



Chestnut Hill Community School Newsletter

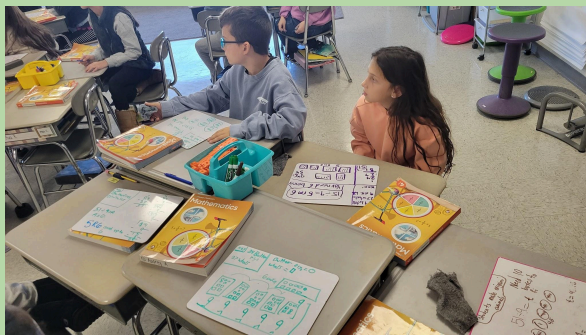
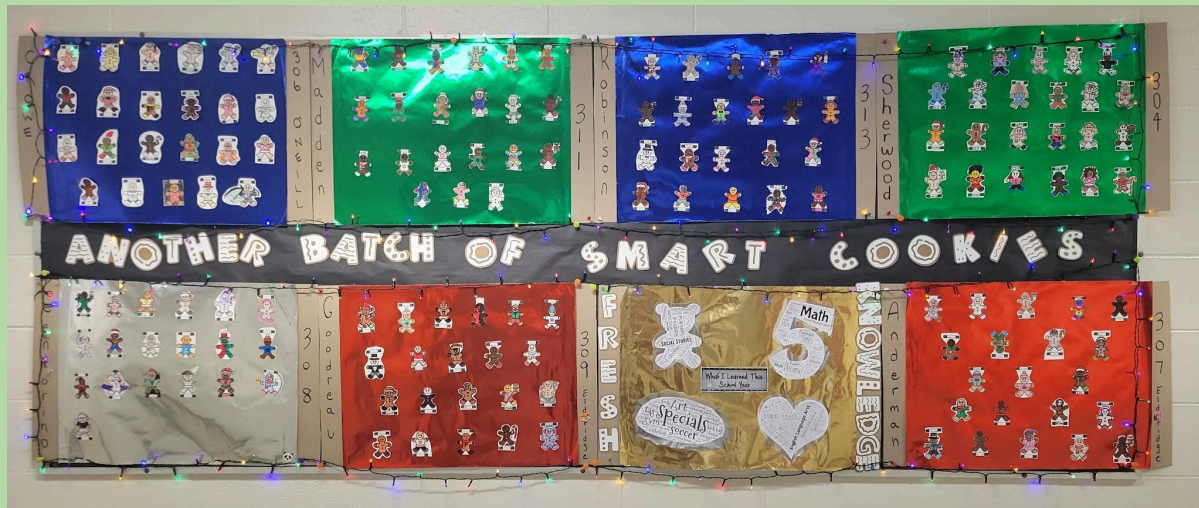
On behalf of the faculty and staff at Chestnut Hill Community School, I wish you all a Peaceful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!



During the 4th Grade Holiday Rotations, the fourth grade students traveled to each classroom and participated in various winter-themed activities and crafts.



During the week of December 2-6, CHCS held the Scholastic Book Fair. CHCS receives a portion of the proceeds, which allows us to purchase additional books for the library. Thank you to the PTO, Mrs. Damouras, student council members, and the many parent volunteers who supported this effort. I also want to extend my appreciation to Mrs. Fabin for her effort in helping to make this project a success. We are excited to announce that over \$2500 in profits were made, which can be used to purchase new books for the CHCS library!



Students in Mrs. Pereira's Math class show and explain their mathematical thinking on a white board.

IMPORTANT: PARKING LOT SAFETY REMINDER

Please remember that school does not begin until 8:30. **Students should not be dropped off or let out of the car prior to 8:30.** Students should only be dropped off in the designated area in the top tier of the parking lot. Please do not drop off on the side of the building. If you are driving in the parking lot, please wait your turn to drop off your child and do not go around traffic. Remind your student to only use the designated crosswalks and make sure that they are not running across the parking lot. **It is essential that all families follow the procedures for dropping off your child as we all work together to keep our kids safe.** Click [here](#) for more information about our arrival procedures.

Mr. Stogner hands out a water bottle to our RISE winners at our Whole School Assembly. Congratulations to all of our RISE winners!



On-line Safety Reminder

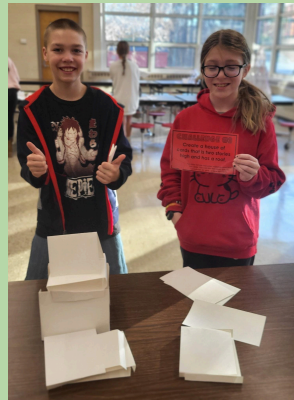
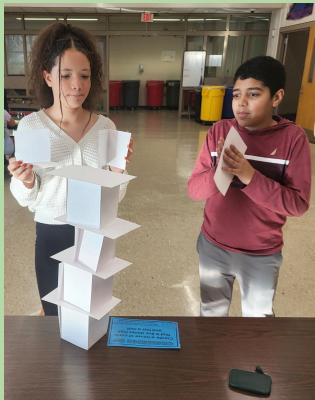
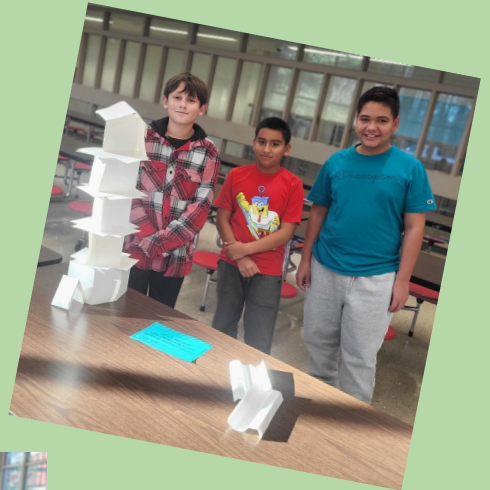
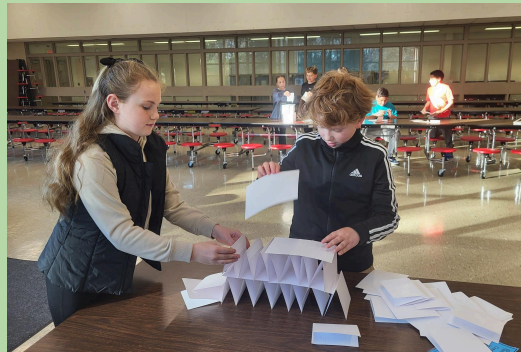
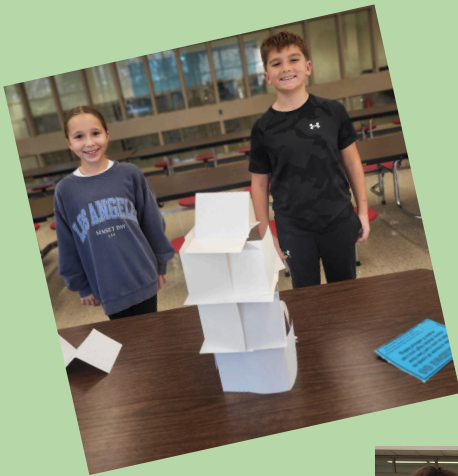
One of our values here at CHCS is safety. As part of that commitment to safety, I want to share some helpful resources relating to on-line safety. It is important that parents/guardians check in with your kids regarding what they are watching and/or participating in online (on computers as well as on phones). There are many parental controls that exist and you can review settings frequently to help you be aware of what websites or apps your child is using. If you have specific questions or concerns that we can help with, please let us know. Here are some resources that may be useful.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Tips-for-Parents-Digital-Age.aspx>

<https://www.connectsafely.org/safetytips/>

[Teaching Kids about Online Safety: Parent Report](#)

Mrs. Anderman, Mr. Goodreau and Mrs. Eldridge's classes participated in a House of Cards Challenge! Each group got a card that asked them to use their engineering skills to build something specific using only the index cards they were given. They couldn't cut, glue, or tear them, but they could fold them.



Whole School Themes

As part of our efforts to support the social-emotional growth of all students, we focus on monthly themes that are tied to our RISE values (Respect, Integrity, Safety, and Empathy) and our Responsive Advisory/Morning Meetings.

During the month of January, we are focusing on being Respectful. You can reinforce this at home by talking to your child about how to be respectful with their words and actions, including how they respond to adults.



To reinforce building peace throughout our school, teachers give tickets to students who exemplify our values. Students put their tickets into a large box outside of the office and random drawings are held to recognize students. The students who were randomly selected and recognized during the month of November for building peace by being safe were:

Grade 4

Bella M.

Zia P.

Cameron W.

Noah W.

Grade 5

Olivia S.

Marie W.

Jackson K.

Chase S.

Grade 6

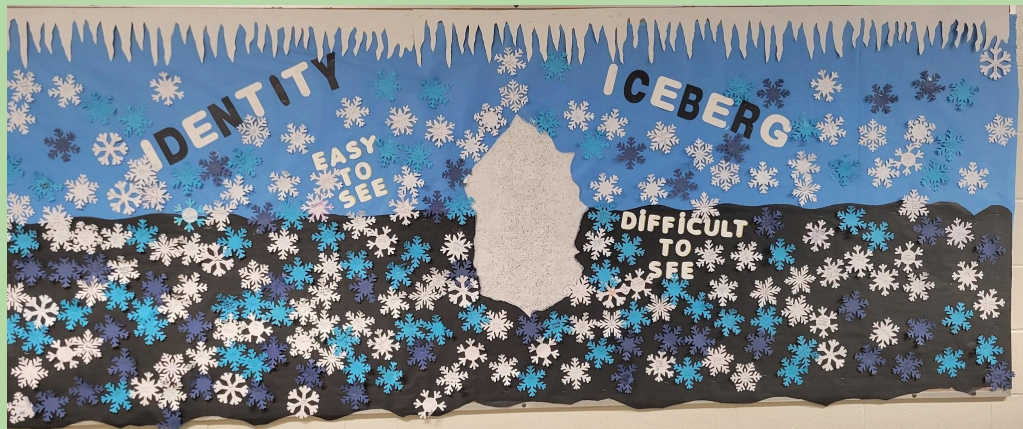
Caleb M.

Claire L.

Madisyn M.

Cameron K.

Congratulations to those students and thank you for positively contributing to our community!



Hello CHCS Students!

Now that the cold weather and snow are here, many of you are wearing boots to school which is great for recess! However, in order to move more easily and keep everyone safe in P.E. class, we are reminding you to bring sneakers.

Happy moving!

~ Mr. Koob





Students in Mrs. Harvey's Science class created self-sustaining ecosystems.

Botvin LifeSkills Training

During the month of December and January, Mr. Koob is incorporating our Botvin LifeSkills lessons relating to smoking/vaping to all students into their Physical Education/Wellness classes. Although the lessons differed slightly based upon the grade level, the goal of each lesson is to teach information about the impact of tobacco use, including cigarette smoking/vaping, on the body and to counter common myths and misconceptions about these substances. In grade 5 information on alcohol will also be included and in grade 6 students will discuss both alcohol and marijuana.

Below are some links that provide more information about the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum as well as useful information for families. Feel free to utilize these resources to promote conversations with your child around these important topics. If you have any questions, please let us know.

LifeSkills: <https://www.lifeskillstraining.com/>

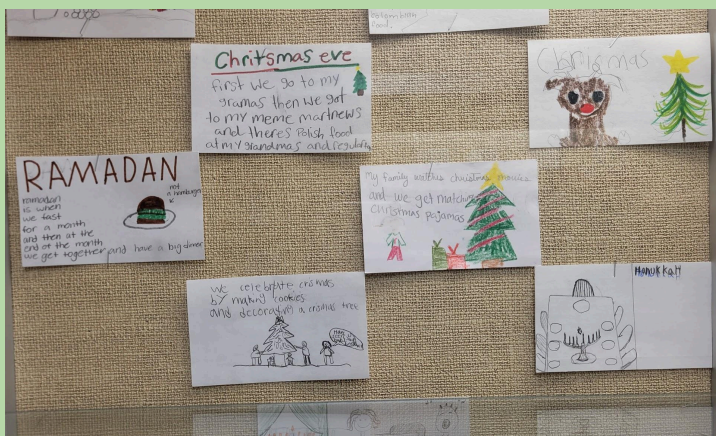
Vaping Resources for Parents: <http://makesmokinghistory.org/dangers-of-vaping/parents/>

More info about talking to your child about e-cigarettes:

https://e-cigarettes.surgeongeneral.gov/documents/SGR_ECig_ParentTipSheet_508.pdf

“Talk They Hear You” resources: <https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you>

Parent Up Website: <https://parentupkc.com>



As part of a discussion on honoring diverse traditions, students had the opportunity to draw a picture or write something about a tradition they celebrate at this time of year. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn the diverse traditions celebrated within our community!

PTO NEWS

Book Fair and Bingo - The Book Fair and hot chocolate bingo event was so much fun! Thank you, Sarah Mignault for all your efforts organizing and running the event! Thanks to Sue Lenarski for her fabulous bingo calling and last minute problem solving! Last, but not least, thank you to all the parent and teacher volunteers helping at the registers at the Book Fair, passing out hot chocolate and keeping track of called numbers on the white board! We could not have pulled it off without your help!

PTO Luncheon - On Monday, December 16th, the teacher's and staff were treated to a Special Winter Luncheon featuring food from Sleigh City Pizza. This year's event was organized and run by the amazing Karen Miller! Thank you so much for taking this on!

If you would like to contribute to this luncheon and "Buy your teacher a lunch" please venmo @CHCSPTO.

Your contribution of any amount is greatly appreciated and is never too late. Your donations allow us the ability to afford events like these. Thank you so much to those who have already contributed!

Upcoming meetings:

- 1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4

All meetings are held at 6:30 pm in the CHCS library.

Follow CHCS PTO on Facebook or send us an email at CHCSPTO@gmail.com.

Important Dates!

- ❖ December 18-Student Council Meeting
- ❖ December 19 - Pajama Day
- ❖ December 20 - Ugly/Festive Sweater Day
- ❖ December 23-January 1- Winter Break!
- ❖ January 8 - CHCS PTO Meeting
- ❖ January 8 - Early Release- 1:00 Dismissal
- ❖ January 13 - CHCS School Council
- ❖ January 20- Martin Luther King Day - No School
- ❖ January 22 - Student Council

Please contact the office if you would like a hard copy of this newsletter. It is also available on our website.

If you have any suggestions or concerns, please call me at 323-0437 or email me at jchampagne@belchertownps.org