



# The Wildcat Journal

## Message from the Principal

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

As you read through our Wildcat Journal, you will notice all of the wonderful learning activities and projects that our teachers have been implementing in their class lessons throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period. Our Faust School teachers and professional support staff are committed to student learning, which involves knowing our students as individuals to best meet their needs. They strive to build meaningful, trusting relationships that encourage our students to have confidence and express themselves in a positive manner. As educators, they know the importance of having students work together in order to learn how to communicate, collaborate and resolve conflicts.

Below are some ways that our faculty and staff infuse the curriculum in order for our students to enjoy learning in the classroom, connecting to their current lives and future:

- ***Make learning relevant: relating content to students' lives***
- ***Smile & use humor: show students that it is enjoyable and fun to work with each one as individuals***
- ***Allow self-expression: connect learning by encouraging students' expression of ideas, values, and conceptions of self***
- ***Convey compassion: understanding learners' perspectives***
- ***Showing concern for students' well-being: demonstrating knowledge of students' lives***
- ***Provide affirmation: encourage students that they are capable of doing well; using praise, written feedback, and opportunities for success***

### Preparing Faust School Students for PARCC

Our Faust School teachers and professional support staff have also been working hard to prepare our students with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards to take the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Career (PARCC) exams.

A question many parents have is: What can I do at home to help prepare my child for these tests? The good news is students can practice these skills on computers, laptops, and even tablets when they are not in school. Parents and students could watch PARCC informational videos and have their child take practice tests at home by visiting <http://www.parcconline.org>. If you do not have computer access at home, please visit the East Rutherford Public Library and they will be happy to accommodate you and your child. Also, please know that our teachers are always willing to provide extra help after school and are available to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or your child's subject teacher if you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We encourage all of our parents and guardians to reach out to us and form a partnership in your child's education.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Warmest regards,  
Mrs. Regina Barrale  
Alfred S. Faust School Principal

## Music Cycle

Students in Mrs. Schweikardt's music classes are finishing up for the 2nd marking period. 5th and 6th graders completed musical notation by playing different rhythm patterns on percussion instruments, while 8th graders have been busy writing RAPS as they conclude their section of notation and rhythms.

## Computer Classes

Computer classes with Mrs. Krantz have been busy using technology to learn more about their local community. In sixth grade, our students created their own surveys to learn more about their classmates' perspectives. They then graphed the responses and presented their findings in a slideshow. Meanwhile, our eighth graders took this concept a step further by researching an issue that affects their lives, like homework and recreational sports. They, too, surveyed their classmates and graphed the results. They also conducted extensive research on these issues and designed a website to present their information.

## Career Ed

The students in Career Education are working on creating their own restaurant. The students are working in groups and each person has a task to complete. Each team is coming up with a theme, slogan, location, business plan, menu, and finances for their restaurant.

## ESL

In ESL the students learn basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Currently, they are working on a biography power point based on a famous person in history. The students were able to choose which famous person they were interested in learning more about. The students read books on the famous person and were able to use the internet to find more information. Within the PowerPoint, the students wrote interesting facts and were able to use pictures and media which helped reinforce their reading, writing and listening skills. The students will be presenting their projects to the class which will help them with their oral language skills.

## Faust School's Band

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, members of the Faust School Elective Band and Choir from entertained the East Rutherford Senior Citizens at their monthly meeting. Under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Schweikardt, 140 students participated in this performance, which has become an annual tradition.

Some of the selections performed by the band were "Music from Brave" and "Carol of the Bells". The choir performed a few winter themed selections along with "What a Wonderful World" and "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year".

A great time was had by the audience and all who performed.



## Spanish Classes

During the 2nd marking period, students in 5th grade Spanish cycle worked on the basic greetings, numbers, colors, months, and the days of the week. These students really enjoyed the videos and songs while practicing vocabulary words. They also wrote about their favorite season and what they have in their backpacks.

6th grade Spanish cycle students celebrated "La Navidad" by creating snowman during class. Students learned some of the many traditions related to the culture and had fun before our Winter break.

In 7th grade Spanish, students will begin Unit 2 focusing on authentic culture using Spanish in Mexico. With the help of various activities students will compare the Spanish language and the culture of Mexico with their own community. Students will also use their knowledge of Spanish to access new information. They will learn to talk about telling time, school subjects, classroom objects, and daily activities. They will continue to learn about grammar, such as, the verbs tener (to have), estar (to be), ir (to go), and the present tense of -AR verbs.

8th grade Spanish students are beginning Unit 3, studying about different food. They will soon be working on a Menu Project for a Hispanic Restaurant that students will design.



## Social Studies

8th grade students will be creating a Shark Tank invention project based on their study of Ancient India's accomplishments. The students accessed primary and secondary documents to complete their research. They will be conducting presentations to Mr. Majsiak and Mr. Barone. In addition guest such as Mrs. Wolfe, Mrs. Pappas, and Ms. Cerny will attend and take on the role of a shark looking for an investment opportunity.

## New Year—New Accomplishments

With the new year in full effect, the students at Faust have jumped right back into their academic routines and have been busily preparing for the new challenges that await them this school year. Students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade have been working on skills involving scientific notation and exponents and are now tackling The Pythagorean Theorem, while our 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been becoming proficient with ratios and proportions. Sixth graders are working diligently on comparing and ordering integers and rational numbers and the 5<sup>th</sup> graders dove head first into the world of operations with fractions and mixed numbers. Our students are making great strides in their learning and the department is extremely proud of the work they are putting forth. Keep it up!

## Snaps for Alfred S. Faust School's 80th Annual Spelling Bee!

On Friday, January 5, 2017, Alfred S. Faust School held its 80th Annual School Spelling Bee in the auditorium. Each English class in grades 5-8 held a spell-down to determine a class champion and alternate. The champions then went on to compete onstage in the spelling bee. A total of 23 spellers gathered on the stage to spell various words including "tarantula" and "clementine." After 11 rounds, two eighth grade students were left standing, Carolyn Pomykala and Yeshi Wangmo. After another 8 rounds of spelling, Carolyn correctly spelled "stethoscope" and "collage."

Congratulations to Carolyn Pomykala and Yeshi Wangmo, who will be the alternate champion and take Carolyn's place in the event she is unable to compete in March. Carolyn will now go on to compete in the Bergen/Passaic Counties final round in March at Bergen Community College. Many congratulations, Carolyn, and keep on spelling!



## Meet the Teachers

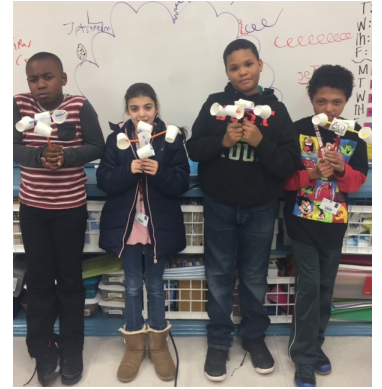
**Mrs. O'Connor**—Mrs. O'Connor has been teaching Science and Special Education at Faust School for thirteen years. She enjoys watching and playing sports, and was the girls basketball coach at Faust for eleven years, until she had her first son, Austin, in June of 2015. Currently, she is the co-advisor for the yearbook committee and an after school tutoring teacher. Her favorite place to be is at the beach! Mrs. O'Connor prides herself on making learning fun and exciting. Her students would tell you that her greatest pet peeve is when students "forget" to do their homework and water-bottle flipping!!

**Mrs. Petraitis**—Mrs. Petraitis teaches both ELA 7 and Humanities here at Faust School. She has her undergraduate degrees in psychology and English and a master's degree in education. In her spare time, Mrs. Petraitis enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and trying out new recipes.

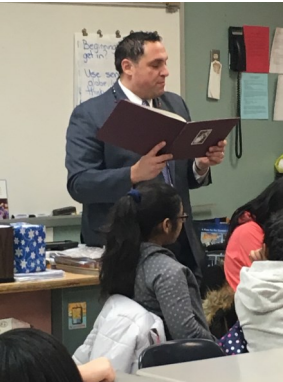
**Mrs. Romaglia**—As the School Social Worker, Mrs. Romaglia enjoys meeting with students and assisting them with any concerns or issues they may have. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends, going to the movies, reading a good book and painting. She is also an avid animal lover who owns two bull dogs named Maggie and Lucy.

## How Fast is the Wind Going?

Have you ever wondered how fast that strong winter breeze really is blowing? Well there is an instrument that measures the speed of the wind and it is called an anemometer. Mrs. O'Connor, Ms. Velasquez, and Mr. Macias helped their science class create their very own anemometers that actually work! They used a classroom fan to test out their instruments and were able to see the differences in wind speeds on the fan.



## News from the 5th Grade



The fifth graders celebrated Polar Express Day with special guest readers, Mrs. Barrale and Mr. Giancaspro. Students enjoyed listening to the story and watching the movie while enjoying a special treat of hot chocolate and cookies.

In Social Studies, we have been discovering the New World during the Age of Exploration. We have taken down the Aztec people with Hernan Cortez and searched all over the coast of Florida for the Fountain Of Youth with Juan Ponce de Leon. The Age of Exploration took place from the discovery of the New World by Christopher Columbus in 1492 until the late 1600's with the explorations by French explorer Robert de La Salle.

The fifth graders are now getting ready for Super Bowl LI in the annex. The hallway will be decorated and students will learn some interesting facts about both the Patriots and the Falcons and where the big game will be played!

## Faust Students Tackle New Texts

Students in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts Classes have begun the process of close reading, chunking, and annotating informational texts. This is an important feature of the reading process, as it makes reading rigorous texts more accessible. Students are also being taught the importance of identifying the author's purpose, identifying and elaborating on the author's viewpoint, and making connections to texts.

Students in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts classes have been immersed in narrative texts, focusing on popular novels such as Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls and Number the Stars by Lois Lowry. Students are exploring narrative elements, literary genres and devices, figurative language, and the author's point of view. Students have mastered the strategy of citing evidence when responding to literature. With this knowledge of narrative writing, the students are becoming quite the storytellers themselves!

### Alfred S. Faust Intermediate School

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Visit us at  
[www.erboe.net](http://www.erboe.net)

## Notices:

2/10/17- School Dance  
2/16/17- Black History Laser Light Show  
2/16/17- Board of Education Meeting  
2/17-2/20/17- President's Day Recess –  
Schools closed  
3/8/17- 8th Grade Drug Awareness Assembly  
at Becton  
3/9/17- Choir rehearsal at Becton  
3/14/17- Lead Commencement at Faust  
School 7:00 p.m.  
3/15/17- PTA Meeting  
3/15- BPA vs 8th grade basketball game at  
Becton—7pm  
3/16/17- Band rehearsal at Becton Showcase  
3/16/17- Board of Education Meeting

3/21/17- Single-Session Day  
3/24/17- School Dance  
3/30/17- Band & Choir – dress rehearsal at  
Becton  
3/30/17- Becton Showcase Performance  
7:00 p.m. at Becton  
4/6/17- School Play for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade  
4/7/17- School Play for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades  
4/7/17- School Play "Opening Night" Show  
7 p.m.  
4/8/17- School Play Saturday Matinee @ 1  
p.m.  
4/13/17- Single-Session Day  
4/14/17- 4/21/17- Spring Recess – Schools  
closed

To Report an absence—please call Ms. White—201-804-3110