

SCS News

Volume 3, Issue 4

December 2016

meRry
CHRISTMAS
and
happy
new year!

Principal's Corner

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" And, perhaps, one of the busiest! My hope for each of you is that you are able to spend time with loved ones this Christmas break and relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy the moment. All too often we get caught up in the busy-ness of everything around us—school events, sports, work, meetings, the list goes on—and end up missing out on the little things...the important things. I want to thank all of you—students, parents, families, staff—for your hard work and dedication to SCS, all of our efforts, and for helping to ensure our students are our top priority! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and yours!

Mrs. Mathieu



November Students of the Month
Mallorie Berry, Alice Umlah, Autumn Mills, Kalie Patenaude, Hana Bissonnette, Kole Chapple, Greenlee Cameron, Libby Placey, Dawson Klebe, Kade Cameron, Serenity Thomas, Izzy Ricker, Jacob Hope, Karsen Sweatt
Congratulations!

Our website has **IMPROVED!** Check it out for updated information, blurbs from the teachers, and pictures of our hard-working students!

stewartstown.sau7.org

News from K/1

December has been a whirlwind of activities: we've packed in top secret craft projects and a lot of learning! In Math, Kindergarten has been working on numbers to 20 and all kinds of shapes. First Grade has been working on addition to 20. They have been applying the strategies the strategies they used when learning addition and subtraction to 12.

In Language Arts, Kindergarten has been focusing on letter names and sounds. By this time of the year, they should be fluent with almost all of the letters and sounds. That means they should be able to tell the name and sound within three seconds of seeing the written letter. You can help by practicing at home. We are also working on reading emergent readers that follow a predictable pattern. The children are very excited!

First Grade has been read Where Do Frogs Come From?, "Polliwogs" and Try Your Best. The last two

weeks before vacation both grades have read stories for the holidays with a special focus on books by Jan Brett. The children love looking at the illustrations and predicting what will happen next, making connections between the books, learning about Christmas traditions in other parts of the world, and sharing about some of our own families' traditions.

Mrs. Hemon

News from Grade 2

December sure has flown by! Second graders have been busy performing various experiments in science. We have been experimenting to learn more about the three states of matter. Students have been very excited to find out "what experiment we are going to do next!"

We have spent the month wrapping up different topics and projects before vacation. In math, we continue to practice different strategies to make adding 2 digit numbers easier. We finished up our writing about a time we were scared and are now practicing writing paragraphs about different holiday related topics. Second graders continue to practice Type 1 and Type 2 writing and are excited to be learning Type 3 when we get back from vacation.

We have also been busy doing some holiday crafts. Students have really taken their time on the projects and are excited to bring them home to their families. I hope that you have a relaxing and wonderful holiday!

Mrs. Ricker

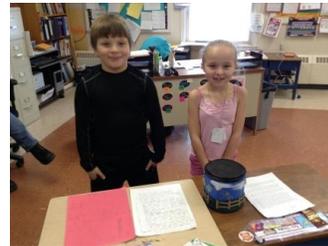
News from Grade 3

Book Report #2 was a great success! All students worked very hard and presented well-crafted, thoughtful projects. Thank you, families, for your support! I hope that this was a fun chance for you to talk with your child about something he/she has read. Please check out some photos of these neat projects on the back page of the newsletter.

We have been learning more about multiplication every day, and are using the Mad Minute to demonstrate mastery. Stop by the classroom anytime to check out your child's progress!

Our study of cursive has completed all of the lowercase letters! Now, the challenge is to build stamina. After Christmas we will be completing more and more work in cursive... including all of our spelling practice! Did you know that research has shown differences in the way your brain works when letters are joined (cursive) as compared to when they are separate (print)? It is hoped that learning this tool will help your child become even better at composing his/her writing as well as at crafting clear, legible words. Students are all doing a terrific job learning this!

Mrs. Hodge



News from Grade 4

It's been a busy month for fourth graders. We've been hard at work in all subject areas. Both reading groups finished their books and are working on some opinion writing pieces related to those books. Multiplication is winding down, but we still have about a week or so left for practicing 2-digit times 2-digit numbers. Division is up next. It would be very helpful, over the break, if families could start talking to their fourth graders about what division is. You could work it in to your conversations about sharing the Christmas cookies equally among family members or something of the like.

Social Studies and Science have both been

somewhat of a challenge as of late. Students have struggled yet enjoyed learning some more in depth map skills such as, latitude and longitude, working with scale, finding things on a map using the key, cardinal/intermediate directions, and playing with various compasses. In the end, they got to create a small map using a satellite image of their home. We finished our unit on "Light" in Science. Students liked using prisms, concave/convex lenses, mirrors, and flashlights to learn quite a bit of vocabulary and basic concepts related to light that applies to our everyday lives.

It is my sincere hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!! Hyvaa Joulua Ja Onnellista Uutta Vuotta (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year--Finnish)

Ms. Wonkka

P.S. Remember the Sun rises in the east and sets in the west!

News from JH Language Arts & Social Studies

Well the weather has really changed, and I want to remind my students to dress appropriately for outdoor exercise. Coats, hats, gloves or mittens, boots, and scarves are all necessary items for these cold weather days.

Students in grades 5-8 have started reading novels for their reading time. The 5/6 class is reading The Kid Who Ran For President, by Dan Gutman. The 7/8 class is reading Bud, Not Buddy, by Christopher Paul Curtis. Both classes are learning how to take 2-column notes while reading their books. We have explored ways that we can use this note-taking technique in our daily lives.

Happy Holidays !

Mrs. Stebbins

News from JH Science & Math

Fifth and sixth grade became lab scientists this past month learning to use microscopes, observing tiny objects and sketching what they see. We practiced the same techniques the Robert Hooke used when he discovered cells. We also practiced working in small groups to reach a common goal. Way to go! Students have been working hard reviewing math concepts and learning new ones.

Seventh and eighth graders are exploring ecology by discovering the different biomes from around the world. We learned how organisms interact with each other and their environment, and how populations are affected by environmental factors. We are also learning to solve problems using squares and square roots, algebraic expressions and equations.

Mr. Bergeron

Title I News from Mrs. Stebbins

December is quickly coming to a close and it is hard to believe it is almost Christmas break. This month, the students I work with have been busy practicing their fluency, sight words, word parts, and vowel sounds. They have also been reading Christmas stories and working to improve their reading comprehension. As RtI groups came to a close, my 5th-8th grade group worked on a Christmas chain activity to see who could make the longest chain using only one piece of paper. This activity helped to build their problem solving skills and team work efficiency. I am proud of all the hard work and determination I saw over the course of the month. Many of the kids were spreading kindness and cheer. I hope everyone has a great Holiday season and comes back in the New Year ready to learn! ☺



Title I News from Mr. Kennedy

Snow is falling, holidays are coming up quickly!

I have been busy working with students in the classroom as well as with small groups. Recently, I changed math groups. I am challenging the students with algebraic concepts. The students are learning about like terms, algebraic expressions, variables, and how to find the unknown. Grade 4 students are learning to be better writers. I am also helping them with multiplication short cuts.

I have also challenged my RTI groups with more exercises in fluency and comprehension. My advisory group enjoyed doing dot to dot challenges in which they had to work as a team to complete their picture.

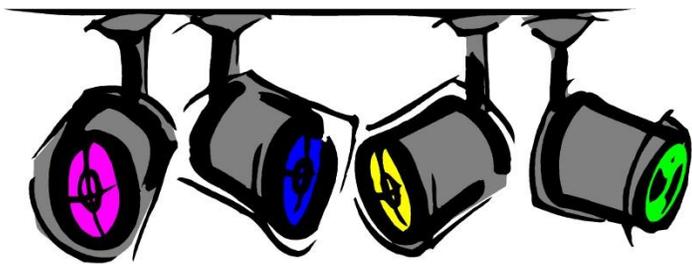
News from the Resource Room

Wow! December is over! Soon it will be 2017! The students have worked very hard so far this quarter. The majority of the Kindergarten through Grade 8 students improved/increased their scores on the AIMSweb Winter Benchmark compared to the Fall scores! Great job! Keep it up, students!

My students in the Resource Room and in the regular classroom have improved in their ELA and Math skills and concepts. They have put forth much effort and self-motivation. I am proud of them and their progress.

Happy holidays and restful vacation to all!

Miss Miller



Staff Spotlight:



Mrs. Stebbins

Grades 5-8 ELA & Social Studies

Favorite Food: Pizza

Hobby: Sewing

Favorite Book: *The Book Thief*

Dream Vacation: Daytona Beach Shores, right on the beach

Favorite Sweet Treat: brownies

One Word that Describes Me: Patient

Messy or Organized? Organized

Pet Peeve: mean people

Hidden Talent: I can bake really delicious oatmeal raisin cookies

On My Bucket List: Go to the Grand Canyon

Hometown: Danbury, CT

Phobia: Scared of not being able to see

News from the Interventionist

These past few months have flown by so quickly! During these months I have really gotten to know many students and have spent lots of time with them. I have hung out in the K/1 classroom and witnessed the discovery of new words and reading strategies. I have

spent time with several 4th graders and helped with phonics and reading comprehension skills. I have read a novel about 9/11 with some 7th graders and have had awesome discussions about an event that changed our lives forever. I have discussed survival skills with many 5th-8th graders while reading a novel for RtI. I learned how a pig is slaughtered and how it could be useful in a survival situation... GROSS! I have even heard 100 knock, knock jokes while on lunch duty! I have the privilege of working with so many different students and I love every minute of my day! I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to coming back after the break.

Mrs. Sawicki

News from the Nurse

Each class has been learning about hygiene, contagious illnesses, infectious disease and how to protect themselves and help to prevent the spread of illness. A friendly reminder: if your child is complaining of not feeling well, please do not send them to school. This ensures that they will get the adequate rest needed to feel well again as well as protect their peers, some of who have a comprised immune system already, not acquire the illness.

Wuzzy Bear continues to visit each classroom and tell them all about health and how he stays healthy. The students really enjoy hearing from Wuzzy.

A friendly reminder since the weather has been at very frigid temperature: please ensure your child is coming to school with appropriate clothing. If your child is in need of winter clothing, please see me.

I hope your family has very happy and healthy holiday.

Mrs. Hodge

News from the Media Center

In computer class for grades 7 & 8, they are starting up their own restaurant business. Some students are doing a pizza pub, steakhouse, noodle shop, pancake shop, bakery, ice cream shop, and cupcake bakery. They have learned about surveys, Excel spreadsheets, charts, and how to insert their survey charts into a professional letter requesting funding for their business. After the holiday break, they will be designing a menu and floor plan, and then will move on to financial calculations and a newsletter.

The remaining computer classes are busy learning word processing and soon PowerPoint and Excel.

Keyboarding students continue to amaze me with how quickly their fingers are flying over the keys!!

I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

Mrs. Placey

News from the Kitchen

We are still trying new items with the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant. Some of the fruits and veggies are things that the teachers have never heard of, like Magnificent Melons and Cara-Cara Oranges. The other new foods we have tried this month are Avocados and Black Grapes.

The Abbey group has tried new items also, like Sweet Potato Hummus, Butternut Squash soup, and Squash Smiles.

Just a reminder that when a child brings cold lunch and wants to get a milk, the milk is not free. It is 50¢ per milk. Even if your child has a "free lunch" status, the milk isn't free unless they take the whole lunch.

Thank-you and Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Boivin

News from After School Program

We have had such an exciting time in the STARS After School Program! It's already time for our next session of programs. Every student received a form and if your child is planning on attending in January, please return the form ASAP. The session begins on January 3rd and goes until February 16th. Here are the programs we are offering: Tuesday--Cooking (K-4) and Outside club; Wednesday-- Book club (5/6), Yearbook (7/8), and Arts & Crafts; Thursday--Drama and Photography. There is something for everyone! Please let us know if you have any questions or need a new form. We also want to hear your thoughts on the program. Thanks to all the parents who have already given us their honest feedback. Let us know if you have an idea for a club or if you would like to help. We hope you have a great Christmas break and we look forward to our new clubs in the New Year!

Calendar of Events

JANUARY 2, 2017

4:15 School Board Meeting

JANUARY 5, 2017

8:00 Student of the Month Ceremony

JANUARY 9, 2017

Children's author David Martin visits

JANUARY 10, 2017

K-3 STAR Testing

1:00 Early Release

Parent Teacher Conferences

JANUARY 12, 2017

Family Night, 5:30-7:00 PM

JANUARY 17, 2017

Gr. 4-8 STAR Testing

JANUARY 20, 2017

Q2 Grades Close

JANUARY 24, 2017

Ready for Kindergarten! program at SCS

JANUARY 27, 2017

Q2 Report Cards go home

JANUARY 31, 2017

Advisory



Congratulations to our November students of the month! ☺

