



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Last night, I attended our monthly BRAC (Bristol Recreation Advisory Council) meeting. BRAC is the volunteer board for the Tapply-Thompson Community Center. I am the Alexandria representative for this group.

A senior at NRHS sat in last night as part of his senior project. The vice chair of the council asked us to introduce ourselves and share why we decided to join BRAC. It was a very interesting and informative part of our meeting. We have board members that have been affiliated with the TTCC since 1949 and some that just moved into the community. We have many board members that as children attended summer camp, played sports, "hung out" at the center, and now are giving back. We have a person that retired to this area who came to an event and since learning more about the community center decided to volunteer her time.

No matter what our own history or experience with the TTCC, the overarching theme as to why we were all out at 7:00 on a Thursday night was because this place makes a difference in the lives of many within our community! Our eclectic group of individuals also understands that community centers just don't happen. It takes hundreds of volunteers to offer the many different programs and opportunities to our communities. It takes the partnership of all eight communities to not only give of their time but town dollars to support this organization.

As Mahatma Gandhi stated, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." My time last night was well spent and don't be surprised if you see me refereeing some TTCC basketball games this season over at Bridgewater-Hebron School.

Have a great long weekend!

A handwritten smiley face followed by the signature "Am".



5th Grade Explorations

This week was our second week at Ragged Mountain, and many students have been enjoying learning a new sport, or perfecting one they already know. Our trips to the mountain have been fun and challenging and we look forward to three more lessons. Please remember that on Wednesdays it is especially important to send warm socks, gloves, scarves or neck/face warmers, layers of pants, etc.

Our literacy program exposed students to blues, soul, and gospel music this week. Although no students recognized the name or story of Aretha Franklin, many recognized her music when we took a break from reading to listen to *Respect*. We also read poems about music to learn about alliteration and onomatopoeia.

Speaking of poems, please encourage students to practice their poems for Prize Speaking. Students chose their poems before the holiday vacation and should have some of it memorized already. Next week's reading log will focus on practicing their poem, and we will practice it in class as well. Students should have the whole poem memorized by Monday, January 25th so we can rehearse and be ready for Prize Speaking on Thursday.

In math, we are working on equivalent fractions and understanding that multiplying and dividing by forms of one ($3/3$, $8/8$, etc.) does not change the value of a number. This work will be invaluable in operations with fractions and ratios. Knowing basic multiplication facts (through 12s) will also be a helpful skill in our work with fractions, so please encourage students to continue practicing their facts with flashcards, online games, or call and respond.

I am excited to introduce the students to their first major research project this year. Each student will be assigned an explorer and use multiple resources to research. Students will write an essay including information about the explorer's early life, explorations, important contributions because of the explorations, an introduction, and conclusion. Students will also learn how to cite sources and choose a technological tool to share their research with the class. Please be watching for more detailed requirements and deadlines next week.

As I continue to work with the fifth grade class, I reflect on how lucky I am to have such wonderful students. I enjoy watching them take chances, grow, and work together. I hope the second half of the year is as positive as the first as they are presented with new challenges!

**Art class is in need of paper towel tubes!
Please save yours & bring in for our next project.**

**Wednesdays are PE day at DES.
Make sure your child has sneakers, not winter boots, for PE class.**

**Season passes for Ragged Mountain can be picked up at their ticket window.
All DES students participating will be on file.**

**It is a cold winter (finally!) and our students go outside for 2 recesses a day.
Everyone needs dressed in boots, hats, gloves, coats, & snow pants.**

**Due to the SAU's Wellness Policy, snacks for classroom parties are limited in amount and selection. Room parents will contact only a few families at a time for donations.
Thank you for being willing to help out!**

Newfound Nutrition



Lunch Menu Week of Jan 18-22, 2016

Monday
No School

Tuesday
BHOP Pizza
Carrots
Garden Salad
Assorted Fruit

Wednesday
Lasagna Rollups
Italian Veggies
WW Dinner Roll
Garden Salad
Assorted Fruit

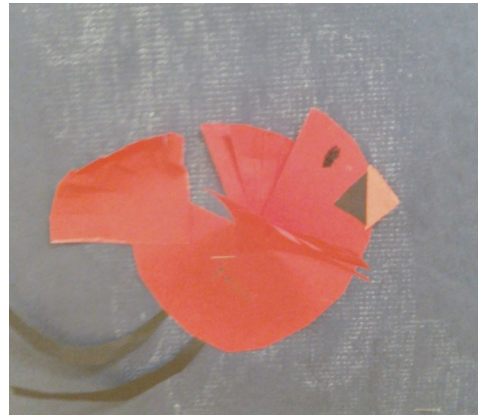
Thursday
Chinese Pie
Green Beans
Garden Salad
Assorted Fruit

Friday
Grilled Franks
WW Roll
NE Style Baked Beans
Assorted Fruit
Garden Salad

Breakfast \$1.25
(reduced \$0.30)
Lunch \$2.50
(reduced \$0.40)
Milk \$0.35

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For Art's Sake!



The new year finds our DES 5th grade artists just finishing their version of "American Gothic" with a twist. "American Gothic" was painted by American artist Grant Wood. It depicts a farmer & his wife during the 1930s in rural America. GREAT job!

Fourth grade has been busy practicing perspective drawing. They can add the 3rd dimension to their buildings while creating landscapes. The next step is to paint, on canvas, a local Danbury spot. Stay tuned!

Artists in 2/3 are practicing drawings of people using "balloon people," which helps to add mass and action or motion. It's been quite exciting!

First grade and Kindergarten have been busy drawing "what they see" with shapes. We used the stuffed bear "Newfie" with terrific results!

Careful, thoughtful details abound as we explore the process of creating our masterpieces with new techniques.

BRAVO! to ALL!

Ms. Plante-Renaud



Danbury Elementary



JANUARY 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year!	2
3	4 Back to School!	5	6 Winter Activity Prog.	7	8	9
10	11 School Board Mtg 6:30pm at NRHS	12	13 Winter Activity Prog.	14	15	16
17	18 No School MLK Day	19	20 Winter Activity Prog.	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Winter Activity Prog.	28 Prize Speaking Preliminary	29 No School Teacher Workshop	30 Deliberative Session 10am at NRHS
31						