

Dear Families,

Today most students attended a magical musical performance of Willy Wonka by Monument Valley Middle School students and directed by Rob Putnam. Please talk about the performance at home this weekend!

Also today most students visited the fourth grade neighborhood and classrooms to view animals created by fourth graders for specific environments including the tropical rain forest, savannah grassland, tundra, and desert. Bridget told me "I learned a lot about how animals survive in the tundra, and what they need to survive. I made an Arctic Pare which is a hybrid of an Arctic Hare and a Polar Bear. It has camouflage to blend in with snow, sharp claws to catch prey, and thick fur to stay warm." Do talk with your children about what they learned from fourth graders today.

All fourth graders have been studying kindness and empathy both in their classrooms and the library. They've read the book *CRASH* by Jerry Spinelli. Crash Coogan is a seventh grade football star. As Crash discovers empathy his compassionate side comes out and he builds a friendship with the very classmate who has been his nemesis throughout the story. We are enlisting all students to stand up for being kind and caring, and to speak up to each other or an adult when they witness unkind behavior.

Marissa wrote an essay on kindness for Mrs. Manzolini's class. Here is a quote:  
*I think kindness is a good habit that has lots of lasting affects....you will have more friends if you are kind and you will feel less alone. I think being kind helps everyone around you have a better day. I think if you are kind to other people they will be kind too. I think if everyone was nice, this world would be a better and peaceful place with no fighting and just kindness!* - Marissa  
 We are grateful for Marissa's leadership!

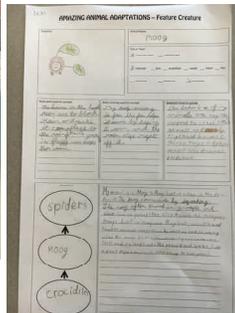


Erving's Alligator Harpaginness

All my best,  
 Mary Berle, Principal



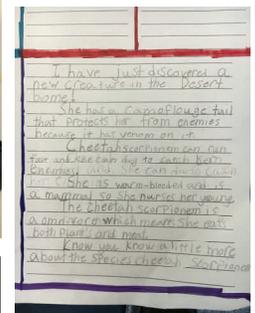
Lexi's Social Moogs



Evi's Cheeta Scorpionem



Lucca's Spider Doodle Bird Repere



## MBE UPCOMING EVENTS

### **MONDAY, April 11**

8:00-8:30 a.m. Chess Club  
12:00-1:00 p.m. Magic The Gathering Club

### **TUESDAY, April 12**

8:00-8:30 a.m. Unicycling

### **WEDNESDAY, April 13**

NO BEFORE-SCHOOL STRING LESSONS

8:00-8:30 a.m. Chess Club  
8:30-9:40 a.m. Wednesday Walkers with PTA  
9:00-10:00 a.m. Parent Coffee Hour with  
Ms. Olds in Room 301  
3:30-4:30 p.m. SEPAC in Conf. Room B  
6:00-9:00 p.m. Paint with PTA in Cafeteria

### **THURSDAY, April 14**

8:00-8:30 a.m. Ukulele Club  
1:00-1:30 p.m. Rotary visit to Grade 3

### **FRIDAY, April 15**

8:00-8:45 a.m. Select Chorus Rehearsal  
8:00-8:30 a.m. Unicycling  
8:00-8:40 a.m. YOLK Project  
9:15-9:45 a.m. All School

### Looking Forward

3rd/4th Gr. field trip to the Mahaiwe on April 27 to see Under the Tangle by the Treehouse Shakers  
Thanks to our PTA the next Family Dance will be Friday April 29! Please join us from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.  
Spring Break will be April 18th—22nd

## **Notes from the Music Room by Mr. Gillespie**

Happy (Snowy) Spring! 2<sup>nd</sup> grade music classes are really beginning to get a handle on the recorder. Over the next month they will be learning recorder pieces for the Spring Concert. The students will also be reviewing good singing technique and starting to learn songs to sing at the Spring Concert. This year's concert theme is "American Folk Songs".

In April, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade music classes will be studying the history of Broadway, which will prepare them to begin learning their Spring Concert songs. This year we are learning songs from "Matilda the Musical"!

The Muddy Brook Band and Select Chorus are in the process of practicing their Spring Concert music. Weekly rehearsals before school are helping these ensembles grow and improve. Keep up that home practice!



## Muddy Brook Specialist Learning Link

### Orchestra Outlook by Mrs. Moran

The Perfect Practice Contest is about halfway finished! Students are practicing both at home, before school and during the school day in order to add minutes to their practice charts. Parents, please remember to sign the chart each week. Advanced strings are practicing for their Strings on Tour Concert to be held in the afternoon of May 20<sup>th</sup>. More information will be coming next month. All strings musicians are practicing fiddle tunes and are trying to play with accuracy and speed. Many have even memorized their songs. Ask them to perform for you and the family.

The morning kindergarten classes are having fun this month singing about animals. Many of their songs require instrument accompaniment. Kindergarteners are having fun playing rhythm sticks, xylophones, metallaphone and other percussion instruments. It is fun to sing and play instruments in Kindergarten music!



### Music Room Update by Mrs. Chirichella

#### Grades Pre-K, EK, K, 1 General Music Classes

The early childhood music classes have all begun working on the Spring Beatles Concert! I know that you are hearing about this, because your children have been sharing with me! (Just what I am looking for!) I have heard about the Yellow Submarine movie, the Blue Meanies, CD's of Beatles music in parent cars and much more!

Our songs list so far includes: Yellow Submarine, with instruments; Octopus's Garden, The Goodnight Song and Hello Goodbye (we are talking about opposites). We might just have a few more to go.....

We are collecting records of any size, and CD's if you do not have any records available, to be donated for an integrated art and music project for the concert. If you have any to spare, please send these to school into the art room.

Keep an eye and ear out for more to come, and start looking for some fun "hippy" clothing--tie dyes, flowers, jeans, etc.....



## Muddy Brook Specialist Learning Link

### Greetings from the Art Studio by Ms. Benton

There is wonderful work happening in the art studio: deep thinking, wondering, enjoying art history and incorporating mathematical concepts into art making! Our artists are making connections between text and pictures in the beautifully illustrated (and sometimes funny) picture books and nonfiction books we read. Incorporating stories into the art experience allows students to build vocabulary, context, and visual literacy. Artists observe by learning to attend visual, audible and written contexts more closely than ordinary looking requires; and learning to notice things that otherwise might not be noticed.

In the weeks ahead artists will be painting, printing, sculpting and building as we stretch and explore by learning to reach beyond limitations, explore playfully and embrace the opportunity to learn from mistakes and happy accidents! Please encourage your child to reflect on their art process, talk about the pictures in the books you read together, wonder about the art you see and talk about all the exciting things happening in nature at this time of year.

Artfully yours, Ms. Benton

### From the Library: Cover to Cover by Mrs. Melville

April begins with a focus on celebrating poetry with a poem in your pocket. Students throughout the school are making poetry pockets in response to the poem "Put a poem in your Pocket", and in honor of National Poetry Month. After April vacation, and a special author visit, we'll resume our study. Eventually, everyone will have identified a poem that they... 1. LOVE, 2. UNDERSTAND and 3. CAN EXPLAIN THEIR CONNECTION WITH. Our school will be filled with people reading and talking about their poetry with each other!

Our library has an outstanding poetry collection. Students will discover that we can play with poetry (jump rope rhymes), sing with poetry (songs are poems), memorize and recite poetry, find poetry about themes, find favorite poets, find poems in all different forms and shapes.

During April vacation, you may consider spicing your week up with some poetry ideas. Visit [www.poets.org/national-poetry-month](http://www.poets.org/national-poetry-month) for some outstanding inspiration about POETRY!



## Muddy Brook Technology Lab

This past month we celebrated Engineer Week in the Technology Lab. Engineer Week is a celebration organized by DiscoverE. Founded by the National Society of Professional Engineers in 1951, Engineer Week or EWeek is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce by increasing understanding of and interest in engineering and technology careers.

We decided to stretch our celebration into a month of engineering exploration. We kicked off our celebration by reading a wonderful book by Andrea Beaty.



A beautifully-illustrated tale of a girl and her dream to become a great engineer. Where some people see rubbish, Rosie Revere sees inspiration. Alone in her room at night, shy Rosie constructs great inventions from odds and ends. Hot dog dispensers, helium pants, python-repelling cheese hats. Rosie's gizmos would astound—if she ever let anyone see them. Check out this and other great books by Andrea Beaty.

Rosie Revere was launched into space on December 15, 2015. In the coming month's astronauts will read this book from the International Space Station. Check the author's website for more information.

<https://www.andreabeaty.com/rosie-in-space.html>

### 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Grade



Students were introduced to an awesome website called Design Squad Global. Students created personal accounts to save and post their work. Students can log on and work on projects at home as well. Here's a little information about the site, check it out!

#### Web Site Summary

*The DESIGN SQUAD GLOBAL website is an online community targeted to kids ages 8 and older featuring creative activities, engaging video, interactive games, and exciting contests.*

*The goal of Design Squad is to give kids a stronger understanding of the design process, and the connection between engineering and the things we all use in everyday life.*

*Being an engineer means being a creative problem solver, an innovative thinker and a team player.*

*The website offers many examples that contextualize engineering concepts and spurs kids to explore those concepts on their own or with a parent or educator.*

*The DESIGN SQUAD GLOBAL website equips kids with science and math skills, inspires them, and lays the foundation they need to participate in engineering activities later in life.*



Students in grade 1-4 were just introduced to a new keyboarding program called, Keyboarding Without Tears. Developed by the same company behind Handwriting Without Tears. Keyboarding Without Tears is a multisensory curriculum that teaches pre-keyboarding, keyboarding, digital citizenship, and general computer readiness skills. Keyboarding Without Tears has been awarded a Seal of Alignment for Readiness by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). ISTE's Standards for Students are a comprehensive set of standards for effective learning, teaching and leading in the digital age.

**If you would like your child to have at home access please email me at [erin.candee@bhrs.org](mailto:erin.candee@bhrs.org) with the email address you would like attached to their account. KWT will send you an email with directions to get all set up at home!**



# Physical Education News



Greetings Muddy Brook Families and Friends!

We have been busy working hard in Physical Education this past month.

The end of March had Grades PK-1 working in small groups with relays with the intention of creating a cooperative climate. From there we moved to station work, focusing on the skills of catching, throwing, rolling and dribbling. The rest of April consists of more station work, adding in the skills of kicking, shooting and passing. We will also be incorporating nutrition games/themes into our warm-ups and stations, intent on making healthy food choices.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders finished the end of March with Frisbee skills and games, including Frisbee Horseshoes and Frisbee Golf. We are now in the midst of our nutrition unit which combines movement with making healthy food/drink choices. Second graders are also working on the basketball skills of passing, dribbling and shooting, with a little nutrition and math thrown into the mix! We will be finishing April with more basketball and soccer skills.

Grades 3 and 4 finished March learning about heart rate and estimation using pedometers. From there, they measured their movement with games such as group Tic-Tac-Toe and fitness relays. We are now focusing on nutrition; learning about making healthy food choices while moving our bodies.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders are also working on practicing/perfecting their basketball skills in mini-games and station-work. We will be finishing April with more basketball and soccer skills (as soon as Mother Nature allows)!



## Paint for the PTA

Connect with other parents, create a piece of art, have a fun night out!

**Wednesday, April 16, 7-9pm, at Muddy Brook**

Learn to paint this regional landscape of "Man on Monument Mountain" on a large 16x20 canvas, which will be yours to keep.



Light snacks, painting materials, and instruction included for \$35 (benefits the MBE PTA). BYOB but no alcohol, please.

**RSVP** at [www.berkshirepaintandsip.com](http://www.berkshirepaintandsip.com) or call (413) 205-8346.



Use a compass on a Treasure Hunt



← Pack Your Bag

Pitch a Tent →

← Campfire

Knot Tying →

Hike Monument Mountain with Trustees of Reservation

Natural Face and Body Painting



Community Partners

\*Audubon\*

\*Berkshire Botanical Garden\*

\*Berkshire Co-op Market\*

\*Flying Cloud\*

\*Flying Deer\*

\*Greenagers\*

\*MMRHS PATHways\*

\*MMRHS People in their Environment\*

\*The Scoop\*

\*Trustees of Reservation\*



Find "Muddy Brook" with the Audubon

7th Annual



Saturday, May 21

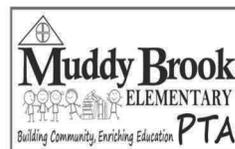
From 12 pm to 4 pm



Bring your own Picnic Lunch

Outdoor First Aid and Safety

Make Your Own Energy Snacks with the Berkshire Co-op





THE KILPATRICK  
Athletic Center

Bard College at Simon's Rock  
84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230  
(413) 528-7777 [simons-rock.edu/kac](http://simons-rock.edu/kac)

# *Snapper Swim Club*

An USA Swimming Age-Group (6-18)  
Swim Team

Spring/Summer practice will start on April 11th

Improve your swimming TECHNIQUE and ENDURANCE

Three training groups available:

Advanced (5 days)/Intermediate (4 days) /Novice (3 days)

Practices held Monday-Friday

Registration April 4th-8<sup>th</sup> in the Aquatics Office

To schedule a try-out, contact Head Coach Jim Hennessey at

[jhennessey@simons-rock.edu](mailto:jhennessey@simons-rock.edu) or 413-528-7775





South Berkshire Kids  
& CHP Family Network presents



## PARENT WORKSHOP

**FREE**

**Location: Community Health Programs, Inc. campus  
444 Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington**

Workshops held in the community room of the Administrative offices  
Pre-registered childcare held in the Family Services building playground\*

Registration is required, 413-464-5095, southberkshirekids@gmail.com

Wednesday, April 13th, 2016

6:30pm-8:00pm

Scott Noyes presents

**"Routines, Rituals & Transitions"**

Whether we are smoothing out the edges on "who had it first" or working with the challenge of a full-blown temper tantrum, there are times when every parent could use a few fresh ideas!

**\*Childcare is available but space is limited & pre-registration must be confirmed by calling Jessica @ 413-464-5095 or southberkshirekids@gmail.com**

This series is funded by the Department of Early Education & Care  
www.SouthBerkshireKids.org



**CHP** Community Health Programs



**The Children's Attic**

Come shop at the

## Maternity & Children's Consignment Sale

**Saturday, April 30, 2016 9:30am-2:00pm**

**Sunday, May 1, 2016 9:00am-noon**

(Many items will be half price on Sunday)

AT

**Community Health Programs (main campus)  
444 Stockbridge Rd, Great Barrington, MA**

Community Health Programs is sponsoring a two-day consignment sale including maternity clothing and all types of quality children's items: Spring/Summer clothing (sizes newborn to youth 14), toys, games, books, furniture, baby equipment & more.

Proceeds: 70% to sellers, 30% to Community Health Programs.

### Volunteers Shop Early!

We need hundreds of volunteers to make this sale a success. Besides helping a great cause and having lots of fun, volunteers get to shop early at the preview sale on Saturday, April 30th from 8:00-9:30am.

For more information about consigning or to become a volunteer please call 413.528.0457 or email WIC@chpberkshires.org.

**IS183**  
art school

Making Art for 25 Years!

# Art Camps

**SUMMER 2016**



Register by March 31 to Save 10% on Tuition! IS183.org 413.298.5252 ext.100



# PARENT-CHILD HOME PROGRAM

A PROVEN BEGINNING FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS SINCE 1965

**FREE home-based school readiness program  
for children 18 months to 3 years old!**



**Did you know...**

**Your Home is your Child's First Classroom?  
You are your Child's First, and Best, Teacher?  
Young Children Learn Best through Play?**

What you will gain:

- ◆ Two weekly home visits with a trained educational mentor!
- ◆ A FREE book or educational toy each week!
- ◆ Fun and creative activities to help prepare your child for school!

**For more information or to sign-up please contact:**

Cynthia Segui  
Program Coordinator  
CHP Parent-Child Home Program  
(413)644-0104 x1160  
csegi@chpberkshires.org

