



# HALE EARLY EDUCATION CENTER APRIL 2018 NEWSLETTER

## Curriculum

The HEEC curriculum theme for April is Spring and Farm Animals. CT ELDS standards which are highlighted this month focus on:

### *Language and Literacy:*

Engaging in conversations, recognizing and naming known letters of the alphabet in familiar and unfamiliar words, rhyming, and drawing original stories with a beginning, middle and end.

### *Social & Emotional Development:*

Describing self by referring to preferences, thoughts, and feelings, demonstrating increased confidence and willingness to take risks when attempting new tasks and making decisions about activities and materials, and developing solutions and working to resolve conflicts with peers.

**Mathematics:** Using strategies to determine measurable attributes (may use comparison, standard or non-standard measurement tools), identifying and describing 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional shapes with mathematical names, using real-world situations and concrete objects to solve addition and subtraction problems up through five, and recognizing written numerals up to 10.

**Cognition:** Trying multiple strategies and drawing on multiple resources to solve a problem, beginning to question the accuracy of information and sources as evidenced by sharing conflicting

information from another source, and using familiar patterns to solve problems and reason.

We hope the report card information was helpful, as well as discussions that took place during conferences. If you have questions about your child's progress at any time, please contact us.

## Reminders

**April 5: Wellness Committee "March Madness Challenge" Calendars DUE**

**April 10: Early Release**

- AM Program 8:30-10:00 am
- PM Program 10:30 am -12:00 pm
- School Day 8:45 am- 12:00 pm

**April 11: Spring Fest**

- 6:00 pm at the CHS Veterans' Auditorium - Please RSVP to your child's teacher with number attending

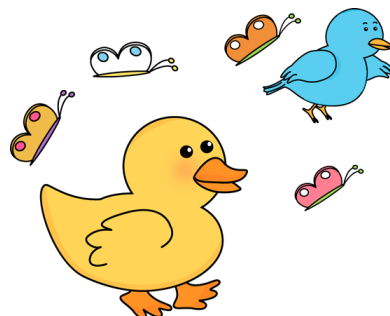
**April 16-20: NO SCHOOL, April Break**

**April 28: Annual Town Meeting**

- 10:00 am at the CHS Veterans' Auditorium

**Free Online Parenting Classes**

- [peaceathomeparenting.com](http://peaceathomeparenting.com)
- Code: TOWNPEACE2018



## PTO

**April 5: HEEC PTO Meeting at 6:30 pm in the HEEC Lobby. *We will be conducting several votes for allocation of PTO funds and could use as many participants as possible. Your input is valued.***

**April 4-13: Lightbulbs fundraiser:** An order sheet will be sent home for your order of long lasting, high quality LED lightbulbs. Qualifying purchases will receive a FREE nightlight!

**April 9-13: "Pennies for Preschool"** program through the Coventry Scholarship Foundation. HEEC will be running a penny drive throughout the week. While this is a penny drive, we will gladly accept coins, dollars, or checks made out to the Coventry Scholarship Foundation. The money collected will go into a scholarship account for your child's graduating class.

### **Build Workshop**

Joe Cleary has teamed up with Home Depot to provide us with a Build Workshop. This workshop lets kids choose from a variety of kid-friendly woodworking projects! The project can be used as fun gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Look for a flyer in your cubby with more information!

**May 2: Joint PTO Meeting**

FY18/19 Budget Presentation by Dr. Petrone. The meeting will take place in the Coventry Middle/High School Media Center from 6:00-7:30PM.

As always thank you for your support! If you have questions please feel free to contact the PTO at [HEECPTO@gmail.com](mailto:HEECPTO@gmail.com)



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### Coventry Public Schools Superintendent's Office April 2018 Newsletter Submission

**CHANGES MADE TO 2017-2018 SCHOOL CALENDAR:** At the Board of Education meeting on February 22, 2018, the Board voted unanimously to adjust the 2017-18 Coventry Public Schools calendar. The following change was made to the school calendar: Graduation has been moved to Saturday, June 23.

An updated version of the school calendar can be found on the district website at:

<http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/quicklinks/1718-calendar>.

**2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR APPROVED:** The Board of Education approved the 2018-2019 Coventry Public Schools calendar at the January 25, 2018 Board meeting. K-5 afterschool programs will again be offered on the three early release staff development days on December 6, 2018, January 30, 2019, and April 9, 2019. The approved 2018-2019 calendar can be found on our website at

<http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/quicklinks/1819-calendar>.

Come meet the Superintendent of Schools, David Petrone, as he conducts his "**Open Door Meetings**". "As the Superintendent of Schools, one of my initiatives is to meet with as many parents and members of our Coventry community as possible. Open communication is a key component for true collaboration. I invite you to keep informed about education in our town by attending any of my Open Door meetings this school year." Open Door Meetings are held in the Administrative Building Conference Room at 1700 Main Street. The remaining dates are:

Tuesday, March 27, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - Budget Focus

Monday, May 7, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Budget Focus

If you are unable to attend one of these scheduled meetings, but would still like to meet with the Superintendent, please call the office at 860-742-7317, Ext. 2.

Have you thought about **volunteering** in any one of the Coventry Public Schools but did not know how to go about doing so? Volunteers can assist school staff members with school activities in the presence of a Coventry Public Schools employee. Background checks will be required of volunteers, by way of the Visitor Express identification scanning system at the school, each time they arrive. Volunteers are those who can assist school staff members with school activities such as those listed below:

- assisting in a classroom such as the Reading Room, cafeteria, or library when a staff member is present during regular school hours; or
- accompanying a class on a field trip during the school day with a staff member; or
- helping in the school office during regular school hours; or
- assisting during extracurricular events, i.e., dances, fairs, open house, sporting events, etc.

The process is easy to become a volunteer. Coventry residents who would like to become a volunteer in any one of our schools in district must first apply online at

<https://www.applitrack.com/coventry/onlineapp/default.aspx?Category=Volunteers>. Currently there are two volunteer job listings, Volunteer Coach which is JobID: 1045, and School Volunteer which is JobID: 1253. The online application process is a step-by-step procedure. Fingerprinting is a requirement of anyone who is employed, or volunteers for, Coventry Public Schools, but the fee will be waived.




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When the application is completed, Applitrack will send a notice to all five of our schools that there is a new volunteer application for the Administrator to review and approve. Volunteers will then be contacted by any one of the Administrators listed below for next steps:

- Joseph Blake, Coventry High School Principal, 860-742-7346, or [jblake@coventryct.org](mailto:jblake@coventryct.org)
- Dena DeJulius, Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School Principal, 860-742-7334, or [ddejulius@coventryct.org](mailto:ddejulius@coventryct.org)
- Beth Giller, George Hersey Robertson Intermediate School Principal, 860-742-7341, or [bgiller@coventryct.org](mailto:bgiller@coventryct.org)
- Ronda Lezberg, Coventry Grammar School Principal, 860-742-7313, or [rlezberg@coventryct.org](mailto:rlezberg@coventryct.org)
- Lois Hasty, Preschool and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, 860-742-4550, or [lhasty@coventryct.org](mailto:lhasty@coventryct.org)

We are now on **Twitter!** As part of our ongoing efforts to connect to families and the community, you can follow Coventry Public Schools on Twitter. To follow us search for “@SchoolsCoventry.” Or, you can also connect to our

account directly from our website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org). Look for the Twitter  symbol on the lower left hand side of the webpage. Be the first to know of school closing due to inclement weather, an early release from school, or a delayed opening!



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**April Newsletter**  
**Director of Teaching and Learning**  
**Michele Mullaly**

You read Audrey Wood's *Ten Little Fish* to your child for what seems like the tenth time in one day and have listened to Laurie Berkner sing "There Were Five in the Bed" so many times her voice haunts your dreams! Still, at home you are providing great support for the development of your child's numeracy skills!

You might wonder how we develop mathematical concepts in your child in our instruction at the Hale Early Education Center. While developmentally each child may be at a different place on the continuum of learning, some of the PreK standards for mathematics which we instruct identified in the CT Early Learning and Development Standards include the following: counting from 1 to 10 or 1-20, counting out objects up to 5 or 10 to determine the total number, comparing the measurable attributes of two or more objects, sorting and classifying objects, and identifying and describing 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. Typically, our units of instruction incorporate standards from many domains--math, science, literacy, social and emotional development. Our students learn through center activities, creative play and discovery, and teacher directed "carpet time" instruction.

Next year we will be incorporating the Eureka Math resource into our existing instruction. Eureka Math is currently used in instruction in Kindergarten to Grade 5, and incorporating it into units at Hale will help us articulate skill and concept development PreK-5. Eureka Math focuses on building students' concepts, ability to apply them, and developing their critical thinking. This series sequences the introduction of concepts and skills and partners them with methods of instruction that drive student understanding beyond solving problems to deep mastery of mathematical concepts. Eureka Math articulates skills, concepts, and instructional strategies vertically from grade-to-grade in a coherent way. It also helps students connect math to the real world.

What will Eureka Math instruction look like in your child's classroom? In the first unit, for example, children match and sort objects based on their attributes (e.g., color, size, use). Along the way, they are shown as many as three objects (stuffed animals, small cars, etc.) and asked, "How many?" Touching one object at a time, they count to find the total, and match the count to a numeral.

In addition to reading aloud children's books related to numeracy and playing music that supports math concepts, how else can you support mathematical learning at home? Eureka Math suggests the following approaches:

- "Have your child help with household chores that require matching or sorting, such as matching socks in the laundry, organizing shoes, or collecting utensils for meals. As your child matches objects, ask questions like, "How do they match?"
- Play "I Spy" together to continue developing vocabulary around size, shape, color, and texture. For instance, seeing a banana, you might say, "I spy something yellow and smooth."
- Identify and count parts of your body, noticing if there is a matching body part (1 ear, 2 ears) or just 1 body part (1 nose).
- Touch and count three objects together. At the grocery store, count, "1, 2, 3. We need 3 apples."\*

We look forward next year to sharing Eureka Math in action in the classroom with you and as always welcome the opportunity to speak with you about strategies you can use at home to promote learning!

\*Grade PK • Module 1 • Topics A-D Family Math Newsletter, Eureka Math Module 1, Counting to 5, ©2015-Great Minds.eureka-math.org