

Witty Wildcat

NEWSLETTER

October 2021



A joint PreK-5 elementary newsletter from A. Ward Spaulding School and McAlister Intermediate School.

<u>A. Ward Spaulding School</u>	<u>McAlister Intermediate School</u>
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Principal: Mrs. Gina Olearczyk Assistant Principal: Mr. Jack Ferraro	Principal: Mrs. Kris Pryce Assistant Principal: Mrs. Melissa Todd
<u>Spaulding School Website</u>	<u>McAlister School Website</u>

Welcome Fall!

As we transition into fall, we look forward to hearing about all the fun fall activities that students and families will participate in. We also know that fall weather can be a bit tricky. Please be sure to dress your child accordingly as we tend to see cool mornings and warm afternoons. We will continue to go outside for recess whenever possible. Students and staff are settling into routines and expectations as classroom communities are established. Please be sure to reach out to your child's teacher if you should have any questions and as always building administrators in both schools are always available as well. Enjoy all the natural beauty that New England provides during this short but wonderful season!



Suffield 350th Parade

A huge thank you to all of our students, families and staff members that participated in Suffield's 350th celebration and parade on October 8th. It was a wonderful day of honoring our special community and celebrating our long lasting legacy. Some photos are included below.



Custodian Appreciation

Thank you to all of our families and PTO that helped to recognize our Custodians on Custodian Appreciation Day. Our amazing custodians were truly humbled to be recognized by our staff and students. We appreciate everything they do on a daily basis.



School Spirit

Both AWS and MIS will be offering a week of School Spirit from 10/25-10/29. All are welcome to participate, but it is not required. Please see the flyer below.



DESSA (*Devereux Student Strengths Assessment*)

As we have done over the past several years, we will be using the DESSA assessment again this year to support the social emotional needs of our students. Please click [here](#) to read about an informational overview for families.

Conferences

Fall conferences will be held in person on November 9th-November 12th this year. The schedule will be as follows:

- Tuesday, November 9th full day of school with conferences from 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 10th full day of school with conferences from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 11th, early dismissal with conferences from 1:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 12th, early dismissal with conferences from 1:00-p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Please be on the lookout for an email on November 1st as Pick-A- Time will be opened for parents/guardians to sign up.

Best Bus

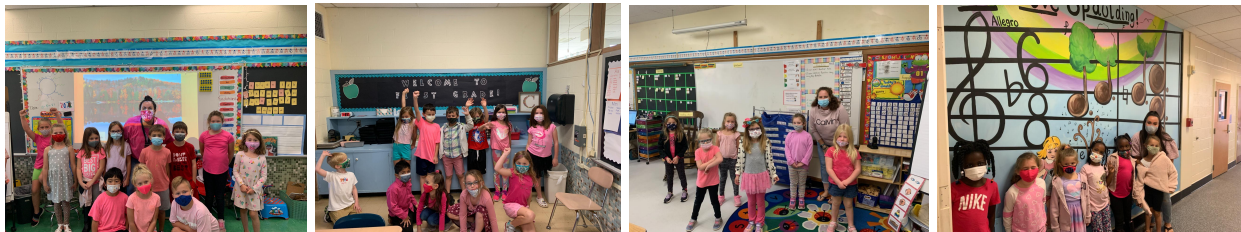
The Best Bus Program is off to a great start at both elementary schools. We are recognizing buses that are working together to follow bus behavior expectations. We are looking for words of encouragement and praise from our students, staff and most importantly our Bus Drivers. CONGRATULATIONS to our first Best Bus of the school year, **Bus 3**. We are excited to see which buses will be entered into the raffle each week and who future winners will be.



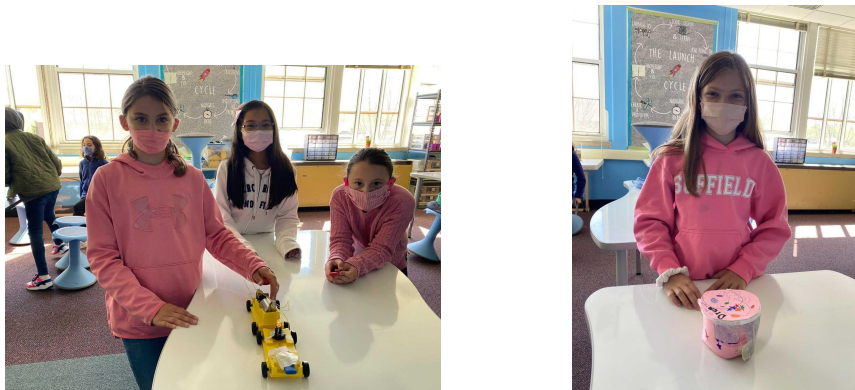
Go Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

Last week Spaulding and McAlister staff and students wore “**PINK**” to raise awareness and to support a cure for Breast Cancer. Following are some pictures and some exciting donation totals:

Spaulding raised **over \$500** between student and staff donations!



McAlister raised **over \$340** between students and staff donations!



Attendance

As we have reached the 30th day of school both Spaulding and McAlister communicated with all families where a student had three or more absences. All absences (excused and unexcused) are included in our reporting. We recognize that we continue to be in unique circumstances where students stay home if they present with symptoms potentially related to COVID-19. We continue to document reasons for all absences but are obligated to report absence numbers regardless of the reason. As per our BOE policy chronic absenteeism is defined as:

Chronically absent child: An enrolled student whose total number of absences at any time during a school year is equal to or greater than ten percent of the total number of days that such student has been enrolled at such school during such school year.

Absence: An excused absence, unexcused absence or disciplinary absence, as those terms are defined by the State Board of Education pursuant to C.G.S. 10-198b.

District chronic absenteeism rate: The total number of chronically absent children in the previous school year divided by the total number of children under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education for such school year.

PTO

Our PTO has partnered with Charleston Wrap for a fundraiser. Charleston Wrap has gift wrap, accessories, candles, household items and more! The site will be open until November 5th. Please use this link to shop: <https://registercw.com/UPh84BxD>.

Social Emotional Learning supports

Peace at Home Parenting Solutions is offering families in Suffield free access to pre-recorded and live parenting classes. Families can use the code SuffieldPeace for free access to these videos. Parents are able to search for courses based on their individual needs and the needs of their children. Information to log in and access free content is on the last page of the attached flier. [Peace At Home Flyer](#)

Upcoming Elementary Events:

October 25-29	Spirit Week
November 2:	Election Day/Professional Development - No School Students
November 9-12:	Parent -Teacher Conferences (Full day of school)
November 11:	Walk to School Event, Veterans Day; Early Dismissal (11:50 a.m. -- Conferences)
November 12:	Early Dismissal (11:50 a.m. -- Conferences)



McAlister News:

One Book One School

We are thrilled to have celebrated our One Book, One School together as a school community this past week. We had opportunities to share our class PowerPoint presentations where we learned about one another's cultures and traditions.


We had virtual visits with the author of the book, Sarah Weeks. We look forward to eating like Ravi at Pintu's Indian Restaurant.

Mrs. Joy Tierney and Mrs. Goldstein were instrumental in helping to ensure that our students experienced a wonderful culminating week of learning. We are excited to enjoy future books together as a school community.

Band

Lessons began several weeks ago. Every student has had at least one lesson - some have had two or three depending on the day of the week their lesson occurs. All students have received at least one at-home assignment to complete in Flipgrid through our Google Classroom page listed under the Classwork tab.

Parents often ask how many minutes their child should be practicing each day/week. The answer is different for every child and may vary from week to week. Each week at your child's lesson we will learn a concept or skill and create a goal for the week. Some students will be successful at reaching our goal by practicing only a couple of times that week. Others may need to practice a little every day to be successful at the same goal. What may be a more simple goal one week, another week may be more complicated and need additional time devoted in order to achieve success.



When learning something new, like an instrument, I always suggest doing it a little bit every day goes a lot further than trying to practice a lot of minutes only once a week. Playing an instrument needs to become a muscle memory - your child will be most successful by practicing our skills and concepts frequently, even if only for a few minutes each time, and using the videos I post on Flipgrid as a guide when we are not together to practice.

Finally, please remind your child that there are no playing instruments on the bus and instruments should remain closed and latched throughout the bus ride for safety purposes.

Final Mile, Physical Education

Congratulations to all of our Final Mile Participants. They did an outstanding job this year!! Together they ran 1052 miles in 27 days!

Accomplishments include the following:

- 4 Students earn their 5K tokens (3.1 miles)
- 5 Students earn their 10K tokens (6.2 miles)
- 17 Students earn their Half Marathon tokens (13.1 miles)
- 19 Students earn their Full Marathon tokens (26.2 miles)
- 2 Students earn their Ultramarathon which is 50 Miles!!!

On Friday, October 22nd, students will run their "Final Mile" to celebrate their success this season. The students that completed their Half or Full Marathon (or Ultra) received their Finishers Medal.

Thank you to every parent that helped to coordinate transportation for their children to participate in this program. We appreciate everyone's support this year. A special thank you to the Carroll family, Vega Family and Eisenhaure families who were consistently assisting with the program. A few photos are included below:



Walk to School Day & Veterans Day recognition

We have changed the date of our annual Fall Walk to School Event. We are excited to share that we will be holding this event on **Thursday, November 11th** instead of the original date of Monday, October 25th. We will be honoring Veterans Day as part of our walk.

[Walk to School](#) registration



Kid Governor

Connecticut's Kid Governor® is a national award-winning civics program for 5th graders created by the Connecticut Democracy Center. This ground-breaking approach to civics education immerses students in learning about state government, elections and voting, and civic participation through a real-life election for their state's Kid Governor. 5th grade students are welcome to participate.

Our entire fifth grade participated in this event for the second year. Each student created speeches as part of this curriculum. Select students chose to move on to compete in the final competition and work to be the class candidate. Each class then chose one finalist who presented their platform to the entire fifth grade. Our class finalists are included below:

Mrs. Bennett	John Morrissette
Mrs. Harrington	Teagan Arnold
Mrs. Janssen	Caleb Warren
Mrs. Orie	Jacob Vincent
Ms. Ralston	Elle Harrison
Mrs. Stiles	McKayla Dowe
Mrs. Popeleski	Nathan Deenihan

We are proud to recognize **Nathan Deenihan** as the McAlister School Kid Governor that will enter in the statewide competition. We are so proud of every student that participated in this competition.

We strive to be our very best, each and every day. We are kind, respectful, responsible, safe, that's the McAlister way!

A. Ward Spaulding News:

Preschool:

Preschool continues to learn about our similarities and differences through our All About Me unit. Students are identifying body parts, drawing self-portraits, comparing ourselves to others, and soon we will talk about our 5 senses. We are revisiting our health and safety lessons as we enter the cold season. Students are reviewing hand washing practices, walking at a safe distance in line, keeping our masks on, and coughing/sneezing into our elbows. Our Math curriculum is using pumpkins in October to teach the life cycle, counting, patterning, and concepts like longer/shorter, bigger/smaller, and lighter/heavier.

Recently, the preschoolers enjoyed a visit from Captain Ron and the Suffield Fire Department! We learned to call 911 in an emergency, what a firefighter looks like in his uniform, how a smoke detector sounds, what different parts of the truck include, and how to Stop, Cover Your Face, Drop, and Roll if your clothes catch on fire. Thank you Suffield Fire Department!

We look forward to our Fall Fun Day Celebration on Friday, October 29.

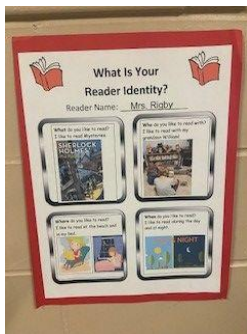
SEL Newsletter:

Please follow the link below for the latest SEL Newsletter from Dr. DeMichele and Mrs. Malanson.

[October SEL Newsletter](#)

Reading Identities: We are all readers!

We are a community of readers! Thank you to all of the families, staff and students for sharing who they are as readers. Our school is filled with so many identities. We celebrated the importance of reading during a school assembly on 10/7/21. See some of the highlights below:



Number Talks:

Number Talks is a strategy developed by Ruth Parker & Kathy Richardson to help teach number sense and math facts. Number Talks is a strategy that keeps students engaged as peers share various methods for solving the same problem. Students are able to practice math fluency, develop conceptual understanding of numbers, and learn arithmetic properties. The following steps are conducted:

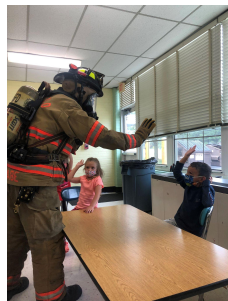
1. The teacher poses an abstract math problem.
2. The teacher asks students to solve it mentally, providing wait time and silent cues for students to use when they have at least one method and solution.
3. The teacher collects the different solutions (not including methods at this time).
4. The teacher selects students to share their strategies with the group and will write them on the board.
5. The class discusses the accuracy and efficiency of each method.

Parents can incorporate this strategy into their discussions with children. Here are some suggestions:

1. Ask your child to explain the method they used to solve a problem.
2. Ask your child to try to solve the same problem using another method.

Fire Prevention:

The preschool and Kindergarten students learned about fire prevention and safety from our very own Suffield Fire Department. Students learned important information and then got to see and explore a real fire truck! A huge thank you to our Suffield Fire Department for partnering with Spaulding School.





Spaulding Stars care through respect, responsibility, and kindness.