

# SPRING STREET LINK

February 8, 2016

I hope you and your family have enjoyed our 'snow-cation' and have had an opportunity to get outdoors a bit and enjoy nature. Saturday morning's snow-covered trees were amazing; it certainly was picturesque.

In continuing our work towards our goal of improving student learning, time is spent during teacher meeting times to look at a variety of student work, assess their progress towards meeting our learning goals, and determining when necessary, how and when will students who have not met our expectations will have additional opportunities for re-teaching and learning. Throughout the course of the week, these students will work with classroom teachers, special education teachers, instructional aides, tutors, and even family and community volunteers to participate in direct instruction or extra practice targeting the goal area. Students will then be given the opportunity to demonstrate their learning by participating in a brief assignment, task, or some other type of informal assessment that will determine how each student has progressed.

This routine takes place across reading, writing, and math mostly with a particular focus this year on analyzing our students' progress in math in year two of our math resource, Math in Focus. I think we all agree that our math tool is rigorous and challenging at all levels but we are very pleased with our students' ability to demonstrate the exceptional ability to solve very complex problems using real-world examples. One of the observations that we make during our analysis is our students' ability to perform basic math tasks, apply the skills and knowledge in ways that have been modeled and practiced in classrooms, and even apply these skills and concepts to 'novel' situations or problems that have not been directly practiced. Although not all students are at the 'novel' level, we are seeing students attempting to problem solve with a framework that demonstrates an understanding how to approach the problem, plan, and solve. We are very confident this resource will continue to support our students in meeting the very high learning expectations we have for all and measuring our students growth as well as providing valuable information to us on how we can support the math learning needs of our students.

It goes without saying, that without the expert instruction of our teachers as well as the support from our instructional aides, tutors, parent and community volunteers, and families making math a priority at home, our students' math growth would not be as strong as it is. Thank you for your continued support.

Presidents' Day and Winter Vacation are next week. I hope you and your family have a restful, relaxing, and fun time together. Enjoy!

## **Spring Street School Report Card**

Attached, please find an overview of the Spring Street School report card provided by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Report cards answer important questions about our schools overall performance, student enrollment, teacher qualifications, student achievement, etc. If you have any questions, please contact me.

**From Previous Links:**

**District Wellness Policy Reminder**

As Valentine's Day classroom parties approach, please keep in mind our Wellness Policy related to food.

- Snacks may be brought from home for children's own consumption, with the understanding that some classrooms may need to restrict some types of snacks due to specific allergies that classmates or staff may have, such as nut allergies.
- Parents and Staff may not send or bring in any snacks to be shared because every school has children who have severe, life-threatening allergies of all kinds. No child shall be put at risk of having an allergic reaction to foods brought into school (this includes candy on Valentine's Day cards).

**Fun Fair - Basket Raffle Assignments**

Fun Fair is Spring Street School's largest fundraiser of the year! This year it's scheduled for Sunday, March 20th from 12 Noon – 4:00 p.m. Save the date for this fun-filled family event! The **basket raffle** is one of the most anticipated parts of Fun Fair and traditionally raises a significant amount of money for Spring Street School. Each classroom is assigned a particular theme. Today a letter is going home in the Monday folders to tell you more about the basket raffle and how you can help. Any questions please contact Jenny Ghidella ([jghidella@townisp.com](mailto:jghidella@townisp.com)); Kristen Lynch ([kelkml@verizon.com](mailto:kelkml@verizon.com)) or Claudia Cottier ([claucottier@hotmail.com](mailto:claucottier@hotmail.com))

**Family Math Night Survey**

Thanks to the many families who were able to participate in our Family Math Night survey to provide feedback on how we can continue to improve your child's experience at school. If you haven't already done so, we'd appreciate your participation. Thank you! [Family Math Night Survey](#)

**PARCC Testing Dates for Grades 3 and 4**

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students will be participating in PARCC testing on the following dates:  
April 26, 27, 28-Grade 3 English Language Arts  
May 2, 4, 5-Grade 4, English Language Arts  
May 9-12-Grade 3, Math  
May 16-19-Grade 4, Math

**Important Dates**

Wednesday, February 10, Banking at School, 8:30-9:00am  
February 15-19, President's Day/Winter Vacation  
Wednesday, February 24, Banking at School, 8:30-9:00am  
Tuesday, March 1, Teacher Professional Development, Early Release (12:15pm)  
Wednesday, March 9, Banking at School, 8:30-9:00am  
Tuesday, March 15, PTO Meeting, 6:30-7:30pm  
Sunday, March 20, Fun Fair at SSS, 12:00-4:00pm  
Wednesday, March 23, Banking at School, 8:30-9:00am  
Thursday, March 31, Incoming Kindergarten Parents' Forum at Beal School, 6:30-7:30pm  
Tuesday, April 5, Teacher Professional Development, Early Release (12:15pm)  
Wednesday, April 6, Banking at School, 8:30-9:00am

Friday, April 8, Gift of Knowledge, 8:30-9:00pm  
April 18-22, Patriots Day/Spring Vacation  
Friday, April 29, SSS Talent Show, more info to follow

Have a good week.  
Bryan Mabie