



# WILLOW AVENUE NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Kindness Lives at Willow

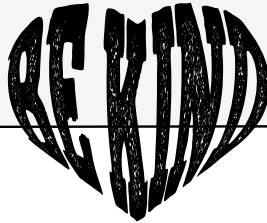
Vol. 4 issue 8

APRIL SHOWERS  
Bring  
MAY FLOWERS

• SPREAD •  
*Kindness*

## Kindness Awards -

Kennedy S. - 1st Grade  
Ceileigh H. - 1st Grade



Mrs. Cassidy  
Nurse Katie

### Upcoming:

4/1 - Spring Break No School

4/23 - Passover No School



### Cornwall Trait

**Sense of Humor -**

To laugh and be playful  
without hurting or at another's  
expense



### **Our Knockout Kindergarteners with Mrs. Gandolfini and Mrs. Sweeney**



April brings a lot of things like flowers blooming and birds that sing. 3D shapes are everywhere from soda cans to the baseball sphere. We can spot them and name them AND you will see we won't confuse them with the ones called 2D. Subtraction slides in and that's just fine--the numbers will become less on our number line. We will take away to make less not more. So much math we have in store! Classic Stories and Fairytales make our imagination sail. We will study the message, characters and setting. The fox and wolf are sly and the prince and princesses are fetching! We will add to our sight word list and how many CVC words exist!! We will wrap up the month learning about the water cycle and precipitation and on Earth Day we will have a planting celebration!  
April is also a good time to remind ourselves that we should always be kind!

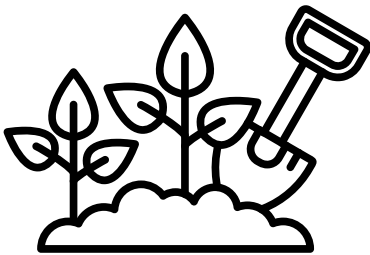
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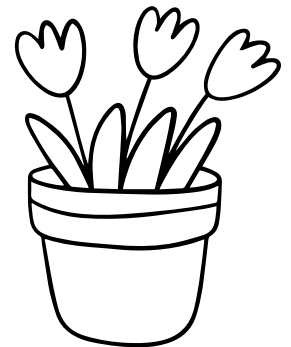
## **Fantastic First Grade News with Mrs. Berchielli and Mrs. Line**

Our fabulous first graders have had a great month. We continue to learn strategies to solve addition and subtraction word problems, we learned about place value and some measurement. In ELA, we have been applying the skills learned in class to help us become better readers. We now know digraphs, glued sounds, suffixes, base words, blends, closed and open syllables. They do an amazing job at marking up their words! We learned about sunlight, moon phases, and the number of hours of daylight in each season. In social studies, we learned about famous Americans and American symbols. Our fabulous firsties also took some time to research an endangered animal and presented their findings in a book they created. We had lots of fun sharing it with our parents. We are all very excited about spring and our trip to Black Rock later this month.



### **Principal Awards**

Owen A.	Sara C.
Declan D.	William F.
Aubrey F.	Amaya G.
Anton K.	Isabella L.
Lorelei M.	Connor M.
Logan P.	Juan R-G.
Penelope S.	Shayla S.
Richard T.	



## **Caring Hands with Nurse Katie**



**Did you hear? A solar eclipse happened on April 8, 2024!**

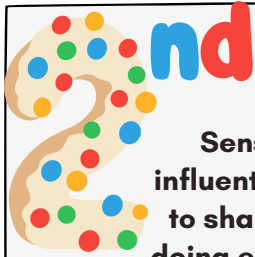
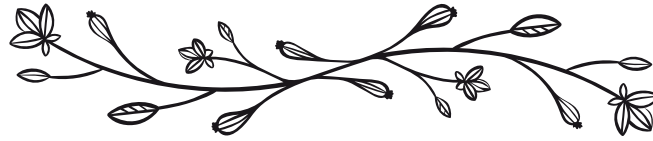
**The Hudson Valley was not in the "path of totality" but what did that mean exactly?**

**Being "outside the path of totality" means there was no time when it was safe to look directly at the Sun without using a special-purpose solar filter that complies with the transmittance requirements of the ISO 12312-2 international standard.**

**Sun glasses (even really dark ones) are not safe for solar eclipse viewing. Even viewing through your phone's camera is unsafe. Using improper eye protection or no eye protection can result in permanent damage to your eyes.**

**Eclipse glasses can be purchased online - just be sure that they meet with the ISO 12312-2 international standard for eye safety.**

**Hope you got a chance to see it - next one in the US will be August 23, 2044.**



## **Sensational Second Graders with Mrs. Byrne & Mrs. Santos**

**Sensational second graders are super busy! We have learned about many influential Americans and are working on our Bottle Biographies. We cannot wait to share them with our schoolmates! We have been learning about erosion and doing experiments to see what natural resources help to protect against erosion. We can now add and subtract three digit numbers and we are beginning our units on money and time! We are becoming strong writers who can write full paragraphs with proper detail and support!**

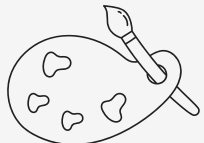
## **Mrs. Hogan and Ms. Mante's Terrific Third Graders**

April showers bring May flowers. This past week we were able to see a solar eclipse and we took our first NYS ELA assessment. Our next unit in ELA is Peter Pan and we will begin reading and analyzing that book next week. In Math, we'll be finishing up our fraction unit and beginning our time and measurement unit. In Science, we'll be exploring the topic of heredity and variation of traits in plants and animals. To enhance our knowledge of this, we will be taking a trip to Black Rock to look for eggs in the vernal pools. In May, we'll be taking a trip to the Bronx Zoo. In Social Studies, we've been learning about the land, people, and culture of the United States. In library enrichment we're researching a country of our heritage to learn about its land, people, and culture. We'll get to see how our heritage country compares to the United States. Looking forward to those May flowers.



## **Fabulous Fourth Grade with Mrs. Cleeves & Ms. Merante**

Fourth Graders have so much to look forward to as the end of the year quickly approaches! Students have enjoyed learning about the Total Solar Eclipse and enjoyed their eclipse classroom parties! Students are continuing to work hard to prepare for the New York State tests that will take place this month and in May. In math, students have mastered our fractions and geometry units and are eager to learn about perimeter, area and measurement. Fourth Graders are continuing to explore our science curriculum and learn how animals use their senses to communicate. Students are wrapping up learning about Colonial America and are starting to dive into the curriculum on the Revolutionary War. To go along with our Social Studies Unit, students are enjoying their new novel study, *The Winter of the Red Snow*. This book is a diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, a young girl who is living in Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. In writing this month, students are being introduced to Opinion Writing. To end the month of April, students are looking forward to their well-deserved field trip on Friday, April 26th to Wood n' Wheel. Mrs. Cleeves and Ms. Merante are blown away with the patience and kindness that has been shown throughout the building by our students.



## **Artful News from Mrs. Butler**

Spring is in full swing in the art room! Kindergarten artists have been learning about the rainbow and how there is a very specific order to the rainbow's colors. We learned the acronym for that is ROYGBIV. Our artists painted a rainbow, cut it out and added cotton balls for our clouds, they are a wonderful colorful addition to our hallway! Our sculpture unit is up next! First grade artists have been learning about what a collage is. Students painted papers with various spring colors and have been working on drawing, cutting & gluing to create beautiful Spring flower collages. Our second grade artists reviewed the rainbow and the order of its colors but rather than paint a rainbow like our Kindergarten artists, they weaved a rainbow with yarn!! I am so proud of our students for not only learning the process of weaving with yarn but also all of the tying of yarn together for the various colors. Amazing job second graders! Third grade artists are learning about Impressionist artist Berte Morisot and are creating a painted work of art in her style. The works are beautiful so far and I cannot wait to see the finished pieces! Last but not least, our fourth grade artists have been learning about Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein and are creating a work of art in his style using a variety of art techniques- printmaking, drawing and collage! Students chose an onomatopoeia to draw in bubble letter style for their project, incorporating printmaking and collage as well. Very much looking forward to seeing these completed. Our fourth graders have also begun the brainstorming process for their cardboard arcade game ideas during our enrichment sessions. Stay tuned for further information on the arcade date!!

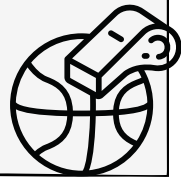
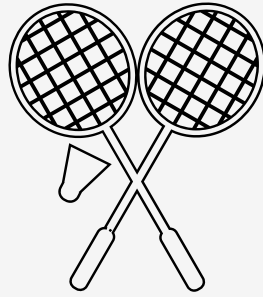
## Happy Birthday

- 4/4: Addison S. - 4th Grade
- 4/6: Zakariya T. - 3rd Grade
- 4/6: Zoe G. - 1st Grade
- 4/8: Cameron K. - 3rd Grade
- 4/9: Aleyka P. - 4th Grade
- 4/10: Gabriel B. - 1st Grade
- 4/10: Addison M. - 2nd Grade
- 4/11: Liam S. - 1st Grade
- 4/11: Jordyn G. - 3rd Grade
- 4/11: Bridgette M. - 1st Grade
- 4/11: Eve M. - 1st Grade
- 4/12: Joseph H. - 1st Grade
- 4/13: Oriana M. - 2nd Grade
- 4/15: Allana G. - 2nd Grade
- 4/15: Destaney Mc. - 4th Grade
- 4/15: Jakob S. - 3rd Grade
- 4/16: Juan R. - Kindergarten
- 4/25: Kevin E. - 4th Grade
- 4/26: Owen A. - Kindergarten
- 4/27: Nicholas H. - 4th Grade
- 4/30: Welles B. - Kindergarten



### Kids in Motion - Ms. Nissen

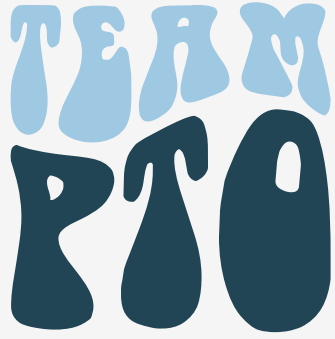
Badminton is our first unit in the month of April. We have already learned the parts of the racquet and basic rules of the game. Students are practicing hand-eye coordination as they have fun hitting a balloon or birdie over the net to their opponents' side. A quick unit in Playground Games will bring us outside when the weather begins to clear up. And Track and Field will be our final unit of the month. But we have already begun working on our aerobic endurance, starting with a 4 minute warm-up jog, and increasing the jog time by one minute each consecutive class.



### Stay in the Know with our Willow Ave PTO

**Boy is this year flying by! The PTO is excited for some upcoming events:**  
 PTO Meeting Wednesday April 24th at 4pm under the canopy  
 Grandparent Tea- April 30th & May 1st  
 Bookfair- April 29th through May 1st

More information will be sent home with the students on ways to help and how to register.



## Ms. Zawacki's Mindful Moment

Keep in Touch:

Email: [kzawacki@cornwallschools.com](mailto:kzawacki@cornwallschools.com) or  
845-534-8009- ext 3026

This month our Character Trait is Sense of Humor. Having a sense of humor is to laugh and be playful without hurting others or at another's expense (teasing, sarcasm). Find time this month to pick out a few jokes that you enjoy and can share with family, friends and teachers! Laughter is the best medicine and another tool in our toolbox to practice kindness, gratitude and joy!

Spring has officially sprung! With the warmer weather upon us, it's time to get back outside and get our bodies moving! The mind body connection is such an important part to our emotional well-being. When our bodies are taken care of through exercise, rest and healthy eating, our moods are often lifted and our ability to manage stress is often much more efficient.

Our Mindful Moment exercises continue to be a time to take a deep breath and calm our minds and move our bodies.

Remember during times of stress, sadness or frustration:

Blow out the Candle  
Squeeze the Lemons  
Tuck like a Turtle  
Tall like a Tree

If you or your family would like referrals to any outside resources, please feel free to reach out to me.

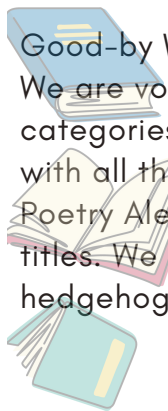
Let's  
talk it  
out!

## Bookmarks from our Librarian - Mrs. Ebenhoe

Good-bye Winter, hello Spring!

We are voting this month for our New York 3 Apples Award winners (late April). The categories are in K-2 and grades 3-6. See Mrs. Ebenhoe if you need a bookmark with all the choices.

Poetry Alert: April is National Poetry Month! Come see our collection of poetry titles. We have poems about everything from snow days to dogs, from Lincoln to hedgehogs



## Noggin Newsflash!

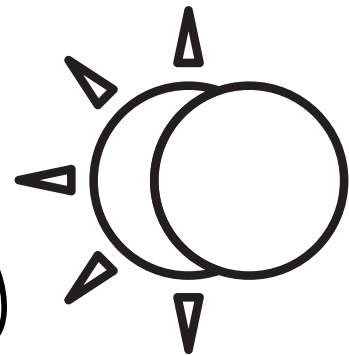
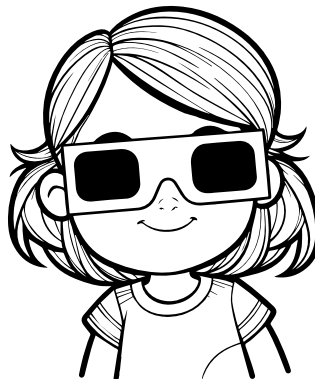
By Ms. Dillon (the Dynamic Duo School Psychologist Team)

Have you ever noticed how having a good laugh can instantly lift your spirits? That's because laughing releases the body's feel-good chemicals called endorphins. These chemicals reduce pain, ease tension, and make you feel calm. Laughing out loud gives your brain and body more oxygen! Who doesn't love more oxygen? Some studies have also shown that laughter increases the production of antibodies and activates immune cells, which helps your body fight illnesses.

The best part about having a good sense of humor is that it brings you closer to the people around you. Laughter is a powerful tool for physical and mental well-being. People who use humor every day are more resilient and optimistic when facing challenges in life. So go ahead - read that funny book, watch a comedy, or just be silly with friends and family. Your brain will thank you for it!



**APRIL IS  
NATIONAL POETRY  
MONTH**



**Total Eclipse 4/8/24  
did you see it?**

## “Live from Room 212, it’s Mrs. Jennings with the Speech News”

We are focused on Blooming Articulation this month and comprehension/ written responses to prepare for state assessments for the upper grades. Super proud of how far they've come and all the tools they've attained! Articulation practice: Produce each word 3 times, then say the word in either a phrase or a sentence (in front of a mirror is best).

L words:

- Lily
- Lilac
- Tulip
- Umbrella
- Family
- Daffodil

S words:

- Solar
- Sunday
- Basket
- Grass
- Flowers
- Eclipse

R words:

- Rabbit
- Recycle
- Ramadan
- Decorate
- Easter
- Passover

Social Questions Advice:

If your kiddo tends to tense up in conversation, try to ask questions with more close ended responses, such as yes/no or give choices to ease into the interaction. Open-ended questions such as "what did you do in school today?" can be a bit overwhelming since it's so broad. A question such as: "What special did you have today?" Follow up- "Did you make/work on a craft in Art?" could be more helpful to start with!





# tidbits of mOTivation with Mrs. Lucia



APRIL IS OT MONTH!

*What is Occupational Therapy?*

Occupational Therapy Provides Children with the Tools to Grow!

## HOW CAN AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST HELP A CHILD?

- Occupational Therapists are highly trained healthcare professionals that evaluate and assist children that are having difficulty participating in meaningful activities or "occupations" that are needed to conduct their daily routines and live their life to the fullest.
- For a child this may include the development of life skills such as learning at school, playing, completing self-care tasks, relating to others, and fulfilling their role as a family member.
- In the schools, Occupational Therapists address the needs of students experiencing delays, disabilities, or health challenges through therapeutic intervention to promote skill advancement, the use of compensatory strategies, adaptations to the child's equipment and environment, and/or modifying the curriculum or activity.
- Occupational Therapists also collaborate with teachers, parents and others to identify and modify barriers that restrict a child's success and model strategies for others to use that will extend the benefits of direct intervention.

## WHY WOULD A CHILD BE REFERRED TO OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY?

- Fine Motor Difficulties: Holding crayons, pencils and other small objects, stringing beads, using clothing fasteners, manipulating toys
- Eye-hand Coordination Difficulties: Scissor use, puzzles, ball skills
- Visual Motor Delays: Printing, drawing, forming shapes, coloring
- Visual Perceptual Delays: Sorting, matching, figure ground, scanning, letter reversals
- Self-Care Delays: Dressing, feeding, using utensils, tying, bathing & shampooing, grooming
- Sensory Processing Difficulties: Delays in adaptive responses to sights, sounds, movement, taste, touch
- Decreased Strength: Manipulating resistive materials, moving against gravity, sustaining body positions
- Decreased Range of Motion: Limits in moving arms, fingers, legs, head, or other body parts
- Social Difficulties: Interacting with others, following routines

## HOW CAN I FIND AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST?

- Your child's school
- Your local children's hospital
- Early Intervention Programs
- Private Occupational Therapy Clinics
- Ask Your Pediatrician

[www.ToolsToGrowOT.com](http://www.ToolsToGrowOT.com)