

*Three Bridges School - Home of the Terrific Tigers*



# TBS Magazine

ISSUE #1

FEBRUARY 2016



**BE GREEN  
READ ME  
ONLINE**

*Johanna Beam an 8th grade student at Readington Middle School and a TBS Alumni helps to kick-off our Jump-Rope for Heart Fundraiser.*

*480 Main Street Three Bridges, New Jersey*



# TBS Magazine

## 2015 - 2016 Strategic Planning Goals

- Enhance students' social, global and intellectual engagement.
- Create a vibrant learning environment for students and staff.
- Create a culture of collaborative partnerships in and around our community.
- Ensure institutional and financial sustainability in the face of economic and demographic challenges.

## Mission Statement

*Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, Readington Township schools will nurture and challenge all students in a safe and innovative learning community. By encouraging respect and responsibility, students will become self-directed life-long learners who reach their greatest potential. It is the expectation of this school district that all pupils achieve the Common Core Curriculum Standards at all levels.*

# Follow Us Online

[www.readington.k12.nj.us/threebridges](http://www.readington.k12.nj.us/threebridges)

# Principal's Message

Mrs. Kristen Higgins

khiggins@readington.k12.nj.us

Dear Three Bridges Community:

The school year's second quarter has come to a close. The students have been working very hard and make me proud every day! I cannot believe all they have accomplished academically and socially thus far, and I know they will continue to grow so much more!

This is the second year the state is administering the PARCC assessment. Third grade is the first year our students sit for state standardized tests. PARCC is a math and language arts assessment taken on the computer. This is the first time students will be given a test where they need to type their essays and solve math problems on a computer based standardized test. Our testing window goes from the last week of April through the third week of May. A schedule of the exact days and times will be sent home to third graders when it is confirmed.

The students are familiar with taking the NWEA on the computer, however, that test is multiple choice so the reading is on the monitor, but the recorded responses are just multiple choice. On the PARCC, students will need to type essays using proper grammar and mechanics, and manipulate the information on the screen to show their thinking.

Websites with general PARCC information

<http://www.parcconline.org> (PARCC homepage)

<http://parcc.pearson.com/sample-items> (sample test)

<http://nextgen.apps.sparcc.org/la/3-5> (language arts resources)

<http://www.parcconline.org/samples/ELA> (language arts prototype questions)

<http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/math/> (math prototypes)

<http://nextgen.apps.sparcc.org/math/3-5> (math practice for PARCC)

If you have children younger than third grade, you may find the websites listed below helpful in working with your child to be prepared to taking a standardized test on the computer.

<http://www.mouseprogram.com/practice.html> (teaches general mouse skills)

<http://minimouse.us/> (fun games to teach how to drag and drop)

Also, visit the school website Technology page for more links for practice sites and ideas.

A testing schedule will be sent home closer to the testing date. Our students are very ready for the academic skills being tested. We are working on teaching the typing skills. Please practice using Type to Learn and have your child type written responses in complete, well thought out sentences and paragraphs.

If you have questions regarding the testing, please reach out to me or your child's teacher. We are all working to make this a positive experience.

Sincerely,

Kristen Higgins

# Important Information



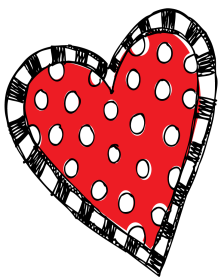
If you are the parent/guardian of a preschool child who will be eligible for kindergarten in 2016-2017, please visit the district website for additional information and to download the pre-registration packet.

[Readington Township School District Website](#)

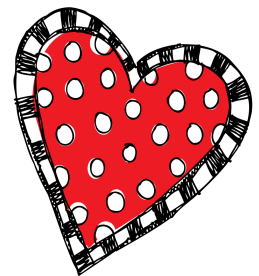
Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-2017 school year will be held at Whitehouse School and Three Bridges School on:

**February 29, 2016 from 9:00am —12:00pm**

**March 1, 2016 from 9:00am —12:00pm**



♥ HAPPY  
VALENTINE'S  
DAY! ♥



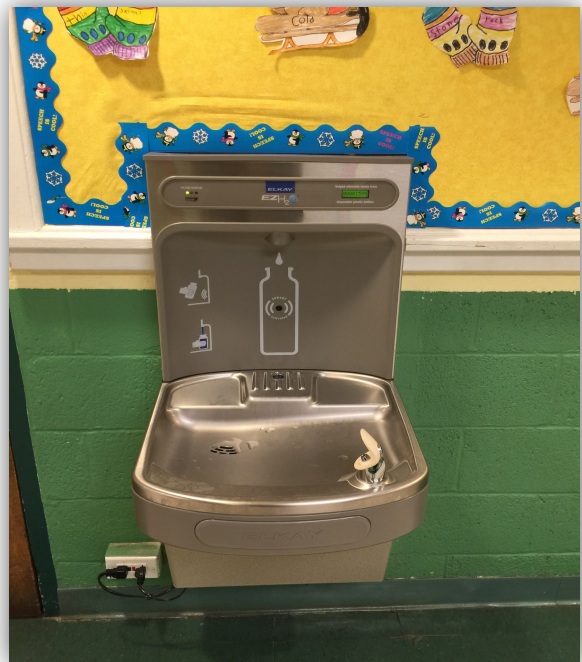
Please remember Readington has board policies that do not allow us to distribute food in school. Teachers will not be able to let children bring home candy even if it is attached to Valentine's Day cards. Thank you in advance for your understanding!

**Thank you Sustainable Jersey and the NJEA!**

**New Water Bottle Refilling station installed at TBS!**

Three Bridges School has installed its second water bottle refilling station. The first is located at the top of the ramp by the gym. The new station is located at the bottom of the ramp leading to the first grade hallways next to the bathrooms. The refilling stations are a big hit with the students and staff. Our school population is staying hydrated with cold, filtered water that is easily deposited into a re-usable water bottle. Each station keeps track of how many throw away bottles we have saved by using our stations. Please send your child to school with a re-usable bottle so he or she can benefit from our new addition. Please be sure to label the bottle with your child's name.

The water bottle refilling station was paid for by a grant from Sustainable Jersey for Schools and the NJEA.



# Preschool

Mrs. Dotro, Mrs. Fahey, and Mrs. Robb

Snow! Snow! Snow! We are crossing our fingers that Jack Frost will bring us some more snow. We are reading many books related to winter, such as, The Mitten and The Jacket I Wear in the Snow. We love to talk about winter and all of the fun activities it brings.

We continue to learn about our alphabet letters and the sounds they make. This month we will practice identifying letters Jj-Mm. Children will make crafts and do activities related to the letters. Keep singing those ABC's at home and have your children find letters out in the world.

Students are counting all of the time! We will practice counting items up to 10 and continue learning how to write these numbers. In counting, we will look at putting the numbers in order. This coincides with the skill of sequencing, which we also are learning about. Students are asked to sequence 3-4 pictures and then be able to tell about each picture to tell the story (for example: Steps to building a snowman).

Happy New Year to all!

Preschool Team



# Kindergarten

Mrs. Buelow, Mrs. Coleman, Ms. Dauernheim, and Mrs. Shashkewych

Counting, adding, talking about math stories and solutions is what you will hear in our kindergarten classrooms this time of year. The children have begun the study of teen numbers and their structure as ten and ones and more. They are representing the numbers 6-10 as a 5-group and some ones, and they find all the partners for the numbers 2 through 7. In class, the kindergartners tell and retell number stories, and make-up and solve story problems for addition and subtraction. In geometry, children put shapes together to make new shapes and sort shapes by a given attribute.

When working at home with your child, you can create story problems and help your kindergartner retell the story to help him/her understand the situation. To create story problems ask "What if" questions, e.g. "What if I add 2 more forks to the 4 I have?" or "What if I had 5 cookies and we ate 2?" This will help to build math language. Use objects to act out and solve the problems, then show the operation needed to solve ( $2+4$  or  $5-2$ ). Another way we frequently solve problems in class is to draw a picture that shows the problem and solution.

## MATH WEBSITES

These are some of our favorite math websites:

- [IXL.com](https://www.ixl.com) (now available as an app for iPads)
- [Learningplanet.com](https://www.learningplanet.com)
- [Mathplayground.com](https://www.mathplayground.com)
- [Funbrain.com](https://www.funbrain.com)
- [Eduplace.com](https://www.eduplace.com)

# First Grade

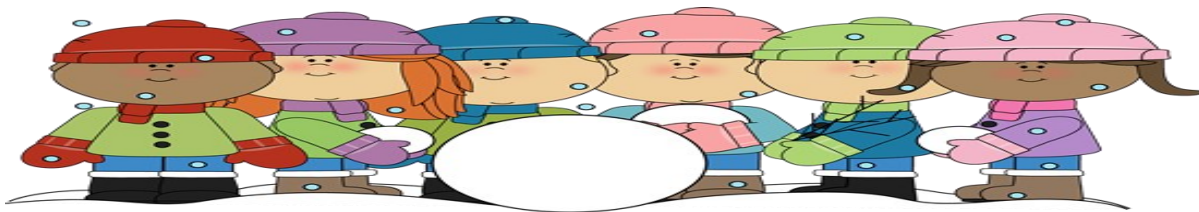
Mrs. Higdon, Mrs. Meer, Mrs. O'Connor, and Mr. Wright

First graders have been working up a storm this winter! In reading, we have been learning all about nonfiction books. Nonfiction books, or teaching books, have many text features that help us to learn. Headings and topic sentences tell about the main idea. Bold words, or expert words can often be found in the glossary at the end of the book. We can learn many new vocabulary words when we read these types of books. Diagrams are teaching pictures that have labels and teach us about the parts of something. For example, some labels for a cowboy diagram would be lasso, boots, and hat. When your child is reading a non-fiction book at home, take the time to discuss the text features and how they help the reader to learn facts and vocabulary words. As always, we continue to check our comprehension and make sure that the text makes sense. If it does not, we use strategies such as going back to reread, adjusting our reading rate, or using the pictures to help us think through our reading. First graders are excited to read about many topics such as dolphins, penguins, spiders, soccer, and baseball. Ask your child what he/she has learned in reading this month.

In writing, students have been writing nonfiction or teaching books. We are writing about topics in which we are very experienced. Some popular topics that our first graders are writing about are: dogs, cats, fish, gymnastics, baseball, and school. Our teaching books include features such as diagrams, comparisons, directions, detailed sentences, and expert words. Our books are organized into chapters that correlate to the table of contents. When we write these books, we think about our audience and how we can teach them. For example, we highlight or write bold words and define them in our glossaries. We revise our work so that our sentences make sense. Also, we peer edit and help each other find and correct writing conventions such as capitalization, punctuation, and correct spelling. Help your child at home by having him/her talk aloud when he/she is completing steps such as getting ready for school or setting the table. Discuss new words that are learned in sports or classes outside of school. First graders enjoy being teachers and can't wait to celebrate in February!

In math we have been working on our fact fluency. We are practicing flashcards so that we can learn our addition and subtraction facts "in-a-snap." We have been playing different math games to help build fact fluency as well. Ask your child how to play "Bam!" Learning facts is so much fun! Also, we have been counting to 100, comparing double digit numbers, adding teen numbers in story problems, noticing number patterns on hundred grids, and adding subtracting multiples of 10.

We are very active during science since we have been learning all about forces and motion. We have experimented with bouncing and rolling balls. We have created ramps and discovered that we can use less force to roll the balls faster. We had fun knocking objects down with the balls and racing them, too. We just experienced bowling as a finale to this unit. At the bowling alley, we saw all of this energy in motion. We are excited to extend this unit with a visit from Mrs. Betterman, our Readington Township Energy Coordinator. She will be visiting all of our classrooms to teach us about the difference between kinetic and potential energy. We are becoming energy conscious citizens at Three Bridges School.





# Second Grade

Mrs. Corbett, Ms. Dearstyne, Mrs. K-B, and Mrs. Meares

## Reading:

We are currently studying nonfiction books. Books like "From Seed to Plant" by Gail Gibbons provides detailed information that directly relates to our current science unit on soil. Within this text, the children are learning about the different parts of a flower, how seeds travel to make new plants, and what is needed to make a seed grow into a plant.

The children are looking carefully at features of nonfiction texts. For example, the pictures and diagrams are extremely helpful in understanding the key elements of the text. The children are also practicing re-reading a text to locate important information and to gain a deeper understanding.

Encourage your child to share their thoughts about what they are reading. When readers think critically and discuss elements of the text that they notice, they will be able to more successfully comprehend what they are reading.

## Writing:

Recently during Writer's Workshop, the children wrote and published book reviews. We just concluded writing restaurant reviews about our favorite places to dine.

The children are using graphic organizers to help plan and compose their writing. We are currently using the "triple stuff OREO model" to help us. Writers first start by telling their opinion in a clear and exciting way. Next, they provide three reasons and examples to support their thinking. Finally, they restate their opinions by compelling others to go and visit these fine establishments.

Once published, our fantastic second graders will send their amazing reviews directly to the restaurants. Last year we received some wonderful feedback and coupons from the restaurants! Either way, students should feel proud and happy to share their spectacular work with others like published authors do all the time!

## Math:

We recently began a new math unit on length and shapes. Students will learn how to estimate and measure the lengths of objects using both centimeters and inches. They will become more familiar with multiple units of measure, and determine appropriate tools to accurately obtain these measurements.

Within measurement, students will also compare and contrast the lengths and sizes of both centimeters and inches. In addition, the children will record and collect measurement data and build line plots to demonstrate their understanding.

We will also spend time working with different shapes like quadrilaterals, squares, rectangles, rhombi, hexagons, pentagons, the list goes on and on! Encourage your child to notice shapes all around us. Also, see if he or she can identify some of their distinct properties such as parallel lines, right angles...etc. The best way for students to learn new vocabulary is to connect or relate their learning to real world experiences. Thanks for your continued support from home.

## Science:

In science we continue to study soils. The children are observing and recording what they know about soil, and using the scientific process to ask questions and try to find answers to their questions. Within these investigations, the children are discovering that soil is made up of different ingredients. Some of these ingredients include clay, humus, and sand.

In addition, our super scientists will conduct tests to observe and notice the different properties of these ingredients. During our streak test, they will notice how clay reacts to moisture and can smear easily on other surfaces. Also, in the near future students may be taking a trip to A Nature Preserve where they will be able to explore soil in a very interactive way. The children are enjoying the investigations and are working well with their classmates.

# Third Grade

Mrs. Kokoszka, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Nabozny, and Mrs. Weintraub

Third grade is back from winter break and almost ready to dig into rocks and minerals! Students will be learning about landforms and the components that make up these structures. They will also be reading a lot of nonfiction text, paying careful attention to text features and main idea.

Our mathematicians will be honing in on their multiplication and division skills. Students should be developing their fluency with multiplication facts, moving beyond counting on their fingers. Spontaneous responses vs. calculated responses will help students have automaticity.

In reading, third graders will be focusing on expanding strategies needed for deeper comprehension. In class, they will continue to read a variety of texts and develop good reading habits. Please make sure your child is reading at home each night to develop fluency, accuracy, and comprehension. A useful tool to practice these skills is Raz Kids. All third graders are encouraged to use Raz Kids at home as a supplemental reading activity.

The up-coming months are filled with excitement! During the months of January and February, students will enjoy visits from local professionals. They will be receiving free dictionaries from the Whitehouse Rotary Club. Also, Dr. Loew will be providing valuable information to the students for Dental Health Month. And who could forget Valentine's Day and the 100th Day of school coming up? We will be very busy. It's great to be back!

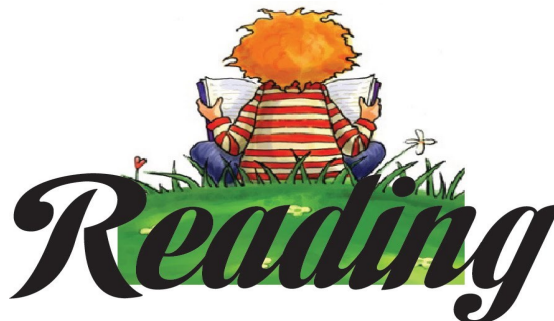


# Reading News

Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Lax and Mrs. Robb

**Does your child listen actively when you read aloud? It's a key to understanding what's happening in the story. Try these simple tips to build listening and comprehension skills.**

- **Ask your child to tell small parts of the story to you. Or, ask him/her questions while you read. Examples: "What will happen next?" "Why do you think he did that?" Find the answers to the questions together.**
- **After you've read a story together two or three times, skip a word or two. Ask your child to fill in the missing word or words. *Hint:* This works especially well with rhyming stories.**
- **Teach your child to make an inference. Sometimes while listening or reading a story, an author does not tell you everything. Sometimes you have to figure it out with the information or clues in the story. This is called, making an inference.**
- **Happy Reading!!**



# Speech and Language

Mrs. Fillebrown and Mrs. Winebrenner

## How To Increase Your Child's Vocabulary

By Mrs. Cynthia Fillebrown and Mrs. Erica Winebrenner

Expanding vocabulary is a lifelong process which is critical to language development, reading comprehension and writing success. Long before a child can speak in simple words, phrases and sentences, the child is forming an extensive vocabulary of words he or she understands. Building a rich and varied word repertoire will provide your child with more opportunities to engage in sophisticated conversation and understand and respond to written material. You can help to expand your child's vocabulary in the following ways:

- Talk, read and sing to your child (mealtime and time spent in the car are good opportunities for conversation)
- Provide experiences to stimulate new vocabulary (a trip to the grocery store, museum, zoo, sporting event, play, etc.) and talk about what you see and do
- Play word games with antonyms (opposites), synonyms (words that mean the same), and multiple meanings (give two meanings for: rock, calf, match, etc.)
- Use a variety of words in your conversation
- Repeat new words until your child uses them
- Add new information to expand on what your child is saying
- Talk about new situations before you go, when you are there, and again afterward



# Music

Mrs. Levesque

## TBS Music Newsletter - February 2016



Although Winter is upon us, plans for this year's Spring concerts are starting to take shape. Students in Grades 1, 2 and 3 will become "international travelers" as they perform songs from many different parts of the world. Kindergarten students will celebrate their first year at Three Bridges School with a special "Proud Day" concert and will show you just how proud they are of all their learning and growth.

All concerts will be held on **Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>** and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please mark your calendars for these special events!

Kindergarten @ 9:00 AM  
Grade 1 @ 1:15 PM  
Grade 2 @ 2:15 PM  
Grade 3 @ 10:15 AM

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Laurie Levesque, Music Specialist  
[llevsque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:llevsque@readington.k12.nj.us)  
(908) 782-2141 ext. 5223

# Library

Mrs. Hartman

## Global Connections, Reading Challenges and STEAM in the Library

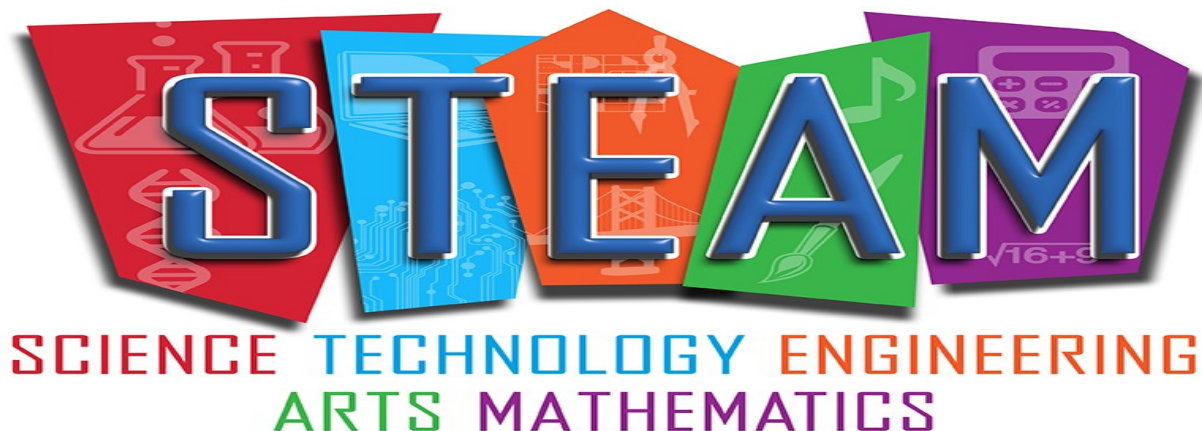
The TBS library has had a very exciting year so far, with many new student-centered projects as well as some old favorites. We are looking forward to some great upcoming learning opportunities as well.

Third graders started the year off by participating for the first time in the Global Read Aloud (GRA). We completed an author study of Amy Krouse Rosenthal, read six of her amazing picture books, connected with students in 1st through 3rd grade across the US and Canada, and even skyped with our library pals over at Whitehouse School. Needless to say the fun and learning ensures that we will be participating in the GRA again next year!

Our Six Flags Read to Succeed Reading Club is well under way, and students in K through 3rd grade are busy logging all of their recreational reading with the hopes to complete six hours of reading for fun by the February 26th deadline. Any student who achieves this goal and hands in their log on time receives a certificate of accomplishment and a free ticket to our local Six Flags theme park!

Read Across America is March 2nd, and to honor the great Dr. Seuss we have a whole week of Seuss themed activities planned.

Finally we are in the process of creating a TBS Makerspace in the library. This space will provide all students the opportunity to use science, technology, engineering, art, math and a host of other skills in student driven projects. Be sure to check our website for more details.



# Technology

Mrs. Barca

The computer lab at TBS is an exciting place this winter! Our kindergarten students are mastering logging on to the computers using their username and passwords and practicing their word processing skills. Students have word processed their sight words and are beginning to type sentences on the computer.

First grade students are learning how to create graphs on the computers. Students survey their classmates, enter their data into a spreadsheet, and graph the results.

Second grade students are using the LEGO We Do education kits. Students are building LEGO models that feature working motors and sensors. Using the LEGO software, students are programming their models.

Third grade students are researching Rocks and Minerals on the computer. Make sure to ask your third grader to identify the hardest mineral. Students are creating a Google Slideshow based on their research. Our Third Grade students have also been exploring Google Earth and Maps. The students enjoy mapping the route they take from their home to school each day.



# Spanish

Senora Campuzano

Hola Familias de Three Bridges School

Here is a summary of what Three Bridge Elementary students have been working on in their Spanish classes.

**Kindergartners** have been practicing colors and numbers through songs and class discussion. We are also learning commands and practicing acting them out. Students can tell you about shapes and colors. Now kindergartners are learning the Spanish days of the week and months of the year.

**First and Second graders** have been learning the parts of the body through songs. Small groups of students have drawn a person wearing winter clothes, then they label the clothing. Second graders have been learning meals of the day.

**Third graders** are counting up to 100. Small groups of students have drawn a clock to read and relate time in Spanish orally and in written form.

Below are links to resources to practice Spanish at home:

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)  
[www.languagenut.com](http://www.languagenut.com)

## WHEN?

## ¿Cuándo?

¿qué horas es?

what time is it?

es la una de la tarde

it is 1 pm

son las dos

it is 2:00

la mañana

morning

el día

daytime

mediodía

noon

la tarde

the afternoon

noche

night

antes

before

después

later, after

ayer

yesterday

hoy

today

mañana

tomorrow

más tarde

later



# Guidance Corner

Mrs. Furka

Wow, the school year sure is flying by fast. I have been visiting classrooms and doing lessons on kindness and how to be a good friend. The children really seem to know the qualities of a good friend and how to treat others.

We are involving students in character education activities by catching them doing character building activities. Students are getting “Caught Being Good”. Each month, we focus on a different Character Word. For February, the Character Word is Kindness. We are looking for students “Caught Being Kind”. We are seeing lots of great character at TBS.

We will also have another week of Respect to show everyone here at TBS that we respect our friends, classmates, and teachers. In March, we will have a week of Respect 2. We will be talking about being respectful to our classmates, teachers, families, and friends. We will focus not only about being respectful in school to our teachers but on the bus with our bus drivers. We will have a Pajama Day where everyone will wear pajamas to show we don't give up on our dreams, we respect ourselves and our friends. We will have sneaker day. Everyone will wear sneakers to school to show we run our own life, make good choices, and stomp out bad ones.... Announcements will be made in the morning to remind the students about being respectful at school, home, and in the community. It will be another fun week of respect.....

Have a wonderful February and March and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 908-782-2141 ext. 403.



# Art

Mrs. Pierro

Wow, where has the time gone?! I can't believe we are almost halfway done with the school year. Your children are true artists! They all have been working so hard on their various projects. Now that the holidays have passed and we have all drawn the Grinch either playing with a dreidel, stealing a candy cane, holding a diya candle, or even snatching a famous or more commonly known as the Ramadan candle, we can get back to our regular endeavors.

Kindergartners will learn about texture as they rub different textures onto tin foil in the shape of a turtle. A watercolor painted background of the ocean will be the backdrop for these adorable turtles. They will learn how to alter their watercolor paint using salt to create bubbles. I love seeing how proud they are of themselves once the artwork is complete and mounted!

The first graders will learn about tints and shades of colors and how to paint them using tempera paint. We will achieve this by drawing and painting citrus fruit in all different tints and shades. Their background will be painted with the complementary color of their fruit for some really standout and very bright artwork!

Our second graders will jump back into their complimentary zebra paintings. They will also learn about homophones, as they write "compliments" to each of the other zebras. Once done, we will learn a little about blending watercolor paints as they create a stylized watercolor painting of a bird or a flying insect.

Finally, our third graders will be able to pick up creating their rainforest birds again. But before we paint our "good" paper, they will paint a technique sheet. This sheet will give them the opportunity to explore and create using different watercolor techniques, so when it comes time to paint their birds, they will have a nice handle on how to use the paint in more creative ways.

Artfully Yours,  
Mrs. Dana Pierro



# News from the Nurse

Mrs. Cataldi

Children have been visiting the health office in search of relief for dry, chapped lips. Lips can become chapped and dry when they are exposed to the sun, wind, or cold air. Children also have a tendency to lick their lips. A lip balm containing petroleum will provide a barrier and help seal in moisture. Please consider providing your child with a lip balm to keep in their backpack for their own personal use throughout the school day. Also, encourage them to apply lip balm and hand lotion prior to bed!

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Developing good habits at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums!

Taking care of your mouth is simple. The American Dental Association recommends the following for good oral hygiene:

- Brush your teeth at least twice a day with an ADA accepted fluoride toothpaste. Replace your toothbrush every three to four months or sooner if the bristles are frayed.
- Clean between teeth daily with floss or an interdental cleaner. Tooth decay-causing bacteria still linger between teeth where toothbrush bristles can't reach. This helps remove the sticky film on teeth called plaque and food particles from between the teeth and under the gum line.
- Eat a balanced diet and limit between meal snacks.
- Visit your dentist regularly!
- The ADA recommends a dental check-up at least twice a year for most children. Make brushing and flossing a fun family routine!

Taking care of teeth now helps them last a lifetime!



# Meet Mr. Santo



The Staff and Students welcome Mr. Wes Santo to Three Bridges School. Mr. Santo is our new head custodian. Mr. Russ Drzewoszewski retired this year after working in the district for 25 years. Mr. Santo joins us from the Readington Middle School. He is excited to be a part of our TBS family.