



Danbury Elementary

Advice For Watching Your Child Play Sports

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As I am finishing up my volleyball coaching season and knowing that many of our students are participating in the TTCC baseball/softball programs, I thought this would be a timely article. I have had the opportunity to be a collegiate athlete, varsity coach, patched softball official, and spectator watching my nieces, nephews and god-children. There are many ways in which the adults in children's lives can help or harm their athletic experience.

As children are first playing the sport, it is important to remain positive, supportive, upbeat and have no expectations on performance. Parents should be celebrating effort, teamwork, sportsmanship, meeting new friends and traveling to different parks, towns and cities. When children have developed some skills, show natural ability and start playing in more competitive leagues, it is essential that parents remain focused on sportsmanship, teamwork, attitude, and helping their child deal with losing, making an error or missing a shot. The way parents "debrief" after a game is another critical factor in an athlete's development. Starting off the conversation talking about a funny incident, a great play made or a way in which someone showed sportsmanship puts the emphasis on the overall experience and not performance. An opening question to talk about performance could be, "How do you think you played today?" Most of the time, your child will be harder on him/herself. Make sure you take the time to listen before giving your feedback and suggestions. Always end the conversation with affection and pride for them participating in a sport. Lastly, as athletes start to play at the middle/high school level, parents need to teach self-advocacy skills (ex., your child should talk to the coach about playing time), commitment, ability to recognize skills of others and different roles of playing on a team sport.

I enjoy the reading some of the signs posted around athletic fields. One of my favorites is:

Reminders From Your Child

- I am a KID
- It's just a game
- My coach is a volunteer
- The officials are human
- No college scholarships will be handed out today

Last night at dinner, my nephew shared the conversation he had at his lunch table. He was talking with them that until last year, he never knew how "bad" he was at baseball. My sister and I started hysterically laughing because it was so painful for us to watch him play due to his clumsiness and lack of skill. Currently, Ian is playing varsity lacrosse, becoming a patched lacrosse official and will have his code of honor next month to become an Eagle Scout. No college scholarship for baseball but his memories are positive.

Have a great vacation week!

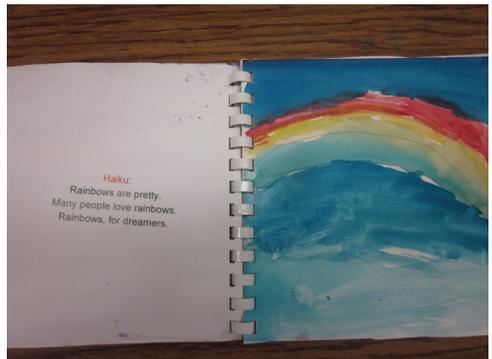
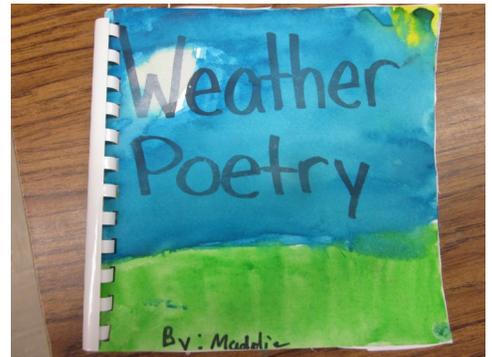
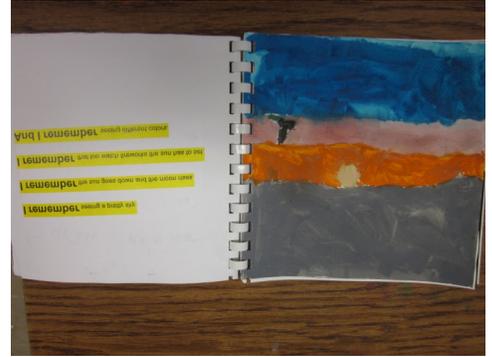
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Am" with a circular mark to the left.

2nd & 3rd Grade News

Second and third grade have been busy this past month! During this time, 3rd grade took their Smarter Balance test. This test took 7 days to complete. During this time, 2nd grade helped the 3rd graders by moving their materials to the 5th grade room and encouraging them! They were extremely flexible considering their day was also changed even though they weren't testing! We also owe a huge thank you to the parents who provided snacks for the students during the test. We couldn't have done this without them!

When the testing was over, we wanted to reward the 3rd graders for their hard work. The 3rd graders broke into 4 groups and they became the teacher for literacy for one day. This meant that third graders ran the Foundations station, Scholastic News station, Leveled Reader station, and assisted with their Book Bag Exchange. The 3rd graders even took home the material they would be covering so that they would be prepared to teach the lesson! The 2nd graders also enjoyed this opportunity to work with their peers. It was nice to see all the students rise to the occasion!

As for writing, we just completed another Picturing Writing activity. We first researched 4 different types of weather. They then painted a picture of each type. After that, we created 4 different types of poems. The poems were an Acrostic poem, Cinquain, Haiku, and an I Remember poem. The students then had a chance to share their books with the class afterwards. Watch out for our Biography Project for the month of May!



Happy Spring Break

Newfound Nutrition

Lunch Menu Week of May 2-6, 2016

Monday

Mac N Cheese
Broccoli Florets
Breadstick
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Rib Q Sandwich
Brown Rice
Cole Slaw
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Nachos & Cheese Sauce
Beans
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Rotini with Meat Sauce
Breadstick
Peas
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Friday

Stuffed Crust Pizza
Carrot Sticks
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

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

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PE with Mrs. Frost



Students in Mrs. Frost's P.E. classes have been working on a Striking Unit using a variety of long-handled and short-handled implements. Pilo-Polo sticks are similar to hockey sticks, but have a rounded foam base for striking. Students have worked on the proper grip, forward strike, passing, dribbling, hitting with a partner, and shooting for accuracy. Grades 5, 4, and 3 worked on their hockey skills in a cooperative and competitive setting.

Students in the younger grades have worked on basic tennis skills. They are introduced to proper grip and ready position, moving on their feet with the tennis racket, catching bean bags with the racket, and bouncing foam balls up and down. Fun activities are used to show children how tennis can be fun. We refer to trapping the ball with the racket and opposite hand as "lobster claw" trap. This helps students learn how to use a racket.

Grade 5 was assessed on "Striking with Direction and Force", P.E. Standard (S1.E24.5). Grades 2/3 students were assessed on "Striking with a Long-Handled Implement" with proper grip, sending it forward, P.E. Standard (S1.E25.3). Grade 4 will be assessed after spring break on "Striking with a Long-Handled Implement", demonstrating 3 of the 5 critical elements of a mature pattern.

We will continue the Striking Unit following spring break with hockey sticks, more tennis, and batting. As the school year winds down, we focus again on cooperative activities and relays as we prepare for Field Day in June.

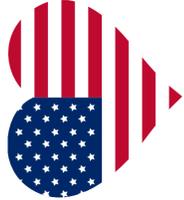


The Newfound Area School District will hold its annual Kindergarten Connection for all children who will be entering Kindergarten in September 2016. DES Kindergarten Connection will be Thursday, May 12th. If you or someone you know have a child who will be five years old on or before September 30, 2016, please call the DES office to set up your time! 768-3434

Danbury Elementary

May 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 5th Grade @ PSU	5 5th Grade Transition Night 6:30pm	6	7
8	9 T-shirt orders due	10 Career Day PTO Meeting 4:30	11	12 Kindergarten Connection	13	14 
15	16 Author Night 6pm DES Concert 6:30pm	17	18	19 5th Grade Field Trip	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Family Game Night 6-7pm	27 4th Grade Field Trip	28
29 	30 No School	31 K-3 Field Trip				