



# BES NEWS

Volume 2: January 24, 2018



## "Beary" Important Dates:

**February 8th:** PTO meeting at 7:00 PM in room C11 at BES.

**February 19th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for Presidents' Day.

**February 20th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for winter break.

**February 21st:** Dental Hygienist visits kindergarten classrooms.

**February 28th:** BBOE meeting at 7:00PM in the Community Room located in the district's Central Office.

**March 7th:** Brooklyn School Readiness Council (SRC) meeting from 4:30 PM-5:30 PM in the BES library.

**March 8th:** PTO meeting at 7:00 PM in room C11 at BES.

**March 9th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for professional development.

**March 15th:** BES grades close.

**March 16th:** Southwick Animal Farm Zoomobile to visit kindergarten.

**March 28th:** BBOE meeting at 7:00PM in the Community Room located in the district's Central Office.

**March 29th:** EARLY RELEASE for Parent-Teacher Conferences.

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Our "Kindness Campaign" is off and running. Students have been working on kindness projects which are displayed throughout the building. We've been flexing our kindness muscles all year through our Bears CARE program and look forward to starting the Look for the Good Project this spring with the support of our PTO. Our BES Rocks slogan exemplifies our belief that our school must be a place which fosters Cooperation, Achievement, Responsibility, and Empathy. We honor the diversity of our families and encourage all to be active participants in our school community.

Therefore, we welcome your participation at school events, PTO meetings, building based and district committees, and classroom activities whenever possible. Please note: in order to volunteer in classrooms, at events, Fun Day, Spring Planting, or on field trips, you must complete the required volunteer paperwork prior to **March 1st!**

## PTO

The fabulous Brooklyn PTO consistently works to better our programs for the children of Brooklyn. The many family focused events cannot take place without volunteers like YOU!

We currently have a number of volunteer opportunities on the PTO, which include, but aren't limited to: Father Daughter Dance, Mother Son Dance, Spring Planting, fundraisers, and school wide initiatives. Without the assistance of our school community, the PTO may not be able to continue to host such wonderful family friendly events.

If you have time, talent, expertise in event planning, or just want to help out in any way, please contact, PTO President, Kim Wood at [pto@brooklynschools.org](mailto:pto@brooklynschools.org) or head to the PTO Facebook page for more information.



**March 29th:** BES Report Cards issued.

**March 30th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for Good Friday.

**April 4th:** SRC meeting from 4:30 PM-5:30 PM in the BES library.

**April 12th:** PTO meeting at 7:00 PM in room C11 at BES.

**April 16th-20th:** SCHOOL CLOSED for spring break.

**April 25th:** BBOE meeting at 7:00PM in the Community Room located in the district's Central Office.

## NAEYC

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is a national organization that promotes quality standards for early childhood programs (PK & K). Through our accreditation in this organization, Brooklyn Elementary School is committed to providing the highest quality early childhood programming.



This spring, we will once again be sending out our annual NAEYC surveys to PK/K families. These surveys provided us with much needed feedback as to how to improve our programs. We utilize this feedback to note what we're doing well but also to determine what we need to work on as part of our School Advancement Plan. We were thrilled with the number of families who completed the surveys last year and hope to see even greater results this spring.

## SCHOOL CLIMATE SURVEYS

Our annual school climate surveys also provide important feedback for our School Advancement Plan goals. While we had about 100 families fill out the survey, much greater participation than the previous year, we're hoping to have even more complete them this school year.



Our Parent School Climate Surveys provided extremely positive feedback regarding the quality of all levels of our staff and the changes that have been made at BES. They also allowed us to gear this year's goals to improve communication, refine curriculum and instruction practices, implement the Kindness Campaign, and further promote both student and staff recognition programs. This survey is an important tool so we may gather critical information regarding areas in which we can make BES the best learning environment it can be.

## PREKINDERGARTEN

We have been busy in prekindergarten learning about the winter season! We are discussing weather, winter activities, and appropriate winter clothing. We have been learning about animals, specifically arctic animals and bears. Our PK students have been learning about hibernation and were very excited about our hibernation day/comfy cozy days in our classrooms.



In our classrooms, we have learned approximately ten letters and their sounds, and are working on writing numbers and counting out

## Brooklyn Parks & Recreation Events

Brooklyn Parks & Recreation  
Open Gym Schedule Tuesday &  
Wednesday Evenings 7-9pm  
Brooklyn Middle School Gym  
\$3.00 per person/per night  
\$3.00 Paid at the door each  
session, first 30 paid and  
signed in will participate each  
evening. Sign in with supervisor  
before entering gym.

**NO CHILDREN OR UNPAID  
SPECTATORS IN GYM  
DURING THIS PROGRAM.**

January 30 & 31  
February 6 & 7  
February 13 & 14

Please Note: These dates are  
subject to change based on  
school activities and inclement  
weather. No program will be  
held if school is canceled or  
closes early due to weather or  
other issues. You can check for  
updates on the website at  
[www.brooklynct.org](http://www.brooklynct.org) - Look for  
the parks & recreation link. For  
unscheduled closings, a notice  
will be posted at school  
entrance when possible.

**NO FOOD OR DRINK IN GYM  
WATER ONLY**

### SPRINGTIME BASKETBALL CLINIC

Where: Brooklyn Middle School  
gym When: Monday - Thursday  
March 19th - 22nd Time:  
6pm-8pm Fee: \$40.00 This  
clinic will be open to boys &  
girls ages 8-12 We will cover  
shooting, dribbling, passing and  
more. Scrimmages and drills  
will be utilized to learn new  
skills and to develop a better  
understanding of the game.

quantities. We continue to practice rhyming, patterns, and writing our first names. Our students are looking forward to our upcoming units that include the construction zone and fairy tales!

### KINDERGARTEN

Grade K has been assessing students' academic growth using our mid-year benchmarks. In mathematics, we starting addition. In ELA, we are practicing blending sounds to read words, discussing the beginning, middle, and end of stories, writing using our 'heart' words, and recognizing the sounds we hear in words. In the social studies and science, we are learning about the weather and how it affects our lives. We also learned about Martin Luther King, Jr. and his impact on our country.



### GRADE 1

Our first graders have been busy bees. They have been reading a variety of literary genres and are learning to identify the attributes of each. Fiction selections have included both fantasy and realistic selections. Students have been discussing setting, characters, and plot structure. They have also been reading non-fiction material to learn interesting facts about maps and plants. A focus of instruction continues to be an emphasis on the use of decoding strategies and students are encouraged to use these when reading together. Children are being asked to demonstrate comprehension by retelling stories, discussing details, and comparing and contrasting stories that have been read.

During writing time, first graders continue to improve and apply their understanding of writing conventions such as proper spelling, grammar, and letter formation. Weekly grammar lessons have included identifying and writing different types of sentences (i.e. questions, exclamations, and statements).. Students now know that nouns name people, places, animals and things and they are becoming familiar with adding -s to words to indicate plurals.

In math, our first graders continue to work hard at becoming fluent by applying a multitude of addition and subtraction strategies to numbers through 20. Number lines, fact families, and doubles facts have been useful tools. Students have also been learning to solve word problems using a variety of strategies such as writing a number sentence, acting out a word problem, drawing a model, identifying key words, and making tables

In first grade, kindness and friendship are the rule. We begin each day by reciting the school pledge, which states that "We work

Bucky Lohbusch will present this clinic.

### BASEBALL PITCHING CLINIC

When: February 26th - March 1st Monday - Thursday. Fee: \$50.00 per player. Where: Brooklyn Middle School gym  
Bucky Lohbusch will be the instructor for this clinic. Open to players ages 10-13. We will meet from 6:00pm-7:30pm. This clinic will stress the fundamentals of pitching & proper conditioning while helping to further develop your skills. Bring your glove and get ready for the upcoming season! Space is limited, reserve your spot today.

### Upcoming spring youth programs:

**April Vacation Activities Program - Registration begins in March. Memento/Photo Board Class with Karen and Chocolate Candy Class both to be held in April. Summer Day Camp and TEEN Camp registration begins in March. Adult classes this spring and summer include Spring Running Club, Summer Boot Camp, Beginner's Only Series, Sunrise Fitness and Cross Train Fix. Special events include Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt, and Memorial Day's Family Fun Day. Check out all of this and our upcoming trip schedule in our Spring/Summer Brochure, to be mailed out to Brooklyn house**

together when things get tough," and "At BES, everyone's a friend." Please continue to reinforce these character traits at home. We appreciate all the support you give your children and our school community. Remember to read with your child every night, or better yet, let your child read to you!



The First Grade Teachers

## GRADE 2

### Grade Two Winter News-

- Forming a home-school connection is vital for student success. Usually, teachers rely on once a week newsletters or no news is good news. Connections are now being made by grade two teachers using secure social media apps called Class Dojo and/or Seesaw. Keeping parents informed has been very well-received by students and their families.
- This month grade two will continue health lessons in the classroom. Having collaborated closely, second grade teachers have planned many hands on activities for health instruction. In the upcoming weeks, students will learn about germs and hand-washing, nutrition, the importance of a good night's sleep, and how being active is beneficial. Students are excited to explore these valuable topics!
- Students on Team 2 all participated in a snowman-building afternoon in December. There were many volunteer parents and grandparents, lead by Jen Atchinson, who helped to make it a huge success. Unbelievable second grade writers then went to work to draft a story about their snowman's adventure. Pens in hand, the students used the narrative writing lessons they have learned in Writer's Workshop to then edit, revise, and write a final draft! It was an important culmination to weeks spent learning the beginning stages of this writing process. Daily writing has helped to improve skills in this area.
- Students have moved on to addition and subtraction with and without regrouping in the last few months. Having used ten frames in the fall, students use these to better understand when regrouping is necessary. In these lessons, students have also worked on breaking apart numbers to add or subtract. This method has helped students strengthen their number sense and manipulate large numbers to solve calculations.





## GRADE 3

### WINTER AT HOME ACTIVITY

#### Snow Paint

##### Materials:

- \*Dark construction paper (such as purple and blue)
- \*Crayons
- \*Paintbrushes
- \*4 tablespoons Epsom salts
- \*1/4 cup hot water
- \*Small cups or bowls
- \*Covered table

##### What to do:

1. Mix one-quarter cup hot water with four tablespoons of Epsom salts. Stir mixture to dissolve.
2. Draw freely with crayons on the dark construction paper.
3. Brush the drawing with the salt mixture.
4. Dry the painting completely.

##### Want to do more?

Cut snowy designs from the paper and hang with string.

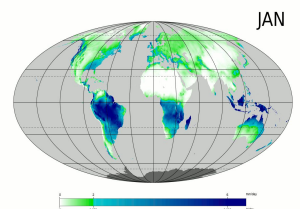
Now that the holidays are over, many 3rd grade classes have begun new units of study, and the students have been eager to start their new learning.

Unit 2 in reading consisted of learning about nonfiction. Students learned to identify text features and understand that authors use text features to give more information. They used their own nonfiction texts as a scavenger hunt to identify how text features helped with their own learning. We also spent time identifying text structure. Students used different mentor texts to learn about the way that the author wrote the text. This could include compare and contrast, sequencing, cause and effect, problem and solution, or description. We also worked on finding the main idea of a text or paragraph and the details that helped support the main idea. Currently, students have begun working with traditional literature. Throughout this unit students will be working to identify different characteristics of fairy tales which include animals that can talk, good vs. evil, magical powers, royalty, and special powers. We will also be comparing and contrasting different versions of fairy tales like *The Three Little Pigs*, *The Frog Prince* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. During this time students will also focus on first and third person point of view and will identify key words to help them figure out who is telling the story. Other focus in this unit is on text structure of myths, story elements and inferencing of tall tales, and understanding what makes a legend.

In writing, classes finished up their personal narrative units where students wrote stories about something that has happened to them. Their stories focused on small moments in time where they remember a time that made them happy, sad, excited, or even a time where they had lots of fun. Students have now begun Unit 2 which is our informational writing unit. During this unit, students will be writing nonfiction texts where they will be able to teach other students in the class about a topic that they are experts on. Within their topic they will focus on subtopics that help focus on narrow aspects of their broader topics.

In science, we just completed an exciting activity. Third grade students were paired up with a student from another class to complete research on a particular climate.

This unit began with a science lab where students discovered science patterns across the world based on average high and low temperatures of the seasons in each region. They were then assigned a region to research based on their climate. Students then took that research and created a climate poster. Their posters



Learning Links:

[Flu Information  
for Parents](#)

[NAEYC Families](#)

[Building Character](#)

[Parenting Cue  
Cards](#)

[Supporting Your  
Child's Reading](#)

[Be a Learning  
Hero- Mathematics](#)

consisted of the different types of plants and animals found in their regions, a short summary, as well as text features such as labels, captions, title, and a map.

#### GRADE 4

The fourth grade hallway is full of activity and our students are working hard. In math, our kids are continuing to work with a variety of skills including multi-digit multiplication and long division. Long division is a new concept and can be frustrating if students don't know their facts. Please continue to have your child practice their multiplication and division facts at home.

It is all about NON-FICTION in the world of reading and writing. We are learning about the importance of non-fiction work by diving into amazing informational pieces, building skills, and asking questions about what they are learning.

The fourth grade is continuing to build a community by promoting independent learning, problem solving, showing kindness and respect, and making our hallway a great place to be as we prepare our students to be middle schoolers.



#### READING DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to all students who participated in the school-wide Reading Challenge! Be on the look-out for our next motivating incentive!

Helpful Hints/Ideas for At-Home:  
Read bedtime stories.  
Visit your local library.  
Read a recipe book and cook together.  
Put your child in charge of creating the grocery list!



Check out Scholastic's Book Wizard.com to check if a book is the appropriate level for your student to read on his or her own. This site provides DRA correlation, so if a book is not on level, but interests your child, please read and discuss together.

Starfall.com continues to be highly recommended, especially for grades k-2. Epic.com and StoryOnline.com offer high interest books that can be "read-to" your child for grades K-4.

During February and March, we will be celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday and Read Across America with a host of exciting reading activities!

*“No act of  
kindness, no  
matter how  
small, is ever  
wasted.”  
– Aesop*

## ART

Your artists and I have been working extensively, exploring the art elements of color and space. We are continuing to build upon the foundational elements of line and shape.

**Pre-K** is currently learning to identify the primary colors (red, yellow, blue). They will then explore the secondary colors (orange, green, and purple). They will create their own primary and secondary color booklets, and will later learn about the color wheel with ROY G BIV (Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet). They will be making their own ROY G BIV characters.

**Kindergarten** will also review their primary and secondary colors, practicing color mixing and learning how the primary colors make the secondary colors. We will make tape paintings together and then work on rainbow fish paintings based on the Rainbow Fish story.

In **first grade**, students are utilizing the primary colors and bleeding tissue paper to make their own primary color snowmen.

**Second graders** are learning about space and perspective, creating artwork that shows a “worm’s eye perspective” (the artwork appears to have the viewer looking up so that objects appear larger).

**Third graders** are taking a cultural journey, exploring work from the Navajo Indians and the Australian Aborigines. They are making “blankets” in the style of the Navajo Indians, and will continue to explore the world by focusing on dot paintings that were traditional in the Aboriginal culture.



Finally, **fourth grade** students are focusing on the principle of pattern, creating their own patterned animals that are based on the work of Dahlov Ipcar—the author illustrator of Calico Jungle. They are also learning about proportion by using a grid to enlarge an image of their chosen animal.

The response for Artsonia has been wonderful, and I am so appreciative of your support of the visual arts. Each child has their own “gallery,” and all you need to do is enter your child’s screen name

## TEEG- Playgroups

# Encouraging Early Socialization and Building Support Through Community

As facilitators of playgroup we believe that parents are the child's first and most influential teacher, as well as their main source of care, love and security. We are there to create a positive and safe environment so that relationships and partnerships can be built to help children learn.

Playgroup is held in the Early Childhood Center at the Mary R. Fisher Elementary School and is held year round. The benefits of having Playgroup at the Elementary School is to provide parents and children the opportunity to develop positive relationships with

and your parent access code (on the form given at the beginning of the year) to grant permission to post your student's work. I am happy to print you a form if you are in need of another one. You can also order keepsakes with the artwork! It is a wonderful, trusted website, and I look forward to sharing student artwork with you. If you have any questions, please email me at

[gatlin@brooklynschools.org](mailto:gatlin@brooklynschools.org). Thank you! Mrs. Gatlin

"Every child is an artist." -Pablo Picasso

## LIBRARY

We've had a lot going on in the library and computer lab over the past marking period.

Kindergarten students are confident computer users. They now are able to log-in and out of our lab computers, use a mouse, and navigate our school website to choose a bookmarked educational game. Our favorite websites are [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) and [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com).

First grade students are blossoming as readers! What fun it is to see how excited they are to find books that they can read independently. I always encourage "just right" selections but allow free choice to help them develop a love and excitement for books. We have been visiting the computer lab for the past marking period working specifically on keyboarding. Students have been using [www.abcya.com](http://www.abcya.com) for the keyboarding skills games.



Second grade students have been working on typing skills as well. We have been using Dance Mat Typing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr> to introduce touch typing, and it's great to see the students really concentrate on learning the keyboard and how to type without looking at their hands. In the next few months, we will begin using the library as a place to carry out research projects. They will be learning about all of the different resources the library offers to help them answer their research questions. Second grade students will also be starting another author study about a local author Suzy Kline.

Third grade students are working on a unit about how the library is organized. They will be using the library and the lab over the next two marking periods for research.

Fourth grade students are finishing up the presentation of their chosen research project. We read a biography, *26 Fairmount*



members of the school system and school community. It also provides an opportunity for families to familiarize themselves with school policies and procedures. Being located within the school system helps provide an easy transition for children when it comes to moving on to preschool or kindergarten.

#### *Benefits of Playgroup for Children:*

Children will learn how to get along with other children and make new friends. They will be provided the opportunity to be creative and use their imaginations, as well as share and express themselves. Children will learn how to problem solve in helpful ways, while building language skills and memory.

Playgroup is held year round on **TUESDAYS** and **FRIDAYS** from **10:00-11:30**, and is open to all area residents regardless of income. On occasion, and during the entire month of August, playgroup will travel to

*Avenue* by Tomie dePaola. Students did further research on his life and also learned about the year 1938. They chose one of the two topics to present their learning in the form of a trading card or newspaper. In the next few weeks we begin our Digital Citizenship Unit. Ask your fourth grader to talk to you about the topics we are covering. I use the resources and lessons found at <https://www.commonsense.org/education/digital-citizenship>.

Special thanks goes to Bethany DeNolfo who has been giving volunteer time to the school library. She helps me shelve and process new books. Her help has been a valuable asset to our school library.

Additionally, I had a wonderful group of volunteers to help me run the fall book fair. Special thanks to Aimee Genna, Kelly Codding, Aimee Anderson, Ellen Sorel, Angie Pember, Siobhan Curran, Melissa Arters, Michelle Constantine, Jason DeNolfo, and April Kyllonen. They took time out of their busy schedules to help me put new books into our students' hands. If you are interested in helping in the library please contact me. I am now covering the middle school library as well, so any help is greatly appreciated so that what I offer the students doesn't change.

"The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is...  
To show them that reading is a pleasurable activity. And that means...

Finding books that they enjoy, giving them access to those books, and letting them read them." -Neil Gaiman

Read on,

Mrs. Therrien  
Library Media Specialist

#### **MUSIC**

Children of all ages have been putting in some serious work becoming miniature musicians.



Pre-K and kindergarten are working a lot on the multiple voices of a person (whisper, speaking, shouting and singing) and really trying their best to become fantastic young singers. On top of this, we are going over a number of musical contrasts. This includes high/low, fast/slow, loud/quiet, etc. Pretty soon they will be learning about how we measure sound in music which is called the beat.

First grade put on a wonderful concert at the Jewett City Savings Bank and are back to working on musical concepts. They are just

off-site locations. Off-site locations will be specified in advance. Please note that Playgroup follows the Public school schedule during the school year. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather there will also be no playgroup. Please stay tuned to WINY Radio for school closings, as well as check out our Facebook page.

**Pre-Registration is NOT Required. For more information please contact:**

Playgroup Coordinator at (860) 923-3458

Information taken from the TEEG website:  
[www.teegonline.org](http://www.teegonline.org)

starting to get into music notation since they have shown to be wizzes at telling the difference between beat and rhythm. Along with that, they are preparing to learn about the Solfege Sol and Mi. These are in all of the songs we sing in class and many on the radio as well. Second Grade is a very talented group! We've learned all about four different types of notation that can fit into one beat. Students were already very good at "ta," "titi," and silence, however they really rose to the occasion with "tiritiri." This notation has four sounds in one beat. On top of this, they are working on reading music on the staff using Sol and Mi. Soon La will be thrown in to keep them thinking!

Third Grade's ability to learn anything I give them is amazing. They started learning about a note that lasts more than one beat and figured it out way earlier than expected. Like second, they are also learning about how to read music on the staff. A big surprise will be hitting them soon though. In the next few weeks, they will be learning about the treble clef and instrument families. I know they will be great at this challenge.

Fourth Grade has taken the many things we've learned together and incorporated them into reading music notation with their recorders. Thank you for letting them practice and get better at home because I know it isn't easy. If it ever sounds like they could use a pointer, feel free to say "warm, slow air", and it should get better.

If you see me around the school please feel free to say "hi" and ask about your child. If that isn't an option, there is always email: [march@brooklynschools.org](mailto:march@brooklynschools.org).

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Welcome ALL to BES PE. Here is a brief synopsis of the activities (AND FUN) your child will experience during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Period of this school year. All grade levels will participate in activities centered around the following **four** main themes: 1. Fitness/Movement, 2. Cooperation, 3. Gymnastics/Balance, and 4. Basketball Skills. It is extremely difficult to provide a true picture of all that happens in our gym in a newsletter. As always feel free to contact me at any time should you have questions, concerns, or general interest of any kind. --- Thank You, Bob C



**PK & K:** 1. The first unit for this age group will involve high energy movement activities such as running/tag and scooter board play with an emphasis on body and spatial awareness as well as the concepts of personal vs general space. The movement themes will provide students opportunities to be creative and use their imaginations. 2. The next unit is station/centers with emphasis on cooperative

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play, sharing, and taking turns. **3.** The children will participate in balance based gymnastic stances and rolls. **4.** The last unit involves some free exploration (throw, bounce, kick) with a variety of size and textured balls with another emphasis on sharing.

**Grades 1 & 2 – 1.** Similar to PK & K, first graders will also participate in the above listed high energy activities, however more emphasis is placed on movement skills (hop, skip, side shuffle, gallop) as well as the concepts of pathways, directions, and symmetrical shapes. Second grade begins with some of the same but will incorporate jump rope activities with an emphasis on keeping a rhythm, twirling, and footwork skills. **2.** Similar to PK & K, activities for this unit, first and second grade will engage in stations and centers with more emphasis on cooperation and working together. **3.** The gymnastics unit for these two grades will increase in challenge with added themes of jumping, landing, more rolls, tumbling, and balances. **4.** In the final unit, first grade students are introduced to basic basketball skills (dribble, pass, catch), while second grade will learn actual techniques/terms (ie. Bounce/Chest Pass and Ball Control).

**Grades 3 & 4:** These two grades just completed training, practicing, and then taking a State of Connecticut **mandated** fitness test (Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment, CPFA). The test is comprised of 4 components - 1 mile endurance, push-ups, curl-ups, and flexibility. As always, Brooklyn students were up to the challenge and our school scores were at or above the State Average. Grades 3 & 4 will continue to expand and progress on their previous grade's teaching/learning. **1.** More complex and rule involved (higher learning/thinking) tag games and expanded jump rope activities (partner/team twirling). **2.** Cooperative activities, age appropriate stations, parachute work, and teamwork, such as modified soccer games. **3.** Skill level gymnastics increases, including a variety of jumps, counter balances, tripods, headstands, and handstands. **4.** Finally, the period ends with a more advanced, complete basketball skills unit including the practice/drills of ball handling, dribbling, passing, shooting, and player positioning.

Throughout the rest of the year, we will also be incorporating health concepts into the PE curriculum to support the health education taking place in the classrooms and present specific topics in health which pertain to wellness & fitness.