



The Columbus

STAR

November 2014

Letter from Mr. Douglas, Principal:

Hello Everyone,

What a great start to the new school year! I have enjoyed getting to know the students, parents and staff at Columbus School/ Columbus Annex. The parents' and staff have been so welcoming to me and my Assistant Principal, Mrs. Christina Moore.

My goal for the 2014-2015 school year is to ensure that we provide a safe and orderly school environment that is conducive to learning and that learning is maintained on a daily basis. I want to make sure that all of the students at Columbus School/Columbus Annex are making academic progress that all stakeholders can be proud of!

Mr. Douglas

Columbus Information:

Principal:

Mr. Steven Douglas

Associate Principal:

Mrs. Christina Moore

Associate Principal:

Mrs. Marybeth Williamson

Address:

Columbus School

275 George Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Columbus Annex

612 Grand Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Phone Numbers:

Columbus School

203-275-1901

203-275-1902

203-275-1924

Columbus Annex

203-275-3266

Vision Statement:

The Columbus family will strive for all students to develop into productive citizens who take pride in themselves and the global community around them.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Veteran's Day- November 11
- Report Card Conferences- **November 12 (4:00-6:30) November 13 (1:30-4:00)**
- BJ's fundraiser deadline—November 14
- Turkey Bingo Night—November 18 (5:00-7:00)
- Half-Day- November 26
- Thanksgiving Recess—November 27-28

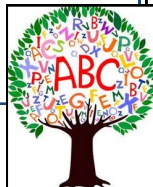


Columbus School

STAR's Hard at Work!

Hip! Hip! Hooray for Pre-K!

Three cheers to Mrs. Diaz and Ms. Feiner's Pre-k classes who just went through NAEYC Accreditation process in October. Each classroom had to keep an ongoing portfolio of work that they do with the children, in addition to meeting high standards from NAEYC program. NAEYC stands for National Association for the Education of Young Children. NAEYC accredited programs along with Bridgeport Public Schools, invest in early childhood education because they believe in the benefits to children and families. Early childhood experiences have an enormous impact on children's lifelong learning and positively contribute to their health and development along with greater readiness for school success.



Experimenting with Oobleck

Ms. Waite's third grade class studied the different states of matter by exploring a soft, gooey mixture called Oobleck. Oobleck is made of cornstarch, water, and food coloring.

As a class, students discovered the difference between the different states of matter-solid, liquid, and gas. Try this mixture at home and see if it is a solid, liquid, or a gas. Is it fun?

Ms. Waite's third graders can say, "Oobleck Ya!"

Girls on the Move!



This year the School Counseling Dept. at Columbus Elementary School is introducing our sixth and eighth grade students to Progress & Growth. Progress & Growth is an organization that provides workshops, trips, and speakers for our girls. The goal of Progress & Growth Inc. is to empower & inspire young girls and women to reach their maximum potential and lead successful fulfilling lives!

Both groups meet after school on Thursdays in the library. If you are interested in registering your child for this program please contact Miss Howard at 203-275-1947.

Ukulele Group!

Ms. Lordi's third and fourth grade music classes, have begun to learn to play the Soprano Ukulele! Students are learning first chords and how to play them with a steady beat. Students have been working in small groups. They are teaching and learning from each other.

They are learning to cooperate, listen and follow directions from the "conductor."
We are all very excited about this and look forward to a successful year!

Nonfiction Buddy Reading!

Kindergarten students in Ms. Tomlinson's Class and fourth grade students in Mr. Meyer's class have been buddy reading each week with nonfiction science texts!



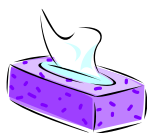
A Message from Mrs. Moore:

It is a pleasure to work with each and every one of your children! I encourage you to continue pushing them to achieve greatness. Together we can mold our children to be some of Bridgeport's finest! There is no success without you!

A Message from Nurse Terri:

- Hand Washing — Wash hands regularly after using the bathroom, playing and before meals.
- Cover coughs and sneezes because that prevents the spread of germs.

*Preventing Falls: Please tie your shoelaces!



A Note from the Wellness Zone:

COLD AND FLU SEASON IS HERE!

- Protect yourself with a flu vaccine that is available at our School Based Health Center.
- We are also open for physical exams, dental and urgent visits. Make sure that you are members.



A Reminder from Our Lunchroom:

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day because it gives you the energy that you need to be the best that you can be while in school.

Ms. Vangie

Ms. Nirma

Thanks to the cafeteria staff for the Halloween decorations in the cafeteria.

REMINDER: Please do not send students to school with sunflower seeds. Thank you!




The Uniform Policy:

"Everyday is a Uniform Day!"

1. Navy blue or white shirt. It must be a solid color with no printing on it. The shirt must have collar and buttons. It can have long sleeves or short sleeves. No t-shirts.
2. Khaki or navy blue pants. NO JEANS. No stretch pants/no leggings.
3. Khaki or navy blue uniform skirt or jumper. No skirts above 2" from the knees.
4. Navy blue or white sweaters and sweatshirts are allowed. It must be a solid color with no printing on it. NO HOODS ARE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL.
5. Sneakers or shoes must be worn. No sandals.
6. Navy blue sweat pants are allowed only when there is gym class.



A Message about Lexia Core 5:

- Getting started is easy!
Launch a web browser and go to www.lexiacore5.com.
- Create a bookmark for this web address or add it as a favorite.
You will see a link to download Adobe Flash Player if you do not have it.
Flash Player 11 or higher is required.
- If you have a slow Internet connection and have speed issues, you can download the Core5 software to your computer instead of using the website. Go to www.lexialearning.com and click **Downloads** at the top of the page.
- iPad and iPad Mini users can download the Core5 app from the App store. Search for "Lexia Reading Core5."
The first time you access Core5, you must set up your device:
Click the Student/Parent button.
Type in your teacher's email (below) and click the arrow button to continue.
You will not have to set up again unless you delete the browser's "cookie" files.
- Allow or help your child to login. Your child can obtain their Username and Password from their Teacher. **Important!** Please allow your child to work independently at his or her own pace. Provide encouragement, but don't give away the answers!
- Please try to ensure an average of 20-30 minutes per session. We recommend that usage be kept to a reasonable level - not too short and not too long.
Pre-K students may need shorter, more frequent usage (10-15 minutes daily).
- Need more help getting started? Go to www.lexialearning.com and click **Support**.

A Note from Our Literacy Coach:

Make books special:

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them and buy them as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.



A Message from Our Math Interventionist:

Practice Makes Perfect...

It is important for students to practice Math skills every day at home—in addition to any Math homework.

(Yes, even on the weekends)

Here are some great internet sites that are fun and will help your child with his or her math skills.

www.sumdog.com

www.symphonymath.com

www.xtramath.com

www.abcya.com

www.hoodamath

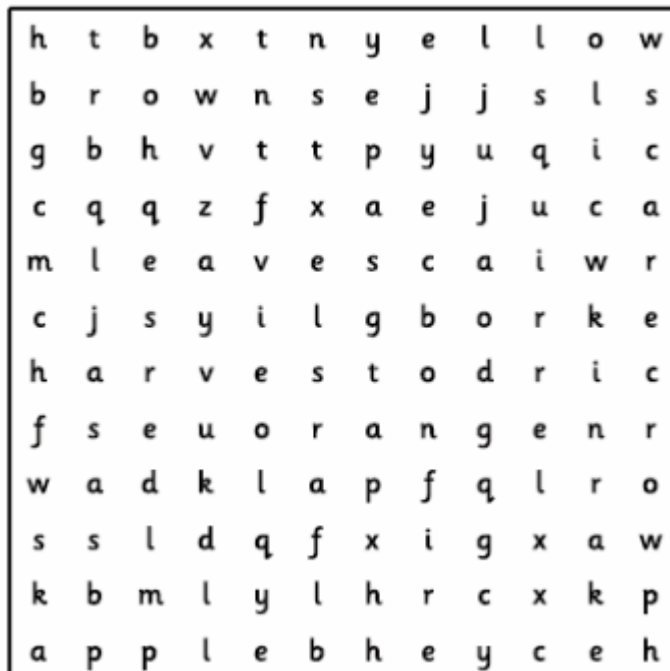


Columbus STARS...Be the first in your class to find the hidden November Words around Columbus School! Your Teacher has the List!
Good Luck! ☺

Read Aloud Day 2014

The School Volunteer Association of Bridgeport (SVA) sponsored its 29th Annual Read Aloud Day on October 23, 2014.

Volunteers from Bridgeport and the surrounding communities shared the joy of reading in every pre-kindergarten through sixth grade class at Columbus School. The SVA provided the children's books for the volunteers to read and then donated the books to the classroom libraries. Columbus School would like to thank the SVA and all of the volunteers for their generosity.



Can You Find All 14 Autumn Words? Share your findings with your Teacher and receive three star cards!

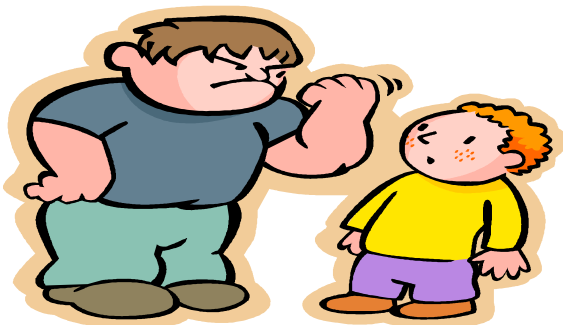
Bridgeport Public Schools
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2014-2015

Frances M. Rabinowitz
Superintendent of Schools

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER (22 days)					OCTOBER (22 days)					NOVEMBER (16 days)				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
5PD	6PD	7PD	8	29	6	7	8SI	9	10	3	4PD	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12SI	13SI	14
8	9	10	11	12	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28
22	23	24	25	26										
29	30													
August 25 Teachers' First Day August 25 - 27 Teachers' Professional Development August 28 One Session Day First Day for All Students K-12 September 1 Labor Day September 25 Rosh Hashanah					October 8 One Session - School Improvement October 13 Columbus Day					November 4 Election Day/District PD Day November 11 Veterans' Day November 12 & 13 Gr. K-12 Report Card Conf. November 26 One Session Day November 27-28 Thanksgiving Recess				
DECEMBER (17 days)					JANUARY (18 days)					FEBRUARY (17 days)				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9	2	3	4	5	6
8	9	10SI	11	12	12	13	14	15	16	9	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	19	20	21	22	23	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	26	27	28	29	30	23	24	25	26	27
29	30	31												
December 10 One Session - School Improvement December 23 One Session Day December 24 - 31 Holiday Recess					January 1-2 New Year's Day Observed/Holiday Recess January 6 Three King's Day January 14 One Session Day January 19 Martin Luther King Jr., Day					February 13 - 17 President's Day Weekend				
MARCH (22 days)					APRIL (16 days)					MAY (20 days)				
M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3					1
9	10	11	12	13	6	7	8	9	10	4	5	6SI	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	13	14	15	16	17	11	12	13	14	15
23	24	25SI	26	27	20	21	22SI	23SI	24	18	19	20	21	22
30	31				27	28	29	30		25	26	27	28	29
March 25 One Session - School Improvement					April 3 Good Friday April 13 - 17 Spring Recess April 22 & 23 Gr. K-12 Report Card Conf.					May 6 One Session - School Improvement May 25 Memorial Day				
JUNE (12 days)					<div>June 16 - Last Day for Students (182) June 16 - Last Day for Teachers (186) June 26 - Absolute Last Day of School. Additional Snow days after June 26th will be made up in the following order: Feb. 13th, April vacation starting at the beginning of the week.</div>									
M	T	W	T	F										
1PD	2	3	4	5										
8	9	10	11	12										
15	16	17	18	19										
22	23	24	25	26										
29	30													
June 1 One Session PD Day June 16 One Session - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL														
<div><div>SI</div>One Session School Improvement Day</div> <div><div></div>Professional Development/PD Day</div> <div><div></div>One Session Day</div> <div><div></div>Holiday: Schools Not In Session</div> <div><div></div>Report Card Conference</div> <div><div>PD</div>One Session Professional Development Day</div>														
Approved by the Bpt. Board of Education on March 10, 2014														

A Message from Our Guidance Counselor: Mrs. Howard



Hello Parents,

October is ANTI-Bullying month. Students received presentations in their classrooms on how to Identify bullying, what should be done if he/she is bullied, and how to report bullying incidents to our staff. As a parent, you may think your child is being bullied. If you are not sure, below are some common signs to help you recognize if bullying is occurring:

- Torn, damaged, or missing pieces of clothing, books or belongings
- Unexplained cuts, bruises, and scratches for fighting
- Have few if any friends with whom he/she spends time
- Afraid of going to school, walking to and from school, riding the bus, or taking part in organized activities with peers, clubs, and sports
- Take the long route when walking to or from school
- Lose interest in school work or suddenly begin to do poorly in school
- Appear anxious and suffer from low self-esteem
- Appear sad, moody, teary, or depressed when he/she comes home
- Complain frequently of headaches, stomachaches, or other physical problems
- Have trouble sleeping or frequent bad dreams
- Experience loss of appetite

Bullying tips courtesy of http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/bullying_tips_for_parents.page

Further additions of The Columbus STAR will have pages 3-6 available online only on the Columbus Webpage. Thank you for reading! ☺

Tips from Our Security Team:

"Safety Begins with Me!"

- Remember to bring your child to their teacher at the start of the school day.
- Also, please remember to promptly pick-up your child at their assigned dismissal time and location.
- When entering the school as a Visitor, please remember to Sign-In and Out and don't forget to wear your Visitor's Pass!
- Always remember to use appropriate school language whether in the building or outside on the school grounds!
- Help us keep our school grounds clean, please don't be a litter bug!

