

BOLTON CENTER SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023



SCHOOL NEWS

If you are looking to find out what your child is learning please ask the following questions:

What are you learning?

Why are you learning it?

How will you know you have learned it?

These questions are great discussion starters for home and by having consistency our students will form stronger connections to their learning.



TOWN OF BOLTON EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND INFORMATION LINKS

Receive the latest information and updates about:

- Emergency information
- Upcoming severe weather
- Road closures
- Lake issues
- Voting
- Town meetings
- Events and general information



Click on the links below to subscribe to the town's notification systems:

- [Town Emergency Notification System \(Everbridge\)](#): Town mass notification system to send emergency notifications and public service announcements.
- [Bolton Bulletin](#): Bi-weekly town newsletter highlighting town events and important information.
- Additional social media links and mailing lists for the town can be found on the website at town.boltonct.org/subscribe.



BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025

TO VIEW, PLEASE CLICK HERE:
[BPS 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN](#)

BUSTER'S CORNER



Buster wants to thank the entire BCS Community for an amazing school year filled with so many memories and special events. He wants to send a special shout out to the fantastic PTA for enabling staff and students to have so many wonderful opportunities throughout the year. Buster wishes good

luck to the 8th graders moving on to their high school adventures and hopes that everyone has a safe, restful, fun summer!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



BOLTONCENTERCT

Instagram



Facebook

Twitter @BoltonCenterCT

LEARNING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Preschool: Preschoolers have worked hard this year and should be so proud of all of their achievements! They are a fun-loving and hard-working group who is ready for all the adventures that await them. Congratulations to the preschoolers who will be moving on to kindergarten next year.

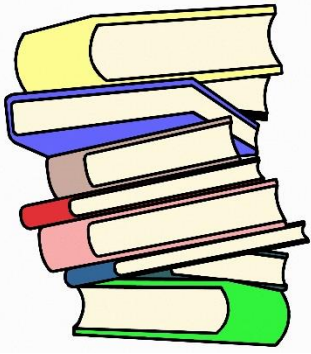
"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." — Harriet Tubman



Kindergarten students:

- Participated in an Avid Readers Unit and learned how to be an avid reader.
- Welcomed many mystery readers to their classrooms during the month of March for Read Across America.
- Learned about characters and the roles of authors and illustrators in both fiction and nonfiction books.
- Had an Informational Unit where students wrote what they were experts on.
- Partook in an Opinion Unit where students learned how to give their opinion and gave reasons to support their ideas.
- Gained a strong foundation with addition and subtraction.
- To end the year, learned how to count and make teen numbers.
- Went to the STEM room with Mrs. Moore and engaged in challenges regarding forces and motion using cars and ramps.
- Learned about the topics of plants and animal groups.
- Loved going to the assembly *Emotion Into Art*.
- Went to the Forest Park Zoo to see and learn about animals during a science unit.





Grade 1: Spring has arrived, and with it comes the pride in many first grade accomplishments! Increased reading ability and stamina have made students eager to use their growing skills as they explore various high-interest books. Students have enjoyed joining the characters in their books on reading adventures, while looking for and learning life lessons along the way! Math is another area of excitement and accomplishment. Students have been working extremely hard to compare numbers, understand ten more and ten less, and most recently, add two-digit numbers. There are many new strategies that the students are excited to use as they stretch their math minds! First grade students have also become strong, focused writers! They recently wrapped up opinion writing and became very convincing with their opinions and reasons. They are amazing! These “almost-second-graders” are indeed hard-working students who are proud of their contributions to the learning community within the classroom. They look forward to winding down this year with their best effort and the celebration of friendships and achievements.

Grade 2: Second graders quickly shifted from reading about Balto (and tracking Iditarod mushers) into chapter books, small-group discussions, and then into learning about authors’ use of literary language (alliteration, similes, idioms, etc.). They then moved on to reading about their selected sea animals (for their sea creature research reports). Lastly, the Titanic! Writing was focused on research reports, supporting one’s opinions, and friendly letters. Math topics have evolved from 3-digit addition and subtraction (with regrouping) to lessons on geometry, fractions, and an introduction to multiplication and division. Science focused on plant seeds, good seed dispersal methods, and how light-quality affects plants. Everyone had a great time visiting Mystic Aquarium to learn more about their research animals, as well as countless other sea creatures. The students read and discussed Memorial Day history and protocol, and many marched in the Memorial Day parade. The end of the year field trip was to the Bentley Memorial Library to show the power of a library card!

Grade 3: Third graders were hard at work researching animals for reading and writing this trimester. They learned how to conduct research and use the information they have gathered to write a book about a chosen animal. They compared the animals they researched and wrote about and created a *Who Would Win* book as a research club throughout this whole process. In a math fractions unit, students learned to find equivalent fractions, compare fractions, and use data to create a line plot. Then, they learned about elapsed time, liquid volume, mass, and perimeter to end the year. In science, they observed plants to see what they need to grow. They learned that all living organisms grow and change. For end of the year activities, students had the ice cream sundae they earned to acknowledge their hard work developing fluency in multiplication, and they went on an exciting field trip to Hammonasset to explore different habitats.

Grade 4: Fourth graders enjoyed reading and completing a variety of activities surrounding biographies and myths. Students enjoyed a field trip to the Wadsworth Atheneum on Friday, May 19. The trip extended a unit on mythology as they learned about mythology in artwork. In math, students have worked hard on their fraction and decimal unit and finished the year with geometry. Energy highlighted their science explorations and students have spent time in the technology lab with Mrs. Moore supplementing their learning regarding sound and energy. To prepare for grade 5, students should read great books, write often, and stay sharp on their math facts! Have a great summer and good luck in fifth grade!

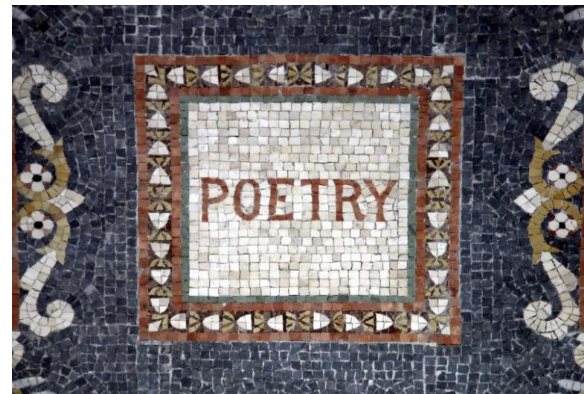




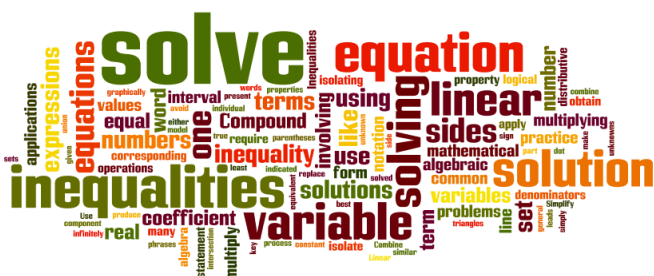
Grade 5: Fifth graders have learned about the events leading up to and during the American Revolution. They chose one person who had an impact on the Revolution to research. Students have also learned about chemical reactions. They built wacky cars that are powered by a chemical reaction between baking soda and vinegar. In math, the students were busy converting units of measurement, classifying polygons, and writing and interpreting numerical expressions.

Grade 6: It was a successful year in ELA! The students started the year by reviewing literary genres and analyzing short stories, such as *All Summer in a Day* by Ray Bradbury. They then moved into a writing boot camp to refresh their writing abilities, where they learned the RACE strategy and how to compose solid paragraphs with evidence to support their opinions. Next, they jumped into their unit by studying narrative nonfiction through the book, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. Students were so inspired to organize and implement a successful school-wide fundraiser for the main character's foundation, *Water for South Sudan*. BCS raised over \$1,400 and was featured on the organization's website! Following this, ELA students continued into the next unit of studying the ancient art of storytelling through the oral tradition by studying folklore worldwide. They started with North America and learned all about Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and John Henry. Then they moved into the classical area by studying Ancient Greek and Egyptian mythology. It was important to brush up on their figurative language during this unit! During March, students picked an inspirational woman in history and their own life to write about for Women's History Month. They ended the year by studying the genre of fantasy. Students dove into a deep study of the characters in Harry Potter to analyze their motivations in the text and the movie. They also wrote a narrative story pretending they were a part of the magical world of Harry Potter. Throughout the year, sixth grade math geniuses have worked to build upon their existing skills and expand their computation and problem-solving abilities to include positive and negative integers as well as rational numbers. They should keep these skills sharp by practicing as much as possible over the summer.

Grade 7: In all math classes, seventh grade students have concluded the school year with an in-depth study of both two and three-dimensional figures. The pre-algebra classes also worked on probability, random sampling and compound events. Over the last several weeks, seventh graders in ELA worked hard to craft original slam poems. Using expressive techniques, students used their voices to speak up and out about a self-chosen topic. Their words held great power and truly resonated with listeners. For the final trimester, students learned and practiced the essential parts of an argument. After analyzing and evaluating several debates, and engaging in them themselves, they participated in a mock trial, using persuasive techniques to shift the thinking of the jury. All of this to say, Mrs. Smith apologizes in advance for the strengthening of their argument skills, especially if an 'uptick' is evident in their desire to engage in a discussion about what they "need" (want) at home!



Grade 8: Pre-algebra students have worked hard learning about exponent rules and scientific notation. More recently, they solved equations with square roots and cube roots. For the remainder of the year, they learned the Pythagorean Theorem and working with volume of solids. They will be ready for Algebra in high school! Algebra students have worked hard this last trimester, creating posters about everything quadratics and all the methods of solving quadratics. They also learned about exponential functions and how they can be applied to solve real world problems like half-life, compound interest, exponential growth/decay, and using functions to model data. They even created their own test and graded peer work using their very own answer keys. In the last unit, they have learned about all different types of data charts and how sometimes graphics and statistics can be misleading. For the remainder of the year, they prepared for the final examination! They have mastered Algebra and are ready for high school math!



K-5 STEAM AND 6-8 TECH ED

Tech Ed and STEAM have been buzzing with a lot of fun projects!

Kindergarteners have learned about forces. They released cars down ramps and experimented with changing variables such as ramp height, the surface on the ramp and the mass of the car.

1st Graders have studied sound. They explored how sound waves travel using tuning forks, ping-pong balls and water.

2nd Graders have learned about programming. The students used Lego Education kits to build snowmobiles for "Iditarod veterinarians." They programmed the snowmobiles to reach specific destinations on the Iditarod route and carry back injured sled dogs.

3rd Graders have learned about traits and plants. They explored how different bird beaks would succeed in different environments, extracted DNA from strawberries, experimented with food dye and flowers, and engineered seeds to fly in the wind.

4th Graders have studied sound and energy. They visualized sound waves through a sound wave model and used a laser on a mirror above a speaker. They explored energy transfer by building Rube Goldberg machines.

5th Graders have explored engineering with LittleBit kits. The students made robotic vehicles, art machines and/or alarm devices. They also created solutions to mini challenges.

6th Graders have learned about robotics and 3D printing in STEM Skills. They competed in a mini VEX Go robotics in class tournaments, engineered swimsuits for Sphero robots and then participated in a swim race, and 3D printed improved replacement fins for bath toys. In technology education, they learned about rockets. They built straw rockets and solid fuel rockets.

7th Graders learned about structural engineering and built bridges. They also created custom pens on the lathe in the workshop.

8th Graders have studied production and additive manufacturing. They created their own production lines using robotic elements from LittleBit kits and VEX Go kits. They used the woodshop to create CO₂ Dragsters to compete in a class competition.

VEX IQ ROBOTICS COMPETITION TEAM NEWS

The Bolton Bulldogs competed in the VEX IQ 2022-2023 Challenge: Slapshot. In March, all 6 teams qualified and competed in the State Championship at the Middle School of Plainville with over 70 other teams from Connecticut. All Bolton teams did a great job representing the school and finished the season strong! Three teams received special recognition at the tournament:

Team 1227 D earned Teamwork 2nd Place and the Energy Award! The Teamwork Challenge 2nd Place Award is presented to each of two teams on the second-place alliance in the Teamwork Challenge Finals Matches. The Energy Award is presented to a team that displays a high level of enthusiasm and passion at the event. Great job Greyson and Zack!

Team 1227E earned the sportsmanship award. The Sportsmanship Award is presented to a team that has earned the respect and admiration of the volunteers and other teams at the event by demonstrating respect and willingness to help event staff, other teams, and spectators. They also demonstrated excitement and enthusiasm through the event and were courteous, helpful, and respectful to everyone at the event, on and off the field. Great job William and Connor!

Team 1227C earned the Excellence Award, which is the highest award presented in the VEX IQ Challenge. This award is presented to a team that exemplifies overall excellence in creating a high quality VEX robotics program. This team is a strong contender in numerous award categories. Excellence winners have a well-documented Engineering Notebook, strong programming skills, high teamwork rankings, and a well-designed robot. This team earned an invitation to VEX IQ Worlds in Dallas, Texas! Congrats Lena, Mia, Cami, Kora and Julianna!

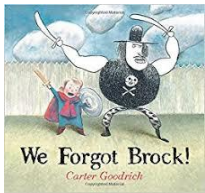
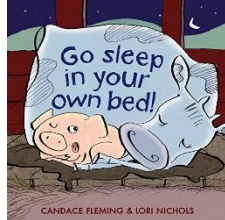
The VEX IQ season began with 8,500 teams competing in local competitions across the globe. 694 teams were invited to the Elementary World Championship, including Team 1227C. The girls competed in the Innovate division where they finished in 70th place (the same division as the World Teamwork Champions!). The team did an excellent job collaborating with each other and with teams from around the world. They played with teams from Australia, China, Texas, Virginia, Indiana, Florida, Utah, California, and Arizona. The team also finished with a season high of 63 points in programming and driver skills. A special shout out to them for winning the Girl Powered Selfie Contest at Worlds! The girls represented Bolton on the World stage and should be so proud of their accomplishments this season! Again, great work Lena, Mia, Cami, Kora, and Julianna!

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER



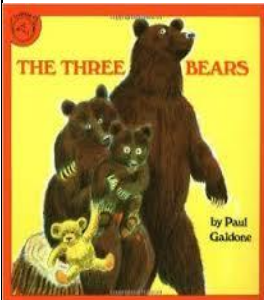
Kindergartners spent time in the spring doing a unit on author/illustrator Todd Parr. Todd's books are bright and colorful and though they are not really stories, they teach good lessons and spark great discussions with the students. Todd Parr's simple text is wonderful for getting students to speak aloud and give their own sentence that they could add to his book. As a culminating activity for this unit, students came up with a sentence that could go along with the book *It's Okay to Be Different*, drew a picture to go along with the sentence they came up with and used watercolors to paint the picture in bright, fun colors to look like a Todd Parr illustration.

First graders worked hard doing some research on farm animals. After reading some stories in class about farm animals, students were able to use the library computer lab to research an animal on PebbleGo. There was a lot of learning completed to know how to log onto the computers and use the mouse since students are more accustomed to using the trackpad on their Chromebooks. As a culminating activity for their unit, they read the book *Go Sleep in Your Own Bed* and did a coding activity to get the different farm animals to their appropriate beds.



Second graders worked on a unit about imaginary friends in which they heard the stories *Jessica*, *The Adventures of Beekle*, and *We Forgot Brock* (which was truly a favorite). As their culminating project for this unit, they had to come up with their own imaginary friend, write details about it, draw a "lost" poster for their lost friend and share their work in class.

Third graders worked on a folk/fairytale unit focusing on various versions of *Cinderella*. Some are folktales from other countries and some are fairy tale versions with a twist. They began by learning about folk tales and fairy tales and how to distinguish between the two. They then read Cinderella stories that came from different cultures and compared and contrasted them to the original version which they had also read. Students discussed the similarities and differences as well as the cultural perspectives. From there, they moved into some funnier versions of Cinderella as well as one version told from a different point of view. Students completed the unit by writing an outline for their own version of a Cinderella story and shared it with the class.



Fourth graders worked on their fairy tale unit focusing on *The Three Bears*. They first read the original story of *The Three Bears* and discussed some of the important events, tiny details and character names and then as they read other versions, students had a chart to record these same things in order to compare and contrast one story to another. They read versions with strange twists, and very different characters and concluded with a version told from a different point of view. Students completed the unit by writing an outline for their own version of a fairy tale with similar elements to *The Three Bears* and sharing it with the class.

Fifth graders spent the majority of the trimester doing a very in-depth unit on 9/11. During this portion of the year, they learned about the role of Gander, Newfoundland in 9/11. For the first time in history, United States' airspace was closed on 9/11 after the attacks and planes were diverted to other airports. 38 planes landed in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland where more than 6700 passengers and crew stayed for 5 days. Several years later, the musical *Come From Away* was written about the events in Gander and has become a huge success on Broadway. The 5th graders were very engaged in this unit and wanted to learn more. They completed Google slide presentations with all of the information they have learned and researched including a timeline of 9/11 events, research on a hero of 9/11, information about Gander, information about *Come From Away* and their own personal reflection.



COMPUTER CORNER



To end the year, all computer classes worked on coding projects. Fifth and sixth graders worked on solving coding puzzles in Code.org using block-based commands while seventh and eighth graders created unique projects and games using Scratch block coding. Eighth graders also got experience writing code in JavaScript and Python using CodeHS. These activities helped nurture problem-solving skills, logic, perseverance and creativity. This early experience with coding will hopefully foster interest in continuing with computer science courses in high school and beyond.



CodeHS

BOLTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2023-2024 CALENDAR

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
August & September (22 days)					February (18 days)				
28	29	30	31	1				1	2
4	5	6	7	8	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	26	27	28	29	
October (20 days)					March (20 days)				
2	3	4	5	6					1
9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8
16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15
23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22
30	31				25	26	27	28	29
November (19 days)					April (17 days)				
		1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30		29	30			
December (16 days)					May (22 days)				
				1			1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31
January (21 days)					June (6 days)				
1	2	3	4	5	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	10**	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31							
First Half Year (98 days)					Second Half Year (83 days)				

PD – Professional Development Day, No School

Holidays and School Vacations, No School

Early Release District-wide - See Release Times Below

Early Release – BCS Only (Teacher Conferences)

Early release schedule: 10:15 AM (Pre-K) / 11:00 AM (9-12) / 12:10 PM (K-8)

August 28 & 29 – District Professional Development

August 30 – First Day of School

September 4 – Labor Day

October 9 – Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day

October 10 – District Professional Development

November 7 – District Professional Development

November 23 – 24 – Thanksgiving Holiday

December 25 – 29 – Holiday Recess

January 1 – New Year's Day

January 15 – Martin Luther King Day

February 16 – District Professional Development

February 19 – 20 – President's Day and Winter Recess

March 29 – Good Friday

April 8 – 12 – Spring Recess

May 27 – Memorial Day

**Schools will close upon completion of the 181st student school day.

**June 10 – Last Day of School – District Half Day of School

Approved – November 9, 2022