

Quaker Farms School



**Office of Rachael Cacace
Principal of Quaker Farms School**

January 9, 2018

Celebrations & Events

- Kindergarten students held their annual holiday sing-a-long for parents and friends on December 19th. Parents and friends were invited to the KDG holiday classroom party following the show. Parents were also invited to attend various classroom parties and festivities in preschool, first grade and second grade during the week of December 18th.
- QFS students will participate in the multi-media presentation, "Science of Sound" where the performer literally transforms sound through the use of her five-string electric violin and a myriad of modern technology. The program takes students on a journey from the classical days of Bach to today's techno-wonders by using modern techniques including looping and other effects to produce unique and dynamic soundscapes. Students will be introduced to the many scientific concepts involved in the creation of live music. Through the use of technology, three dimensional sound waves become visible, bringing music to life before the student's very eyes and ears! A special thank you to the PTO for funding this program.
- QFS will be celebrating Martin Luther King during the month of January with various classroom lessons and activities.
- Our monthly STAR assembly will be held on Friday, January 26 with a focus on diversity, Martin Luther King, and peace. Mrs. Atchison and Ms. Ciccarelli's classrooms will be showcased.
- Students in grades PreK-2 will participate in the *Jump Rope for Heart* event during their physical education classes beginning January 29th. Students will move from station to station where they will be engaged in a variety of jumping activities. *Jump Rope for Heart* is an event conducted nationwide to educate students about the benefits of aerobic exercise and heart health while raising funds to support the American Heart Association's fight against heart disease and stroke.

Curriculum & Instruction

- Students in grades K-2 will be taking the mid-year assessment of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Assessments in the content areas of ELA and Math beginning the week of January 22. This universal screening tool was administered to all students in October and will be administered once again at the end of the school year in order to measure student growth over time and provide teachers with data that will assist in both informing and differentiating instruction.
- Our four reading tutors continue to service students in grades one and two who require additional reading assistance in the areas of fluency, decoding, comprehension, phonemic awareness, and story writing.

Students are seen 3-5 times a week in a small group based on their instructional level. Also, our tutors also work with kindergarten students who need assistance with basic phonological and phonemic awareness skills as well as with letter recognition and sounds. Our goal is to increase the level of reading at an early age and meet grade level expectations.

Communication

- Kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year will take place April 3 – April 6. Information will be sent out to the community within the next couple of months.

Facilities & Safety

- A scheduled Lock-Down Drill is scheduled for January 9th.

On behalf of Quaker Farms School, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

“Educate, Prepare & Inspire”

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