

# The Wintergreen Explorer

## YALE ART GALLERY

This week each of the first grade classes has taken a trip to visit the newly renovated Yale University Art Gallery located in downtown New Haven. Docents led interactive discussions in three or four of the museum's many galleries. These galleries contain art representing cultures from around the world. "My favorite part," said Ian DeBaise, "was when we looked at the owl mask," located in the gallery of African art. Students were encouraged to take their time, looking closely at each piece of art, noticing shapes, colors, and various types of lines. The students then shared their observations and questions. "I saw straight lines and curvy lines in the picture of the swans," said Makayla Johnson. The docents also included an activity, allowing the children to create a drawing inspired by the art they had discussed. "I liked it when we made our own drawings," reported Marcus Simmons. This field trip was a nice finish to our classroom unit that focused on the various types of line used in art works. The students and their teachers are looking forward to another trip in the spring.

*-Jennifer Place, Art Teacher*

## GUIDANCE CORNER

Preparation for high school for our eighth graders is well underway. A successful high school information session was held on October 6 and now Ms. Taylor continues the work. **Open House at Sheehan High School in Wallingford is January 22 @ 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium. Snow date the next day same time.**

## The 10th Annual International Fair



*Photos above and right show a sample of the many faces and activities at this year's International Festival.*



## RESOUNDING THANKS FROM OUR PTO

The tenth annual International Festival was an enormous success due to the overwhelming support of students and their families. One guest commented that spending Saturday at Wintergreen was comparable to spending the day at Epcot, the Disney park in Florida. Participants in the International Fair were able to explore the world in a day. The International Festival has become a trademark event for the PTO. It takes a large group of parents and staff to plan, organize, and carry out the events of the day. We are grateful for the support of all who participated and helped to make this event possible.

## RACHAEL SCDORIS

Internationally famous for her skill as an athlete and her ability to confront challenges, Rachael Scdoris is one of the elite group of mushers who compete in the Iditarod, a race from one part of Alaska to the other. As part of the cultural enrichment program, she will be visiting students in grades three through eight on November 12.

## TECH NEWS

Recycle with WIMS! Do you have a printer at home or an old cell phone that you have no idea what to do with? Please send them in so that we can recycle them properly. Our school earns cash for your used supplies. We use this money to purchase hardware for our students. Every bit of the money we earn is turned back into tech supplies to enhance our supplies. We will take laser cartridges as well as inkjet cartridges and old cell phones. Please consider helping us out and recycle these items with us. It is also great for the environment!

## SPANISH NEWS

On November 18, 19 and 20, kindergarten classes will host our fourth annual Mexican Birthday Parties. Parents and grandparents will be invited as students sing songs and play games that are traditionally done in Mexico. Much of the presentation will be done in Spanish. Sra. Ruiz will coordinate this event.



Angelica Lund looks at the world through the eyes of an insect.

## SCSU CONNECTION

The Enrichment "A" group of the Intermediate Academy "became" college students on Tuesday morning! Teacher Ingrid Doviak and her nineteen students traveled to Southern Connecticut State University to be hosted by the students at Southern that they have been collaborating with for the last month. The course, for pre-service Elementary School teachers entitled, "Integrated Curriculum: Mathematics, Science, and Technology" was the template for learning as the Wintergreen students and university students convened in the lecture hall of Davis Hall on the university campus. The tiered seating and huge projection screen welcoming Wintergreen set the tone for the class. Professors Dr. Joel Meisel and Dr. Adam Goldberg split the morning, one directing a mathematics lesson, and the other, a science lesson, all through the use of technology. Both lessons demonstrated to the students correlated with a uniting theme.

Dr. Goldberg addressed characteristics of living organisms through the picture book by local author David Schwartz entitled, If You Could Hop Like a Frog. This book helped to integrate mathematics in the students understanding of different life forms. Students then worked in unison with a simulation that helped them to consider...if a frog can jump twenty times its length, then how far could the students jump...twenty times their length? Students went with their partners all around Davis Hall...inside and outside...to consider this problem.

Dr. Meisel then followed up with the science piece of the lesson. He helped students to investigate animal attributes focusing on vision-(no pun intended!)-most specifically the characteristics that assist organisms in their survival. The students were introduced to the specifics of spiders, insects, and chameleons...how they "see" the world, and

then took part in a simulation so they could "become" the animal studied. Both lessons complimented each other because science and math were needed to see how animals survive in their natural environment. Wintergreen continues to value the strong ties with Southern Connecticut State University.

## HOMESCHOOL FRESH APPROACHES

Homework can be extremely beneficial for students. Our goal is to provide students with challenges and support to be successful, and homework can be a strategy to help students grow academically. The amount of homework should depend on the child's age and skills. For example, children in the primary grades can benefit from 10 - 20 minutes of homework each day. Students in the intermediate grades can benefit from 30 - 60 minutes of daily homework. Junior Academy students can benefit from more time on homework, and the amount may vary across the content areas. Reading across the grade levels is critically important and this practice may extend the recommended time. There are four reasons to assign a homework assignment.

***Practice** homework is meant to reinforce learning and help the student master specific skills.*

***Preparation** homework introduces material that will be presented in future lessons. These assignments aim to help students learn new material better when it is covered in class.*

***Extension** homework asks students to apply skills they already have to new situations.*

***Integration** homework requires the student to apply many different skills to a single task, such as book reports, science projects or creative writing.*

Successful practices in homework require some focused communication between teachers and parents. Teachers continue to discuss homework assignments in grade level and academy planning meetings to ensure they are consistently and accurately assigning work to students. Parents must also participate in this aspect of learning by observing their child and monitoring their work. Consider these questions: How long does it take your child to complete the assigned work? Are they able to independently complete the assignments? Is the work helpful practice? Most importantly, we ask parents to communicate feedback with their child's teacher. Together, we can ensure homework is a positive experience for all kids. A list of homework tips has been attached to this week's Explorer.



Sixth graders commemorate the great American pastime, baseball, and arrival of the World Series.

## BOX TOPS

Chairperson, Concetta Fusco, reports on the October submission for the Box Top for Education Program. Wintergreen realized \$317.50 because of **over 3000 box tops collected**. GREAT JOB WIMS!

## YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER

The members of the PTO are determined to organize fundraisers that desirable for all parents. The Yankee Candle Company has been devoted to the art of crafting candles for thirty years. This company also offers the largest variety of fragrances and they stand behind the quality of their product. The fall/holiday catalog offers a great selection of gift items. Parents are encouraged to share this catalog with friends and family over the weekend and to return the orders to school. The deadline for this fundraiser is **Monday, October 27**. The confirmed delivery will arrive back at school prior to the holiday. The PTO raises funds to support the cultural enrichment program at school and all students benefit from these sponsored programs.

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

A nice way to start the day is joining family and friends for breakfast at Applebee's. Please join us on Saturday, November 8 for a special breakfast with friends from Wintergreen. The cost of the ticket is only \$5 and it includes pancakes, bacon, juice, tea and coffee. Please complete the attached form and return the funds to the main office. Space is limited so we look forward to hearing from you soon.