

# Botelle Elementary School

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Newsletter

November

### November Accomplishments

- Students conquered the first two math tests of the year! I'm so proud of the effort they put into showing the math skills they learned during the first marking period and acknowledging their successes and weaknesses on the test rubrics.
- Socktober was a huge success! We collected a total of 1,036 pairs of socks and decided to donate them to Salisbury Family Services and FISH in Torrington. Though I presented the citizenship project, students were the driving force by contacting local businesses and asking them to get involved, making posters, flyers and donation boxes, speaking to the other classes, voting for the donation sites and writing thank you notes for all involved.



- In continuation of the Region 7 commitment to teach Social Emotional Learning, or SEL, we've conducted weekly Charter Check-Ins throughout the month of November. Each week, we work on holding ourselves and each other accountable for the emotions we want to feel each day when we come to school that we brainstormed the first week of school. During morning meetings on Friday, we write down and share one emotion we've felt during the week and what made us feel that way.

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### On the Horizon

**Math:** Our third math unit covers multiplication of two fractions and division of a whole number by a fraction and a fraction by a whole number.

**Social Studies:** Students are scheduled to return to social studies class beginning on December 13. Students will learn what life was like in Britain's thirteen colonies. We'll explore small New England towns, cities, southern plantations and slave life and we'll finish with life on the frontier. This unit will include a long-term take home project on colonial trades.

**Reading:** Our second unit of study has just begun on characters' depth. Throughout this unit, we will be collecting literal and inferential text evidence to identify the complex traits of characters, analyzing motivations, pressures and relationships and determining how setting, time and mood affects characters. In addition to practicing these skills within their independent reading books, we'll explore it together through the character of Katniss Everdeen of *The Hunger Games*.

### Important Dates

- 12/1:** Picture retakes
- 12/10:** PJ Day for Connecticut Children's Medical Center
- 12/14 & 12/21:** Hour of Code
- 12/21 - 12/23:** Holiday Fair
- 12/22:** Good News Gathering
- 12/23:** Holiday party - more info to come!  
Early dismissal (1 PM)
- 12/24 - 1/2:** No school (Christmas Break)

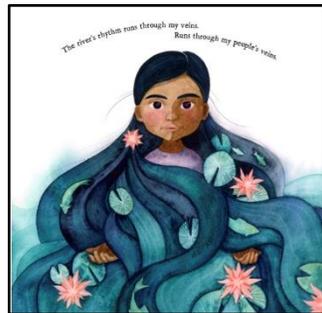
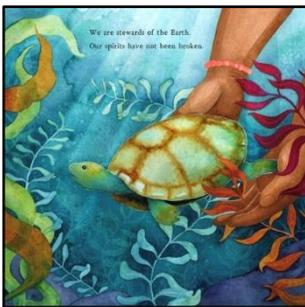
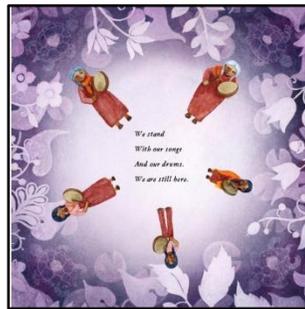
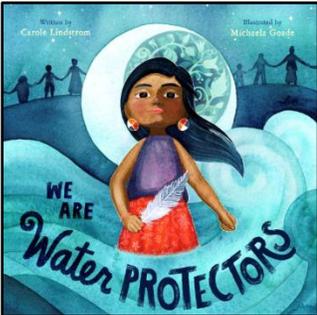


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### Artwork from *We Are Water Protectors*



### November Accomplishments Cont.

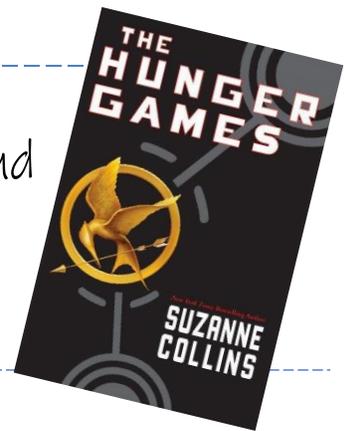
- *We Are Water Protectors* was the November One Book, One School selection as part of Native American Heritage Month. *We Are Water Protectors* is written by Carole Lindstrom and illustrated by Michaela Goade, the first Indigenous person to be awarded the Caldecott Medal, one of the highest honors in children's literature.

As students listened to the book, they filled out a graphic organizer with an observation, connection, question and/or surprise to help drive our discussion. During which students recognized the symbolism of the black snake and its venom, the connection Native Americans have with nature, and the importance of taking care of the environment.

Sometimes we think about Native Americans historically, but this book shows us how Native Americans today are still defending their land - for the good of all. This idea was discussed by the class in more depth after reading the Scholastic News article titled *Taking a Stand*, in which members of the Standing Rock Sioux tribe of North Dakota protested the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2016.

### Current Read Aloud

*The Hunger Games*  
by Suzanne Collins



### Supporting Your Child at Home

- ▶ Have your child teach you how they are completing their math homework to reinforce skills