



Birch Grove Primary School



December 2017

Mr. Swanson says.....

Hello Families,

Hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and had a moment to relax and spend time with your families.

We are pleased to welcome Suzanne Guglietta as our new Assistant Principal. Suzanne joins us from Andover where she had many roles such as Assistant Principal, Director of Special Education and Preschool Administrator.

On Tuesday, Dec. 12 your child's first report card will be available for viewing on the Power School Portal. The website is <https://tollandschools.powerschool.com>. If you do not have access to the internet, a paper copy of your child's report card may be obtained. Any questions regarding Power School access or paper copies of report cards should be emailed to hrobertson@tolland.k12.ct.us to request further assistance.

This standards based report card is based on grade level content standards and is just one tool for communicating your child's progress. A standards-based report card communicates to parents what grade-level standards their children are required to learn, what their children knew at a particular time of year, and what they can do. Standards are supported by classroom instruction. Grading represents academic progress according to the standards for each marking period. Please be sure to review the Standards Based Reporting document which is located on the BGP website under quick links. http://www.bgp.tolland.k12.ct.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_892332/File/SBR%202017.pdf

Many thanks to all the volunteers who supported the TEPTO Book Fair last week.

The annual Hat and Mitten drive sponsored by the Tolland Community Women and Laura Ann Weekes, founder of From the Heart is still going on. Students can place the donated items in the boxes in the lobby. Items will be distributed by the Tolland Community Women's Club to children in our area that may go without otherwise.

We are still planning to have outside recess on full days of school when the weather is 20° or higher. Please ensure that children dress in layers of clothing and are prepared for the weather. Children can play in the snow if they have all the proper snow gear. Please label all clothing as sometimes things may end up in the lost and found area.

Our Principal Breakfast is coming up on Thursday, January 4 at 9:15—10:15. This is an opportunity to ask questions, gather information on various topics and stay informed on the Birch Grove happenings.

Dates and Times

Dec. 22— Early Release—12:45 dismissal
Dec. 23—Jan. 2—No School—Winter Break
Jan.4—Principal Breakfast—9:15—10:15
Jan.8—TEPTO meeting 7:00 at BGP

We wish all of the Birch Grove families a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call Mr. Swanson(x30903) or Mrs. Guglietta (x30904).

Grade Level News!

Preschool

- Begin Holidays and Winter unit
- Working on letters
- Numeracy—counting and number concepts skills
- Colors and shapes

Kindergarten

- Family traditions and Friends unit /weather
- Gingerbread man theme
- Math—Composing/decomposing numbers to 10

Grade 1

- Science—Force and Motion
- Language Arts— Drawing Conclusion/Summarizing, short e, blends with s and l, kn, wr, gn. High frequency words
- Math - Fact families; addition/subtraction within 20

Grade 2

- Language Arts—Nature Walk Unit- skills: story structure, prediction, summarizing, topic, main idea, making inferences
- Math - Bar modeling to support addition/subtraction
- Writing: -taking notes, writing to persuade, friendly letter, beginning, middle, end

Health Center Update

Flu season is upon us once again. Flu symptoms may include fever (not always), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, fatigue, and possibly vomiting and diarrhea. There are measures that we can all take to help fight the flu.

First: It's not too late to get the flu vaccine. This is the best way to protect against the flu.

Second: Control the spread of germs. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve when you sneeze or cough. Wash your hands often with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. If you are sick, stay home.

Third: If you get the flu, your doctor can prescribe antiviral medication to help make the illness milder and shorten the duration of the flu.

Please remember that if your child has a fever of 100° F or greater, vomiting, or other contagious disease, he or she must remain home for 24 hours after the fever or illness has subsided without medication, except antibiotics.

Please be sure to send in a healthy and safe snack for your child. Also, please have children dress appropriately for the weather: long pants, cotton leggings, jackets, hats and mittens. The children will go out to recess when the temperature and wind chill are above 20°.

Theme of the month is ~~~ Responsibility ~~~

Oral Language and Your Child

How do we develop our oral language skills? Children learn, from an early age the rules of their language without the necessity of formal instruction. Language occurs through an interaction of innate abilities, environment and the child's own thinking abilities.

How can we help foster oral language skills in our children? Here are 5 pointers to help:

- Understand that every child's language or dialect is worthy of respect as a valid system for communication. It reflects the identities, values, and experiences of the child's family and community.
- Treat children as if they are conversationalists, even if they are not yet talking. Children learn very early about how conversations work (taking turns, looking attentively, using facial expressions with conversing adults).
- Encourage interaction among children. Peer learning is an important part of language development, especially in mixed-age groups. Activities involving a wide range of materials should promote talk. There should be a balance between individual activities and those that nurture collaboration and discussion, such as dramatic play, block-building, book-sharing, or carpentry.
- Remember that parents, caregivers, teachers, and guardians are the chief resources in language development. Children learn much from each other, but adults are the main conversationalists, questioners, listeners, responders, and sustainers of language development and growth in the child-care center or classroom.

Continue to encourage interaction as children come to understand written language. Children in the primary grades can keep developing oral abilities and skills by consulting with each other, raising questions, and providing information in varied situations. Every area of the curriculum is enhanced through language, so that classrooms full of active learners are hardly ever silent.

Foster your child's oral language skills through conversations at the dinner table, in the car and around the house. Encourage your children to share insights about their day and share your own as well. To sum up, keep talking!!

Resources: Genishi, C., Young Children's Oral Language Development. Reading Rockets,

