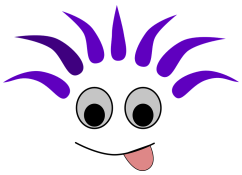
Important Dates		Contact Information
****February 9th** - 100th Day of School (tentative) February 14th - Valentine's Day February 21st - 22nd - NO SCHOOL Presidents' Day / Winter Break March 1 & 3 - Parent / Teacher Conferences	M.L.T. The Weekly Buzz **February 4, 2022**	Kelly Michel Interim Principal kmichel@orange-ed.org Rosemarie Hummel Administrative Assistant rhummel@orange-ed.org Leeann DeLoma Nurse ldeloma@orange-ed.org

SPIRIT WEEK: February 7th - 14th



Monday - February 7th- Crazy Hair Day

Tuesday - February 8 - Tacky Tuesday / Mismatched Day

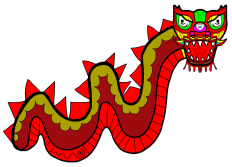
Wednesday - February 9th - 100th day of School - Dress like a 100 year old.

Thursday - February 10th- Crazy Sock and/or Hat Day

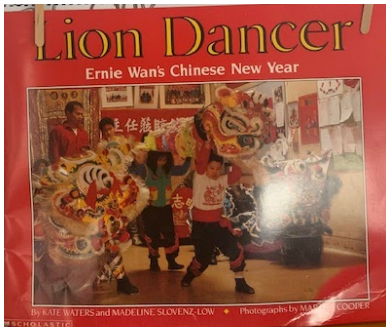
Friday - February 11th - Sports Day- wear your favorite sports t-shirt or jersey!

Monday - February 14th - Valentine's Day - wear Red

Lunar New Year



Our students have been learning about the Lunar New Year. Students learned that 2022 is the year of the Tiger. They read books, watched videos and created crafts to represent the history and culture of this holiday celebrated by several Asian countries.



Valentine's Day

Our students will be celebrating Valentine's Day on February 14th. If your child chooses to share valentines, please be sure he/she brings one for each student in the class. Please do not send in any candy or food (except for the special treat for your own child in the white bag provided by the PTO). In class, students will be creating valentine cards for children at Yale Childrens' Hospital and seniors at the Orange Community Center. Thank you to Mrs. Vasil for the great idea and for creating this beautiful mailbox for MLT students to "mail" their cards to special children and adults who might not otherwise receive a Valentine.

Conferences

We are halfway through the school year. Reporting student progress is an essential part of the communication and partnership between home and school. We believe that it is our district's professional responsibility to provide parents with information that accurately reflects a student's level of performance and progress in meeting academic and social

standards. While parent conferences are not required at this time, as always, teachers are available to meet with you virtually. The parent conferences for Mary L. Tracy have been scheduled for:

March 1, 2022 Evening Conferences 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Tuesday	**March 3, 2022** Afternoon Conferences 1:00 – 4:00 Thursday

Primary Project - Primary Project is a nationally recognized program that helps children in preschool through third grade adjust to their environment, gain confidence and social skills, and focus on learning. This is the 2nd year that Orange has offered this program. A play room has been set up at MLT to facilitate one-on-one sessions with a trained child associate, Ms. Oriana Mack, to build a positive relationship with another adult and increase confidence and social skills with peers through informal play. Teachers have filled out a screener to help identify children who might benefit from this program and parents have received invitations. Participation is completely voluntary. If your child was invited to participate and you have questions, or if you feel your child would benefit from this program, please contact our district social worker, Diane Downey at ddowney@orange-ed.org.

From the Nurse's Office

If your child has tested positive, been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive, or is experiencing any of the symptoms on the COVID-19 Daily Symptoms Checklist, please contact me kmichel@orange-ed.org **and** Nurse DeLoma ldeloma@orange-ed.org prior to sending him/her to school.

RAPID HOME TEST KITS:

The Connecticut State Department of Education and Department of Public Health have distributed self-test kits ("kit") to all schools in the state to help curb the transmission of SARS-CoV-2. The rapid home tests are to be used to screen those who are symptomatic, to determine who should not be present in school. The test kits, while supplies last, are provided to address these 3 needs:

- If a student or staff member exhibits symptoms and needs to be screened for COVID-19;
- If a student or staff member has direct exposure (in school) to an individual with COVID-19; and
- If a class or program is experiencing multiple cases of COVID-19, a school may choose to distribute tests to all students in that classroom if they have difficulty accessing tests.

Please contact ldeloma@orange-ed.org (203) 891-8028 if you feel you may qualify for a kit. For students or staff that have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days, there is no need to test for COVID-19 again.

COVID-19 DASHBOARD: The dashboard can be accessed through our website at www.oess.org or by clicking this link COVID 19 Dashboard.

The Frequently Asked Questions for Parents is continually updated to reflect the most recent guidance from the Department of Public Health. Please click this link to view the updated FAQ for Parents.

Peace at Home Parenting

Access upcoming live and recorded classes at no cost through your Orange Public Schools Peace At Home Parenting Solutions Center. Click here to log in or Register for an account using code ORANGEPeace. For more support, join our Monthly Q&A Class or consider 1:1 Coaching with an Expert.

PTO News

The Children's Fair!

The MLT Children's fair will be on April 2nd outside of the school from 11am-3pm. Our rain date is April 3rd. We are looking for volunteers to chair a committee for the fair, Raffle Baskets, Crafts, Snack Stand, Advertising, Photobooth and Tickets. This is a great way to meet other parents and help to make this a really fun and special day for your children. We will also be looking for people to help volunteer throughout the day at the different stations offered. If you are interested, please contact Dianna at gatordianna@gmail.com. More information is coming so key an eye out!

The next few weeks will be full of fun... and fantastic yearbook photo ops! Please be sure to snap some pictures of your cuties during spirit week, the 100th day of school, and on Valentine's Day!
Email all photos to maryltracyyearbook@gmail.com and we can include them in the yearbook. Thank you for your support!

The MLT PTO will have executive board positions available for next year. Please reach out by email maryltracypto@gmail.com to inquire or comment. Being part of the executive board is a wonderful way to volunteer and help be a part of the Mary L. Tracy School experience.

Important Dates:

- Coin Wars @ MLT January 31st-February 21st
  - Nickels February 7th-11th
  - Dimes February 14th- 18th
  - Quarters February 21st-25th
- Valentine's Day Classroom Celebration: February 14th
- 100th Day of School: February 9th (tentatively)
- Next PTO virtual meeting: March 2nd @ 7pm