



Stafford Elementary School

The Specials Scoop

March/April 2024

ART Mrs. Veilleux

Everyone just finished a clay unit. Students in 1st grade learned how to make coils and create snails. Students in 2nd grade learned how to create pinch pots, adding faces to their pots. Once glazed, we planted grass seed to represent hair growing. Students in 3rd grade built upon their knowledge of pinch pots and created monsters. Students in 4th grade combined their knowledge of coil and pinch pot building to create mugs they can really drink from. Students in 5th grade combined their knowledge of hand building with clay to create bobbleheads of an animal of their choice.

BAND Ms. Sayles

Band students in grades 4 and 5 are continuing to prepare for their spring concert on **Tuesday, May 28th**. **Band students should arrive at the SHS auditorium in their concert attire with their instrument and music folder by 6:00pm. Chorus students should arrive at 6:15pm.** The concert start time is 6:30pm. Grade 5 advanced band is working on "Creepy Crawlies" by Michael Story and "Crazy Train" by Ozzy Osbourne. Grade 4 beginning band is working on "Calypso Morning" and "The Mexican Hat Dance" by Bruce Pearson. Please encourage your child to practice with a metronome and to participate in the "Crazy Train" Challenge. The winner for each grade will receive a special prize! In May, student lesson groups will be performing for lunches as part of the "Stafford Elementary Spring Showcase." Please encourage your child to practice daily at home and ask them to perform a "[living room concert](#)" to earn band bucks to cash in at the Band Spirit Store!

HEALTH Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

Mr. Terry's 1st, 3rd and 5th grade classes have been learning about how we can stay safe. Depending on the grade level, that could include concepts as simple as when and how to call 9-1-1 or as complex as creating a fire escape plan that you can practice at home. Other areas of safety they will be diving into include pedestrian safety, fire safety and bus safety. In 2nd and 4th grades, they recently completed our unit on nutrition. Mr. Schadt's 1st, 3rd and 5th grade classes have also been learning about injury prevention and, depending on grade level, have covered topics such as electrical safety, fire safety and car and bicycle safety. Grades 2 and 4 have been learning material in the nutrition unit.

LIBRARY Mrs. Funk

March was Women's History Month and April is National Poetry Month, so many of the read-alouds in grades 1 and 2 have centered on these themes. Grade 1 wrote about ways they could be kind after listening to poet Amanda Gorman's book, *Change Sings*, and grade 2 learned about Jennifer Keelan's contribution to the passage of The Americans with Disabilities Act after listening to author Annette Bay Pimentel read her book, *All the Way to the Top*. Grade 3 has begun their work with our online catalog, focusing on learning all of the various call numbers and how to interpret the information they find in the catalog. Grade 4 continues to work with the [5 Ws of Website Evaluation](#) and will be making comparisons among catalog, database and internet research. Grade 5 is putting the finishing touches on their animal research slides and are looking forward to their presentations. Another exciting event this month is our Nutmeg Book Award voting. Grades 2 and 3 will choose their favorite nominee in the [elementary](#) category and grades 4 and 5 will vote for their favorite [intermediate](#) nominee. It's always fun to see if our SES winners match the results of the statewide student voting. Stay tuned!

MUSIC Mrs. Bienvenu

All students are participating in "Music March Madness," a returning favorite from last year, in addition to continuing our usual music activities. We began with sixteen songs in four categories: songs about weather or things in the sky, movie scores, Disney songs and video game music. Every week, students vote for their favorite songs, with the winner moving onto the next round. We are down to our final two songs. Which will be Stafford Elementary School's favorite song this year? We will find out soon!

P. E. Mr. Schadt & Mr. Terry

During this short month, Mr. Terry's and Mr. Schadt's 4th graders will be doing their Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessments. This will include a pushup test, crunches test, sit and reach test and the one mile jog/walk. Please encourage your children to wear appropriate sneakers and clothing for physical activity on P.E. days. In Mr. Terry's P.E. classes, 1st and 2nd graders are participating in a throwing and catching unit, while 3rd, 4th and 5th graders are taking part in a circus unit that includes everything from juggling (hand/eye coordination) to stilt walking (balancing) to plate spinning (hand/eye coordination). Mr. Schadt's P.E. classes have recently had units in striking with an implement (hockey sticks and rackets) and are currently in the scooter games/activities unit.