



Baldwin's Bulletin

November 201



Superintendent's Corner

Under the direction of Somerset County Prosecutor Michael H. Robertson, all school districts have shifted to a common process and language for emergency management. While the changes were minor to our day-to-day practices, this shift brings all schools and police departments in Somerset County into one common system so first responders can apply one set of norms and routines to all schools and districts in the event they are called upon in an emergency.

The district's Security Compliance Manager Ron Berry and Communications Coordinator Mary Ann McGann put together a brief video demonstrating the new procedures. You can access it on the district website at <http://www.warrentboe.org/schools/district/features/standard-response-protocol/>. The video may assist you in understanding the drills that your children experience on a regular basis and the terminology being used at school.

Thank you for your continued support of the district's efforts to ensure a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Matthew A. Mingle, Ed.D.

Principal's Corner

With Thanksgiving approaching, I had the opportunity to sit back and reflect on all of the things we have to be thankful for at Central School. All of the hundreds of bright moments daily where I see students and adults alike pitching in, going the extra mile, and helping one another out. I'm thankful that we have kind students, supportive families, and involvement with the community.

In October we celebrated both the Week of Respect and the Week of Making Good Choices. Students and staff participated in spirit days to symbolize that they are committed to "putting a cap on bullying" or "teaming up to make good choices." Each classroom participated in a lesson where they identified ways to show respect in different areas of the school and on the bus. Each week when we read the Chain of Kindness nominees over the morning announcements, I am reminded of how caring and helpful Central students are.

Each day, a dozen or more parents filter through our doors (after swiping their license and receiving a badge of course) simply to volunteer. Between food days, library helpers, classroom volunteers, and PTO event coordinators, you don't need to look far to find parents and guardians that are here just simply to help wherever they can.

This kindness extends beyond our school walls, too. This past month, Mrs. McCarey and the PTO sponsored a Halloween Costume drive to support the Jersey Cares organization. In just one week, our school community donated over 85 costumes so that fewer children would need to go without on Halloween.

So this month, I am thankful for our entire community. Students, staff and families alike, who make Central School so special. Enjoy some added time with your family this month.

A few reminders:

Conferences are scheduled for November 6th, 7th, and 8th. These will be early dismissal days for students at 1:30 PM. If you have not yet scheduled a conference, please contact your child's teacher.

November 13th-17th is American Education Week. As in years past, parents and guardians will be invited in for visitation. This year, visitation will be held on Friday, November 17th in the afternoon. Stay tuned for additional information.

Wednesday, November 22nd is an early dismissal day. School will dismiss at 1:30 PM.

Grade One

The first graders are eager to become independent readers and writers this year! In September, the students learned about the importance of the Daily 5, which is a literacy framework that helps students develop daily habits of reading, writing, and working independently. The Daily 5 has instilled a sense of urgency in the students. They understand the importance of reading and writing each day and they are motivated to build their literacy skills. The first graders have learned how to choose "Just Right Books" based on their reading level. They are excited to write in their personal writing journals about topics they enjoy. This year their reading engagement, comprehension skills, and reading levels will skyrocket and we are all thrilled to see their enthusiasm soar!

As a parent, you can help support your independent reader(s) at home by:

1. Reading every day! Even for 5 minutes - as your child reads, listen to them or have them listen to you. It's beneficial for your child to hear fluent reading.
2. Helping your child to choose books that match their likes or interests.
3. Choosing a "Just Right Book" using the 5 Finger Rule - In order to use this strategy, have your child open a book to the middle and begin reading. For each word the child doesn't know, have them put up one finger. If at the end of the page you have:

5 or more fingers up - too hard and challenging, save for later book

4 fingers up - very challenging

2-3 fingers up - just right

0-1 fingers up - too easy, "vacation book"

Happy Reading!

The First Grade Teachers

Mrs. Ceccato, Mrs. Carroll, and Mrs. DeShields

Why Should Beginning Readers Reread Familiar Materials?



1. Rereading familiar materials builds beginning readers' sight word vocabularies. Beginning readers are not yet able to recognize many words by sight and their letter-sound knowledge is not secure enough to help them sound out words. Their word recognition must be supported by text that is predictable and memorable. As they read and reread the familiar materials that are sent home, beginning readers will gradually remember words out of context as "sight words." Very soon they will acquire a bank of words that they can recognize automatically at

first sight and be able to use the decoding strategies that they are learning to figure out unknown words. Soon they will be reading text that they will not be able to memorize and will need to rely on their bank of known sight words and decoding abilities to read the text.

2. Rereading familiar materials builds fluency and is important for comprehension. A fluent reader reads with speed, accuracy and expression. Research shows that fluency is important for comprehension. Readers, who are not fluent, expend so much effort decoding words that they are not able to devote mental energy to understanding what they read.
3. Rereading familiar books provides beginning readers with a sense of success, which is very important while they are developing their reading skills.

Beginning Readers Must “Finger-Point Read”

Most beginning readers have an emerging, rudimentary concept of words. Concept of word is the ability to match spoken words to printed words demonstrated by the ability to point to the words of a memorized text while reading. The beginning sound of each word should provide an anchor for students, for example, when a student says the word *man*, he or she needs to have their finger on the word beginning with the letter *m*. Research shows that a firm concept of word signals a child's readiness for sight word learning and decoding instruction. Finger-pointing helps beginning readers develop a firm concept of word and draws their attention to letter-sound features in words, important for decoding. Please be sure that your child is pointing to each word as he or she reads (do not allow him/her to finger sweep across the line). ** NOTE ****Their finger should come out when the student is consistently tracking the words with their eyes. If they lose their place or need to slowly decode a word.....put the finger back in under the first letter in the word.*



Notes from the Nurse

Happy Fall-- this past week was National Hand Washing week, just a few fun facts



WASH YOUR HANDS.....!

- ❖ According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) the single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness is**WASH OUR HANDS!**
- ❖ According to the CDC approximately 22 million school days are lost due to the common cold; and 52.2 million cases of the common cold affect students under the age of 17 each year.
- ❖ Certain viruses and bacteria can live from 20 minutes to 2 hours on desks, tables and doorknobs.

A simple request...if you have any children's clothing you wish to donate to the Health Office (sweat pants, leggings, tee shirts, polo shirts, socks, & underwear).....we are in need!

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather! Thank you. Sharon Carroll, RN, MSN, CSN

Upcoming dates to remember:

Nov. 1-3	Halloween Candy Collection
Nov. 1	Picture Retake Day – Send in pictures if you want a retake
Nov. 5	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 6-8	Parent Teacher Conference Days – 1:30 Dismissal Students will have lunch, no recess.
Nov. 9 & 10	NJEA Convention – No School
Nov. 13-17	American Education Week
Nov. 14-16	Book Fair
Nov. 15	Reading Event 7 PM
Nov. 17	Parents visit classrooms – more details to follow
Nov. 22	Early Dismissal – 1:30