



# The Charles Street Chatter

## January 2020

CSS welcomed the new year with a Student Recognition Assembly on January 6th. The following students were recognized as *Student of the Month* for the month of December, congratulations to Autumn Ferris, grade 5 and Maryn Hammond, grade 3. The students who are selected each month receive an award certificate from Charles Street, along with a \$10 Barnes & Noble gift card. They, and their families are invited to attend the Board of Education meeting for that month to be recognized along with students from the Palmyra Middle and High Schools.

Along with our Students of the Month, the following students were selected by their teachers to participate in *Lunch with the Principal*, Samantha DeLuca, Hailey Monroe, and Lila Hemmons.

Congratulations to Mrs. Mills' Kindergarten class for being chosen for the *KINDNESS AWARD* for December.

On January 8th the Charles Street School 2020 Read Across America Slogan Contest winner was announced. Hats off to Mrs. Ehret's class for their clever phrase:

***Find a book, find a seat, find a snack, and repeat!***

Thursday, January 16th we started the day with two assemblies—the PTA brought the Mad Science Program to town! CSS students had a blast learning about chemical reactions, electricity, and simple science fun, but it wasn't over yet...that evening the gym opened up into a giant Mad Science Lab with stations set up for experimenting in many areas of science. Students, along with their parents, had the opportunity to learn something new or put in to practice a theory they already had knowledge of. A good time was had by all. Thanks to the PTA for continually offering fun learning programs for our students.

The annual Scripps Spelling Bee brought excitement and challenges to students in 3rd through 5th grade throughout the month of January. Classroom spell down elimination rounds began in earnest on January 9th, by the following week classes had selected their representatives to the grade level elimination rounds. The final list of participants for the CSS Annual Scripps Spelling Bee were from 3rd grade—Zaid Aziz, Jackson Gibbons, and Ryan Stavely; from 4th grade—Bethany Caban, Vivian Dabu, and Joseph Gianinni; and from 5th grade, Joshua Carter, Aidan Quesnel, and Grace Woll.



**CHARLES STREET SCHOOL**  
Palmyra, New Jersey  
Mr. Christopher Tracey



Though all proved to be great spellers, the top speller shined through in Round 17. Congratulations to Joshua Carter for placing 1st! Kudos to Bethany Caban at 2nd, and Zaid Aziz rounding out at 3rd! All students did a wonderful job, not only in their spelling expertise, but in the spirit of sportsmanship and encouragement they showed for each other.

Charles Street Student Council is blown away by their ongoing Cereal Drive. During their first two weeks, more than 350 boxes of cereal was collected for the Bread of Life Food Pantry at Epworth Church in Palmyra. If you'd like to contribute, Student Council will be collecting through February 14th, so send in a box or two with your child.

Fifth graders proudly competed in the NJ State Math Championships for the Perennial Math Virtual Competition on Thursday, January 30. Seven students worked together to quickly solve challenging problems against the clock in logic, geometry, algebra, computation, patterns and time against 29 other teams from across the state. The students who participated were Samantha McDonald, Ueder Alves DeSousa, Brock Weaver, Charles Rosica, Sawyer McNab, Matthew Dickenson, and Justin Butler from Mrs. Ehret's class. When the final results came in, our CSS Team placed in the top ten, 9th out of 29 teams!!



#### **In the classroom....**

The Kindergarten team has wrapped up learning about plane & solid shapes and is so excited to start their chapter of addition! They've also been tapping out sounds and reading CVC words!

In first grade students are writing informative pieces about all the things they have been learning this year.

Second grade has just started their new science unit on landforms. The students are very interested to learn all about various landforms like volcanoes, mountains, lakes, and rivers.

Our third grade students are finishing up their science unit on animals. Students are working on a group life cycle project.

Students in fourth grade are finishing up their Physical Science Unit with a research project on different types of energy. Students are researching and reporting on a form of energy that they choose, and writing about the pros and cons of each one.

#### **A NOTE FROM THE NURSE -**

It's not too late to get that flu shot. Contact your primary care physician, or visit a local clinic or pharmacy.

Please keep your children home for 24 hours after fever with no medication, or if they are vomiting or have diarrhea. Encourage frequent hand washing and rest.

Kindergarten registration is on April 3rd— please come with copy of recent physical (within one year) and proof of vaccines.

**FROM THE DESK OF MR. TRACEY -**

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the 100th day of school. It seems it was just the other day that we began the school year. The time does fly, but we have much more learning to do. I have been enjoying my first year as principal and am excited about life here at CSS with the best students and teachers anywhere!!!!

As we get to the halfway point of our first year as a pre-k to 5th grade building, we are seeing a 32% decrease in late arrivals and absences are down 9% (even with the bug that ran through the building this month!). Our discipline referrals have decreased by almost 40% from last year! Ask any student what my favorite word is (it's KINDNESS) and they'll be happy to tell you and even happier to demonstrate!

We are in the midst of benchmark testing as I write this, but some scores are trickling in and we are seeing an increase in reading lexile scores in some of the 3rd and 4th grade classes that have completed testing! Our 5th grade mathletes recently competed against 28 other NJ schools and did quite well. Our students are challenging themselves more and more and are rising to the occasion!

We have Read Across America Week to look forward to in March and as Spring comes along, our students will be participating in a variety of field trips!

Our PTA has been so supportive this year and it was great to see so many families participate in the PTA's Science Night a few weeks ago.

I can't wait to see what the second half of the year brings us!

Regards,

Chris Tracey

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT CSS -**

- |                     |   |  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| February 3          | - | Report Cards distributed   |
|                     |   | PTA Meeting / 7:00 in CSS Library  |
| February 13         | - | Club Pictures for CSS Yearbook   |
| February 14         | - | Last day for Student Council Cereal Collection<br>for Bread of Life Food Pantry at Epworth Church, Palmyra |
| February 17         | - | President's Day - School Closed  |
| February 19, 20, 21 |   | 12:45 Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Conferences   |

**Kindergarten Registration and Screening will take place at Charles Street School on Friday, April 3rd.  
Please call the school office at 856 829-3601 to schedule an appointment for your child.**