

Danbury Elementary Newsletter

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Ann Holloran, Principal

The Tradition Continues!

This January, the traditional public speaking program, now known as The Bertha Brown Prize Speaking Event, will continue. All DES students have received their poems and have started working on them in class. Families are asked to help students with the annual project. First, assist students with practicing the reading and work towards memorizing. Then, practice stage presence and creative expression. Finally, build confidence and have fun! The preliminaries will be during a school assembly Friday, January 27th at 8:30am. Finals will be Tuesday, January 31st at 6:30pm. Parents are invited to both! Below is the scoring rubric that will guide students to success.

CATEGORY	5 (Best)	4	3	2	1
Clarity	Speaks clearly and distinctly all (100-95%) the time, & mispronounces no words. Can clearly hear the speaker.	Speaks clearly and distinctly most of the time (95-71%), but mispronounces a few words. Can hear the speaker.	Speaks clearly and distinctly, 70-40% of the time. Mispronounces several words. At time, cannot hear the speaker.	Often mumbles or cannot be understood. Very hard to hear.	Cannot be heard.
Stage Presence	Stands up straight, looks relaxed and confident. Maintains eye contact with the audience during the presentation. Facial expression and body language generate a strong interest and enthusiasm for the poem.	Stands up straight and establishes eye contact with people in the room during presentation. Facial and body language sometimes generates a strong interest and enthusiasm for the poem.	Stands up straight and establishes some eye contact but it is inconsistent, generates some enthusiasm for poem.	Sometimes stands up straight, tries to generate enthusiasm without success.	Slouches and/or no eye contact during the presentation. Did not generate any interest in the poem.
Creative Expression	Shows strong feeling for the piece. Generates a strong voice.	Shows some feelings for the piece. Generates voice.	Tries to express feeling. Uses voice but it is not effective.	Very little feelings or voice for the poem.	No feeling or voice for the poem.
Degree of Difficulty	The poem stretches the performer. It is a challenging poem.	The poem is somewhat difficult and challenging.	The poem does not stretch the performer.	No difficulty or challenge.	Extremely short.

Finally in Fifth!

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

We also had our first trip to NMMS for band and chorus lessons. It is nice for students to have the opportunity to visit the middle school to get familiar with the building. It is helpful to get to know other fifth grade students since it won't be long before they will be sharing their sixth grade year with new classmates.

Our literacy program exposed students to blues, soul, and gospel music this week. Although no student recognized the name or story of Aretha Franklin, some recognized her music when we took a break from reading to listen to *Respect*. In writing, students have been utilizing google docs to participate in a story exchange. One student wrote the beginning of a story while another wrote the middle. Next week, a third student will write the end of the story. Students have learned to make suggestions, edit, and comment on another's writing while paying attention to tense and point of view.

We wrapped up our study of the water cycle with an activity where students followed the path of a drop of water. They experienced how a molecule of water may not follow the cycle in order. In fact, lots of water is "stuck" in the ocean or glaciers or it may bounce back and forth between the ocean and clouds, never being used by plants. We also discussed how the water moves: condensation, evaporation, infiltration, respiration, excretion, transpiration, and runoff.

In math, we are working on multiplying and dividing with multi-digit decimals. We are using estimation and number sense to determine where the decimal point should go in our answer, so we are reviewing how to round and estimate while extending our understanding to using compatible numbers to estimate with division. Knowing basic multiplication facts (through 12s) is a helpful skill for our work with division, so please encourage students to continue practicing their facts with flashcards, online games, or call and respond.

Please encourage students to practice for Prize Speaking. Students chose their poems before vacation and should have some of it memorized already. We will practice it in class most days, but they should be practicing regularly at home as well. Students should have the whole poem memorized by Monday, January 23rd.

Lunch Menu January 9-13, 2017

Monday

Cheeseburger
Carrots
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Chinese Pie
Breadstick
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Fun Fish Nuggets
Baked Beans
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Roasted Turkey
Mashed Potato
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Friday

Homemade Pizza
Carrot Sticks
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Breakfast \$1.25
(reduced \$.30)
Lunch \$2.75
(reduced \$.40)
Milk \$.35

This facility is operated in accordance with the USDA policy, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, religion, or national origin.

Winter Activity Program

Congratulations to our students for their responsibility and character at Ragged this week! And thank you to all the parents and volunteers for the afternoon! A few reminders as we have 4 more weeks of the program...

- If parents are picking students up early, make sure you find Dee Ford and sign your child out.
- When it is pick up time, parents must students out in the lodge.
- It is expected that students are to remain and ski/snowboard the entire 2 hours.
- Reminder to dress in layers and for the weather!