

The Vinton Chronicles

January 2013
Volume 4, Issue 2

Principal James E. Palmer



*Vinton School opens
January 27, 1952!*

Principal's News

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that the holidays are over and we are proceeding full speed ahead toward Groundhog Day and the second report card of the year. With renewed energy, we are ready to do what we do best ... teach your children! I offer the following items for your information.

Post Newtown: Thanks so much for your ongoing encouragement during the past month. As your principal, it truly is reassuring to feel the support of the entire Vinton School family. I am grateful for the strength and dedication of the Vinton School staff as our hearts continue to go out to our colleagues and the families of Newtown.

As a school and town, we are gathering input from all community members as a review process of safety and emergency management procedures moves forward. Please do not hesitate to offer suggestions, ask questions, and attend local forums. Your assistance is valued and welcomed.

Congratulations to the Vinton Preschool! I am proud to announce that the Vinton Preschool Program has recently met NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation standards. NAEYC accreditation is considered the "Mark of Quality" and the Vinton program (as well as Goodwin and Southeast) passed with flying colors. Should you wish to review the ten key standards, there's a summary on the NAEYC website which will illustrate why we are so happy.

What's this about a Common Core? You may have heard that almost every state in the U.S. has adopted something called Common Core Standards. The standards provide clear, consistent expectations for what students should be learning at each grade in order to be prepared for college and a career. All schools in Connecticut are making a transition from existing standards to the

mandated standards of the Common Core. An important clarification is that the Core is not a curriculum. The Core is a set of grade level standards that must be imbedded in a school's curriculum. Should you like additional information, please take a look at the National PTA website (pta.org) where a convenient summary exists for parents, or, check the Common Core website (corestandards.org) where you will find way more information than you will probably need.

The Kids Love It! There's nothing like the excitement in the Vinton gym when the apparatus known as the trestle tree arrives for its five week visit. If you have never watched the trestle tree equipment "grow" during the instructional unit in physical education, please feel free to peek in the gym, ask your child about what's going on, or stop in to speak with Mr. Kronisch. You may even want to join in!

Attention Grade 4 Parents: Want something "cool" to do that when you look back over time you'll be glad you did? Well, on January 23 from 9:45-11:15am all grade four students from all three Mansfield elementary schools will be at the UConn Ice Rink for a fun-filled field trip. This is the 33rd (yup ... 30 plus 3!) year in a row this event has taken place and you are invited. You may join your child on the ice or watch from the bleachers, but either way you'll have a great time. For more information, just give us a call.

As always, don't hesitate: Please call me at (860) 423-3086, ext. 208 or email me at palmerje@mansfieldct.org should you have a question or concern. As always, thanks for your support and have a wonderful new year.

Contents

Principal's News	1
Winter Gear	2
Let's Talk Math!	2
Winter Themed Books	3
Outstanding Owls	3
Winter Concert	4
Kindergarten Registration	4
Invention Convention	4

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Celebrate Vinton Assembly on January 17th
- ◆ Fourth Graders Ice Skating Field Trip January 23rd
- ◆ Invention Convention/ Science Fair on February 28th

Winter is Here! Wear Your Winter Gear!



It's snowing! What fun we can have at recess time in the snow! Uh-oh! We can't go outside and play in the snow because we didn't bring our winter clothing to school! *Humbug!*

As often as the weather permits, we send students outside to run and play during recess time all through-out the winter. So it is

important that students are dressed appropriately for winter weather.

This includes a winter coat, gloves or mittens, hats, boots, and snow pants. Any student without snow pants must refrain from playing in the field. Let's not miss out



Friends from Ms. Rudge's kindergarten class are dressed head to toe in winter gear and ready for some fun in the

on another fun day of playing in the snow!

Frogs in Space? A Deca-what? Let's Talk Math!

What's happening during math time? Let's take a look!

In Kindergarten, students are putting on their imagination hats as they receive messages from their "frogonaut" who is preparing for a space voyage. The kindergarteners need to use geometry to help their frogonaut complete his space mission.

The penguins are here! Well, almost. In February, grade one students will begin their thematic unit on measurement by learning the weight and height of penguins.

Meanwhile second graders are wrapping up their lessons on measurements and are continuing to work on strategies for addition and subtraction.

If your third grader starts talking about polygons, and decagons, that's because they are discussing geometric terms and language as they learn to

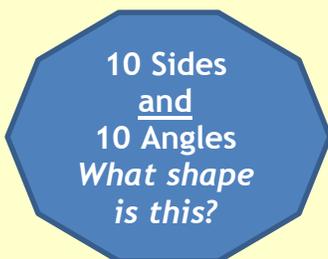
identify two dimensional shapes based upon the shape's characteristics, such as examining the angles, symmetry, and congruent sides of each shape.

If your fourth grader is keeping empty egg cartons in his/her bedroom, it's probably not because he/she trying to scramble an egg. Egg cartons, along with rulers and clocks, are the models that help students learn about fractions and division. With each of these models representing the number 12, students compare different kinds of fractions by seeing what is greater than or lesser than in terms of the number 12.

Parents, you can help reinforce these math lessons by talking with your children about how they can be applied at home too!



Mr. Toomey with his kindergarten class's Frogonaut.



It's Cold Outside! Why not curl up with a Great Book!

Brrrr! It's cold outside! Winter has finally arrived with freezing cold air and plenty of snow to keep our snowboarders and skiers happy! If you would prefer to enjoy some indoor fun snuggled up by a warm fire, why not try some of these great books suggested by Mrs. Parda from the school library?

◆ *Fireside stories: Tales for a Winter's Eve* by Caitlin Matthews

◆ *Snow play: How to Make Forts and Slides and Winter Campfires Plus the*

Coollest Loch Ness Monster and 23 Other Brilliant Projects in the Snow by Birgitta Ralston.

◆ *A Snowflake Fell: Poems About Winter* compiled by Laura Whipple



◆ *Dangerous Crossing: the Revolutionary Voyage of John and John Quincy Adams* by Stephen Krensky.

◆ *Red Sled* by Patricia Thomas.

◆ *Great Joy* by Kate DiCamillo.

These are just some of the great books that can be found in the school library. You can look up more books about winter right from your own home by visiting the school's website

www.mansfieldct.gov/content/11150/11154/13601/default.aspx and clicking on the Library Catalogs link. Have fun exploring all the treasures our library offers!



Reading is the key to unlocking the imagination!



Look who was driving bus 8 on December 21st!

Surprise!

Outstanding Owls for January and February

Our Outstanding Owls character trait for January will be **Fairness** and in February we will focus on **Caring**.

Each month at Celebrate Vinton assemblies we acknowledge those students who have demonstrated that month's character trait.

A short video featuring students and our school owls, Ozzie and Oceana, is shown each month as a fun way to emphasize each character trait.

Be on the look-out at home as well to see your child demonstrating acts of fairness and caring! ☺

Vinton's

Golden Rule

Treat others the way you want to be treated!



Annie E. Vinton
Elementary
306 Stafford Rd
Mansfield Center, CT
06250

Phone:
(860) 423-3086

Fax:
(860) 456-4694

We're on the Web!
mansfieldct.gov/vinton

Winter Concert Hits All the Right Notes!

The Vinton Winter Concert was held on December 5th. The third grade students began the concert playing their recorders with a variety of seasonal music including *Jingle Bells* in two parts.

The Junior Choir, made up of 45 first and second grade students performed *Shine, Little Light; Hurry, Little Pony; Shepherds Came to Bethlehem* while accompanied on tone chimes by



fourth grade choir students, and *Listen to the Jingles* with 3rd grader, Amy Wei, on violin.

The Vinton Singers, made up of 36 third and fourth grade students, sang *Celebrating Hanukkah*, a jazzy tune called *Reindeer Boogie* and *Winter Sleigh Ride* in a challenging three parts. The concert concluded with the combined choirs singing *Light the Candles*.



Thanh Nguyen, Mansfield Middle School Principal (far left), Dr. Palmer (center), and the group of Chinese school officials who toured Vinton School in November. Mr. Nguyen served as host for the delegation as they visited the middle school and then toured Vinton School.

Kindergarten Registration for 2013-2014 School Year!

We have begun the registration process for children to enroll in kindergarten next year. If you know of any children in your neighborhood who may be eligible to enroll, please let those families know that they should contact the school office at (860) 423-3086.

Thanks for your help!

Invention Convention Coming Soon!

Calling all scientists and inventors! For those children who have a curiosity for how things work, we offer the Invention Convention and Science Fair on February 28th. Any student who wishes to participate will need to sign up with Ms. Barrow, our Enrichment Teacher.

At December's Celebrate Vinton assembly, Ms. Barrow announced to all students that she had books with ideas for inventions available.

Children just need to ask their classroom teacher for a copy.

If any parent has questions about the Invention Convention/Science Fair, please contact Ms. Barrow at lynda.barrow@mansfieldct.org.

Some of our students will earn the opportunity to participate in the statewide Invention Convention so don't delay in getting to work on your inventions!

