



**Stewart School**  
Garden City, NY  
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## What's happening at Stewart School?



### Second Grade

Second grade students are beginning a unit of study on non-fiction reading and writing. Students will explore different non-fiction text features and they will learn how these features can assist with reading comprehension. Through exposure to non-fiction topics that are motivating to the students, teachers will engage students in non-fiction reading during guided reading and full class instruction. The unit will culminate with the creation of a non-fiction research project utilizing these text features.



### Third Grade

The third graders have been very busy with non-fiction this month! In reading workshop, they are learning the features of non-fiction as well as how to find main ideas of the text. In writing workshop, students are planning, organizing and taking notes on research information in preparation for writing a non-fiction feature article. In science, the students are learning about how volcanoes, earthquakes, weathering and erosion create changes in the earth's surface. The third grade will participate in a distance learning experience with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. Our students will experience the process of weathering, erosion and deposition as they use earth materials to gain a stronger understanding of earth science. In math, they are getting ready to start their unit on fractions.

### Fourth Grade

The fourth grade is enjoying 2018 so far with some interesting topics across the curriculum. In science, we have been following the scientific method to complete labs. Our latest lab had us dissecting owl pellets to determine how owls get the energy they need to survive. In math, we are currently in our geometry module. Fourth graders are focusing on lines, shapes, and angles. Many concepts and new vocabulary that we are learning about are being reinforced through art projects such as Geometry Stars and Piet Mondrian inspired drawings. In writing we are delving into research for our persuasive non-narrative unit of study. We have been working hard to craft a thesis statement. Students are then researching supporting facts that will help prove their thesis. We will be utilizing the app *Shadow Puppet* as an entertaining way to showcase our findings.

### Fifth Grade

An activity the fifth graders have been working on since December is ballroom dancing. After Stewart received a grant, the fifth graders met dance instructor, Miss Jana, and began their dance lessons in some of the most popular ballroom dances. It was very endearing to watch their initial intimidation dancing with partners of a different gender, but they have since warmed up to the idea, and are enjoying shuffling to the Tango, the Merengue, the Cha-Cha, and others. Now, if you visit Stewart School, you might walk down the halls and notice a class going to, or returning from, their dance practice in "escort formation." Everyone is looking forward to the culminating dance activity where children will be able to show off all they have learned at the end of March.

Finally, grade 5 students are finishing up many exciting science lessons on heredity, DNA, traits, chromosomes, genetic mutations, and much more. All students will be looking forward to a visit to the DNA Lab in Cold Spring Harbor this March where they will be able to relate much of their learning to hands-on activities they will do when visiting the Lab.

### Library

Happy New Year Stewart Students and Families! Since we have returned to school, 2018 has been busy. STAR Time (Sit Together and Read Time) has been a favorite activity in the library. Students get to read together on fun bean bag chairs and share their favorite books.

Second grade has been busy reading the "Roscoe Riley" series. These books are so much fun to read aloud to classes. Students have been discussing character traits and really connecting to these humorous stories.

2018 has been all about non-fiction for third grade. In library, third grade is now researching snow and snow crystals. We are learning how to use the online database, *World Book Kids*. Students are coming up with their own questions about snow and snow crystals which is guiding their research. Each third grade student has received assistance in the library with their classroom research as well.

In fourth grade, students have been reading Greek Myths, both in print as well as on their iPads. Students have broken down the myths to understand the different stories and their purpose. Students are completing a "Myth Map" which will help guide them through writing their own myth. We cannot wait to hear them all!

Fifth grade has been working on a "mock" Caldecott/Newbery Award Winner activity. Students are given a bunch of great books that are contenders for this year's awards. They are asked to pick one and to explain why it should be this year's winner. This activity exposes them to some wonderful new books. We hope some of their picks are the winners!

## Physical Education

It's hockey season! Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade physical education classes and the New York Islanders have teamed up to bring Floorball to Stewart School for the second year in a row. Islander representatives dropped off special hockey sticks to use in the promotion of a modified version of hockey. Meanwhile, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are having a blast playing noodle hockey, scooter hockey and Pillo Polo, all modified versions of hockey. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade has been involved in the morning jogging club since the beginning of the year and it has been going strong. Students have been inside for the last month due to freezing temps, but are learning and doing workouts in the gymnasium that they can also do at home. Each workout gets them closer to earning rewards given out by the New York Road Runners (NYRR) Club such as t-shirts, water bottles and key chains. Next month, we will begin our basketball/ball skills unit which will culminate with a foul shooting contest on stage in the auditorium.

## FLES

Fourth grade students have been working on numbers from **0-500**. Students learned how to say, "How old are you?" and answer, "I am \_\_\_ years old." They also learned basic math operations in Spanish, like how to say; plus, minus, greater than, less than and equal to. At the end of the unit, students completed a small numbers project, where they had to connect a number to its correct name in Spanish.

Fifth grade students finished working on numbers **0-1000**. Students are able to add, subtract and compare numbers by using greater than, less than and equal to, in Spanish. After the numbers unit, fifth grade students started the unit on physical and personal characteristics. Students have been describing monsters with different physical characteristics in Spanish, such as, tall, short, handsome, pretty, etc. At the end of the unit, students will create their own monster and, in Spanish, be able to use different physical and personal characteristics to describe it.

## SAFETY!

Drivers utilizing the Clinton Road parent drop circle should remain in their cars when dropping off their children. All children must exit on the passenger side of the car. School personnel will assist students crossing the bus circle. We encourage all students who qualify for bus service to ride the bus on a daily basis.

**Pedestrian Crossing:** For safety reasons, when crossing Clinton Road, please cross in the crosswalk and abide by the traffic light and pedestrian crossing sign.

## Reminders

**Drop off of Books, Lunch/Snacks:** In order to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum, if you need to drop something off for your child, your child should go down to the lobby to look for it. If snack or lunch is not picked up, it will be brought to the cafeteria.

**Required Notes:** Please remember if your child will not be following their usual dismissal routine, a note to the teacher is required. If your child is leaving with a friend, they must be signed out and a note is required from BOTH parents.

**Parking:** Please be respectful of our neighbors when parking on the side streets during school events such as concerts and parent-teacher conferences. Please do not block driveways.

## Cellular Device Policy

Cellular devices are not to be used during the school day. This includes school lunch periods, school related functions and on the school bus. Students are not to send or receive texts, voice mails, picture messages or calls during the school day.

## Did you know?

### DASA

Stewart School has started a monthly "Choose Kind" initiative. School-wide monthly meetings are held to recognize students "caught" choosing kind and to discuss the idea of taking care of yourself, taking care of others and taking care of the world around you. Stay tuned for more in February's edition!

### Quest

Students in the Quest program are participating in the *Stock Market Game*, which compels students to think using metacognition about their choices, analyzing trends and about general fiscal management. Students are also participating in the *Toshiba Exploravision Science Research Project/Competition*, designed to simulate real research and development!

### Opera

The fifth graders performed in Stewart's 80<sup>th</sup> opera! This year's production was *The Tales of Hoffmann*. Our 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders attended that performances and were a great audience!

### Mindfulness

Our second grade students have been exploring the use of mindfulness in their classrooms with school social worker, Mrs. Vincent. Second graders are learning to implement daily breathing techniques and calm down strategies for handling stress, frustration and impulsivity.

### Book of the Month:

***After the Fall: How Humpty Dumpty Got Back Up Again***, written and illustrated by Dan Santat, is about perseverance and grit. "Life begins when you get back up!"



## PTA

**PTA Meeting – March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:30 am, Joint Elementary PTA Meeting at Stewart**

## Giving Back:

### Stewart's on a Mission to Choose Kind!

Stewart School is dedicated to service learning and giving back to the community and those in need. Every month student requests are considered and donations are made through "Pizza for a Purpose" fundraising. In addition, we have found other ways to give back:

- \*Valentines for Veterans
- \*Honor Flight
- \*Candy for Troops Overseas
- \*Toys for Tots
- \*Food Drive

