



Hollis Brookline Middle School

KNIGHTLY NEWS

April 4, 2007

From the Administration

Transitions continue to be our primary focus as we complete quarter three and begin the final one. Grade 6 students have been tested, teachers have given their input and parents have participated in an interactive orientation. Team placements will be determined during the next few weeks to prepare for the students' visit on May 23rd.

At the other end of our spectrum, grade 8 parents have attended an evening describing the course selection process. Students, during one of their 72-minute blocks, have met directly with guidance counselors to learn about the full course of studies for graduation, freshman course offerings and the process of online registration. As a reminder, grade 8 students need to register online for their classes between March 27 and 9:00 am April 3rd. The HS will print out selection forms and deliver to the middle school. During ROCK on April 4th students will receive their form. The final step is for the students to receive teacher signatures to support their course selections (April 4 and 5). Students will take HOME their form Thursday evening for a parent signature and return it Friday, April 6th. We in turn will send all selection forms to the HS. Your attention to this timeline will be appreciated.

Report Cards for third quarter will be distributed April 18th, Wednesday NOT Monday, April 16th as printed on our school calendar. Please note the change.

We applaud the energy and initiative of Mrs. Holroyd and Mrs. Barron as they organize a HBMS Talent Show. Students who are interested have received paperwork that must be signed by a parent and returned prior to tryouts. We look forward to the final production on April 19 at 7:00pm.

Two hundred twenty nine students have returned safely from Washington, DC. Parents, HBMS chaperones and students all report positive comments. For next year's 8th grade students, it is not too early to think about saving money. We expect to continue this trip and look forward to sharing more details in September!

Our 7th grade Generations Day was a total success thanks to Ms. Erin White and her attention to detail. Students were fully engaged in the workshop sessions and were attentive listeners during our keynote speakers. We hope to increase parent participation next year as there is much to be gained by sharing the day.

Shortly after our return from April vacation we will be administering a pilot NECAP test to our 8th grade students in science. Testing must be conducted between May 14 and 24. It is very important that students are present for the testing.

Lastly, if you have not heard by now, the Hollis Brookline Math Team placed first in the State of New Hampshire! Two of the four-member teams now heading to the Nationals in Fort Worth, Texas are from our school. Mrs. Mezzocchi will be the coach for the team. Congratulations!

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal
Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Asst Principal

PTSA President's Report

Hopefully when you are reading this, the beautiful Spring weather that we have been experiencing is still in the air. Now that it is Spring, please come out and support our sports teams. We should all be very proud of them.

Our HBMS PTSA has a nominating committee in charge of seeking replacements for open Board member and committee chair positions. Please look at the PTSA website if you are interested in filling a position. Feel free to call or email either one of us with any questions you might have. We will also be available at the 6th grade parent orientation on Thursday, April 5th starting at 6:45 pm.

Congratulations to all of our students who participated on our Math team, Destination Imagination team, Reflections and the school play. We truly have very talented kids who deserve a lot of credit for showcasing their abilities.

Thank you to all of our parents who contributed food and their time to help out for our 7th grade Generations. Once again, it was a successful day!

Our PTSA is organizing a talent show. The tryouts are on Wednesday, April 4th and Friday, April 6th at 2:30. Students who are trying out only need to attend one of these. We will have practice at 2:30 on April 9, 11, 13 and 16. The dress rehearsal will be on Tuesday, April 17th at 2:30. Our show will be on Thursday, April 19th at 7:00 pm. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. We encourage all students to be involved. If performing isn't your cup of tea, please come on the 19th to support your friends.

We would like to remind our 8th grade parents to return their sheet, donations and pictures for the PowerPoint presentation for the 8th Grade Celebration. This is really such a wonderful way for us to celebrate the hard work and success of our 8th graders.

Our next PTSA meeting will be on Friday, April 13th at 8:30 am. All parents of incoming 7th graders are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will also have a HBMS guidance counselor on hand to explain the course selection process.

Susan Holroyd sbholroyd@charter.net
Ruth Kabel arkabel@juno.com

SPRING BREAK
APRIL 23-27
***** ENJOY!!! *****

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School and Community News

CHRISTA MCAULIFFE PLANETARIUM "WOMEN IN SPACE" CONTEST

In recognition of the important contributions made by women in the fields of space science and exploration, the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium is inviting young artists to submit their original pieces of art for its "Women in Space" art contest. The contest will culminate with an exhibit of the prize-winning works that will open as part of the Planetarium's Women in Space Days, June 15-18.

The Women in Space contest is open to artists in three age groups: 6-9 year olds; 10-13 year olds; and 14-17 year olds. Each entry will be judged, in part, on its creative use of the "Women in Space" theme. The top three entries in each age group will be featured in the exhibit, with the first place winners receiving a one-year Family Level membership.

Contest entries may be submitted in person at the Planetarium by 2 pm on Monday, June 11th. Entries may also be mailed to the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, Attn: Women in Space, 2 Institute Drive, Concord, NH, 03301 and must be postmarked by June 8th. Entry forms and a complete set of contest rules can be downloaded from www.starhop.com.

Physicals for Entering 9th Grade Students

All incoming Freshmen need a current physical on file to enter the high school. Physicals received before June 4 may be given to Mrs. Adams at the middle school. After June 4 documentation of physicals needs to be sent to Mrs. Cathy Saunders at the High School.

Please Note: Any students planning to try out for High School athletics must have a physical on file in the Nurse's office by Friday, August 10. You will not be allowed to try out without this documentation on file.

TETANUS SHOTS DUE FOR MANY 9TH GRADERS

It's not too early to look at your child's immunization needs. If you have a child entering 9th grade in the fall, they may be due to receive a Tetanus booster. The State is now MANDATING that all students MUST have an updated Tetanus booster. Tetanus boosters are required every 10 years. Some students may have already received this immunization, but there is no record of it at the school. If your child has already received their updated tetanus booster please send documentation of this to the nurse's office.

If you have any questions regarding your child's immunization status, please call the school nurse (Dee Dee Adams 465-2223) Documentation of this immunization may be sent to Mrs. Adams up to the first week in June. After this date it should be sent to Cathy Saunders, nurse at the High School.

HBHS CAVALIER FOOTBALL

Are you an 8th grade student who is interested in playing football for Hollis Brookline High School? The team is planning for the 2007-08 season. Any 8th grade student who is planning on playing can begin training with the team now. The weight room is open most afternoons after school and specifically on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. A football parent or coach is in the weight room at that time and would be glad to set you up with a program to get you ready for high school football. You will need to fill out the HBHS Medical Form which you can obtain from the HBHS website under "Athletics". You will also need a copy of a current physical.

If you have any other questions regarding the football team, football summer camps, or the weight room, please contact Head Coach Milton Robinson at 465-2269 Ext. 153. Parents of prospective players are encouraged to attend the Cavalier Football Club meetings on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the high school office conference room. Our next meeting is set for April 2nd. Please join us!

Calendar of Events

Apr. 3	Incoming 7th Graders' Parents Of Special Needs Students Orientation - HBMS Gym
Apr. 5	Incoming 7th Graders' Parent Orientation - HBMS Gym
Apr. 18	Report cards distributed
Apr. 19	Talent Show - 7:00 p.m.
May 14-24	NECAP Gr. 8 Testing
May 23	Team Hypatia Celebration and Potluck Supper
June 4	7th Gr. Concert - 7:00 p.m. HBHS Auditorium
June 5	8th Gr. Concert - 7:00 p.m. HBHS Auditorium

School and Community News

DAR 2006-2007 American History Essay Contest Winners

Eighth grader Sara H. and seventh grader Cecille Y. are the Chapter winners of the American History Essay Contest for the Anna Keyes Powers Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This year's essay topic was the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown Colony.

Their essays have been forwarded to the New Hampshire state competition. The national winner will be announced at Continental Congress in Washington, D.C., in July 2007. This is Cecille's second year as a Chapter winner.

Sara and Cecille each received a bronze medal, a Certificate of Achievement, a book donated by The Toadstool Bookshop of Milford, a copy of the DAR American Spirit magazine, and a monetary gift.

CONGRATULATIONS, Sara and Cecille!

Reflections Update

The National PTA sponsors an annual Reflections contest which offers students the opportunity to showcase their talents in the arts and in creative writing. This year Noelle K. placed first in Photography and will advance on to Nationals, and Steven G. placed second in Visual Arts.

CONGRATULATIONS, Noelle and Steven!

Hollis Woman's Club Event

Start 'spreading the news!' Join us on our luxury bus day trip to New York City! The Hollis Woman's Club is once again sponsoring a trip down to the Big Apple on Saturday, June 2nd. All are welcome to come - husbands, kids, friends and neighbors! Seats cost \$55 per person and include the bus ride to and from the city, plus snacks, guidebooks, and some surprises! We leave at 6:00 am from the Nashua exit 6 Welcome Center. Once in the city, the bus will make several stops near museums, Rockefeller Center, etc., and we'll all meet at 7:00 pm at a hotel in Times Square for the ride back. Please call Susan Benz at 465-3607 NO LATER THAN May 1st to reserve your seats today as only a few remain.

HBMS Math Team is #1 in New Hampshire!!

The 2007 Hollis Brookline Mathcounts Team really outdid themselves this year by bringing home the State's 1st Place trophy. On Saturday, March 10, 2007, the HBMS Math Team -- Lasya T., Greg P., Ryan H. and Steven G. along with Kyle F. and Alex R., competing as individuals -- traveled up to Plymouth State University and competed against the top 18 schools in New Hampshire. The answer to who the four best Mathletes in New Hampshire would be and which four would represent NH in the competition on May 11, 2007 in Fort Worth, Texas, would be known at about 12:30 pm after some grueling math problems were solved.

HBMS' entire math team rode up on the bus leaving at 6:45 am to help root on their fellow Mathletes to success. Success was achieved by the HBMS Mathletes! Greg P. and Lasya T. will be two (2) of the four (4) students representing the State of New Hampshire in Fort Worth, Texas from May 10th to May 13th. Ryan H. came in the top 10 and thus competed in the COUNTDOWN round and brought home the 4th Place trophy in that event. Then in the MASTER'S round, Greg took 1st place and Lasya took 2nd place.

Congratulations to all the Mathletes from Hollis Brookline Middle School: Eric B., Kyle F., Steven G., Ryan H., Ben J., Mark L., Greg P., Alex R., Lasya T. and Cecille Y. for a fabulous year. And Mrs. Mezzocchi thanks all of you for helping her finally achieve her goal of being the #1 Team so that she could become the 2007 Coach of the New Hampshire Team. Good Luck to Greg, L., Lasya T. and Mrs. Mezzocchi at the NATIONAL Mathcounts Competition in May!

REPORT CARDS

Due to the many interruptions of snow days, field trips, testing, assemblies, etc., third quarter Report Cards will be **issued on Wednesday, April 18th** and NOT on Monday, April 16th as stated on the school calendar. Our rotating specialists (Art, Family and Consumer Science, Health, Tech Ed) are in need of extra time with their students. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Seventh Grade News

Team McAuliffe Math---Mrs. Fordin

We are wrapping up a unit on proportional reasoning by asking students to create 3-D models. After watching the Disney movie "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids", students developed a great deal of enthusiasm to select an object to shrink or enlarge. To heighten their interest, they were allowed to pair with a student from "the other" 7th grade math team. The drawings we have seen so far are of high quality. We look forward to seeing the final models when they are completed! Plan to stop by in May to view our 3-dimensional display.

Our next topics will include decimals, percents, and fraction conversions, geometry, and linear equations. We plan to end the year with a student "Show Off" activity. Keep your eyes peeled!

Team McAuliffe History-Mrs. Connelly

Team McAuliffe students are deeply engaged in learning about the Middle Ages. We started out by seeing how Charlemagne took control of the falling empire of Rome by pulling the feuding people together to help establish a new government, known as the Feudal system. We created and examined the various pyramids associated with the social classes and saw how they related to the great game of chess. Take some time and challenge your son or daughter to a game -- You may not win, as some of them have gotten quite good at chess!

While moving on, students worked as a team to create wonderful castle games and challenged classmates to win! We've explored the power of the church and its impact on increasing education of the populous. Everyone took a try at making comics about the life and times of the Middle Ages, and some were very humorous. We've learned about the guild system and will be doing more with this topic in the near future after we finish making our Illuminated Letter PowerPoint projects. Students are working either alone or with a partner to make beautiful matchbooks.

We also got to travel to the Higgins Armory in Worcester, Massachusetts, where the largest collection of Middle Age armor and weapons are kept in North America. While we were there, students made amazing aluminum tooling artwork and learned about different techniques used to decorate armor. We were able to create an image of our own similar to the armor designs by drawing with a stylus onto a sheet of heavy-gauge aluminum. The aluminum is buffed with steel wool and "antiqued" with black ink, and then framed in a black mat board frame. This easy and fun project yields professional-looking results that are on display outside of the Social Studies room on a corridor bulletin board.

Finally, we'll play Decision, Decision and then move into the Crusades and see the changes they brought to the European West. It is onward and upward to the later Middle Ages, which will include glimpses of medieval literature, Gregorian chants, Gothic architecture and much more. From there, we move straight into the Renaissance!

Team McAuliffe Science-Mrs. Evans Keep Your Eyes on Science

Our most recent focus (no pun intended) is a unit on the eye. The students had an opportunity to test their peripheral vision, determine their dominant eye, note the differences between a near and farsighted eyeball, view cataract surgery and dissect a cow eye. In addition, they compared the size of their right eye blind spot to that of their left eye blind spot. In a lab entitled, Mapping Your Blind Field and Blind Spot, the students used trigonometry to determine the size of these blind spots after they tested their blind field (blind field is the area on paper where a person is blind from a distance of 300mm).

I hope the parents enjoyed dissecting the eyeball "model" that students made. They were very diligent and precise when making their eye model and were eager and excited about doing an "eye dissection" with their parents. Many of the students did not let on to their parents that the dissection was an eye "model" and many parents were quite stressed in anticipation of doing a dissection. The next day, the students were very eager to share feedback. Here are a few comments from the parents:

"My son had me convinced that I would be dissecting a real eye --to the point of presenting me with a soggy paper bag. I was quite relieved and very impressed with the model eye."

"Nice to share learning with our daughter."

"Now I see the true science of the eye. What a ball ! "

"Enjoyed the dissection--"eye" loved it."

"Great model! He had me fooled. I thought it was real. "

"I enjoyed doing this dissection with my daughter. She got me good! (thinking I would be using a real eye)."

"I learned a lot and I am glad it was a fake eyeball.."

"I enjoyed dissecting the 'eye' and it helped me remember things I forgot."

"It would be nice to do again but with a real eyeball."

"My daughter really did a great job. I never knew any of it."

"It was a fun activity to do together and I learned a lot."

Team McAuliffe English-Ms. Rasmussen

Currently, the students are reading, "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton. This is a very popular book with the students, and they seem to really be enjoying it. Because the book is set in the early 1960's and hula-hooping was popular during this time, we are having a hula-hoop contest within each block. Students practice during the last ten minutes of class in groups of three, seeing who can keep going for the longest period of time. We will crown a Team McAuliffe Hula-Hoop champion at the end of the unit.

April is National Poetry month, and we will celebrate with a poetry unit. We will focus on the craft of poetry, figurative language, and look at several different forms of poetry including the Shakespearean sonnet. Also, the free choice reading assignment for the month of April will be poetry.

Seventh Grade News

Team Jordan History--Mr. Capraro

In 7th grade History on Team Jordan, we are coming to the end of our long unit on the Middle Ages. Since the last newsletter we have completed our study of the Crusades and the unbelievable changes they brought to Europe. Ask your student what two F's we moved from and what two T's we moved to! Each student chose a guild to join and the room is filled with the sights and smells of the chosen projects. This year I had a record number of bakers! We have spent the last few weeks looking at the culture of the late Middle Ages. We read some literature, with the epic poem Beowulf and the morality play Everyman being particular favorites. Did you know that only Good Deeds follows Everyman to Heaven? We looked at what makes a cathedral "Gothic"—the new architecture of the late Middle Ages-- and played a game called "Gothic or Not?" as we looked at several Middle Ages cathedrals. From the side of the building that faces the high school, take a look up at my class' windows; you'll see the stained glass windows we created! We even listened to some Gregorian chants—not a favorite among the students but interesting to listen to, nonetheless! We will finish this unit with a close look at the Magna Carta and the Black Death and their effect on Europe in the 14th century.

We are about to dive into the Renaissance to finish the year. I like to use real people like Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Queen Elizabeth and Johann Gutenberg to unlock the secrets of that time period. We will again spend time on the literature, music and especially the art of this important time. We will finish the unit by examining the impact of the printing press on European learning and (my favorite activity) giving a close look at the family tree and hereditary succession problems of Henry VIII and his family!

If time permits, at year's end, we will spend some time reviewing all we have done in European history so far this year—from the Fall of Rome up to the Renaissance. All in all, I think we have had a very interesting and educational year!

Our room is nearly complete—only the "Sistine Ceiling" is missing. I hope I have time to get that done! I invite you to take a moment and see what the room looks like. The students are pleased with the way their work is displayed and I am glad to have such great examples of historical art displayed! Stop by if you can....

Team Jordan Science--Ms. Ellerin

Team 2 students have chomped their way through the digestive system. We've eaten pretzels to taste and feel the digestion of carbohydrates in our mouths; we've digested pieces of egg in hydrochloric acid and pepsin; we've test tasted several liquids to locate the four taste buds on our tongue. Students built a living model of the digestive system complete with props such as spray bottles and containers of water to show how each organ of the digestive system works when food and drink enters. Students did a fantastic job on our in-class debate on the topic of genetically modified foods. Pros and cons both made excellent arguments to support their opinions. We'll be culminating this unit with a dissection of a leopard frog.

The next unit of study will be the eye and light. We'll first explore the characteristics of light by using a tennis ball to "see light" reflected and absorbed; we'll be using jump ropes to visualize wavelengths and we'll be using laser pointers to

"see" light travel in straight lines. We'll also be working on our first student designed inquiry based experiment. Students will expand upon the scientific method that we've covered so far this year to design and conduct an experiment based on a self generated question. Not only will the final lab report include a question, hypothesis, procedure and table of data, but it will also include variables, a graph of the data and a specific conclusion. Once we've explored the qualities of light, we'll explore the parts of the eyeball which will include a dissection of a cow's eye.

Team Jordan English--Mrs. Mendola

Team Jordan English students are heading into the lab to develop story webs, websites based on their Middle Ages short stories. They have been building up their stories gradually, experimenting with characterization, conflict, and setting. The short stories we analyzed in class from "The Catbird Seat" through "The Monkey's Paw" to "The Tell-Tale Heart", gave students plenty of examples of superb writing to emulate.

The Middle Ages story web is a cross-disciplinary project: Students' story webs will include online glossaries of Middle Ages terminology, including citations for text and image sources. I plan to publish the story webs on my website after students add original poems during our upcoming Poetry unit.

The students really seemed to enjoy the classic short stories we read in class, so I look forward to seeing their reactions to the play enacting these short stories. We will see the "Encore!" performance of these stories performed by the Boston Chamber Repertory Theatre on Friday, April 6th at the Capitol Center in Concord.

We enjoyed engaging performances in class this past month when students presented their humorous personal narratives. They did a fantastic job memorizing and sharing their speeches. The students were also wonderfully creative and dramatic when they improvised story conflicts in class during this unit. Each group was assigned an assortment of characters and a setting, and what stories they came up with! The Team Jordan students have so much energy and enthusiasm — it's terrific when we can tap into that in class.

Enjoy the warm weather and keep up the encouragement and support you give your children. They have developed terrific work habits this year. I can't wait to see the short stories their hard work will produce!

Team Jordan Math---Mrs. Hall

We are wrapping up a unit on proportional reasoning by asking students to create 3-D models. After watching the Disney movie "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids", students developed a great deal of enthusiasm to select an object to shrink or enlarge. To heighten their interest, they were allowed to pair with a student from "the other" 7th grade math team. The drawings we have seen so far are of high quality. We look forward to seeing the final models when they are completed! Plan to stop by in May to view our 3-dimensional display.

Our next topics will include decimals, percents, and fraction conversions, geometry, and linear equations. We plan to end the year with a student "Show Off" activity. Keep your eyes peeled!

Seventh & Eighth Grade News

Math with Mr. Jahns....

Seventh Grade Math – We have completed our Ratios and Proportions unit, including our Mini-Me project and a Unit test. Next, we are into a unit on Fractions, Decimals and Percentages. We will continue to revisit “Timez Attack™” from time to time so as to keep our skills sharp and increase our recall speed.

Eighth Grade Math - We have now finished studying Integers (positive and negative numbers) in multi-step problems. We also brought in a few positive and negative algebraic terms, which we had to identify as like or unlike, and then combine using our Integer math rules. This is a critical skill for determining if a student is ready for Algebra I next year or not. We continue to use “Timez Attack™” occasionally, for a little competition and to keep the skills sharp!

Seventh Grade Algebra – We are well into our study of Polynomials and, specifically, Quadratics. We can categorize them by number of terms or degree. We can analyze them to predict their shape when graphed. We can graph them, both by hand or with calculator or computer. And finally, we can solve quadratic equations by factoring. Next, we will be learning to solve quadratic equations using the Quadratic Formula and using the “complete the square” method.

Team Hypatia Science—Mrs. Smith

Students are participating in designing and building an earthquake-proof four-story building. After researching this interesting topic, students will have learned that the most destructive waves of an earthquake are the waves that reach the surface of the earth, called secondary waves or S waves. These waves are the waves that shake buildings up and down and side to side. Students will build their towers to withstand this type of shaking and hopefully resist a magnitude 5.0 on a simulator earthquake machine. Those who want to may build their tower to withstand a magnitude 9.0, which will represent 8 bonus points towards their final grade for this project. This is the kind of activity that can be very frustrating for students because accuracy in their measurements is a must! So please encourage their tenacity! This is a very fun activity for each student, as they become very competitive with each other. I will certainly enjoy watching them problem solve, cooperate, compromise, reason, and be rewarded for their efforts. The day of testing is an anxious one.

Don't forget to bring in current event articles for fourth quarter. Science is always in the news, so take advantage of the bonus points on tests and quizzes. You only have until June 1st to do so.

Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

Washington, DC was a great learning experience for all students who attended. Students are currently working on a reflection about their trip. They were asked to choose one experience from the trip that helped them to better understand a period within history. Students will demonstrate this understanding through a written reflection, poetry, drawing, explanation of a photo, or another medium.

In the meantime, we have been talking about George Washington, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton, and the struggles of a new nation. Students have learned about the

birth of political parties (federalists and democratic republican), the Louisiana Purchase and Lewis and Clark. It won't be long until we reach the Civil War and the end of the school year.

Please feel free to look at a few photos I have posted on my website from the Washington DC trip. As always, this site is a great resource to stay current with assignments.
<http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1>

Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

Math students will be using geometric shapes and platonic solids to create a Washington, DC monument: Algebra students will be focusing on ratios and proportions, whereas 8th grade Math will focus on area and volume. Such monuments/memorials have taken many forms and have expressed many different themes or emotions. Some are dedicated to the memory of the victims or to one of the victim groups. Other monuments specifically commemorate the struggle, the agony, or the resistance of the veterans, presidents and citizens. Monuments are also erected to honor the heroism of rescuers and liberators. Students will decide what they would like to express in their memorial, choose a theme, build a memorial and write a 5-paragraph reflection essay conveying their emotions.

Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruppiso

As they prepare scenes from “A Midsummer Night's Dream”, Hypatia students are demonstrating their understanding of Shakespeare's universality. Scenes are being set in a wide variety of times and places, from ancient Greece to the future and undiscovered planets. To validate their interpretations, students are analyzing characters and their motivations. Each group is also creating a Directors' Notebook to document their thinking and learning.

At this time, students have debriefed their experiences in Washington, D.C. and the home-based field trips with detailed journals. More formal pieces addressing the “heart” of their experience are now in process. These experiences and writings will serve as a segue to our next unit, The Search for the American Dream: Post World War II. Students will read a variety of literature that will address issues of prejudice and the Civil Rights Movement, as well as the roles of economics and education in achieving the dream. Readings will include poetry of Langston Hughes and “The Pearl,” by John Steinbeck. Students will also explore the manner in which media -- television in particular -- reflects the changes in society.

We have just begun planning our team celebration which will be held on the evening of May 23rd. Please be on the lookout for details of this event.

Eighth Grade News

Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

The month of January was spent studying the Articles of Confederation, the Founding Fathers and finally, the Constitution itself. Students got their feet wet dealing in various aspects of the new Federal government.

The intrepid adventurers of Team Prescott have boldly analyzed the administration of President George Washington. Domestic and foreign policies, Native American problems, infighting within the administration, a host of fiscal problems.....

We have studied John Adams' turbulent administration. Students have studied the Quasi-War with France, more Native American problems in the NW Territory, etc. Soon we'll be studying Thomas Jefferson and all that he brought to the White House. This will include problems in the Mediterranean with the Barbary pirates, and the Louisiana Purchase. The latter will be closely followed by the journey of Lewis and Clark. It's really a very exciting time in the nation's history and I'm hoping to share some of that excitement with all my students! It is after all, the Bicentennial of this event as we speak.

After our study of President Jefferson's administration we will move onto the study of James Madison. This administration will see the U.S. involved in a war again with England. The crippling effects of the previous administration's Embargo Act will still be felt through part of this period as well.

Team Prescott Science—Mr. Bond

Mr. Bond's Earth Science classes are rocking ... exploring the world of rocks and minerals! Students will be logging a lot of hours in the lab, learning the techniques scientists use to identify some of the unique characteristics of minerals, as well as mixing solutions to grow laboratory crystals. In the near future, in one lab investigation, students will use a flame-testing technique to identify the elements in powdered mineral samples. In another lab activity, they will grow crystals and make observations of crystal growth patterns and symmetry. In the next few weeks, students will design a procedure to investigate the effects of acid rain on limestone. They will also learn that in the past, under the correct environmental conditions, some of the earth's large deposits of limestone have been changed into the rock known as marble. And because many of the buildings and monuments in Washington, DC are constructed of marble, students will make the connection between this rock material and the effects acid rain has had on our nation's capital!

In their next unit of study, Mr. Bond's students will conduct a lab investigation where the process of distillation is explored. Students will build a distilling apparatus designed to purify water. Tests for pH and chloride will be run on the "contaminated" liquid before and after distilling, and the data compared to demonstrate how the distilling process is really a purification process. Our lab-built system will be compared to the natural distillation process of the earth's water cycle.

Also, students will continue their work in the lab when they explore the chemistry of their home well water. Tests for pH, chloride, iron, copper and hardness will be completed so they can compile a basic water quality report of their own tap water. Also, classes will be collecting information on the type and depth of their home well, and will research the causes and effects of their home water quality.

Remember to visit our HBMS Earth Science Department website at www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd. Many students continue to visit the site to try out their investigative talents by clicking on "Are You a Super Sleuth"?

Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Team Prescott English classes are currently preparing for performances of scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Students formed acting troupes and are learning Shakespeare's lines. Performances will be held in class starting April 4th. Students are showing their creative sides through their prop and costume designs, as well as their selections for music.

During each class, we are also listening to radio plays. The productions this year also show their creative talents and energies. We are carefully listening to the story lines to solve the mysteries or experience the tension they have created. The enthusiasm around this assignment continues. Many thanks to all the eighth grade parents who assisted with transportation and shifting schedules to accommodate for this eighth grade assignment.

We will be shifting gears starting April 9th to examine the triumphs and struggles of the human spirit as we apply the background knowledge we have obtained through the novel readings, Vietnam/Veteran's presentations and D.C. trip, to a mini-research assignment and a creative writing piece. Students will have flexibility with the product of this assignment. We will be using the rolling laptop lab so all students can access technology. Final products will be shared orally.

Team Prescott Math--Mrs. Mezzocchi

In 8th grade Math classroom (Passport), the students will be finishing up the term learning about data and statistics. They will be using the TI-83 graphing calculator to produce "Box-N-Whisker" plots, and they will be learning how to organize their data with "Stem-N-Leaf" plots. The students always enjoy using these sophisticated tools. Following the statistics unit, the students will study number theory and the Pythagorean Theorem.

In the Algebra classroom, the students are learning how to solve systems of linear equations and inequalities since they have mastered the equation of a line. Students will have to demonstrate their mastery by being able to write equations in all forms and distinguish between slopes and intercepts of various lines. Following the Systems of Equations unit, we will begin the Polynomials unit where they will finish up the unit by learning how to factor polynomials in order to solve quadratic equations. This always proves to be a very challenging unit but once learned, students feel very proud of themselves. The unit on polynomials is the precursor to the Quadratic Formula.

All classes are right on schedule with about 9-10 weeks left. They are well prepared for the high school mathematics that they will face in the next four years. It has been an enjoyable year working with the students on Team Prescott. Thanks for sharing them with us.

INTEGRATED SPECIALS

French--Mme. Cloutier

Our seventh grade classes are able to do so much more in French now and it is very rewarding to me and I hope to them, also. We are waiting for some nice weather to perhaps "faire un pique-nique" outside. Our current chapter introduces some interesting places to go (museum, cinema, park, café, etc.), so that prompted us to think of ways to bring this to life. Many verbs and vocabulary words will be used when the students write a postcard in French to pretend that they have been on a trip to a French-speaking country. They can go back and use all chapters in the book to make it more interesting.

After this last chapter in our new text, seventh graders will take a look at the other French text used for many years here, Bienvenue, so that we can finish up with the other two conjugations of regular verbs. They are presented here with many good exercises to practice and extra vocabulary words that we have not yet seen. We should be able to study several sections in this book and tie together many situations with words and phrases that they already know.

The eighth grade students are studying the chapter on health and ailments such as the common cold, the flu, a sore throat, etc. This was convenient vocabulary for them for the last days of winter and post-Washington, DC. They need reviews from time to time of grammatical points that they learned last year but that's not unusual. They have begun using object pronouns that will be with them forever so it's important to understand them now. These are placed in French sentences in a different place than in English sentences, so it can be difficult to use them at first.

Our remaining chapters are about cultural pastimes (museums, theaters, films), travel & associated words, and a chapter on banking and money. The students also are introduced to new grammar in each chapter that will build on previous lessons. They should finish the book in time for graduation and they are always learning extra information to help them prepare for high school!

El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash

It is hard to believe that we are rounding the final turn! We are very proud of our 7th graders' progress. We are completing our unit on family and will soon move on to a fun sports unit. We'll learn how to describe actions in progress and to accurately describe pictures and photos. How are your skills at sports broadcasting? We'll have a chance to see!

Welcome back from Washington, DC! Our 8th graders took a small detour before the trip to discuss the Holocaust. We focused particularly on the roles played by Spain, Mexico, Argentina and France in the Holocaust. Our Eighth graders are now finishing up with their unit on clothing. Soon we'll celebrate a fashion show! We'll then move on to study food – something everyone will enjoy!

Family and Consumer Science--Mrs. Sarvaiya

This quarter, Team Prescott is sewing away with Mrs. Sarvaiya. We are recapping our very talented sewing skills, and learning new techniques. Students have chosen one of three quilt designs to create out of felt pieces, and have also searched through a catalog and picked out two projects to sew. There are over 200 projects to choose from, ranging

from stuffed animals and clothes to pillows and bags. Everyone has chosen different projects, so our individuality will be expressed in our sewing projects.

In Family and Consumer Science, we will study nutrition and health. We will prepare and explore new foods and enjoy our creations in the classroom kitchen. We will learn about a well-balanced diet, weight management, eating disorders and fad diets. We will practice various techniques in the classroom and will learn from movies, labs, class discussions, and readings. Along with sewing, we will cook various foods such as cookies, pizza, oriental foods and other holiday foods.

Our goals this quarter are to work with others diligently in a team environment, learn time management, and to respect our working environment and the people around us. We will be exploring international recipes and different cultural foods. We are privileged and excited to continue hands-on activities in a fun and educational way. We are having a great quarter with Mrs. Sarvaiya!
By Alyss and Kellie

Art News - Mrs. Papadeas Color Wheels and Abstract Paintings

Team McAulliffe just completed color wheels and paintings. Students studied primary, secondary, intermediate, and tints of colors. One requirement was an illustration at the center of the wheel. Much latitude was allowed in the treatment of the center illustration. Some art students created deeply shaded pencil renderings, while others cut and pasted images in the center. Another choice was to paint a motif or frame around their wheel. Classes could see with the final results that the color wheels were not just simple color studies. The color wheels were works of art that showed craftsmanship and originality. Students really had a lot of fun creating them.

Another assignment in Mrs. Papadeas' art classes was to develop an abstract painting using a series of geometric designs. Using their basic understanding of colors, relationships of color, mixing and application, students were asked to create an abstract painting. Plastic triangles, circles, rulers and templates were provided for this process. Students were asked to develop an interesting composition and visual design in their painting. Results were very colorful and exciting to look at. All the students had the experience of working with the Paint program in the computer lab and abstract art. We primarily focused in the style of Piet Mondrian and Helen Frankenthaler. All Team 1 students can bring their art portfolios home the second week of April. As always, works of art will be on display and hopefully your student will share their work with you.

Health & Wellness--Ms. White

On our first day we introduced ourselves to the concept of wellness. Students have been encouraged to think of wellness as something that is more than the absence of illness. In our class we learn that health is biological, psychological and social in nature.

In the course of introductions to one another we learned that we were all in a similar boat – pretty stressed! Through discussion in small groups, class discussion and discussion with our parents, we learned that many of us were stressed about the same things; school, parents, siblings, homework, sports, and friends to name a few. Next, we moved on to the

Integrated Specials—Cont'd

important part – how do we get rid of stress? We brainstormed as a class and now have a solid list for our reference.

Our stress unit was complete when we all made our own “stress book”. In its first section we identified things specific to ourselves that stressed us. We collaged and captioned why these were stressors for us. In the second half we identified things that we could specifically do to help us relax. These stress books were extremely creative and wonderfully put together.

Our second unit was media and advertising. Through dissection of advertisements we have become more informed about companies’ strategies to sell us things. We have become more educated consumers and recognize many more places we receive media than we once thought. Student interviews with their parents about what fads they followed when they were in middle school were hilarious. What are hot pants anyway? Did people really spend money on pet rocks?

After talking about media we transitioned into eating disorders. Eating disorders are a growing problem in the United States and knowing that they really don’t have to do with food and weight is confusing at first, but we learned that it makes sense. We learned the warning signs and some of the causes.

Team Jordan is currently working with Ms. Christy on mental illness and self esteem.

Reading - Mrs. Lucas' Book Picks

Flush by Carl Hiaasen

With their father jailed for sinking a river boat, Noah Underwood and his younger sister, Abbey, must gather evidence that the owner of this floating casino is emptying his bilge tanks into the protected water around their Florida Keys home.

The Teacher's Funeral: A Comedy in three Parts by Richard Peck

When the much-despised, elderly one-room schoolhouse teacher unexpectedly dies (she must have been at least 40!), Russell is horrified to find that his older sister Tansy is going to take over the job. His life, he knows, will be ruined. This is an absolute riot!

Guts: the True Stories behind Hatchet and the Brian books by Gary Paulsen

The author relates incidents in his life and how they inspired parts of his books about the character, Brian Roberson.

Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

Jess wants to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade, but then he's beaten by the new girl. In spite of this rocky start, the two create an imaginary world and a thriving friendship. This is a Newbery Award winner.

Source: The Best Young Adult Books of the Decade and How to Use them in Your Program, by Walter Mayes, BERG, Bureau of Education & Research, Bellevue, WA, 2005

Reading - Mrs. Dufresne

We are just back from our Washington, DC trip and have closed our in-depth study of the Holocaust and World War II. The prior knowledge we took with us to our nation's capital was an enormous advantage when viewing the exhibits at

the U. S. Holocaust Museum and the war memorials and monuments.

Grade 8 classes are reading different books this month. *Kiss the Dust* is about a young girl in Iraq in 1984 who is forced to flee with her family to a refugee camp in Iran then to freedom in London. The conflict between the Arabs and the Kurds is the focus of this novel. The other book, *The Downside* is about a secret society and community that lives beneath the streets of current day New York City. The story examines family, social pressures, materialism and how individuals from different backgrounds can find a common ground. The classes were happy to find out we will be reading books that could possibly hold the promise of a happy ending.

My grade 7 students finished up the Iditarod with the novel *Black Star, Bright Dawn*. This month we have started reading the novel *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen. We have started a week long project in the computer lab that will delve into the twelve endangered animals and plants in the state of New Hampshire. Each student will select a species to research, take notes in graphically organized table form, provide a properly formatted works cited document, and write a persuasive business letter encouraging the protection of that species.

Library Media Center--Mrs. Jahns Spring Marches In!!

March was “Read Across America” month. On display are “Historical America”, “How to” and science fiction books. For several weeks, Washington, D.C. has been on our minds in preparation for the 8th grade students’ trip, March 20-23. In addition to the wonderful visit from our area veterans, the library hosted the showing of, “In the Shadow of the Blade” and displays of books about WWI and II, the Korean War and Viet Nam Conflict, as well as sights to see in D.C. Two new books added to the collection are: “Flags of Our Fathers: Heroes of Iwo Jima” by James Bradley, and “Stolen Voices: Young People’s War Diaries from World War I to Iraq” by Zlata Filipovic and Melanie Challenger. Students also have been reading historical fiction books that included the war themes or time periods. Examples are “Milkweed”, by Jerry Spinelli, “Good Night, Maman”, by Norma Fox Mazer, “Night”, by Elie Wiesel, “Fallen Angels”, by Walter Dean Myers, and “The Diary of Anne Frank”. One amazing sight that we were fortunate to see in D.C. was the WWII Memorial at nighttime. With all its lights aglow, students described it as “peaceful”.

April is School Library Media Month, with National Library Week April 15-23. We plan to exhibit photographs of HBMS staff with their favorite teen/young adult books, so watch for the faces and titles! April 17 is National Library Workers Day; HBMS is lucky to have 13 volunteers who regularly assist in the Library Media Center. These volunteers are fantastic, accomplishing everything from checking books in and out to cleaning and organizing full shelves of books. Please thank our volunteers the next time you see them at school.

Book of the Month: The Cage by Ruth Minsky Sender

Site of the Month: Eye Witness to History: History Through the Eyes of Those Who Lived It

<http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/index.html>

Music, Band, Phys. Ed. & Sports

Chorus --Mrs. Spencer

Students have been working very hard learning all the lyrics and melodies to our Spring concert songs. Visit our school website to view our current repertoire. (Click on Faculty, then Spencer, then Chorus.) Our concert dates are as follows:

7th Grade	Monday, June 4, 7pm HBHS Auditorium
8th Grade	Tuesday, June 5 7pm HBHS Auditorium

Seventh Grade choral students have just finished watching the 2003 version of "The Music Man", by Meredith Wilson. Students will be producing a four-page PowerPoint in class describing the musical, and comparing characters and songs with another musical of their choice. Please view the chorus page on our website for the project rubric and research questions.

Eighth Grade choral students are watching the classic Rogers and Hammerstein musical, "State Fair." Students will be writing a comparison piece in class. Please view our school website and select Chorus for the research questions and comparison details.

All District Honor Chorus members have begun practicing their parts after school for a concert at Cawley Middle School in Hooksett, NH on Saturday, May 5th. The concert begins at 5:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!

General Music--Mrs. Spencer

7th grade general music students have recently completed an introduction to the music notation software program, "Sibelius". Through this program, students are able to explore the creative art of composing and performing their own music. Students successfully completed their first composition entitled, "Complete the Phrase", and are now working on compositions based on AABA form.

In our next unit we will revisit guitar. Students will be learning how to play a bass line using strings 5 and 6, and will be able to accompany songs previously learned.

Eighth grade general music students have just finished a guitar unit learning how to play a bass line on string 6 and string 5. Students are now able to play a new bass line for "The Ghost of Tom", and several other melodies including "Mix 'Em Up", "Could Have Fooled Me" and "Fancy That!"

Our next unit is the piano. Students will learn to play the song, "Jump Blues" using chords in the left hand and melody in their right hand. A new musical composition unit will also be introduced using the MIDI systems. Students will be writing in small groups original melodies according to a given melodic contour picture. Songs will be written based on Boston's skyline and a mountain range.

We will be re-visiting guitars the middle of quarter 4.

Band --Mr. Depine

7th Grade band students have continued to develop skills in the areas of rhythm, tone production and ensemble playing from method books. Students are also learning music for our Spring concert, which will include a medley of marches entitled "Sousa Spectacular" and an arrangement of the well-known "Academic Festival Overture" from the classical repertoire.

8th Grade band students are also developing skills in preparation for the next level of music at the high school. Students are rehearsing an original composition for band entitled, "Cyberspace Overture", and a medley of music composed by John Williams for the movies "Star Wars", "Jurassic Park" and "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial"

Jazz Band continues to rehearse on Wednesdays in preparation for Spring concerts and presentations.

All-District Band members have begun practicing their parts after school for a concert at Cawley Middle School in Hooksett, NH on Saturday, May 5th. The concert begins at 5:00. All are welcome to attend.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—

Ms. Bottcher & Mr. Johnston

The seventh grade students completed the personal fitness unit with ITC fitness brochures that could be published. The students then learned the skills, rules and defense for playing the fast paced, Olympic sport of team handball. Students grew to really enjoy this exciting game during our mini-unit. We took a little time to explore the indoor climbing wall, engage in a team building activity or two and play some 3 on 3, half court basketball. Currently, the seventh grade is playing pickleball and working on their hand eye coordination in sport stacking. Students will keep their times doing the 3-3-3, the 3-6-3, and the cycle and see who has the fastest hands in their class.

The eighth grade students just completed a six week unit in rock climbing. We learned climbing techniques as well as how to spot, belay, back up belay, and anchor as a team while another student climbed. We closed the unit with a field trip to Boulder Morty's indoor climbing facility. We now will begin a four week unit in physical fitness where strength training will be the primary focus. Students will learn major muscle groups, strength training exercises for each muscle group, safety, and various strength training programs.

BASEBALL/SOFTBALL - 2007 Schedule

			<u>GAME TIME</u>	<u>BUS TIME</u>
APRIL	10	AT South Meadow	3:30	2:25
	12	AT Litchfield	3:30	2:25
	17	NASHUA CATHOLIC	3:30	
	19	AT Pelham	3:30	2:25
MAY	1	AT Milford	3:30	2:30
	3	SOUTH MEADOW	3:30	
	8	LITCHFIELD	3:30	
	10	AT Nashua Catholic	3:30	2:30
	15	PELHAM	3:30	
	17	MILFORD	3:30	

MAY 29 – JUNE 1 PLAYOFFS

SPORTS & PHYS. ED.

TRACK & FIELD - 2007 Schedule

		<u>MEET TIME</u>	<u>BUS TIME</u>
APRIL 13	AT Amherst Hollis Brookline, Bow, Hood, Villa Augustina, St. Joseph Chester	3:30	2:45
17 HOME	Hollis Brookline, Hudson, Hampstead, Milford	3:30	
20	AT Pelham Hollis Brookline, Litchfield, Sanborn	3:30	2:25
MAY 1	AT Merrimack Hollis Brookline, Bow, Milford	3:30	2:30
2	AT Timberlane (STOPPING) Hollis Brookline, Sanborn, Elm Street	3:30	2:05
3 HOME	Hollis Brookline, St. Joseph, Cawley, Milford	3:30	
7 HOME	Hollis Brookline, Hudson, Amherst	3:30	
11	AT Bow (STOPPING) Hollis Brookline, St. Joseph, Cawley	3:30	2:25
14	AT Hudson Hollis Brookline, Amherst, Milford	3:30	2:30
18 HOME	Hollis Brookline, Bow, Timberlane	3:30	
31 LEAGUE MEET AT HOME		3:30	
	(Athletes must qualify for this meet)		

Rain date for the League Meet is June 1st

PRACTICES

2:15-4:00 OUTSIDE
2:15-3:30 INCLEMENT WEATHER—INSIDE