From the Principal: If you would like to join us for the Sugar Rush 5K tomorrow, it is not too late. We will start at 9:30 from the front of the school. We will celebrate Halloween on Thursday, October 31st. We will kick-off our celebrations with a costume parade at 2:15. All are welcome!

Upcoming Events:
Friday, October 25: Sugar Rush 5K at 9:30
Friday, October 25: Mohawk Trail Disney Dinner Concert Preview at 1:15-1:45
Tuesday, October 29: Picture Retakes
Tuesday, October 29: NO AFTER CARE
Tuesday, October 29: Book Fair Set Up Day
Wednesday, October 30th: Book Fair is open 9-5 pm
Thursday, October 31: Book Fair is open 9-5 pm until Tuesday Nov. 12th
Friday, November 1: No School
Thursday, November 7: 12:30 Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, November 8: 12:30 Dismissal Parent/Teacher Conferences
Monday, November 11: No School
Friday, November 15: 3rd grade to Quabbin Reservoir
Wednesday, November 27: 12:30 Dismissal

After-Care news from Ms. Svoboda: Their will be no after-care on Tuesday, October 29th. We are all taking a First Aid/CPR Training class at Mohawk Trail.

Preschool News from Mrs. Freeman: This week we read Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert. The wind blows Leaf Man past animals, over fields of vegetables, above waterways, and across meadows. The illustrations are
made from actual fall leaves. This inspired us to create our own creatures using leaves and other natural objects found outside. Preschoolers created fish, birds, caterpillars, cows, cats, and unicorns! We also used the story during Mindful Movement. Preschoolers created their own yoga poses to match animals or locations throughout the story!

**Preschool News from Ms. Melanie:** We had a great time making scarecrows with our third grade buddies! Teams worked together to choose just the right clothing, tie up the cuffs with twine, and stuff the clothing with fragrant hay. Lots of good ideas circulated among the group as they figured out how to support those floppy hay-stuffed scarecrows and everyone had a part in the making. Each scarecrow is unique and wonderful!

![Image of children making scarecrows](image1.jpg)

**Kindergarten News from Ms. Sarah:** In phonics this week, we learned the sounds for letters a and g, as well as how to write those letters. In reading, we are continuing to read little books with patterned text to practice using the picture meaning and first letter of a word to solve new words (such as “Here is the bread. Here is the apple.”) We also worked on memorizing the sight word: am. During reading centers, students have one teacher-led instructional activity and one independent center where they can do a literacy activity of their choice.

**First Grade News from Ms. Pedersen:** First grade started domino math activities this week. Children recognize the quantity of dots on the dominoes and learn more fluent ways of adding and subtracting within 18. We just completed a study of short vowel words. This week we are learning words with the digraphs; -ch, -sh, -th, -ck and -wh. We are also learning new spelling words each week now and new vocabulary words for the week. Our class library is filled with books for the fall season. Children are moving center to center during reading. We have a library center to read independently, reading group center and sight word center.

**Second Grade News from Ms. Robertson:** Our reading and writing periods find us focusing on new concepts this week. As we begin a new story in reading, we are discussing the concept of realism and fantasy. We are defining fantasy as make-believe details that are used to make a story interesting and funny, but these details cannot happen in real life. With realism, the details also make the story
interesting, but these details can happen in real life. Our writing time finds us exploring the question “What makes a sentence a complete thought?” We discussed that a sentence needs two parts to make it complete: a naming part (who or what the sentence is about) and an action part (what the naming part does). As part of our Fundations lessons, we are reviewing that the sound of /k/ can be spelled three different ways (c, k, and ck) and we are learning the spelling rules of when to use c, k, or ck. For example, ck is used when the /k/ sound comes immediately after a short vowel at the end of a word or syllable, as in clock, pack, and chick. Handwriting is also incorporated into our daily lessons and we are focusing on forming letters the correct way, making them the correct size, and leaving appropriate spaces between words.

*Second Grade News from Ms. Wyckoff:* To enjoy more of the fall season, second graders all worked together to make an apple pie! First they peeled, cored and cut the apples then added in the sugar, flour and cinnamon! The pie was then enjoyed during our pajama party which children earned as their lucky 7 reward. A lucky 7 reward is our classroom incentive system. Each time children are following classroom rules and expectations as a group, they have the opportunity to earn a lucky 7 token. Tokens are placed on a board, similar to bingo and once they get 7 tokens in a row, they’ve earned a lucky 7 reward! In math this week our focus is on finding the difference, which tells us to subtract. We are playing games such as “battling bugs” with dice and “what’s the difference” using a deck of cards to figure out the difference between two players scores. In ELA we are continuing to use our mentor text *Stellaluna* to help us identify the problem/solution in a story. As a follow up to making our apple pie, children did some procedural writing to talk about what we did first, next and last to make the pie. The last part of course was eating the pie together!
**Third Grade News from Ms. Fisher:** As part of our studies on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, third grade enjoyed a trip to our highest point, Mt. Greylock, last Friday. We spent time in the morning learning from the park rangers about the geological and human history of the Mt.Greylock area, and they also took us on a hike to see evidence of previous habitants of the area. Then we got back into cars and drove to the summit. We had clear views right until we got to the actual summit, which had a cloud stuck on it. We ate our lunches in the Thunderbolt Ski lodge and then explored and climbed the tower. Though it was a bit chilly and windy, the class enjoyed visiting the highest point. We are grateful to the parent chaperones and drivers who made it all possible. Now we are preparing for our next trip, which will be to the Quabbin Reservoir on November 15th. If you would like to join us as a chaperone, please let Carole know.

**Fifth Grade News from Ms. Johnson:** Fifth grade is currently studying the settlement of the thirteen colonies. Students are researching and taking notes in pairs as they prepare to share what they learned with the class next week. They are also participating in literature circles in which each group is reading a historical fiction book about Native Americans and interactions with settlers. Each group has read a fifth of their book and each student prepared for their role (such as linguist, researcher, or visual expert) based on this week’s reading. They participated in their group discussion today.

**Sixth Grade from Ms. Schreiber:** Sixth Grade has been busy talking about how we can work together and listen to each other. This was a lot of the work we did while at Morse Hill Outdoor Education Center’s ropes course last Friday. This week we finished up our Imaginary Island Projects with a Family Museum Breakfast. Our next unit will be on the science topic of plate tectonics.
**Math News from Mrs. Prew:** Manipulatives are really helpful in math. They are tools, of all kinds, that we call manipulatives because we can move, strategize with, and "manipulate" them to orient our thinking. Students in all grade levels use manipulatives. You might see them using manipulatives during workplaces, whole-group lessons, or independent working time. During the first unit of Bridges some common manipulatives in our building were number racks, colored tiles, and ten frames. Ask your kiddos about which manipulatives they find helpful when trying out a math problem independently!

**Music News From Mrs. Shippee:** String instrument lessons will start on Friday, November 8. If you have signed up for lessons, please bring your instrument to school that day. We are very excited to start this musical journey together!

**Library News from Mrs. Shippee:** This is the week just before the BookFair arrives! The many boxes arrive next Monday and as you all have heard, Set-Up Day is Next Tuesday from 9am-3pm! We’ve been making many preparations such as counting out the Flyers with a calendar and letter attached. Please note, there’s a wish list attached as well to help with ease of buying days at our BookFair Celebration! We’re open daily until November 12th at 3pm! Look for your child’s BookFair Packet in this Week’s Folder. See You all at Our Annual BookFair Fundraiser!

**Health Office News From Nurse Loranna:** Keep on the lookout for deer ticks! The adult deer ticks have re-emerged in the past week and will be active for about another month or until we have snow on the ground. The best protection is daily checks when outdoors in fields or woods as well as wearing long shirts or pants. If you find a tick that is embedded try to remove it and make note of the date, I often will tape it to a small index card with date and if needed will have it there for testing. After removing the tick cleanse the area with soap and water and apply a small amount of bacitracin. Feel free to contact me if you have removed a tick from your child and I can keep an extra eye on them at school and track any symptoms that come up.

**Speech and Language News from Trish Aurigemma:** Last week, Ms. Forbes Kindergarten class began the *We Thinkers*, Thinking Social Skills curriculum. The program is interactive and entertaining for all the children. The students were introduced to *We Thinkers* program social skills concepts. At first, the
children heard the terms “expected and unexpected” through reading a fun loving story “Pout Pout Fish Goes to School” by Deborah Diesen. The next time we meet, Ms. Forbes class will begin listening to the first story in the *We Thinkers*, Thinking Social Skills curriculum “Expected and Unexpected Behaviors” and practice understanding key vocabulary terms and concepts of following a group plan, body in the group, thinking with your eyes and whole body listening as they enjoy a make believe pirate adventure.