

# PATRIOT PRESS

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## From the Desk of the Principal

If it's spring, it's usually time for State and standardized tests. To help your youngster be prepared, share these tips about the types of questions that often appear.

**Multiple choice:** Read all the answers before marking your choice. Remember, your first instinct is usually best – so don't change your answer unless you're sure.

**True/false:** Look for words such as never, always, all, and none. They're usually in false answers. Words like may or often are generally found in true answers.

**Essay:** Read essay questions at least twice. Then, make a list of important thoughts, or key points, about each question before writing your essay. Read through the finished essay to be sure you've included all your key points. Check spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Tip:** Your child may feel more comfortable if she's familiar with the test format. Ask your youngster's teacher for a sample

*-Dennis Donahue*



### **NJ ASK and Terran Nova Schedule:**

**NJASK 7 & 8:**  
April 27, 28, 29, 30 2010

**NJASK 5 & 6:**  
May 3, 4, 5, 6, 2010

**NJASK 4:**  
May 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 2010

**NJASK 3:**  
May 10, 11, 12, 13, 2010

**Terra Nova 3 K, 1, 2,:**  
May 25, 26, 27, 28, 2010

## Save the Date!

**School Board Election and Budget Elections**

**Tuesday  
April 20, 2010**



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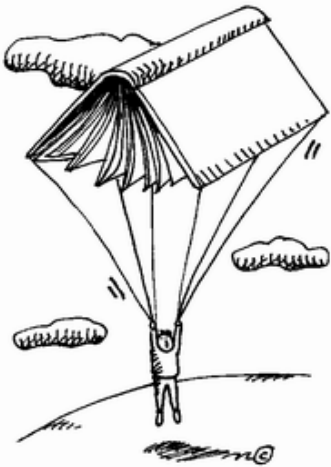
**READING CONNECTIONS FROM  
MRS. D'ALESSANDRO  
Parent Resources to Support  
Reading Comprehension**

**Adventures with words**

As you are reading, point out interesting words to your child. *Examples:* words that are fun to say like *buzz* and *gigantic*; words with double letters such as *football* and *bookkeeper*. Ask your child to look for words he

likes, too. Keep a notepad handy where you can jot down favorite words. Then, pass the notebook around the dinner table and use the words to make up a story together.

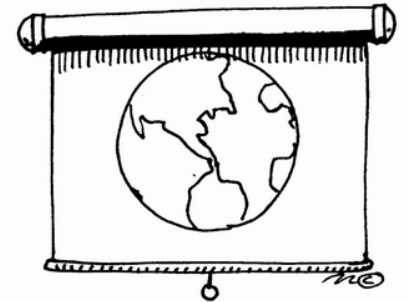
Home and School Connection-April 2009



**Around the World in Seventh Grade Social  
Studies**

**By Mrs. Obol**

Students in Mrs. Obol's class have been busy investigating the countries of Asia and their empires. Students have learned about the various cultures of Turkey, Japan, China, India and Cambodia. They have explored traditional dances, music, clothing, languages, foods and other cultural aspects. They have created Origami rabbits, danced to traditional Turkish music, and observed many important holidays such as Chinese New Year, and Holi. Students also sent postcards to many different countries within Asia such as Bhutan, Taiwan, South Korea, Indonesia, Philippines, Israel and Thailand to name a few. Our next stop on our world tour will be South America!



**Five Ways to Help Your Children  
Do Well in Math  
Mrs. High**

**Encourage your children to do more than assigned.**

Considerable practice is necessary for your children to strengthen their math skills. The more time your child practices their skills, the sooner they will develop confidence in their abilities.

**Explain how to solve word problems.**

Mathematicians have an expression: To learn to solve problems, you must solve problems. Teach your children to read a word problem several times. Also, have them draw a picture or diagram to describe it. Make it easier for them to understand the steps in a problem by teaching them to substitute smaller numbers for

larger ones.

**Help your children learn the vocabulary of mathematics.**

They will never get a real feeling for math nor learn more advanced concepts without an understanding of its vocabulary. Check that your children can define new terms. If not, have them use models and simple problems to show you they understand how the term is used.

**Teach them how to do math "in their head."**

One of the major ways to solve problems is by using mental math. Children should use this method frequently instead of using pencil and paper or a calculator. When helping your children with a problem, help them determine when it would be appropriate to use mental math.

**Make mathematics part of your**

**children's daily life.**

Mathematics will become more meaningful when your children see how important it is in so many real-life situations. Encourage them to use math in practical ways. For example, ask them to space new plants a certain distance apart,



double a recipe, and pay bills in

## Nurses' Notes: Spring Has Sprung

Have you seen the crocuses, the forsythia, and the robins? Have you felt the itchy eyes, runny nose, and congestion? All are sure signs that spring has come. Of course, spring is also a time when the common cold is, well, common. Can you tell whether you're suffering from a cold and allergy? It can be tricky. There are many websites that try to help in settling this question, as does this one from webmd.org.

Characteristic	Cold	Allergy
Duration	three-14 days	Days to months -- as long as you are exposed to the allergen
Time of Year	Most often in the winter, but possible at any time	Any time of the year -- although the appearance of some allergens are seasonal
Onset of symptoms	Symptoms take a few days to appear after infection with the virus.	Symptoms can begin immediately after exposure to the allergen
Symptom	Cold	Allergy
Cough	Often	Sometimes
Aches	Sometimes	Never
Fatigue	Sometimes	Sometimes
Fever	Rarely	Never
Itchy, watery eyes	Rarely	Often
Sore throat	Often	Sometimes
Runny or stuffy nose	Often; usually yellow mucus	Often; usually clear mucus

Fortunately, most of the time, OTC antihistamines and decongestants can offer relief in either case. You can ask your pharmacist if you're unsure which medicine is right for your symptoms. If symptoms worsen, persist longer than 2 weeks, or interfere with sleep, it's time to talk to your physician.



### Preschool Productions

During the month of March, the block and dramatic play centers in the pre-k classroom were changed into a circus. In the dramatic play center, the children had the opportunity to play the role of a juggler, a clown, an animal trainer, a ring master or a tightrope walker. Circus animals were added to the block corner so the children could construct a circus for them. The science center had a variety of balancing activities for the children to use. The literacy center had some new books and stories for the listening station and new letter and sound recognition and identification activities. The art center has a wide variety of Easter and creative activities for the children. In April, the dramatic play center will

become a doctor's office and the block corner will feature Thomas trains. This spring, in the science center, the children will be learning about life cycles. Our first activity will be observing tadpoles changing into frogs. There will be some books for the children to look at, a variety of different toy frogs, puzzles about lifecycles and stamps and ink pads depicting the change.

The dramatic play center in the preschool class during the month of March was transformed into a doctor's office. The block corner was a town and the art center had a great variety of Easter projects for the children to use. In April, the block corner will become an airport and the dramatic play center will become a house where the children can dress up, take care of babies, cook, iron and feed their babies.

We will be going on a field trip to Green Meadow Farms during the month of May. In addition, the children will be sharing snack with their Moms for a special Mothers day celebration.



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### January Students of the Month!

**Pre-K**  
C. Durso

**Third Grade**  
M. Megles-Tomaro

**Seventh Grade**  
A. Henderson

**Kindergarten**  
M. Van Antwerp

**Fourth Grade**  
T. Gadson

**Eighth Grade**  
S. Bischoff

**First Grade**  
T. Noll

**Fifth Grade**  
D. Cousin

**Second Grade**  
M. Carrizosa

**Sixth Grade**  
G. Torres



### February Students of the Month!

**Pre-K**  
N. Badilla

**Third Grade**  
A. Wesner

**Seventh Grade**  
S. Miskcuff

**Kindergarten**  
I. Seals

**Fourth Grade**  
R. Guerrero

**Eighth Grade**  
C. Carrizosa

**First Grade**  
E. Eldridge

**Fifth Grade**  
A. Lopez

**Second Grade**  
N. Mandato

**Sixth Grade**  
C. Ciancia

## Important Dates to Remember April 2010

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| April 6     | Classes Resume  |
| April 7     | Family Math Grades 3&4  |
| April 12    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Marking Period Ends<br>Grade 2 Class Trip   |
| April 14    | PreK/K Registration 1:00 p.m.<br>Grade 8 Holocaust Trip To RVCC<br>Family Math Grades 3&4   |
| April 19    | Report Cards Issued   |
| April 20    | School Board Elections – Vote the Budget!<br>Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting<br>7:00 p.m.<br>Spring Photos Prek-Grade 4 |
| April 21    | Family Math Grades 3&4<br>PTO Family Game Night 6:00 -8:00 p.m.   |
| April 23    | Market Day – 6:30 p.m.<br>Multi –purpose Room   |
| April 26    | PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.   |
| April 27-30 | NJ ASK Testing for Grades 7 and 8   |
| April 28    | Family Math Grades 3&4  |
| April 29    | Board of Ed. Meeting 7:30 Room 140  |

