

# HAVE YOU HEARD?

## What we're up to...



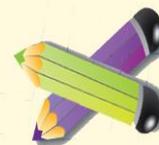
## News from Mrs. Vail and Mrs. Barry...

Just like that...we have already celebrated 100 days of school!! Even with challenges remaining due to Covid this year, we are having a wonderful year having the students back in person. We continue to make the school day as "normal" as possible which includes rigorous academic instruction along with social interactions. We are here through emails, phone calls or visits to support your child and your family in any way we can. Please reach out to us if you have any concerns, suggestions or ways we can we can support you! HEARD STREET COMMUNITY continues to always be the Strongest!!



## Advice from the Adjustment Counselor...

Here at Heard Street School, the OWL is more than just our mascot. The owl is part of our social/emotional culture. Heard Street Owls are: **O**rganized & ready to learn, they **W**ork together, **L**ead by example and make **S**afe choices. February is all about kindness and compassion. Our students are participating in a "Kindness Challenge". Ask your student how he/she spread kindness today.



## What we are up to by grade...

Kindergarten- **Mrs. Soldi's class:** The start of a new year has brought new experiences and opportunities to our classroom. The children's reading and writing is soaring and we are playing many fun math games to practice addition and subtraction. The focus of our science lessons has been winter and hibernation. The anticipation of the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school has been building and the children are excited to celebrate this milestone. **Mrs. Belliveau's class:** The children are making excellent progress and are working hard every day. We are practicing digraphs and blends in reading and continue to read cvc and cvce words. We have learned many new sight words. In math we have begun Topic 9 which is about teen numbers. The next topic will be addition and subtraction. Thank you for all of your support and donations to our classroom. We really appreciate it!

Grade 1- First graders are working hard daily on becoming great readers and writers. We are working on non-fiction writing and becoming authors and illustrators. In math, we are working on place value and continue to practice math facts. We are also super excited to complete puzzles in ST MATH. We are preparing for our field trip to the Ecotarium by learning about sound.

Grade 2- February is Black History Month. This month we take time to reflect on the many dynamic leaders, activists, inventors, and people of color whose contributions have greatly shaped society today! In Math we are working on addition and subtraction word problems. In science we are studying the different types of life cycles. Don't forget to have your child read for 20 minutes each night!

Grade 3- In third grade we are continuing to work our way through the curriculum and grow as readers, mathematicians, scientists, and historians! Mrs. Nash is back from her maternity leave and picking up where Ms. Johnson left off. Her students worked hard while she was away, making great progress in multiplication and division, finishing their whole class reading of Poppy, completing a genre study on biography with a focus on Martin Luther King Jr., and exploring a variety of topics in science and social studies. They are beginning a new book together and forging ahead into new math territory that will include area, graphing data, and fractions in the next several weeks. Ms. O'Connor's class will also be exploring new math concepts and they too have been reading Martin Luther King Jr.'s biography. They will continue celebrating Black History Month during ELA, reading the biography of Rosa Parks and other books. Recently, Ms. O'Connor's class invited some staff to our "Book Release Party" where the students read the books they have written in the past few months and enjoyed doughnuts and other treats with our guests.

Grade 4- **MATH**- Our lessons this month will focus on fractions. The essential question we will address is **-What is the whole?** Only then can we identify what the fractional parts are. **Are the parts equal?** Is the second most important essential question to recognize. We will also expand our knowledge of the number line with awareness that fractions name the positions between the whole numbers. We will use fraction strips as our area model for visualizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers. **ELA**- We are currently reading "Castle in the Attic" and following the adventures of William and The Silver Knight in this epic fantasy. We will also be writing narratives using the [www.what2how2](http://www.what2how2) graphic organizer to plan our stories paying particular attention to what the character wants and what happens when they try to get it.

Grade 5- **ELA/SS**: Exciting things are happening in the 5th grade! We are currently wrapping up both our read aloud, *Holes*, and our informative writing unit! We will be beginning our narrative-writing unit next and starting our next read aloud, *Chains* which pairs perfectly with our current focus in social studies - the 13 colonies! **MATH/SCIENCE**: In mathematics, we have made the transition from long division to working with fractions. We are currently finding common denominators in order to add and subtract fractions. Then, we will move on to multiplying and dividing fractions! We still have lots to do! For science, we are currently working on a unit about the Engineering process. In this unit, students will have an opportunity to design a water filtration device!

Grade 6- **Mr. Mugg:** It's been a busy time in our 6<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms! **MATH:** We have been learning how to solve algebraic equations through fun and educational games. Students have been working in teams of two helping each other collaboratively. We will soon be learning about rates and ratios. They are also participating in the ST Math Challenge trying to complete some difficult puzzles. **SCIENCE:** The students will be working once a week, side by side, with a Holy Cross student as they research various topics for a science project in April. **Ms. Combella:** **ELA/ Social Studies:** Students have had a great deal of exposure to the Power-Up Lexia program involving comprehension, word study and grammar usage. Students continue to use the C.I.A. program to read multiple texts and to gain fluency and examine complex essential vocabulary to make real world connections. Genre writing is a daily must for 45-60 minutes a day! Our next focus is Black History Month, diving into mini-biographies of people who have made a difference in society. Students need to strive for balance as they approach middle school. Keep up the tremendous effort to be a better you!

ESL- Students are working hard to improve their reading and speaking skills! With spring on its way, students will be focusing on vocabulary related to nature and will even be using items from nature to help solve math problems.

For the past few weeks, ESL students have been ACCESS testing where they exemplify their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Every child has exerted a lot of effort and you should congratulate them for a job well done!



Music- This year in music, students are singing, dancing, and playing ukuleles/band instruments! At the end of the year, students will perform in a spring concert.

### \*Important Announcements and Upcoming Events\*

-PTO meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 9:30am

#### - Tentative Dates for Field Trips -

2/14/22- Grade 5- Worcester Historical Museum

2/19/22- Grade 1- Ecotarium- Making Waves Program

3/18/22- Grade 4- Worcester Art Museum

4/8/22- Grade 3- Old Sturbridge Village

4/8/22- Grade 2- Tower Hill Botanical Garden

TBD- Grade 6- Mechanics Hall

