

Build It and They Will Come!

by Mrs. Mary Servino

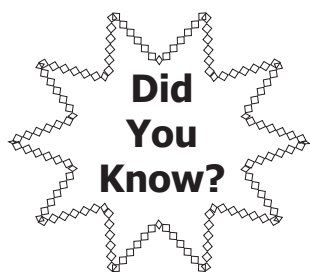
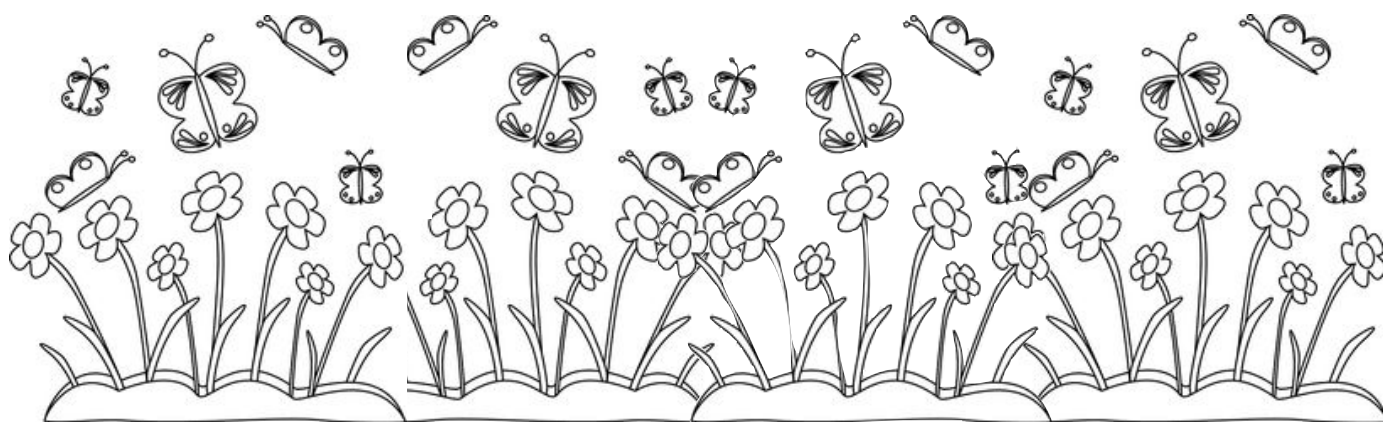
First graders have been busy bees this fall, turning a wasted space behind Discovery Magnet into a Monarch Recovery Garden! They pulled weeds, spread compost soil all around and planted flowers that Monarch and other butterflies love in all of their life cycle stages. This next week mulch will be spread to prevent weeds from growing.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Eco-Schools USA, Schoolyard Habitats, and Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) have come together with the LEGO community to fund Discovery Magnet and 24 other Connecticut schools that were interested in using the environment to support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) learning AND enhance Monarch and other pollinator habitat on school grounds.



So why is this important? In the past 20 years the number of Monarch butterflies in the United States has declined from 1.3 billion to 50 million, a drop of over 90%! First graders learned that this decrease is mostly a result of habitat loss. We are teaching our first graders that everyone can make a difference in making this planet better, one small change at a time can help!

Are you interested in creating a butterfly habitat at your house? The Discovery Garden Club is putting together a brochure that will give you everything you need to know to start your own butterfly garden!



- ✦ Butterfly wings are covered in tiny scales. There are about 125,000 scales per square inch!
- ✦ Butterflies see more colors than humans because they see all the colors we do, as well as ultraviolet colors. They have ultraviolet markings on their wings, which helps them identify their own species when searching for a mate.
- ✦ Many butterflies have brightly colored upper wing surfaces used to communicate with other butterflies. The lower side of the wings is dull for camouflage, to protect from predation by birds.
- ✦ Butterflies need sun to warm their flight muscles. They are cold-blooded and may not fly at all on cloudy or cool days.
- ✦ Butterfly life span varies from species to species. Most adult butterflies live only two to three weeks.

A note from Mrs. Bella

Dear Discovery Family,

I want to thank you very much for your thoughts and prayers in my time of sorrow. Your words of sympathy and encouragement helped me get through such a difficult time.

*Sincerely,
Mrs. Bella*

PAC Updates

PAC Elections

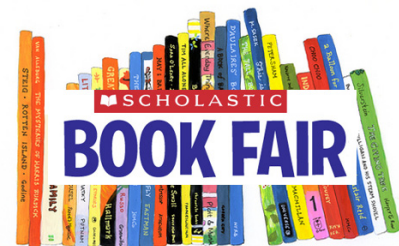
Parent Advisory Council (PAC) elections will be held during report card conferences. Please don't forget to vote!

Trunk or Treat Winners

Trunk or Treat was held on October 31st. Students (and staff) had a wonderful time dressing up as their favorite characters. Congratulations to the families who displayed the Zoo trunk and the Haunted House trunk for winning the best-decorated trunk contest!

Fundraisers

Lyman Orchard pies will be available for pick up on November 21st, from 11 am through 5:30 pm. Pies will arrive frozen, so please pick them up as soon as possible.



The Scholastic Bookfair will run from November 14th through the 18th. Stop by the gym during conference hours and support our fundraiser!



Community Service Club Updates

The IDMS Community Service Club is currently accepting donations of **sugarfree chewing gum** to send to the troops in honor of Veterans Day.

Donations can be sent to your child's teacher or dropped off in the assigned box in the main lobby.

Please support our troops!

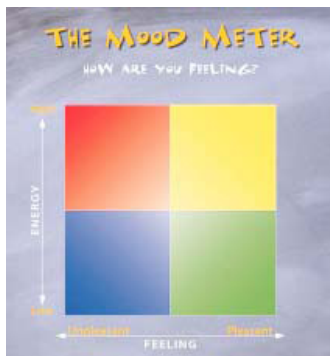
Our Thanksgiving Food Drive is going on now, and continues through November 18th. Food collected will be donated to The Merton House in Bridgeport.

Pre-K: Stuffing	4th: Canned Gravy or Soup
K: Boxed Mashed Potatoes	5th: Canned Cranberry or Fruit
1st: Pasta	6th: Canned Beans
2nd: Rice	7th: Corn Muffin Mix
3rd: Canned Vegetables	8th: Applesauce

PBIS/RULER Kick-Off Assembly

On October 25th IDMS held its RULER/PBIS Kick-Off. The goal of the kick-off was to educate and generate excitement about these two programs. The kick-off was facilitated with three assemblies—one for lower elementary, one for upper elementary, and one for the middle school. Our band played upbeat music as the students entered the gym. In each assembly we began with a review of our mission statement and what it means, and we discussed each component of the mission statement and how it was relevant to the students. We then completed a similar exercise with the PBIS expectations:

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be a problem solver



The students were asked to share how they integrate these expectations in their interaction with each other and the staff, what these expectations mean and how they exhibit these core values at school.

Each student was provided with a green, yellow, blue, and red square upon entering the gym representing the colors of our RULER mood meter. The staff played music for the students and they had an opportunity to raise the square representing how the music made them feel. We discussed why the music made them feel that way.

Lastly, each group watched an age-appropriate video that represented the PBIS expectations and we were able to discuss their thoughts about the video. The students had many great things to share. We ended with the band playing as the students were dismissed from the gym.

Hour of Code is Coming



We live in a world surrounded by technology. And we know that whatever field our students choose to go into as adults, their ability to succeed will increasingly depend on understanding how technology works. But only a tiny fraction of us are learning how technology works. Fewer than half of all schools teach computer science.

That's why IDMS is joining in on the largest learning event in history: The Hour of Code, during Computer Science Education Week (December 5-11). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code.

Our Hour of Code is making a statement that IDMS is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to our students, we want to make our Hour of Code event huge. Parents are encouraged to volunteer at our event on December 6th. To volunteer, please see our Technology Specialist, Ms. Tiffany Ladson-Lang, in the school library.

This is a chance to change the future of education in Bridgeport. See hourofcode.com/us for details.

The Hour of Code™ is a nationwide initiative by Computer Science Education Week (csedweek.org) and Code.org (code.org) to introduce millions of students to one hour of computer science and computer programming.

Career Day

by Ms. Ellen Rosoff, School Counselor

I know many of you have interesting jobs that you might want to share with our students in grades 4 through 8. If so, I have an opportunity for you!

Discovery will be organizing a Career Day to be held on March 30th.

Please send me an email (erosoff@bridgeportedu.net) that you'd like to participate. Send me a few details such as your contact info along with the name of your job, the career field you are in, what kind of training/education you had to go through.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

New SGC Members

The School Governance Council (SGC) held its first meeting on Thursday, November 10th. Here are the council members for the 2016-2017 school year. Congratulations to the newly elected parent representatives.

Staff Members

- Kristen Cavaliere
- Careen Derise
- Tiffany Ladson-Lang
- Rebecca Feola
- Lynda Linley

Parent Members

- Michele Bragg-Phillips
- Eda Gjonbalaj
- Susan Padua
- Matthew Sather
- Ken Simon
- Ryan Utzler
- Jade Zapanta

Community Members

- Claire Gold - Founder
- Lois Libby - Sacred Heart University
- Steve Baumann - Discovery Museum

Ex-Officio

- Sangeeta Bella - Principal

Discovery Dispatch

is the monthly newsletter of the
Interdistrict Discovery Magnet School
4510 Park Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 275-1801

Principal: Sangeeta Bella
Editors: Jade Zapanta
Rebecca Feola

Save the Date

11/15
NJHS Induc-
tion Ceremony
@ 5:30

11/16
Report Card
Conferences
@ 1:00-3:30
(No Lighthouse)

11/17
Report Card
Conferences
@ 5:00-7:30
(No Lighthouse)

11/18
Dress Down
Day \$1

11/21
-Picture
Retake Day
-Pie Pick-up
@ 11:00-5:30

11/22
Thanksgiving
celebrations
(3rd and 4th
grade)

11/23
-Thanksgiving
feast (Pre-K)
-12:40 Dismissal
(No Lighthouse)

11/24
NO SCHOOL

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

11/25

NO SCHOOL

11/28
PBIS Reward
Event
(Grades K-3)

11/29
First Marking
Period Awards
Assembly

11/30
PBIS Reward
Event
(Grades 4-8)