

Turner Primary School

2nd Quarter Newsletter 16-17



"The expert in anything was once a beginner."

Helen Hayes



Message from the Principal

As we enter the halfway point of our school year, it's a chance for me to look back at all that has been accomplished, and look forward to the learning and events still to come. If you pause to think of all your child has learned since he or she has started school, I bet you'll be astounded. Our pre-kindergarten students began the school year, holding onto special links designed to keep them together. Within just a few short months, they are quite adept at managing themselves and learning about the world around them. Our kindergarten classes are overflowing with students who are learning the foundational skills to become readers and writers in addition to mastering the building blocks to mathematics. First and second graders are building on their skills and making academic gains to carry them forward into the months ahead.

And while Turner Primary School focuses on the academics for our students, we also focus on the social and emotional pieces that help our students become respectful and responsible children. Morning Meetings are held in classrooms as a means of providing a time for students to come together with their teacher to build relationships and to practice skills. Guidance lessons provide direct instruction to students in areas such as making good choices and being a good friend. Students have spent half of a school year learning so much and yet we still have so much more to learn!

In this new year, we will continue to recognize students for safe, respectful and responsible behaviors. In addition to earning HOOT HOOT Hooray tickets, students can be nominated into "Clubs" which emphasize the positive behaviors we teach and acknowledge. So far we have the "Safe Hands and Feet Club" and the "Kindness Club". Students can be nominated by their teachers and recognized for these behaviors.

Thank you for your continued support of your children and my staff. By working together we'll do the best for our students. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or compliments!

© Theresa Gillis (aka Ms. Gillis)

Reminder from the Office

- Please call the office when your child is absent (by 9:00am).
- When you visit the school, please look in the Lost & Found for lost articles of clothing. Please put your child's name on their lunch boxes and coats. That would assist in returning items more quickly. Thank you.
- Turner Primary School participates in the Box Tops for Schools program. Please send all Box Tops to your child's classroom teacher or the office.
- If your child has needed to borrow clothes from the health office, it would be appreciated if you could return them to school. These clothes are needed for those unexpected "emergencies".



Pre-K News

- Melissa Kimball, Emily Libby, Jeanne Prince

We can hardly believe we are almost half-way through the school year—time is zooming by. Outside, pre-K students have delighted in running, climbing, and building in the deep snow! In the classroom, children have been busy exploring themes surrounding holiday traditions. Our dramatic play areas transformed into very cozy spaces. Students loved reading and playing near make believe fireplaces. Students got creative using play-dough to cut out shapes and make cookies.

On December 20th we invited pre-K families to share in a fun sing-a-long night. It was a tremendous success which filled the pre-K wing with holiday cheer.

Patterns, counting, and measurement have been a math focus in pre-K. Students are able to see patterns around them and reproduce them. Math skills will continue to increase with ongoing fun games and activities.

Letter work and writing is strengthening as well through lots of engaging center work. Students enjoy sharing books throughout our day. They often ask us to read books multiple times.

Our youngest students continue to impress us with their understanding of the school-wide positive behavior expectations. Many of our pre-K students have made it into the Safe Hands and Feet Club as well as the Kindness Club. We are positive more and more students will join the clubs throughout the school year.

We appreciate the volunteers and high school students who help support our students! Thank you for your time and energy.

During the next few months, we will continue letter work with the Handwriting Without Tears program, deliver math activities daily using the Everyday Math program, teach social skill lessons using the Second Step Social Skills program, and continue to support each child at their unique level of development. Through playful learning, children gain skills in math, science, literacy, as well as increased social and emotional development.



Kindergarten News

- Katy Cilley, Linsey Holst, Jennifer Rombalski, Jennifer Vadnais

Since vacation we have been working hard to settle back into school routines. This winter, we are looking forward to sledding in PE! We will also be "brushing" up on our dental skills. We will have a visitor come to talk about proper dental care and healthy snacks. We will wrap up our dental visits with a healthy snack!



Recently, we have been learning about Martin Luther King, Jr. and animals in the winter. Setting up our hibernation dens is always so much fun.

The children are growing in confidence and skills with reading, writing, and math. We are working on many new sight words (including color words) and learning to read just right books. In Everyday Math, we are using calculators and attribute blocks, creating patterns, practicing skip counting by tens, and using manipulatives to tell/solve number stories.

Part of being responsible at school is being dressed for the weather. This would include hat, gloves, ski pants, boots, and a winter jacket. Shoes to change into during the day are also a great choice. Please be sure your child has all this gear each day. Thanks!

1st Grade News

- Victoria Ballou, Amy Duguay, Jessica Irving, Joleene Libby

The second quarter has been a productive one for our first graders! During math, the students have been practicing their adding and subtracting skills, counting by 10s and 5s, measuring with nonstandard units of measure, and solving simple number stories. If you would like ideas for how to work with your child on these skills, please contact his or her teacher.

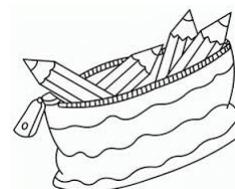
The nightly reading homework is a wonderful opportunity for your child to show you their ever-increasing skills as a reader! Thank you for being diligent about reading with your child each night. It is amazing to see how far the students have come since August. They are becoming more independent in their use of reading strategies, and are learning to respond to literal and inferential questions about the books they have read.

During Writer's Workshop, children have been learning to write non-fiction "teaching books" and "How-to" books. Children have been learning to edit their own writing, and have worked with writing partners to peer edit. First graders are also learning to make their writing more "readable" by writing sight words correctly and using their "best guess" spelling on words they don't know how to spell. They are very proud of how lengthy and detailed their writing has become.

There is a lot of fun to be had on the playground at recess time! The children are having a blast with all this new snow by sledding and making snow forts. Please make sure your child is dressed to enjoy the cold weather. Boots, snow pants, hats, mittens and a warm jacket are essential this time of year, so please try to send your child prepared each day.

The third quarter promises many more exciting learning opportunities for our students! As always, if you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress or daily activities, please contact your child's teacher.

If you are looking to donate items to your child's classroom, we are always in need of tissues, Clorox wipes, nut-free snacks, and gently used snow gear. Thank you!

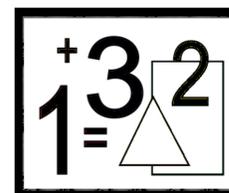


2nd Grade News

- Jim Fotter, Rachel Hanley, April Hartford, Lynelle Towers

The second quarter has been a tremendously productive quarter for second graders as we continue to grow as learners, friends, and school members.

In reading, our students continue to pick just right books and practice the skills taught in whole group and small group lessons. Second grade is a huge growing year as students strengthen their comprehension skills. They are developing deeper strategies for understanding vocabulary, reading unknown words, and making connections as they read. Students were busy reading lots of nonfiction books to grow knowledge and have become experts on many topics! Students have worked hard to learn the lingo associated with



nonfiction books and read across topics by reading multiple books about the same topic. We ask our students to read nightly as we continue to work on fluency, comprehension and the habits of becoming a great reader. Please don't forget to check for those nightly reading bags during the school week.

In writing this quarter, students were full of excitement as they wrote nonfiction books. The second graders started out writing nonfiction books about topics that they knew a lot about. We had many students writing about football, pets, soccer, and much more! Students also worked to focus their writing for particular audiences and were mindful of the questions they might have. The use of mentor texts helped students see how other authors wrote nonfiction books and how to use a variety of text features, such as labels, a table of contents, and interesting hooks in their own writing!

Students continue to become wonderful mathematicians as they become stronger with concepts such as telling time to the nearest 5 minutes and correctly using the terms A.M. and P.M. They are working on place value by representing 3-digit numbers with base 10 blocks. They are using place value to help with counting and are learning to write numbers in expanded notation. Second graders are measuring by inches and centimeters and continue to work on math facts. Students continue to make significant gains with not just showing their math work, but explaining how they know an answer, or how a problem was solved. You can practice math facts with your child. Please continue to help your child with his/her nightly math assignments. Be sure to read the directions carefully, and remember that the "Family Note" at the top of each homework assignment provides helpful information!

Science and social studies continue to be a favorite time of day for many second graders. During social studies this quarter students learned about a variety of holiday traditions from around the world and enjoyed sharing their own Christmas traditions. We continue to work on many lessons to support our school rules of being safe, respectful, and responsible. In science students have started or will start a unit on matter. Students will learn to identify the properties and structure of matter, as well as reversible and irreversible changes in matter.

Our playground tends to be a cold and windy one. We talk about "dressing for the weather". In order to play in the snow students need to wear boots, snow pants, coats, hats, and mittens. Please be sure your child brings these daily. We could also use any snow pants or boots your child may have outgrown if you would like to donate them.

Second graders would like to give a huge thanks to their parents for all of the support as we travel on this wonderful path of learning. We continue to grow due to all of your support and help.

Art News

- Claire Sabine

Happy New Year! The art room continues to be a busy place and we've started right up again after the break. Here are some of the happenings going on in the art room!

Kindergarten: In kindergarten, we have been working with mixing the primary colors of red, yellow and blue to create the secondary colors of orange, green and purple. We first started with orange (yellow plus red) and created pumpkins. We next worked with green (yellow plus blue) and created pine trees. We learned how pine trees grow by reading a story and then looked at actual pine branches and needles along with different types of pine cones. We found out that pine cones have scales and that tiny seeds can be found inside. We painted large pine trees using only blue and yellow paint, next added paper pine cones, then colored in the background. We finished the trees by adding snow using white paint.

Grade 1: The first grade students were introduced to the word "landscape". We looked at a variety of landscapes from different artists and noticed how they have a background, middle ground and foreground. We decided it would be FUN to paint a landscape. This was also a lesson to review the secondary colors. We reviewed the color wheel and how the primary colors mix to create the secondary colors. To create these paintings we first drew spaces for our foreground (grass), middle ground (mountains) and the background (sky). The sky was painted with yellow plus red to make orange. The mountains were painted with red plus



blue to make violet and the grass was painted with blue plus yellow to make green. Next we will learn about the word "silhouette" and look at examples from photographs. We will then add silhouettes of trees to complete our landscape painting showing some that are close and some that are far away. These will be very colorful when they are completed!

Grade 2: We have also been working with the primary and secondary colors. We first created a painting using overlapping circles. The main parts of the circles were the primary colors while the overlaps became the secondary. For example, if a red circle overlapped a yellow circle, then the overlap would be orange. The background was then painted black. These are currently hanging in the main hallway at TPS. Take a look at them if you stop by! Next, each student created the secondary colors by mixing with their eyes. Yes, this sounds unusual, but they actually did this by creating spinning tops. Each top was colored in with two primary colors. When spun, these colors mix optically to create a secondary color. For example, red and blue will spin to make purple. The students really had fun with these and were also allowed to do a top of their choice. Many couldn't wait to see how others turned out!

Check out and LIKE the art room Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/sabineartroom> .
Don't forget to ask.....What did you do in art today?

Computer News

- Sigrud Rausch

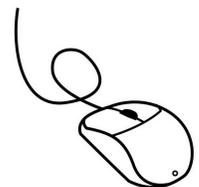
Grades K-2: The week of December 5 was Computer Science Education Week, and all K-2 students participated in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is a one-hour introduction to computer science, where students work through age-appropriate tutorials based on popular game and movie characters. The goal is to demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics, and our students most certainly did. Learning computer science helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. The Hour of Code is a global event supported by Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the College Board and others. For more information see: <https://hourofcode.com/us>.

Besides this introduction to programming, students worked on these skills:

Grades 1 and 2: Students practiced typing and editing, i.e. correcting documents. It can be a challenge for young students to move the cursor within a document and erase and retype letters and words. First graders still need help, but most second graders have mastered that skill and will learn about formatting next. At the beginning of the quarter, second graders also started an introduction to keyboarding and were working to learn the home row keys.

Kindergarten: Kindergarten lessons typically include both typing and Internet activities. At this point, most students can type their name starting with a capital letter. Besides the letter keys they need to use the Shift, Enter, and possibly Backspace keys. Students love it when they get to play games, but they are still practicing Internet navigation, mouse skills and making responsible choices.

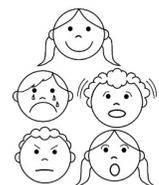
Many of the programs we use in the computer lab can be downloaded from the Internet for free. Just google the program name. The web sites we use are listed on my homepage at goo.gl/o84jck .



Guidance News

- Christie Grant

Students across all of Turner Primary School are doing very well practicing Mind Yeti at the beginning of every guidance class. Mind Yeti is a guided meditation that teaches calming strategies, relaxation skills, coping skills, and breathing strategies for when we are upset, angry, sad, unfocused, scared, and so on. A lot of students have said they have shared the site with their parents already and practice this at home. If your child has not already shared this site with you I



highly recommend checking it out. Research has shown that meditation can greatly reduce stress, improve work quality, reduce anxiety, and improve overall well-being at home and/or at work and school. It is free to sign up; all you need is an email address and a password. Visit mindyeti.com for more information.

Our latest topic in guidance classes is bullying. Students have been introduced to our bullying protocol that we have in MSAD 52. They have been given the definition of bullying and we have discussed the difference between someone just being mean (disrespectful, unsafe, not following the school rules) versus someone actually bullying. MSAD bullying protocol also follows the Maine State Bullying Law. The full bullying protocol can be found on our MSAD 52 website and is referenced as file: JICK. The definition provided in the protocol is as follows:

“Definition of Bullying

‘Bullying’ and ‘cyberbullying’ have the same meaning in this policy as in Maine law: Bullying includes, but is not limited to a written, oral or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student or students that:

A. Has, or a reasonable person would expect it to have, the effect of:

1. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; or
2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property;

B. Interferes with the rights of a student by:

1. Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the student; or
2. Interfering with the student's academic performance or ability to participate in or benefit from the services activities or privileges provided by the school...”

We discussed in all of our guidance classes that if there is ever a question of whether something is bullying students should not hesitate to ask Ms. Gillis or me. Students have been encouraged to always go home and tell their parents of any issues that happen at school or on the bus that make them uncomfortable. They have all identified adults at school that they can report such incidents to as well.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any point with any questions or concerns you feel I can help you or your child with. You can reach me at christie.grant@msad52.org or 225-1030 ext. 6040.

Library News

- Tracey Weston

Happy New Year! As many families may already know, TPS's long-time librarian and good friend of mine, Meredith Thompson has retired. I am so happy for her and her family, as she has lots of fun things planned including, skiing, snowmobiling, and spending more time with her husband, children and grandchildren.

Tracey Weston (that's me!) will be the new Library Tech at TPS. I thought this letter would be a good opportunity to introduce myself. For the last five years, I have been the Library Tech at Greene Central School; other libraries I have worked in include the Lewiston Public Library and Edward Little H.S. Library. I have degrees in Library Science and Elementary Education. I believe that the library should be a fun, welcoming place that children will look forward to visiting. We will read fun stories, do crafts, learn a lot and borrow books from the really awesome collection at TPS. I will encourage kids to borrow a variety of books, some they will be able to read on their own, some will be better shared with a parent or an older sibling. Please take the time to ask your child about the book they borrowed and enjoy it together!

Feel free to stop in and say “Hello”, as I am looking forward to getting to know students and their families. Also, please contact me with any questions you may have. I can be reached at tracey.weston@msad52.org



Music Newsletter

- Melissa Newcomb



During the second quarter the kindergarten students have been working hard to learn to keep a steady beat, match pitch while singing and tell the difference between soft/loud, high/low, fast/slow etc. Most recently we have begun doing a variety of movement activities to introduce rhythm. We are now discussing what a concert is and beginning to learn our songs for the upcoming concert in March.

First and second grade students have been working on writing, reading and playing different rhythm patterns that contain quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. We also spent some time before Christmas learning about Tchaikovsky and The Nutcracker ballet. The students also have been working on their singing voices in preparation for their upcoming concert. They are currently working on preparing music for their March concert.

Please see the schedule of concert dates below and mark your calendars.

Kindergarten	March 20, 2017 at 5:30pm
1 st grade and 2 nd grade	March 20, 2017 at 6:30pm

Remember the music room door is always open and you are welcome to stop by to observe or participate in a music class at any time.

P.E. News

- Jen Carver



Happy 2017! I would like to remind families of a few events and program updates:

1. Physical Education now reports grades in all four quarters! It begins this year in quarter two. You will now see our grades presented in a standards based format. This aligns with the middle school and high school programs. Families should have received a handout in student folders with more specifics about this change. Please contact the main office or myself if you would like a copy.
2. WINTER FIELD DAY! This is a volunteer opportunity to help kick off our first annual TPS Winter Field Day. This will be an all day event, scheduled for Friday, February 17th. Volunteer forms have been sent home in student folders and should be returned to the main office or to your child's classroom teacher.
3. Looking ahead...our next volunteer opportunity will be March 6th through March 24th for outdoor Winter physical education activities: sledding, snowshoeing, and hiking. Be on the lookout for a volunteer form!

Enjoy Maine's winter playground!

ELL News

- Ruth Mueller

ELL students will be taking the annual ACCESS for ELLs exam between January 17 and March 3 this year. This is a later testing window than in past years. The test will be online (except for the writing) for grades 1 and 2. The kindergarten test is, and will remain, paper and pencil based. During the testing window, regular service may be interrupted to



accommodate the testing of other students. We expect to have the results of the testing back sometime in May. At this time, we will send the scores to parents in the mail. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ruth Mueller by email at ruth.mueller@msad52.us

Title 1 News

- Becky Neiley, Diane O'Donnell, Robert Wilcox



How to Help at Home

Learning to read doesn't happen overnight. Parents and teachers play important roles in developing young readers. Supporting a child is best accomplished when parents and teachers share common methods and basic understandings about the reading process. The following suggestions describe ways you can help your child as a reader. As you work together, celebrate your child's efforts and successes just as you did when your child learned to walk and talk.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR CHILD COMES TO AN UNKNOWN WORD

Often adults tell a child to "sound out" an unknown word. Frequently that prompt is successful and the word is decoded. When sounding it out doesn't work, adults usually tell the word and the reading continues.

However, our goal is to help our children become independent readers. Here are some alternative suggestions for families to use when your child confronts an unknown word:

- Wait 5-10 seconds to see what attempts are made. Ask: "What would make sense there?"
- Use the picture to help figure out the word.
- Skip the word and continue reading to the end of the line or sentence, then go back and think about what would make sense.
- Go back and read the sentence again.
- If the word was on a previous page, go back and try to find it.
- Look for a smaller word within the big word.
- Cover the ending (-ed, -ing, -s) with your finger and try the word again.
- Look at the beginning sound. Let the sound "pop" right out.
- Help with blending the sounds together (instead of sounding out each letter individually, try blending some of the sounds together).
- Lastly, tell the word and keep reading. Only do this as a last resort.

It is important that children learn to use these strategies independently. When your child "figures out" a word, you might ask them how he/she did it. Telling about their reading helps to reinforce learning. For more information on ways you can help your child become a better reader please visit our Title I wiki at <http://tps-titleone.wikis.msad52.org/>

Message from the School Nurse

- Maria Giffune

Dental Health Month is just around the corner. We have several exciting events going on in the month of February to increase awareness and knowledge about the importance of taking care of our general health and specifically our dental health.

Dental disease is at epidemic rates in the state of Maine. This is especially sad since tooth decay is preventable. One step in breaking the chain of decay is to cut down on the amount of sugary foods and drinks that are consumed. Sugar mixes with the germs in your mouth and forms an acid. The acid eats away



at your teeth. If "acid-attacks" happen too often, the coating on the teeth is weakened and the cavity starts.

There are many foods that we eat daily that have "hidden" sugars. These sugars may include corn syrup, molasses, dextrose, fructose, and sucrose, to name a few. It is all about making healthy choices, for example, instead of having potato chips, try a bowl of popcorn. Some great examples of healthy snacks would include: fresh fruit or vegetables, cheese, yogurt, and nuts.

On Friday, February 3, 2017, we are fortunate to have a group of students from the school of Dentistry from University of New England come and provide presentations to participating classrooms on the importance of dental health. I will be presenting to the classrooms who are not able to take advantage due to the timing of these presentation. This is a great opportunity to reinforce healthy eating and dental hygiene.

This year we will be teaming up with our dietary services and participating in "Sugar Out Day" on Friday, February 3, 2017. Have you ever been to the school at lunch time to see the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that the food service provides your children daily? Your children's school breakfast and lunch program will continue to provide your child with nutritional meals. However, on this day the focus will be on not having sugary foods. We are asking that if you send your child to school with snacks and/or lunches, you can help by sending your child in with non sugary snacks/lunches. Hopefully, we can all work together to reinforce healthy eating and dental hygiene in our children.

Schedule of Events

School Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2017	6:00 PM	GCS
Thursday, March 2, 2017	6:00 PM	LCS
Thursday, March 16, 2017	6:00 PM	TMS
Thursday, March 30, 2017	6:00 PM	GCS
Thursday, April 13, 2017	6:00 PM	LCS

PTC Meetings

Monday, February 6, 2017	6:30 pm	TPS Library
Monday, March 6, 2017	6:30 pm	TPS Library
Monday, April 3, 2017	6:30 pm	TPS Library

Special Events

Friday, February 17, 2017	During school hours	Winter Field Day
Monday, March 20, 2017	5:30 pm	Kindergarten concert
Monday, March 20, 2017	6:30 pm	First & second grade concert

No School/Half-Day School

Monday, January 23, 2017	In-Service Day	No school in PM
Wednesday, February 1, 2017	Half-day for students	No school in PM
Monday, February 20, 2017 - Friday, February 24, 2017	February vacation	No school
Thursday, March 16, 2017	Half-day for students	No school in PM