

Danbury Elementary Newsletter

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Ann Holloran, Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is Thursday night and I am sitting at my kitchen table, doing some schoolwork. I can't believe that it is already March! Where has this school year gone? I am watching parts of two basketball games on the TV. You see, it is almost the start of March Madness!

For those of you who do not follow sports, March Madness is the tournament for college basketball at the Division I level (men's and women's). Right now, different teams are competing for their conference title. This week I was reading about the game between St. John's and Georgetown. When all the conference title games are finished, Sunday night there will be a show on ESPN to reveal the 67 game brackets in the NCAA Tournament. Once the brackets become public, many people will start to fill out the chart, selecting the winners of each game and coming up with the four teams that will head to the Men's Final Four in Phoenix, Arizona. Some individual people will join different "pools" or submit their brackets online to compete against friends and co-workers to see who can pick the most game winners throughout the tournament.

Whether I will fill out the women's or men's brackets depends upon the year and which friends are participating. It is fun just to keep track of how well I do guessing who will make it into the Final Four. In the end, I am usually about 70% accurate on my selections throughout the tournament. I don't get too competitive with my friends unless I am in the lead ☺.

If you are a sports junkie, you understand all of this.....but if you aren't, you are probably wondering what is the big deal in all this March Madness and "Bracketology" business.

Have a great weekend!



P.S. Don't forget to "Spring Ahead" this weekend—turn your clock one hour ahead on Saturday night.



Finally in Fifth!

Fifth grade is as busy as ever. We now go to NMMS weekly to practice for band and chorus. Students are enjoying meeting others, getting to know the building, and practicing for their concert. We enjoyed viewing a play at BES a few weeks back and look forward to a TIGER presentation in a couple of weeks.

Our Adapting Unit in ELA has come to a close as students finished learning about pronouns, idioms, and generalizations. The next unit is about adventures as students learn identify setting and plot, use graphic sources, make inferences, and reflect on the author's purpose. In writing, students have been excited to work with mentor sentences. We look at a strong sentence and discuss what is so good about it. Then we label all the parts of speech we know. Next, we revise it, changing the order of clauses or choosing different words without changing the meaning. Finally, we try to copy the style of the sentence, but use a different topic to make it our own. Students are proud when we are able to label the whole sentence and choose better vocabulary to make the sentence more interesting.

The Adventure Unit will go nicely as students make slideshows to present to the class about an explorer. After researching and typing a five-paragraph essay, students learned how to use functions in google docs to add a title page and bibliography, as well as double space and change the alignment. Next, they will create a presentation and share their explorer's accomplishments with the class.

We continue our work with fractions in math. Students have learned how to add and subtract mixed numbers, whole numbers, and fractions. We are working on developing the ability to explain how and why we solved a word problem a certain way. Many students are able to explain orally with prompting, but when faced with a blank space to write, they get intimidated. We will spend more time in this area, as well as looking at volume of three-dimensional figures as we continue working with fractions.

Lunch Menu Mar 13-17, 2017

Monday

Burger
Tator Tots
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Chinese Pie
Broccoli Florets
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Fish Nuggets
Spinach
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

American Chop Suey
Bread Stick
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Friday

NO SCHOOL

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

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