher directed class lessons focused on the following core concepts:

~**Courage** ~ The ability and willingness to confront fear and uncertainty

~**Gratitude** ~ Mindful thankfulness and the ability to be thankful even when things in life are challenging

"Dear DRES"

Dear DRES Students and Families,

It is hard to believe but on June 14 we will be closing out the 2018 - 2019 school year. This has been an incredible year filled with new programming, a clear focus on building our students' critical and creative problem solving abilities, and helping our students to build mindfulness throughout their school day. As we should each year, we have continued to evolve and grow ourselves with a mindset of continuous improvement for our children.

I would like to thank our teachers and supporting educational staff for their hard work each and every day at our school. Each school year brings new challenges, and it is always my expectation that the Deep River Team rises and meets those challenges in the best interest of our students and families.

I would also like to thank our Board of Education, PTO and parent community at large. I continue to share my belief that strong communities create a strong school. Deep River and Deep River Elementary School are special places that support each other. Our students are truly fortunate to grow and develop in our town.

If I don't get the chance over our last few weeks to tell you in person, I wish you and your family an enjoyable summer! Encourage your children to read, explore and play outside!

-Mr. Strickland



~**Forgiveness** ~ Choosing to let go of anger and resentment toward yourself or someone else, to surrender thoughts of revenge, and to move forward with your personal power intact

~**Compassion** ~ Understanding the problem or suffering of another and acting to help solve the problem; empathy in action

As we conclude our first year we are ready to make a move and adopt the Choose Love Pledge as our Code of Conduct. The old one has served us well but it is time to move forward and Choose Love.

We hope you will join us on this journey and we look forward to expanding this movement in more ways in school, at home and in the community. Here's the Pledge ~

Choose Love Pledge

We will have Courage even when things are hard.

We will have an attitude of Gratitude.

We will choose loving thoughts over angry thoughts.

We will show Compassion in our words and actions.

Thanks for your support!

Laura Kaspro, School Social Worker & DRES
Social Development Committee



FROM THE MATH COACH

Over the course of this school year I have had the privilege of working with your children and watching them grow as mathematicians. Supported by a tireless team of amazing teachers and powered by their inquisitive young minds, students have grown not only in their mathematical skills, but in their critical thinking and creative problem solving capabilities.

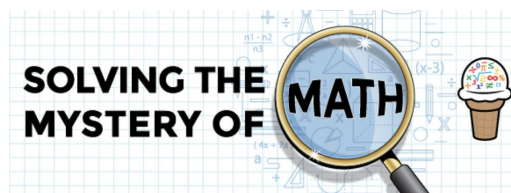
Our second, and very successful, year with the Bridges K-5 Math program, and our pilot of Illustrative Math/Open Up Resources for Grade 6, has seen students tackle challenging word problems, evaluate equations with variables, estimate measurements, compare and categorize shapes, draw models to represent multiplication problems, etc. The list goes on! Our students have learned so much since September! Often, kindergarten students were excited to tell me about the “fun math” they were doing, and their enthusiasm for learning carried forward into the older grades. While the older students may not be as vocal, their quick smiles clearly revealed their pride when discovering solutions to rigorous problems.

In addition to the progress made in every classroom this year, students demonstrated mathematical thinking by participating in posted math challenge board problems, reading posted math trivia and completing challenging Continental Math League tasks.

As we head into June and vacation and celebrate all that our beautiful New England summers offer, please help keep your child’s math brain turned on. Incorporate simple math into your child’s day with real life questions involving money, time, measuring, adding, sorting and calculating percents. Look out for the Summer Math Challenge paperwork put out by the CT State Department of Education that will come home soon and encourage your child to participate.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Shakun



Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge!



It is that time of year again where our school year is winding down and summer vacation is right around the corner. Like in previous years, DRES will be participating in the Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge! This year's theme is A Universe of Stories.

The purpose of the Connecticut Governor's Reading Challenge is to provide students with the incentive to read over the course of the summer months. Students will be given the materials to participate in the summer reading challenge sometime during the last week of school prior to summer vacation. The materials for the Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge consist of a student journal, where students are to list the titles of books they have read over the summer and suggested summer reading lists pertaining to students' grade levels. These lists suggest potential titles that students may enjoy reading over the summer based upon their grade level. If students should lose or misplace their materials over the summer, you can access materials on the Reading Consultant webpage linked to the DRES website, or the materials can also be accessed on the Connecticut State Department of Education website (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/CTRead/Connecticut-Reads>).

Reading over the summer months is crucial to avoid the "summer slide." Also, reading over the summer keeps your brain fresh and full of ideas ready for a new school year to begin. Students who complete the Reading Challenge can turn in their student journal come next school year and engage in an additional fun activity time. This is only for students who complete the challenge. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding the materials for summer reading, please feel free to contact us at DRES.

We hope that you will help support and promote summer reading with your child at home this summer. Because sitting back this summer with some good books is the best way to not only be ready for next school year, but to initiate a lifelong love of reading.

Happy Reading!



Media Minute

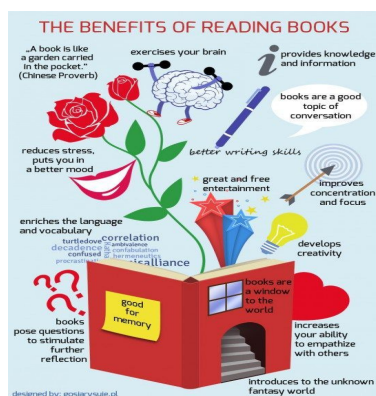
Karen Macaione
Media Specialist



Summer reading lists and reading logs will be going home in June. Please have your child read during the summer and fill out their reading logs. In September, children that return their reading log with titles (one needs to be grade level appropriate) will receive some special time.

Book suggestions for students in grades K-2
: <https://www.readbrightly.com/summer-books-for-growing-readers/>

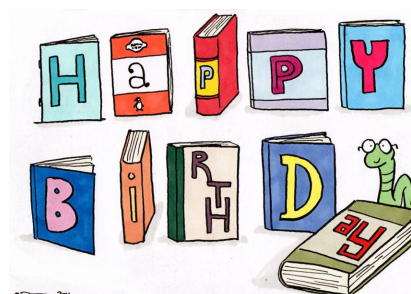
Book suggestions for students in grades 3-6
<https://www.readbrightly.com/summer-books-for-tweens/>.



Please return library books by June 3.

**MAKERSPACE**

The students have been busy creating and adjusting their own ideas in the makerspace.



The media center acquired over 65 new "birthday books" this year. A HUGE thank you to Jennifer Donahue who coordinated this task for years. Her time and effort will enhance the DRES Media Center for years to come. We wish her and her daughter the best as they move up to John Winthrop. Thank you to the parents that donated a book in their child's name.

Critical and Creative Problem Solving and Habits of Mind - Second Grade

The Challenge:

The second grade students were asked to design a treehouse..

The other criteria were as follows:

- Show that there is a way to get into the tree house.
- Once in the tree house, show how they would prevent someone from falling out
- Use a previously painted landscape with a big tree on it to create the house

To accomplish the task, they were allowed to use supplies provided.

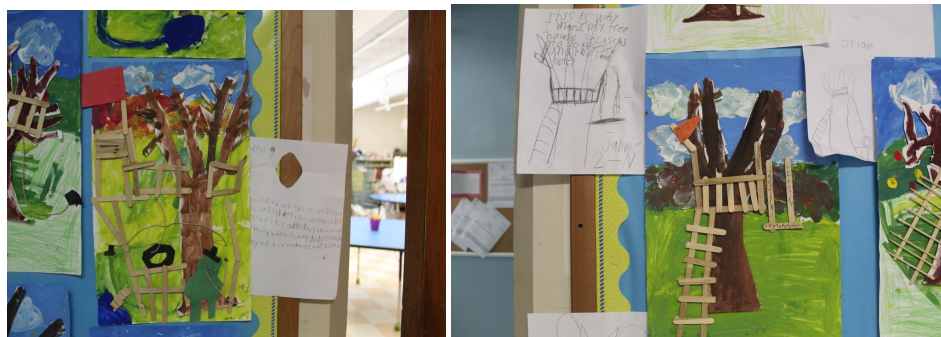
The Process:

- Students were required to make a plan of their tree house.
- Within the plan they had list the possible things they might use for supplies.
- Share their ideas with their groups (table)
- create

It was fun to watch the students share the many different ways to solve the problem and what they changed in their plan and why.

Students were encouraged to make conscious choices and find multiple answers to the given problem through the critical and creative process.

Habits of Mind: When we talk about habits of mind and how it relates to everyday in the art room. This project required students to **manage impulsivity**; take their time, and think about their plan before glueing. **Responding with wonderment and awe** by having fun figuring it out. They did not want to stop were so excited with their accomplishments.



Behind The Art Room Door Critical and Creative Problem Solving and Habits of Mind - Sixth grade

The Challenge:

The sixth grade students were asked to create a Long Island seabird.

The other criteria were as follows:

- The form of the bird needed to be made from news paper and paper mache'
- Only plastics can be used to cover the body

To accomplish the task, they were provided with classroom supplies but were also allowed to supplement by bringing in things from home such as any type of plastic containers, or items that are plastic that may not be recyclable. By adding these supplies to their sculptures they would create a piece of art that would be uniquely their own.

The Process:

- Students were required to make a plan, research, draw and color in a picture of the bird they wanted to create.
- Within the plan they had to list the possible things they might use for supplies.
- Share their ideas with their groups (table)
- Create the form and add plastics creatively

It was exciting to see the different ways students approached the problem.

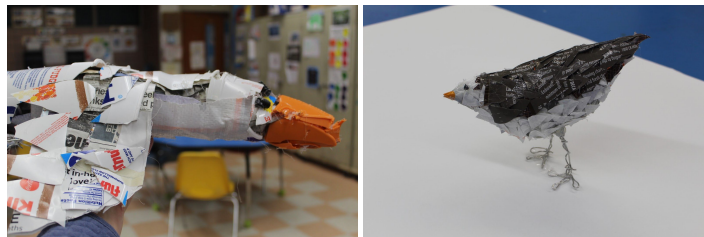
Students were encouraged to make conscious choices and find multiple answers to the given problem through the critical and creative process.

When everyone's sculpture was complete, each student articulated his/her artistic thinking and process of each sculpture to their group.

Habits of Mind: When we talk about habits of mind and how it relates to everyday in the art room, this project the students needed to be **Persistent** and see the project through to the end.

Think flexibly by looking at plastics as a supply. **Creating, imagining and innovating**

By trying different ways of construction especially with applying feathers to the birds made from plastics and finally how they were going to make it an original.



FROM THE DRES PTO

DRES PTO Meeting Minutes - May 6, 2019 - Location: DRES Media Center

Attendees: Christian Strickland, Heidi Degree, Katie Bauer, Annie Lewis, Miriam Morrissey, Angela Tressel, Cari Kruzel-Boxwell, Keri MacLean and Krista Farrell

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. The following topics were discussed:

Secretary Report - Katie Bauer

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the meeting on April 1, 2019. The motion was seconded and it passed unanimously.

Principal's Report - Mr. Strickland

Mr. Strickland thanked the Teacher Appreciation Committee for their efforts in showing their appreciation to the DRES teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is underway - May 7th-14th

Field Trips for Grades: K, 1, 2 and 3 will be this month and will be centered around plant and animal adaptations.

May 14th- Bullying Assembly

May 23rd- Choral Concert 2:00 and 6:30

May 24th- Memorial Day Assembly 10:15 and early dismissal

May 27th- DRES Band to march in DR Memorial Day Parade

June 7th- Field Day for grades 3-5

June 10th-11- Summer Book Swap

Park and Rec- Miriam Morrissey

Camp Registration is ongoing

Fishing Derby- May 11th

Carnival- June 21, 22 and 23

Information regarding bus trips can be found on Park and Rec website

Board of Education- Miriam Morrissey

Budget Public Hearing Town Hall May 7th at 7:30

Region 4 Budget Vote Monday 6th from 12:00 p.m - 8:00 p.m.

May 20th at 7:30 p.m. Town Budget meeting and vote

Vice President Report- Annie Lewis

Essex Savings Bank granted DRES with \$212

Treasurer Report- Miriam Morrissey

Savings- \$11,976.53

Checking- \$14,038.22

Committee Reports

Yearbook- In need of a new chair for the 2019-2020 school year

Next meeting June 3rd, 2019

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



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