

The Middlebrook Messenger

February 1, 2010
Volume 0910, Issue 2

Principal Patricia Colello



Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Kindergarten News	1
First Grade News	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	2
PTA President's News	3
PTA News	3-4
Observatory News	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Fathers Club Meeting – 2/9 @ 7:30
- ◆ School Store – 2/12
- ◆ Vacation Week – 2/15 – 2/19
- ◆ Middlebrook Night at the Sound Tiger's Hockey Game – 2/21
- ◆ PTA Meeting - 2/22 @ 7:00
- ◆ Fathers Club Beach Party – 3/5
- ◆ School Store – 3/12
- ◆ PTA Meeting – 3/22 @ 7:00

Principal's News

Dear Middlebrook Families,

Greetings! The 2010 winter season is here and our weather patterns continue to be unpredictable; however the winter months do provide us with time when we can focus on learning with less interruption from the calendar. This year we have been giving some extra attention to improving the students' oral language skills across the curriculum. Oral language is more than talking with other people. It is an important link in student learning development that involves thinking, knowledge, and communication skills. While we continue to promote and improve this practice, your support at home would be helpful. A simple way for children to practice and sharpen these skills is to engage in a dialogue with you about what they are learning in school. Although I am aware that not all students are eager to chat about their daily school experience, I strongly encourage parents not to accept short or one-word responses. Students spend over six hours per day in school and I am confident that with some prompting they can explain what they are learning.

Kindergarten News

Happy New Year! We have been very busy in kindergarten this winter! We spent the month of December sharing family traditions and reading stories about families. We welcomed the beginning of winter with a special center day. We made a sock snowman, lovely snowflake ornaments and had a special snack.

The fifth grade classes generously offered their time to make gingerbread houses with the kindergarten children. They worked in small groups & shared ideas and CANDY! It was great fun!

If your child has nothing to offer, start by asking them to explain what they read or did in math, science or social studies. These additional opportunities to converse about their learning will support our efforts to improve student performance in all areas of the curriculum.

March is just around the corner and it will be a busy month. The Connecticut Mastery Tests will be given in grades 3, 4, and 5. The students will be focusing on demonstrating their skills and knowledge. Please make sure the students are well rested, and arrive to school on time. The mastery tests will run from March 2 through March 16, 2010. A schedule will be sent home.

Many of our mid-year assessments are done and the data reflects steady growth for our students. The staff at Middlebrook works hard to meet the needs of our students and it is this commitment of which I am most proud! I trust that 2010 will continue to be a year of many triumphs for our students, school and community.

Sincerely,

Patricia Colello



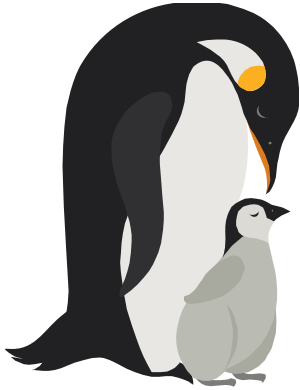
We have been learning about comparing numbers, taking inventory, estimating and graphing. We are also learning about predicting, comparing and recording patterns. WOW!

The children are spending a great deal of time learning how to put their letters and sounds together to make words. They are enthusiastic about their writing and it shows! They are becoming authors and illustrators. We will be spending the winter months reading and writing about winter animals and friendship.

First Grade News

The “New Year” has been full of wonder and excitement in First Grade! We are truly readers!

We have been busy learning about snow, ice and the cold winter weather. The children have been writing stories and reading books that are related to winter. Through our author study of Jan Brett we were able to see and learn about people and animals that live in other cold places in the world. Next we studied and learned about an animal we all love, the adorable and remarkable penguin. We had fun researching facts about the seventeen different types of penguins in our world. We wrote factual stories and began to learn how to read non-fiction stories ourselves. Each class celebrated their hard work in a special way.



February will be a month filled with friendship and love. We will greet the Ground Hog on the second and check our predictions about spring and winter. Then we will learn about Chinese New Year and the traditions that surround it. We look forward to our 100th day in first grade in February. We will be counting to 100 many different ways.

We will meet many new people in our literature using both fiction and non-fiction texts. At the end of the month we will **leap** into March.

Second Grade News

Happy New Year!

The second grade closed out the 2009 year with a trip around the world. The students participated in a Winter Celebration Center Day. Students traveled to each second grade class in order to learn about specific traditions and holidays of Sweden, Italy, Mexico and India.

The beginning of 2010 is off to a great start! In math, students have been busy identifying the place value of a number and making groups of tens and ones. In the upcoming month students will begin a unit on interpreting data. They will be analyzing graphs and classifying objects.

Second graders have been busy continuing reading a variety of genres and applying reading strategies to their independent reading. Through collaboration with the media center, students will be researching biographies. Students will practice taking notes and finding important information of a famous American.

This trimester our science unit will be focused on solids, liquids, and gases. Students will have the opportunity to explore each of these properties through hands on experiments and observations.

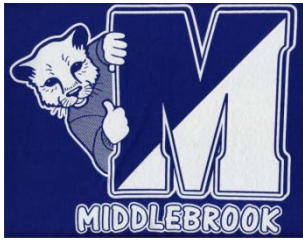
Mrs. Rydelek, Mrs. Cerulli, Ms. Iannacone, and Ms. Berry

Third Grade News

Our third graders were busy with their community service project in December. The students collected hats and mittens and donated them to Trumbull Social Services.

In science, the children were introduced to “Bones and Muscles” with a hands-on workshop. The children learned about how an owl pellet is formed and how to dissect a pellet. The students were then asked to identify and sort the many bones found in these pellets. We all had one “Hoot” of a good time!





2009-2010 PTA Officers

President – Lisa Hughes

1st VP – Kim Johnson

2nd VP – Oz Yorulmaz

3rd VP – Pat Colello

Secretary – Cindy Andrzejewski

Treasurer – Jannise Castaldi

We're on the Web!
www.middlebrookpta.com

Middlebrook
Elementary School

220 Middlebrooks
Avenue
Trumbull, CT 06611

Phone:
(203) 452-4411

Fax:
(203) 452-4426



PTA President's News

"While we try to teach our children all about life our children teach us what life is all about." -A Schwindt

Hello and Happy New Year!

I want to take this time to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to do this job!

It has been a gift to share in the every day lives of my Four Best Friends, Alix, Jett, Ethan, and Jayne. It is something I would not have the opportunity to do if it wasn't for the PTA.



And although, as most of you know, I am dancing the "happy dance," when that bus shows up every morning...there is something about being in their environment (especially when someone else is in charge) that gives me the greatest joy!!

Thank you to all our fabulous committees that have worked so hard to provide our kids with all the extras and all the volunteers who keep showing up!

Lisa Hughes
PTA President

Reflections Winners

Congratulations to all of the 108 participants and winners of this years Reflection program. We had 116 entries! This years theme was "Beauty is..."

All of the art and literature entries will be on display in the school lobby from February 2nd through the 24th. All participants that came in first place will move onto the state level for judging.

Visual Arts /Primary Level

1st – Ellie Smith

2nd – Joseph Bocchichio

3rd – Youssoupha Diagne

Honorable Mention - Christina Odendahl

Secondary Level

1st – Catherine Odendahl

2nd – Grace McClean

3rd - Cole Smith

Honorable Mention - Piper Kozar-Meyers and Matthew Kuroghlian

Photography/Intermediate Level

1st - Mimi Marino

2nd - Maverick Grillo

3rd - Maia Moscova

Honorable Mention - Ryan Vawter

Dance Choreography

1st - Lydia Prezioso

2nd - Isabella Wolson

Musical Composition

1st - Gyan Singh

2nd - Nicholas Johnson

Film Production / Primary Level

1st - Madeline Plumb

Intermediate Level

1st - Jessica Gibbs

2nd - Porter Mead

Literature /Primary Level

1st – Morgan Plitnick

2nd - Ina Rahalkar

Intermediate Level

1st - Stephanie Liptack

2nd - Olivia Iacono

3rd - Sophia Sim

Honorable mention - Bennett Solitto





Observatory News

The Winter Session of the Middlebrook Explorers has begun. The 4th grade is busy building their rockets. We are looking at a March 1st launch date. The 5th grade Explorers began by studying the characteristics of flight and built a rubber band powered plane to put their new knowledge to practice. A number of visits to the observatory is planned for both groups.

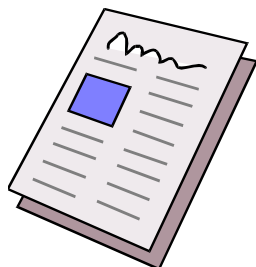
Public Observatory Sessions:

Keep an eye on the Middlebrook Observatory web page at: new.schoolnotes.com/mbobservatory for upcoming public viewing sessions. Everyone is welcome to attend to view some fascinating objects in our night sky.

Future News

Do you have some important news to share? Share it with the Middlebrook Community by putting it into the PTA newsletter.

Send the information to Michele Karpowich at mandjkarpowich@yahoo.com. Or send a hardcopy into school to the attention of "PTA Newsletter".



NEWSLETTER	SUBMISSION DEADLINE	PUBLICATION DATE
SPRING	MARCH 24	MARCH 31
SUMMER	JUNE 4	JUNE 11



Yearbook News

Yearbooks are currently on sale for \$15.00. If you do not get your order in by February 12th, the cost will be \$20. Any orders received after April 5th will be on a first come, first served basis.

If you have any questions or have any photos that you would like to submit for use in the yearbook, please contact Dawn Paskevicz at dmpask@sbcglobal.net or Robin Bova at kbova1375@charter.net.

