

Hawk Talk

The Monthly Newsletter for the Patricia A. Duran School

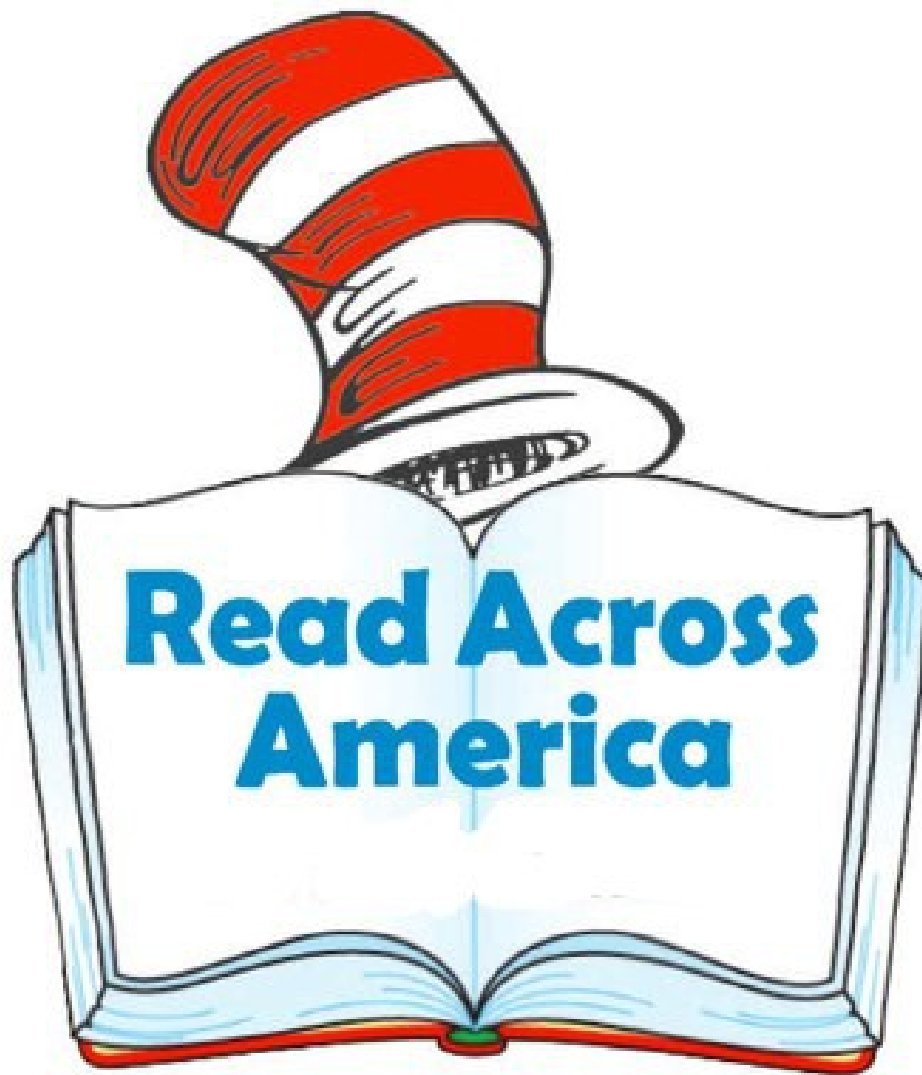
A Message from Mrs. Davis

It's hard to believe that the month of March is here! For me, this month often feels like the longest month of the year—especially since we are waiting for the warm weather and arrival of spring. Because this month can sometimes drag along, we've planned a number of fun activities to keep our students engaged and having fun while learning. We've decided to design a number of fun experiences for students around reading, as the month of March is designated as National Reading Month. At the Duran School, reading is integrated into our daily school lives in a variety of ways. In addition to our regular reading activities, we have planned a variety of ways to celebrate reading:

- 1. Dr. Seuss Spirit Week:** Dr. Seuss's birthday is March 2, and his birthday kicks off Read Across America Week. Read Across America Week is the beginning of our month-long celebration of reading. We will start the week off with a fun Dr. Seuss-inspired spirit week. See below for the themes.
- 2. Reading "March Madness:"** We are continuing the Dr. Seuss theme for our March Madness with books. All students will read a variety of Dr. Seuss books and vote on their favorites. We will have March Madness brackets displayed in the 4th grade hallway as we narrow down our favorites.
- 3. Bikes for Books:** We will start our reading challenge on March 4. The process will look a little differently compared to years past. Instead of individual slips, students will have a chart to fill out and submit to their teacher for a chance to win a new bike. More information will be coming home soon!
- 4. Community Reader Day:** We always look forward to this tradition! We will be bringing in members of our community to read stories to our students.

We are excited for the fun things we have planned for the month of March—and excited that spring is on its way!

Melissa Davis, Ed.D
Principal



Reading Challenge and Book Character Day

Below is information about our reading challenge and book character day.

PATRICIA A. DURAN SCHOOL READING CHALLENGE

The Patricia A. Duran School will be engaged in a reading challenge starting **March 4th** and ending on **April 10th**! This is a fun way to strengthen our reading abilities and share books with one another!

March Madness: We will continue to vote on our favorite books during the month of March. The theme this year is Dr. Seuss, and the brackets will be posted in the 4th grade hallway. We can't wait to see what our students' favorite Dr. Seuss book is.

CHANCE TO EARN PRIZES

Students will receive a chart to track their reading over the course of March Madness. Once the chart is completed, students' names will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a bike. One girl and one boy from each grade will win a bike. More details to come as we get closer.

BOOK CHARACTER DAY

In celebration of our reading, we will have a Book Character Day! Students and teachers can dress as their favorite book character. Students can begin thinking about which character they would like to be and begin planning their costumes. **Book Character Day will be held on April 11.**



Hawk Club Winners

We are excited to recognize our Hawk Club winners! These students were excellent examples of our school expectations: be safe, be respectful, be responsible, be kind and caring.

Willow Johnson
Abigail Estes
Amelia Duplessis
Saige Thayer
Beckam Smith
Riley Bourdon
Emma Fox
Aida Patasa
Eva Martin
Jackson Kenney
Dominic Dube
Kora Greener
Luke Boyd
Beckett Brookings

The G.O.A.T Award

At each assembly, we award a staff member with the "Greatest of All Time" (G.O.A.T.) Award. We are awarding Mrs. Holly Scott with this award. She is amazingly kind, caring and knowledgeable. She goes above and beyond for her students each day. We are very lucky to have Mrs. Scott at the Patricia A. Duran School. Thank you for all you do!



March 5th: Remote Day

This is just a friendly reminder that March 5th is a remote school day, due to the Town of Hermon's voting. Your child's teacher will be reaching out with expectations and work for this day.

PreK and Kindergarten Registration Has Begun

Registration for fall PreK and Kindergarten have opened. Applications are available in the main office during school hours or on our school website. In addition to the application, parents should provide updated immunization records, an official copy of the child's birth certificate, and proof of residency documentation. Please note that proof of residency must be a utility bill, lease or property tax bill (etc.) We are unable to accept driver's licenses, cellphone bills, etc. We look forward to meeting all of our new families!

Winter Clothing Reminder

Thank goodness spring is almost here! Unfortunately, we are still experiencing winter temperatures out at recess. Please make sure to send your child with winter clothes (mittens, hats, snow pants, etc.). We are also dealing with wet snow at times, so packing an extra set of clothes would be helpful for those wet days!

Spring Concerts

Our Kindergarten and first grade students had a wonderful concert and curriculum night this past January. While we were excited to share this performance, we did receive feedback from people regarding audience etiquette that I thought would be helpful to mention for our upcoming performances. We have reviewed how to be a respectful audience member with all grades this year for assemblies and performances--and our students have received so many compliments from visitors on their behavior. I want to make sure that we show them the same respect.

When attending concerts or performances at the Duran School, we ask that all audience members:

- 1. Remain seated for the duration of the performance.** Getting up and moving around, going up front to talk to students on stage or with their classmates, or running up to take a picture can be very distracting to our young performers. If you must leave, please do so between musical numbers.
 - 2. Keep young audience members with you.** We had a number of students running around behind the seating or scaling the bleachers during the performance. Please ensure that children are seated and respectful to the performers. We ask that parents and children are seated, and that the area behind the seating remains open for an exit route.
 - 3. No side conversations please.** Please put your phone on silent and conversations to a minimum. Our gymnasium does not have the best acoustics for a performance. The more quiet the audience is, the better everyone can hear.
 - 4. Show your appreciation for the performance by clapping.** We love to celebrate a job well done!
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Planned Absences

Families, as a reminder, an absence that is planned and not due to illness or a medical appointment needs to be pre-approved in order to be excused. Click [here](#) for the planned absence form.



Health Guidance for Going to School

Showing up to school every day is critical for children's well-being, engagement and learning.

Make sure to send children to school if they are:

- Generally healthy and well.
- Participating in usual day-to-day activities.
- Children can even go to school if they:
 - Have a mild cold, which may include a runny nose and/or cough.
 - Have eye drainage without fever, eye pain or eyelid redness.
 - Have a mild stomachache.
 - Have a mild rash with no other symptoms.
 - Have head lice. Though they are annoying and should be treated, lice are not a reason to exclude a child from school.
 - Haven't had a fever overnight and they have not taken fever-reducing medicine during that time.

Avoid keeping children at home unless they are too sick to participate. Please see the back of this handout for details. Note that in most situations, a health-care provider's note is not needed to return.

Children may also avoid school due to anxiety (symptoms may include decreased appetite, feeling tired, stomachache, headache etc). If you are worried that your child may be suffering from anxiety, talk with your teacher, the school nurse, social worker or other school staff to discuss the challenge and identify what can help your child stay in school.

If your child has a compromised immune system or is at high risk for complications from common illnesses, please talk to your school (school nurse if available) about developing a plan with you and your child's health-care provider to keep your child healthy and safe while attending school.

Please note: This document is not meant to take the place of local health department/school district guidance including about contagious illnesses such as Covid-19 and the flu.



Reasons to keep me home from school and what needs to happen before I can return

What is my symptom?	When should I stay home and when to seek medical care?	When can I return to school?
Fever	I have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher. Seek medical care if I have fever and any of the following: ear pain, sore throat, rash, stomachache, headache or tooth pain.	If I have not had a fever overnight without the use of fever-reducing medication and I am feeling better.
Vomiting and/or diarrhea	If I have vomited 2 or more times in the last 24 hours. If my stool is watery and I may not make it to the toilet in time. Seek medical care if I have stomach cramping and fever, I have bloody or black stool, or I am showing signs of dehydration (tired and sleepy, dry mouth and not urinating at least once in the last 8 hours).	If I did not vomit overnight and I am able to drink liquids without throwing up. If my diarrhea has improved.
Persistent cough or trouble breathing	Seek medical care if I have a persistent cough, difficulty breathing or trouble catching my breath or if I develop a fever with the cough. These symptoms may be signs of Covid-19 or flu and should be evaluated by a health-care provider.	Once I am feeling better and I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider. If my symptoms were due to asthma, please make sure that I have permission to use breathing medication at school.
Rash	Seek medical care if the rash has blisters, is draining, is painful, looks like bruises and/or if I develop a fever.	Rash has healed or I have been cleared for return by my health-care provider.
Eye irritation	Seek medical care if I have eye swelling, eye pain, trouble seeing or an eye injury.	Once I am feeling better.
Sore throat	Seek medical care if I have drooling, trouble swallowing or a fever and/or rash.	Once I am feeling better. If I was prescribed an antibiotic by my health-care provider, then I can return 12 hours after the first dose, if I am without fever and I am feeling better.







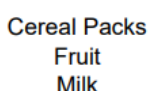
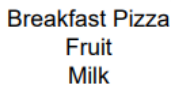

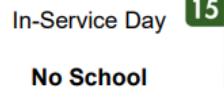
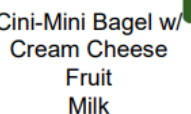
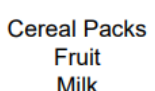
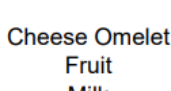
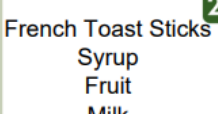

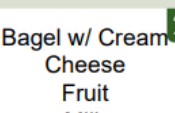
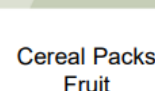
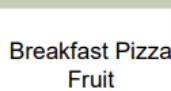

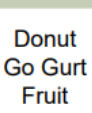
If you don't know whether to send your child to school or have specific concerns regarding your child's health, contact your child's health-care provider, a local urgent care or the school nurse.



BREAKFAST

MARCH 2024
PATRICIA A. DURAN SCHOOL

Meals are at no cost to students

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 4 Tie Dye Bagels Fruit Milk	 5 Remote Day (No Meals)	 6 NutriGrain Bar Yogurt Fruit Milk	 7 Waffles Sticks Syrup Fruit Milk	 1 Muffin Go Gurt Fruit Milk
 11 Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fruit Milk	 12 Cereal Packs Fruit Milk	 13 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Milk	 14 Pancakes Syrup Fruit Milk	 15 In-Service Day No School
 18 Cini-Mini Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fruit Milk	 19 Cereal Packs Fruit Milk	 20 Cheese Omelet Fruit Milk	 21 French Toast Sticks Syrup Fruit Milk	 22 Muffin Go Gurt Fruit Milk
 25 Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Fruit Milk	 26 Cereal Packs Fruit Milk	 27 Breakfast Pizza Fruit Milk	 28 Banana Split Parfait Fruit Milk	 29 Donut Go Gurt Fruit Milk






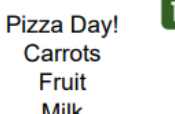

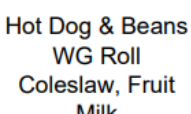

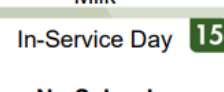
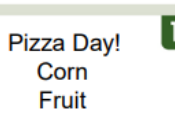
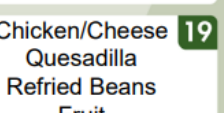
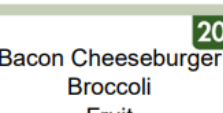
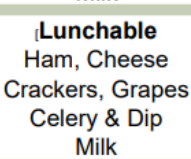

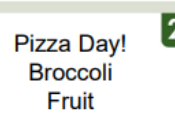
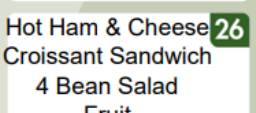
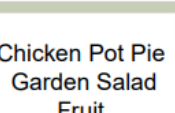
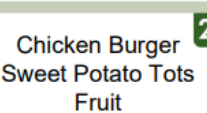
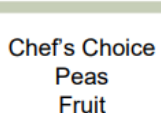
Menu is subject to change. – All grains are whole grain -Choice of Milk White 1% and Chocolate 1 %
USDA is an equal opportunity provider

LUNCH

MARCH 2024
PATRICIA A. DURAN SCHOOL

Meals are at no cost to students

Week 1- Pizzaboli
Week 2-Corn Dogs
Week 3-Pizza Bagel Bites
Week 4-Chicken Salad Sandwich
Week 5- Nachos

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
 4 Green Eggs & Ham Goldfish Crackers(1Fish 2 Fish), Broccoli (Truf- fula Trees) Blue Applesauce, Milk	 5 Remote Day (No Meals)	 6 Chicken Tenders Mash Potato w/Roll Green Beans, Fruit Milk	 7 Pulled Pork Sandwich Pasta Salad Carrots, Fruit Milk	 1 Sloppy Joe's Hot Veggie Fruit Milk
 11 Pizza Day! Carrots Fruit Milk	 12 Chicken & Waffles Peas Fruit Milk	 13 Hot Dog & Beans WG Roll Coleslaw, Fruit Milk	 14 Chop Suey Garlic Bread Garden Salad Fruit Milk	 15 In-Service Day No School
 18 Pizza Day! Corn Fruit Milk	 19 Chicken/Cheese Quesadilla Refried Beans Fruit Milk	 20 Bacon Cheeseburger Broccoli Fruit Milk	 21 Lunchable Ham, Cheese Crackers, Grapes Celery & Dip Milk	 22 Sunbutter & Jelly Sandwich Carrot Sticks Strawberry Cups Milk
 25 Pizza Day! Broccoli Fruit Milk	 26 Hot Ham & Cheese Croissant Sandwich 4 Bean Salad Fruit Milk	 27 Chicken Pot Pie Garden Salad Fruit Milk	 28 Chicken Burger Sweet Potato Tots Fruit Milk	 29 Chef's Choice Peas Fruit Milk

Menu is subject to change. – All grains are whole grain -Choice of Milk White 1% and Chocolate 1 %
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Upcoming Events

March 4 - 8: Read Across America Spirit Week

March 4: School Committee Meeting @ 6:30

March 5: Remote Day Due to Election

March 12: PTA Meeting via Zoom @ 6:00

March 15: No School--Teacher In-Service Day

April 4: Concert and Curriculum Night for Grades 2-3 @ 6:00

April 11: Book Character Day

April 11: Bikes for Books Assembly

April 11: Literacy Night and Art Showcase

April 15 - 19: School Vacation



Melissa Davis, Ed.D.

Melissa is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters

[Contact](#)