



# THE AFTON EAGLE



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**February/March 2011-12**  
**Volume XIV Issue IV**  
**[www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us](http://www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us)**

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to be a part of the Afton school community for the second semester of the 2011-12 school year. I can already tell that the strength of the Afton school is in its exceptionally able and talented staff and students and look forward to working with them over the next several months. I also look forward to meeting the parents of our students. If, in the meantime I may be of service, please do not hesitate to contact me.

PSSA Assessments:

From March 12 through March 23, third, fourth and fifth grade students will be administered the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) in reading and math. Fifth level will continue to test until April 16<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> as they also will be administered the PSSA Writing Assessment. Fourth level will continue testing in Science April 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. The PSSA is designed to provide information to parents, teachers, school districts, and the general public. Assessments help all parties involved to (1) identify subject areas where each student has strengths and areas that a student needs improvement and (2) verify what students are learning in the classroom. The reading and math assessments should challenge all students with tasks requiring problem solving concept identification. In addition to multiple-choice items, there will be tasks asking students to write their responses in paragraph form.

The Department of Education has provided us with extensive information regarding the types of skills that will be tested at each grade level. All are in a format called Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. These align with both the State and Pennsbury Standards and Benchmarks and provide clear and consistent information regarding what students will be expected to know and how they will be assessed. We have been able to utilize this information as a resource supplement to our Pennsbury curriculum in planning for instruction. Teachers at all grade levels have been working with these materials so that we are able to scaffold learning from grade to grade in order to ensure that all of our students are achieving at the highest possible level.

We urge all parents to discuss the testing program with their children and to communicate the importance of these tests. Encourage your child to get adequate sleep, eat a good breakfast, follow test directions, and do his/her best.

**Sincerely,**  
**Robert A. Wurst**  
**Acting Principal**

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

2/10 – Bingo Night 7:00-9:00 PM  
2/15 – PTO Meeting 9:30 AM (café.)  
2/20 – President's Day – School Closed  
2/21 – Teacher Workshop Day – School Closed  
2/21 – Grundy Day 1:00-3:00 PM  
2/28-3/5 – Artmobile Visits Afton

3/2 – Science Fair 7:00 PM  
3/6 – Spring Book Fair 6:30-8:30 PM  
3/6 – Ice Cream Social 6:30-8:30 PM  
3/16 – Mother/Son Activity Night 6:30 PM  
3/21 – PTO Meeting 9:30 AM (café.)  
3/29 – Reading Olympics Competition

## *AFTON SCHOOL IS "GREEN"*

In an attempt to become more ecologically friendly, Afton continues to enhance our website. PTO and upcoming events, the Afton Eagle and other important happenings, will be highlighted on the website. Visit us at [www.Pennsbury.k12.pa.us](http://www.Pennsbury.k12.pa.us), tab over to Schools where you can access Afton. In addition, make sure to visit the E-Flyer tab.

## *WELLNESS POLICY*

The following information is provided to keep families informed about the District Wellness Policy, which is in full implementation. As such, the following recommendations will be in place on the elementary level:

1. Metz Services is ensuring the dietary guidelines for school meals (breakfast and lunch) are according to policy.
2. Metz Services will also provide for elementary level a-la carte beverages, which will adhere to the following guidelines. A minimum of 75% of the beverages offered will be:
  - Water with no sugar or artificial sweeteners
  - 100% fruit juice – 3 flavors are available
  - Milk (containers not to exceed 16 oz.) - includes flavored milk but sugar restrictions apply
  - Carbonated beverages made with only juice and water
  - Diet teas are eliminated at the elementary level
3. There will be an introduction of more whole-grain bread items. PBJ and dinners rolls will have a whole-grain option. There will also be some new baked snack items as well.
4. Classroom parties will offer only 2-3 items that contain added sugar as the first ingredient and will offer fresh fruits, vegetables, water, 100% fruit or milk.
5. Teachers may not use food as a reward for classroom or school activities unless the reward is an activity that promotes a positive nutrition message.

## *PHOTOGRAPHY, ID AND INTERVIEW CLEARANCES*

Students photograph, identification, and interviews for all forms of print electronic media occurring inside any Pennsbury school building or on any school premises shall be permissible with approval of the School District.

Parent/guardians wishing to have their child(ren) excluded from such activities must notify the school principal in writing at the start of the school year (each year) or when the child is first enrolled in the School District if this occurs mid-year. Questions concerning this District Photography, ID and Interview Clearances statement may be directed to the Coordinator of Communications at 215-428-4178.

## **READING CORNER**

- Miss Bauer, Reading Specialist



The reading room is buzzing with excitement! As the substitute reading specialist during Mrs. Munro's sabbatical, I am thrilled to be working with such wonderful students. Reading Olympics practices are going well and the children are working hard to read, read, read! In reading groups, the students are learning to use strategies to decode unfamiliar words and strategies to help them understand what they read. It is always important to read daily. Keep up the great work!

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

- Mrs. Knapp, Guidance Counselor

We began a lunch bunch group for 2<sup>nd</sup> graders on Tuesdays. Students will be rotated in and out of the group every four to six weeks so that a larger number of students can participate throughout the year. Included in this group are all of our new second graders.

Second graders recently finished taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the Cognitive Abilities Test. Students appeared to put forth their best effort on these assessments.

The Peace Center has begun working with 4<sup>th</sup> graders on Wednesdays. The Respecting You/Respecting Me program teaches our students to respect one another's differences and resolve conflicts peacefully. Our Peer Mediation program is also up and running. Peer Mediators in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade receive follow up training once a month during their lunch. If your child is experiencing a problem with a peer, and would benefit from meeting with one of our trained peer mediators, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Our fifth graders will be visiting the William Penn Middle School on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM. This is an opportunity for our students to be oriented to life at the middle school.

### **Upcoming Standardized Testing Windows:**

Pennsbury Writing Assessment:	Grades 1-3	January 30- March 30
PSSA Reading/Math	Grades 3-5	March 12- March 23
PSSA Writing	Grade 5	April 16-20
PSSA Science	Grade 4	April 23-27
AGS Reading	Grades 1-5	April 16-May 4
Pennsbury Math Test	Grade 5	May 1-14

## **NEWS FROM THE NURSE**



- Ms. Giannaula, Certified School Nurse

**Immunization Requirements:** The PA Dept of Health has mandated that ALL students now need a second Varicella booster by May 1, 2012 or they will be excluded from school. Please send proof that your child has the Varicella second booster as soon as possible to the nurse. Letters were sent out last week to those students that I do not have documentation of the Varicella booster. If you *did not receive a letter* the second week in January then I *already have the appropriate documentation*. If your child still needs the second shot there is a Health Dept Immunization schedule posted on Pennsbury's main web page for you to check clinic times, in case you can not get a doctor's apt.

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

- Mrs. Gordon, ESL

January was Black History Month. Students of ESL celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday by expressing in writing the good deeds that they have done that demonstrate the meaning of Martin's "big words" - Honesty, Respect, Helpfulness and Kindness.

In addition, as students of ESL learn new vocabulary, they practice writing their new words three times with their eyes open, and finally with their eyes closed. It is a simple trick that helps to lock in the word through memorization. But please don't tell them that! It's an effective tool that is a good deal of fun!

## **PTO NEWS**

- **Mrs. Stephanie Bissol, PTO President**  
**[ptoadmin@gmail.com](mailto:ptoadmin@gmail.com)**

We have been pretty lucky with what winter has brought us so far. And in this next couple of months we are planning some great events for you and your family to enjoy. We will be starting out February with our annual BINGO night and then we are renting out Grundy Ice Rink for our 1st Annual School's Out Family Skating event on Tuesday February 21, 2012 from 1-3. We are also adding an Ice Cream Social to our Annual Spring Book Fair in March. ...and don't forget about our annual Science Fair. There is so many wonderful things for families to do over the long winter months. We hope you come out and support the PTO so we can continue to provide all these wonderful opportunities for all our children. Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 3rd Wednesday of every month, to come out to our PTO meetings and share your ideas with us! Thank you all so much for all your support during this school year.

## **BE PREPARED FOR OUTDOOR RECESS**



As much as possible throughout the winter months, students will continue to participate in outdoor recess weather permitting. As such, please make sure that your child arrives to school in proper winter attire. This includes coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Students enjoy these 30 minutes outdoors and we want to ensure that they are properly attired for the elements.



## **EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION**

As winter approaches the prospect of emergency school closings or delayed openings of school becomes more likely. The most up-to-date and accurate information regarding closings, delayed openings or early dismissals can be gained by:

- ❖ Connect ED automated calling system
- ❖ Web: [www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us](http://www.pennsbury.k12.pa.us)
- ❖ Hotline: 215-425-4100, option 8
- ❖ Watching the Pennsbury Channel – Channel 28 on Comcast and Channel 42 on Verizon Fios

Parents are **ENCOURAGED** to follow these steps. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE.**

Delayed openings of school will *always* be two hours. That is, school will begin at 11:00 AM (instead of 9:00 AM). Kindergarten AM session will be canceled on days of delayed opening. In the case of an emergency early dismissal, Kindergarten PM session will be canceled.

It is **CRITICAL** that your child be aware of an alternative plan if he or she is not to be going to the usual destination on an emergency closing day. Keep this in mind, as it will be virtually impossible for all parents who have concern to communicate to the school over the phone lines during emergency dismissal. **YOUR CHILD MUST BE AWARE OF THE ALTERNATE PLAN.**



## **MORNING DROP – OFF REMINDER**

Doors open at 8:45 AM – Children should **NOT** be dropped off before this time. Students who participate in the before school breakfast program may arrive at 8:40 AM. Please help us ensure the safety of all of our students and plan your morning so your children do not arrive at school before 8:45 AM.

To drop off your child at the front entrance, please stay in one lane of traffic as you move up to the front of the line. Remind your child to exit the vehicle **ONLY** on the passenger side. Please make sure your child has his/her backpack, lunch, etc. and is ready to exit the car when you move to the front of the line.

If your child gets out of your car before you have moved up to the front of the line, **PLEASE STAY IN THE LINE OF TRAFFIC**. Cars pulling out of line and passing on the left are a safety hazard to both students and other vehicles.

To ensure the safety of all Afton students and keep traffic flowing smoothly during morning drop off time, please make sure to follow these recommendations. We ask that you **DO NOT DOUBLE PARK IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING** if you are coming inside the building. Please find a parking spot in the lot. Students are expected to be in their desks and ready to learn by 9:00 AM.

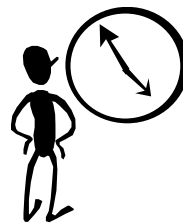
## **VOLUNTEERS**

It is a pleasure to have so many volunteers willing to serve the school community. Volunteers are requested, however, to leave pre-school children at home so that all may focus on the task at hand. After signing in at the office and taking a visitor pass, we ask that you go directly to the classroom that you are visiting and not stopping along the way at any other classrooms. Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

## **VISITORS**

The following rules are in effect:

- ALL VISITORS MUST PARK IN THE PARKING LOT OR IN THE GRASS FIELD, BETWEEN AFTON AND QUARRY HILL, NOT IN THE FIRE LANE ALONG THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING.
- ALL VISITORS MUST REPORT TO THE OFFICE.
- No parent/guardian will be permitted to escort their child to or pick up their child from the classroom.
- Parents/guardians will only be permitted in the building once they have signed in and obtained a visitor's pass. If the parent does not have a scheduled appointment with a staff member, the office will check to see if they are available.
- At the conclusion of the visit, visitors must sign out of the building.
- VISITORS WILL BE PERMITTED **ACCESS ONLY** TO THE AREA OF THE SCHOOL DESIGNATED AT THE TIME OF SIGN IN. PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR VISIT TO THE LOCATION YOU INDICATED.



## **AFTER HOURS POLICY**

All too frequently, unauthorized visitors have been observed in hallways and classrooms after school hours. Measures are in place to preclude that activity including the locking of the lobby entrance door. Under no circumstances will visitors to the school be permitted access to classrooms after 4:00 PM. This includes students who may have forgotten homework assignments. Afton's custodial staff has been directed not to permit entrance to classrooms after 4:00 PM. Students' and parents' understanding and cooperation is appreciated.

# SPECIAL AREA HAPPENINGS

## ART NEWS

- Miss Bertman, Art Teacher



To the Afton Staff and Community,

I would like to THANK EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU for your kindness and support during my time at Afton. I am so proud of all the work the students have accomplished: Kindergarten is learning their shapes, colors and experimenting with the materials, 1<sup>st</sup> grade created landscapes and cityscapes, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade learned printmaking and self-portraits, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade created birch trees and turning a 2D drawing into a 3D sculpture, 4<sup>th</sup> grade constructed realistic and wonderful shoes out of clay and 5<sup>th</sup> grade produced realistic desserts from paint and clay. I have never felt so appreciated and I thank you so much for all you have done!!!

I will miss all of the students and staff very much!

Thank you again and I hope to work with your children again someday in Pennsbury!!



## COMPUTER NEWS

- Mrs. Priore, Computer Teacher



Welcome to the Computer Lab!

Below is a brief summary of what we have been reviewing:

K: Learning our student id# and logging on to the computer using our student id#. A note has gone home to the Kindergarten families with each students id# and asking them to review their numbers. We have also been learning the keyboard with Dance Mat Typing. They are really catching on quick and love playing Starfall and Gamegoo.

Levels 1 and 2: Logging on, Dance Mat Typing, We have started learning MS Word. We have been writing poems and coloring in the themes. We have also been reinforcing math skills with different math sites available.

Level 3 and 4: Reinforcing keyboard skills with Typing Games, math skills games, learning Mr. Nussbaum and firming up our MSWord skills by writing poems and adding extra formatting and clip art functions.

Levels 5: Fifth grade has gone to the races. We just started our typing contest to reinforce our keyboard skills. The class with the highest WPM will have a party at the end of the 12-week contest. The students have really enjoyed the competition. We are keeping track of our scores by using an Excel spreadsheet. Students will learn how to average and add formulas using MSEXcel. We have also been creating poems and learning new educational websites.

There are many fun projects planned for the spring so stay tuned.

# LIBRARY NEWS

- Mrs. Moyle, Librarian



Reference is the word of the month here in the Library. Third, Fourth and Fifth grades have all been working on their research skills by learning about different reference books. Third grade has finished our research about Community Helpers and will be using that research to write a little report in their writing class with their homeroom teacher. We also started working on alphabetical order and have been looking at the Dictionary. Ask your third grader what Guide Words are and how they help you when using a Dictionary. We will be making a class Dictionary in the month of February.

Fourth grade and Fifth grades explored works by our visiting author Margie Palatini and reported back to the class about their findings. Fourth grade is working on the Thesaurus and using it to revamp our boring writing and Mother Gooses' writing too. Next it's on to Encyclopedia review then (my favorite) the Atlas.

Fifth Grade reviewed the Index and how important it is to us when using Non-fiction texts and now we are being cartographers and using the Atlas. Encyclopedia and Dictionary review are next and some independent research using all our skills that we've reviewed.

Second grade is finishing up our *Snow* unit and making some snowflakes based on the book "Snowflake Bentley." Next we'll be reading a introduction to many grade appropriate chapter books!

First grade is finishing up our *Snow* unit getting ready to start comparing some favorite fairy tales and new and updated "fractured" fairy tales. Maybe we'll vote to see which ones are the best!

Kindergarten is continuing our "Stories through the Alphabet" unit which is helping us review our letters and talk about new vocabulary words that relate to the letter of the week. We are also continuing our study of Mother Goose rhymes and making a Mother Goose book. Ask your Kindergartener which Mother Goose rhyme they like the best so far. (My bet it will be the Flying Pig!)

Want to encourage your students to read more? Visit the Yardley/Makefield Public Library! Great things are happening at the Yardley/Makfield Public Library in the upcoming months. Check out their web site at <http://www.buckslib.org/> .

## **Celebration Books**

We're celebrating new books and lots of special occasions at the library this month. These people have donated books to the Afton Library in celebration of a special moment in their lives.

Alyssa in Mrs. Gregory's Class  
Sindhu in Ms Wasko's Class

Congratulations and thank you to all those students. If you would like to donate a book to the library, and have not gotten an invitation, please send in the form below to Mrs. Moyle in the library, along with a check made out to Afton PTO for \$14.00. They will then be able to choose a book to donate from a wonderful array of pre-selected books. The student's name and reason for celebration will be written in the front of the book and then they get to take the book out first.

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### CELEBRATION BOOK ORDER FORM

STUDENT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

HOMEROOM TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

MONTH OF STUDENT'S BIRTHDAY AND AGE \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RETURN TO MRS. MOYLE WITH A CHECK TO THE AFTON PTO FOR \$14.00.

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## MUSIC NEWS

- Mrs. Adamczyk, Music Teacher



Afton students have been learning about American composer, Scott Joplin in preparation for the assembly on January 26. They learned background information about his life and ragtime music. Many students recognized the tune of "The Entertainer", one of his most familiar compositions. We are anxiously awaiting the assembly to find out more information and enjoy his music, as actor and musician, Dennis Kobray in his "Meet the Composer" series, will portray it.

Don't forget that spring is just around the corner and Afton 5<sup>th</sup> level students are already preparing for their Spring Concert on Thursday, May 12. **All fifth level students are members of the Chorus and will be performing for family and friends on that evening, along with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumentalists, so PLEASE REMEMBER TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Elementary chorus is an important part of the Pennsbury music curriculum. Chorus is a culminating activity that applies music concepts that have been developed throughout the elementary years in vocal music. Children learn cooperatively to work together towards a common goal, while having fun singing with their friends. Each child learns that he or she is the most important person in the chorus and that every voice is needed to make the concert a success.

The Afton Vocal Ensemble is starting on February 3. Membership in this group is limited to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. No audition is necessary, just a love for singing! Rehearsals will be once a week on Thursday mornings at 8:15 am. Letters were sent home with each 5<sup>th</sup> grade student. If you have not returned your form, and your child still wishes to participate, please contact me as soon as possible.

Again, thank you for your support of the arts at Afton School. Please continue to encourage your child to enjoy and experience music by going to concerts, listening to varied types of music and providing time for practicing their instruments! Music is an important part of every culture and learning about music helps us learn about the world around us.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

- Mrs. Scammell, Physical Education Teacher



### 1. DID YOU KNOW.....

#### Some New Year's resolution for the body .....

- Eat dinner with the family. Studies have shown that families that eat together eat healthier plus it's a great chance to bond!
- SMILE more! Happy people live longer, healthier lives!
- Use a whole-wheat bagel or whole-wheat pita for your sandwich – both have more fiber than white bread.
- Pack your own lunch for school/work. It's been proven that kids and adults eat healthier when they avoid the cafeteria line!
- Try to set time aside once a week for a family adventure. Take a hike in the woods and make an obstacle course out of nature – jump over streams, limbo under branches, and crawl over rocks.
- Next time you're in a bad mood, go exercise. Hormones called "endorphins" are released by the body during exercise and make you feel good about yourself. Get those sneakers on and bring on a smile!

### 2. "AFTON NUTRITIONAL FIT-KID PROGRAM"

Afton students (grades 1-5) participated in an eight-week nutrition and exercise program that began October 16, 2011. Students were encouraged to eat healthier and exercise more by filling out a daily

chart at home. All students who completed the program were awarded an "AFTON FITKID" toe token and were eligible for a "fitness fun pack" raffle (if they earn 160 points or more). Calendars were handed in the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Over 320 Afton students handed in their calendars!! Congratulations is extended to the top grade-level homerooms for having the best percentage of participation:

1<sup>st</sup> GRADE: MRS. CORBETT (90%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> GRADE: MS. TOROK (80%)  
3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE: MRS. CRAMER (72%)  
4<sup>th</sup> GRADE: MRS. SULLIVAN (84%)  
5<sup>th</sup> GRADE: MR. WOODS (76%)

- Special congratulations is extended to the following students who won the "FITKID" fitness bag:
  - Addison from Miss Chalker's class
  - Josh from Mrs. MacDonald's class
  - Emily from Mrs. Foster's class
  - Jillian from Mrs. Berkowitz's class
  - Jordan from Miss Quinn's class

### 3. "AFTON VOLLEYBOWL"

Afton's annual Fifth Grade "VolleyBowl" game took place on Friday, December 23rd. The teachers and students played with great blood, sweat and tears with the teachers winning 52-24! A special thanks is extended to MR. TIM CASS for helping to referee the game. AN EXTRA SPECIAL THANK YOU IS EXTENDED TO THE AFTON TEACHERS AND STAFF WHO Poured THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS INTO A WONDERFUL EVENT FOR THE KIDS!!!!

### 4. FIFTH GRADE BASKETBALL

The fifth grade basketball program is held every DAY#5 at lunch/recess for all interested students. The results of the last six games are as follows:

- Mr. Wood's class defeated Mrs. Gregory's class 14 to 12  
Top shooters were Zoe, Brooke, Joe, Colin and Dante with 4 pts. each
- Mrs. Birkbeck's class defeated Miss Quinn's class 12 to 2  
Top shooter was Camila with 6 pts.
- Mrs. Birkbeck's class defeated Mr. Wood's class 16 to 6  
Top shooter was Aidan with 8 pts.
- Mrs. Gregory's class tied Miss Quinn's class 14 to 14  
Top shooter was Alyssa with 6 pts.
- Miss Quinn's class defeated Mr., Wood's class 4 to 2  
Top shooters were Nick, Randy and Brooke with 2 pts. each
- Mrs. Birbeck's class defeated Mrs. Gregory's class 16 to 10  
Top shooter was Camila with 10 pts.

### 5. FOURTH/FIFTH GRADE SKI PROGRAM

The Pennsylvania and Ski Areas Association is offering a "Snowpass" to all fourth and fifth grade students in the state. For a \$25.00 registration fee, students receive 60 FREE LIFT TICKETS and one Learn to Ski/Snowboard package (lift, rentals, and lessons) that can be used at 20 different ski areas throughout Pennsylvania. Brochures have been sent home with all fourth and fifth grade students containing necessary information on how to take advantage of this fantastic program!

### 6. ROADRUNNERS

The Afton Roadrunner Club meets every Day #2 at lunch/recess for all interested fourth grade students. Students are encouraged to walk/jog/run one-half mile or a full mile during this time. Toe tokens are

awarded to every student after logging 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 miles. To date, almost every fourth grade student has made the FIVE AND TEN MILE CLUB and almost 50 students are on their way to making the FIFTEEN MILE CLUB!

## 7. MOTHER-SON SPORTS NITE

Calling all Afton moms and sons to join us for a night filled with fun on Friday, March 16, 2012. The theme for this year's event is "Afton Pro Golf Tour" and is planned and organized by MRS. JANET SHAPIRO and MRS. CATHLEEN PARSONS. No athletic ability is required but we do ask all participants to please wear sneakers for safety. A flyer outlining the night events is available on the Afton Web blast. Feel free to send a grandmom, aunt or special lady friend in your place, if you cannot attend.

## 8. HOOPS/JUMP FOR HEART

A national program sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). These programs have raised more than \$327 million for cardiovascular research and education programs. It offers students, the school and the community many benefits by engaging school-age children in community service while promoting the benefits of lifelong heart-healthy lifestyles. During the week of February 13-17, 2012, Afton students will have the opportunity to participate in this optional fundraiser. Basketball and jump rope activities will be provided for the students during their physical education class period. All students who donate at least \$5.00 will be eligible to win a special "Jump-for-Heart" or "Hoops-for-Heart" gift basket. Last year, Afton students raised over \$8,500.00 and was one of the top schools in Bucks County! All money will go directly to the AHA.

## 9. PHYSICAL FITNESS SCHOOL RECORDS

Every Day #2, fourth and fifth grade students have the opportunity to try and break an existing school fitness record. This is a totally OPTIONAL program. The records are the six physical fitness tests of the President's Challenge from the President's Council on Physical Fitness. Congratulations to Rainier in Mrs. Mullin's class for breaking the 9-year-old boy's sit and reach record with a score of 41 centimeters! Also, congratulations is extended to Shelby from Mrs. Mullin's class for tying the 9 year old girl's sit and reach record with a score of 44 centimeters!

## **ODYSSEY OF THE MIND** **- by Priya**

Afton Elementary School, 29007 has formed an Odyssey of the Mind team. There are six members on the team: Daniel, Gregory, Jake, Jordan, Priya, and Siya. The coaches are Jim Howarth, Yagnesh Patel, and Sid Deliwala. This team's problem is Odyssey Angels: The problem is to create and present an original performance where a group of students travel through one or more team-created places and they encounter negative situations that they turn into positive ones. These "Odyssey Angels" help two characters with different problems, and they save an entire community from a bad situation. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Competition is on March 17th at Southern Lehigh High School, in Center Valley.

## **SHOUT OUT FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS**

Girl Scouts Sandy Run Unit once again made Thanksgiving meals for Aid For Friends, an organization who provide meals for people unable to leave their homes. This is the fifth year that meals have been made thanks to the 200 Girl Scouts and 72 adult helpers who helped make this happen. We made 758 meals. Thank-you to Afton Elementary for graciously allowing the use of the facility and freezer. Special thanks goes out to the cafeteria personnel and maintenance personnel who helped make this happen.

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## KINDERGARTEN

In January, Kindergarten students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We read stories and had discussions about his dream for our world. Then we used our Kid Writing skills to write a dream of our own! Ask your child to share his/her dream for our world with you!

In February, which is Dental Health Month, Kindergarten students will be visited by the staff at Newtown Dentistry for Kids to learn about dental health. Children will be learning the proper way to take care of their teeth! We will also learn about foods that are healthy for your teeth and those that are not. We are really looking forward to this special visit!

## FIRST GRADE & SECOND GRADE

Afton's Kindergarten, First and Second Graders have done it again! Our Heifer fundraiser was a huge success and we raised \$1,240.41. We were also thrilled to hear that an anonymous donor matched our donation this time around. Because of the efforts of students and staff, families around the world will benefit from all the wonderful resources produced by the animals being purchased with this contribution. Congratulations to all involved! For more information about Heifer International, please visit their website at [heifer.org](http://heifer.org) to find out more about their organization!

## THIRD GRADE

If it is the first Friday of the month.....it must be Fun Friday Scrabble! Each month the third grade students have been enjoying a rousing game of Scrabble. This classic board game has allowed the students to develop their social skills through cooperative learning. It also serves to enhance a variety of academic skills such as vocabulary, spelling, and math. With the help of our supportive parent volunteers the students have fast become Super Scrabble Stars!

## FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders in Mrs. Hayes' class have been reading and writing about mysteries. The fourth graders had to read a mystery chapter book and write a summary of the story. Following that assignment, the fourth graders had to create a mystery board game based on their mystery. For two days the fourth graders have "tested" their board games on each other. We will be inviting other fourth grade classes to enjoy playing our games!

## FIFTH GRADE

Over the last few months, the fifth grade students have enjoyed so many exciting activities and events. The entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade class participated in the Turkey Bowl on December 2. What a blast! During Science class, we have finished our units on Microworlds and Mixtures & Solutions. Currently, we are studying the air, nutrient and water cycles along with Landforms. In Social Studies, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about the Revolutionary War and the birth of our country. As the 5<sup>th</sup> level students continue to develop their skills, they have been working very hard on the persuasive aspect of writing. Through the winter months, we will continue to celebrate the successes of our students.