

❖ Knightly News ❖

October 2011

Hollis Brookline Middle School



From the Administration

The **seasonal changes** always present challenges for attire, one day 70 degrees, and the next 30. In our efforts to conserve energy heat will not be turned on for a while. Please encourage your child to dress in layers.

Please be aware that there is a new school board policy governing **attendance** and **absenteeism**. That policy is **Board Policy JH** titled **Attendance, Absenteeism and Truancy** and can be found at www.sau41.org. Select "school boards" from the home page followed by "COOP School Board" and finally "**Policies.**"

The school board policy and related building level attendance procedures were revised due to new legislation at the state level. A few key changes that are of particular importance are as follows:

- A note from a medical provider is required when a student is absent for 5 or more consecutive days due to illness. The note must contain the specific dates to be excused. These absences are unexcused until an excusal note is received.
- Up to 6 days of vacation or educational opportunity may be considered excused each school year. In accordance with school board policy, a letter from parents in advance is required for approval.

Page 7 and 8 of your child's student handbook (agenda) provide additional information that we encourage you to review. If you have any questions concerning the policy or handbook content please contact Mrs. Goyette or Mr. Secor.

The seventh grade teachers are piloting a **Response to Intervention (RTI)** plan to address student needs. During the first week of October students were identified, using specific criteria, in English, math, organizational needs and homework completion. For the next three Fridays, during the last 72 minute block, those students in need will report to a designated area for re-teaching, support or supervision to complete work. The remaining students will be engaged in enrichment activities with science, social studies or

Calendar Of Events

October 20th—PTSA Meeting- 8:30-10:00 HBMS Library
November 8th—No School—Teacher Workshop Day
November 10th—Veterans Day Assembly
November 11th—No School—Veterans Day
November 15th—Report Cards
November 17th—PTSA Meeting- 8:30-10:00 HBMS Library
November 23rd—No School—Teacher Workshop Day
November 24-25—Thanksgiving Recess
December 7—Early Release
Dec. 26-Jan. 2—Holiday Recess
January 16th—No School—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January TBD—Teacher Workshop Day (Primary Voting)
February 9th—Early Release
February 27th—March 2nd—Mid-Winter Vacation
March 13th—Early Release

technology. This process will be repeated during the month of November and then reviewed. Questions to be answered; were changes in behavior noted, were math or English skills solidified?

Mr. Capraro and Ms. White are our **Student Council** Advisors. They organized a meaningful process of nominations, campaigning and speeches. Speeches were held Sept. 29th and the election Friday morning. Our new Student Council President is Cameron Jackson and Vice President, Vivek Nithipalin. We congratulated all students who took the risk and ran for an office or representative position during an afternoon reception.

My October newsletter again this year emphasizes the time and energy devoted to the **New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)**. All students tested during their core blocks with their Team teachers during the first week of October. Data from last year's results showed that the majority of students completed the test in 45 minutes, however up to 90 minutes is allowed. Grade 7 students participated in three sessions of math and three sessions of reading. Grade 8 completed the same plus two sessions of writing.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette
Principal



Washington, DC Preparations

The first of three payments for the 8th grade trip is due **Friday, Oct 14th**. The payment of \$250. will secure a spot for your child.

The remaining payments are due:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| November 28 | \$200. |
| January 4, 2012 | Balance (max \$180) |

Once the initial payment is received students will begin hearing details of the trip and choosing a roommate. As was stated in the September paperwork, I will contact parents who have expressed interest in chaperoning early in February should seats be available. Please do not hesitate if you have any questions.

SKI PROGRAM - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

In order for our 2011-12 Ski Program to be successful, we are in need of a Coordinator, as well as chaperones, to accompany the students to Wachusett Mountain. This is a six-week, Monday evening program beginning January 9, 2012. Buses leave the school at 2:30 PM, arriving at Wachusett by 3:30 PM. Departure from the Mountain is 7:30 PM.



The number of chaperones is dependent upon the number of students participating but the ratio is 1 to 10. Please contact Ms. Penny Arsenault at the middle school at 465-2223 to lend a hand.