

Calvin Coolidge School

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Welcome Aboard

Welcome to the inaugural email newsletter for Coolidge School. In an effort to make communication more timely and efficient, I have collaborated with the Coolidge PTO to begin email communication. If you are reading this email you have obviously already signed up. Congratulations! Please tell your friends to visit our home page at www.wyckoffschools.org/coolidge to join our email database. Parents are encouraged to enter more than one email address if necessary.

Principal's Book Club

Fourth grade students are invited to take part in the Principal's Book Club on the evening of November 29th. The book that will be discussed is bestseller *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. [Click here](#) for a link to the flyer if you have misplaced it.

American Education Visitation Day

In celebration of American Education Week, you are cordially invited to visit our classrooms on Thursday, November 15th from 9:15–11:00 a.m. and 1:15–2:45 p.m. Due to the number of visitors and the amount of time provided, please limit your visit to no more than 20 minutes in any one room. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit your child/children's classroom to gain an understanding of a school day in the life of your child. [Click here](#) if you need a copy of my letter.

Mark your calendars

11/16– PTO Science Fair 7PM

11/19- Wyckoff BOE Meeting 8PM
11/20- 1st Grade Thanksgiving Play and Feast 11:30 AM
11/21- Minimum Day
11/22- Happy Thanksgiving!
11/30- Report Cards Go Home
12/07- PreK, K, Gr. 1 Holiday Concert- 9:30 AM
12/11- Paramus Park Chorus Concert 4PM
12/12- Grade 2-3 Holiday Show 9:30 AM
12/20- Grade 4-5 Choral Concert 9:30 AM

Coffee with the Principal

Join Mr. Famularo on November 28th at 9:30 am in the media center for "Coffee with the Principal". The topic for this month's meeting is Homework Without Tears. Hear a presentation from Mr. Famularo that will address the following topics: study skills, developing responsibility in your child, time management and developing a homework plan. [Click here for a copy of the flyer.](#)

Midday Fitness

Midday Fitness continues to provide a safe opportunity for children to play during the day. Increased supervision during this time has greatly decreased injuries and disciplinary concerns and has allowed staff members to get to know students better. Midday Fitness has provided an opportunity for the more timid students to have a happy and enjoyable play experience. Games and activities that were never possible in the past have been integrated into this play period. Misconceptions continue to spread regarding what actually happens during Midday Fitness. Students have significant choice and are not "pressured" in any way to do something they do not want. The word "structure" has been misinterpreted as a negative quality although students are observed to be happy, safe, active and secure during Midday Fitness. Parents who have questions are encouraged to contact Mr. Famularo.

Footwear

Sneakers are needed everyday in order to participate during Midday Fitness. Proper footwear includes sneakers that tie, strap, or zip. (Basketball, Running, Tennis, Skateboarding shoes, etc.) Rubber

soled shoes with front straps with front and heel coverage are also acceptable. Shoes that are not included are: any style of boot (Uggs, snow, rain, Timberland, etc) Dress shoes with any heel lift, no front coverage. No sandals, crocs, or flip-flops.

The footwear policy is for the safety of all students. On poor weather days, the students will be in the gymnasium, and sneakers are necessary for participation.

Students do not need to wear sneakers to school each day. Classroom teachers have been giving time before mid-day fitness for the students to change into their sneakers. Please, send students with sneakers every day.

Cold Weather is Coming

Please be advised that on most days students will be outside during morning line-up and Midday Fitness, and may have physical education class outside as well. Parents are asked to keep this in mind and have children dressed appropriately for colder weather.

PTO Update

I want to take this opportunity to thank the countless number of parents who continue to give of their time and talents for the children of Coolidge School. Specifically, thank you for helping to make the following events a success and both enriching the school experiences of our children and raising funds to support programs throughout the school: Book Fair, Autumn Tastings, Halloween parties, Playground Enhancement, Harvest Festival, Mathletes and Playground Partners.

Classroom Snapshot

Fifth graders at Coolidge School have designed Kachinas, Native American symbolic dolls, in conjunction with their study of Early Native Americans. After researching the symbolism of these dolls, that were so important to our Native American culture, the students have created original stories about their colorful Kachinas.

Using language from their Social Studies textbooks, and after researching the beginnings of storytelling, they have become master storytellers by speaking the story of their Kachinas "in the air".

The next step will be to write these amazing tales and save them on their own USB flash drives that the fifth grade teachers received from a grant last year. These drives will act as digital writing portfolios that the students will use to track changes as they move through the writing process. As the year goes on, they will showcase the excellence and growth of our young writers.

Student Recognition

A trip to Disney World, visiting Nanny's house, special birthdays and picking out a pet dog, these are some of the topics the first graders at Coolidge School have been busy writing about everyday during their writer's workshop. They have been writing stories near and dear to their hearts. Stories about special memories, special events and special places have been the topics of their stories. The students have been reading books that have modeled these topics to see how real writers write and then having a go at it as writers themselves.

After weeks of writing, the first graders chose two stories to edit, revise and publish. Editing buddies helped each other check the stories and make them the best they could possibly be. Students also had the opportunity to publish one piece using word processing on the computer.

Finally, parents were invited to a story reading to celebrate the authors. Students and parents sat in small groups as the first grade writers shared their stories. The writers felt proud having the opportunity to share their stories. What an accomplishment for our beginning writers!

School Theme cougarpaw

As you know, our school theme this year is Manners Matter. During the month of November our focus will be on how to show manners while eating. Students will be reading a fairy tale written by our very own Ms. Liotard entitled Gwynn's Tale that deals with manners in

the lunchroom and table manners. Please help us reinforce these important lessons!

Parent Workshop

An introduction to Balanced Literacy Parent Information Session will be held on November 27th from 7:00–8:30 for parents of students in grades 3–5 at Eisenhower Middle School. The presenter, Ms. Shelly Klein, has been working as a literacy consultant in the Wyckoff Schools for the past two years.