



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A. Ward Spaulding School

April 2015

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945 Mountain Road | West Suffield, CT 06093 | 860-668-3826 | <http://www.suffield.org>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Autism Awareness Day

Thursday, April 2nd
Wear blue!

No School

Friday, April 3rd
Good Friday

BOE Meeting

Tuesday, April 7th
6:30 p.m.

Ag Expo

Wednesday, April 8th

9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 9th

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Suffield High School Ag Wing

Sped PAC

Wednesday, April 8th

6:30 p.m.

Suffield High Media Center

Family Game Night

Friday, April 10th

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

McAlister Intermediate
School

No School

Monday, April 13th -

Friday, April 17th

Spring Vacation

BOE Meeting

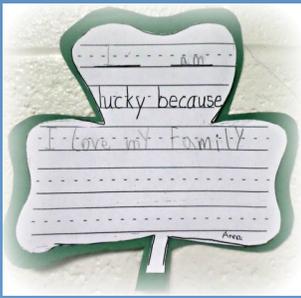
Tuesday, April 21st

6:30 p.m.

Star Assembly

Thursday, April 23rd

Wear School T-Shirt



"In books I have traveled, not only to other worlds, but into my own."

- Anna Quindlen



A Message From The Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Happy Spring! I hope that as you read this newsletter, the sun has made a daily appearance, with flowers and outdoor play abound!

The partnership that we continue to share with you is valued. Our parent-teacher conferences held last month provided you and our teachers with the opportunity to celebrate and discuss student performance. We hope that you enjoyed the conversation. Please feel free to reach out to teachers directly when you have questions or concerns about the academic, social, emotional, or behavioral development of your children. Only when we communicate, do students truly shine as Spaulding Stars. A portion of their success is dependent on that continued dialogue and support.

We thank our dedicated and generous PTO for organizing and facilitating our yearly Spaulding Tradition events. Our preschool students enjoyed their time at Bounce Town and our kindergarten friends had fun bowling at Bradley Bowl. We implemented a new Spaulding Tradition for our first grade students, PJ and Movie Night. Everyone enjoyed the movie *Mr. Peabody and Sherman* while they ate popcorn in their comfortable PJs! And our second

grade friends had fun at Pizza Bingo Night. All of these successful events were made possible due to the efforts of our PTO. Thank you.

Our teachers have been collaborating on a mathematics pilot in their classrooms. Our updated and aligned curriculum is further enhanced by the pilot of these new resources, and teachers are engaged and excited about the meaningful instruction and assessment in which your children participate. If you have any questions relative to the math pilot, please contact the respective teacher. Our staff is also engaged in the student placement process for the next school year. For those of you who completed and submitted the optional information sheet relative to this important process, we thank you. This process is an inclusive one, and your feedback is appreciated.

Our young Spaulding Stars continue to shine with respect, responsibility, and kindness. They continue to exhibit expected behaviors that impact our school culture and we remain proud of their efforts.



Scott P. Dunn



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Virtual Backpack

<http://www.suffield.org/sesvb>



[2014-2015 District Calendar](#)

[2015 - 2016 District Calendar](#)

[School Lunch Menus](#)

[2014 - 2015 Special Services Tri-fold Flyer](#)

[2014-2015 Suffield Elementary PTO Information](#)

[Ag Expo - April 8th and 9th](#)

[Family Game Night Brain Challenge at MIS April 10th](#)

[Miss Amazing Pageant - April 18th Windsor Locks High School](#)

[NCCC - Parent and Sibling Support Groups](#)

[NCCC - Recreational Family Activity Group Calendar](#)

[School Lunch and Breakfast Payment Information](#)

[Suffield Parks and Recreation Spring Programs](#)

[WALK NOW Autism Speaks](#)



PTO Presidents Honored for Shining Service to Spaulding

Christine Phillips and Kendra Wiesel were honored at the Connecticut Association of Schools Recognition Banquet on Wednesday, March 4th at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington. Principals Scott P. Dunn and Karen Carpenter-Snow nominated Ms. Phillips and Mrs. Wiesel for their lasting contributions to both A. Ward Spaulding and McAlister Intermediate Schools as the co-presidents of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Their dynamic leadership, inclusive manner, and never-ending energy are acknowledged and appreciated. They impact our schools in meaningful ways.



Fun at Kindergarten Bowling Event

Our annual Kindergarten Bowling Tradition was enjoyed by the many who came to Bradley Bowl on Saturday, February 28th. Families enjoyed bowling and being together for this school event. We thank Jeff Kew and Kendra Wiesel for organizing the engaging event.



Save the Date: Field Day 2015!

Preschool:

June 8th (rain date: June 11th)



Kindergarten-Grade 2:

June 9th (rain date: June 10th)



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Spaulding Principal Conversations

An opportunity for parents to :

- Meet with Principal Scott P. Dunn
- Hear about the latest school and district initiatives
- Learn about the school's progress on the climate goal work
- Discuss important events
- Solidify the home-school connection that is so important to the success of our students.

*Please join us for
our next
meeting:*

**Tues., May 12th
5:30 p.m. -
6:30 p.m.**

**Spaulding
Library Media
Center**

SFES Supports the Spaulding Community

Last summer the A. Ward Spaulding School Library underwent extensive renovations to update its physical space, text collection, and technology in an effort to impact and enhance student learning. These changes included new carpeting, bookshelves, and a new layout to promote learning spaces that accommodate various learning styles. The purchasing of over \$15,000 worth of new texts allowed for a more diverse collection both in topic and text complexity. The library also infused new technology including iPads, Chromebooks, televisions to project lessons, and a SMART board to help students become 21st century learners. Perhaps the most noticeable change was the addition of murals depicting many famous literary characters to the walls of the library. These murals were designed and painted by artist Sherrie Fitzpatrick, who worked tirelessly throughout the summer to craft this warm and inviting space. Her artwork has allowed students to connect with characters and identify new ones to read about with excitement and engagement.

In addition to these changes, a new reading nook was created out of office space. This space was funded in part by the Suffield Foundation for Excellent Schools (SFES) and has become a main focal point for students. The reading nook was designed to encourage independent reading in a natural and comfortable environment, as well as for projects, partner work, and research. Thanks to the generous contributions of SFES, the nook space was painted by Mrs. Fitzpatrick with a navy blue background and soft, silver trees that create a calm and relaxing environment. There are trees that arch over the nook, inviting students into the cozy room and matching décor to enhance the space. With the support of the SFES, students at Spaulding School can now use this alluring space to enhance their learning experience. The SFES mission is to provide support for innovative and exceptional education programs and opportunities beyond the tax-supported budget for the benefit of Suffield students. We thank SFES and Sherrie Fitzpatrick for their contributions and impact.



Thank You

Thank you to our parents and guardians for their partnership at Parent Teacher Conferences last month. Only by collaborating together in a consistent manner do we impact students and their education in meaningful and productive ways.



Providing Positive Reinforcement at Spaulding

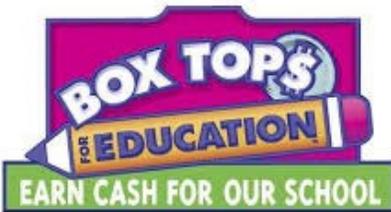


At Spaulding, two grades are currently piloting a consistent reinforcement system that supplements the Spaulding Stars program. This reinforcement system provides high frequency praise for expected behaviors in the classroom. While the Star program celebrates exceptional examples of expected behaviors, a high frequency reinforcement system is used to reinforce and shape the everyday behaviors we expect from students. The classrooms in these grades are using pom-poms to reinforce specific behaviors so students are more successful throughout the day. Teachers may use pompoms to promote expected behaviors during transitions in their classroom or during instructional

groups. Individual classes are working together to collect a given amount of pom-poms to exchange for a group reward. Some class rewards have included pajama day, a dance party, and dress up day. This is a fun way for students to celebrate their success together. Reinforcing expected behaviors helps to solidify the behaviors that are essential for academic, social, and emotional growth.



Box Tops for Education



Box Tops for Education is one of America's largest school earnings loyalty programs in which over 80,000 K-8 schools participate in the United States. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for the school, and can be redeemed to purchase items that support students and their learning. A. Ward Spaulding and McAlister Intermediate Schools collected over 10,000 box tops. At Spaulding, the Kindergarten students collected the most Box Tops and earned a popsicle party for their efforts!

Wilma's Scoop Du Jour Continues Shining Partnership

For the second consecutive year, Wilma's Scoop du jour continues to partner with Spaulding School in celebrating our Spaulding Stars program. They will offer one free baby cone of ice cream to the Spaulding students who bring their earned stars to the store located at 122 Mountain Road in Suffield. We continue to be grateful for the kindness that Mona Mastalisz and her staff exhibit to our students who display the expected behaviors of respect, responsibility, and kindness at Spaulding and to other members of the local community who support this program that impacts student achievement and well-being.





Mrs. Baranauskas's Math Minute

Mathematics is all around us! The following activities represent just a sampling of the many everyday situations that involve mathematics and ways that you can nurture your child's mathematical development through these activities (Parentheses indicate appropriate grade levels).

- **Count, count and count!** Young children love to count and will count everything and anything. Encourage your child to count out loud the number of blocks she has, steps climbed, or crackers on her plate. (PreK-1)
- **Count by grouping.** Count large quantities like your coin jar making groups of 10. Discuss with your child why grouping quantities makes it easier to count. (1-2)
- **Numbers are all around us!** Look for numbers in the environment (e.g. addresses, license plates, exits) and talk about what they mean and how they are used. Sometimes numbers don't represent quantity! Ask children to identify numbers within the environment (K up to 20, 1st grade up to 120, 2nd grade up to 1,000)
- **Practice classifying** by separating toys into sets, such as cars, blocks or dolls. Ask questions related to size or quantity. Which car is the largest? Which is smallest? Do you have more dolls or blocks? Are there fewer blocks than cars? And don't forget to ask - *How do you know?* (PreK-K)
- **Identify 2-D and 3-D shapes** such as circles and spheres, squares and cubes. Talk about what is similar and different about these shapes. (K-1)
- **Let your child set the table.** Fold napkins as triangles one day and rectangles the next. Find the number of plates needed to serve everyone in your family. Determine the number of forks, knives and spoons. (K-1)
- **Let your child sort the laundry.** Before washing, have your child sort the piles by colors or family members or pants or shirts. (K-1)
- **Practice counting and making change.** Ask your child to help you figure out how much change you have in your pocket. Let your child pick out the paper currency and change needed to purchase a small item such as a pack of gum. (2)
- **Play store** by selling items at a tag sale or lemonade stand. Make change. (2)
- **Use sharing** to reinforce concepts like fractions and division. All children are concerned with fair shares! How many cookies will each child get if two children need to share 6 cookies? What if one cookie is left over and two children want to share it? How can we cut the birthday cake so that we can feed 4 people? (2)



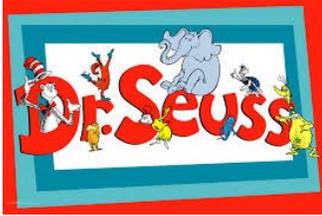
For more information about reinforcing mathematics in everyday life, see the following websites:

Math at Home: <https://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/mathhome.html>

Going Beyond the Classroom: <http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/resources/families>

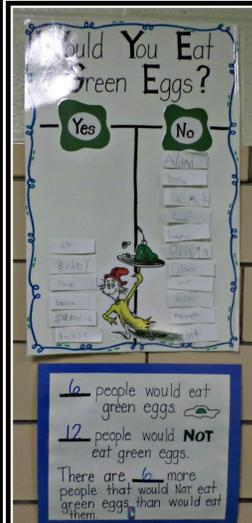
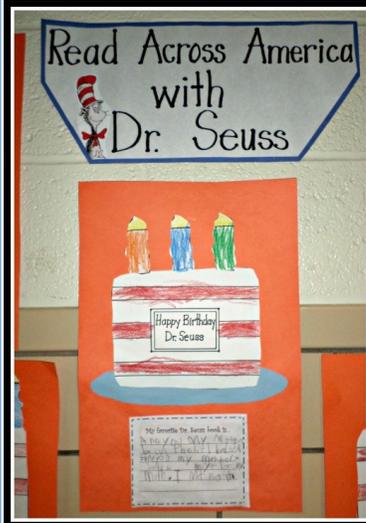
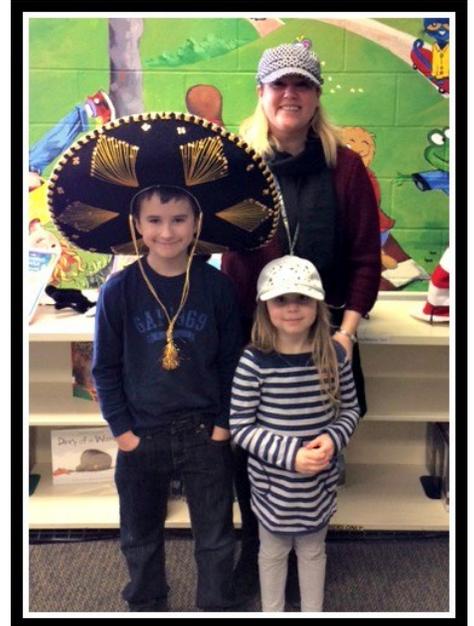


Library Media Center - Dr. Seuss Spirit Week



Spaulding School kicked off a week-long celebration honoring the life and work of Theodore Seuss Geisel, famously known as Dr. Seuss, on March 2, 2015. This date, which marked the 111th birthday of the beloved writer who authored and illustrated forty-four books, is also known as National Read Across America

Day. To honor some of Dr. Seuss' work, students and staff at Spaulding School participated in a spirit week, with each day correlating to one of Dr. Seuss' books including pajama day, hat day, and wacky Wednesday.



In the library, students learned about the life of Dr. Seuss and read some of his most popular books including *Oh, The Places You'll Go*, *If I Ran the Zoo*, and *The Sneetches* as well as watched the video

Green Eggs and Ham. They discussed the important messages found in Seuss' work and how important it is to be yourself. Students also learned that a recently discovered manuscript by Dr. Seuss, entitled *What Pet Should I Get*, complete with illustrations, will be released July 28, 2015. "Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You." - Dr. Seuss

Friendly Reminders

During these muddy days, please be sure to **pack an extra set of socks, pants, and underwear in your child's backpack**. Occasionally students get wet while playing outside. Thank you!

If your **child is going to be a pickup**, please **remember to send in a note** that morning with your child's name, teacher's name, date, and who will be picking up your child.

If your child purchases breakfast, lunch, or snacks at school, please access the site: www.myschoolbucks.com to help you keep track of your child's account. Through this site, parents are able to check account balances, monitor daily purchases, and receive email notification of low account balances. We appreciate your efforts in keeping your child's account current.



Thank you for our partnership in providing your children with a safe and productive learning experience at Spaulding. To that end, relative to **family drop-off in the morning**, automobiles should advance to the orange cones closest to the flagpole. This will ensure a smooth and efficient drop-off procedure for all. Children should be ready to exit the automobile (coats on and unbuckled). If a child exits the vehicle before the wrapping around of cars in the front of the school, cars should **remain in the car line** to exit the parking lot. Please **do not pull forward to exit** the parking lot. Thank you for your kind attention to this matter that ensures safety for all.