



Baldwin's Bulletin ***April 2016***



Board Corner

As previously mentioned, the Warren Township Board of Education remains committed to keeping the community updated on the Study to Examine Enrollment Project (STEEP), as board members continue to review the district's declining enrollment and its impact on the district.

All documents relating to STEEP are posted on the district website (www.warrentboe.org) which was recently updated to make the STEEP materials easier to find. Most recently, the reports presented by the Educational Committee and Facilities Committee at the March 7 board meeting are posted; the findings of the Finance/Budget/Transportation Committee will be posted after the presentation on March 21.

Additionally, information and notifications about the board's work on STEEP can be found on the district's Facebook page (Warren Township Board of Education) and on its Twitter feed (Warren Twp Schools@WarrenSchoolsNJ). Please like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

We encourage members of the community to attend board meetings. In addition, next month, the New Jersey School Boards Association will facilitate community forums on STEEP for the board to share its information and community members to provide feedback. Dates and times for those meetings will be posted when available.

Thank you for your continued interest and patience.

Principal's Corner

Spring has sprung! I'm excited to welcome in the longer, warmer, brighter days that come with April. Spring is always an exciting time at Central. In April we look forward to coming back from a rejuvenating Spring Recess and diving back into the final quarter of the school year.

Over the past month we were treated to 2nd grade's Dr. Seuss performance, guest readers and a school wide reading train on Read Across America Day. The PTO also organized and pulled off an amazing 80s night social fundraiser. We are so lucky to have a PTO as involved and supportive as we do at Central. We look forward to finishing up March with the 5th grade talent show and 2nd grade Biography Day.

When we return from break in April, we will begin the Growing to Give program with Wagner Farm Arboretum. Each student will plant and nurture vegetables that will later on be transferred to Wagner Farm and ultimately donated to help feed those in need. Also, on April 5th, the Harlem Wizards will play against staff members from across the district at Watchung Hills Regional High School. Finally, join us at Central School on the evening of April 20th to celebrate Earth Day. Students will learn about the holiday and make Earth Day crafts.

As a reminder, the PARCC assessment begins for students in grades 3-5 once we return from break. For the complete schedule, check out last month's newsletter or the district calendar.

Enjoy a relaxing Spring Recess. I look forward to welcoming our students back on the other side!

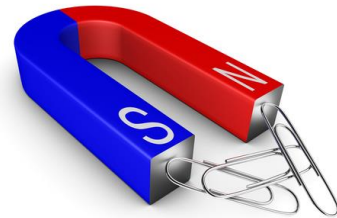
REACH - Mrs. Zimmer

The Reach and Innovation and Design program has been busy providing valuable learning experiences for the children at Central School.

Innovation and Design (I & D)

This year we have re-aligned the I & D program with the Next Generation Science Standards. These NGSS also include Engineering standards. The units have been redesigned to meet the standards at each grade level.

During the Magnets and Forces unit for 3rd grade I & D, students have completed labs to discover properties of magnetism. They are also becoming familiar with the Engineering Design Process (EDP). In groups, students will be designing, building, and testing train cars that use the properties of magnetism to travel along an 8 foot magnetized train track. They will experiment with ways to improve the speed and stability of their "maglev" trains.



The fourth grade Energy Investigations I & D unit has students learning about renewable and non-renewable sources of energy. Learning about how electricity is generated and how we use energy in the United States, students will conduct explorations with wind energy by designing, making, and testing blades for mini wind turbines. Groups will test their blades to see how effective they are in lifting weight (such as in hauling water or grinding grain). Students will also measure the volts of electricity they can generate with various blade designs. Students will test several variables such as material used, size and shape of the blades, and the number of blades. Groups will determine which blades are most or least effective when generating electricity and when lifting weight. Students will also explore solar energy as a source for generating electricity.

Reach Enrichment

Second graders completed a Storytime Math unit in Reach and students learned about legal issues and terminology during a Legal Lessons unit. The Chess Challenge unit introduced students to the game of chess as they learned how each piece moves on the chess board. They played chess with a partner, eventually incorporating all the pieces as they learned how to correctly move each chess piece.

First grade students have full-class Reach enrichment weekly for 12 weeks now. During a Fun with Logic unit children will be learning to solve analogies, matrix logic problems, and deductive reasoning logic challenges. With support and encouragement, students will work at their own pace to develop these critical problem solving skills.

Reach, Too!

Third grade students are budding engineers as they design and build bridges during their Bridge unit. Learning concepts like tension and compression, and how to increase stability over a distance, students are learning about various types of bridges. They will design and construct models of several of these bridges, and be challenged to improve the efficiency of their designs.

Fourth graders researched a topic of their choice as they became "experts" in the I'm The Expert unit. They approached their topic from many viewpoints as they utilized "Depth and Complexity Icons." First, we explored these icons, which help one to learn about something in a deep and

complex way. Students then presented their projects. Each student was encourage to find a fun and creative way to present their topic to the class.

Fourth graders are exploring the Elizabethan period during a Shakespeare unit. Students performed skits and dressed up to depict what life was like during the late 1500s in England. They will read and act out scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream," comparing different versions. Using William Shakespeare's inventive and expressive language and rhythms children are exploring timeless themes.

During the fifth grade Law and Order unit, students became scholars of federal law as they learned about the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the 3 branches of the government. They were also exposed to various civil law issues and applied their knowledge to write mock trials in small groups. We submitted these mock trials to the NJ State Law Fair Competition. Good luck students! Next, students chose to explore how they learn in a Metacognition unit. By becoming more aware of our own learning style, multiple intelligences, left/right brain strengths, etc. students enhance their learning experience and enjoyment.

Math Compacting

Students in grades 1 to 5 continue to take unit pretests to determine those students who demonstrate mastery of the concepts before they are taught. Students who "compact out" for a math unit come to the Reach teacher twice per week for 25 minutes for enrichment math,

Earth Day

In conjunction with Mrs. Zimmer, the PTO is hosting an Earth Day event at Central School on Wed. April 20 at 7:00 PM. Students and parents who sign up (first come - first served) will learn about Earth Day and participate in two hands-on activities. Students will bring their projects home. The cost for this fundraiser, to support the Central School Garden, is \$8.00. Watch for the flyer to be Eblasted soon.

Computers-Ms. Porchetta

The fifth grade is currently in computers and are learning to code using Tynker.com. This website enables them to learn the fundamentals of coding with visual code blocks. Each week I assign them a lesson which they complete during class. Students are encouraged to assist each other so that every student can keep with the classwork. Coding requires both logical and creative thinking that will improve their ability solve problems. In addition to coding students use edotyping.com to improve their keyboarding skills.



The fourth graders were in computers during the first half of the year. They also did programming using Tynker.com as well. They completed several lessons and together with their groups created a final project that they presented to the class. Some project themes were super heroes, sports, dance and gymnastics. They had a great deal of fun working on them. The students used edotyping.com to improve their keyboarding skills.

The third grade this year used google drive to complete several projects during computer class. They used google documents, google sheets and google slides. One of their main projects was to research the history of Warren Township. They were encouraged to find information about the founder of Warren, landforms and historical buildings. Right now they are in Innovation & Design learning about Magnetism and will return to Computers soon.

The second grade is currently using google drive. They are finishing up a google slide project about animals. The students learned how to insert slides, add transitions, backgrounds, animations and images. Students have been practicing keyboarding skills using edotyping.com. First Grade has been busy learning how to use google drive this year. They have learned how to sign into a computer lab account and create a new document. They are familiar with google docs and google slides. They are learning age appropriate word processing skills. Students have been practicing keyboarding skills using edotyping.com. They are practicing proper finger placement on the keyboard.

Kindergarten uses Type to Learn Jr. to practice their keyboarding skills. They are learning correct hand placement and posture to improve their typing skills. They have also been introduced to google docs and google slides. The students will be using the website code.org. to learn about computer programming.

Physical Education - Ms. Lamson

Happy Spring everyone! Hopefully we will see no more snow this year. Just a reminder to make sure your child is dressed appropriately with the weather changes. ALL students MUST have athletic sneakers to participate but also be aware that with the nicer weather we will be going out on the field. So please wear layered clothing and sneakers that can get dirty if the field is not totally dry on gym day.

During our Fruit & Vegetable Challenge Week, we played games that involved the numbers from our "HEALTHY ZIP CODE". Some examples are for the number "9" we used nine hula hoops that were laid on the floor. We also used 6 rubber penguins and pigs to played a running and thinking game of TIC TAC TOE. For the number "5" we jumped ropes in groups of five in the older grades. The students seem to really be enjoying the new activities.



In the Art Room...Mrs. Davenport

Here's a glimpse of what we're working on now in the Art Room!

Kindergarten: Students are completing their still life modeled after the artist, Pablo Picasso and his famous flower painting: Petite Fleurs. Students could make it their own by choosing to use hands or a vase to hold the flowers and also using a variety of colors instead of just focusing on the primary colors. Students used crayons to create the hands/vase and watercolors were used to paint the flowers.

1st Grade: Students are completing a flower still life as well. Students first used bottle caps to print circles on black paper. Once this paper was dry, it was used as the vase for their artwork. Students could use a tracer to create their vase or draw their own. Students drew a table and simple, colorful background for their still life using art sticks. Once the background was drawn, their cut out vase was glued down and students are using tempera paint to add their flowers.

2nd Grade: Students are working on their yarn weaving. We began by learning the history of weaving and looking at various types of looms. Each student warped their own cardboard loom,

chose three colors to use, and are creating a weaving using an ABAB pattern. A few patterns, such as a checkerboard and half and half are being taught to the students to use in their weaving if they want.

3rd Grade: Students are creating a soft sculpture. We looked at examples of sculptures, and then specifically looked at soft sculpture artwork. Students were given the scenario of being a designer at a toy company. They were asked to create their own soft sculpture. Students could choose one of the two patterns provided or they could draw their own. Once their pattern was decided upon, students traced their pattern onto two pieces of felt. Students then lined up their pieces of felt and learned a simple running stitch to sew the outside edges of their felt together. Students left a small opening to stuff their soft sculpture, then sewed the opening closed, and will be given the opportunity to add any additional details, such as beads, buttons, etc.

4th Grade: Students are working on an upside down drawing. Students chose from a variety of outlines of famous paintings for this project. Once their famous artwork was chosen, students attached it to a grid paper upside down. They also attached a blank piece of paper to grid paper. Students are using the grid paper to help them to redraw the famous artwork, all while the artwork is upside down. This exercise helps the students to recognize and repeat shapes and lines instead of trying to draw the image in front of them. The grid helps them to be accurate with the proportion and length of their lines.

5th Grade: Students are using a cartoon character as a reference image and re drawing that character four times larger than the original image. Students have a small grid placed over their cartoon image reference. Students then drew a large 2" grid. Students are using the grid over their reference image to help them to redraw their chosen character as accurately as possible, just larger. Once it is drawn, students will match the colors as accurately as possible using color pencils.

WELCOME SPRING!



- ✚ Encourage outdoor play and exercise
- ✚ Get 8-10 hours of sleep per night
 - ✚ Healthy snacks
 - ✚ Plenty of water
- ✚ Dress according to the weather

ALLERGIES.....

Please have your physician complete a Warren Township Board Of Education* prescription form for **any medication (prescription or over-the-counter)** for in school use as needed to control allergy symptoms.....



- + Oral medications
- + Eye drops
- + Topical creams/ointments

Let's work together to prevent uncomfortable distracting allergy symptoms for your child.....

Alexis Sacks, MSN, CSN, RN