



i-Ready! You Ready? We're Ready!

by Mrs. Rebecca Feola

This year, the Bridgeport Public Schools has purchased a program containing adaptive assessments that are administered to students from K through 8 three times a year. These assessments in both Reading and Math are all technology-based to provide a deep, customized evaluation of every student and to track student growth and performance consistently and continuously over a student's entire K-12 career.



By dynamically adapting based on student response patterns, these assessments are able to derive large amounts of information from a limited number of test items. This allows the assessments to more accurately and more efficiently pinpoint students' needs as compared to traditional fixed-form tests. These assessments are aligned to the Common Core State Standards and National Standards. Results allow

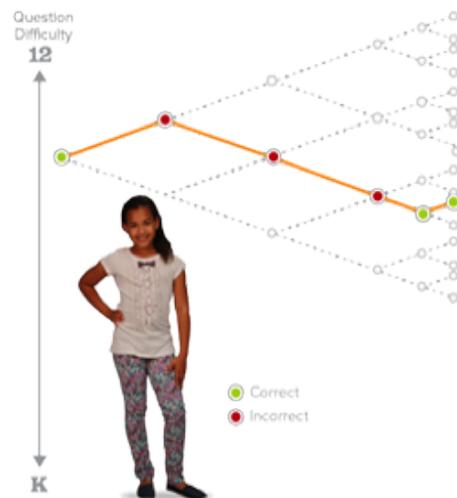
teachers and support staff to make informed decisions for each student regarding both areas of strength and weakness, as well as to address common trends from one grade to the next. This helps teachers to modify and adjust instruction as needed to ensure all students are successful.

These benchmarks are simply a roadmap to ensuring students are understanding the BIG ideas and concepts taught, as well as expose them to similar style questions on the SBAC (state test). Exposure to the frameworks and styles of questions on the SBAC is critical. While our students may understand the content, many may struggle with what is being asked if they aren't exposed to the layout of these questions. i-Ready is a guide for us all and will not be used as a grade.

Please note, if a child's score is not reflective of their current classroom performance, this may be due to various factors, such as the content not being covered yet due to the layout in curriculum, which is not in alignment with the i-Ready program; being tested on a computer vs. pencil and paper; test anxiety; computer skills; etc. If you have a concern, please be sure to discuss with the classroom teacher first and request a parent report that segments the areas mastered and in need of improvement.

As a building, Discovery has targeted the areas of vocabulary and phonics schoolwide to improve understanding and mastery of these core reading skills to set students up in becoming life-long readers. Strategies implemented this year this include CLOSE Reading (K-8), "Four Square" model for Vocabulary (K-8), Direct Phonics Instruction, as well as exposing students to more text-dependent questions requiring them to think more critically. This year, the district has ten rotating math specialists working with all K-8 teachers to improve math instruction and application throughout the district, as well as target specific areas from school to school.

At Discovery, our students WILL be ready for anything!



Bees Swarm Discovery Stage

by Mrs. Rebecca Feola



Seventh/eighth grade Social Studies teacher Mrs. Careen Derise facilitated an amazing schoolwide Spelling Bee. Beginning with students in the first group of third through fifth grade, it was one of the most historic bees witnessed to date.

With over 150 words recited, it was between the final three consisting of a third grader and two fifth graders. Students were challenged with words considered to be eighth grade and high school level words on a national level! One could hear a pin drop as it came down to the final two, with third grader **Cameron Zapanta** sweeping the competition with a win to advance and compete against the sixth through eighth graders the following day.

The following day was just as eventful as Cameron's peers cheered her on as she came up against the middle-schoolers. It was again, a very close race resulting in seventh grader **Marissa Garcia** earning first place and Cameron earning a close second. Both will move onto city Regionals with an opportunity to compete districtwide.

Winners

3rd-5th Group

- 1st: Cameron Zapanta, 3rd Grade
(winning word: rheumatic)
- 2nd: Mia Pham, 5th Grade
- 3rd: Haley Nguyen, 3rd Grade

6th-8th Group

- 1st: Marissa Garcia, 7th Grade
(winning word: Icarus)
- 2nd: Cameron Zapanta, 3rd Grade
- 3rd: Jaden Joseph, 7th Grade

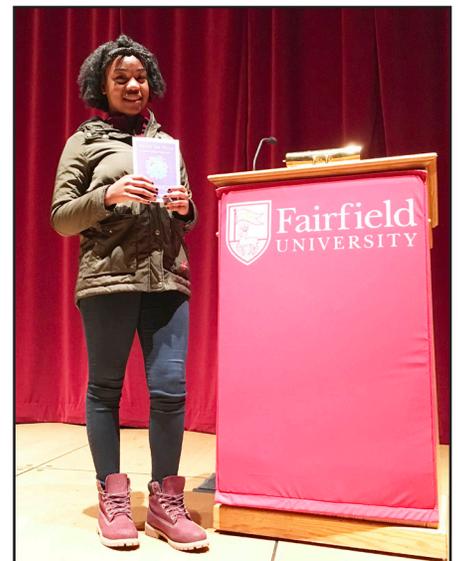
The sweetness of the overall experience was to view the encouragement and support competitors gave one another whether it was a high five as the other approached the podium or a thumbs up whether the answer was correct or not. Discovery truly displayed true sportsmanship that day.

Discovery Students Win Poetry for Peace Contest



Two Discovery students were selected winners of Fairfield University's annual Poetry for Peace contest. **Azara Frasier** (4th grade) and **Nehmiah Walker-White** (8th grade) both read their poems at the winners' celebration on January 24th at the Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts.

Their poems, "Peace" (Frasier) and "Our Lives Matter" (Walker-White), along with other winning poems from Bridgeport and Fairfield schools, were published in a *Poetry for Peace* anthology by the Fairfield University Writing Center. Congratulations to both!



Discovery Wins National Made by Milk Art Contest

Out of 171 entries from 588 schools in 48 states, Discovery's art clubs, led by Art teacher Mrs. Anderson, won the Made by Milk art contest.



This invention made by students was inspired by a WWII Jeep. It was unique because the entire school got involved with the process of recycling all the milk cartons students drink throughout the school day. Our art clubs worked for several weeks to develop the plan of the "invention of a car" and then specifically executing the idea into the life-sized creation: WWII-style Jeep. We have many military families in our school and this serves as an amazing tribute to them. The students used the milk cartons as though they were LEGO bricks

to construct. They created many parts of the jeep by opening the cartons, laying them flat, and taping them together like a blanket for a smooth surface. Students paper-mached over the cartons and added a layer of paint.



The students were so proud of their accomplishments. They were faced with a lot of problem-solving situations. How will we create the steering wheel, the front lights, the windshield? They learned some valuable life lessons in the process of creating this jeep, such as: It is OK to fail over and over until they got it right, as well as how to communicate and collaborate with others. Most importantly, they learned that they can build anything from recycled materials and hard work!

An awarding ceremony will be held at the school on Tuesday, February 7th. The \$1,000 prize money will be used to fund a water bottle filling station.



Literacy Luau

by Mrs. Rebecca Feola, Literacy Coach/Interventionist



Thursday, January 19th brought tropical winds of creative energy that had over 150 participants engaged in Literacy. Mrs. Feola, created hands-on stations that resulted in participants craving more like ice cream on a hot summer's day. As families entered, each member was greeted with an activity booklet, menu of offerings, and a traditional Hawaiian lei. Each activity had a fun fact about Hawaii and the Polynesian culture.

Staff members helped facilitate the learning stations with the big hit of the evening being a life-sized Scrabble board to encourage and promote both encoding (spelling) and decoding (sounding out) words. Seventh/eighth grade content teachers Mrs. Derise and Mrs. Walsh facilitated this activity and encouraged families to team up with other ones in a friendly competition. The high-energy activity promoted team work and critical thinking skills in the area of reading all while making learning fun.

Other activities included a well-crafted Speaking and Listening standard station where students listened to a brief re-telling of the Musubi Man, also known as the Hawaiian Gingerbread Man, and had to sequence the important events. As an extension, students could create different endings as well as design their own Musubi Man using pictures of elements used in traditional Hawaiian culture and their names.



Special Education Resource teachers Mrs. Linley and Mrs. Cavaliere facilitated a sight word/vocabulary lei-making station applicable to all grades to promote both fluency that leads to comprehension. All of these activities were captured as wonderful memories by our writing specialist Ms. Gomes! Who can forget the one of our principal Mrs. Bella with fifth/sixth grade Science teacher, Mrs. Romatzick side-by-side with 20 students ahead in the Pineapple Sack Race. This station provided a "meta-moment" for families to take a break from all of the academic stimuli and promote an example and importance of the RULER program's components in a fun way.

The overall mission of this night was to showcase to families some cost-effective ways to make learning fun and promote the importance of reading as well as how it builds from one grade level to the next. Exposure is key regardless of age whether it be orally, through pictures, or in written form.

The Roadmap to College

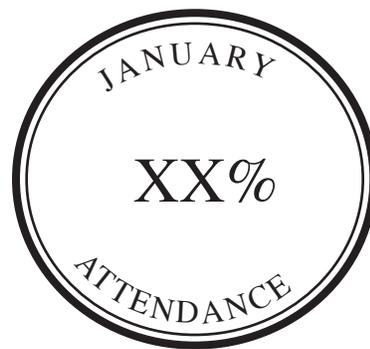
by Ms. Ellen Rosoff, Guidance Counselor

Even though, college is still a bit off in the distance for many of your children, I invited Holly Franquet, a college counselor with the College Place-CT, to talk with us to take some of the worry out of it.

Holly works with high school students in Bridgeport and surrounding towns to assist them with the college application process as well as the financial process, which can be stressful, just thinking about it. She will give us the ROADMAP TO COLLEGE and break it all down for us.

Please join us on Wednesday, February 15th at 9:30 am for breakfast and conversation. Let's talk!

Please RSVP to me at 203-275-1821 or by email at erosoff@bridgeportedu.net.



Discovery Dispatch

is the monthly newsletter of the
Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School
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