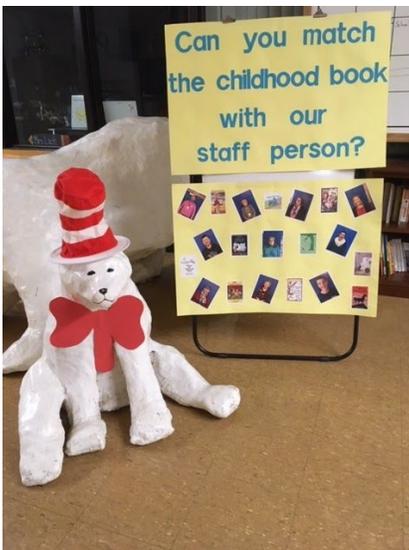


## Spring Notes from the Reading Teacher

### March Highlights

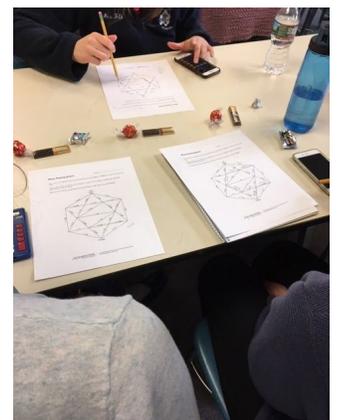
#### Read Across America Week

The students participated in a week-long observance to honor Dr. Seuss' birthday and to celebrate Read Across America Week. Each day showcased a beloved text and a corresponding activity. Congratulations to Mrs. Hodsdon's first graders who topped the school-wide pocket count with 137 pockets! *Fox in Socks* inspired Crazy Socks Day! Special thanks to Mrs. DiDuca and her staff who facilitated the Swedish Fish estimation sparked by *One Fish Two Fish Red Fish Blue Fish*. Congratulations to Jai Pandey from Ms. Zarmy's second grade class who was within eight of the exact count. A warm thank you to Mrs. Tsacoyeanes' second grade class for kicking off our *The Cat in the Hat* Day with their rendition of the song, "Dr. Seuss, We Love You," during morning announcements. Thursday was a festive day of colorful hats and Dr. Seuss fashion, as well as host to the school-wide Drop Everything and Read! The week culminated in a contest where classrooms tried to successfully match the favorite childhood book with ten adult staff members. Mrs. Tsacoyeanes' second-grade detectives spent their week gathering clues and were the clear front-runners having successfully matched eight of the ten combinations. Several of our intermediate classrooms continue to celebrate all month with a literary version of March Madness.



#### Growth Mindset

An important tenet in this month's discussion addressed actionable steps to help students recognize mistakes as opportunities for learning. Mrs. Macey led the staff through a math activity where multiple trials and flexible thinking were prerequisite to success. A second element of the discussion focused upon the distinction between "not knowing" and "not knowing **yet**." Learning is regarded as a process where frequent check-ins provide



students with opportunities for practice and growth. Ms. Zamary facilitated a digital gallery walk of growth mindset activities across the grade spans where teachers showcased and shared their recent activities and experiences. The Conant community has certainly embraced growth mindset as relevant and necessary for meaningful learning.

## **Coming in April...**

### **National Poetry Month**

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss

What better way to herald National Poetry Month than with a line from our celebrated Dr. Seuss! During the month of April, we hope that you will make time for a daily dose of poetry. In recent years, there has been an explosion in the publication of poetry collections for young children ranging in topics from the seasons to our 50 states and everything in between. Look for collections by Alan Katz, Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Joyce Sidman, Nikki Giovanni, Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, and so many more. For those of you with students in the intermediate grades, you may want to explore together some of the the many novels written in free verse. Karen Hesse’s *Out of the Dust*, Sharon Creech’s *Love That Dog*, Jacqueline Woodson’s *Brown Girl Dreaming*, and Kwame Alexander’s *Crossover* are among many highly celebrated novels. Visit the family [website](#) for more resources.

### **Screen-Free Week: April 29-May 5, 2019**

Please visit the Conant Families’ [Website](#) for more information regarding Screen-Free Week. This is an opportunity to model for your students that life does exist beyond our devices. If a “week” seems insurmountable, consider screen-free time zones, such as 7 pm - 7 am. It is hoped that families will use this week to reconnect, pursue interests and hobbies, and most certainly, to read together.

### **April Super Reader Theme: Courage**

“All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”~Walt Disney

During the month of April, students examine courage as a relevant theme in literary and nonfiction texts. It is hoped that through this exploration, students will feel empowered by life lessons in courage. [Click here](#) for the family guide for actions that promote courage and [here](#) for a listing of texts organized by Super Reader themes and grade levels.

### **Lunch Bunch Book Clubs**

*The Littles Go Exploring*, *Granny Torrelli Makes Soup*, *The Hero Two Doors Down*, *Jake Drake: Know-It-All*, *Star in the Forest*, and *The House With a Clock in the Wall* are among this month’s selections. I am so grateful to the student participants who prepare for these discussions and to the staff facilitators who make it all possible. Conant, does indeed, read!