

B. F. Gibbs School News

Principal's Newsletter

From the desk of Mr. Davies – January 5, 2011

NJASK Scores Made Public Today

Data from the most recent New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge was released to the public today by the State Department of Education. The NJASK is administered each spring to every third through eighth grade public school student in the State, and is part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Parents of current fourth through ninth graders received their child's Individual Score Report back in September, and schools received data on all of our students. This information is used to identify areas of strength and areas of concern – and develop corrective action plans where necessary. If you have questions about the New Jersey ASK, please contact my office.

Vacations during the school year are obviously discouraged, and we implore you not to plan any time away from school during the administration of the NJASK, which will be the week of May 9. It is the practice of New Milford's elementary schools that teachers not provide homework in advance of an absence during the school year. Requests for homework when a child is out due to illness must be left on the absence line before 8:45 a.m. If your child will be out due to illness, you must call 201-261-0939. You can dial ahead of the prompts by pressing 5, then 1 to leave information about your child's absence.

New Kindergarten Program

Kindergartners and their families will soon be hearing a lot about a character called "Zippy." Zippy and his friends are part of a series of stories that deal with emotional health and well-being. The topics for the stories are familiar to young children – friendship, making and losing friends, bullying, dealing with change and loss, and adapting to new situations. "Zippy's Friends" does not tell children what to do in difficult situations. Rather, it encourages them to think for themselves and come up with their own solutions to problems. "If we can teach children how to cope with difficulties, they should be better able to handle problems and crisis in adult life."



Our kindergarten team attended professional development workshops in December with other neighboring districts to learn about this award winning program that is brought to New Milford through grant monies.

You can learn more about the "Zippy's Friends" program by visiting: www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk.

Search for "The OFFICIAL Bertrand F. Gibbs Elementary School" on Facebook!

Two January Staff Changes

Actually, the first is not really a change in staff, but more of a change in plan. Miss Dickinson's third grade families were notified in December that Mrs. Kaplan's planned return to school in January will be delayed. While Mrs. Kaplan is making progress and is looking forward to her return to the classroom, the Board of Education recently approved her request to extend her leave through the end of the current school year. I'm sure you all join me in wishing Mrs. Kaplan well, as we look forward to her return to Gibbs. In the meantime, Miss Dickinson will continue to serve on our third grade team without interruption.

Toward the end of January, Mrs. Picardo will begin her maternity leave. Miss Zaccaria, a familiar face to Gibbs and some of Mrs. Picardo's current students, will finish out the year in Room 116.



NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

www.nonamecallingweek.org

The week of January 24 is National No Name-Calling Week, where schools add an extra focus on teaching lessons about respect. In addition to activities and contests, there will be a different dress-theme for each day of the week:

Monday, January 24 – Mismatched Clothing Day
Tuesday, January 25 – Red, White and Blue Day
Wednesday, January 26 – Sweats Day
Thursday, January 27 – Sports Apparel Day
Friday, January 28 – Hat Day

Gibbs Winter Concert

Featuring 4th Grade Band and Strings

&

5th Grade Band, Strings and Chorus




Thursday, January 20, 2011

7:00 p.m.

James Africano Auditorium at New Milford High School

Do you know a child who turns 5 on or before October 1? Contact your school NOW to register in time for Kindergarten Orientation for the incoming class of September 2011.

Gibbs Events - January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3 HAPPY NEW YEAR! School Reopens. 	4	5 PTO Meeting 7:30 p.m. in Gibbs Library	6	7	8
9	10 BOE Work Session 7PM HS	11	12 Scrip orders due to PTO	13 Market Day orders due to PTO	14 Gibbs Spelling Bee 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium 	15
16	17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day NO SCHOOL 	18 BOE Regular Session 7PM HS	19 PTO Market Day pick up 2:30 in Room 104	20 Winter Concert dress rehearsal 9:30 a.m. Winter Concert evening performance @ NMHS Auditorium 7 p.m.	21 Gibbs Spirit Day WEAR GREEN Progress Reports sent home.	22
23 NO NAME CALLING WEEK Dress Themes listed next to date →	24 <i>Mismatched Clothing Day</i>	25 <i>Red-White-and-Blue-Day</i>	26 <i>Sweats Day</i> Exploring Rainforests Assembly 9:15 a.m.	27 <i>Sports Day</i> 12:35 Dismissal for Students	28 <i>Hat Day</i>	29
30	31		Author visit book orders due to PTO box today			