



Dennis B. O'Brien Elementary School

ROCKAWAY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear DBO Families,

This week we proudly celebrated our 3rd Student Recognition Assembly, honoring the hard work, growth, and positive character of so many of our students. It is always wonderful to see their smiles and the pride they felt being recognized. We also want to send a huge thank you to our incredible PTA for making the Holiday Shop and Cookies & Cocoa events such a great success. These special moments brought so much joy to our students and families, and we are truly grateful for the time, energy, and generosity that made them possible.

In addition, our Kindness Tree and Kindness Boxes have been filled with thoughtful notes and acts of compassion, reminding us daily of the caring community we are building together. We continue to see amazing academic growth across all grade levels. Our students are working hard, staying focused, and showing great determination in their learning. Thank you for your continued support at home, it truly makes a difference and helps our students thrive both academically and socially.

 **Thursday, December 11th – Winter Spirit Day!** 

Show your school spirit *and* help others stay warm! Wear your coziest hats, scarves, and mittens — and don't forget, our Fourth Grade Clothing Drive is still collecting new or gently used winter items to support families in need through December 18th. Thank you to everyone who has donated already! 





What's happening in our classrooms

- Kindergarten was introduced to a new Superkid.....Sal!! Sal loves to play all kinds of sports! Along with Sal they are learning about the letter Ss. In Literacy centers they read the Superkid story Oswald Adds, made a snake from uppercase S, sorted pictures that began with Ss, practiced writing uppercase S, and used dot paint to make uppercase S. Our read aloud was Silly Sally. Activities included identifying characters and setting, sequencing the story using pictures, and writing about what makes us feel silly. They learned about the sight word "as" by singing, searching, writing, and coloring it. In Math, Kindergarten began learning about adding numbers 0-5. In Social Studies they are learning about holidays. In Science they started learning about weather beginning with Sunny.
- This week in first grade the students are learning a rule for adding -ed and -ing. During math time the students are becoming more fluent with their doubles facts. They are using the doubles facts to help them solve problems that are near doubles. In social studies, first grade is enjoying a trip around the world to learn about different holidays. They each created a passport and began learning about Diwali and Hanukkah.
- Second grade can hardly believe it's already December! The class is buzzing with excitement for the winter and holiday fun this month brings. They've begun welcoming guest readers who are sharing their favorite winter or holiday stories, which has quickly become a beloved part of the week. In Superkids, students have been exploring soft g and c sounds through words like *gentle*, *giraffe*, *city*, and *cent*. They've also been strengthening their reading fluency in book groups and paying close attention to the use of commas. In math, students are continuing to solve two-digit addition and subtraction word problems and are beginning to identify and count money. Meanwhile in science, they're diving deeper into the water cycle while also enjoying a dash of snowy, seasonal fun.
- In Math, this week third graders have been continuing to explore different ways to understand multiplying with 9. In Language Arts, students continued to find the main idea of the text and the supporting details. Students also discussed the author's point of view. In Science, students completed the unit on climate and weather. Students had a great time shopping for their family and friends at the holiday shop this week.

- Fourth graders were hard at work this week as they tackled challenging multi-step word problems in math. In science, we are wrapping up Unit 1 on Information Processing and the Structure and Function of Living Things. To showcase their learning, they are designing their very own species—complete with a unique habitat, climate, structures, functions, and behaviors! This week in fourth grade, students focused on strengthening their grammar skills and deepening their ability to respond to literature. Students engaged with a shared text to develop thoughtful written responses. Our emphasis was on using evidence from the text to support ideas and on communicating clearly through well-constructed sentences. In Social Studies the fourth graders continued learning about the regions of New Jersey and their unique characteristics.
 - Fifth graders are in the midst of their election campaigns. Polls are being carried and speeches are getting refined as we near the big day. Our scientists have discovered that mixtures and solutions are physical changes that can be reversed, while our mathematicians are exploring place value through the thousandths using exponential notation. Finally in language arts students continue to explore story elements and perfect paragraph writing as they prepare for their essay unit.
- **Winter Clothing Drive - [FLYER](#)**
 - **December [Counselor Newsletter](#)**
 - **Don't forget to get involved and [JOIN THE PTA!!!!](#)**

Important Dates:

12/15-12/22 - "Tis' The Season" Spirit Week - [SEE FLYER](#)

12/23 - 1/2 - Holiday Break - School Closed

1/5 - Monthly Student Recognition Assembly (Wear Grade Level Colors)

1/19 - MLK Day - School Closed - Staff In-Service Day

1/20 - PTA Meeting 7:00pm

Warm regards,



Gaetano Sollazzo
Principal, Dennis B. O'Brien Elementary