

SCS News

Volume 2, Issue 5

January 2016

Principal's Corner

It's hard to believe that January is already over! January and February are full of exciting days: Fridays are Swim/Skate days, the 100th Day of School is on January 29th, Valentine's Day, Honor Roll and Student of the Month ceremonies...we have great reasons to be proud of our hard-working students and to celebrate their efforts!

I would like to thank everyone who came to our spaghetti dinner and book give-away on January 14th. It was great to see everyone, and even better to see how excited the students were to choose their three free books to bring home! We'd love to hear about your family reading experiences. Please feel free to share with us!

Did you know...?

The Common Core State Standards were designed to make sure that students gain a more in-depth mastery of the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in college and compete in the global workforce.

THINKERS!

Commonyms

What do these sets of words have in common?

Answers on page 7!

1. A Copy Machine * A Rock Band * Traffic
2. A Rabbit * A Man * A Corn Plant
3. A Gosling * A Kit * A Joey



December Students of the Month
Hunter Flanders, Zoe Flagg, Destiny Mills, Moriah Marchand, Colby Bashaw, Savannah Ricker, Jayden Hodge, Ashlee Fysh, Kalie Patenaude, Chloe Royal, Traicie Breault
Congratulations!

The next SCS Clothing order will be placed on March 31, 2016!

News from K/1

Thank you to all the parents who met with me for Parent-Teacher Conferences. If we didn't get a chance to meet and you'd like to schedule a conference, please let me know.

We have been working on learning about States of Matter (solid, liquid, gas) and what things are made of. As water naturally exists in all three states on the Earth, we did several experiments with melting ice and snow. Ask the K/1 students to tell you about their discoveries.

In Language Arts, we have been reading lots of stories about snowmen, learning how ice crystals and snow are made, and other fun things about cold and winter. We began using a pre-writing form to help us organize our thoughts. We think about our topic and what they "Can," "Have," and

"Are," then use those ideas to write sentences, such as "Snowmen are cold."

In Math, First Grade has been working on Addition and Subtraction Facts to 12. Kindergarten has been learning to read, write, and count numbers to 11 to 20.

We recently began a unit on Polar Opposites that combines Science, Social Studies, and Language Arts. The children are becoming quite knowledgeable about penguins and polar bears. We are looking forward to celebrating the 100th day of school on January 29th. This year is flying by!

Mrs. Hemon

News from Grade 2

In Science, we have been learning about Geography. Students have learned about maps, what the Earth is made up of and about the different landforms found on Earth. Second graders spent some time looking at different rocks and discussing different characteristics of them. We are ending this unit with students creating a 3D model of different landforms found on Earth and a short presentation demonstrating what they know about each landform. We will soon be starting our next unit "The Earth, Sun and Moon."

In Math we have been practicing subtracting larger numbers. Second graders are becoming quite fluent with this skill! We are now learning about place value to 1,000.

In Writing, we have split the group into smaller groups. Students are either working with Mrs. Stebbins or myself. Second graders have been learning how to expand sentences to make them more interesting. They have also been learning how to write multiple sentences to create a paragraph. Second graders enjoy writing silly sentences such as "The big cow dances in the kitchen while making dinner."

Mrs. Ricker

News from Grade 3

Third Grade has spent several weeks learning about Ancient Egypt in language arts and social studies. We have read a lot of information about ancient Egypt, including Mummies in the Morning, a popular Magic Tree House story, and its companion nonfiction guide. Each student made a poster that illustrated lots of information around a central topic as a final project. We also did a fun science experiment, making mummified fruit. Check out these photos! We found that table salt dried the fruit most. Baking soda also helped the fruit to lose water, while Epsom salt made the fruit actually absorb water from the air.

Pittsburg Grange member Mr. Evarts came in to give each member of the class their own personal dictionary. We have been using them often to learn more about the vocabulary words chosen by each week's Vocabulary Visitor.

Math has been focused on understanding the meaning of multiplication and beginning to learn the multiplication table. Practice at home with these basic facts is greatly beneficial. We also continue to periodically review adding, subtracting, rounding, estimating, time, and money. We weave word problems into every day's math. Everyday uses for math is a topic that third graders benefit greatly from talking with their families about. You may be surprised at how much your child knows and can do!

Mrs. Hodge

News from Grade 4

Time seems to be rushing by since Christmas vacation. We are reading the novel Dear Mr. Henshaw which is about a young boy who is struggling with the major life events of parental divorce, moving to a new town, having his food stolen out of his lunch bag, and having a hard time

making new friends. Our focus is to look at adversities we face and determine, for ourselves, whether we will let these problems be roadblocks for us or stepping stones. Everyone seems to be enjoying some measure of personal connection to the book and learning some possible ways of dealing with problems we all face.

We have moved on to division in math and things are progressing nicely. At first, all the steps were a bit daunting, but with lots of practice we are improving. There will be lots more practice to come too. Everyone seems to be realizing, as they mature this year, that mathematic topics build on one another and that everything becomes more complex as we move on in school. This scares some and excites others. Please help your students with this reality by encouraging them to keep an open mind and an "I Can" attitude.

We are also spending a great deal of time with our science unit on "Natural Disasters". Everyone has been very enthusiastic to learn about some of the types of natural disasters that occur throughout the world, the devastation they cause, and some possible ways to prepare for and respond to these disasters should they ever face one. In the process, we are learning about different places around the world and becoming more aware of our place in the world.

FYI--Fourth graders will be taking their winter NWEA assessments during the first week of February. Please ensure that your students get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast so they can feel and perform at their best.

Ms. Wonkka

News from JH Language Arts & Social Studies

Brrrrr! Winter is definitely here.

The students in grades five through eight have been busy reading, writing, and learning about the

brain. Grades five and six have enthusiastically welcomed Mrs. Bergman, a traveling teacher, into our classroom to teach us about mindset. We have learned about how the brain works to build strong pathways and connections, during the learning process. Our social studies lessons have centered on geography this month. We have learned about the continents, the Middle East, and the United States Regions, using maps to help focus with these lessons. Seventh and Eighth graders will soon finish reading "Shiloh", a book that has tested our ideas and feelings about pets, animal cruelty, and telling the truth.

Let's keep building those pathways and connections!

Mrs. Stebbins

News from JH Math & Science

Can you believe it is a new calendar year and a new quarter already? Jr. High students have been talking about the **Science Fair!** This year we will host our own Science Fair at SCS on **Thursday, March 10th** from 6-7 pm, so mark your calendars. The students have been given a timeline with small portions of the project due each week to help keep them organized. This hand-out also includes a rubric to inform them of the expectations for grading. Ask your student to see it or go to our school website (www.stewartstown.sau7.org) under Mrs. Steward to view the documents. Many are getting excited for this hands-on project where they get to **do** science. Please encourage them to give their best effort.

Mrs. Steward

Title I News from Mrs. Stebbins

Wow! January went by extremely fast! My intervention groups have been hard at work and making many gains. Kindergarten students have been working with the alphabet; there are only a few letters that still need to be mastered. We have

also been working on letter sounds and writing the sound you hear in a word. Grade 1 groups have been working on sounding out CVC words, writing complete sentences, and writing opinion paragraphs. Grade 2 groups have been working to increase their sight word recognition, fluency, and reading comprehension. Aside from that, they have also been working with adjectives, nouns, and verb to make interesting and descriptive sentences/paragraphs. Grade 4 has been working to increase their vocabulary and understanding of words and their spelling patterns. Coupled with this, they have continued reading "The Indian in the Cupboard". Writing paragraphs with solid introductions, supporting details, and a strong conclusion is also a skill they have been working to master.

All of my Title One groups have been doing a great job and working very hard! I am excited to see the progress next month! 😊

Title 1 News from Mr. Kennedy

Upon coming back from vacation I have been helping in the classrooms and helping small groups of students. Long division has been the "hot topic" for students in the upper grades. We have also been working on solving algebraic expressions.

Learning about editorials has been another topic in which I have been devoting some time to. Reading samples from the News and Sentinel, students then write their own opinions, and practice writing with more description. I have also been helping Mrs. Stebbins' students with their fluency and comprehension skills.

News from the Resource Room

The second quarter has come to an end! Can't believe the school year is half over! In the Resource Room, my students continue to try their best and are learning many skills in Language Arts and Math

such as nouns vs. verbs, word meanings, subjects/predicates, main ideas/supporting details; addition/subtraction, measurement, and geometry. Grades K-8 will be starting the NWEA computerized testing again, starting 1/26-2/4. I hope many of my students remember to wear their glasses so their eyes don't get too tired. Good luck students!

Miss Miller

News from the Nurse

Strep throat and tonsillitis are on the rise! If your child complains of any of the following they should be evaluated by a physician:

- * Significant throat pain that may increase with swallowing
- * Fever of 101 degrees Fahrenheit or greater
- * Red, swollen tonsils, red spots, or white patches/streaking on the roof of the mouth or throat
- * Swollen glands in the neck
- * Some children may also have nausea, vomiting, headache, or a rash

The best ways to prevent strep throat and tonsillitis are:

- * Wash your hands with warm water and soap. Good hand hygiene keeps people healthy!
- * Don't share your drinks, food, or utensils.
- * Cover your cough and sneeze by turning your face into your inner elbow.

Annual health screenings are in the process of being completed. According to the policy, grades K-3 and Grade 7 go through a full screening consisting of vision, hearing, height, weight and blood pressure. All other grades consist of height, weight and blood pressure. Your child should bring home their screening evaluation for your records.

As a reminder if your child is required to take medication at school during the day, the medication needs to come to school in the original bottle.

February is Heart Health Month! The students will be learning about the heart and how to keep their hearts healthy!

My door is always open. I encourage you to stop by with any questions or concerns you may have about your child's health and wellness at school as it is my number one priority to ensure your child is healthy and well enough to learn and receive the education he or she deserves.

Did you know?

The average human will shed about 40 pounds of skin in a lifetime!

Mrs. Hodge

News from the Kitchen

This month students have been able to try new items like sweet and seasoned parsnips, honey parsnips and broccoli salad.

Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the family dinner and book giveaway on January 14th! It was nice to see everyone!

National Breakfast Week is going to be the first week of March. Be on the lookout for paperwork coming home in the beginning of February!

Please make sure your student's account is up to date and remember that we cannot allow any charging. For more information on the policies of the Abbey Group, refer to pages 18 & 19 of the student handbook. If you have questions, please feel free to call the school.

Mrs. Boivin

American Heritage Tour 2016

This year we have four students from SCS going on the American Heritage Tour to Washington, D.C., in May. These students have been working hard to earn the money needed to attend this exciting adventure. The group will hold three fundraisers throughout the next two months.

On Tuesday, February 9th, Primary Day, we will have a bake sale from 12:30-5:00 PM in the multipurpose room here at school. On the following Friday, February 12th, Valentine Treats that are pre-purchased will be handed out. On Wednesday, March 2nd, we will have a Variety Show and Ice Cream Social starting at 6:00 PM at SCS. The Variety Show will have a Dr. Seuss theme in honor of "Read Across America Day". Please keep watch out for more information on these upcoming activities.

Mrs. Neary

Library & Media News

All my classes have been hard at work after our Christmas break.

Grade four is learning PowerPoint and will eventually make a booklet to take home. This will be about their favorite fruits and/or vegetables. Grade five and six are still working in Word. Grades seven and eight are working in Word (tables) and also in Excel.

Grades three through six are keying in keyboarding, practicing, and improving their speed. It's a challenge not to look down at the keyboard, but with practice, I know they will achieve their goal.

Our next box top raffle will be February 11th. Remember to bring in your box tops and UPC's by February 10th.

Mrs. Placey

News from SAP

On January 15th thru the 17th, eight students from grades 6-8 participated in a weekend long conference on leadership at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenfield N.H. through the New Hampshire Teen Institute. The conference focused on youth positively impacting their schools and community by promoting youth leadership thru prevention of alcohol, tobacco, and other drug use and development of a positive, safe, and connected school community.

The leadership team had a busy schedule each day from 8am to 10pm. The goal for the weekend was to develop an Action Plan and programs and bring them back to SCS for implementation. For the Leadership team to gain the skills to build the Action Plan they had learning sessions on substance abuse, bullying prevention, problem solving and adventure, and diversity and acceptance. They also had participated in Discoveries Classes which taught them fun ways to get others involved in leadership at school. The students also had Team Time twice a day. Team Time was when each student rejoined their peers from their school discussed ways to improve school climate. After brainstorming ideas the students came up with a great Action Plan/ program and how to implement the program when returning to school.

The weekend was a great success. The team worked great together and came up with a brilliant program! Soon it will be announced. Our students truly shined all weekend not only as a team, but individuals also! SCS is very proud of all them!

Mrs. Weir



WAY TO GO, SCS LEADERSHIP TEAM! 😊



Answer to the Principal's Corner
THINKERS!

1. They jam.
2. They have ears.
3. Young animals

Calendar of Events

February 1, 2016 4:15
School Board Meeting

February 4, 2016 8:00
Student of the Month Ceremony

February 12, 2016
Quarter 3 Progress Reports

February 22-26, 2016
NO SCHOOL!
Winter Break

March 3, 2016
Doubled Bus Run: Afternoon only

March 3, 2016 8:00
Student of the Month Ceremony

COMING IN MARCH

K-8 Science Fair @ SCS

6-7 PM

Details to follow!



Third grade students receive dictionaries from the Pittsburg Grange and share a science project they've been working on.



Second graders proudly display their awesome landform projects!