

Muddy Brook Elementary

Specialist Learning Link



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Specialist Areas & Grade Levels

Art

Mrs. Benton
PK— 4th Grade

Library

Ms. Smith
PK— 4th Grade

Music

Mrs. Moran
Kindergarten

Music

Mr. Gillespie |
2nd Grade—4th Grade

Technology

Mrs. Candee
2nd Grade—4th Grade

Physical Education

Mrs. Soule, Mrs. Fleming,
Miss Warner
KDG—4th Grade

May News

May 8, 2015

Dear Muddy Brook Families,

May has come in like a bang and Muddy Brook students and staff are hopping.

Highlights

This week we celebrated the Special Olympics. Olympians came from all over the region. Team Muddy Brook students competed with courage, enthusiasm and success. Most classes were able to spend some time cheering our athletes on.

Please stop by the office or any fourth grade classrooms to see our latest egg project. We are incubating eggs in the main office and in fourth grade classrooms. We started calibrating incubators last week. Duck eggs went into the incubator in Ms. Thompson's office Tuesday. Chick eggs will start in each 4th grade and in Ms. Berle's office next week. We will candle the eggs to observe development. Consider joining our Muddy Brook facebook page to see pictures and/or videos to come.

First graders have just finished writing books about eagles. There have been a few eagle sightings along the Housatonic River. We've also been live streaming video of eagles nesting in Iowa. Students have a shared experience observing and writing about what they notice. This week students built eagle sized nests behind our school. To see the eagles first graders have gotten to know follow this link: www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles.

Reminders

Sign In!

If you drop your child off before 8:30 it is necessary, for safety reasons, to sign in. Please park in a parking spot and bring your child into the school, go to the lesson or activity, and sign in with that adult. Thank you for supporting us in insuring the safety of your child.

This week we have attached a special flyer about lunch accounts. You can view your child's account online if you would like to know the balance. Please see directions. We hope to have all lunch accounts paid in full before the end of the year. If any of you have an outstanding balance and need help with this situation, please call us and we will work with you.

The final days of PARCC testing are in May. Third graders participate May 12, 26, and 27. Fourth graders participate May 13, 19 and 20.

We have been engaged in many discussions about end-of-year activities. This month we look forward to our spring concerts, Mud Day, our book fair, and our 4th grade Berkshire Theatre Group production.

Happy May,

Mary Berle, Principal and Nan Thompson, Assistant Principal

Music Notes from Mr. Gillespie



2nd Grade music classes are learning many notes on the recorder! The students have been practicing 3 concert pieces and will have them performance ready by the Spring Concert! They are also discovering “Gibberish” songs to prepare for the concert.

The 3rd and 4th Grade music classes are learning Movie Songs of the past five decades. Over the next few weeks they will be memorizing these songs to sing at the Spring Concert

4th Grade Band parents: Please remind your son/daughter to practice 100 minutes each week (that’s only 15 minutes a day!). I am always checking those practice charts for practice totals and parent initials! We are approaching “crunch time” as this great band prepares for a *monumental* Spring Concert performance!

Come join us for the Spring Concerts!

Thursday, May 21 at 2:00pm – Early K/Kindergarten/1st Grade Spring Concert

Friday, June 5 at 2:00pm – 2nd Grade Spring Concert

Thursday, June 11 at 1:00pm – 3rd/4th Grade Spring Concert

Orchestra Outlook by Juraye Moran

String students are preparing for their Spring Concert to be held the afternoon of June 5th. I am so impressed with the progress of the beginning students. They have mastered the Advanced pieces and will be playing with the Advanced students at the concert. This is a first. So proud of the hard work the Advanced students have been doing preparing for their Strings on Tour afternoon. Many have been practicing every morning before school. Thank you to the parents for delivering them early. Please remember to sign in when you walk your string student into the school for before school lessons.

EK and Kindergarten morning music classes are also busily preparing song for their Spring concert to be held on Thursday May 21st at 2:00 PM. Our theme is Animals Animals Animals. Both Ms. Gutter and myself will use this opportunity to demonstrate some of the fun musical activities we do in our music classes. Students are asked to wear a white shirt or blouse and black pants or skirts on concert day.



Welcome to the Technology Lab

2nd Grade

Students are creating fact sheets about an animal featured on The San Diego Zoo Kids website. Students choose an animal that they were interested in and collected facts about their diet, habitat, and life cycle. Students are typing the facts on a word document that they formatted. Students will then exercise their mouse finger as they explore Paint, a digital drawing tool. Their task will be to create a picture of their animal in its habitat using various digital tools such as the marker, circle, shape, line, paint bucket, color picker and more. Look for these projects to come home in early May.

3rd Grade

Students are immersed in researching Colonial Americans for their Biography booklet project. Students have chosen a notable person from that time period to study. They are using teacher-selected internet resources including Britannica to locate, collect, and organize information. This project will give students an opportunity to demonstrate proper keyboarding skills and techniques. As well as apply what they have learned about word processing (i.e., font size/style, line spacing, margins) to format, edit, and print a document.

4th Grade

Students are continuing to working in pairs on an exciting project that will be featured during the 4th grade Regions Fair in June. They are working in both Technology and Library to create a travel video about an American Landmark. Pairs are using teacher selected internet resources to locate, collect, and organize information about their chosen landmark. They are then using that information to plan a travel video that will be created using iMovie on the iPads. This project is providing students with an opportunity to express themselves creatively through the use of technology.

New & Noteworthy

Here is a great article Ms. Berle shared with me that I found very interesting and helpful. I though families would find it helpful as well.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/03/22/style/how-to-manage-media-in-families.html?emc=eta1>



YouTube Kids
Entertainment
Free

The official YouTube Kids app is designed for curious little minds to dive into a world of discovery, learning, and entertainment. This free app is delightfully simple and packed full of age-appropriate videos, channels and playlists. YouTube Kids features popular children's programming, plus kid-friendly content from filmmakers, teachers, and creators all around the world.

SETTINGS FOR PARENTS: You can turn off search for an even more contained experience. Or set the built-in timer to let your kids know when it's time to stop watching (so you don't have to). The app puts these settings behind a grown-ups-only lock, out of kids' reach.

Enjoy!

Mrs. Candee

Library Update

May is here and so is the warm weather!

In the library we're embracing the new month and beginning new units of study in every grade.

PreK, EK, and Kindergarten are exploring the new picture books we have in the library! Each week we will read one of the new books we have in the library and complete a related activity. The students are very excited to experience these new books and many have taken them home. The books we will be reading include: *The Lion and the Bird* by Marianne Dubuc, *Sam & Dave Dig a Hole* by Mac Barnett, and *Three Bears in a Boat* by David Soman.



1st Grade will be studying the author Lisa Campbell Ernst. This past week I introduced her and some of her books and the students did an info hunt to find out facts about Lisa Campbell Ernst. Over the next few weeks we will be reading her books and completing related activities. The books we will be reading include: *Ginger Jumps*, *The Luckiest Kid on the Planet*, *The Three Spinning Fairies*, and *The Gingerbread Girl Goes Animal Crackers*.

2nd Grade will be researching the United States to correspond with their ancestry unit in the classroom. As they learn about the countries their ancestors came from, I thought it would be exciting to learn about the different states and why people may have moved here. Students will be working in pairs to find out key information about one of the states in the US. They will research the state symbols, important people, landmarks, state flag, and other fun facts. Students will also create a map of their state and all of the state maps will be put together to create a map of the United States.

3rd Grade will be exploring and writing biographies. This past week students spent some time exploring one of the biographies in the library. Over the next few weeks students will be working in pairs to interview each other and write a biography about their classmate. The students will then be able to take home their biography.



4th Grade is in the midst of a US Landmarks project in conjunction with technology. In both specials they are writing a script and filming a video about the landmark they researched. Their goal is to convince people to visit their landmark by sharing facts in a fun and interesting manner. The videos will be shown at the Regions Fair at the end of the year.

The Buy-One-Get-One-Free Book Fair is Coming!

May 18th-22nd the BOGO Book Fair will be held in the library. Fliers and information will be sent home next week.

I hope to see you there!

Come to our
**BUY ONE, GET ONE
FREE
BOOK FAIR**
Stock up for summer reading!

Happy Reading!
Elisabeth Smith
School Library Media Specialist

Greetings from the Art Studio by Ali Benton

Greetings from the Art Studio,

Students have been working hard to create "Wow Work" for display during upcoming musical concerts. Wow work is art that shows an artist's personal best. It is skillful, thoughtful, made with care and finished. Artists need to answer big questions with their own unique personal answers. Artists make art about their personal passions and art that shows what they think about and wonder about. Students are framing and displaying their work and creating labels as well. At Muddy Brook artists take ownership of the art show process!

We are also busy with culminating activities in many classes. Ask your artists what they are thinking about, learning about, and making in the studio.



Student artists with their artwork framed to display in shop windows on Main Street, Great Barrington

Art ex-

ploration does not end when school ends- please encourage art play at home! I look forward to seeing you at Mud Day!

Tatum and Westley type their labels on the computer



CHESS CLUB NEWS

Muddy Brook Chess Players!!! You are all invited to show up on Mud Day, May 16, between 11:00am and 1:00pm at the Muddy Brook Chess Club tent on the Muddy Brook playground wearing your new, beautiful, Muddy Brook Chess Club t-shirts. You can order a Chess Club t-shirt by filling out the form in this newsletter and returning it to Christine Kelly in the main office by Friday, May 15th. I will be handing out the t-shirts on Mud Day. If you cannot make it to Mud Day, I will give you your t-shirt at chess club on a day after Mud Day. You should have your t-shirt for the award ceremony for the winner of this year's chess tournament later this year.

On Mud Day, we will be taking on anyone who wants to play a Chess Club member in a game of chess. Let's show the world what good chess players we are.

On this Monday and Wednesday at Chess Club in the library, we will be designing a banner to go on our Mud Day tent as well as playing chess with each other. So come up to the library and help out.

The Chess Tournament is still going on and two students, Liam Trask and Owen Wade, are still in the running to be this year's champion. Wish them luck. It has been an extraordinary tournament with tremendous chess being played by all participants.

Gene Kalish, Chess Coach



Physical Education News



Greetings Muddy Brook families and friends! There have been many fun and exciting activities happening in PE lately. First we would like to extend our thanks to Fran Locke for helping out during Mrs. Pleu's absence. Julia Warner will be finishing out the year with us, as she has finished her final semester at Westfield University.

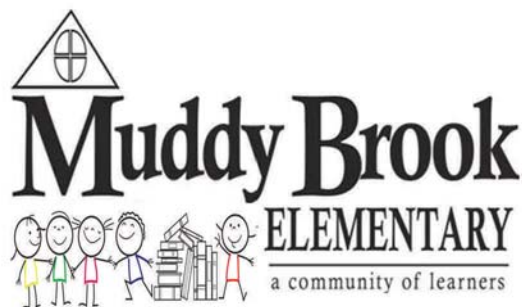
We finished out April with our Nutrition Unit, incorporating many fun movement and technology activities. We talked about Go, Slow, Whoa foods, as well as how to build a nutritious My Plate at home. Jenny Schwartz, from Food Adventures, had the opportunity to work with every class at Muddy Brook, learning and making a variety of nutritious foods. Bon Appetit!

We are currently working on a Track and Field unit. We have been taking the upper grades to the Monument High School track to work on the skills of jumping, throwing and running, while the lower grades have been practicing them here at Muddy Brook.

We will be moving into our final testing stage next week with Fitnessgram. We are looking to see growth the students have made over the school year in cardiovascular endurance, muscle strength and endurance, and flexibility.

We would like to make a special "shout out" to the Special Olympians that competed on Wednesday, May 6, at the Monument High School track. Karl, Tylar, Abby, and George did a great job representing Muddy Brook. Way to go, Olympians!





Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, May 12:

Grade 3 PARCC Reading Comp.
KDG Screening

Wednesday, May 13:

Grade 4 PARCC ELA
KDG Screening

Thursday, May 14:

PK & EK Hancock Shaker
Village Field Trip

Friday, May 15:

1/2 day—No lunches served

Saturday, May 16:

Mud Day @ MBE

Monday, May 18-Friday, May 22

Scholastic Book Fair—BOGO!

Tuesday, May 19:

Grade 4 PARCC Math

Wednesday, May 20:

Grade 4 PARCC Math

Friday, May 22:

Early-Kindergarten Screening

Monday, May 25:

No School—Memorial Day

Tuesday, May 26 &

Wednesday May 27:

Grade 6 PARCC Math

Thursday, May 28:

Project Connection
Spring Session Ends
5th Grade Info. Night
at MVM—6:30pm

2015 Chess Club Team Shirt Order Form

Full name of chess player(s): _____ Homeroom _____

Number and size of shirts:

	# of shirts @ \$12.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$12.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$12.00 Each	# of shirts @ \$12.00 Each
Student size	XS	S	M	L
Adult size	S	M	L	XL

Grade and homeroom teacher(s) of student(s): _____

____ Attached is our check for \$12.00/shirt ordered and made out to the Muddy Brook PTA.

____ We are contributing an additional amount to cover the cost of a shirt for another child.

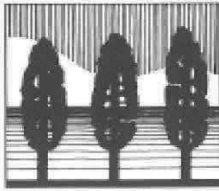
____ We cannot contribute to the costs of team shirts at this time. Thank you for providing a shirt for my child.

Please return order forms by May 15 to Christine Kelly in the Main Office at Muddy Brook.

Thank you for your order!

Gene Kalish, Chess Coach





BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT BARRINGTON • STOCKBRIDGE • WEST STOCKBRIDGE

50 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 617 • STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01262 • (413) 298-4017

DIRECTIONS FOR ON-LINE FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNT

This resource may be used to view your child(ren)'s lunch account and/or to deposit monies.

GO TO: www.myschoolbucks.com

SELECT: Sign up Today (on left side of screen)

Follow Directions for setting up an account from the drop down boxes.

#1 – Select State – Massachusetts

#2 – Select School – Berkshire Hills Regional School District

ALL remaining data is personal information.

Once your account is established you will need your student's unique ID # or if you have any questions, please contact the Kathy Sullivan.

Kathy Sullivan

Director of Food Service

313 Monument Valley Road

Great Barrington, MA 01230

(413)644-2325

Kathy.sullivan@bhrsd.org



CATA MATINEE PERFORMANCE

Sunday, May 17, 1 pm

Tina Packer Playhouse at
Shakespeare & Company

To purchase tickets
413.528.5485

communityaccesstothearts.org

\$20 / adults

\$5 / children

Don't miss the Berkshire's most inspiring performance of the year, as 50 artists with disabilities take the stage to share joyously creative theater, improv, dance, singing, and juggling! Come celebrate the **ability within disability!**

"The vision, the choreography, and the love that comes through...that's what's so moving."

"This performance lightened my heart and made me feel whimsy!"

"I'll never not see it again!"



Community Access to the Arts nurtures and celebrates the creativity of people with disabilities through **shared experiences in the visual and performing arts.**



BHRSD Mud Day
Color Splash 5k

ColorSplash 5K Run or Walk/ 1 Mile Kids Fun Run

May 16th 8 a.m.

MMRHS Cross Country Trail

Registration from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. at the High School

- Entry Fee – \$20 for adult / \$10 for students (\$25 adult/ \$10 for students/kids day of event)
- 5K Run or Walk starts at 9:15 a.m. / Kids Fun Run starts at 10 a.m.
- Wear a plain white t-shirt or a shirt that you do not mind getting color on!!!
- There will be stations of volunteers with harmless colored powder which will be thrown throughout the race. Have fun and come out colorful!!!
- After the race, join the Mud Day event at the Elementary School!!

Name _____ Age _____ M _____ F _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone: (_____) _____

5K Run or Walk () Kids Run ()

\$20 Pre – Reg () \$10 Pre – Reg () \$25 Day of () \$10 Day of ()

Please make checks payable to: Berkshire Running Center and mail your check and registration to 42 Summer Street, Pittsfield, MA 01201. You can also turn it into Mr. Kelly or Mrs. Campbell at the High School.

Register online at www.berkshirerunningcenter.com under the registration tab as well!

Waiver: In consideration of foregoing, I myself, executors, administrators, and assigns, do hereby discharge the personnel of MMRHS, and all sponsors and their representatives and successors from all claims of damage, actions, and causes whatsoever, in any matter arising or growing out of my participation.

Signature _____ Date _____

(Parent or guardian signature for participants under the age of 18)



**MONUMENT
MOUNTAIN**

****Proceeds go to updating the Monument Mountain
weight room**



Berkshire Health Group
A Massachusetts Joint Purchase Group

Exploring The NIGHT SKY



Friday, May 8
7:30-9:30 p.m.

Recommended for children ages 6+ and adults. Explore the wonders of the night sky with astronomer Rick Costello. A slide show introduction indoors will be followed by telescope viewing outdoors (so dress for the weather). Observe and learn about stars, planets, nebulae, globular clusters and even other galaxies!

Pre-registration requested Call 413-528-2810 ext. 10
(Alternate date for cloudy conditions: Friday, May 15)
*\$5 per person, \$3 each additional family member,
\$10 family maximum*



BERKSHIRE SOUTH
REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
www.berkshiresouth.org • 413.528.2810





PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Spring is Here!

FRIDAY, MAY 15

6-8:30 P.M.



Ages 3-12 years.

Parents, drop off your kids here for an evening of activities, while you enjoy an evening out. Celebrate spring by creating flower-themed artwork.

Be sure to send swimsuit and towel. Children must be potty trained.

Please register at least 48 hours in advance.

Members \$15 Guests \$17



BERKSHIRE SOUTH
REGIONAL COMMUNITY CENTER

15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230
www.berkshiresouth.org • 413.528.2810





FEDERATION FOR CHILDREN
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

The Federation for Children with Special Needs
presents

An IEP for My Child ***A Workshop for Parents and Professionals***

Every child with a disability who receives special education services must have an Individual Education Program. This workshop takes parents step-by-step through the development of the IEP including how to articulate a vision, using evaluations to write measurable annual goals and measuring their child's progress.

Date: May 14, 2015

Location: Berkshire South Community Center, Great Barrington

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Contact Person: Amy Gallagher (agallagher@northriverpress.com)
Berkshire Special Needs Community

Questions regarding this workshop should be directed to the contact individual listed above. A presenter from the Federation for Children with Special Needs will conduct this workshop. Federation workshops are free to parents and open to the public. You are welcome to attend any workshop in or outside of your immediate community.

Save the Date for FCSN's Annual Conference 2016!

The Federation's Visions of Community conference 2016 will take place on Saturday, March 5, 2016 from 8am-5pm at the Seaport World Trade Center, Boston.

The Federation for Children with Special Needs
Schrafft Center, 529 Main Street, Suite 1M3 Boston, MA 02129

Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School - Lunch Menu - May 2015



ALTERNATE LUNCH CHOICES INCLUDE: Salad Entrée,

Fresh Deli Sandwich, Fruit & Yogurt Parfait or

Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich

All lunches include an 8 oz 1% Low Fat or Fat Free Chocolate Milk

LUNCH \$2.25 - REDUCED LUNCH \$0.40

****Tuesday & Thursday** - ALTERNATE LUNCH CHOICE - Pasta Entrée - Barilla Whole Grain**

Fri. May 1st
Cheese Pizza
Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice
Fresh Raw Veggies

Mon. May 4th Chicken Nuggets Chick Pea Salad Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Tues. May 5th Pasta & Meatballs Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Wed. May 6th Hot Turkey Sandwich Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Thurs. May 7th Fish Sticks Sweet Potato Fries Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Fri. May 8th Cheese Ravioli WW Dinner Roll Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies
Mon. May 11th Beef Hot Dog Oven Fries Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Tues. May 12th Turkey & Cheese Grinder 4 Bean Salad Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Wed. May 13th Beef Tacos Rice Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Thurs. May 14th Chicken Patty Sandwich Sweet Potato Fries Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Fri. May 15th Half Day of School No lunch served
Mon. May 18th Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Tues. May 19th Chicken Parmesan WG Pasta Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Wed. May 20th Hamburger/Cheeseburger Smiley Fries Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Thurs. May 21st Clam Roll Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Fri. May 22nd Upside Down Day French Toast & Yogurt Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies
Mon. May 25th Memorial Day Holiday	Tues. May 26th Meatball Grinder Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Wed. May 27th Marinated Breast of Chicken Long Grain & Wild Rice Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Thurs. May 28th Bologna & Cheese Grinder Chick Pea Salad Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies	Fri. May 29th Stuffed Crust Pizza Fresh/Canned Fruit or Juice Fresh Raw Veggies

FRESH FRUIT AND VEGETABLE CHOICES VARY DAILY

FRESH FRUITS INCLUDE: Apples, Strawberries, Oranges, Bananas, Pineapple, Cantaloupe, Watermelon, Pears
FRESH RAW VEGGIES INCLUDE: Broccoli, Cauliflower, Carrots, Celery, Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Peppers, Chickpeas
ALL PASTAS, BREADS & ROLLS ARE WHOLE GRAIN or WHOLE WHEAT