

# SCS News

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Volume 4, Issue 8

April 2018



**TEACHER**  
**Appreciation Week!**  
**#thankateacher**

*May 7-11, 2018*

## *Principal's Corner*

May kicks off with a week of recognition for the dedicated, caring, hard-working educators all over the world. Here at SCS, we are especially fortunate to have a staff of educators who put their heart and soul, time, effort, talents, and endless support and love into the best intention of the students at Stewartstown Community School. Words cannot fully express how blessed we are to have such an amazing team at SCS! I would strongly encourage you to show your gratitude and thanks to our teachers during the week of May 7<sup>th</sup>. No money is necessary—teachers love and cherish (and the majority of them keep!) thank-you cards and hand-drawn pictures for decades to come!

I'm happy to announce that the students have successfully completed another year of statewide assessments, and are to be commended for great effort put forth! May is jam-packed with events so be sure to check out our Calendar of Events on page 5! Students will be enjoying end-of-the-year field trips, and our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be visiting local high schools as they begin thinking about their post-SCS careers. Stay tuned as we enter our home stretch...the ending to yet another school year is coming up! (Can you believe it?!)

Mrs. Mathieu

## MINDSET MATTERS!

### *Growth Mindset*

#### What Is It?

"We used to think that our intelligence was fixed—meaning we were either smart or we weren't. Scientists have proven again and again that simply is not true. Our brain acts like a muscle—the more we use it, the stronger (and smarter) our brain becomes.

#### Is Your Mindset Fixed?

A person with a fixed mindset may do these things:

- \* avoid challenges
- \* give up easily
- \* ignore feedback
- \* is threatened by other people's success
- \* try hard to appear as smart or capable as possible

#### What Does A Growth Mindset Look Like?

A person with a growth mindset may do these things:

- \* embrace challenges
- \* give their best effort
- \* learn from feedback
- \* become inspired by other people's successes
- \* believe their intelligence can change if they work hard"

*Sarah Gardner, 2015*



## *News from Pre-K / K*

We began the month of April learning about the four Seasons. We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of "real" Spring to observe the characteristics we learned about. When we finished learning about the Weather, Seasons and the Water Cycle, we voted on what the next topic in Science would be. The overwhelming majority voted to learn about plants. In the past two weeks, we've had lots of hands-on exploration, planting seeds, and examining roses and apple branches.

In Math we learned about writing number sentences of numbers up to ten using the part-part-whole model and have moved on to making the numbers 11 to 19 with a 10 and some ones. The concept of teen numbers has been difficult for some of the class. You can help out at home by counting groups of up to 20 objects and having your child make a group of ten and counting the "extras".

Mrs. Hemon



## *News from Grades 1 & 2*

April has flown by! We are hoping that the later vacation will bring us warmer weather!

In Math, first graders have been learning about measurement. First graders have used different objects such as cubes, paper clips, and straws to measure different objects. They especially liked getting to move around and measure different furniture in our classroom. They are now learning about telling and writing time to the hour. Second graders spent most of the month

exploring shapes. They learned about plane shapes and solid shapes. They then described different properties of them. Second graders are now learning about money. They will be practicing counting money, finding different ways to make an amount, and adding and subtracting different amounts of money.

In Language Arts, we have been reading different fairy tales, folktales, and fables. Students have enjoyed comparing different versions of fairy tales. We have also spent some time reading poetry. Students will have a chance to be creative and write their own poetry!

In Science, we have been learning about landforms. Students have researched the various types of landforms and are creating a 3 dimensional diagram of what they have learned. I am very excited to see how creative students will be when completing these projects!

Mrs. Ricker

## *News from Grades 3 & 4*

You may have heard something about "whimsy" from your child... Here's a little bit of information that hopefully will demystify it for you: Third and fourth grades are very fortunate to be able to participate in six visits from White Mountain Science (WMSI) this year. We are part of a pilot project that works to train youth leaders (a few SCS grade 8 students) to conduct Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) activities for younger students. WMSI is an organization based in Bethlehem, NH that seeks to excite children about STEM by offering an series of supported projects. As soon as we see Jeremy driving the WMSI van around front of the school, we start to get excited. What cool project might we get to create today? What new technology or devices might we get to experiment with? During the first session students worked in pairs to create a Stop Motion Animation video. The videos will go up on our class website, so please check in to see your child's work. I assure you, each video is pretty short, but involves many, many pictures to make. Have your child tell you the story while you watch-- some of the plots are pretty intricate! The second session will be designing drawing robots... sure to be a fun-filled afternoon of problem-solving. Many thanks to our grade 8 volunteers for helping to facilitate these sessions, and to WMSI for coming so far north!

Mrs. Hodge

## *News from Grade 5*

Since our last update, fifth graders finishers their work on division with decimals and have been exploring the importance of using the order of operations to solve mathematical expressions. This is, admittedly, a foreign concept to many, but everyone is picking up the skill quite quickly. They can find their own errors when they talk themselves through the steps. We still need more practice and our future will provide us with that opportunity.

The Westing Game is nearly done. We've had several lively class discussions about characters, plot events, and many of us are trying to solve the mystery for ourselves before the book ends. Our minds are going crazy. What a great book!

In Social Studies and Science, students are exploring more academic choices in how they learn certain content and how they will show or tell what they've learned. This has been a challenge for many, yet the responsibility had been embraced with excitement and fear. Students researched, in some manner, specific details regarding the War of 1812. This is a conflict that many of us know little about, but which had direct influence on certain aspects of the history of the United States. Our national anthem was written as a result of this war and parts of Washington, DC, as we know it today, are an outcome of this conflict too. Ask a fifth grader—they all know now. In Science, students had to show and/or tell what they learned about weathering and erosion. They each chose ways that appealed to them in some manner.

What will we study next?

Math—Fractions

ELA—to be determined???

Science—Rocks and Minerals

S.S.—Industrial Revolution then the Civil War if we can get to it before the year ends.

HAVE A WONDERFUL APRIL BREAK!!!!

Ms. Wonkka

## *News from JH Science*

Grades 6/7 students have been working hard on projects on the topic of space programs in the United States. Their choices were programs such as Apollo, Gemini, Skylab, and Space Shuttle. They were asked to

research the purpose of the program, cost, who were the people involved, where the facilities are found, and dates of missions and launches. Some students choose to work individually and some worked in pairs.

Grade 8 students have been also been working on a project. They are creating cell part analogies. Guest teacher Mrs. Dorman presented a YouTube video showing the students how cell parts can be compared to a city. With that example the students formulated their own analogies to present to their fellow classmates.

Mr. Kennedy

## *News from JH ELA & Social Studies*

Grades five through eight have started to learn the steps to argument writing. Mrs. Bergman spent time working with each class so that they could progress from opinion/persuasive writing pieces to argumentative pieces. After our spring break, we will continue to learn about and practice writing essays in this style.

The 6/7 and 8 Social Studies classes have all been working hard to get ready for the April Family Night. They are creating an Ancient Egypt Museum display that will show off all of their hard work. The evening should be lots of fun, with stations set up for creating words in hieroglyphics, making cartouches, and playing the Ancient Egyptian game Senet. There will also be a book fair running throughout the week.

Happy Vacation!

Mrs. Stebbins



## *News from the Resource Room*

April Showers (not snow showers) Should Bring May Flowers.

April is “National Poetry Month”. At school, we will celebrate it by participating in “Poem in Your Pocket”, reading, and writing different types of poetry. Here are 10 ways to celebrate “National Poetry Month”:

1. Sign up for Poem-a-Day and read a poem each morning.
2. Memorize a poem.
3. Create an anthology of your favorite poems on Poets.org.
4. Buy a book of poetry from your local bookstore.
5. Start a poetry reading group.
6. Chalk a poem on the sidewalk.
7. Read about poems titled “poem.”
8. Watch a poetry movie.
9. Celebrate Poem in Your Pocket Day today! The idea is simple: select poems you love, carry it with you, then share it with coworkers, family, and friends.
10. Read a poetry book from the library.

We all are very excited for Spring Break! I wish everyone a relaxing, fun-filled vacation! See you on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Miss Miller

### *News from the Media Center*

The yearbook students have worked very hard putting the yearbook together. It is in the finishing stages and should go out to the printer by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Delivery should be the first week of June.

The box tops have been trickling in to the library. Our raffle will be on the last day of school, June 19<sup>th</sup> (?). I am hoping for lots and lots of box tops to come in as this is our fundraiser for the yearbooks. Thank you to everyone who contributes, whether it is box tops or prizes.

Mrs. Placey

### *News from JH Math*

In our sixth grade class we are working a lot with ratios. We have discussed the different ways to represent ratios as well as modeling with drawings. Students have created their own games (board, matching, or electronic) to test peers knowledge of graphing equations, writing ratios and review of one & two step equations.

In our seventh grade class we have focused our time on learning and creating different types of graphs. Students have worked with line graphs, bar graphs,

scatter plots, stem and leaf, Venn diagram, box and whisker, and circle graphs. For a project, students are surveying and researching topics of their choice to create 5 different graphs, both hand drawn and computer generated.

In our eighth grade class we have been working more with calculating simple and compound interest. This topic has led to several different real world connections and discussions, with that being said students are now working on a credit card project. This project is where students have to research and read “between the lines” in understanding APR with credit cards. Students are really making connections to help them understand the formula  $I = PRT$ .

Ms. Saari



### *Title I News from Mrs. Stebbins*

April was a busy month full of “end of quarter” wrap-up and preparation for April break. With that being said, the students did a great job staying on task and driving their learning forward. The kindergarteners that I work with have recently been given the task of choosing how they want to practice the alphabet. Each day, they are given a list of methods of how to practice and they get to make an individualized choice that is best for them. This increased level of responsibility, I am proud to say, has made them more aware of their needs as a learner. They have been taking their lessons seriously and progress is continuing to be made.

Grades 1 and 2 have continued working on their sight word recognition, sentence/paragraph formation, and decoding skills. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade has also continued group readings and reading comprehension questions. Grade 4 students have been hard at work wrapping up their informational writing pieces and diving into opinion writing. They are off to a strong start with backing up

their opinions with concrete facts and reasoning. My 5-8 RtI group has been working together to increase their fluency. Team work, friendly encouragement, and motivation boosters have helped these students this past month. They have also been taking more responsibility with their learning, timing themselves and charting their progress along the way.

Overall, I'd like to say great job to everyone for their hard work and dedication. Hang in there, you are all doing great! ☺

### *Title I News from Mr. Kennedy*

Students continue to strive to be better readers and math students. They are continuing to learn more topics in their reading. They also played a new board game entitled "Kooky Carnival". The skill they were learning is using context clues in a passage to answer comprehension questions. Math students are doing a variety of lessons on reinforcing their multiplication facts.



### *March Students of the Month*

*Catherine Joos, Maddox Goodreau,  
Bryson Fogg, Isabella Ricker, Hana  
Bissonnette, Kole Chapple, Karsen  
Sweatt, Malik Ramirez, Hunter  
Flanders*



## *Calendar of Events*

**MAY 2, 2018**

Student of the Month – 8 AM

**MAY 7-11, 2018**

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK!

**MAY 7, 2018**

School Board Meeting – 4:15 PM

**MAY 8, 2018**

Grade 8 visits WMCC

**MAY 11, 2018**

Dance- Grades 5-8, 6-8 PM

**MAY 16, 2018**

Quarter 4 Progress Reports  
Grade 5 visits CJ EJ Farm

**MAY 17, 2018**

Spring Concert, 6 PM

**MAY 18, 2018**

PK/K Registration, 1-2:30 PM

**May 22-25, 2018**

Grade 8 high school visits

**MAY 28, 2018**

No School

**MAY 31, 2018**

Kindergarten Field Trip