



The Wildcat Journal

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

It is with great pleasure that I serve as the Alfred S. Faust Intermediate School Principal. Our faculty and professional support staff are always available to discuss your child's progress and answer any questions or concerns that you may have. Please know that our teachers are always willing to provide extra help afterschool in order to strengthen understanding of the concepts that are taught in their academic classes.

Parent involvement is also extremely important to us and we ask that you make every effort to ensure that your child attends school regularly and is on time each day. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic achievement starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families need to play a key role in making sure their child understands why attendance is so important for success in school and in life. We realize that some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances, but, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Here are a few practical tips to help support regular attendance:

- *Make sure your child keeps a regular bedtime and establishes a morning routine.*
- *Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.*
- *Ensure your children go to school every day unless they are truly sick*
- *Avoid scheduling vacations or doctor's appointments when school is in session.*
- *Talk to teachers and the school counselor for advice if your child feels anxious about going to school.*
- *Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, neighbor, or another parent to take your child to school.*

Lastly, as your child's principal, please feel free to contact me at any time if you ever have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. My door is always open and I look forward to partnering with you in your child's education.

Warmest Regards,

Mrs. Regina Barrale
Alfred S. Faust School Principal
Rbarrale@erboe.net
(201) 804-3100 Ext. 3003





Mythological Deities are Among Us!

The students in the grade 5 Mythology class have been exploring the world of Greco-Roman mythology. From Apollo to Zeus, the students have found myths, fascinating and entertaining. The students recently dramatized a favorite myth which explains the natural phenomenon of the changing seasons. Students brought to life the characters of Persephone, Hades, Zeus, Demeter, and Hermes by first writing a script and then staging a drama with costumes and props!

Who Dares to Play The Westing Game

This fall, Ms. Bayeux's Seventh Grade Honors English students are reading *The Westing Game* by Newbery Medalist Ellen Raskin. This is a wonderful novel from the mystery genre that enchants students to become super sleuths with detective journals as they meet the eccentric, childish, mysterious, foreign, and astute Westing heirs. The dynamic plot unfolds as students use their higher-order thinking skills to determine which heir will solve the mystery of *The Westing Game*. Also, the vivid and unique *dramatis personae* of this novel invite much discussion and writing about Raskin's characterizations of this indelible cast. As a culminating project, students will use their detective journals to create their own short stories featuring the cast from the novel. Some of these short stories will be acted out in class as we take our work from page to stage! *Who dares to play The Westing Game?*

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 writing conventions, punctuation, and grammar. We are starting a descriptive writing piece in which the students will have to explain in detail about a topic.

Math

It's been a busy first few months and the Math Department is very proud of the hard work our students have been putting forth. Our students have been working diligently on various topics including decimals, division, rational numbers, expressions and equations, and scientific notation. Our students are showing that they are willing to work hard to ensure success in their math classes, and we know they will continue to work hard as the year moves forward. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

5th Grade ELA

The fifth grade students have made a wonderful adjustment to Faust School. ELA students are working very hard in class and are learning about narrative elements and story structure. Students created posters after reading, "A Package for Mrs. Jewls." Posters showed all of the narrative elements found in this humorous fiction story.

Band

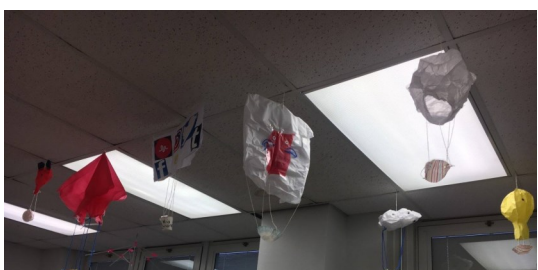
On October 23rd, members of the Faust School Band performed in Atlantic City at the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Convention. The Faust School Bands and Choir will help you ring in the new year at their annual Winter Concert with holiday music that will be sure to get you in the festive spirit. The concert is free, and will take place at the Becton Performing Arts Center, on Tuesday December 4th at 7:00 P.M.



8th Grade Honors Spanish

Students in Spanish Honors class worked in groups to create games to review everything that 8th graders at Faust School have learned in Unit 1. Students presented each of their games in class, and all groups had the opportunity to test them and give feedback. We accomplished our objective, which was to review the material, learn to work together, create an original game, and, most importantly, students realized that learning can be fun! ¡La clase de Español es divertida y me gusta!

Flying into the Atmosphere



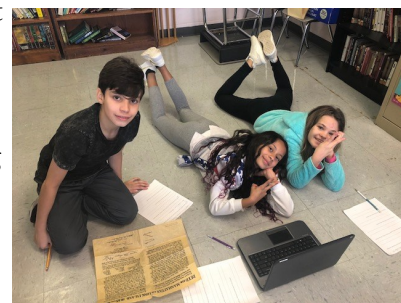
The 5th grade science classes combined atmosphere with engineering when they

built models of hot air balloons. After reading an article in their “SuperScience” magazine, they began to put the project together by designing and adjusting their ideas on project boards. Then the work began. Students completed their models and a worksheet explaining how they fly, and the changes in the atmosphere, both inside and outside of the envelope, which is the balloon itself. You can view their models by stopping by room 205

5th Grade Social Studies

The 5th grade Social Studies students have been examining primary sources recently. The primary sources help the students relate in a personal way to events of the past and promote a deeper understanding of history. Furthermore, many of the 5th graders have shared some significant personal artifacts from their own lives with their classmates. This has made their learning more real, fostering engagement and further research into events of the past.

They look forward to continue utilizing primary sources throughout their time in 5th grade!



6th Grade Spanish

“Franela de adjetivos”. Students in Spanish cycle had the opportunity to personalize a paper t-shirt using many of the descriptive adjectives and the verb ser to describe themselves. The verb tener was also used to talk about hair and eyes. ¡Los estudiantes de 6to grado son muy artísticos!

Career Education

The students in Career Education are working on creating their own business. 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.

Music Cycle

As we come to the end of our first cycle, 5th graders have done a great job learning to read and write music. 6th grade students have become quite the experts on the orchestra and even enjoy listening to symphonies. The 8th graders rocked and learned about the history of rock and roll. They have also been practicing their 8th Grade Commencement Song.



Veterans Day

On November 7, the 8th grade Honors students at A.S. Faust Intermediate School presented the 7th annual Veterans Day assembly for the students and staff, facilitated by teachers Mrs. Pappas and Ms. Bayeux. Veterans from the East Rutherford VFW Post #8374 were the guests of honor. Highlights of the program included an informative slideshow, veterans' quotes written by the students after interviewing them at a VFW meeting, a slideshow illustrating all of the Veterans memorials throughout East Rutherford, and a heart-warming homecoming video of military service members' reunions with their loved ones. The veterans attending the presentation then received poetry booklets written by the students as well as a framed picture of the veterans and the students at their meeting, and patriotic key rings and pens as a token of our gratitude for their service to our country. We paid special tribute to Mr. Michael Gallo, a WWII army veteran, by presenting him with a WWII army veteran hat. The veterans then enjoyed refreshments after the assembly. The Faust students showed their gratitude, honor, and respect for our veterans for their service to our country and our community.



Journalism

The students in Mrs. Petraitis's Journalism class this year have been working diligently on reading informational texts and evaluating what they are reading. They began the year by conducting interviews with each other and have been compiling current event summaries by looking at credible sources for their information. Finally, students have just finished researching and presenting various topics in the history of journalism, such as editorializing, the printing press, the telegraph, and podcasts, just to name a few. We look forward to beginning our own articles this coming marking period.

English Department

Students in the 7th and 8th grade Language Arts classes have been exploring the fundamentals of English. In 7th grade, students are learning to analyze and apply their literary terms to their writing. They are also learning how to use text evidence from their reading to support their ideas, giving their writing credibility. Students in the 8th grade classes are focusing on using grammar to improve their writing fluency. They are also working on drafting narrative essays, incorporating sensory language and compositional risks. Students in the 6th grade are working hard on their book talk presentations for their independent reading books. They have also been completing short research projects. Overall, students are working hard on polishing their literacy and writing skills.



On November 17 members of the Faust School Band performed in Atlantic City at the New Jersey School Boards Association Annual Convention.

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Important Dates

- November 29...Board of Education Meeting
- December 26...Board of Education Meeting
- December 21...Start Holiday Recess-One Session Day
- January 1....New Years' Day-School Closed
- January 21...Martin Luther King Day-School Closed

Alfred S. Faust Intermediate School
100 Uhland Street
East Rutherford, NJ 07073

Phone: 201-804-3100
Email: rbarrale@erboe.net

Visit us at
www.erboe.net

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