



# Martin Road Gazette

“A Collective Vision of Excellence”

April 2022 Edition  
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## Principal’s Corner



Dear Parent or Guardian,

April Showers Bring May Flowers!!!

How wonderful it will be to see flowers again!! Thank you, parents and students, for your incredible work during this school year. Our students transitioned from wearing masks to not wearing masks without any major difficulties. All year, our students have been flexible and have risen up to meet every challenge we have put in front of them. Starting after Spring break, we will eliminate our small “side” cafeteria and all students will be eating in the cafeteria. We are planning on all school events to continue in person for the remainder of the school year. AWESOME!!!

Grade 3-5 will participate in the Math State Assessment at the end of April. This is a great opportunity for our students to show everything that they learned in math this past school year.

Stay safe and enjoy the warmer weather!!

### Greetings from the Library Media Center!



In April we will be celebrating Poetry! Each grade level will be learning about different poets and types of poetry, as well as creating their own poetry. We have many books about poetry in the library including *Shel Silverstein* and *Jack Prelutsky*, to name just a few, that our students will enjoy and be inspired by. Be sure to look for their poetry creations as I will be sending them home after they have been completed!



The PTA will hold their next meeting on April 4th at **6:30 P.M.** in the Martin Road Elementary School Library.

**Pierogi fundraiser pick-up** will be on April 7th! Pick-up will run from 3-4:30PM and will be in the Martin Road Elementary bus loop. Items *must be picked up during the designated time* as they are frozen. *Please call Jen Hinderlitter with any issues at (716) 228-3017.*

### Sneak Peek Ahead ...

- April 1** — Mismatch Day for April Fools’!
- April 8** — Wear Blue/Gray for Steeler Pride!
- April 11-18** — **Spring Recess — No School**
- April 19** — School Resumes — Welcome Back!
- April 22** — Wear Blue/Green Clothes to Celebrate Earth Day!
- April 27-28** — NYS Math Assessment
- April 29** — Pajama Day



## Second Grade Superstars

Happy April to all!! The Second Grade team is looking forward to Spring weather, activities, and the changes we will be seeing outside. We plan to get students outdoors as much as possible to enjoy the warmer weather!

There is much to be excited about in our classrooms this month! In math, classrooms are learning how to count coins and how to tell time on an analog clock. In addition, each class will be completing a research project and the students wrote a research paper. This month in reading, we will continue learning about spelling patterns for long vowels. We will also be working on summarizing a text and understanding the point of view of a character in a story.

## Fantastic Fourth Grade



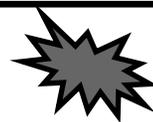
Happy spring! We hope everyone is looking forward to the warm weather that will hopefully be here soon.

Our students did a wonderful job and worked very hard on their NYS ELA assessments. In April, we will be continuing working on poetry as well as using context clues to understand unknown words in a text. We will also be continuing to improve our vocabulary and using new words in our speaking and writing.

In math, we have begun looking at angles, shapes, area, and perimeter. Have those protractors ready at home, so your child can show you how we measure and classify angles. Our NYS math assessment is right around the corner, we will be preparing our students for that as well. Remember to keep working to master those multiplication facts.

Our science units will be packed with learning about light and sound. Lots of experiments and hands on activities will be done. Be sure to ask your student what they did in science.

## Third Grade Troopers



Hello Third Grade Families! Our students in 3rd grade have been working hard this year. The students had a blast learning how plants are grown different ways and how it comes to our table (Farm to Table field trip). We will be doing a virtual field trip in April to the Botanical Gardens.

In Math, students have been learning about Area ( $A=L \times W$ ) and Perimeter ( $P=S+S+S+S$ ) as well as time and measurement. The State Math test will be taken on April 27th and 28th. Please keep practicing adding, subtracting, multiplication/division each night.

In ELA, students have been focusing on poetry, idioms, cause and effect, author's point of view, etc. The students took the state test on March 30th and 31st. Please keep reading at least 30 minutes per night.

In SS, we will be learning about Kenya. Our next unit after Kenya will be about making a difference in our communities.

In Science, we are working on life cycles.



## Fabulous Fifth Grade

Calling all detectives and scientists! Students will continue to work through the unit on Matter, now concentrating on Mixtures and Solutions, Physical and Chemical Changes and how those two concepts interact. Students will be required to use what they have learned through PowerPoints, readings, and videos to solve labs dealing with mystery powders, chemical changes when baking cakes and determining which of 7 stations demonstrate physical changes or chemical changes. Keep asking your child what they learned during their day in school! Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade Mathematicians will finish up their work with decimals and will begin exploring fractions. Students will apply their knowledge of greatest common factors and least common multiples to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers with unlike denominators. Students will use their multiplying and dividing skills learned in Chapters 1 and 2 when working with fractions. Unit 2 Week 5 in ELA for fifth graders centers around **Poetry**. The Essential Question is "*What motivates you to accomplish a goal?*" **Elements of Poetry** such as rhyme, repetition, and theme will be studied within Narrative and Free Verse Poetry selections. Students will identify **prepositional phrases in their grammar learning target**, as well as identify and define **homographs (words with similar spelling/different meanings)**, such as "match". One Key Word from this Unit is **ambitious**, which means *requiring great ability and effort*. Do you have a favorite poem or poet? Connecting with our ELA poetry unit, students will complete their State Diamond Poem Project in Social Studies. Students will select a state to research and include fun and interesting facts about their state in their poem. With the end of the year quickly approaching, we have begun planning for an in-person Moving Up Day ceremony to be held at Martin Road Elementary. More details will be forthcoming. Stay tuned!

# Music Notes



Please take a few moments to have a conversation with your kids about music found around us. Point out activities like, singing, dancing, listening, and playing music. Explain or show how these activities are woven into the daily lives of people in our community. Our local communities are made up of folks from all around who share their traditions by expressing themselves through music, movements, and arts. We will be learning about some of these countries, cultures, and musical expressions. Learning about other traditions helps us to understand and appreciate the diversity that is a part of this world.

## From the Nurse's Office



We have all heard that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Here at Martin Road, our students have the option to eat here at school, if they do not have the opportunity to eat at home. That being said, many of our students still do not eat breakfast.

Breakfast provides the necessary fuel for our bodies to function throughout the day. Without breakfast, a person is tired, irritable, and restless. It is very hard to focus and concentrate - two main components in learning! People who eat breakfast are also overall healthier. They have a better immune system, better weight control, and are more likely to participate in sports and physical activity.

\*\*\*Just a quick reminder to schedule those appointments! School physicals are mandatory for grades Pre-K/K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th. Many of our students also need updated immunizations. Schedule these appointments now and get one thing checked off your back-to-school list!

### NEWS from the Physical Education Department

The Physical Education classes finished up a soccer unit focusing on fundamental soccer skills.

The next unit will involve movement exploration and dances that focus on sequencing.

Mr. Wiskup and Ms. Steckstor  
Martin Road Elementary P.E.

### NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM



April is National Arab Heritage Month. This month is set aside to recognize the contributions of Arab Americans and Arabic-speaking Americans. In honor of that we will be learning about Arab or Arab-speaking artists and the amazing work they have done. We will learn about traditional arts such as Arabic calligraphy as well as artists that have put a new spin on the tradition creating "calligraffiti" - a combination of traditional Arabic calligraphy and graffiti art.

Check out the work of local artist, Muhammad Zaman. While he is not Arab, he uses lettering from the languages of his fatherland, Bangladesh, as well as Arabic and English letters to create beautiful abstract art. Zaman has an art studio in Buffalo that you can visit and see his amazing paintings. You might even catch him at work in his studio.

If you can't visit his work space, you can also check him out on social media or the Buffalo Arts Studio website: <https://www.buffaloartsstudio.org/project/muhammad-zaman/>

Stay creative, Martin Road!



## Notes from the School Counselor

Spring brings more joy with the weather getting better and flowers blooming. However, it is not always rainbows. With standardized testing approaching, staff and students alike are feeling the pressure to perform which could create test anxiety. Testing is hard already but pairing it with the anxiety that comes with it can be miserable. These tips can help your student/child gain the tools that they need to conquer both the test and the anxiety that comes with it.

1. Talk about what to expect during the test. Unknowing the process can increase anxiety especially when their normal school routine has been changed. When we know what to expect it reduces fear. The more information you can give to the student ahead of time the more prepared they will be (what time the test will be, how much time will it take to finish, the topics it is on and what they need to bring).
2. Boost their confidence in test taking strategies. Teach them test taking strategies (check your answers, read the directions twice, eliminate answers that you know are not correct).
3. Teach positive self-talk. Having negative thoughts go through your brain while you are already sitting for a test is challenging. Helping the student flip their negative talk into positive ones is always helpful.
4. Identify coping skills that students can use during the test. They may not be able to get a drink or talk with an adult. So, talk about things they can do during a test to assure they are able to remain calm (hand squeezing, 4-7-8 breathing, stretching, picture a happy place, etc.).

### NEWS from the English as New Language (ENL) Department

Your child will be taking the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT). Please have your child get plenty of sleep with an early breakfast.

**Speaking test begins:**

**APRIL 19**

**Dates for the Listening, Reading, Writing test:**

**MAY 9-20**

For those who will celebrate Ramadan, we would like to say Ramadan Mubarak/Kareem to all our students and families.

Alina Taylor (Grade 2), Amanda Meegan (Grade 3), Lydia Pulka (Grade 4), Dawla Mohsin (Grade 5), and Maleka Nashir (All Grades)

## Occupational and Physical Therapy

Visual perceptual skills are the skills that a child uses to make sense of what he or she sees. The eyes send visual information to the brain, and then the brain needs to interpret the information and make sense of it all. *Below are some specific visual perceptual skills most commonly referred to and used within the school environment.*

**Form Constancy** - Form constancy helps a child to realize that a letter remains the same no matter what font it is printed in, or whether it is written in a different place (such as on a board instead of in a book).

**Visual Discrimination** - Good visual discrimination can help a child to pay attention to detail and to correctly perceive letters and numbers where there is only a small difference between them (e.g. S and 5).

**Figure Ground** - Figure-ground perception helps children find the correct information in a busy background.

**Visual Closure** - Visual closure skills can help your child to make sense of things that are only partly visible.

**Visual Memory** - Visual memory play a vital role in reading and spelling to remember sight words and the order of letters for spelling.

Katie Byrwa PT,DPT, Amy Rybak PTA, Laura Pozzuto OTR/L, Amy Woodley OTR/L, Tara Hanlon COTA/L, Breanna Eyermann, COTA/L

## Notes from Speech Language Department

### April Words of the Month

Earth

Tree

Recycle

Recycle Bin

Trash

### Word Practice

This month we celebrate Earth Day! Try to find things around the house that you can recycle. Can you sort them into categories such as paper, plastic and glass? Use as many words from the list above when completing this activity!

### **Strategy of the Month**

#### Categories

A category is a group of like things that belong together. Some examples of categories include: food, toys, clothes.

It's important to be able to identify categories. It helps to compare things you are talking or writing about.

**Try this at home!** Find 15-20 objects in your home. Try to sort them into different categories. Have someone guess what categories you used. Then switch roles and try it again!

## Social Worker's Corner—Connecting Parent, Child, and School

### **How to Help Your Child Succeed at Taking Tests**

Test taking can be stressful for both children and parents. Not only do you have to make sure your child is fully prepared for the content they'll face, but sometimes it also feels like you have to force them to study. For children, testing can be scary. Unless the test is on a subject in which they excel and/or are excited about, children may feel intimidated and are more likely to be unsuccessful. These are all bumps in the road of school and life, but effective study skills and habits can be developed with your child — and with enough of your own involvement, these skills will transition into adulthood.

**Work with your child on study habits.** In a comfortable atmosphere, like their bedroom, bring in a set of healthy study snacks and sit down with your child to go over test material. Don't hold their hand while they figure things out, but be available if they have questions or get stuck. As a parent, you can help your child develop good study skills early on. Just giving them the answers, however, doesn't help that process. Go through different scenarios and ways to solve questions and problems together, but encourage them to figure it out on their own. **Make sure your child has a plan in place and offer rewards!** When it comes to motivating a child to develop good study habits and test-taking skills, go through a practice run. If your child isn't enthusiastic about this, offer a small reward at the end to encourage them to try their best. After the test is done, go through the answers one by one, letting your child know how they did. The more you go through this exercise with them, the more comfortable they will be when faced with a test taking situation in school.

### **Remember:**

- Ask your child what it is about the test that they don't feel comfortable with. Work through a practice test with them and help them understand there is nothing to fear!
  - Remind them that it's not the end of the world if they don't ace a test!
- Be supportive, but don't offer them all the answers. Allow them (and encourage them) to figure things out on their own!
  - **Check out this video to teach coping skills for test taking anxiety:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDYx9qM\\_ygg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDYx9qM_ygg)
  - **Check out the book *The Anti-Test Anxiety Society* by Julia Cook**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YUKCtthfYEo>

