

Turner Primary School

1st Quarter Newsletter 16-17



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Nelson Mandela



Message from the Principal

Dear Families,

We have had a very busy quarter to kick off our 2016-2017 school year. Teachers have established routines and are working each day to provide your children with instruction in academics and the art of being at school.

As we move into the second quarter, we'll be saying goodbye to very special people. Mrs. Thompson has served as our librarian for fifteen years. She has truly worked to bring the love of books to our students. Each week she plans engaging lessons on authors, themes or activities that teach children so much about the world around us. We wish Mrs. Thompson all the best as she enjoys her retirement beginning in January 2017! We will most definitely miss her!

"Mrs. D" is well loved by students and staff alike. She will be joining the staff at Greene Central School in December. This change will allow her to be closer to home and engage in new challenges. We will certainly miss her!

I wish you all a happy and healthy Thanksgiving with your families. School will be closed November 23rd - November 27th to give staff and students extra time to celebrate!

☺ Theresa Gillis (aka Ms. Gillis)

Reminder from the Office

- Please call the office when child is absent (by 9:00am). Absences are now considered unexcused unless we hear from you.
- When you visit the school, please look in the Lost & Found for lost articles of clothing. Please put your children's name in 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. This is a great fundraiser. Please consider asking family and friends to save Box Tops for us.
- 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".



NCLB Report Card

The federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) requires all states, school districts, and schools to provide annual report cards to parents and communities that include Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) data disaggregated into subgroups, attendance and graduation rates, status of NCLB Accountability, and information on "highly qualified" teachers. This report card also displays statewide academic achievement results in grades four and eight on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics assessments, as well as the participation rates for students with disabilities and limited English proficiency on the exam. Maine's NCLB Report Cards contain the following information: MEA Assessment Data 2014-2015, ESEA Accountability, Qualifications of Teachers, and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

The MSAD 52 NCLB Report Card can be found at <http://www.msad52.org/home/curriculum-1/nclb> We hope you will review this important information.

Pre-K News

- Melissa Kimball, Emily Libby, Jeanne Prince

Pre-k is off to a wonderful start! All of these amazing children add a special quality to our classrooms. They are funny, smart, and so very confident. While they are the youngest children in our school and only attend two days a week, they are equally able to meet the expectations of our school to be safe, respectful, and responsible. Many have earned Hoot-Hoot-Hooray tickets for their fine work in and around our school. Lunch is another wonderful time for the children as they again are able to show teachers the amazing skills they have for attending to their jobs, while also following school rules—great work pre-k students!

Happenings: Fall has been great. We have watched the leaves of the trees on and around the playground change color, observed birds, and explored apples and pumpkins.

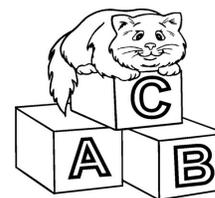
We have started writing-work with Handwriting Without Tears, including many fine-motor activities to support muscle development. The pre-k program at TPS is designed to accommodate young children's need to learn through play. Through playful learning, children gain skills in math, science, literacy, as well as increased social/emotional development. Pre-k teachers are using a variety of techniques to provide movement breaks throughout the day. Thank you to all the families who came out for Open House! Children are so proud to show off their "big kid" school to their families.



Classroom supplies: A special thank you to all the families who donated items for our classrooms. Clorox disinfecting wipes are especially great as we "get messy" in pre-k during art, snacks, and sensory play.

Kindergarten News

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



Kindergarten is off to a great start! We have been working hard to learn school routines and getting to know our classmates. We are also working on social skills in the classrooms, the cafeteria, the hallways, and at recess. Has your child explained to you what it means to be safe, respectful, and responsible? Those are our three big goals at Turner Primary School. Along with learning routines and social skills, we have focused on learning upper and lower case letters, rhyming, and how to spend some time reading independently from our browsing boxes. These are all important literacy skills at the beginning of kindergarten.

During math time, we have been practicing sorting, patterns, number recognition, counting, and shapes. We have practiced writing numbers and letters and are very excited about the writing we are seeing while using the Lucy Calkins writing program.

The children are very excited to be going to HOOT time as well. It has been fun for everyone to get to know new teachers and work with other kindergarten friends. We have been focusing on alphabet knowledge and following rules and routines with other adults.

1st Grade News

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



What a wonderful start to the first grade year. The first grade rooms have been busy establishing procedures for a great school year. Our students have been learning how to be safe, responsible and respectful in all school settings, as well as our classrooms. Our students show great excitement when caught following the school procedures and receive a Hoot Hoot Hooray ticket. The students will bring home one half of this ticket and the other will go into a jar for weekly drawings to receive recognition. Don't forget to ask what your child has done to receive this ticket when they come home.

We appreciate all your support with nightly homework. The first graders will hear that reading is like riding a bike, playing a sport or practicing a musical instrument: the more you practice the better reader you will become. First graders are working to learn many strategies for unknown words as they read. They will often tell you we sound out words, but in fact this is one of the hardest strategies, as we haven't learned all of our sounds, and many words we can not sound out. Instead, please encourage your child to look at the pictures, or get their mouth ready with the beginning sound and read on (often the word will pop right into their mouth). We tell our students to reread the sentence when stuck, or to think if the word they said looks right or sounds right. It's a hard habit to break, but please do not tell your child the word until they have tried a strategy on their own; this will build independence. Our students are selecting "just right" books. These are books that are at their level for success. These are books they can read without too many errors, that they enjoy, and can understand. When students are reading at the just right level, it is building fluency and comprehension and increasing success in reading. Our students also have time to enjoy "just look" books. These are books that they might enjoy with an adult, a friend or for pleasure. Most times these books may be too hard to read independently and to comprehend. These are great books for shared reading.

In writing our students have finished their work on small moments and personal narrative stories. These are stories which students are writing about events from their lives that are important or interesting to them. Our students are working on stretching these stories across pages. Students continue to work on

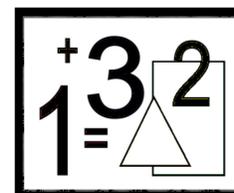
stretching out unknown words, using sight words, increasing writing stamina and gaining independence as writers. We are always telling our students to catch stories and keep them in their pockets or hearts for future writing topics. You could help encourage your child by saying: "That ... would make a great story to write about."

In math our students have become busy mathematicians as they continue to count by 5's, and 10's, as well as learning patterns on the number grid that will help them. We are learning how stop/start counting (switching from 5's to 1's) can aid us as we count money or tally marks. Our students have begun to learn strategies for addition and subtraction facts. These are reviewed through many of the math games we play daily. It's been amazing watching our students grow with the concepts of money, calendar routines, counting up and back on the number grid/line, as well as work on strategies for computation and problem solving. We appreciate the continued support with math home links as this is a super review to the math concepts the students are learning at school.

As the cold/flu season hits the first grade team can always use Clorox wipes and tissues. Please don't ever hesitate to call with any questions or concerns. We look forward to a positive year with our first graders.

2nd Grade News

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



Wow! It is hard to believe that our first quarter has come to an end. Second graders have been very busy this quarter in many different areas. They have learned about communities and done extensive community building through producing many matrices showing how to Be Safe, Be Responsible and Be Respectful in classrooms and common areas throughout Turner Primary School. This all ties to our PBIS practices promoting positive behavior throughout our school.

Students have also been busy reestablishing routines in reading such as: choosing "Just Right Books" and "building stamina" for independent reading time. In addition to these skills, students have been working within reading groups at their instructional reading levels or in strategy groups strengthening skills and learning new strategies to aid them at each level.

In math second graders have completed the first two units in the Everyday Math program. They have reviewed some of the skills learned in first grade and added some new second grade skills. They have learned some new math games like "Fishing for 10" and "Name That Number" which both aid students in learning their math facts. Students have worked with "Name Collection Boxes" which help students recognize that numbers have many different "equivalent" names. They have worked with skip counting, number models, number stories and number grids just to name a few things.

In second grade students have done some things differently depending on the class they are in. Some have completed the colonial times/families of long ago unit in social studies and begun the ecosystems and interdependent relationships unit in science. Others have finished the science unit and have begun the social studies unit. As part of the social studies unit we were fortunate enough to take a field trip to Old Fort Western in Augusta. Students and adults alike shared many positive comments about this experience. This adventure is a wonderful way to either begin or conclude this unit. Once again we had far more volunteers to chaperone than we were able to take, but we would like to thank everyone who volunteered and if you were not able to join us we look forward to having you volunteer soon.

We would like to remind parents that second grade students will have reading and math homework Mondays through Thursdays. Please be sure to check your student's bag to be sure they do their homework. Homework is a chance for them to practice the skills we are working on here at school. We are often asked if parents can help with the math homework. The answer is yes. If you see your student is having difficulty or has errors it wonderful if you can give them a hand coming to the right answer. In the family letter sent home for each unit you will find all the correct answers on the last page. Helping your student with their homework is a great way to build that home/school connection which is so important.

Art News

- Claire Sabine

Happy Fall! The air is becoming crisp and nature's paintbrush is painting the landscape with brilliant colors. Take a few minutes to take some photographs, paint a picture or just take a moment to notice the incredible colors surrounding us at this time of year.

We have been busy in the art room since the beginning of the year. All students in grades K to 2 have worked on self-portraits. We looked at several artists who have created self-portraits including Vincent van Gogh, Andy Warhol, Edgar Degas and Claude Monet. These self-portraits are completed each year and safely kept away from curious eyes. In 6th grade, the portraits are assembled into a book and presented to each of the students in June. It truly is fun and amazing to see the changes over the years.

For the past couple of weeks, each of the students has created a piece of artwork for Square 1 Art. This is a fundraiser sponsored by the PTC. The student's artwork is submitted to the company. Next, a sheet of stickers is given to each student with his/her artwork printed on them. A catalog is also sent home from which families can order a variety of items with the artwork printed onto each piece such as tote bags, cell phone cases, mugs, aprons, pillows, ornaments, plus so much more! The students were very excited about this and created some amazing art pieces! The stickers and catalogs should be arriving in November so that orders can be placed in time for the holidays. Watch for these to come home next month.

If you would like to find out more about what's happening in the art room at TPS, please visit and "Like" Ms. Sabine's Art Room on Facebook. The direct link is: <https://www.facebook.com/sabineartroom/>
Don't forget to ask.... What did you do in art today?



Computer News

- Sigrid Rausch

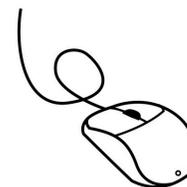
All K-2 students took NWEA assessments in reading and math. These are computer administered tests that help classroom teachers plan their instruction. During the two weeks of testing, computer classes were canceled. All classes have learned how to be safe, respectful and responsible in the computer lab.

Kindergarten students learned to use the mouse and headphones. They played a variety of games that helped them practice mouse skills, such as clicking, double-clicking and dragging. The last several weeks were spent with Tuxpaint, a simple graphics program, that we used to stamp patterns and draw colorful fall trees.

First graders start each lesson with a short typing activity. Typically this means typing their first and last names and a short sentence. This requires students to use the Shift, Enter and Backspace keys, as well as the spacebar. Additionally, students are learning to move the cursor to fix mistakes and edit their work. When students are done with the typing activity, they can listen to a story on the Storyline or Tumblebooks web sites.

Second graders reviewed Pixie, a graphics program. Pixie lets students combine text and pictures into posters/presentations. Students know how to use the text and free draw tools as well as the picture library. They practiced saving with a meaningful file name. When students are done with the main learning activity, they can listen to a story on the Storyline or Tumblebooks web sites.

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. Please note that the address of my homepage has changed. The old one is still up, but will no longer be updated. The shortcut to the new one is goo.gl/o84jck.



Guidance News

- Christie Grant

Hello from the School Counselor! For those of you who haven't met me yet, my name is Christie Grant and I have been the school counselor here at Turner Primary School for three years now. Prior to working here I was a teacher at Greene Central School for 13 years. I am super eager to work with you all and get to know your families!

I am available to meet with any student in our school on an "as needed basis". Part of my job is to get to know all the students in the school. I do this by classroom lessons once per week in every classroom K-2. I also try to eat with a variety of students when I have lunch times available. Your child may come home and say they ate lunch with me. One of my goals is to eat lunch with every student at least once during the school year (I may have to get creative to achieve this goal)!

There are a variety of ways that I can help you and your child in my role as a school counselor, e.g. if they are having difficulty adjusting to school, getting along with peers, having difficulty with things at home that is effecting them here at school, difficulties on the bus, or if they need a brief period (4-6 weeks) of seeing a counselor. If students would benefit from a counselor who can spend longer periods of time with them I can also make referrals to our Spurwink counselor we house here at school, or outside counselors I am in touch with. If there is something you are not sure of or would like help with please don't hesitate to call and ask me... I am here to help! I can be reached at christie.grant@msad52.org or by calling 225-1030 extension 6040. I look forward to working with your family.



Library News

- Meredith Thompson

We welcomed a new group of pre-K students to Turner Primary School this fall. Pre-K students have been coming to the library for a story time and they are learning about taking care of library books. They have already checked out their first book and are doing a great job of returning books every week and keeping them in a safe place at home.

Our kindergarteners have checked out their first book after graduating from a four-week program. They remembered many things about the library and book care from their pre-K year. The kindergarten library program teaches them about taking care of their books and becoming familiar with the library.

During the fall months the library will be sharing stories about the library and book care, picking a just right book, apples, friendship and much more. Every fall three or four books are selected with different styles of illustration to be part of the Turner Primary Favorite Illustrated Book of the Year Award. Over a four-week period the children hear the stories and discuss the illustrations of each book. They learn that many times the illustrations in a picture book tell us things about the story that the words don't. Students will vote for the 2016 TPS Favorite Illustrated Book the week of November 14th through the 18th, which is "Children's Book Week" here at Turner Primary. Students will be learning about the Caldecott Award Books and hear the 2016 winner of the Caldecott Award, *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*, written by Lindsay Mattick and illustrated by Sophie Blackall.

Children's Book Week is a very exciting week in our school with Scholastic Book Fair here all week. This year Chris Van Dusen, a Maine author and illustrator, will be visiting our school on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week. Chris will do a Family Night presentation on Tuesday night from 6pm to 7pm in the gym, everyone is welcome to come. Friday will be Storybook Character Dress Up Day, and many of the new library books for the school year will be on display and available for check out this week.

Have a great fall and remember to take time to enjoy a book with someone special.



Music Newsletter

- Melissa Newcomb



Greetings from the music room!

It has been a very busy start to the school year in the music room. There has been a lot of singing, music reading, and instrument playing going on. The kindergarten students have been working very hard to learn how to echo sing with our favorite puppets, Rhythm and Tempo. We have been singing many songs such as *Charlie Over the Ocean*, *Oh My No More Pie*, and *The Littlest Worm*. The kindergarten students have also been working on keeping a steady beat. We have used rhythm sticks, egg shakers and drums along with steady beat books such as *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, *5 Little Monkeys, I Went Walking*, and many more. With Halloween quickly approaching we are working on adding instrument sounds to the book *The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything* and singing the song *I'm a Little Ghost*.

The first grade students have been working on learning how to read rhythm cards that use quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. We have used rhythm sticks, egg shakers, and shape drums when learning to play these rhythms. Most recently we have played a game called *Monster Rhythms* which challenges students rhythm reading skills, playing skills, and memory. In the coming weeks we will work on the song *5 Little Pumpkins* and playing it on the boomwhackers.

Second grade began the school year using pattern blocks and xylophone bars. They made patterns with the colored pattern blocks and then played them on the corresponding colored xylophone blocks. The students then chose their favorite pattern and traced it on paper. We then had a concert for the class where each students played their pattern for the class. Most recently second grade students have been reviewing how to play, read, and write rhythms using quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. We will be using this skill for a variety of songs coming up in the second quarter.

If you are curious about music class or you would like to drop by for a visit, remember that there are music classes on Monday, and Tuesday and you are welcome to stop in for your child's class time.

P.E. News

- Jennifer Carver



What a beautiful fall! Many classes have enjoyed classes outside at the end of September and into October. First and second graders have finished up with soccer and have started some fall themed activities that focus on a variety of skills: rolling, throwing, catching, locomotors and chase/flee/dodge. Kindergarten has joined in on these activities, playing games like "Pumpkin Bowling" and "Catch Those Apples". All classes will be participating in our SPOOKTACULAR Halloween themed activity, "Spooky Street".

In November and December we will be working on: manipulatives (hand/eye coordination, striking with implements, toss/throw/bounce/catch), chase/flee/dodge/safe movement skills, and holiday themed activities.

It was wonderful to see so many families at Open House! Just in case you missed it - I posted some information about volunteer opportunities in physical education this year. Here's our volunteer schedule:

December: Bring a Grownup to P.E. Day (notices will go home before Thanksgiving break)
 February/March: Winter Field Day & Winter P.E. classes (outdoor activities: sledding, hiking...)
 April: Jump Rope For Heart
 June: Field Day

I hope to see many of you this year!

Family Fitness Tip: Engage in physical activity each day for a total of 60 minutes for children and 30 minutes for adults.

ELL News

- Ruth Mueller

This year, we will continue the use of Google Translate to translate materials being sent home from school. We know this is not a perfect solution, and apologize in advance for any incomprehensible translations. If you ever have any questions, please email me (in any language) at Ruth.Mueller@msad52.org, and I will do my best to find answers for you!



Title 1 News

- Becky Neiley, Diane O'Donnell, Robert Wilcox

Did you know that rhyming is one of the foundations of building strong readers? The following article explains its importance....so keep on singing & saying those nursery rhymes!



Rhyming Improves Reading, Spelling & Writing

By Jackie Penn

Kids today need to focus more on having fun with rhyming to improve their reading and spelling skills. Rhyming helps children learn about word families such as let, met, pet, wet, and get.

Rhyming lends itself to better phonemic awareness; the ability to break words into smaller parts and recognize smaller parts in words.

Being able to break words into smaller parts and recognize smaller parts in words is an important skill that is crucial for reading and spelling. This awareness leads to better reading and writing success.

Rhyming also teaches children who are learning to read about the patterns and structures in both spoken and written words. Songs and rhyming expose children to the rhythm of language which helps them read with some animation in their voice instead of just a monotone voice.

How many times have you seen children sitting happily listening to someone reading in a monotone voice? NEVER! However, when they listen to someone who reads with inflection and animation, they sit glued to the reader.

Rhyming and rhythm are very important skills that help a reader learn to use inflection and animation when reading aloud. Rhyming also prepares children to make predictions while learning words and gives them crucial decoding skills.

Research is showing that learning how to manipulate words through rhyming and rhyming word games is an important, if not crucial, reading skill.

Students who struggle with reading often have a difficult time breaking words down into their individual sounds, and even in hearing each of these sounds, i.e. phonemic awareness skills.

One easy way to incorporate rhyming words into your everyday life is via online rhyming games. Hink Pink online word games are excellent.

Rhyming is important to reading and spelling because it can help children appreciate that words that share common sounds often share common letter sequences.

So if you can spell cat, you can also spell bat, rat and mat. This also applies to reading, if you can read "call," you can read, ball, tall and mall.

Online spelling sites are useful for practicing weekly word lists. You can add rhyming words to your spelling list at sites that allow you to program your own words.

Carry it one step further by printing off handwriting sheets for practicing those same rhyming words. This will involve using at least three senses-seeing, hearing, and touching (writing), which will help your child cement those words in their brain.

Read lots of nursery rhymes with your child. Have older children recite nursery rhymes and make up rhymes of their own. See who can make up the silliest rhyming nonsense words. Rhyme in the car with objects you see along your path-car-jar, sign-line, red-said, truck-yuck... Learning is fun you know!

<http://www.howtolearn.com/2012/01/rhyming-improves-reading-spelling-writing/>

Message from the School Nurse

- Maria Giffune



As I am writing this newsletter article, the Tooth Fairy is providing participating students with an invaluable service of cleaning their teeth and also is teaching them how to improve their oral health. Maintaining a thorough routine in caring for our oral health not only takes care of our teeth and gums, but impacts our overall physical health.

Halloween is just around the corner. Halloween is so exciting for our children, but with it comes increases in sugary treats and changes in their daily routines. So why is this so bad for our bodies?

Did you know that the recommended daily limit of sugar for children ages 4 to 8 is 3 tsp (12 grams), for pre-teens and teenagers 5 to 8 tsp (20-32g), for adult women, 6 tsp (24g), and adult men, 9 tsp (36g)?

Let's just consider how much sugar is in a juice box (6 tsp or 24g), in sports drinks (8 tsp or 34g), in soda (depending on the type) there are between 10 tsp (39g) to over 19 tsp (77g) per serving. Water has 0 tsp (0g) of sugar. This is just in the drinks that our children are consuming, not the sugar that they are getting in their daily intake of food or the sugary treats that they are eating.

So again, why is this a problem?

Within 20 minutes of eating or drinking sugary foods/drinks, the sugars feed the bacteria in our saliva (spit) and forms an acid that attacks and dissolves the enamel (the hard coating of our teeth). This leads to cavities and dental health problems.

Drinking an 8 oz soda every day for a year is equal to 55,000 calories or an additional 15 pounds a year!

A child who drinks one 12 oz can of soda each day increases the child's chance of becoming obese by 60 percent.

Having a high sugar diet can contribute to increased heart disease. High sugar diets makes the liver work harder and it dumps more harmful fats into the blood stream. This increases the risk of heart disease.

EEK! I think that I need to look at what I am eating and watching a little more diligently my sugar intake. As we grow and develop, it is important to continue to improve not only our children's habits, but to be a good example and work on our daily health habits, as well. We are never too old to learn!

Sources:

http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/HealthyLiving/HealthyEating/Nutrition/Sugars-Added-Sugars-and-Sweeteners_UCM_303296_Article.jsp#.WAUInvkrLcs

<http://www.deltadentalmi.com/Wellness/Oral-Health-Resources/Oral-Health-Topics/Rethink-Your-Drink-Choose-Water.aspx>

<http://www.health.harvard.edu/blog/eating-too-much-added-sugar-increases-the-risk-of-dying-with-heart-disease-201402067021>

Schedule of Events

School Board Meeting

Thursday, December 8, 2016	6:30 PM	GCS
Thursday, January 5, 2017	6:30 PM	LCS
Thursday, January 19, 2017	6:00 PM	TES

PTC Meetings

Monday, December 5, 2016	6:30 pm	TPS Library
Monday, January 9, 2017	6:30 pm	TPS Library

No School/Half-Day School

Wednesday, November 23, 2016 - Friday, November 25, 2016	Thanksgiving break	No school
Wednesday, December 21, 2016	Half-day	No school in PM
Thursday, December 22, 2016 - Monday, January 2, 2017	Holiday break	No school
Monday, January 16, 2017	Martin Luther King Day	No school
Monday, January 23, 2017	Teacher in-service day	No school