

From Mrs. Smith's Desk

Dear Families,

We had a successful 1st Global Play Day at our school on February 5. Our event was extra special as a result of all of the parents and grandparents that stopped by to play with our students. Students had a fabulous day playing outside, building forts, drawing/painting, conducting self-led experiments, karaoke, crafts, and participating in open gym activities such as basketball, jump rope, hula hooping, football and climbing the rock wall. Students also brought in toys and games from home to play with during Global Play Day. Electronics were not allowed on this day as it was a day focused on unstructured play. Fun was had by all in attendance at Williams Elementary on February 5th. Fifth-grader Marcus Farwell shared, "This has been the best day of my life!"



The Great Kindness Challenge

Students joined 24,000 other schools worldwide in The Great Kindness Challenge. Our school kindness crew announced this awesome challenge to our entire school community during our Champions Assembly. During our Great Kindness Challenge week, students and their families were encouraged to complete random acts of kindness, students posed for photos in the "I Love Kindness" photo booth and the Be the "I" in Kind display, and students also participated in a random lunch seating day with the goal of interacting with new groups of students at lunch. Students also participated in a unifying service project, Kind Coins for Mexico, to help build a new school and friendship center in Mexico. Ms. Amanda Cotter's class was the winner of our coin collection competition and will receive an extra PE class with Mr. Engleright. Ms. Cotter's class raised \$57.62 and the grand total raised by our school was \$292.55. Thank you everyone for the generous donations to the Kind Coins for Mexico Project.

EmpowerME State Tests

As you know, we have been busy preparing and reinforcing the skills necessary for students to demonstrate their learning on the upcoming state assessment. Our students will be participating in the EmpowerME state tests from March 16 - April 10. Students will take six tests, this is one test less than future years because we are not required to take the essay test this year. The tests include two reading tests, two math tests, and two writing/language tests. Students will only take one test each day. Your child's classroom teacher will inform you of their classroom's testing schedule. It is important to remember that state tests are only one measure of a student's learning in school. We want each student to have an opportunity to do his/her best. Families play an important role. Here are a few important reminders of the things you can do to help your child feel comfortable on testing days:

- make sure your child gets plenty of rest and eats breakfast
- make sure your child arrives to school on time
- keep your routine as normal as possible. Upsetting natural routines may make children feel insecure.
- if your child is sick, do not send him/her to school that day (there are scheduled make up days following the test)
- test days are days our children need lots of support. Hugs and positive words are important. The children work hard and deserve our praise for their efforts.

March Madness

It's the fifth year of our annual school-wide reading tournament. Valerie Glueck and Shelly Moody started Nonfiction March Madness five years ago to celebrate our school community's love of reading and capture our excitement in a school-wide event. Every year, 16 outstanding nonfiction books are selected that we hope will foster our students' curiosity while building background knowledge about a variety of engaging topics. All classrooms will read the 16 nonfiction picture books on a wide variety of topics including inventors, space, animals, athletes and historic events. Each week students will vote for their favorite books to move to the Elite 8, the Final 4 and eventually our book championship on April 8th!

Stop by to check out the titles in this year's bracket! I can not wait to read *Her Fearless Run*, *Titan and the Wild Boars*, *Magic Ramen*, and *Crayon Man*. On February 28, we kicked off our reading event with a Knock Out Basketball Championship. Each classroom had one representative and staff also competed in this fun game. Mr. Sucey was crowned the this year's Knock Out Champion. We also had a parade of books with a student representative from each classroom. Our Master of Ceremonies, Jason Pellerin, MHS JMG teacher, energized the crowd as each book in this year's tournament was announced!

Students will receive a book bracket with the 16 outstanding nonfiction books included in this year's tournament. Mrs. Moody created the PDF bracket for us so that students could predict the winner and monitor their favorite books throughout the rounds of our tournament. We hope you enjoy discussing your child's favorite books in this year's tournament. Our big assembly to announce the winning title will be on Wednesday, April 8th. It's always an incredible event... you are welcome to join us!



Congratulations to Our Recent Eagles of the Week!

Grade 3 - Elliot Gifford

Elliot was been nominated by Mrs. Sucey, a classmate, and Mr. Parisi. Elliot was nominated for being a fantastic listener. Caraline said "Elliot is always listening in class and paying attention to Mrs. Sucey and his classmates. He listens even when others around him make it hard to do so." We are so lucky to have Elliot as a role model in our school and classroom. Keep being awesome Elliot!

Grade 5 - Kaylee Fisher

Kaylee has been nominated by Miss Hilton for Eagle of the Week. Kaylee always maintains an awesome attitude and puts a lot of effort into her work; she never gives up even when tasks are challenging. She is always listening when teachers or peers are talking and is a respectful member of our classroom community. She is fun to work with and always has a smile on her face. Keep up the awesome work, Kaylee!

On Wednesday, March 11 we will be honoring all of our Eagles of the Week with a special luncheon. We will hold a second luncheon in June to celebrate Eagles of the Week that are selected for the remainder of the year.

Educationally Yours,

Melanie Smith

IMPORTANT DATES

March 2: National Read Across America Day - Celebrate by reading with your child.

Champions Assembly at 8:15AM

March 4: School-wide Field Trip to the Opera House to see the Treasure Island Performance. Buses leave at 8:30AM.

March 11: Grade 4 Field Trip to Margaret Chase Smith Library

March 11: Grad Level Luncheons for our Eagles of the Week!

March 12: Parent/Teacher Conference Night 3-7PM

March 12: PTA meeting 6-7PM in the WES music room

March 13: Report Cards will be sent home

March 16 - April 10: EmpowerME (State Assessment)

March 16 - Slugger Reading Challenge forms are DUE back to school

March 20: NoSchool- Teacher In-Service Day

March 24: Early Release - students dismissed at noon.

