

BOLTON CENTER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WINTER 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 has been so impressed with students and staff for the spirit they have shown during school wide events from fall colors to winter fun and pajama days. He can't wait to see the Crayola week coming up! Be on the lookout for more fun in the coming months. Buster also wants to thank

the amazing PTA and BCS families for all of their support throughout the first half of the year. You rock!!

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



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K-5 STEM AND 6-8 TECH ED

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

Kindergarteners have learned about robots. They created gingerbread characters that went “on the run” over bridges and under tunnels with Sphero robots.

1st Graders have studied the moon. They explored how the moon’s craters were formed and they also made their own moon models.

2nd Graders have learned about 3D printing. The students used Tinkercad to design 3D prints that were printed on our two Makerbot printers.

3rd Graders have learned about magnets. They built a magnet car and led it through a maze with no direct contact. Then, they designed a solution to make their car carry cargo.

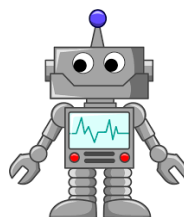
4th Graders have studied the human body. The students dissected a chicken bone and learned about spongy bone, cartilage, and marrow.

5th Graders have studied stars and the solar system. They wired and constructed LED constellations.

6th Graders have learned about circuitry and robotics by building “BumpBot rovers” in their skills class. The students used electronic components and switches and learned how they can be used to perform logical operations. In technology education classes, the students learned about rockets. They built both straw rockets and solid fuel rockets.

7th Graders have learned about structural engineering and have 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.



LEARNING AROUND THE SCHOOL

Preschoolers work hard through play. In addition to adjusting to school and learning how to be a kind friend, this year they have enjoyed learning about dinosaurs, practicing number and letter concepts, and listening to stories on various topics. They are looking forward to snowy weather and exploring more topics that interest them.



Kindergarteners loved participating in the BCS Fun Run and raising money for their school. In the fall, they also went on a field trip to Foster Farm while they were studying a unit on farms. In the school setting, they have also had the opportunity to go to the STEM room with Mrs. Moore. Around Halloween, they learned about and investigated with dry ice and made their own witch's cauldron with a partner. They also learned about robots and how to move them. They each made a gingerbread robot and got to move their robot through different obstacles. During the Veteran's Day assembly, Kindergarteners showed appreciation for the local Veterans with a special song. They also read many versions of the Gingerbread Man. Their class Gingerbread men went missing and they had to go on a hunt to find them! Lastly, they completed a Super Readers unit and learned all of the super reading powers to help them read. They even had a Super Readers parade where students and teachers throughout the school came to cheer them on for all of their hard work!

First graders have been learning habits and strategies for solving hard words in reading. They have become amazing word detectives, and it is exciting to see them apply these skills in their new non-fiction reading unit! In math, first graders have been strengthening their understanding of how to solve equations with sums within 20. They are also using their super smart math brains to build teen numbers, add three numbers, and find the unknown in a word problem. Soon, these students will be celebrating the 120th day of school and spreading random acts of kindness throughout the month!

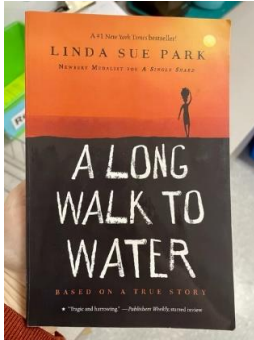
Second graders have been very busy this fall and winter. They recently finished reading about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and are working on identifying and using nonfiction text elements. Students are currently researching arctic animals (habitat, diet, physical characteristics, and interesting facts) using books and online resources, and will soon read about groundhogs. The emphasis in writing has been on producing informative papers, personal narratives, and writing friendly letters to others. In math, students are busy using addition and subtraction strategies to solve two-digit word problems. They also continue to practice single digit addition and subtraction facts to develop automaticity. In science, second graders used a CAD system to create their own 3-D objects, which are being printed out using the school's 3-D printer. The current science unit is on the states and properties of matter. Upcoming topics will include *Balto* and the Iditarod.

Third graders have been working very hard this year. In math, students have been building a conceptual understanding of multiplication. They are now applying what they learned about multiplication to find the area of a rectangle and non-rectilinear shapes. Next, they will be learning about two-step word problems and fractions. In reading, third graders have learned about the genre of mysteries and how to build their reading lives. They are now learning to respond to questions in complete sentences using text for support, as well as asking questions that can be answered using the text. In writing, students are working on literary essays. They are determining a character trait and supporting it using text. Students have started to learn about our great state of Connecticut in social studies. Lastly, in science, students learned all about clouds and weather. Now they are learning about force, pushes and pulls.

Fourth graders studied characters and theme when completing a unit on fiction. They have focused on text structures and how they help us to understand what we are reading and summarizing during our non-fiction unit. Students worked in small groups to complete a report on a natural disaster. They created slide shows and taught the rest of the class about their chosen natural disaster. Students have also written an autobiography, a narrative piece, and an informational piece. They have completed three math units and will be starting a fraction and decimal unit soon. They have begun studying regions in social studies. In science, they had the opportunity to go to the STEM lab and complete experiments with Mrs. Moore. Students designed a structure that could withstand an earthquake, explored erosion with a stream table and investigated bones. Fourth graders attended their first field trip since Kindergarten! They went to see a concert at the Coast Guard Academy. They are looking forward to the rest of the year.

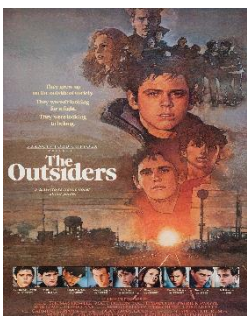
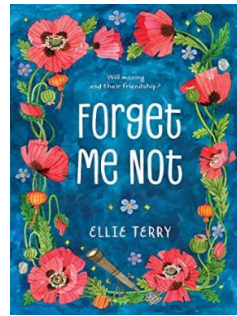


Fifth graders visited the Connecticut Science Center to learn more about the patterns of the Earth, moon, and sun, which is a topic they have also researched and written a non-fiction book about. They have been hard at work in math class learning about place value, volume, and operations with whole numbers. Now they are diving into the world of fractions. They are looking forward to their upcoming units on exploration, early settlements, and colonial times.



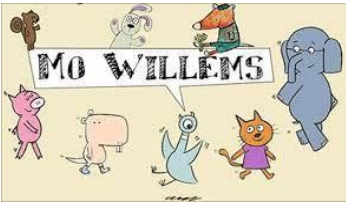
Sixth graders expanded their computation skills to include decimals and fractions. These mathematicians have also worked to solidify their knowledge of factors and multiples. They are beginning to extend these understandings to explore ratio concepts and apply this to unit rate and percent problems. Students have also been introduced to algebraic concepts that they will dive further into in the spring. In ELA, students worked hard on a comprehensive narrative non-fiction unit regarding the water crisis in South Sudan. They studied the impact of the global refugee crisis by studying true stories of refugees from around the world and are currently learning about modern and ancient folklore. Up next, sixth graders will begin a fantasy novel study, myth writing, and partake in historical fiction book clubs.

Seventh graders have worked hard in math class. Both the math 7 and pre-algebra students have studied ratios, proportions, integers, and the properties of circles. They will soon be delving into more algebraic concepts. In ELA, students have redefined and broadened their definition of what a 'text' is, as they have worked to dissect and interpret the novel *Forget Me Not* by Ellie Terry. Structurally, this book is composed of poetry and prose, with alternating perspectives between two characters. This has given students the opportunity to not only explore the world of poetry, but to build empathy for others as they learn about the characters' experiences. Moreover, the classes have cultivated great discussion about their thinking and learning through the sharing of their insights and connections beyond the text itself. Students have learned about Tourette Syndrome, the power of the spoken word, and how to navigate the challenges of being in middle school. This realistic fiction novel's characters, themes, and content has resonated with students, working to shift, evolve, and expand their perspective of the world around them. To demonstrate their learning, they wrote a thematic essay. This essay was a collaborative experience for students, as they learned the important components of an essay. Using success criteria as a guide, students worked alongside their peers to improve their writing skills: finding and citing relevant textual evidence to support their ideas, incorporating multiple texts within their writing that share a common theme, and explaining the development of a theme over the course of a text.



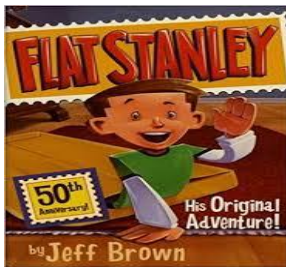
Eighth graders in ELA have been exploring the meaning of the allegories of the poem "The Road Not Taken" by applying their understanding to characters and events in their shared class novel, *The Outsiders*. The unit will conclude with students writing an argumentative essay in which they evaluate the choices made by the director and actors of the film adaptation of *The Outsiders*. Students will have to establish and support a claim as to whether or not the movie version can replace reading the original book version. In science, eighth graders are currently looking at evolutionary relationships between different organisms. Did you know that the fin of a whale and a horse's leg have the same bone patterns? Could they be distant relatives??? They have also spent time examining the purpose of DNA replication and how mutations can actually make an organism more fit for a particular environment. In the lab, they were able to extract DNA from a strawberry and look at millions of strands under the microscope! Algebra students completed their first ever midterm and they did a great job! They are currently working on solving systems of equations and inequalities. Pre-algebra students completed a unit on solving equations, which they will use in the new unit of solving systems of equations.

LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER NEWS



Kindergartners have recently been working on an author study of Mo Willems. They' have read several of his books, learned about how he became an author, and the many other things that he does. They learned how to draw Pigeon and will be making washing machines for Knuffle Bunny! Earlier in the school year, they learned about story sequencing.

First graders did an author study of Lois Ehlert in the fall and made "aquariums" as a culminating project for the unit. More recently, they read *The OK Book*. This book looks at things that you may love to do but are maybe just "OK" at and opens up the world of possibility that one day you will find something that you are really excellent at. After reading this book, students created their own class OK book where they wrote about and illustrated "I am OK at _____, but I am really good at _____." They have also started to learn about alphabetical order and how fiction books are arranged in the library alphabetically by the author's last name.



Second graders have just started their *Flat Stanley* unit. They have not been able to do this for the past few years, so it is exciting to have this unit back! After reading the book, students will send their own Flat Stanley out for some adventures with family or friends. While the Flat Stanleys are away, students will create a snow globe showing a picture of where their Stanley was sent and incorporate information about how far Stanley traveled from the school.

Third graders learned how to use *Destiny*, the online catalog for the library, to locate books. They have also been learning how the Dewey decimal system is used to organize books in the non-fiction areas. Students have recently begin learning about the Caldecott Medal which is awarded each year for outstanding illustrations in a picture book. They learned about the criteria used by the Caldecott committee to choose the winning books each year and are now working in small groups to preview ten new picture books and vote on which ones they think should win the 2023 Caldecott Medal and Honors. Next, they will be starting a unit on folk and fairy tales.



Fourth graders recently finished a large unit on different genres of books. They worked together in small groups to research a particular genre, and create Google slides to present to the class. Next, they will be starting a unit on folk and fairy tales.

Fifth graders worked on a unit in the fall in which they researched the origin and meaning of their name, decided what name they would have chosen for themselves if they could have chosen their own name, and also chose a name that described themselves. They also worked on a Found Poems unit where they learned what found poems are, wrote their own and presented them in class. Next, they will be starting a unit on 9/11.



COMPUTER CORNER



Students have been busy in computer class this year. The start of the year begins with 5th and 6th grade computer students practicing to increase their speed and accuracy in keyboarding. A shout out goes to our top typists: Leyla E. in 5th grade (55 WPM) and Mia D. in 6th grade (70 WPM)!

Before leaving for winter break, all computer classes took part in the Holiday Cards for our Military Challenge making cards for active military members abroad who would not be able to spend the holidays with family. Over 120 cards were created and sent!

In December, all computer classes took part in the Hour of Code. This year they made their own Google Doodles.



BAND NEWS

Students are having a great year so far in band. They are rebuilding after the pandemic and back to full ensemble playing. The 6th, 7th, and 8th grade band have already performed in one concert in November and they rocked it! They worked hard in the first few months of school to put out a quality performance. It was great to have a full audience in attendance as well! The 7th and 8th grade band also performed together for the Veteran's Day assembly to honor our local heroes. Currently, middle school band members are working hard on small group performances for the upcoming Solo and Ensemble Festival in March. Fourth and fifth grade students are working towards their first performance of the year in the beginning of February. The beginners in 4th grade are making big strides and have now learned their first five notes! BCS is honored to have two of our 7th and 8th grade band members accepted via audition into the Eastern Regional Honors Band! The BCS community cannot wait to see where this year takes them!