



Elmer Thienes – Mary Hall Elementary School

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Happy Thursday! What a super cold mid-week we have had. Thank you for all the extra layers everyone is sending in with their children. Please be sure to write names in clothing (including hats and gloves) so any misplaced pieces can find their way back to their rightful owner.

With the cold weather arriving so quickly, we want to share our cold weather recess protocol. We use www.weather.com, locate Marlborough, CT and bring up the hour by hour forecast. We look at the current weather condition, as well as the 'feels like' temperature. If the 'feels like' temperature is 20 degrees or above, we go outside, if it is 19 degrees or below, we stay inside.

As promised, we will continue to outline what all of our grade levels are doing in the different content areas. This week we are sharing what each grade level is working on in math.

PreK: Our PreK children are working on counting to 10, and sorting by a variety of attributes.

Kindergarten: Our kindergarten children are working on addition and subtraction facts within 5.

1st grade: Our 1st graders are working on addition and subtraction facts within 10 and solving single step story problems.

2nd grade: Our 2nd graders are working on their place value unit and skip counting.

3rd grade: Our 3rd graders are starting their multiplication and division unit.

4th grade: Our 4th graders are solving multi-step story problems using area model to reinforce knowledge of multiplication (ie. calculate the area of a tent and the area of an unrolled sleeping bag to determine what is the open area left in the tent).

5th grade: Our 5th graders are currently working on order of operations (PEMDAS) and solving algebraic equations.

6th grade: Our 6th graders are currently working on calculating with decimal numbers, powers of ten, and negative exponents.

Parent-Teacher Conferences are next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. In order to provide time for our families to meet with teachers, we will be having Early Release Days on these days (11/20, 11/21, and 11/22). Our children will be dismissed at 1:00 pm.

During Parent-Teacher Conferences, there will be tables setup in the main hallway, as well as one in the 6th Grade Academy, that will have our family climate survey on them. We have made changes to our survey this year and would greatly appreciate families taking a few minutes to provide us feedback. We thank everyone in advance for sharing their thoughts on our school.

AHM Information: AHM has asked us to distribute the link below to our families. They would appreciate families completing their survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D8FBFRK>

News from PTO:

PTO is still seeking appetizers and desserts for the Parent-Teacher Conference dinner on Thursday, November 21st. Please contact Melissa Jordan with any questions.

PTO Updates:

As it's been about two months since our very successful APEX Fun Run fundraiser, the PTO wanted to share with you what we have been doing to support our students, families, teachers and the school.

- Decreased the Trunk or Treat admission cost from \$10 down to \$5 per child and families that decorated cars received free admission, reduced from \$20 in past years
- All the carnival games at Trunk or Treat were free for everyone to play, in the past it was \$1 per game
- Purchased candy for Trunk or Treat to re-supply cars so no one would run out
- Admission for Movie Night in April 2020 will be free for all MES families
- Increased the teacher stipend from \$100 to \$125
- Increased the budget for school grants through the PTO grant program for the teachers
- Purchasing the majority of the food for the November Conference Dinner for teachers. For those who loved to cook for our teachers, don't worry, we will still need some appetizers and desserts!
- Provided funding for much needed equipment and supplies for the MES Unified Sports program

While we were able to eliminate the need to do some of our other fundraisers like our fall "Drive for Dollars", we will be continuing our fundraising efforts throughout the year. All PTO fundraisers are 100% optional!! PTO offers different alternatives to all our families to allow them the opportunity to participate in an activity that fits best with their schedule, budget and interest.

Please take a look at the survey link below!! We want to hear what you think. Better yet, come to the next PTO Meeting Wednesday, November 20th at 7:00 p.m. and help us plan for the future.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecy6GlsjaRWItEn8QtGY4UA9zdxZtM9I364SsvArqfA6XO4w/viewform>

Have a terrific Friday and a nice weekend.

Dan & Kim

Upcoming Events:

11/15 – Grade 1 Field Trip
11/20 – Early Release 1:00 pm – Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/21 – Early Release 1:00 pm – Parent-Teacher Conferences
11/22 – Early Release 1:00 pm – Parent-Teacher Conferences

New Fliers:

CT Humane Society
Park & Rec:
[Parents Night Out](#)
[Kids' Sewing - Fleece Pullover](#)