

October 28, 2016



# From the desks of Mrs. Shober & Mrs. Kries

## ■ Dates to remember:

- **Book Fair**
  - November 2nd-8th.
  
- **Conferences:**
  - November 8th: School Closed. Conferences
  - November 9th: Single Session Day. Conferences
  
- **Other important dates:**
  - November 10th-11th: School Closed. Teacher's Convention
  - November 17th - Picture Retakes
  - November 23: Single Session
  - November 24-25: School Closed

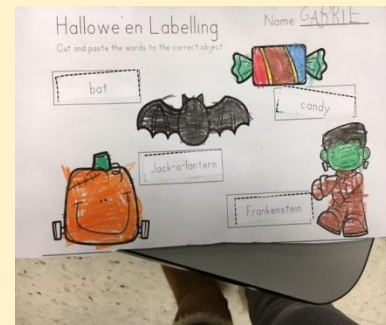
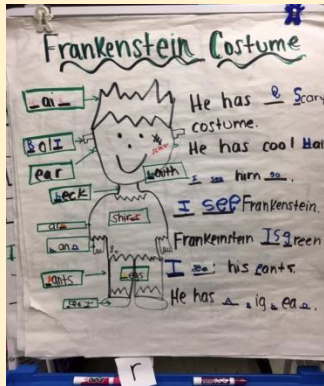




# Mrs. Cipparuolo's Kindergarten ESL Class



Throughout the month of October our English Language Learners have been learning all about the season of fall and Halloween. We are incorporating themed activities into our every day learning. Students have been labeling pictures of spooky houses, pumpkins, and even Frankenstein! Our ELL's are becoming pro's at their letters, sounds, and sight words! We have also been discussing how Halloween can be celebrated in different cultures. Students who are new to our country are very excited to celebrate Halloween for the first time and to walk in our parade!



## **Mrs. Arencibia's class finds that Autumn is a great time of year to fall into reading!**

As first graders bring home leveled reading books that target their individual reading readiness level, they bring with them many essential reading strategies to build their reading muscles as they grow into confident, strong, fluent readers.

Before reading the book, students begin "warming up their brains" by looking at the front and back covers, and taking a picture walk to get an idea of what will happen in the text. This is a way to connect with the text, and helps them to determine if the book will be a fiction text that tells a story, containing a beginning/middle/end structure, or if it is a non-fiction text that teaches them about a specific topic of interest.

Students have done a great job building their reading stamina as they stay actively engaged with the text. As students read, they are gently moving away from utilizing word patterns and basic sight words into a more fluid stage of reading, which combines using decoding and word attack skills with picture cues, context and meaning to read higher-level texts. They also self-monitor their reading in an effort to self-correct any miscues as they read.

When finished reading, students work on various skills to reflect upon and interpret what they have read. While some students are working on retelling facts from non-fiction books with accuracy/without prompting or looking back at the text, others may be retelling sequential story events including main characters, event details and endings. Others may be working on making connections to the text, which is identifying events from their life that remind them of the text. Others may be working on accurately interpreting the main idea of a text, or the lesson that the text demonstrates.

Certain questions can help prompt readers to reflect upon a text. Some questions may include asking the child to talk about what happened in the book starting at the beginning, or what was the book mostly about, what did the story make them think of from their life, what was the problem the character was having in the story and how was it solved, etc.

It is equally important that early readers hear examples of fluent reading, which is why hearing teachers and parents read is highly beneficial at this stage. Even when the child is simply hearing a story, they can share about a favorite part, make connections and retell the text to demonstrate understanding.

No matter what the skill or strategy, our first graders have been busy building their super reading muscles, and it is clear that their hard work is paying off as they continue to blossom into strong and confident readers!

**Way to go, first graders!**



# News from Mrs. Buffa's Second Grade Class

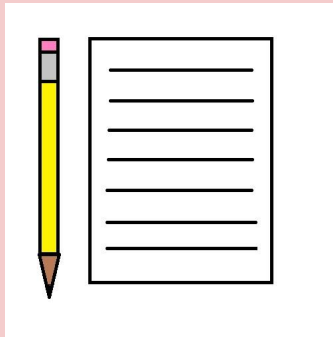


The month of September just flew by. Everyone was so busy learning, growing, and making new friends. It was wonderful to see so many parents at Back to School Night. We know that it is going to be a wonderful and successful year for your children.

There was a lot to celebrate during the month of October. We wore different colors to remember to show respect, responsibility, citizenship, fairness, and trustworthiness. During Red Ribbon Week, we remind ourselves to make good, healthy choices.

Second graders are working hard and having fun too! Here are just some of the things they've been working on. Our class has been reading fiction and informational text. They've been building up their reading muscles by increasing their stamina.





They have also working on writing personal narratives and informational texts. We have some real experts!

In math, students have been learning strategies to improve addition and subtraction fact fluency, coin counting, and problem solving skills. They are off to a great start!

Our class has also been earning “Buffa Buck\$” for following rules and exhibiting good behavior. Students are able to trade in their “Buffa Buck\$” for prizes and privileges. Following rules can be very rewarding!

There’s a chill in the air and we are all looking forward to Halloween.



# Mrs. Harwood's October Happenings

- Mrs. Harwood's Preschool classes have had a fun-filled October. The first unit was all about leaves. We talked about the different parts of a leaf and how leaves have veins and that leaves get there 'Food' (nutrients) from the trees just like we eat food to fuel our bodies. We read several leaf stories. A favorite was Leaf Man by Lois Elhert. We loved looking at the different leaf creatures. We then created our own leaf characters that are proudly displayed in our classroom.



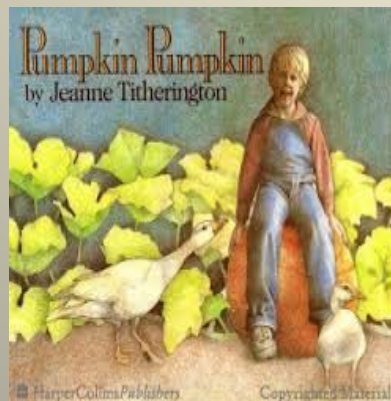


We then moved on to our Unit on Fire Safety. We talked about what to do if there is a fire in our house. We know we should have a meeting place and to “get out and stay out”. A favorite activity was playing in our pop-up fire trucks with the houses we made early in the week. Thank You Neshanic Fire Station and Firefighter Suarez and Fire Fighter Matt for taking the time to answer our many questions. We were able to identify the different tools the fire fighters use and the equipment a firefighter wears. After our Fire Truck visit, the PM class drew pictures about what they like most about the fire truck and/or the fire fighters which we turned into our 2<sup>nd</sup> class book. The children love looking through the book when they finish their snack.





Our next unit was Pumpkins. We read two stories - **Pumpkin Pumpkin** and **Room on the Broom**. We identified the different parts of a pumpkin and sequenced the life cycle of a pumpkin. The PM class took great pride in being able to use ordinal numbers when sequencing the pumpkin life cycle. We had fun trying to pronounce each of the words - Seeds, Sprout, Plant, Flower, Pumpkin, and Jack-o-lantern. Then we decided to create our own Jack o lanterns. With the help of Mrs. Koscielski, we carved two pumpkins. In the morning, we made a happy pumpkin and in the afternoon we made a scary pumpkin. We were all happy with the results.



**Books, Magazines, and Databases**  
**At**  
**Whiton Library**

P.S. Shoe Tying and Scrap Paper

## Were we excited?

- Yes, we were! When? When Mrs. DePaolo, Whiton Library Media Assistant, finished making library borrower cards for PreK and PreK students recognized their names on their library cards. Now students Pre-K through third grade are borrowing.



To recheck



- Branchburg Township Schools home page
- Upper right find “Select a school”
- Choose Whiton Elementary School
- Under “Academics”, click “Related Arts”
- Choose “Polly Carl, Library”
- “Schedule of Class Visits” has borrowing days.
- Students absent or having overdues, please return items next day back so others can use.

# Settling in Now

- PreK's are enjoying having book character companions with them in the story corner. Jesse Bear, What Will You Wear? and Emma's Pet were featured books when our companions were teddy bears.
- PreK and K are borrowing from preselected fiction/nonfiction with additions if there are other needs. In the next month, K will learn shelf marker use and be investigating at the shelves.

# 1, 2 and 3

- First grade is completing their “small moments” booklet connection to Donald Crews’ Bigmamma’s. Magazines were added to their book borrowing choices this past cycle. Third grade renewed magazine borrowing in cycle 4 and second grade cycle 5.
- Nonfiction being a part of the unit 2, second/third English Language Arts, here they are investigating in PebbleGo!

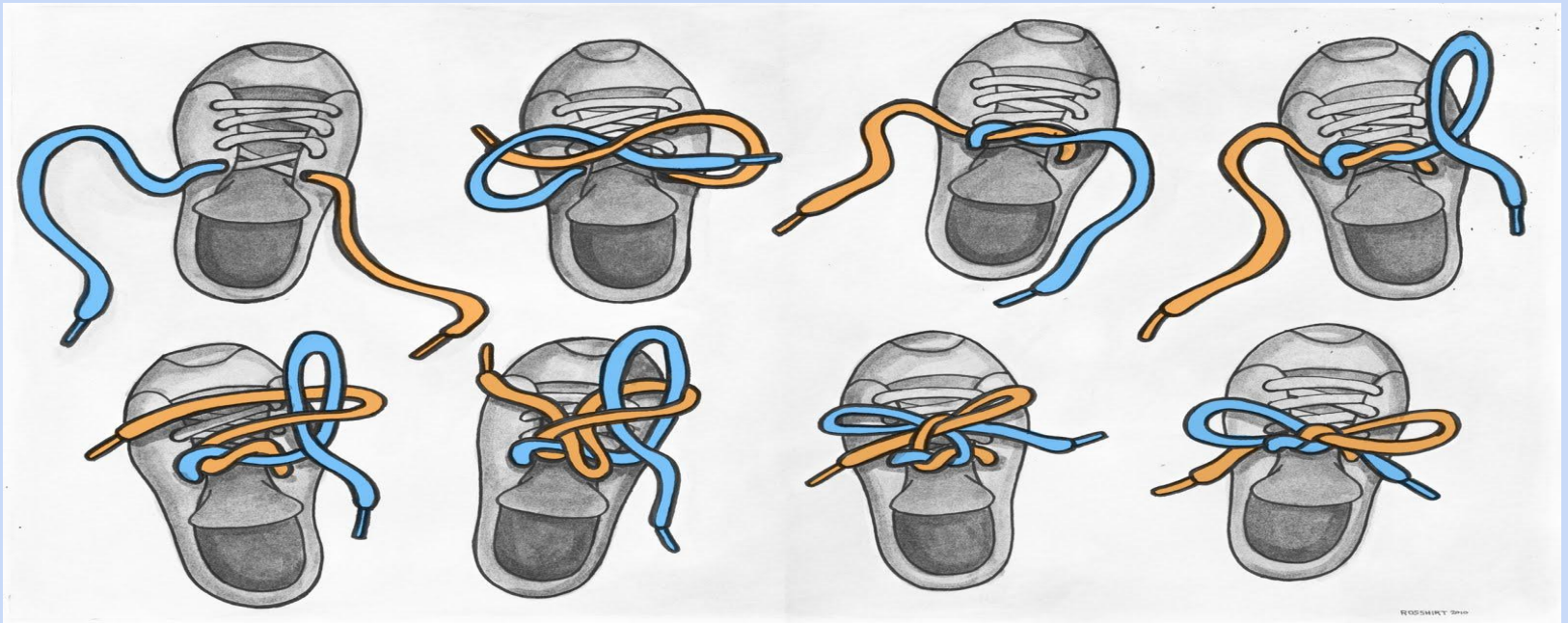


# Thanks to the PTO

- There were funds to add the PebbleGo! dinosaur module which students tested last Spring. The PebbleGo! database includes science, social studies, biographies and many animals. For at home access to PebbleGo!, mini bookmarks with user and password information are available. If your child was absent they may get one at their next class visit.

# Yes, there are

- Books and manipulatives are available in the Library for use after lesson/borrowing time to practice tying shoe laces. This one from clip art is not one given to the students.



## and scrap paper?

- When the students borrow an origami book they may take several squares cut from the blank parts of scrap paper. If the paper they bring home is not sufficient to meet their needs, scrap paper, used wrapping paper and magazines you are recycling are sources you might use to supply your eager folder. But not Whiton Library magazines, please.

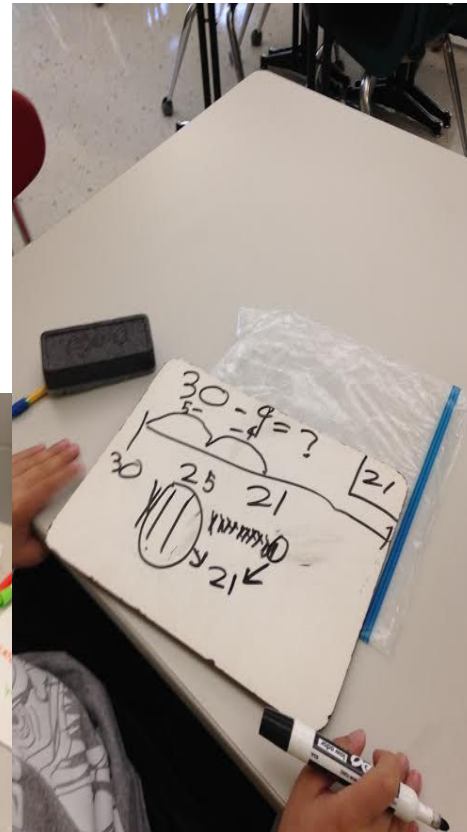
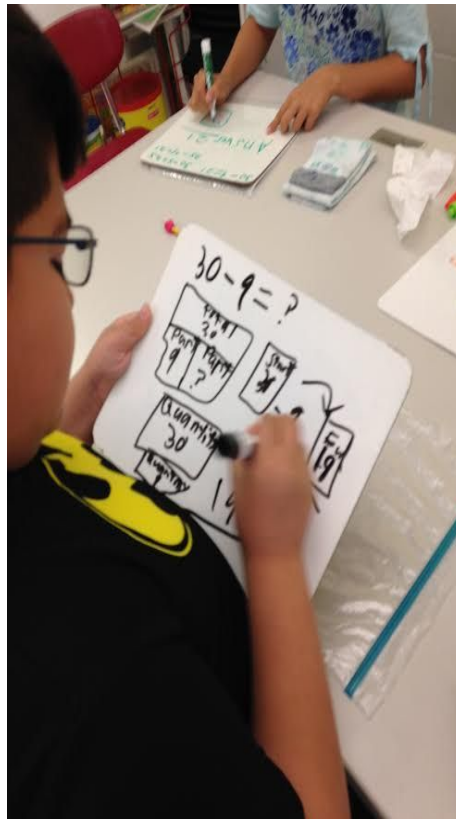
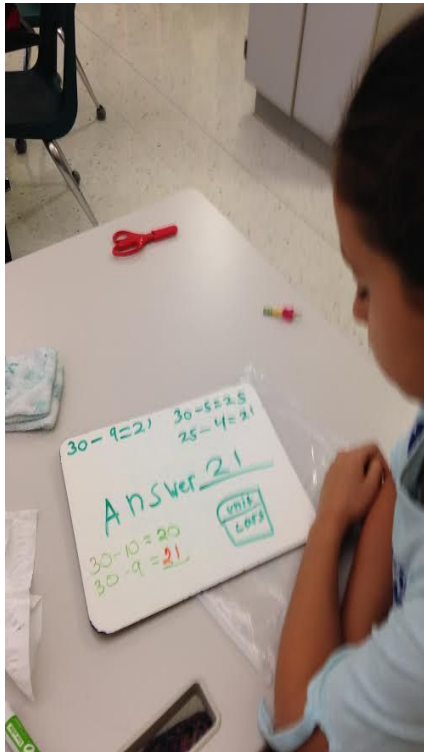


## Morning Meeting sets the tone for the day in Mrs. Janiec's Class

Coming together as a **community of learners**, as we transition from home to school each day in our classroom, is what Morning Meeting is all about. Morning Meeting is one component of a Responsive Classroom. Students think it is fun, but it is so much more. We practice social skills and public speaking while building a risk-free learning environment. Everyone participates regardless of academic ability.

Each day students participate in a greeting, a student shares and the class asks questions of the presenter, and the sharer reads a message about the day. Lastly, if there is time, we enjoy a group activity. Popcorn Count is a favorite. Students needed to show impulse control and keen observation skills as one at a time they pop up and call out the next number in a pattern. If two or more people popped, we started all over again. Seems easy? It is not. Our highest count this year is 20.

# Many ways to solve a problem



Students in Mrs. Janiec's Class are encouraged to solve mathematical problems many different ways. Celebrating different ways of thinking is one way of creating community and respecting those different from ourselves. We are all the same, we are all different, we are all learners.

# awesome News from Mrs. Apsley's Kindergarten class!

We would like to send out a big THANK YOU to the firemen at the Neshanic Fire Company for coming to Whiton School!

Mrs. Apsley's Class and all the Kindergarten classes loved our visit from the firemen. We listened to Firefighter Suarez and learned our family should have a way out of our house and a safe meeting place. We learned to never ever go back into the house if there is a fire and the importance of "Stop, Drop, and Roll" if our clothes catch fire. We discussed that we talk about fire safety in October but we must practice it all year long! We loved looking at all of the fire equipment, sitting in the fire truck and holding the fire hose.



# We hope you and your family had a wonderful Halloween.



see you in  
NOVEMBER!

