



C.M. Callahan School News



Spring has sprung and our children are enjoying the new outside facilities every day before school and during our A.M. and lunch recesses.

Our third, fourth, and fifth graders have been working diligently on their ELA MCAS tests. Our staff, school council, and PTA Board collaborated to provide an exciting and successful Math/Science night on March 25th. I want to personally thank all of the staff members and parents who helped in the planning of activities, ran the various stations, and helped with the ebb and flow of traffic throughout the building. It was an entertaining and educationally fun night for all who participated.

The Callahan School also had an impressive presence at the Matt Brown Basketball Tournament over the weekend of March 19th and 20th. Congratulations to all staff members and parents who played in the various games or attended the exciting staff/parent game on the 19th.

Our fifth graders will be holding a can drive on Saturday, April 10th – in our parking lot adjacent to the field. On Monday and Tuesday April 12th and 13th, many of our students will have their art work on display at the Fine Arts Festival, which will again be held at the K of C Hall on Nichols Street. We will also have fourth and fifth grade music students performing at the festival. Chris Larson has booked an educational program entitled 'Geodomes' for grades 1 – 5 on Wednesday, April 25th. The Callahan Instrumental Concert is scheduled for Tuesday – May 4th at 7 P.M.

I will conclude by appealing to all parents to maintain your high degree of involvement in our children's educational endeavors throughout the beautiful days and nights of April, May, and June. As the days get longer, and outdoor activities become more abundant, it becomes more difficult to follow homework routines. Please know that we appreciate and support all of your efforts to regularly discuss school work and promote your children's educational experiences.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Griffin

1st

Mrs. Sweeney, Ms. Ryan

What's happening in Ms. Ryan and Mrs. Sweeney's Classrooms!

Happy Spring! We continue to be very busy learning to be great readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, and printers! Our Writer's Workshop has included writing Small Moments, editing and revising and writing "words in a snap".

In our Reading Workshop we are learning both decoding and comprehension strategies to become better readers. We have enjoyed reading "Just Right Books" during Independent Reading time. We are so lucky to have so many books to choose from in our classrooms.

During Math we have been tallying, learning to tell time to the hour and half hour, and working on our calendar skills. We are also learning to count pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollars!. In our Geometry unit we are learning about attribute blocks and the many different ways to sort them.

Finally, we practice our penmanship and spelling in all that we do. We are trying to be sure to form our letters correctly and to spell our words exactly as they sound. Practicing at home will help us to be successful!

2nd

Ms. Malcolm, Mrs. Cotter & Mrs. Barr

Dear Families, Springtime is here! We cannot believe how quickly this year is going by. The Callahan second graders have been working very hard. In Readers' Workshop we have been focusing on visualizing and non-fiction. We learned how to make pictures and movies in our minds to help us become better readers. We also learned the different text features of non-fiction. Non-fiction texts give us real information and usually contain a table of contents, glossary, index, bold faced words, captions, and photographs. In Math, we are working on doubling and halving numbers and charting information. We are constantly reviewing regrouping in subtraction and carrying in addition. Please continue to practice basic facts at home with your child. In Writers Workshop we are learning to write our own stories. Also, we are learning how to gather information to write a simple paragraph. Please remember to continue reading at home with your child every night! ☺

Mrs. Cotter, Mrs. Barr, Miss Malcolm

3rd

Ms. Orosz and Ms. Donovan

Happy Spring! Good news? Through our weekly tracking of the sunrise and sunsets, we are up to over 12 hours of daylight! Also, in Math, we have studied Geometry, Fractions, and we'll be learning three ways to multiply double digits! Some 3rd graders are proudly wearing their Master of Multiplication? Crowns. Good job! It's a goal for all 3rd graders to master the facts! Keep practicing! We are also practicing cursive writing. Keep your eyes open for some beautiful writing to come home. The students have been working hard preparing for the MCAS. Their efforts are commendable! We realize that Spring season means more time on the field and participating in outdoor activities. Please stress to your children the importance of completing all the nightly assignments and continuing to put forth their best effort with their school work.

4th

Mrs. Rizzo and Mrs. Breen

Please check the class web page. I update it weekly with information, homework and class news. When I have them, I also post pictures. The MCAS is here. We have worked hard all year to prepare for this fourth grade "right of passage". The children have been prepared and everyone will be working as hard as they can! Please make sure your child gets a good rest the night before, has breakfast, and comes to school--hopefully on time, but late is better than absent. This is a state mandated test, so being absent doesn't mean you don't take the test. It just means you take a make up test. Traditionally, it is easier on the children to have the support their peers as they test. Mrs. Lockwood will be our Science teacher for the rest of the year.

Mrs. Lockwood and Mr. Haffey each teach 3 Science Units a year. We have been having fun doing Readers' Theater with the First Grade Ryans. This is READERS' Theater, so there is no line memorization. The fourth grade buddies are helping the first grade buddies with expression and fluency. When MCAS is over, the Fourth Grade will be doing Fourth Grade Readers' Theater, at the children's request. Happy Spring! Miss Rizzo

What's Up in Room One? - The Breen Team has been very busy preparing for the MCAS Long Composition. We have been studying the "Things Good Writers Do" and practicing these skills in our daily writing. Also, the students have created an imaginary dog and an exciting rescue story for the "My Dog, My Hero" writing contest. Voting will take place soon. The class is currently reading the story, The Cay, and learning a bit about WWII. The students are reading many different books on their own, including Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. This seems to be a fourth grade favorite. The students are presenting their Power Point presentations on a United State. They have learned to combine text, graphics and special effects such as sound into their slides. Our study of Canada will include the creation of a travel brochure on a particular Canadian Province. Spring is in bloom in room #1! Our radish plants are beginning to sprout. We will investigate the effects of light and darkness on plant growth as these radish plants continue to grow. The class recently finished a math unit on fractions. The students put their knowledge of fractions and artistic ability to use designing pizzas for some very picky eaters. We are looking forward to warmer, drier weather, and some extra recess. Happy Spring! Mrs. Breen

5th

Mr. Downs and Miss O'Brien

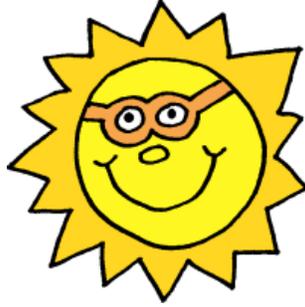
The temperature outside is on the rise, the birds are chirping again, and soon the mosquitoes will be on the attack! Ask your child where those pesky mosquitoes fit into the food chain. Spring is around the corner, and with spring comes **MCAS** (**M**y **C**hance to **A**nswer **S**tuff). Here in the fifth grade, “We fear no examination, test, or assessment.”

In Science, grade five students are beginning to exploring the science behind life. They are will be learning about survival, adaptation, and camouflage. The phrase of the Day is “Survival of the fittest.” Look out Jacques Clouseau, grade five’s next stop is the Galapagos Islands.

In Mathematics, the name of the game is “FRACTIONS.” They are all around us and the fifth grade knows that fractions are nothing more than division problems. Ask them about the division dance. The data received from the Everyday Mathematics unit test are helpful in preparing your child for the sixth grade. We are $\frac{2}{3}$ ’s the way there. Keep up the great work grade five.

In Social Studies, students are learning about colonial American life. They have worked in groups to create and present posters to their classmates. Topics covered are colonial entertainment, school and church life, colonial jobs, and colonial home life. Next on schedule is learning about the events that lead to the American Revolution!

We continue to read and write each day in Readers’ and Writers’ Workshop. Remember – although students are reading for a good deal of time at school, they should read each night at home as well! The more you read, the better reader you become. And the better reader you become – the better writer you will be! Great readers make great writers!



Title I Ms. Wiznitzer and Ms. DiNapoli

Can you believe that it's already April?! Time sure flies by when you're having fun in Title I! We are proud of all of our students as they have made so much progress in their reading and writing throughout this school year.

With summer soon approaching, we want to remind you how important it is for your child to practice reading and writing everyday! We suggest that students keep a journal, where they can write and draw about their summer adventures and experiences.

Remember to download Lexia on your computer at home so that your child can get extra practice over the summer. If anyone needs additional copies of the download instructions, we would be more than happy to send them home. They can also be found on our websites.

We feel confident that all of our Title I students will do well on the MCAS this month! Have fun in the sun and remember to READ, READ, READ!

Happy Reading,

Lisa Wiznitzer- Grades 1, 2 & 3

Debbie DiNapoli- Grades 3, 4 & 5



Mr. Conti

Physical Education / Health

Greetings from the Gym ! Our third, fourth and fifth graders are in the middle of our "Having fun with fitness unit". All the students are learning and exploring ways to make their bodies more physically fit. We spent the first 2 classes monitoring heart rates while playing various cardio related activities. The pedometers we ordered this year were a big hit with the kids. The next phase of our unit is teaching the fundamentals of muscle endurance while learning the different names of the muscle groups. Our unit will culminate with 2 classes of "Circuit Training". The students will perform up to 10 stations challenging their cardio endurance, muscle endurance, muscle strength, and flexibility.

Our first and second grades will be learning about fitness after April break. Currently the future baseball and softball stars are honing their ball skills. Students are perfecting their technique of throwing, catching and rolling concepts. I give the students the opportunity to use various types of objects to throw and catch like tennis balls, whiffleballs, bean bags , yarn balls and gator balls. This allows them to build confidence and skills with many different types of balls/objects.. The favorite throw seems to be the overhand.

A reminder that the Callahan School is proud to participate in the National " Jump Rope for Heart" program this year... We will dedicate the week of April 12th in physical education to learning various jump rope skills. This will be a fun week for the students. At the same time, realize the importance of developing a strong and healthy heart!

Stay Active,

Mr. Conti



Nurse's Office

Nurse's Web Page: www.norwood.k12.ma.us/nurses/monthly_memo.htm

AS COLD AND FLU SEASON CONTINUES....

Please remember that your child should be free from fever, vomiting and/or diarrhea for at least 24 hours before returning to school after an illness. This will allow your child the time he/she needs to recover completely and it will prevent the spread of illness to other students.

ATTENTION 3rd GRADE PARENTS....

Massachusetts Law requires that all students entering Grade 4 have an up-to-date physical exam done by their pediatrician or nurse practitioner. The exam must be done within 12 months of entering Grade 4 so your child will need an exam done between September 2009 and September 2010. If your child has already had an exam during this time frame, please send a copy of the report to the nurse's office at your earliest convenience. If your child has not had a recent physical, please call your pediatrician's office now to schedule an exam and send the report to the nurse's office before the first day of school in September. Please call if you have any questions @ 781-440-5943.

BICYCLE SAFETY

The Town of Norwood offers great quality bicycle helmets to all Norwood residents for the very low price of \$5.00 each. The helmets can be purchased at the Department of Public Health office in the Town Hall. As the weather warms up and we start spending more time outdoor, please remember to make safety a priority.

SCREENING FOLLOW UPS

All of the yearly screenings for vision/hearing, height/weight, and scoliosis have been completed at this time. If you received a letter recommending medical evaluation for your child, please have the pediatrician see your child as soon as possible and return the follow-up portion of the letter to the nurse's office.

NURSES WEB PAGE

Please check the nurses web page for lots of timely medical and safety information:

www.norwood.k12.ma.us/nurses/monthly_memo.htm

PTA EVENTS UPDATE

April 2010						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 NO SCHOOL	3
4	5 VOTE	6	7	8	9	10 CAN DRIVE
11	12 <i>Fine Arts Festible</i>	13 <i>PTA Mtg 7pm Red Sox Winner</i>	14	15	16 <i>Secretarys Day</i>	17
<i>No School April Vacation April 19th through 23rd</i>						
25	26	27	28	29	30	
MAY						
						1
2	3 <i>Teacher Appreciation Week</i>	4 <i>Callahan Concert</i>	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 <i>PTA Meeting 7pm</i>	12	13 <i>Basket Raffle</i>	14 <i>1/2 Day Early Dismissal</i>	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 <i>Memorial Day No School</i>					

