

# WHITEHOUSE NEWS

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL . . .



### HOME OF THE CUBS

The mission of Whitehouse School is to provide children with a nurturing environment where they will feel safe and accepted. Our school community encourages respect and builds independence while fostering academic and personal growth and creating

### We are Cubs of Character!!!

Dear WHS Families,

Our robust character education program is continuing to be embraced by our entire school community. Students and teachers constantly discuss, write about, and reflect on indicators of good character, as well as service-learning opportunities. Our monthly character trait of focus for October was *friendliness*. Please see the front page of our website to view a *friendly* video.

Since we celebrated National Fire Prevention Week, we decided to also extend a *friendly* gesture to the volunteers from Whitehouse Fire Company Ladder #22 by giving each one of them a *goodie bag*. These men and women visit Whitehouse School each year to teach us about fire safety. A special thank you goes out to all of them!

In keeping with our theme, Mr. Tumolo read *friendliness* books at Family Night during our Book Fair. The entire event was a huge success because of some very dedicated and *friendly* parents, including Mrs. Cirianni and Mrs. DeVries.

Another important way that we recognized *friendly* behavior was through an outdoor schoolwide assembly during Violence Prevention Week. Under the direction of Mrs. Pierro and the *WHS Character Education Committee*, students gathered around a huge peace sign in the grass comprised of *Pinwheels for Peace*, which they created in art class.

Also, you may have already heard about the exciting way our committee kicked-off November! We launched our very own Advisor-Advisee Program. Research shows that such programs help children feel more connected in their school experience. While this type of initiative is usually found in the upper grade levels, we felt that we could apply the concept at the primary school level. So, we divided the entire school up into little "*families*" that will meet in different "*Houses*" (classrooms) each month. All of the grade levels are integrated and each *family* has a matriarch or patriarch (school or district staff member). Topics of discussion will center on the theme of the month or just light-hearted *getting to know you* conversations. We are thrilled that all Whitehouse School staff members are participating, in addition to our Superintendent, Dr. Barbara Sargent, our district Facilities Manager, Mr. Don Race, our district Math, Science & Technology Supervisor, Ms. Sarah Pauch, our district Humanities Supervisor, Mrs. Stacey Brown, and our Maschio's Food Service personnel, Mrs. Kim Weger & Mrs. Joan Fenska!!!

We appreciate your support as we continue to grow our home/school connection. Please keep holding character-oriented conversations with your child. The new bucket puzzle will focus on *thoughtfulness*, just in time as we give thanks and prepare for the holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Warmly,

Ann T. DeRosa



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## Some Handy Information from the Nurse and the CDC

**Handwashing** is an easy, inexpensive, and effective way to prevent the spread of germs and keep people healthy.

For kids, washing hands can be a fun and entertaining activity. It is simple enough for even very young children to understand.

Handwashing gives children and adults a chance to take an active role in their own health. Once kids learn how to properly wash their hands, they can—and often do—show their parents and siblings and encourage them to wash their hands, too.

**Parents can help keep their families healthy by:**

- Teaching them good handwashing technique.
- Reminding their kids to wash their hands.
- Washing their own hands with their kids.

### Improving Health

- Handwashing education in the community:
- Reduces the number of people who get sick with diarrhea by 31%.
- Reduces diarrheal illness in people with weakened immune systems by 58%.
- Reduces respiratory illnesses, like colds, in the general population by 21%.

### Saving Time and Money

- Handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick and spreading illness to others.
- Reducing illness increases productivity due to:
- Less time spent at the doctor's office.
- More time spent at work or school.

### Helping Families Thrive

Children who have been taught handwashing at school bring that knowledge home to parents and siblings. This can help family members get sick less often and miss less work and school. Despite widespread knowledge of the importance of handwashing, there is still room for improvement. A recent study showed that only 31% of men and 65% of women washed their hands after using a public restroom.

For more details, visit [www.cdc.gov/handwashing](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing)



# Speech AND Language

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Let's remember to reinforce the importance of **communication** throughout the year. Speech and language skills are essential for overall communication. The ability to communicate is critical for social and academic success in the educational setting.

## What is Speech and Language?

**Speech** is the actual physical aspects of communicating a message. There are three aspects of speech.

**Articulation:** The production of single sounds in all positions of words.

**Fluency:** This refers to how smoothly sounds, phrases and sentences flow when speaking.

**Voice:** The quality of sound production involving the volume and pitch appropriate for a child's age and gender.

**Language** refers to an organized set of symbols or a code used to communicate. There are three components involved in language, which determine 'what we say', 'how we say it' and 'why we say it.'

**Content** (what we say): This refers to the meaning that the child expresses or understands.

**Form** (how we say it): The understanding and use of grammatical structures including plural and verb forms.

**Use** (why we say it): The reason or purpose for communicating. This is how a child understands and uses verbal and non-verbal language in a variety of situations. This includes the social use of language including initiating conversation, turn-taking during conversation, using greetings and salutations, asking and answering questions appropriately and understanding and expressing feelings and emotions.

## Who addresses speech/language concerns in our schools?

Certified speech/language specialists along with teachers, learning consultants, social workers and psychologists identify individuals with speech and/or language difficulties within our schools. The speech/language specialist also provides intervention to students eligible for services and acts as a consultant to teachers, parents and paraprofessionals.

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## Guidance Newsletter



*October was a very busy month at Whitehouse School. Students and staff celebrated **The Week of Respect** from October 3-7th. The topics of respect and good choices were discussed. Students described ways to show respect and completed friendship pledge cards. We also showed respect for our community volunteers at our fire safety assembly.*

*The week of October 17-21st, was designated as **School Violence Awareness Week**. Readington Township Special Police Officer, Bob Marelli visited our school to discuss the topics of bullying, diversity, tolerance, and school/bus safety. The students and staff wore purple on Tuesday, October 18th, as a reminder that we use different ways to solve our problems then to hurt each other with our words or hands. Friday, October 21st was "Turn Your Back on Bullies Day". Students and staff were asked to wear their shirts backwards on that special day.*

Whitehouse School also celebrated **Red Ribbon Week** from October 24th-October 28th. This is a special week set aside for schools to celebrate a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. Over 100,000 schools and communities nationwide joined in the event, making it the most successful drug prevention activity in America. On Thursday, October 27th, all students and staff members dressed in red. They also wore their red ribbons for the entire week!

Whitehouse students and staff members are very proud of the fact that we are proactive and participate in all of these worthwhile awareness programs each year!



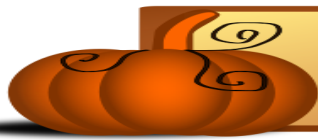
The kindergarten children will continue their phonemic awareness study of letters and sounds this month. They will be working on the letters Cc, Nn, Dd, Gg, and Ff. The boys and girls will be actively involved in many shared reading experiences, handwriting, word study, and retelling activities where these sounds will be emphasized. They will also be introduced to two vowels, Aa, and Ii. Blending sounds, making, and reading short vowel words are some of the ways the children will utilize these vowels. Don't forget those sight words, too!

With our unit on Senses in science, we will continue to build our understanding of just how important our senses are to us. We will be involved in many activities that will help us to appreciate the use of our senses. The children will be listening for sounds, playing games where our eyes play tricks on us, looking at partial pictures and trying to figure out what an item is and much more! When you walk into a kindergarten classroom, you will find some very busy little scientists!

In math, we will continue to work on those tricky teen numbers with many counting and number writing activities. The children will be discovering and creating patterns using a pattern block template. We will also be making Native American pattern necklaces.

Be on the lookout for pumpkins, Indian corn, Native American pictographs, and turkeys as you walk through the halls in our school. We will be very busy in kindergarten this month!





## First Grade

The first graders have settled into our busy first grade schedule. We have made new friends, renewed old friendships, and come together as new class communities. One way that we have come together as a class is by having a morning meeting each day. It is in our morning meeting that we get to know each other as we do various greetings and activities. We also use this time to problem solve ways in which we can be bucket fillers; and show each other that we respect one another.

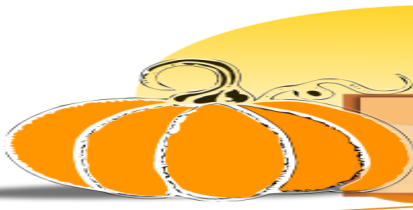
Each day begins with Writer's Workshop where you'll find us writing about Small Moments that have occurred in our lives. We're having fun learning how some of our favorite authors use words to tell stories and we are trying out some of their writing techniques ourselves. In Reader's Workshop, we have learned about choosing "Just Right" books from our personal reading bins. The students love when they have the chance to share their books with their classmates. During our Daily 5 literacy block, you will find us working on many different activities: Read To Self, Read To Someone, Listening To Reading, Word Work, and Writing. In math, we have been working on number partners and identifying number patterns through ten, solving addition story problems, and working toward fluency for addition within ten.

Our Social Studies unit focused on communities, citizenship, laws, and rules. We will be finishing up this unit soon by creating our own community maps showing all of the places where people live, work, and play together.

We will be starting our first science unit, Balls and Ramps. In this unit, we will be discovering things about motion and force using balls and ramps as the tools for our scientific investigations. In addition, we will be wrapping up our Balls and Ramps unit with a field trip to Oakwood Lanes bowling alley.







## Second Grade

Autumn greetings from Second Grade!

We have been very busy building our reading stamina and learning strategies to help build our accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills. Students are reading independently each day and are learning how to work with others in partnerships and small reading groups. As you read with your children at home, stop and ask him or her questions about the characters or plot or even challenge him or her to make a prediction about what might happen next! Remind your child to "chunk out" tricky words and to read smoothly with expression. These are skills we will continue building throughout the year.

Our small moment authors have been writing amazing stories! Small moments are true stories that tell about a time when the author experienced something that created a strong feeling or emotion. Students are learning how to "zoom in" on a particular experience and stretch it out with attention-grabbing beginnings, descriptive details, dialogue, strong action words, and satisfying endings. Authors are learning how to plan, write, revise and edit stories and are working with partners to improve those stories. They are having a great time! Our next unit will focus on non-fiction.

In math, we are continuing to create and solve word problems. Students are learning about different types of word problems and the different strategies to use when solving them. We continue to practice our math fact fluency (keep visiting [Reflexmath.com](http://Reflexmath.com)!), which greatly helps them solve problems of all types faster and more easily. Unit Two will focus on place value; comparing numbers using greater-than, less-than, and equal-to signs; and two-digit addition.

Our social studies unit focuses on citizenship, different types of communities, leaders and government. We have been discussing the importance and purpose of government and leadership within communities and the rights and responsibilities of citizens within those communities. In science, we have begun working with the Master Gardeners and are learning about the role and importance of soil in plant growth. We have learned about what compost is and how it can enrich soil and help grow stronger plants.

We are looking forward to many more exciting lessons and activities with your children this year!

Second Grade Teachers





The weather is getting colder, but things are really heating up in third grade! Our morning is packed full of exploration and discovery. Citizenship has been the third grade focus during social studies. We have learned about rights, responsibilities and ways to be a good citizen. After celebrating Constitution Day on September 17, each class created their own "Class Constitution" which established the framework of rules by which a positive learning environment is maintained within the classroom. Our students are also engaged in routine school-wide and daily classroom Social Emotional Learning (SEL) activities such as Town Hall Meetings, Morning Meetings, Self-Reflections and Mindfulness. Our theme for September focused on Responsibility and Perseverance, October was Friendliness and November is Thoughtfulness. Thank you for encouraging your child to demonstrate these positive character traits at home. At the end of each month, please remind your child to return to school his/her monthly bucket with your signature. We look forward to celebrating the fact that we "expect respect" at Whitehouse School each day.

If you are beginning to notice your child having a sudden interest in collecting rocks, we are to blame! Third grade scientists are now investigating earth materials as we study rocks and minerals in class. Through hands-on experiences, the study of geology has come to life in the third grade classrooms and STEM Lab at Whitehouse School. In addition, at the end of October, all third grade classes traveled to visit the Lost River Cavern. Our students panned for gems, toured an authentic cave, and enriched their understanding of the rock cycle. Third grade science "rocks"!

Moving on to math workshop, students are using problem solving strategies such as equations, drawings and explanations to "express their thinking" and validate their answers with extended responses. Building multiplication and division fact fluency is currently at the forefront of our lessons. Students will continue to practice with the goal of mastering the 0-10 facts by the middle of March. Many resources are in place within the classroom to help our students achieve this goal. At home, students are encouraged to regularly log onto their student accounts in Reflex Math and IXL.



The art room has been bustling! We started the school year off with a "STEAM" (Science, Technology, Engineering, ART, Math) project, which had all the students teaming up and creating the tallest paper sculpture they could with only 4 pieces of newspaper and tape. By the end of the period each team had to step away from their artwork to see if it stood on its own. Wow, did they rise to the occasion! We had really creative engineers in all our classes. It was impressive to see!

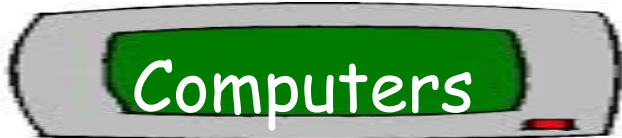
Our kindergarteners are already off to a great start. We learned how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors by blotting 2 colors together and mixing between a folded piece of paper. After cutting their creations out, students turned their creations into "blotter bugs". They are super cute! Next we are practicing our cutting skills by cutting circles out of squares and learning how to make patterns with the cut circles. These will all be in the end-of-year portfolio.

After our STEAM project, first grade jumped right into reading *Elmer Takes Off* by David McKee. We created our own Elmer to glue onto a watercolor painted background with oil pastel accents. They look amazing! Next we will be learning a very fun painting trick when we embark on reading *Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae.

Second graders are using Zentangling foam core boards and drawing their names in a graffiti type style to glue on top of their boards. It will be bold and beautiful and something they will keep for a while. Complementary colors will be next on the agenda, as we draw, paint, and create complementary colored zebras. Our zebras will be complimenting each other as they hang in the hallway. We will learn about homophones and have fun with this cute play on words.

Come into the art room during any 3rd grade class and you will find an amazing bunch of artists! They are working so diligently on their Rainforest Bird paintings. We have sketched and composed our paintings, and learned how to wrap a snake around a branch to make it look 3-dimensional. In addition we have practiced drawing birds, leaves, flowers, and critters. They truly are impressive! Our next step is to recreate their layout onto good quality watercolor paper.





In the computer lab, we are back in the swing of things and chugging along, full steam ahead. Each grade started the year off with projects and activities designed to refresh and/or establish students' basic computer skills.

In Kindergarten, students explored using the mouse, touch pad and the touch screen computers. Students are mastering these skills by playing interactive games and activities on the computer. Students also practiced typing and sorting farm animals in Microsoft Word.

First graders mastered logging onto their computers with their usernames and passwords. Students have been learning and improving their mouse skills in every activity we have accomplished. They have been introduced to Microsoft Word and have had the opportunity to explore a bit of what capabilities the program has by creating several word documents and printing. Students used our class pets, the Bee Bots, along with a webquest to learn about some community helpers and reinforce their social studies unit.

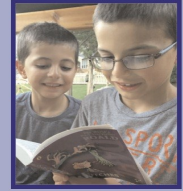
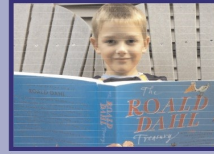
In second grade, we started the year off by logging into our google classroom. Students created a google document titled "Summer Highlights." Students had to list five activities they did this summer and insert a picture. Students followed up this project by creating a Google Doc called All About me. Students inserted a selfie into this project. This project helps us get to know each other, as well as reinforce keyboarding and mouse skills. In addition, they were re-acquainted with some features available in Google Doc, including changing fonts and inserting pictures.

Students in third grade brushed up on their computer skills by logging into their Google Classroom. Students created an All About Us slideshow as a class. This activity allowed each student to learn about their classmates interests and likes. Students also created a Google Slideshow titled "Summer Highlights." Each third grade class started the school's new typing program. This program will help our students to become more efficient at typing.

**The program is available for use at home.** The Typing Club program website is <https://readington.typingclub.com>. Students log in using their usernames and passwords. Please email me for assistance with this new program. Students will also be practicing during computer lab time.

Please visit the school website and go to the computer section under "classrooms" for age appropriate educational websites you can enjoy at home.





## As you can see, WHS students are “Big Friendly” Readers!

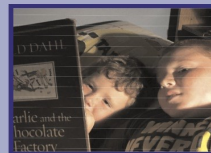
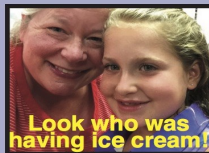
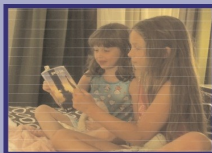
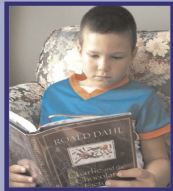
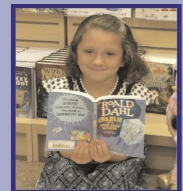
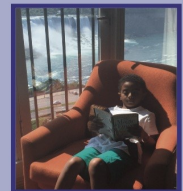
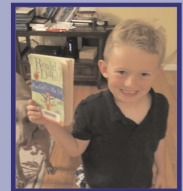
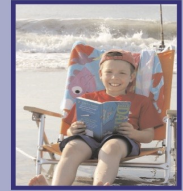
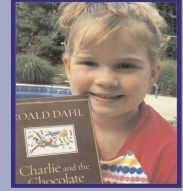
**WHS had a DAHLicious time reading  
Roald Dahl books this summer!**

**And, what a FUN time we have been having this Fall in  
the WHS Library! There have been changes in the set  
up of the library to help students locate books easier.  
Thank you to all the parents who volunteer to help!**



**The goal of the WHS Library Program is to promote  
a love of reading and to help students develop life-  
long learning skills. During weekly library classes,  
students will be exposed to a wide variety of literary  
genres and introduced to numerous authors and  
illustrators. In addition to listening to stories, they  
will participate in activities designed to introduce  
and reinforce library skills, including the proper care  
of books, finding books on our library shelves, the  
difference between fiction and nonfiction books, and  
the Dewey Decimal System.**

**Fall into a good book this Autumn! ...Mrs. Zanardi**





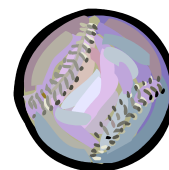
During Music class at Whitehouse School, we expose the students to a wide variety of musical styles and genres. It's a bit like encouraging a child to try many different kinds of vegetables...something initially perceived as being "yucky" just might turn out to be a big hit! Here are some suggestions for expanding your child's "musical palette" at home.

- Have family listening time, with each person choosing his or her favorite music. Be receptive to what each person selects. Internet-based music streaming services are an easy way to try this out.
- Encourage your child to share songs he/she learned at school.
- Plan a special outing to a ballet, concert, musical or festival. These can be local or perhaps a larger trip into NYC.
- Read a musical story with your child, such as *Carnival of the Animals* or *Peter and the Wolf*. Many musical books include an accompanying CD.
- Experiment with your child to see what instruments you can create using household items. A quick google search yield lots of interesting ideas.
- Encourage your child to listen to movie soundtracks. Many of these feature the classical and musical theatre genres. Examples include the music from *Star Wars*, *Superman*, *Batman*, *Cars*, *Frozen* and other animated films.

Mrs. Laurie Levesque  
Wednesday and Thursday classes  
Mrs. Elissa Bowen  
Tuesday and Friday classes  
[llevsque@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:llevsque@readington.k12.nj.us)  
[ebowen@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:ebowen@readington.k12.nj.us)







Welcome to the Physical Education Newsletter! Your children have been very busy moving their bodies and learning that "being fit is fun!" The students were "having a ball" in the Whitehouse gymnasium.

During the month of September, students learned the proper way to throw overhand and underhand. Key concepts they learned included: stepping with their opposite foot, getting their elbow up, and following through. Their skills were put to the test during our games of "Wall Ball" and "Pin Guard." The students also started learning single jump rope fundamentals such as the Basic Bounce, Side Swing, Jumping Jax, One Foot Hop, and the Full Twist.

In the beginning of October, the children started the Fitness Gram Testing, a comprehensive fitness assessment test for youths. ([www.fitnessgram.net](http://www.fitnessgram.net)). Each student is tested in six different areas to measure flexibility, muscular strength/endurance, and cardiovascular endurance (*sit and reach, curl ups, pull ups, push ups, and a modified snake run*). *The testing is done twice a year, fall and spring. After spring testing, students will have the opportunity to see if they improved on their score.*

If you would like more information on the Fitness Gram Test, you may visit [www.fitnessgram.net](http://www.fitnessgram.net)

#### Physical Education Website:

You may also visit our website for more information about our class, the Fitness Gram, and other information you may need.

#### Teacher Information:

If you have any questions, here is our information.

Karen Kozal

[kkozal@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:kkozal@readington.k12.nj.us)

Adam Lillia

[alillia@readington.k12.nj.us](mailto:alillia@readington.k12.nj.us)





## Spanish Class

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Dear Parents,

Our Spanish classes are going very well and I am very proud of all the students and the wonderful work they are doing!

It is amazing how much students can remember since last year. Without doing any review, first graders were able to introduce themselves, state their age, feelings, and identify the basic colors and numbers up to 10. Second and third graders were able to write all the words and sentences that they could remember on a large poster. Second grade came up with a maximum of 72 words and third grade with 120 words. Great job to everyone!

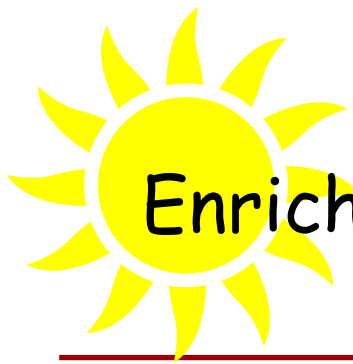
Kindergarten is doing marvelous in Spanish. They are learning greetings, how to ask and answer questions about their names. They are also focusing on the basic colors and numbers (up to 10.) Kindergarten is able to follow simple command in the target language such as sit down (siéntate), stand up (de pie), stop (para), slow (despacio), and fast (deprisa). Moreover, Kindergarten has had fun playing educational games to reinforce the new vocabulary and enjoyed learning traditional Latin American songs: "Abre, Cierra" (Open, Shut) and "Chocolate."

First grade has been practicing greetings, introductions and answering how they are feeling. They have continued working on colors, numbers up to 30, the days of the week and they have learned the parts of the face. First graders have had an awesome time playing some interactive off and online games to reinforce the learned vocabulary, learning new songs about greetings, the days of the week, weather and the face and reading books like "Oso Pardo, Oso pardo, ¿Qué ves?" (Brown Bear Brown Bear, What do you see?)

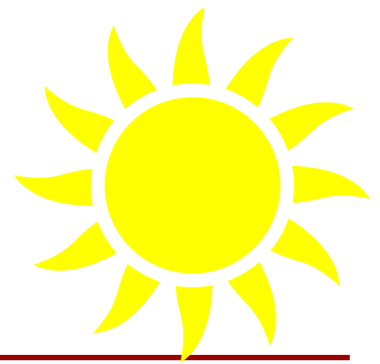
~Mrs. Maria de los Santos







# Enrichment News



Hello! My name is Lori Yukniewicz! I taught computers last year and now I am the new Enrichment Teacher. I grew up in Whitehouse Station and went to Whitehouse School, Readington Middle, and Hunterdon Central. I previously taught Kindergarten, Grade 2, Grade 3, Intervention grades K-4 and Technology! I'm very excited to be a part of the Whitehouse School family!

I am eager to bring new and innovated lessons and projects to my classes. I will be working hard to engage the students in challenges they find interesting and motivating. I love to see the excitement for learning and I am inspired by the students' eagerness to learn.

Other than my classes, Whitehouse provides Schoolwide Enrichment programs for all students. Sunshine Math is back this year and is already in full swing! The Sunshine Math Program is from September to January for the kindergarten and first grade classes. Second and third grade classes will begin the program in January. Sunshine Math is a ten week program designed to complement the regular math curriculum. Students receive challenge worksheets each Friday and work on them at home. The problems require students to think critically. Parents are encouraged to talk through the problems with students and may offer strategies. Students should return their worksheets in the following Thursday to their classroom's "Sunshine Math" folder. The challenge worksheets are also posted online so students can access multiple levels of challenge.