

Fawn Hollow School Scoop

November 2010

Fawn Hollow Elementary School, 345 Fan Hill Road, Monroe, CT 06468

Upcoming Important Dates

November 9—STEM Presentation, Masuk High School, 7:30 p.m.

November 11— Veteran's Day—
No School

November 16—Dan Greenburg Visit

November 19—Turkey Trot, 10:00 a.m., and Monroe food pantry collection

November 23—Elementary Report Cards

November 24—25 Thanksgiving Recess—No School

November 30, December 1, 2
Elementary Conferences

Early Dismissal

Grade 1 – 4 8:55 am to 1:00pm
AM Kindergarten 8:55 to 10:55 am
PM Kindergarten 11:00 to 1:00 pm

December 11—Holiday Breakfast

December 23—Early Dismissal
Grade 1 – 4 8:55 am to 1:30 pm
AM Kindergarten 8:55 to 11:10 am
PM Kindergarten 11:15 to 1:30 pm

December 24-31— Winter Recess

Happy New Year!

January 3—School Resumes

The mission of Fawn Hollow School is to provide diverse opportunities for students to achieve their personal best, become responsible and productive citizens, and embrace lifelong learning in a safe and nurturing environment. At Fawn Hollow we recognize students for their unique intellectual, physical, social, and emotional abilities and we cultivate those through a rich and varied educational experience.

Principally Speaking



I have the best job in the whole entire world! Every day I have the privilege and honor of working with your children. Each is unique and special in the way they approach opportunities for learning and the way they interact with their world. Their individuality creates avenues of learning for me as well. For this I am very thankful!

I find it incredible that in two weeks we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. The first third of our school year has quickly passed, but with much to celebrate. As you read through this issue of **School Scoop** you will learn more about what has transpired and what is ahead for family members of Fawn Hollow. I encourage all of our fifth grade parents to attend the STEM Program presentation at Masuk High School on November 9th. This is an exciting venture for our district and you will want to be informed in order to help your child make the choice that is right for them.

As we enter the holiday season, please keep in mind that stress and lack of sleep changes the way we learn. More about this fact is outlined in Brain Rules by John Medina, a fascinating read. Planning family time for reading and quiet activities in between the special gatherings with family and friends will help to maintain balance. Savor every moment and have a wonderful Thanksgiving. *Mrs. Rebecca Kosisko, Principal*

Parent Teacher Conferences

School-wide conferences are scheduled on the evenings of Tuesday, November 30, and Thursday, December 2, as well as the afternoon of December 1. Our children have been working hard to do their personal best in all areas of school life. Everyday they are practicing their life skills while reading, writing, computing and problem solving. We look forward to sharing their progress with you during our upcoming Parent/Teacher conferences.

To help you get the most out of your conference please do the following:

- * Be open, honest and sincere.
- * Come prepared to share things that are going well for your child as well as any concerns you may have.
- * Ask questions if you don't understand something.
- * After the conference keep the lines of communication open, follow-up on suggestions made and schedule another conference if necessary.

Children will receive a report card (a conference form for Kindergarten students) on Tuesday, November 23. Included with reports of grades 1—4 are descriptions of the standards as well as a histogram indicating progress across the district. It is important to keep in mind that every student is unique when reviewing your child's progress. Some master the outcomes quickly while others need more practice and opportunity for learning. When reviewing the report with your child it is important for you to point out what you are proud of as well as make sure your child understands what areas he/she needs to improve upon. Setting realistic goals with children now can help keep them focused. Your support can make a big difference in your child's success at school.

Family Literacy

Becoming literate is one of the most important journeys that your child will ever take, and you are the person who shares most of this journey with your child. You can start him on the right course by providing language, reading, and writing experiences from the earliest years of life all the way through high school and beyond.

International Reading Association



Parents often ask what can I do to help my child become a better reader. Perhaps the following information from the International Reading Association will provide some new ideas on how you can participate in your child's literacy journey.

- * Continue to know what your child is learning in school, and provide experiences that show how reading and writing play an important part in everyday life.
- * Create opportunities in your home in which you are reading, writing, and learning together as a family. Read school newsletters and let your child's teacher know that you are interested in his progress.
- * Take family trips to the library or search the Internet together for more information about what your child is learning in school. As he becomes a reader, help your child find interesting books on his reading level. Make trips to the library and bookstores a special time, and get books for yourself. Research tells us that children who see their parents read learn to read more successfully.
- * Provide many opportunities for children to read during everyday activities. Let your child help cook by reading recipes and make crafts using directions. Read the newspaper together to find sales, to see how your favorite sports team did, or to enjoy the comics. Read about where you are going on vacation before you visit. Leave your child notes and send him cards.

Writing also needs to be part of family literacy activities during your child's elementary years. Write books and letters together. Keep a memory book for each school year with pictures and your child's writing about the experiences. Show his writing in the home. Encourage your child to keep a journal. Give him writing materials and books as gifts.

Drop-off Procedures

Please remember that parent drop off is at the side door between 8:40 to 8:55 a.m. The side doors will be closed promptly at 8:55 since our teachers need to proceed to their classrooms to supervise children and start the day. If you have not dropped off prior to 8:55 a.m., please proceed to the front as the buses should have departed. Students arriving after 8:55 a.m. need to report to the office for a slip and will be marked tardy.

Parents dropping off children should enter the parking lot from the Chalk Hill entrance road and join the line of cars proceeding single file to the side door. It is not safe for children to exit cars from a different point in the parking lot and walk unescorted to the door.

Children may exit the car at any point along the sidewalk and walk safely to the side door. It would be helpful if they were

ready to exit the car when arriving to the sidewalk area. Please do not park cars at the side entrance in order to walk your child into the building. This delays the drop-off process. There is ample parking in the lot.

If everyone follows this procedure, the process will move quickly and all children will be safe. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



PTO NEWS

Upcoming Events

PTO Meeting

The next PTO meeting will be held on December 9. We will begin at 7:00; refreshments will be served. All are welcome! Please try to attend so that you can help in the decision making that affects your children every day! We always welcome new ideas!

Holiday Giving Tree

Fawn Hollow will continue in the tradition of participating in the town-wide Season of Giving Program again this year. Gift tags will be attached to the Holiday Tree in the front lobby of Fawn Hollow and the hallway near the Gym. We ask that adults take the tag. The tags will be on the trees and ready to be taken on November 15. The deadline to return the gifts is December 8th. Your generosity means so much to those who are struggling.

Author Visit—November 16

We are excited to announce that author Dan Greenburg, the creator of the *Zack Files*, *Secrets of Dripping Fang*, *Maximum Boy*, and *Weird Planet* will be visiting our school to talk with the students in grades three through five, on November 16. Information about purchasing his books will be out soon.

Holiday Breakfast/Store

Enjoy your family, friends, a great breakfast, fun music and lots more, at the Holiday Breakfast on Saturday, December 11. After the all-you-can-eat breakfast, you can head over to the lobby to shop for those one-of-a-kind gifts that you need. Mark your calendar. A flyer will be coming home soon!

School Store

The school store is open the first Thursday of every month. Students can shop during recess to check out some old and new favorites and purchase all those needed supplies! Items range in price from \$.25 - \$5.00.

Thank You to...

...Gloris and Mike Ganino for organizing and to all who helped out with "Trick or Trunk"! It was a huge success and all had fun!

...Jen Aguilar/ Alyssa Scalia for chairing the Innisbrook Fundraiser! An even bigger Thank You goes to everyone who sold and purchased items.

... all those giving to the "Un-Fundraiser"! It's a huge success and we will continue it through next year.

... Kelly Plunkett for helping with the Penny War. We donated \$1200 to Project Warmth!

...Alicia Procino for organizing Picture Day!

... Michelle Correll for getting the boxtops out! A new contest will be coming soon!

Fall Book Fair



Come find the perfect gift for your child, teacher, friend, bus driver, etc. The Scholastic Book Fair will take place in the Fawn Hollow library on November 30, December 1st and 2nd. The preview days are November 23 and 24. Sales will begin on November 29. The fair will be open during conferences to make it more convenient for you to shop.

Be On the Lookout...

We are happy to announce that the Fawn Hollow PTO Handbook is being printed and will be distributed to all families by Friday, November 12th! If you do not receive yours by Tuesday, November 16th, please contact Debbie Klittnick (dklittnick@charter.net) or Tia Cavone (tiatwins2@msn.com). We thank you very much for your patience in waiting to receive your Directory and most importantly, thank you for supporting the PTO!

Fawn Hollow Turkey Trot & Spirit Day—November 19

Get ready to dust off those running shoes for the Annual Fawn Hollow Turkey Trot! It is one of the most loved traditions here at Fawn Hollow. Be sure to wear your Fawn Hollow apparel for a day filled with exercise, school spirit and fun! We're also providing an opportunity for our families to make a donation to the Monroe Food Pantry. Boxes for the various items will be placed in the foyer on the 19th. The pantry is in need of the items listed below. Thanks for sharing what you have with those in need this holiday!

Cranberries	Beefaroni	Dry Milk	Ketchup	Corned Beef Hash
Stuffing	Spaghetti's	Evaporated Milk	Mayonnaise	Baked Beans
Turkey Gravy (other varieties also needed)	Rice-a-Roni	Juice	Hot Chocolate	Bread Crumbs
Coffee	Rice Mixes	Cake Mixes	Canned Beans – all varieties	Cereal
Peanut Butter (crunchy)	Instant Rice	Pickles	Canned vegetables (no green beans and corn)	Canned Fruit
Vegetable Oil	Pasta Meals	Mac & Cheese	Spam	Toilet Paper
Soup (including dry)	Jelly	Salad Dressings		Paper Towels
	Sugar Free Jelly	Olives		Laundry Soap

Our PTO Presidents are Jen Aguilar and Daphne Marcinek. Please call the Fawn Hollow main office at 452-2923 if you would like to leave a message for them to contact you.

October in Review

The brilliance of the October sky and landscape is no match for the intensity of activity within the walls of Fawn Hollow. Over the course of the month students participated in a myriad of learning opportunities that provided them with ways to grow both socially and academically. Early in the month thirty-nine second graders, eleven third graders, twenty-four fourth graders and thirty-seven fifth graders participated in the Noetic Learning 2010 Fall Math Contest. The top 10% of students in the U.S. will receive a medal and a certificate and the top 50% will receive a certificate. We are hopeful that some of our Fawn Hollow students will receive some of those honors. Results will be available soon!

October 20 was a day filled with hands-on, minds-on, inquiry-based learning as Fawn Hollow 5th grade students participated in STEM Day. The children focused on how meteors and asteroids affect the surface of the moon. Working collaboratively, the students completed an investigative plan to test a measurable hypothesis. This incorporated science and math skills, as well as language arts. Later in the day, the children presented their findings to other design teams by sharing their data with charts and graphs. In language arts, the children were introduced to a book on the moon and worked with their cooperative group to infer the events of the story in proper sequence. Overall, it was a great success! Pictures of this special day are posted on our website.

The **Kindergartners** at Fawn Hollow had a busy start! They jumped into science with an introductory unit on the five senses that culminated in an apple tasting experiment. Mrs. Binck's class graphed that they liked red apples best and Mrs. Haughton's class graphed that they liked yellow apples best! We are certainly all different in how we understand the world. The Fall Walk around school property gave students the opportunity to observe signs of the autumn season and record their findings. They made leaf rubbings and pictures of their discoveries. WYNN time has been established in kindergarten classrooms with assistance of the Reading Department and our paraprofessionals. Students are thrilled to be "reading". The Computer Lab lessons have been designed to supplement reading growth through technology geared toward each students' individual level. October will finish up with a Halloween parade and lots of fun!

The **Monroe Volunteer Fire Department** gave an excellent presentation on fire prevention and safety to kindergarten and first grade students. They learned how important it is to have a family meeting place outside their home and, of course, were able to stand on the fire truck! Fire fighters Lt. James M. Eastwood & Monroe Fire Chief Bill Davin were joined by Fawn Hollow fire fighting parents Philip Hayes and Kevin Catalano and several junior firefighters at the morning and afternoon presentations.

First grade students have been working on Sunshine and Shadows in science. They performed an experiment to see how shadows move throughout the day. The children went outside in the morning to trace their shadows and then went out again in the

afternoon to see how the shadows changed places. First grade also enjoyed a field trip to New Pond Farm last week. The children learned about various farm animals including cows, sheep and chickens. Upon their return to school they wrote about what they learned and in the words of one student, "I learned that cows have 4 bellies. They make 12 gallons of milk in one day." They also had the opportunity to process a piece of sheep's wool by washing it, combing it and spinning it into a bracelet.

Second Grade is having an exciting month! Students recently took a trip to the Native American Institute in Washington, CT to learn more about early communities and how the Native Americans used their environment, such as plants and animals, to survive. In math students are working on measurement and geometry. For example they learned how to correctly choose measuring tools and units of measurement to measure objects of different lengths, widths, and heights. They are also starting to explore more about shapes and angles as well. In science students have studied the food groups and why it is so important to eat healthy. They are now building on that idea and are learning how to keep their body healthy by preventing the spread of germs. The teachers are reading with each student to find their "just right level" for guided reading groups. It's been busy in Grade 2, and we are very proud of everyone's hard work.

In support of our science curriculum, the **third grade** classes went to the Garbage Museum and Recycling Center in Stratford. It was very educational and interesting for all involved. The students also enjoyed their visit to the Monroe Schoolhouse. The field trip was taken in support of our third grade Connecticut unit. We thank former Board of Education member and third grade teacher, Mrs. Nancy Zorena, for being the old schoolhouse teacher for the day.

Our **fourth graders** were fortunate enough to be able to culminate their studies of the Water Cycle by recently visiting the Kellogg Environmental Center in Derby. They participated in several workshops that reinforced the concepts and ideas that were discovered in a Science unit involving the Water Cycle. Through three interesting hands-on activities, the students saw firsthand how water moves through the Water Cycle, into the various watersheds, and the roles that they will have in protecting the health and safety of water.

School-wide, students were racing to fill five gallon water jugs with pennies, as the **Fawn Hollow PTO** sponsored its first charitable event for this year. The \$1200 proceeds from this competitive Penny Drive will be donated to Project Warmth in Monroe. On October 23 nearly 200 family members participated in Trick or Trunk. First Selectman Steve Vavrek was on hand to judge the creative trunk entries as children moved from car to car trick-or-treating. During the event winter coats were collected to be donated to a local charity. Earlier in the week students in grades 2 through 5 were intrigued as they learned how math is interwoven into all we do during an Imagination Assembly brought to us by our PTO. We're looking forward to November and many more new learning experiences for all at Fawn Hollow!