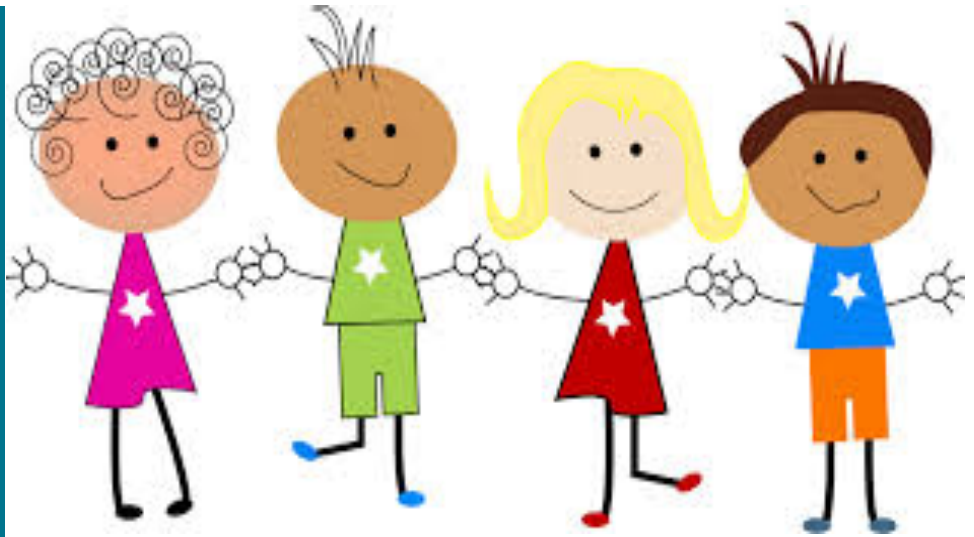


# The Integrated Update



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## Inside

*Notes from the Principal's Office*  
by Thomas Ford – Page 1

*Project Work*  
by Carol Sibiskie – Page 2

*Room 15*  
by Sam and Norah – Page 2

*Classroom News from Room 19*  
by Mrs. Abbott's Class – Page 3

*Let's Celebrate*  
by Anne Doyle & Jenny Lussier –  
Page 5

## Notes from the Principal's Office

*By Thomas Ford*

Please enjoy the final edition of *The Integrated Update* for the 2015-2016 school year. I want to first take a moment to acknowledge and thank Stacy Allen for compiling each issue. Her time and efforts are greatly appreciated! I also want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer vacation. While there is still much to do before the school year closes, summer will be here before you know it. Thank you all for continuing to make John Lyman School such a special place!

### Retirement

Our school nurse, **Mrs. Karen Charpentier**, will be retiring at the end of the school year. Mrs. Charpentier has been the nurse at John Lyman for many years and has been an important member of our school community. While Mrs. Charpentier will be difficult to replace, please join me in wishing her all the best as she begins her retirement.

Congratulations!

Follow me to Page

4

## **Project Work**

### **By Carole Sibiskie**

At John Lyman School there is great excitement about project work. Students are engaged, and everyone is invested in the process, but why?

Project Based Learning provides the framework that guides the process. This involves using an inquiry model that stimulates the students' curiosities. Students are guided by their own interests and choices. The guiding question posed by the teacher initiates and frames the work, but the students get to choose the specific topic of their studies. Work is done to ask quality in-depth questions. Lessons focus on different types of questions. The students craft questions that will lead them to further information about their topic. In first and second grade, the students focus on animals to connect to our science curriculum. However, project work does not exist in isolation. Instead reading, writing, and some math concepts are integrated into the unit.

Technology skills are rapidly becoming an integral part of the process. Students research using websites and other digital tools. The kids are typing pieces themselves using Chromebooks, with some using voice tools to translate into typed documents. Several students are additionally creating their final project using digital publishing tools. Art comes into play as the students create a representational model of some type to share their work. Students are expected to do an in-depth observational drawing of their animal. An authentic audience for the sharing of project work further adds to the sense of purpose behind the learning. Even though this work is challenging, the students are amazingly inspired and driven. Often, the kids push themselves to read and comprehend information written beyond their typical reading levels and delve into complex topics, determined to make meaning of the new information.

Project based learning has the amazing impact of creating lifelong learning habits. Additionally, the process and personal learning journey the learner has taken makes the information more meaningful and enhances retention versus skills that are just learned in a rote fashion. When students beam with pride while showing you their work, please realize how much effort went into the final product and understand the process that instilled the pride in the success of their project.

## **Room 15**

### **By Sam and Norah**

Learning in Room 15 is exciting! In science we have been learning about ecosystems. Ecosystems are different habitats and climates around the world such as the desert, rain forest and seashore, prairie, etc.

We've also been learning about World Explorers. Some of the explorers we have researched are Christopher Columbus, Jacques Cousteau, Sir Edmund Hillary and Neil Armstrong - plus lots more! We created life-sized explorers and presented them to the class. We also got to share about them with the whole school at assembly. It was fun!

In math we have been learning about fractions. We've been working on adding, subtracting multiplying and a little bit of dividing fractions.

We love reading in Room 15! Lately we have been exploring point of view. We now understand firsthand and secondhand accounts of a text. Firsthand account is when the writer has experienced that point in time. And secondhand account is when the writer learned from someone else's experience instead of being there.

We hope you enjoyed reading about some of the things that we have been working on in Room 15.

Happy Spring!

## Classroom News from Room 19 By Mrs. Abbott's Class

Mrs. Abbott read us different kinds of Three Little Pig stories. She read four kinds. In one of the stories the three little pigs go out of the story. The three little pigs fold the page with the wolf inside. That folded the wolf into an airplane! In another Three Little Pigs story the pigs were ninjas! We have partners because when Mrs. Abbott reads stories we stop in the middle. We talk to our partners about what we heard in the story. We read the stories to find out whose point of view it was told from. ~Ellery and Savannah

We have started to do book groups in Room 19. Some of the titles of our books are Freckle Juice and Horrible Harry Goes to the Moon. Book groups are when you read a book, answer questions, and meet to talk about the chapter. We do it because we learn to read together, do responses, get the responses done on time, and talk about a book. We really, really like our book groups. I hope you are in a book group one day. ~Madelyn and Taliyah

Do you know what a rainforest is? Or the Amazon rainforest? We read a book called The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry. In the book all the animals were saying their point of view. Our favorites were the jaguar and the toucan. They were saying their point of view to a guy named Senhor who was cutting down the kapok tree! There used to be a lot more rainforest than there is now. That is bad! Some people throw trash in the rivers. Speaking of rivers, if you are in Brazil you have to look out for the little piranhas because they eat fast! There are giant lily pads and pink flowers. Some of the animals in the rainforest are anteaters, howler monkeys, and jaguars. These are some of the facts that we learned. We also made a Brazil map for the Durham Fair. Did you see it? It was hard work. We hope you know more about the rain forest. We hope we tried to encourage people to not cut down the rainforests all over the world! ~Hope and Allison

We are telling you what's going on at Study Buddies! Study Buddies is where we get to read with assigned partners. One or two third or fourth graders from Mr. Moriarty's class meets with one of us. At study buddies we have been reading Lisa the Lollipop Fairy and My Big Fat Zombie Goldfish - Any Fin in Possible. The first study buddy day was Read Across America Day! Dr. Veronesi came to read to us. The book was Ish. Dr. Veronesi also read us a few pages of Mercy Watson to the Rescue. The second day of Study Buddies we asked each other questions so we could get to know each other better. One of the questions was, "Do you have siblings?" It was really fun. So far we have had three study buddy times. We do study buddies so we can get better at reading. ~Kaden and Regan

Do you know what Carnaval is? Brazilian Carnaval happens every year. The carnaval lasts up to six days. People decorate beautiful floats. All the first and second grade classes made their own carnaval! Mrs. Swiantek's class did dancing. Ms. Novak's class did masks. We did drumbeats. It took a lot of practice but it was so much fun! We hope you enjoyed learning about carnaval! ~Dylan and Kaelyn

Have you ever played Hopscotch? I do this in my ECHO! I played jump rope too. Old Time Recess Games is fun. Another ECHO is Sizzling Science. The reason I like Sizzling Science is that I like doing the projects. Once we did an experiment where we had to make a boat that floats instead of sinking. We used straws to blow them across the mini pool filled with water. ~Alex and James

We are learning about animals for project work. We got to pick the animal. Some people worked with a partner. We wrote questions. We read books and looked at articles on the Chromebooks. We wrote the research notes down on papers. After that we wrote sections and typed up the work. Some of us are making books or publishing on the Chromebooks or iPad. We learned a lot about researching. ~Lauren and Makayla

Go Far began on March 28th. So we hope all kids do Go Far because we enjoy Go Far. Go Far is the best thing EVER! It's good because it's exercise and fresh air. We hope Go Far never ends. First you have to run one lap, then you get one stick. If you run eight laps you get one charm because it's a mile. On Go Far run days you have to remember your necklace! You can run, jog, or walk. And thank you to the Go Far parents for helping us run Go Far, and students - GOOD LUCK!!! ~Kyle and Jenny

Continued from page 1

### Curriculum Update – May

In kindergarten, students are enjoying their “interesting informational glasses” as they read informational texts to find main topics and key details. The glasses are a creative way of making learning fun for the children. In writing, the kindergarteners continue to write narratives in their journals. They have also begun to write informational pieces about the animals they are studying as part of project work. It is impressive to see how much the children have grown as writers from the beginning of the year. The focus in math is currently addition and subtraction. Along with curricular studies, the kindergarten students did a great job sharing at the Volunteer Recognition Assembly. The children shared about the qualities of a good volunteer and even wrote lyrics to a song about volunteers as part of their share.

During Reader’s Workshop, first and second graders have been learning about point of view. They are figuring out who is telling the story and how that affects what they understand. Many students are participating in book groups where they practice written responses to text. In Writer’s Workshop, students are publishing pieces of writing into books or to the Writers’ Wall. During this process, the children have individual conferences with the teacher, engage in peer conferences with classmates, and revise their writing several times. April was National Poetry Month, so many students have been immersed in reading, writing, and responding to poetry. In math, addition and subtraction with two- and three-digit numbers has been the focus of instruction. Students are learning how to use a variety of strategies and when each strategy might be appropriate to use. Going through this process has highlighted many of the principles embedded in the Common Core’s Mathematical Practices. Finally, first and second grade students continue to compare and contrast our culture to that of Brazil during social studies. Students are reading informational text, looking at art, and writing about what they learned.

Third and fourth graders are also working hard as the end of the year approaches. In reading, the students continue to work on inferring as part of their study of poetry. They are learning about figurative language and how to utilize it in their own writing. Students are applying their research and informational writing skills through their most recent project work cycle. The children have been excited to explore self-selected topics of interest. In science, 3/4 students are learning about electricity concepts and have just begun their study of government in social studies. An upcoming field trip to Hartford to visit the Connecticut State Capitol Building, Legislative Office Building, and State House will help to enhance that study of government.

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### REMINDERS

#### Field Day – Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Peckham Park (rain date Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at John Lyman)

Field Day will be held on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Peckham Park. Please note that this is an early dismissal day, so students will be dismissed directly from Peckham Park at 1:30 p.m. Busses will also bring the children to the park at the beginning of the day. In the event of a weather cancellation, Field Day will be held at John Lyman School on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### Fourth Grade Band Concert – Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:15 p.m.

The fourth grade band will be performing for the student body on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30 p.m. The band will be playing at Lyman Lytes the following week (see below), so this will serve as a dress rehearsal for that performance as well as an opportunity for our third graders to get a sense of the instrumental opportunities they will have in fourth grade.

#### Lyman Lytes – Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:15 – 8:00 p.m.

We hope you will be able to join us for Lyman Lytes on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. Lyman Lytes is a multi-faceted event with musical performances, student shares, and a family picnic. More information will be forthcoming shortly. Unfortunately, we do not have a rain date for Lyman Lytes, so please join me in hoping for beautiful weather that evening!

#### Fourth Grade Recognition Assembly – Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Grade Recognition Assembly will be held on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This is a special Assembly that serves to recognize and acknowledge our fourth graders as they prepare for the transition to Memorial School. Due to space limitations we are only able to accommodate fourth grade families for this event, but I know you will join me in congratulating our graduates and wishing them all the best next year at Memorial.

#### Step Up Day – Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>

Step Up Day will be held on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a special day where students get to meet their new classmates and teachers for next year. Returning students will spend the morning in their new classrooms getting to know one another and doing activities together. Step Up Day is the unofficial kick-off to the new school year and is always a lot of fun.

#### Bus Forms

Please be sure to send your bus forms back to school before the end of the year if you have not done so already. DATTCO will be developing bus routes over the summer.

## Let's Celebrate!

By Anne Doyle and Jenny Lussier

There is a lot of celebrating going on in the library this spring! Kindergarteners, 1/2 classes and 3/4 classes are celebrating reading and much, much more!

The Kindergarten classes kicked off the spring studying Dr. Seuss and participating in Read Across America with a Dr. Seuss Day. Games and activities relating to Dr. Seuss were created and the students “giggled and wiggled” from station to station wearing their festive Dr. Seuss hats. We furthered our author studies by reading and learning about Mo Willems. This was a favorite of the students as we read a variety of stories by Willems including the “Pigeon” and “Elephant and Piggy” books. Venn diagrams to compare characters and simple note taking were part of this unit. The year is wrapping up with our five senses unit. Students are listening to stories, using the interactive whiteboard and participating in experiments that surround the five senses.



One of my favorite times of year is the spring when I enjoy sharing the [Charter Oak Children's Book Award](#) nominees with the first and second graders. There are eight books - four fiction and four nonfiction. This year's nominees are big hits already! This award was started a few years ago by a Connecticut librarian and it has grown every year. The first book we read was [Gaston](#) by Kelly DiPucchio, followed this week by [A Boy and a Jaguar](#), an autobiography written by Alan Rabinowitz. As we read each of them, we think about each book and rate it because we have to vote for one of them at the end! We can't wait to see which one will win this year! Stay tuned!



Our inquiry process has led the first and second grade classes to explore celebrations from four South American countries: Argentina, Chile, Colombia, and Peru. We are finding out about many unique festivals and comparing some with how we celebrate here in the United States. Students will be sharing their learning soon!

Finally, the third and fourth grade classes are celebrating the [Centennial of our National Parks](#) by using the inquiry process to learn about a park that they chose. They will be creating slides in Google Slides to convince someone to visit that park. Since we can't visit in person, park rangers from Badlands National Park in South Dakota, Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming skyped with the classes to share about what makes each park special! Being able to connect with these experts was amazing!

Don't forget . . . summer is the perfect time to read! Whether you will be reading on the beach or listening to an audiobook during a long drive, visit one of the public libraries this summer for some great reads!

Celebrate reading!

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**The Integrated Update**

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