

Botelle Elementary School

5th Grade Newsletter

September

September Accomplishments

- Over the course of the month we were able to take our beginning of the year assessments. These include STAR Reading and Math, Dibles Math, and the Words Their Way Spelling Inventory. These assessments are often taken three times throughout the course of the year to track student growth and find areas of weakness to support.

- In 2018 Region 7 made a commitment to begin directly teaching Social Emotional Learning, or SEL. The goals of Social Emotional Learning are to teach children to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. One step we take to achieve these goals is creating a Classroom Charter. The charter is an agreement that students and staff make about how they want to feel when they come to school and the actions we can take to ensure those feelings. To see this year's 5th and 6th Grade Classroom Charter that we made, check out the SOAR and RULER link on my website.

- During the first week of school, we learned about citizenship and how it can be applied in our everyday lives. We learned that part of citizenship is being engaged and considering the needs of others in the community, whether in big or small ways. As a result, we are excited to run our annual Socktober, a sock drive to help the homeless in the surrounding community during the upcoming New England winter. Students worked to make Socktober possible by creating flyers, posters and sock donation boxes, as well as reaching out to local businesses for a place to put the sock boxes. At the end of October, we'll count the socks and decide where to donate them. Our practice of citizenship will continue throughout the year as we look for ways to improve the lives of those at Botelle, Norfolk, and the surrounding communities.

On the Horizon

Math: This week begins a transition in our math units. There is a third and final section to our first math unit on measuring volume that I will be working to complete with students in small groups during our What I Need time in the final 30 minutes of math. This section involves decomposing irregular shapes into rectangular prisms and then recomposing them to solve for the total volume, and I feel this can be better accomplished in small groups.

During our whole class math time, we'll transition to our second unit, which begins our exploration of fractions. We'll solve problems involving division of whole numbers with answers that are fractions (which could be in the form of mixed numbers). This leads to an understanding of fractions as the division of the numerator by the denominator ($a \div b = a/b$). Then we'll solve problems that involve the multiplication of a whole number by a fraction or mixed number.

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Important Dates

- 10/1:** First day of Socktober!
- 10/7:** Half-day, 12 PM dismissal with bag lunch available (Teacher In-Service)
- 10/7:** Charter signing party
- 10/8:** No school (Teacher In-Service)
- 10/11:** No school (Columbus Day)
- 10/13:** Picture Day
- 10/13:** PTO Cultural Event (2 PM)
- 10/15:** NVFD Fire Truck and Smoke House
- 10/29:** Botelle Spooktacular (5:30 PM)
- 10/31:** Final day of Socktober

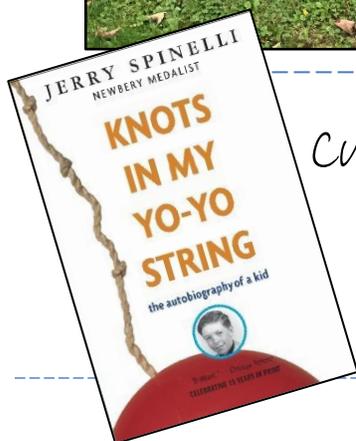


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Socktober is here!



Current Read Aloud

Knots in my Yo-Yo String
by Jerry Spinelli

On the Horizon Cont.

Science: Our first switch to Mrs. Asselin's science class is scheduled for October 25 and will continue through December 10. Students will explore matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems.

Social Studies: After completing their research on the lost colony of Roanoke and creating an infographic to present their theories, students will learn about the Jamestown colony and Plymouth colony.

Reading: As we progress in growing our reading lives, our focus will be expanding on our thinking by writing about our reading.

Writing: Our memoirs are growing! As we continue through the unit, we will learn about the different aspects of narrative writing to add, such as dialogue between characters and the many forms of figurative language we can use as special effects in our writing.

Our current read aloud is helping us examine a published memoir and how we may apply some of those elements into our own memoir.

SEL: Our Classroom Charter is ready to be signed by students! Mrs. Asselin and I will host a small charter signing party with a few treats before students come home early on Thursday.

Supporting Your Child at Home

- ▶ Help your child get into the habit of checking their agenda each night for homework