



Setauket Signals

Volume 1

March 2011

Welcome to the latest edition of **Setauket Signals**. This edition highlights school and classroom news written by students and staff to inform you of the impressive activities your children have experienced this past month. Look for monthly editions in the future loaded with the good things happening at **Setauket School**.

Kindergarten

Since September, the kindergarten classes worked hard counting each day of school. All the counting led up to an exciting day at Setauket School. February 18th was the 100th day of school! The kindergarten children began their day being greeted by a huge wooden "100" in the kindergarten wing. The children were excited to walk through the zeros to start off their 100th day of school with a bang!

Each kindergarten class had many exciting activities. The Bard and the Hall friends celebrated the special day together with a 100 Family Fun Day. The Freeman and Perrotta/Mistretta friends loved counting by 10's to count out 100 pieces of snack ~ YUMMY! The Gunning friends were excited to create festive 100 Day hats to wear throughout the building!

Every kindergartener created a special project made out of 100 items. Each child chose his/her own creative way to display their 100 items. These 100 day projects were proudly displayed outside the kindergarten classrooms. And now the counting continues 101, 102, 103...



First Grade

Mrs. Cimini and Miss DeLorenzo's Class

Things here in first grade have been very busy. We've spent the past month learning about different kinds of families here in our community and throughout the world. We learned how families can be the same and how families can differ. We were happy to share all of the poems and songs we learned with our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles at our Family Museum.

In February, we also enjoyed watching Robbi K. perform *How the Turtle Got Its Shell*. Thank you to the PTA for sponsoring this fun-filled cultural arts event for us. In the words of Emily Ronca, "This was the best show I've seen in my whole life."

Mrs. Pantelidis' Class

Mrs. Pantelidis' class spent the month of January learning about families, diversity and immigration. The children learned songs, read related literature, and created family vines. Our families participated as well by creating a family flag at home and dedicated a "Family Tile" to a special member of their family in which we made into a beautiful quilt to display in our classroom. Each child brought in a special artifact representing their family roots. The unit culminated with a very special Family Museum Day in which all these items were displayed. Parents and grandparents came to tour our museum and hear the children perform songs.



Second Grade

Mrs. Besold's Class

Last month, we completed a webquest project with our Fifth Grade buddies in Mrs. Prinzo's Class! We researched different holidays celebrated around the world in December and then we created our very own holidays using the information we learned. One cool thing we learned was that people who celebrate Christmas in India decorate a banana or mango tree!

We also took a field trip to the Vanderbilt Planetarium! It was an AWESOME trip! There was a thunderstorm while we were there and it rained on us! One new fact we learned was that we always see the same side of the moon from the earth.

Today we celebrated the 100th Day of School in class. Mrs. Besold had us do jumping jacks for 100 seconds and flip a coin 100 times to count how many times it landed on heads or tails. It was so much fun!

Mrs. Dunbar's Class

Brielee Lu, a second grader in Mrs. Dunbar's class, made her Broadway debut January 22nd at the Shell Theatre in New York City. Brielee is a star in the short play series entitled "Eight Minute Madness". She plays the letter 'C' in a skit entitled "The Silent Ones". All of her D-1Aer classmates and her teacher are very proud of her success.



Second Grade (continued)

Mrs. Biamonte's Class

D-9 Discovers Poetry Everywhere!

The students in room D-9 have been studying and writing poetry for many weeks. They made many discoveries about what poetry is and where to find it. They shared their poems with parents at a Setauket Coffee House celebration. They also wrote this poem to share some of their discoveries with you!

Poetry is happy.

Poetry can be sad.

Poetry is funny!

Poetry can show

that you are mad.

Poetry is wondering,

about the world all around.

Poetry can be music;

listen to how it sounds.

Poetry is looking at the world in different ways.

Poetry can be written any time or any day!

Poetry is everywhere and hides in all of us.

Maybe you can find some and share it with us!

Mrs. Willa's Class

Mrs. Willa's second grade class has been very busy working on fun projects like paper rocket ships that tell about imaginary trips to outer space, and constellations created with gold stars on black paper. We just celebrated 100 Day with projects made by students using 100 objects. We also have reading logs, and for every ten books we read a large green circle is earned for our classroom bookworm which is now halfway around the room! Our favorite activity is writing pen pal letters to a second grade class in Fort Myers, Florida. Last, but not least, we are excited about getting a new classmate, Harry Chung. He is very nice. He started his first day of school on Monday, February 14th~ Valentine's Day!!

By Elyse Siegal and Mia Schoolman



Mrs. Kiriluk and Miss DeLorenzo's Class

In February we worked with our 4th grade Buddies from Mrs. Wall's class to write Valentines for Veterans to be delivered to the Veterans Home at Stony Brook. We were also treated to a special lesson from one of our parents Mrs. Carrion, about life in the army. Dr Carrion, a local orthopedic surgeon, is serving in Afghanistan supporting our troops. The students got to taste military food, learn about uniforms and wrote letters to Dr. Carrion. We also went to the Planetarium while we were studying the Solar System and the students enjoyed learning about the night sky. In March, we will be researching Dinosaurs and how they were discovered!

Mrs. March's Class

Mrs. March's class is starting a spring writing project. We will be writing books about our wonderful lives. The kids are getting ready by looking at pictures of themselves from every year they have been born. What adorable babies we all were. We can not wait to share the books with our parents at a special tea when we are done!

Third Grade

Mrs. McGrath's Class

We are busy here in C-4. We have learned a lot. In math, we've learned how to add and subtract on a hundred chart, read graphs, guess and check, add and subtract with 1, 2, 3 and 4 digit numbers and to tell time. We have also begun to study our multiplication facts.

In Writer's Workshop, we've written personal narratives, memoirs and how-to's. When we wrote our first how-to as a class, How to Make an Ice Cream Sundae, we had an ice-cream party so we could understand all the steps in creating a how-to and to see what how-to's should look like.

In Reader's Workshop, we've discovered the author's purpose, context clues, compare and contrast and fact or opinion. We've read a lot of books independently and in guided reading. We've written letters to Mrs. McGrath about what we are reading and to show how we are thinking as readers.

We have worked towards getting pajama day on Valentine's Day. Each time we were quiet or thinking a lot, we earned a letter to help spell the words Pajama Day. We succeeded in getting Pajama Day!

We've done a lot with our kindergarten buddies this year. The first time we met, we made applesauce. The second time we met, we made pumpkin pie. The next time we met, we made snowman snacks. The last time we met, we made chocolate Oreo truffles.

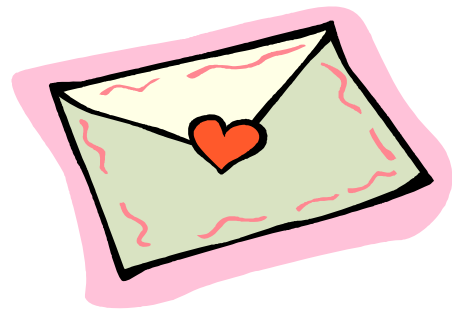
We are having lots of fun here in third grade and this is what we have done. We hope to enjoy what we do next in school!

By Erin Zipman



Mrs. Nilsson's Class

On Wednesday we went to Spain on the Nilsson Airline with our passports. If you forgot your passport you couldn't fly! Valentine's Day just passed. Mrs. Ciardullo (Chase's mom) came in and made a Valentine's Day coupon activity with the class. We also had 2 birthdays on Valentine's Day. We all exchanged cards with each other. Our class is also learning about similes, metaphors, and idioms. Our homework was to write and illustrate an idiom. One idiom was "Time Flies When You're Having Fun." We agree!



Fourth Grade

Miss Stanco and Mrs. Baxter's Class

Good morning Setauket Elementary School. I'm Janet Song from Ms. Stanco and Mrs. Baxter's 4th grade class. I'd like to share the things that we are working on in our class.

Every Monday morning we have morning meeting. This is where we share what we did over the weekend. Every other morning, we work on getting unpacked, writing down our homework, and checking last night's homework.

In Math, we are working on division. We are learning basic division and working towards learning long division. We do Rocketship math too! In Rocketship math, we are timed by taking a one minute timed multiplication test. Our individual goal is to finish more than we did the day before.

In Social Studies we are learning about the Revolutionary War. Our class is working on newspapers based on that time period. The class will be writing biographies, battles, and events based on facts from websites that Mrs. Knox taught us how to use in the library.

We just finished a unit on plants in Science. Our next unit will be about simple machines. We are all looking forward to science switching with all of the other 4th grade classes.

At the end of the day we read The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo. It's about a mouse that falls in love with Princess Pea.

Finally, let me introduce you to my classmates. We have Jaden, Matthew, Sean, Carl, Brandon A, Brandon D., Christopher, and Chase who are all interested in football. We have two students interested in Bionicles, which are Julian and Scott. Julian also likes animals. We have Vincent and Benjamin who both like drawing comics.

Then we have Casey and Lexey who are interested in jewelry and fashion. We have Natalia and Meghan who like playing "Apples to Apples". We have Karen who likes origami, Lauren who likes tag and Amy who likes to read. Lydia loves Rainbow Magic. And then there's me, who loves writing!

Then, we have the teachers. We have Ms. Stanco who is very nice. We have Mrs. Baxter who teaches social studies. We also have Mrs. Cambria, Mrs. Gulli, and Ms. McHugh who all help out with our school work.

Now you've seen what my class does. We do really fun things. Our class has many fun things ahead of us throughout the rest of the school year!

By Janet Song

Mrs. Hannemann's Class

In Mrs. Hannemann's class we have been learning about the American Revolution. We have learned the impact that it had on the 13 colonies. We are also writing a newspaper article including search on a person, battle or event from the Revolution. To sum it all up, we had a test to test our brains on the American Revolution.

Reading is a BIG thing in Mrs. Hannemann's Class. Right now we are working on Folklore and Fairytales. Each guided reading group had a chance to perform a folklore play. We have also been writing to Mrs. Hannemann in our Reader's Notebook to tell her about our thinking as readers.

In Mrs. Hannemann's class writing is something we all love. We are finishing up our winter memories. We have become comfortable taking our writing through each step of the writing process.

By Nicholas Miller



Fourth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Wall's Class

Where's the Ceiling?

Drip, Drop, Drip, Drop...Ahhh! The ceiling! What happened? "Hurray Class! Go into the library!" said Mrs. Wall. "Grab your stuff too!" The ceiling was on the floor and we were relocated to the library. We spent the day in there". Okay class the American Revolution started when...." Mrs. Wall said. I couldn't concentrate! When will we get back to our classroom? What will happen next?" Then my last question was answered. We were relocated to the 6th Grade Science Lab. Apparently Mrs. Wall loved it because it had a Document Camera, a Smart Board, and was the prefect temperature. They even switched our desks into the Science Lab so we got to change our seats because we were obviously going to be there awhile. Sixteen days later we returned to our classroom. I was excited to see our classroom again!

By Nicole Hauss

Fourth Grade Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books is coming in May and the fourth graders are preparing for it. Only a couple of days ago Mrs. Wall's class went to the library and we played a mini-battle for the Battle of the Books. Last year Owen's brother won and the year before my sister won. Who's going to win this year? It's a reading competition of 100 4th grade books. This year the 3rd graders are going to watch it. So be sure to find out who wins. Can't wait!!!

By Lucia Buscemi



Mrs. Wall's Class (continued)

What's Happening Now?

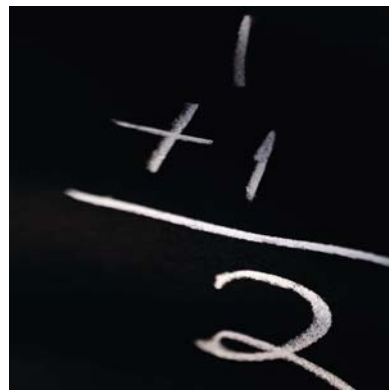
Right now in Mrs. Wall's class, we are working on a Social Studies Research Project! We go to the computer room or library to do research on an important person and a battle from the American Revolution. When we are done with the research, we are typing them up and inserting the information into a Newspaper (Microsoft Publisher). Some of them are already hanging outside our room in the hall. They look fantastic!

By Katie Bowe

The New Way to Do Math

Today in math we are learning a new method of division! It really works! Instead of divide, multiply, subtract, bring down and repeat, we do a method called Dot and Dash. It is easier for me because you just have to count the multiples. Most of the people in my class, do "Dot and Dash", over the other way. It is easier and more fun!

By Maggie Torre



Fifth Grade

Mrs. Austin's Class

I walk in to the classroom in the morning and Mrs. Austin is writing out the schedule on the white board. We have morning work to do and everyone is just waking up. We unpack and get ready for the day. Let us give you a tour of our week.

First, we start on math. Right now we finished the unit on division with two digit divisors. Mrs. Austin explains that we'll have zeroes in the quotient and she needs to show us how to do this. She writes the problem on the board: 3,982 divided by 36. She calls one of us to the board to solve the problem. The rest of us do it in our notebooks. The answer is 110 11/15.

Next, get your cannons ready for word study! In Mrs. Austin's class, we are learning many American Civil War vocabulary words and are using these words for word study. The vocabulary is mainly battle names and other important words. As our unit on the American Civil War ends, students are busy presenting their battle posters. We researched the name and location of our battle and many other facts.

In science, we finished learning about energy. There are many different kinds of energy. There is, potential, chemical, sound, radiant, thermal, nuclear, electrical and more. Learning about energy is really fun. At 1:20, we head to the cafeteria for some lunch! After we come in from recess, we come inside to unwind and read for Reader's Workshop. We are all quiet. It's a relaxing and a good way to get ready for the next lessons.

In writing, we just finished our book reviews. The book reviews are really fun to work on. We worked on our book reviews for about three weeks.

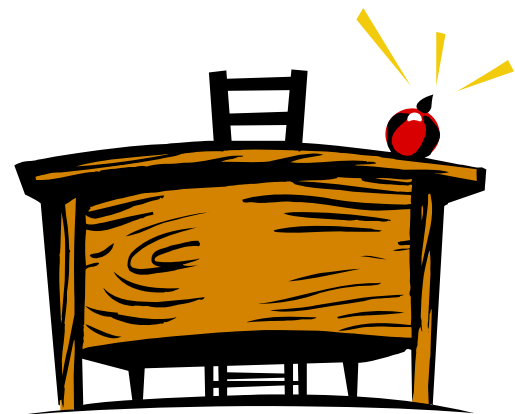
Mrs. Austin's Class (continued)

And, don't forget about specials. On Mondays and Tuesdays, we go to Physical Education. We do safety town, jump rope for heart, circus and more. Our P.E. teachers are Mr. Brand and Mr. Still; they are really nice. Wednesday mornings at 9:30, we have music where Mrs. Cooley is waiting to sing. She always has a smile on her face.

Health is coming! Thursdays, Mrs. Austin's class heads for health at 11:45 where Ms. Lesiewicz happily teaches us about the human body and how to take care of it. Our class earned pedometers this week so we were all very excited to see how far we walked! On Friday at 11:00, we go to art where Mrs. Caine teaches us. She knows so many things about art! Right now, we're working on scratch boards!

Overall, Mrs. Austin's class is a busy but a fun class to be in! We always have great weeks and good times! Mrs. Austin is a great teacher, too J!

By Atonella Jones, Jessica Fiorella and Andie Gildersleeve



Fifth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Castellano's Class

Have you ever wondered what's going on behind the walls of Mrs. Castellano's classroom? Well here's your chance to find out!

Social Studies

In social studies, our class was learning about the Louis and Clark expedition, the California Gold Rush, and Westward expansion. Shortly after learning about pioneers and Westward expansion, our class was assigned a journal or essay about our made up journeys west. When we are finished typing, we take our papers home to tea-stain and/or burn to make them look older. Now, they are hanging outside of the classroom for everybody who walks by to admire. More recently, we have been getting into the Civil War. Each student was assigned a Civil War battle project. Starting February 14, we give oral presentations to the rest of the class about our battles.

Science

In science, we have been studying earth's layers and tectonic plates. One study guide that we made in class was a diagram of the earth's layers with labels and descriptions. That is one of the many ways our class studies for science.

Mathematics

In mathematics, we have been getting deeper into decimals (multiplication, division) and dividing. (double-digit divisors, money) To make sure that we understand the math unit we are learning about, sometimes we play math games, and sometimes we are assigned a page in our math textbooks. This week's winners of the math game were **Tyler Ancona, Jason Rosenfeld, Megan Kuhnel, and Maggie Colletti.**

Reading/Writing

Every other month, we write a genre based book report, but this month we're writing reviews instead. After selecting our historical fiction novels, and after we type up our reviews, we present to the class our writing and a project to go along with it.

Mrs. Castellano's Class (continued)

Weekly, Mrs. Castellano has a student choose a picture book (of their choice) to read aloud to the class. When they are finished reading, the rest of the class fills out a sheet based on how they did. Last week, **Gianna Dunn** read the book, "The Boy Who Grew Flowers" to the class.

When it is time for guided reading, the class is split up into different groups, each group having a different book. Right now, the books that all of the groups are reading are "Shooting Star," "Jip," "The Kid who ran for President" and "Rats of Nim."

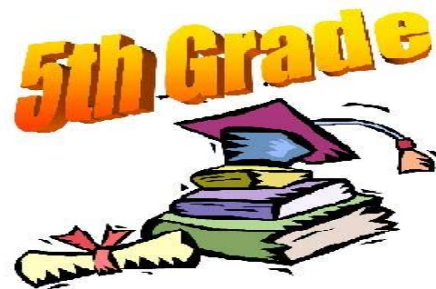
Every week, the class learns about a different spelling rule. Then, we pick 10-15 words (following the rule) to learn how to spell by heart. Last week, we learned about prefixes. Also, recently, the school Spelling Bee took place. **Naila Masom** represented Mrs. Castellano's class.

Student Observer

Student observer, **Ms. Hubbard** has joined Mrs. Castellano's class to help out around the room. She will be staying with us until April.

I hope that you have enjoyed learning about our class as much as we enjoy being a part of it!

By Naila Masom and Leah Sugrue



Fifth Grade (continued)

Mrs. D'Onofrio's Class

There is nothing better than cheering up residents at Jefferson's Ferry Assisted Living, so that's what Mrs. D'Onofrio's fifth grade class did! It has been a tradition for Mrs. D'Onofrio's class to visit the residents and do fun activities with them. We went there three times to bring happiness and joy to some very great people who live at Jefferson's Ferry.

Our first trip there consisted of trick- or- treating in our Halloween costumes. We went door to door collecting candy to donate to soldiers fighting for our country. We helped bring back good memories of trick-or-treaters coming to their doors or even the residents trick-or-treating themselves as children.

The second trip was all about Christmas spirit! Before our visit, we decorated gingerbread houses and donated them to Jefferson's Ferry for display. When we went to Jefferson's Ferry, we helped the residents decorate their Christmas tree and we sang classic Christmas carols. Some of our classmates even had a chance to play Christmas songs on the piano. This was definitely a day that brought jolly Christmas spirit to the residents.

Our most recent trip was a dance party, but earlier in the month we made Valentine's Day creatures and we gave them to the residents. They were then hung on their doors. When we went to Jefferson's Ferry for our dance party, we did fun and energetic dances such as YMCA, bunny hop, twist, and the chicken dance. Later on in our visit we got to see our Valentine's creations hung up. We made the residents feel young again and happy to have such energetic kids around.

We are looking forward to our next visit to Jefferson's Ferry and hope that the residents remember us like we will remember them!

By Veronica Buhler, Bella Diehl and Ivan Viro

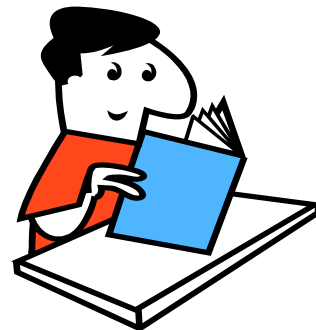
Mrs. Prinzo's Class

In Mrs. Prinzo's class we are learning about the Civil War. We wrote letters to a friend, pretending we were soldiers from the Union or Confederacy. Please walk our classroom to see our letters on display on the bulletin board.

We have been meeting with our buddies, Mrs. Besold's 2nd grade class, and are creating a holiday project. We have to make up our own holiday with our buddies. We can have fun names for the holidays such as **Rubydoodle Day** and **Party Day**.

Mrs. Prinzo's class is also doing *Reader of the Week*. Every Friday one student chooses a book to read in front of the class and gets rated by the other students. Picture books such as Gingerbread Baby and Snowmen at Night have been read. Every body in the class participates and it is a lot of fun.

By Catherine Betz, Ella Anderes and Evin Aviles



Fifth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Shaughnessy's Class

So far, in math, we have been continuing our division unit using two digit divisors and greater dividends. We try to solve division, word problems. Mrs. Shaughnessy has been showing us how to estimate, find compatible numbers to compute with, choose a calculation method, and find the quotient to division problems.

So far, in Social Studies, we have been learning about the Civil War. We researched different battles and presented poster projects, as a class. We have all found interesting facts about our individual battles, and can't wait for Mrs. Shaughnessy to introduce us to some of the more detailed and important facts about the Civil War. We are very excited to go back and learn about some of the historical events!

By Olivia Schmitt

In science, our class is learning about the Earth's layers, rocks and minerals, and we even did a cool experiment on weathering. We put a piece of chalk in a cup of water and rocks, then closed the lid tightly and shook it for five minutes, and when we took it out it was as smooth as leather. Then, we put a piece of chalk in vinegar for five minutes, and it came out as flaky as fish food. These were examples of chemical and physical weathering. When we were learning about the earth's layers, we made our own diagrams to help us remember each and every layer. When we were learning about rocks and minerals, we learned so many interesting facts like baby powder is talc, the softest kind of mineral, and that scientists can find out what the climate was like from studying a single fossil. Or if there were any other physical features like a lake or a stream. This was a great topic to study.

By Kyle Dunham

Miss Tortorici's Class

We have been doing a lot of fun activities in Ms. Tortorici's 5th Grade Class! On Monday, February 7th, Sam's Mom, Mrs. Dunmire, came into our classroom to play the guitar and sing songs from the American Civil War. Some of the songs she sang were "Follow the Drinking Gourd," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" and "Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye." She did a great job and was very knowledgeable about the history of music during the 1800's. On February 14th, we had a fun Valentine's Day Celebration with our 1st grade buddies from Ms. DiBenedetto's Class! We watched a Disney Classic, *Mickey Loves Minnie*, exchanged hand-made Valentines and ate cookies and juice. We all enjoyed spending time with each other and look forward to getting together again soon!

In class we have been doing a lot of writing. Currently, we have been writing Book Reviews and Civil War Letters. While writing our Book Reviews, we have been trying to act as real critics to offer our thoughts and opinions about the books we have read. In our Civil War Letters, we are putting ourselves in the shoes of a nurse, spy, Union soldier or Confederate soldier. We are writing to important people in our lives such as loved ones or political leaders and we are telling them what life is like during the time of the Civil War.

On a final note, six students in our class have birthdays in the month of February. That's almost 1/3 of our entire class! We have had a lot of celebrating (and sugar rushes) in our class during this exciting month!

By Emma Cowan, Deirdre Lynch, Kate Mulham & Daniela Winston



Sixth Grade

Mrs. Brady's Class

Last year I couldn't wait until I was in the 6th grade! Here in 6th grade there is a lot of work and a lot of tests. The teachers in sixth grade expect you to work hard and not act like a third grader anymore. But sixth grade is not all bad, it is sometimes fun and exciting. Years before we would hear the current 6th graders talking about how fun things were, but now that it is my turn, I couldn't be happier!

Over the course of many weeks, Mrs. Brady's class has been recently learning about the Ancient Greeks. I personally like the myths and legends. Did you know that the Greeks constantly fought with each other? One example is the Trojan War, which is not proven to be true. The Greeks wanted to overthrow Troy so they built a magnificent and gigantic wooden horse. Thinking it was a gift, the people accepted it but did not know soldiers were hidden inside. Later the soldiers burned down the village. That just shows how clever and cunning they were and that victory alone is remarkable. Social studies has an affect on a minor's mind and I hope future 6th graders have the same interest in it as I do.

A few weeks ago half of each 6th grade class went to the DNA lab. You would think it is boring but it really was not! We were almost like detectives! We had to find out if someone was a liar or not by testing their DNA. After that we mutated bacteria!

Did you hear about the All District Concert last week? It was a blast! We had a lovely audience and everyone performed beautifully. However, if you were there the fire alarm didn't play a lovely tune, if you know what I mean!

We also had a school spelling bee. It was hosted in the auditorium. Students from every class in 4th - 6th grade participated. Shannon Sartain won the spelling bee and she was our representative!

**6TH
GRADE
ROCKS**

Mrs. Brady's Class (continued)

A couple of weeks ago the 6th grade had a Winter Social. Everyone got dressed up in beautiful dresses or nice skirts and danced, talked or ate with friends. There were really good cupcakes and other foods too so when you got tired from dancing you could sit down and have a treat. The DJ got everyone involved with dances like Cotton Eyed Joe and the Cha Cha Slide. I think the most interesting part of the dance was when the DJ had us all play freeze dance. It was really fun seeing all my friends dressed up nice and fancy. I'm looking forward to seeing all the pictures in the yearbook. I hope next year's 6th grader have just as much fun as we did.

Everyone was nervous as Mrs. Brady read all the directions several times. Stress was spreading through the class as we began the SRI. Once I had gone through a handful of questions I knew I had to work my best. The minute I hit the button that said, "Congratulations!.." I knew it was over. I relaxed and waited to go back to our classroom. Feeling relieved, I sat in my chair and waited, that is until I found out we had two more sessions!

Math in my universe is confusing but I know it will help me in the long run so I try to give learning math a shot! We are going back and forth learning topics in fractions, adding, subtracting and multiplying and area in geometry. Our class is finishing up reading The Watson's Go To Birmingham as a read a loud.

As you can see life in the 6th grade is not that easy, and it's not that hard either. Sixth grade has its ups and downs but most of it is worth the wait. I have had a blast so far this year and it will continue on being the best school year of my life...hopefully.

By Lauren Berlinghof, Everett Brown, Erik Hansen, Madison Hobbes, Julia McCarthy, Kathy O'Brien, Renee Orlando, Emma Press, Lexi Salerno and Gracie Solbavarro

Sixth Grade (continued)

Mr. Guez's Class

A two month long unit on genetics has come to a close in Mr. Guez's science class. In this exciting unit, the class learned about the genetic code, genetic mutations, Punnett Squares, protein synthesis, and DNA extraction to name a few topics. Highlights of science classes included making a giant DNA strand (50 ft. long), creating a Punnett Family album noting the families actual genotype, examining mutated fruit flies under a microscope, designing an RNA cartoon, and taking a field trip to the Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor. On this trip students took the glowing genes from jellyfish and placed them in bacteria housed in a Petrie dish. A few days later the growing colonies of bacteria could be seen glowing under a black light. Mr. Schärer, a geneticist from Stony Brook University and Milo's dad, came to class and conducted a workshop with students on DNA and its chemical make-up. This presentation made for a great segue into our next unit of study - Chemistry. The genetics unit culminated with the final exam where the class average was an impressive 91%.

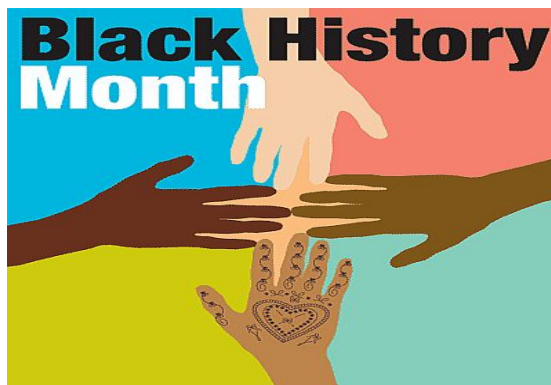
The classroom has undergone several renovations during the February break. The old sink has been removed and a new sink has been placed where the teacher closet was once located. This change will allow for greater access to the computers as the table can now be reconfigured. The new sink will also be attached to a working water fountain. In addition, a new wall-mounted Proxima was installed making video, digital camera, and websites, along with other teacher and student computer generated lessons, easier and faster to present.

Mr. Guez's Class

In celebration of Black History Month Mrs. Carrion, Olivia's mom, conducted a workshop on slavery and the early black American experience (pre-1865). The hardship slaves endured, the economics of slavery, and the Underground Railroad were several key points addressed during the presentation. Students were able to taste raw sugar cane and molasses, feel the weight of chains used to restrain slaves, view pictures of the living space on slave ships and the results of whippings, and imagine the difficulty of living under such brutal conditions. Mrs. Carrion also donated Henry's Freedom Box to the classroom. It is a picture book that depicts the real life struggle of Henry Brown, a young black boy during the 1800s, who mailed himself to freedom.

Volunteers from Mr. Guez's class performed a skit to kick off the PTA's Reading assembly. All three performances took place on the morning of February 28th. The skit was a French folktale called *Little Jack and Lazy John*. Students were dressed as bakers, a king and queen, princesses, princes, guards, townspeople, and a lady in waiting. Mr. Guez's students also managed the sound system and stage crew. The show was a huge success and the students learned a lot about the many aspects of conducting a stage performance.

By Milo Scharer, Isabel Della Salle and Mekye Barnes



Sixth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Varacchi's Class

Mrs. Varacchi's class is proud to tell you that we recently visited a very interesting place. The Dolan DNA Learning Center in Cold Spring Harbor. We learned so many interesting things, did a hands-on experiment and solved a mystery about a Russian princess named Anastasia.

During the experiment, we got to use new science tools to put bacteria in a petri dish. When we were finished, we brought the bacteria back to school and will see it glow under a black light. During the mystery, we pretended to travel back in time when a Russian princess had gone missing. Using what we know about DNA we were able to discover what happened to the princess.

You should go to the Dolan Learning Center yourself. If you are lucky, your teachers will take you there when you are in sixth grade!

By Mary Schuchman



Students from Mrs. Varacchi's sixth grade class participated in a denim jean drive. This community service project was organized by Mrs. Reyes and an Arrowhead School parent, Mrs. Fear, through our local Aeropostale store located in the Smith Haven Mall and www.Dosomething.org. Setauket School students donated over 160 pairs of jeans to this drive. The jeans will be distributed to people less fortunate through the coalition for the homeless.

By Isabella DiPierro, Harmony Sesenton and Lara Atalay

Mrs. Miele's Class

Setauket Spelling Bee

Have you ever wanted to watch a spelling bee? Well, every year in Setauket you can. On January 31st, Setauket Elementary School had a building wide spelling bee. One student from each class was chosen to participate in the assembly for grades 4-6. The winner from Setauket School will represent our school at the next level. The kids that made it into the spelling bee must have studied hard, and they deserved it. This year's spelling bee was very long. It was the longest spelling bee ever! Mr. Harrington thought it was a long spelling bee too. There were over 20 rounds.

Setauket's winner was Shannon Sartain, a sixth grader from Mrs. Brady class. Everyone could tell she studied really hard. The words were really difficult. Although there was only one winner, all the boys and girls worked very hard on all of the difficult words. There were over 500 words to study! "Wow" that is a lot of words for elementary school kids. Everyone really did an amazing job.

Anyone who was not in the spelling bee this year could be in the one next year. Remember, everyone can have a chance. We have two words for anyone that is interested, and those are GOOD LUCK!!!!!! If you have someone in your class that wants to be in it, be sure to make a sign and cheer them on!

By Madison Bratone and Megan Hill

My time in the All-District concert was one of the best times I had playing the clarinet. Other than playing with my friends at Setauket and my music teacher (Mr. Wiederman), I also performed in the Chorus. Once again, I had a great time in All-District. I wish I could do it again!

By Kelly Quinn



March 1st Trip to DNA Lab



Sixth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Miele's Class (continued)

Three Village All-District Concert

The All-District Concert was solidly striking. Out of all the concerts we've been a part of, this one was incomparable. These are the elite kids from the variant schools in the district. The sequence of the sixth grade groups was orchestra, band, and then chorus. The conductors of all the performances came from all of the elementary buildings. The band was led by Mr. Wiederman, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Kunkal, Mrs. Bletch, and Mr. Portugal. The orchestra was led by Mrs. Califano, Mr. Davies, Mrs. Johnson, and Mrs. Cinquemani.

The whole orchestra for the final song performed a cool, jazz swing piece that blew the audience away. The entire percussion section played a newly composed piece called *Funkiness*. It rocked the crowd and featured each kid with an improvised solo. It was all followed by the chorus who sang an old folk country song called *Soldier's Joy*.

While transitioning from band to chorus, the fire alarm at Ward Melville High School was triggered. The building had to be evacuated. The children were frantic and wild, and what made it even worse was the cold weather. Everyone was trying to find their parents while their parents were crying and worried about their children. After about 15 to 20 minutes in the frigid and brisk weather, we were escorted back inside. The chorus finally took the stage. The chorus sang their songs and revived their parents. The whole experience was a thrill!

By Dylan Maggio and Dylan Ratner



Mrs. Miele's Class (continued)

Winter Social

All of the sixth grade classes just enjoyed a dance called the Winter Social. The dance was held on February 4th, 2011 in the transformed cafeteria. There were decorations and lights everywhere. Most of the girls arrived in dresses with their hair done beautifully. The boys and girls are full of excitement. The DJ played many popular songs, and he also gave out glowing necklaces. Everyone had such a great time listening to all of the booming music. Some of the teachers came to the dance too!

Having these dances every year for the sixth graders is a privilege. The Monster Bash, the Winter Social, and the End of the Year Party are events that every student looks forward to their last year at Setauket Elementary.

By Kathryn Hopkins

Let Your Talent Shine

"Wow, how great is this show?" I heard all of the comments as I watched the Setauket Lip Sync/Talent Show on February 11th. If you enjoy singing, playing an instrument, or acting, you would have loved to see the show. There was a little bit of everything, and the songs were great too.

The PTA did an excellent job. The show was organized and Mr. Guez did a super job with the lighting. He had some of the old sixth graders there to help him. All of the teachers really impressed me, and *Let's Get Loud* put the icing on the cake! *All Us American Girls* and *Firework* were awesome too. Everyone at the show worked very hard, and the entire show was fantastic. Way to go, performers. I hope the PTA does this show again next year!

By Kelly Quinn

Sixth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Miele's Class (continued)

Lights, Camera, Action!

"Ok, people. Five minutes until you are on stage." We were in Mrs. Cooley's classroom getting ready to show our dance to *Firework* by Katy Perry. We had practiced every day at recess and personally, I thought we were prepared a long time ago, but we needed to make sure all involved were satisfied.

Just before we hit the stage, Hannah said, "Don't worry guys, we've done this before." Bella reminded us to do our Oompa Loompa cheer, our group name. We gathered in a circle and sang. We ended with a chest bump that hurt a bit. A moment later, we stepped onto the blinding stage and the music started.

Even though I did not feel ready at that second, my body began to move. And, they were the right moves! All of a sudden, it was all over. I felt so disappointed. I remember my neighbor asking me if I smiled the entire time on stage. I must have been because it was an experience that I will never forget.

By Kerry McKeever



Mrs. Miele's Class (continued)

The All-District Concert

Students from all over the district auditioned for the chance to participate in the sixth grade All-District Concert. Once the students were selected for the band, chorus, and/or orchestra, they started rehearsals in the beginning of January. The students worked hard and long to prepare for the big event, including early morning, Saturdays, and during school rehearsals. Although it may have been difficult to wake up early some days, the students enjoyed working with the conductors and meeting new people.

On February 9, 2011, Setauket Elementary School was involved in the musical All-District Concert. All elementary schools in the Three Village School District performed at Ward Melville High School. Students played or sang in all district band, orchestra, and/or chorus. Many children were a part of more than one group. Everyone put their best effort into playing their instrument when the orchestra and band performed. Everything went smoothly until...the fire alarm sounded while the chorus was singing.

As the alarm blared off, students evacuated the building immediately. The pupils were forced to leave the buildings without jacket in twenty degree Fahrenheit weather. To add to chaos, the students were separated from their parents who were seated in the audience. The parents were forced to evacuate as well. Everyone was shivery cold!

Thank goodness no one was hurt. The mysterious alarm was caused because of a build up of dust in the system. Ward Melville High School guaranteed that they would try to fix the problem. We all returned to the building and the chorus performed with loud, relieved voices. This will be a night not soon to be forgotten!

By Emily Paul

Sixth Grade (continued)

Mrs. Villari's Class

Funtastrophe?

It seemed to be an uneventful Valentine's Day. It was a regular school day, not exciting at all. At the end of the day, we exchanged cards. Then Funtastrophe took place.

Every kid in the class was ecstatic. Why? They had just gotten six Fun Dips. Kids were bouncing off the walls that day, but Mrs. Villari was smart enough to wait until the last 15 minutes of the day before everyone handed out candy. Those 15 minutes were pure insanity. One kid even ate seven Fun Dips that day. He supplemented his six with one from Mrs. Miele.

We also did the Valentine's Day card exchange that day. Most of the cards contained candy too. One card had a massive pixie stick and our own reporter, Henry Nelson, got a pack of M & Ms and a big Snickers bar. It wasn't a huge Funtastrophe due to Mrs. Villari's smart decision to not give out candy until the end of the day, but overall we got a ton of candy.

Mrs. Villari's Class (continued)

In phys ed class we finished Jump Rope for Heart. It was cool that we could choose other activities though. Quentin, Thomas, Bryce and Ian really got into virtual ping pong. Dance, Dance Revolution was also popular – Jimmy, Malcolm, Sarah P, Maddy, Sarah K and Arianna danced their hearts out. Kathryn stuck to the jump roping and actually and broke the record for single rope jumps.

All-District week at Ward Melville was fun but hectic. Our switching schedules had to be altered to accommodate all of the changes. At the evening concert on Wednesday, February 9th, the fire alarm sounded just as the Chorus approached the risers to perform. Everyone had to evacuate the building. We had to huddle to keep warm because it was freezing outside and we were all wearing short sleeves. Luckily everyone was safe and the concert went on. Sarah K, Malcolm, Annabel, Natalie enjoyed wearing sunglasses while playing "Swinging Strings" in the Orchestra.

One last important thing... Thomas finally finished a puzzle during indoor recess. He was obsessed with "Thirty-one Wonders of the World." That kept him occupied!

Sixth Grade Folktale Skits



Music News

All District Band

When Mr. Wiederman picked me for All District Band, I could not wait for the opportunity. At All District practice, I had a great time playing with different percussionists than I had played with previously. Mr. Portugal was extremely helpful in showing the percussionists the correct way to play these new rhythms. Along with helping us with the rhythms, he also helped us create our own drum solo that we performed on stage at the concert. In our solo, the tambourine started, then the two toms joined in. Next, the snare drums came in, then the bass, and finally the ride cymbal. After we came together, it sounded upbeat, relating to the title of our piece, called "Funkiness."

Another great part of All District Band is that you get to see and play music with all your friends from other schools that you never get to see on a normal school day. My favorite song by far was the drum solo because it was all percussion! My second favorite was "Honor Roll March" because percussion is the foundation of marches. Overall, I really enjoyed this experience.

By Andrew Lockhart



Art News

Mr. John DiNaro, visiting artist, will be working with Mrs. Caine on this year's mural. The site this year will be in the Kindergarten wing and will showcase artwork from Eric Carle and Dr. Seuss books. The mural will begin on March 17th and 18th.



Box Tops

Our entire school held a 2-week Box Top drive in January. To help boost student participation I announced to the students that the winning grade would win an extra recess period of their choice with me. The results were wonderful! I am looking forward to spending extra time with the winning children. Below are the grade totals:

6Th grade - 516
5Th grade - 787
4Th grade - 584
3rd grade - 221
2ND grade - 787
1st grade - 83
Kindergarten - 106



As you can see there was a 2 grade tie! Congratulations to grades two and five; each collected 787 Box Tops! The money collected will be used to support our recess programs through the purchase of student selected games and equipment! I am looking forward to beating this year's totals next year! A huge thank you to our parents who supported this effort at home.

By Kathryn White

Setauket Student Council

It takes dedication, time and effort to make our community a better place. As student council representatives, we feel that it is essential to take a roll in helping the Three Village School District, and the people within it.

Every other Tuesday, the 5th and 6th grade student council representatives get together to discuss current events and fundraisers we are putting together. So far we have had a huge success with the "Giving Tree". The Giving Tree provided struggling families with Christmas presents to give to their loved ones. In addition to that, we also accommodated them with gift cards to local food stores and restaurants. We believe that it is important to care for others when they are in need.

Before the Super Bowl, the student council arranged the "Souper Bowl", in order to collect the food for the Souper Bowl we had the students "vote" for the team they wanted to win. By voting, they placed their items in two boxes (one marked Steelers, and the other Packers) located at the greeters desk. Mrs. White and Mr. Harrington settled on a little bet. If the Green Bay Packers collect the most items, then Mr. Harrington had to sing "We are the Champions" at every lunch period. But if the Steelers collect the most items, then Mrs. White has to sing the same song at every lunch period too. By a landslide, Mrs. White won the friendly competition. Listening to Mr. Harrington work out his vocal chords was quite a show. Ironically, the Green Bay Packers victoriously stole the win from the Steelers with one touchdown to spare! This isn't the only food drive we have put together. The student council has participated in numerous food drives.

Currently, we are running a blue jeans drive. The students are collecting blue jeans that you have outgrown or that are sitting around not being used. The jean donations that go in the box near the greeters desk go to the less fortunate families in our community. The jeans sitting in the back of your closet not being used can be used by someone that actually needs them and can put them to better use. The Setauket School collected over 150 pairs of jeans! Wow! What a success!

Every ordinary Friday, all of the representatives go to each classroom in the building and collect recycling bins full of paper waiting to be recycled. You know, school is not the only place you can reduce, reuse, and recycle. At home, you can get a reusable water bottle instead of clogging up our landfills with plastic water bottles. It takes 70-450 years for a plastic water bottle to decompose. Long time, huh? The student council feels very strong about saving our environment!

We want to thank all of the parents, PTA, and students that helped put together and supported all the fundraisers and drives. So far, you made this year full of achievements and goals we have reached. Being in the Student Council has been an extraordinary experience and it has given us the chance to help those in need!

By Lauren Berlinghof and Kathy O'Brien

Resident Groundhog Predicts Early Spring

On February 2, Setauket Sam, our local groundhog did see his shadow and reported an early spring to the students and staff on the morning announcements at school. Sam was able to visit the Kindergarten classes during the day to admire all the student art work created in his likeness. Sam reports he was impressed with their work.

(Sam is a talking stuffed model of a groundhog).



Founders Day to be Held on April 14th

Please save the date of Thursday, April 14 from 4:00-6:00pm for our Founder's Day Celebration and Annual Open House. More information will be announced in the next edition of Setauket Signals.



Lip Sync/Talent Show is a Huge Hit!

The first annual Lip Sync-Talent Show was held last month with more than 50 talented students and 40 aspiring staff performing for Setauket families and friends. The quality of the performing acts including singing and dancing was impressive. Many thanks to our performers especially Mr. Wiederman, the MC, Mr. Guez, the sound and lighting engineer and to Mrs. Claire Boucher of the PTA and her committee of dedicated parents who auditioned and rehearsed the students after school.



Setauket Spelling Bee

Setauket School's annual spelling bee was held on January 31st. The classroom winners from each fourth, fifth and sixth grade class participated on the auditorium stage. The competition was very intense with twenty rounds of spelling conducted before a winner was declared. Our school winner for this year is Shannon Sartain from Mrs. Brady's sixth grade class. Thanks to our pronouncer, Mrs. Knox, and judges Mr. Gustafson and Mrs. Lesiewicz. Congratulations to all of our class winners!

Grade 4

Jeanette Orlando
Julia Tsbycheva
Janet Song
John Goldstein
Will Sartain

Grade 5

Andrew Zhang
Naila Masom
William Arranz
Liv Halvorsen
Olivia Schmitt
Kate Mulham

Grade 6

Shannon Sartain
Ellie Buscemi
Dylan Maggio
Kiera Ramaliu
Arianna Ferretti



