

# P'ville Newsletter



Happy January Pawtucketville Families,

The Pawtucketville community focuses on “achievement” for our Paw skill this month. We define achievement as an action done successfully, typically by effort, courage, or skill. We spend time throughout January exploring the importance of both short term and long term goal setting as a central component of achievement.

Students in grades 3 and 4 will be taking the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) test in April and May for a total of 4 sessions each grade. This assessment will be based on the Common Core Standards that Massachusetts adopted in 2010.

It is important that all third and fourth grade students take each section. Please add the above dates to your personal calendars and avoid making appointments that pull students out of school.

The MCAS is an online assessment. For this reason, we ask for your help in improving our students’ basic computer skills including typing, using a mouse, toggling between screens, etc. All students may not have access to laptops at home so we have integrated basic computer skills into library and classroom instruction. Lowell subscribed to [Typing.com](http://Typing.com) that offers fun games and typing tutorials for kids in all grades---the kids love it! If you have access to a computer at home, we encourage you to use this free web based application (the kids know how to sign in using [clever.com](http://clever.com)).

The MCAS assessment is only one way we monitor the progress of our students. Our ultimate goal is to have all our students leave Pawtucketville with the academic and social skills needed to take on their next challenge with confidence and competence. Please continue to support our efforts at home by promoting reading, exploring local learning opportunities and engaging in meaningful dialogue about the world around them.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Grade	ELA	Math
4th	Monday, April 8	Monday, May 13
4th	Wednesday, April 10	Wednesday, May 15
3rd	Tuesday, April 9	Tuesday, May 14
3rd	Thursday, April 11	Thursday, May 16

Dr. Mathew McLean  
Principal

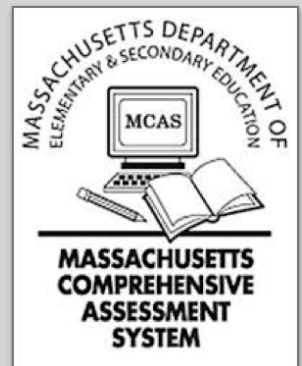
## Important Dates

7th ~ PTO Meeting 6:30

9th ~ Early Release 1:30

21st ~ No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

24th ~ Math Night 6:00



## Kindergarten

Happy New Year!

In kindergarten we continue to develop our reading skills. We have been practicing tapping out CVC words (consonant – vowel – consonant) in order to achieve higher level reading. Please practice this skill at home as often as you can. Continue reading the leveled books sent home in a bag each night!

In math, we have just finished our geometry unit and we are moving on to measurement. We will be comparing length, height, and weight.

We are beginning a how-to piece in writing. We are working on sequencing the writing in correct order (first, next, then, finally). We are encouraging the children to leave spaces between words, using a capital at the beginning of sentences, and placing the correct punctuation at the end of their sentences.

~Kindergarten Team

## First Grade

Welcome Back First Grade!

Happy New Year. After all the excitement in December we are buckling down to a solid stretch of learning.

Our literacy focus is now on non-fiction. Writing will consist of "All About \_\_\_" books. Students will work with their teacher on a book: All About PMES. Then students will continue working on "All About Me" books. Reading and Interactive Read Aloud will also focus on the genre of non-fiction. Students will be learning non-fiction text features and how they help with comprehending the text.

In math, we have just begun Module 2 in Eureka. This unit encourages students manipulate numbers to build strong number sense. The module tackles larger numbers—all the way up to 100. To be able to work with such large numbers, two key things happen in Module 2. First, students move from counting on to more sophisticated decomposition and composition strategies. Second, students will identify a 10 as one unit.

We encourage your child to read every night. Math flashcards are also very important. As always we thank you for your support.

Have a Happy and Healthy 2019!

~First Grade Team

### PARENT LIAISON

Students will be participating in our annual Hoop-A-Thon for technology this month. All proceeds will help fund the purchase of much needed technology for our school (Chromebook, Inter-Active Whiteboards, Smartboards, etc.). Students will be hula hooping, shooting hoops and jump roping during their gym class.

Attendance and punctuality are incredibly important in order for your child to make effective growth. Missing school or even being late frequently causes your child to miss instruction. Please make sure your child is here every day possible and here on time.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at (978) 937-7667 ext. 11005 or [ccote@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:ccote@lowell.k12.ma.us).

Happy New Year!!!

~Mrs. Cote



## Second Grade

In Literacy, we have moved into Unit 3-Investigating and Inquiring Expository and Narrative Informational Text. Students will listen to a variety of informational texts in order to determine the main idea and supporting details. We will also explore how authors use text features such as photographs, captions, labels, diagrams and headings to provide us with information about the subject of the book. There have been some exciting changes made to the "Nonfiction Writing" curriculum. The big idea is that second grade students have a knowledge of informational writing from previous years of learning. Rather than breaking up one "All About Book" into various pieces in order to focus on the individual chapters and text features, which sometimes wasn't super exciting, the thinking is that we can build on their skills and help them transfer these skills in order to lift the level of their writing. They will have a lot of fun actually writing many books about the many topics that they are interested in!

In Eureka Math, we are well into Module 4, Addition and Subtraction Within 200 with Word Problems to 100. The students are developing flexibility with Number Sense through a variety of strategies for adding and subtracting up to 3 digit numbers. Often, the directions ask the students to draw a Place Value Chart/Chip Model along with the vertical form (algorithm). This is an important visual to help students build an understanding of the concept of "bundling" and "unbundling". These are Eureka's vocabulary words for "regrouping" such as ten ones for 1 ten or 1 ten for ten ones. The students are gaining a lot of experience using concrete models, drawings, and strategies to help build a strong foundation for computation with addition and subtraction.

We also tackle two-step story problems. The students practice making sense of these more complex relationships within the story problems. They apply a variety of the strategies they have practiced to find the solutions.

Math Fact Fluency is an important skill that we are working hard to master this year in Grade 2. In order to build higher level Math concepts, automatic recall of the facts is necessary. Mrs. Marshall found a great program called Ninja Math. It breaks up Math Facts into levels and students work to gain belts similar to the belts one would earn in Karate. A session begins with the students practicing the Math Facts that match their belt color with a partner. Next comes the "Kicking It" where they have to complete a page of Math Facts in one minute. After correctly completing 4 "Kicking It" pages, they earn a new belt and move to the next level of Math Facts. The levels increase in difficulty. The students and teachers are very much enjoying this program, and we are noticing that more students are finishing more levels and moving up the belts. It is a quick way to gain some practice. Practice at home with the basic Math Facts through 20 would be very useful in building Fact Fluency. The next Math Bee focusing on subtraction will take place the week before February vacation.

~Second Grade Team

## Third Grade

Welcome back! We had our first (there will be one more...so keep studying!) grade level multiplication bee. All of the children all did very well. We continue to see so much improvement! A very special congratulations to....

First Place: Jasmine Ly  
 Second Place: DevinOtero  
 Third Place: Alexander Kuria  
 Fourth Place: Collin Silva

Keep going over multiplication flashcards with your child!

In writing, we will be focusing on writing realistic fiction. In math, we will be focusing on learning about AREA. During interactive read-aloud we will be focusing on text features, main idea/supporting details, and comparing and contrasting texts.

Please remember to send your child to school with a warm coat, hat, and mittens. It would be helpful to also have a sweatshirt. The temperatures fluctuate inside the classrooms. Also, please remember to send your child in with a snack. The children have lunch at 1:25 and they are hungry mid morning and ready for a snack! We hope that you all had a relaxing holiday!

~Third Grade Team



### SCHOOL BANKING

Pawtucketville Memorial Elementary School has a partnership with Jeanne D'Arc Bank.

JDCU comes every other Tuesday and makes deposits at the school. The children get a deposit slip at the time of the deposit. In January, the banking days are the 8th and the 22nd.

Any questions with the banking program please email: [kmarandola@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:kmarandola@lowell.k12.ma.us)

Thank you,  
 Kathy Marandola

## Fourth Grade

Welcome back! It's a new year and there is much to be done in Fourth grade! In Math, we continue to work on multiplication and division. Students should be fluent in basic multiplication facts. Many students are struggling with division strategies because they lack this fluency. Your child should be practicing all multiplication facts for 10 minutes every night.

As part of the writing block fourth graders have begun literary essays. This means the students will read several short stories and zoom in on one aspect of the story in order to write about the theme or about the character.

At the end of this month we will begin a study on immigration and the impact it has had on the city of Lowell starting in the 1800s. It will culminate with a field trip to the Tsongas Industrial History Center. This is a fun hands-on trip with opportunities to see artifacts from around the world and to role play as immigrants coming to Ellis Island. The permission slip will be sent home before the end of the month.

~Fourth Grade Team

## Music Room

January is an exciting month in music. Students will begin to apply the knowledge they have learned in the first half of the year to next steps in music.

The Fourth Grade will begin applying their listening and reading abilities to instruments and harmonizing. The Third grade has already stepped up their recorder game and will begin playing duets and partner songs. The Second grade will begin to learn to read music after mastering beat and rhythm. The First grade will begin to dance and move to the music along with playing instruments and learning about music form. Kindergarten will continue to hone their skills in pitch matching as well as finding the beat and recognizing the rhythm.

Be on the lookout for upcoming performances at the all school assemblies.

~Ms. Knight

## Social Worker's Corner

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had a restful winter break! Thanks to the generosity of our students and staff, Pawtucketville was able to donate 1,682 pounds of food to the Merrimack Valley Food Bank. Your contributions supported many members of our community. Congratulations to Mrs. McNamara's 2nd grade class for collecting the most food. They enjoyed a special party before winter break to celebrate.

## JANUARY: ACHIEVEMENT

During the month of January, we will focus on Achievement. In our grade level community and morning meetings, we will discuss goals and help our students learn how they can achieve goals they will set for themselves. The focus of conversation will be expecting that our students will always try their hardest and never give up. Please continue these conversations at home when your children are doing homework or chores at home. Continue to encourage them not to give up and try their hardest.

~Mrs. Mangion



<p><b>Fixed Mindset</b></p> <p>The belief that intelligence cannot be changed and that people are either born smart or not smart.</p>	<p><b>Growth Mindset</b></p> <p>The belief that intelligence is malleable, that it can change with hard work, perseverance and challenge.</p>
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## CONTENT LITERACY

Looking forward to what the new year has in store! December was filled with many stem and engineering challenges. Our key vocabulary word for December was: "blueprints." We learned that teamwork is critical and that we need to develop a plan before executing it. Grade 4 learned about chain reactions. Energy flows through objects because of kinetic and potential energy. Grade 3 learned about the Boston Tea Party and had to build a crate that could keep a tea bag dry in a tub of water. Grade 2 built bridges and Grade 1 worked on developing boats. Kindergarten explored different traditions and customs. It was a fun-filled December in Content Literacy!



If you have any questions, contact me via email at: [fchahine@lowell.k12.ma.us](mailto:fchahine@lowell.k12.ma.us)

~Ms. Chahine