

DEEP RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Mr. Christian J. Strickland | cstrickland@reg4.k12.ct.us | 860-526-5319

Upcoming Events

- **June 1st - K- 2 Field Day**
- **June 1st - Grade 5 - Sturbridge Village Trip**
- **June 1st - Grade 6 Ice Cream Social - John Winthrop M.S. 6:30PM**
- **June 4th - ACES & RACES Event**
- **June 4th - DRES PTO Meeting: 7:00 PM in the Media Center**
- **June 5th - Grade 6 Bushy Hill Trip**
- **June 8th - 3-5 Field Day**
- **June 11th - Town Meeting and Summer Reading Kick-off - 9:30AM**
- **June 13th - DRES Awards Assembly for Grades 2 - 6: 10:00 AM in the DRES Gymnasium**
- **June 14th - 15th DRES Summer Book Swap**
- **June 14th - Grade 6 Promotion Night: 6:00 PM at Town Hall**
- **June 19th - Last Day of School: 1:00 PM Dismissal - Report Cards Sent Home**

Summer Reading - Make Sure “They Do” Instead of “They Don’t”

Summer Vacation! Kids long to hear those words come out of our mouths. But with the thought of summer vacation, comes student downtime. While all children need downtime, it is important that kids continue to engage in reading over the summer so that they don't diminish the skills that they spent all year long developing.

Children these days have a wealth of choices, from DK Eyewitness books to *Harry Potter*. They have a mind-boggling assortment of fiction and nonfiction choices. As parents, one of your major roles is to make sure that children set aside time every day to read - to read for pleasure, for information, for the vicarious thrill of living in an imaginary world. Why is this so important?

- Children need to engage with books every day so they can maintain, and ideally strengthen, all the literacy skills they learned during the previous school year. Assistant Principal Twana Santana-Embry compares reading to exercising, telling her students that any time they read they are "strengthening their reading muscles."

- The stakes for children who do not read over summer vacation are high. Substantial research on this topic shows it's usually the students who can least afford to lose ground as readers who are most likely to suffer from summer reading loss and fall far behind their peers.

- The few months of loss in reading skills compounds over the years; by the time children reach middle school, those who haven't read during the summers may have lost as much as two years worth of achievement.

The good news is that if children read just six books over summer vacation, they will likely avoid summer reading loss. Here are a few ideas for reaching--and going beyond--this six book goal:

- Take books with you and your child everywhere you go; to the doctor's office, on picnics, on road trips, etc.

- Let your child choose the books she wants to read (as long as they're age-appropriate and are written at the *just right* level of difficulty).

"Dear DRES"

Dear DRES Students and Families,

It is hard to believe but on June 19 we will be closing out the 2017 - 2018 school year. This has been an incredible year filled with new programming in mathematics, 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



- Support his reading experience by talking about the books and helping him understand and interpret what he reads.
- Read aloud to your child, even if he can read on his own. It helps build vocabulary and listening comprehension skills.
- As you're reading aloud, be sure to interact with your child by asking what she thinks might happen next, what a certain character is likely to do, whether the story is real or make-believe, and so forth. Above all, have fun!
- If you are more comfortable reading to your child in a language other than English, by all means do so. What your child learns in his or her native language will help create a bridge to learning English.
- Encourage your child to participate in a summer reading program. DRES will once again be participating in the Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. The Connecticut Governor's Summer Reading Challenge encourages children to keep a log of all the books they read over the summer. At the beginning of next school year students can turn in their reading log to Ms. Macaione and will receive a reward. All the materials needed to participate in the challenge will be distributed to each student at DRES closer to the end of school. Also, be sure to check out the Deep River Public Library and see what interesting summer offerings they have in store.

•In addition to reading books, children can practice their reading skills by engaging in many different online reading experiences. Literacy-building sites such as [PBS KIDS Island](#) for children ages 3-5, and the [Great Word Quest](#) for ages 6-8 (both of which are free) are great examples.

We truly believe that encouraging your child to continue flexing his or her reading muscles over summer vacation is the single most important thing you can do to help develop literacy learning, and to ensure that they begin next school year with a flying start.

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer!

Sincerely,
Dr. Ricci & Mrs. Kerop DRES Reading
Consultants

MRS. SHAKUN'S MATH CORNER

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 first, and very successful, year with the Bridges and Engage New York math programs 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



Mrs. Macaione's Media Minute June 2018

What Should I Read This Summer?

During library time, classes have been busy looking at different types of books to read during the summer. We have looked at favorite series and authors. Students shared their favorite books. Here are a few suggestions.

First Grade

Henry and Mudge
Junie B. Jones
Mercy Watson

Second Grade

The Zack Files
The Miniature World of
Marvin and James
Magic Tree House

Third Grade

I Survived series
Geronimo Stilton
Sideways Stories from
Wayside School

Fourth Grade

The Land of Stories
Ungifted
Wishtree

Fifth Grade

Hello Universe
Hoot
One for the Murphy's

Sixth Grade

Refugee
Echo
The Thing About Jellyfish

Bookopolis is another resource for book suggestions: <https://bookopolis.com/#/guest-summer-reading-2018>. 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.



SUMMER READING RALLY June 11th.



The media center acquired over 50 new “birthday books” this year. A huge thank you to Jennifer Donahue who coordinated this task and all the parents that donated a book in their child’s name.

MAKERSPACE

The students have been busy creating and adjusting their own ideas in the Makerspace. Students are learning that there is no fail, just an opportunity to try it a different way. Many times, they discover their design problem just needs a small tweak.



Three different ways to start a card tower, which one is more stable?



Students programming Sphero to move through a maze. Thinking critically to control speed and navigate turns through trial and error.



Students making a plan to create a movable object using cardboard tubes.

Please return ALL library books by June.

Have a wonderful summer!

Behind The Art Room Door Critical and Creative Problem Solving with First Grade.

Many of the art lessons in the primary grades are skill based so that every student gains knowledge of how to use the supplies and tools of the art room safely and with confidence. I also start to introduce the critical and creative problem solving process.

One of the creative problem solving first grade lessons entailed the students using a watercolor brush to get thin lines and thick lines with the same paint brush and to use a pattern with color . With completion, each student would create a watercolor paper that would then be rolled into tubes in order to use the tubes later as a base for a 3 dimensional sculpture.

The challenge:

- The first grade students were asked to create a small sculpture using their rolls of paper and a square base.
- The sculpture must have height(tall) depth (from front to back)and width (wide).
- It can not hang off the board

The process:

- Given their board and tubes they used trial and error to figure out how they could get their tubes to stand up.
- Students talked about ideas to their group (table)
- They then talked about what they could use to make it stay together and the problems with each adhesive(tape, masking tape, glue)

Students were encouraged to make conscious choices and find multiple answers to the given problem through the creative process When everyone's sculpture was complete, we put them all on one table look at them as a whole and then give each student a chance to answer the following questions:Does your sculpture have height, width and depth? Did you have any trouble making the sculpture look the way you wanted it to? If not, what would you do differently next time?



FROM THE DRES PTO

DRES PTO Meeting

Date: Monday, June 4, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: DRES Media Center



Welcome & Introductions - President Amy Petrone

1. Secretary Report - Katie Bauer - Review and Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from DRES PTO Meeting on 5/14/18
2. Principal's Report - DRES Principal Christian Strickland
3. DRES Board of Education Report
4. Deep River Park & Recreation Commission Report
5. Vice President Report - Angela Tressel
6. Treasurer Report - Miriam Morrissey
7. PTO Committee Reports (Baking, Bingo, Birthday Bulletin Board, Book Fair, Books for Birthdays, Box Tops, Day of the Arts, Field Day, Recycling, School Beautification, Sixth Grade Promotion Night (**6/14 - Status Report**), Someone Special Dance, Teacher Appreciation, STEM Day, Used Goods Drive, Veteran's Day, Winter Wonderland, Yearbook

Old Business/New Business:

June - Field Days

June 14 - Sixth Grade Promotion Night

1. Vote on Nominations for the 2018-2019 Executive Board

President or Co-Presidents

Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

2. Any other old/new business

3. **RAFFLE - FREE TO ENTER ~ MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN**

Adjournment



The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #4, and Supervision District Boards of Education are equal opportunity/affirmative action employers. The Chester, Deep River, Essex, Region #4, and Supervision District Boards of Education do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, marital status, national/ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, or disability in their programs, activities, and employment practices. Questions or complaints related to Title IX should be directed to Kristina Martineau, Assistant Superintendent, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River, CT 06417 or by phone at 860-526-2417; questions or complaints related to disabilities, should be directed to Sarah Smalley, Director of Pupil Services, 1 Winthrop Road, Deep River, CT 06417 or by phone at 860-526-2417.