

The Bear's Paw

March 2011
Volume IV, Issue 7



**Home of the
Black Bears**

Janice L. Hodge, CSA/Principal
Phone (973)293-7131 x203
Fax (973) 293-3391
jhodge@montagueschool.org

From the Principal

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Marian Wright Edelman

From the Principal

Contents

Principal's News	1-2
Upcoming Events	1
Staff News	2

Kindergarten Registration is now underway for the 2011-2012 school year.

If your child will be 5 years old on or before October 1, 2011, register now for kindergarten. Registration packets are in the school lobby. After you complete the registration form and have collected all of the required documents, please call Mrs. Jayne Alles, RN, School Nurse at 973-293-7131, ext. 214 to schedule your registration appointment.

The **BEAR** (Better Education for All Residents) **Fair** will be on Saturday, April 2nd from 9am-12pm. All Montague residents are invited. We will be offering various classes and demonstrations for adults, children and families to do together. Several local agencies and businesses will also be participating in classes and demonstrations. And, what would a **BEAR Fair** be without our favorite Bear? **MONTY** will be here and help us end the day with a very special FINALE!

Thank you to Montague Bagel Factory, Montague Town Hall and Ivy Rehab Physical Therapy for allowing samples of our students work to be displayed at their locations. Thank you to our MEA and PTA for organizing this on-going display.

Congratulations to our five Tri-State Spelling Bee finalists: **Christian Deal, Emre Deniz, Noah Hutchinson, Donovan Parker and Anna Yan** who competed on March 13th at the Tri-State Spelling Bee. This was a terrific experience for our students as they were competing against students from area middle schools! Way to go, I'm proud of all of you!

Thank you to our **PTA** for organizing Read Across America and Take Your Family to School! We had a terrific turnout on March 4th which also helped to kick off Mrs. Goyette's Reading is my Goal program. Family members joined their children in class to read and share favorite stories. A great way to model for and encourage children of all ages to read and read and read!

***Continued on p. 2**

MARCH 2011

- 23-BOE Budget Hearing and Meeting
- 25-Student Council-70's-Spirits Day; School Store
- 31-Kindergarten Open House for area Preschools



From the Principal (continued)

Too Smart to Start is on April 7th from 6:00-7:30pm here at school. This interactive game show for 5th and 6th grade students and their parents is sponsored by the Sandyston/Walpack/Montague Municipal Alliance. The game show is hosted by The Sussex County Coalition for Healthy and Safe Families, a program by the Center for Prevention and Counseling. Pizza will be served! If you are the parent of a 5th or 6th grader and would like more information on this program, please call me.

The Food Drive for the NORWESCAP Food Bank is underway now through April 14th. We are competing with other schools in our area. The school collecting the most food will receive a special treat and will be featured in the NORWESCAP Food Bank's Newsletter. Please drop off your non-perishable food to the box in the front lobby. Thank you, **Mrs. Cusumano** for organizing this drive.

NORWESCAP Sussex Head Start offers no cost preschool program for income eligible children ages 3-5 years old from Montague. Breakfast and lunch is provided. Applications are now being accepted for the 2011-2012 program year. For more information, call 973-875-8565.

CONGRATULATIONS, to our **FEBRUARY**
Students of the Month:

Kindergarten-GEORGIA GELDERMAN
First Grade-TYLER LAIRD
Second Grade-ABDUL HASSAN
Third Grade-JOSHUA EVANS
Fourth Grade-SAMANTHA SPACE
Fifth Grade-JESSE FREELAND
Sixth Grade-DANIELLE HEIMANN

THANK YOU, to our PRINCIPAL'S PRINCIPLES
readers for **FEBRUARY:**

- MEGAN VAN HERWYNEN-Good Manners
- TERRY BEATTY-Responsibility
- DEREK THATCHER-Teamwork
- KRISTEN SNYDER-Honor

MONTY visited us on March 1st to congratulate the MONTY BUCK RAFFLE WINNERS FOR
FEBRUARY:

Hailey Mikulski
Tyler Zoon
Marshall Hayes

Tyler Haggerty
Jessica Koba

Alyssa Olenick
Andrew Toth

William Riker
Walker Gibson

STAFF NEWS:

The Student Council's campaign for Operation Quiet Comfort to benefit American troops is underway through April 1st. Please bring your gently used blue jeans to the Student Council's collection box in the school lobby. The jeans are cut into squares and made into quilts which are then sent to hospitalized soldiers. For more information, please visit:
www.operationquietcomfort.com. Thank you, **Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Ferriere** and our Student Council for this wonderful project.

Mrs. Bonn and Mrs. Varacalli's fifth grade class has amassed a "whopping" 32,000 points in the nationally-acclaimed reading program, Book Adventure! The reading program links grade appropriate books to short online comprehension quizzes. Students who achieve 90% or greater earn up to 200 points for each test taken. The students with the most points so far are: **Sarah Blackburn, Dasia Goble, Brooke Johnson, and Walker Gibson!** The most popular books among Mrs. Bonn's and Mrs. Varacalli's students are the *Harry Potter* series.
Mrs. Wright says "thank you" to the **PTA** for purchasing the Speed Stack set for her PE classes. Mrs. Wright also reports that the project she submitted to Donor's Choose for pedometers was fully funded!

Where in the world is MONTY? The students are enjoying this school wide project as they create pictures of MONTY in various locations around the world for a mural in the cafeteria; and to learn and participate in the voting process. The students will vote on their choice for the cafeteria mural during lunch on April 26th.