



# Hollis Brookline Middle School

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

**December 12, 2005**

### From the Administration

Finally the weather has changed and supports the fact we are approaching winter. In conjunction, I am so very pleased to report that all staff and students are currently under one roof. While we still are adjusting to minor issues with our renovation and expansion project, efficiency remains a focus. Our heat has been set to 67 degrees which is a major adjustment from our old system. We strongly recommend that the flip flops, shorts and t-shirts are packed away for a few months and the turtle-necks, sweatshirts, pants and sweaters become easily available.

Our November Recognition Assembly was a huge success. We counted 180 people in attendance above our staff and student body; a record high. We appreciate your busy schedules and your ability to balance support for your child with your time.

Hollis Brookline Middle School is deeply involved in creating a partnership with the Merrimack YMCA, specifically Y-Teen. Many thanks to Lynn Westberg for organizing the first meeting. Our ultimate goal is to create after-school programming to our students, Monday through Friday. I have met with the 8<sup>th</sup> grade student representatives, Student Council President and a sampling of ROCK groups. So far the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Students will complete a survey next week indicating which activities they would like to see offered. More details will follow as we approach implementation.

We expect to begin a full school recycling program after the Holidays. Our program will be similar to the one at HUES. Bins have been ordered for each ROCK group and several others for active areas such as the library and office. We will separate cardboard, catalogues, junk mail and paper. During our organization day, the bins will be brought to a special dumpster. We are expecting great results.

At the conclusion of our Veteran's Day Assembly, one veteran squeezed my arm and said, "...thank you, they keep getting better." Mr. Capraro again organized our annual assembly. In addition to the band, flag folding, Character Award announcement and special message from Jim Belanger, our chorus performed. It was a special tribute to our veterans supported by all students with their exemplary behavior.

Again, please if you have not done so, check our website often. Mr. Jahns is our webmaster, posting daily announcements and special notices. More teachers are becoming familiar with Frontpage and have developed their own sites.

I am humbled by the nomination of Principal of the Year. Many thanks are extended to parents, students, Board members, staff and community members who met with the recent on-site visiting team. Regardless of the final outcome I am honored with the recognition.

In this edition you will find dates for the Holiday concerts to be held at the HBHS auditorium. Hope to see you there. On behalf of the

### PTSA President's Report

HBMS staff we wish you warm, happy, healthy Holidays.

Sincerely,  
Patricia Lewis Goyette

It's hard to believe that the first quarter of the school is complete and we are almost halfway through the second quarter. Congratulations to our sports athletes for a fantastic season! It is so refreshing to attend the Recognition Ceremony and see so many of our athletes receiving academic honors as well as sports awards. How about the drama club and the number of students involved in the dramatic arts! We are looking forward to the club's musical performance in February.

Many thanks to Marie Degulis and Cindy Ullrich for the fantastic job coordinating the Staff Appreciation Turkey Dinner. Thanks also to Susan Holroyd for her time and energy helping Marie and Cindy as well as all of you who cooked, baked, and served our well-deserving Middle School Staff!!! It was a tremendous success!

Our newest edition of the HBMS Directory is in and you should have gotten the copies you ordered and paid for. Janet Vaughn did a wonderful job as did the student whose art work decorates the front. If you did not order one and would still like to purchase one, there are some extra copies at the office. They are \$7.00.

With the holiday season upon us, I know that everyone is very busy. Our next meeting will be on Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Middle School. In addition to our regular business, we will be voting on the acceptance of the revised By-Laws. The old and revised By-laws were handed out to those who attended last month's meeting and copies can be found in the Middle School office. By-laws have to be reviewed and revised to reflect any changes in the state by-laws every 2-3 years. These by-laws can only be voted on by members of the Middle School PTSA. Please join us if you can.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our esteemed Principal, Mrs. Goyette. She has been nominated for the NH Middle School Principal of the year! This process of which I have been an active participant began a couple of months ago and I am proud to announce that Mrs. Goyette is one of three finalists!!! A site visit with interviews of staff, parents, community members and students was conducted on November 29<sup>th</sup> and it was my pleasure to sit among those who truly believe that we have the best Middle School in the State under the direction of the best Principal in the state! As has been stated several times, whether she wins or loses, Mrs. Goyette is the Principal of the Year to us!

Wishing you all a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

**Check out the school website:**

[www.hbms.k12.nh.us](http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us)

**You'll be glad you did!!**

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# School and Community News

## HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL FALL RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY TUES., NOVEMBER 22, 2005



On Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, Mrs. Patricia Goyette, Principal of the Hollis Brookline Middle School opened the Fall Recognition Assembly by stating the fact that we look forward to recognizing our students in their academic, dramatic, technical and physical accomplishments. It is a tradition to celebrate the diverse talents of our students.

**Girls Field Hockey** was first at the podium with **Coach Patty Smith** expressing her deepest thanks to the whole team for a great season of six wins and four losses placing them in the semi finals against Milford on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October where the girls returned home victorious. On October 27<sup>th</sup> the girls traveled to Sanborn for the finals where high energy and the "Want to Win" brought them home as **Tri County Champions** with a win of 1 - 0. **Certificates** were passed out to each member of the team with great **CONGRATULATIONS!** Team captains in turn thanked their coach for a wonderful season and for making them better leaders.

**Mr. Lyle, Coach for the Boys Soccer Team**, was next at the podium. With great team effort and well-fought games these talented and spirited boys **ended their season with a record of 6 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie.** Placing them in the semi-final playoffs against West Running Brook where the boys played a hard fought game losing to a very strong team. Certificates were then passed out to each player with congratulations. **Team captains** then thanked the entire team for a great season, and Mr. Lyle for his time and effort in coaching.

**Mrs. Patricia Goyette, Principal** was next on the agenda, pleased and proud to announce formally at the assembly our **7<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll** students. She stated that it was important that these students be recognized for their achievement, as the curriculum is rigorous. For the **Comprehensive High Honor Roll – all A's**, fifty-seven students were recognized and for the **Comprehensive Honor Roll – all A's and B's**, one hundred eleven students were recognized.

Next at the podium was **Dr. Spear, Executive Director of the New England League of Middle Schools** to present Hollis Brookline Middle School with a banner on behalf of NELMS as a "**Spotlight School.**" Hollis Brookline Middle School was chosen for the award because of its deep concern for its young people, teaming abilities, instruction and curriculum, hands-on learning, climate and parent support and involvement. Dr. Spear challenged the students and staff to continue the good things going on in our school and our partnership with parents and community.

**Coaches Ron Johnston and Paul Picariello for Cross Country** followed with praises for their thirty-six runners this year. Twenty boys and sixteen girls worked very hard to condition themselves for the meets with commitment and dedication for this unique team sport. Competing in meets with Pelham, Merrimack, St. Joe's, Villa Augustina, Hood, Amherst, Milford, Windham, South Meadow, St. Pat's, Cawley, Nashua Catholic and Hooksett the teams improved their performance daily and achieved some strong results. The teams also participated in the **Tri-County**

**League meet** on October 15<sup>th</sup> competing in the pouring rain with thirty—seven different schools and later traveled to **Londonderry to compete in the State Championships** on October 22<sup>nd</sup> where the teams saved their best performance for last running outstanding races ending a great season. Certificates were handed out to each member of the team for their willingness to practice hard daily and run "lights out" during races.

**Mrs. Maggie Gruposso and Mrs. Deirdre Adams, Drama Club Advisors** were next. Most important and essential to a good production is the crew - without their help, putting on a show would be an impossible task. More than fifty students came forth for the tryouts of the production of this years presentation of "**An Evening of Mystery and Suspense**" which included three short plays – **There's a Body in the Closet, Diamonds in the Rough and Murder at Brantley Manor.** The students worked hard and although at times advisors despaired that lines weren't getting learned, the end result was wonderful. Certificates were then handed out to each crew member and cast member for a job well done! The Drama Club is now preparing for their presentation of **Annie**, which will take place in February.

**Mrs. Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Assistant Principal** took her turn at the podium to recognize **8<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll** students. For the **Comprehensive High Honor Roll – all A's**, forty-four students were recognized. For the **Comprehensive Honor Roll – all A's and B's**, one hundred two students were recognized; and in the **Academic High Honor Roll –** which takes students from the Comprehensive Honor Roll that have achieved all A's in classes that meet daily, Mrs. Saunders recognized four 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Following at the podium was **Coach John Gray for the Girls Soccer Team.** Playing their season with great determination and skill the girls finished their season with 11 wins and 1 tie leading them to the semi-final playoffs on October 27<sup>th</sup> against Amherst where they returned home with a victory of 3 - 1 after a hard fought game. The girls then faced Hood in the finals on October 28<sup>th</sup> becoming the **Tri County Champions** by a score of 1 -0. **Coach Gray stressed** that the core of this team was "TEAM and SPORTSMANSHIP." **Certificates** were passed out to each player with great congratulations as **Tri County Champions** for the fourth year in a row. Team captains then stepped up to thank Coach Gray for finding their individual strengths and for his inspirational speeches. They thanked him for his patience and understanding, his tireless hours working with them and making them the best.

Last at the podium was **Athletic Director, Ms. Gayle Bottcher for Ms. Amy Dunbar, Coach of the Girls Volleyball Team.** The **Hollis Brookline Middle School Volleyball Team** had a great season participating with schools such as Fairgrounds, Pennichuck, Milford, Boynton, Sunapee, Elm Street, Mountain View, Timberlane and Nashua Catholic. They worked hard, had fun, did an incredible job producing some flawless serves and going at times 100% at the service line and **ended their season 11 – 1.** On October 26<sup>th</sup> the girls faced Mountain View in the semi-finals with yet another victory placing them in the finals on October 27<sup>th</sup> against Fairgrounds where they became the **Tri County Champions.** **Certificates** were passed out to each girl for a great season! **In turn the girls thanked the many people who encour-**

# School and Community News

## Parent Education Series

### Who is Really Raising your Teens?

How can you tell how mass media is affecting your child? Is the Internet safe? Exposure to entertainment media has been correlated to both positive and negative behavior. When does it pose problems in our developing teen? As parents and educators we play a significant role in the lives of children. Media Smart helps assist us with the skills, and information needed to empower parents to better manage their teen's consumption of media. Learn how it can influence thinking, behavior, health and decision making in this entertaining, educational and inspiring workshop. Rona Zlokower, Director of Media Smart, will be presenting this workshop sponsored by Hollis Brookline PTSA S-Team. The workshop is free and open to anyone in the community. It will be held **Wednesday, January 18th, at 7 p.m. at the Hollis Brookline High School. A snow date has been set for January 25<sup>th</sup>.** For more information you may contact Pat Marquette at 673-1957.

### Drug Awareness Workshop

What drugs are on our streets these days? How can you recognize them? What are some of the signs and symptoms to look for in your teenager? Join members of the local police departments and DEA as they discuss the answers to these and other questions you have regarding drugs and teenagers. This presentation will be held **Thursday, February 2 at 7pm at the Hollis Brookline Middle School.** For more information you may contact Ruth Kabel at 465-7487.

## Generations Day—8th Grade Students

Generations Day will take place on **Tuesday, December 13** for eighth grade students. Generations Day provides an opportunity for parents to involve themselves with the school and their student. Please join us!

## Life Skills' Progress Reports

Our Integrated Specialists (Art, Industrial Arts, Computer/Library, Guidance, Health, and Family and Consumer Science) have been redefined as Life Skills teachers.

They have worked collaboratively to clearly articulate the life skills promoted within each discipline. The *life skills* teachers attach themselves to each core team for approximately 7 weeks. Since there are 5 rotations, their progress reports do not fit with our quarterly ones. Please note the **progress report dates** for the life skills teachers below:

**Oct 3 & 4**

**Nov. 28 & 29**

**Jan. 30 & 31**

**Mar. 27 & 28**

**May 30 & 31**

## AFTERSCHOOL SKI

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School After School Ski Program** is well underway. We have sixty-five students who have enrolled and my sincere **THANK YOU** to all parents who have volunteered to chaperone. A list of dates and information will be forthcoming to chaperones, as well as information to parents of all students involved as to where skis and bags should be dropped off. **Thank you for making this ski program possible.**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Dec. 13, 7PM, HBMS**

**Generations Day**

**Dec. 13, 7PM at HBHS**

**HBMS Gr. 7 Chorus**

**Dec. 14, 7PM at HBHS**

**HBMS Gr. 8 Chorus**

**Dec. 16 at HBMS**

**School dance**

**Jan 18th, 7PM at HBHS**

**Media Smar/Internet Safety**

**Feb 2nd, 7PM at HBMS**

**Drug Awareness**

**April 6th, 7PM at HBMS**

**Manage Emotions, Control Your Behavior, Eliminate Negative Thinking — All in One!**

## NATIONAL PTA

### REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

Hollis Brookline PTSA once again is participating in the National PTA Reflections Program. The theme for this year's program is "I wonder why? . . ."

Students are encouraged to submit their original work to this program. The four categories are: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. Students may enter work in one, two, three, or all four categories. Separate entry forms are required for each submission. Specific information is included on the entry forms, which are available at the school office. All entries are due at the school no later than January 5, 2006.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at an evening ceremony in January. Winners in each category will advance to the state level. At the state level, entries from grades 6 through 8 will be judged together. First place winners at the state level will advance to the National Competition.

Last year, one of our current eighth graders won first place in Musical Composition at the state level, and one of our current seventh graders won second place in Literature at the state level. Please encourage your children to participate in this enriching activity. If you have any questions about the program, please call Joy Peterson at 465-3858 or Janet Lis-towich at 465-3284.

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# Seventh Grade News

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## Team McClintock

**Ms. Ellerin, Mrs. Gruposso, Mrs. Rossetti**

Team McClintock has entered a period of intensive integration. For study skills the focus is on making choices: to do homework, to work on quality of work or learning, to participate in a positive manner and so on. We have also started a series of in-class assignments which use the skills introduced by Mrs. Ball in the library and Mr. Gruce in the computer lab. Math students researching a nineteenth century mathematician, science students are investigating cloning and the social issues that surround this debatable topic. English/social studies students are researching the fact and fiction of the social problems of Charles Dickens times using [A Christmas Carol](#) as well as factual information.

As we continue the second quarter, McClintock teachers are expecting the students to become more independent workers. Time has been spent in each class to help them develop time management and study strategies. They need to practice these strategies. Students will be expected to maintain their agenda, complete homework in a timely manner, and prepare for assessments on their own time. If there is a negative change in performance, parents will be informed.

In science, students are using microscopes to view prepared slides in preparation for making their own slides to view cheek and skin cells. They'll also view different types of live protozoan cells such as the amoeba, paramecium, volvox and other microscopic animals.

Math students are studying area and volume. They will be discovering the concepts around these topics and will be given a real life application to show their understanding of the material.

English / social studies students have finished [A Christmas Carol](#) and are completing a series of activities investigating the development of characters and Charles Dickens' style of writing. Overlapping into social studies, students are also writing scripts and preparing presentations that examine the social problems of Charles Dickens' England. They attended [A Christmas Carol](#) at the North Shore Music Theater and wrote a review. In addition, students are studying the Byzantine Empire and the rise of Islam. They have been asked to collect current event articles that deal with today's problems in the Middle East. Using these articles they will make connections with the historic events of that region.

Team McClintock also thanks Mrs. Jacoby and family, who organized our "Giving Party," as well as everyone who contributed to one of the charities we spotlighted. We wish everyone a happy New Year.

## Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade History on Team Jordan we are coming to the end of our study of the Byzantine Empire. We started the unit with a look at what caused an empire as great as Rome to slowly weaken and fall. Ask your child about the cycle the Romans found themselves in that caused a defi-

nite downward spiral! We looked at how the empire basically split in half—the West going through a difficult period of unrest and the East organizing itself as the Byzantine Empire. There are three main points I wanted to cover. First is what brought Rome down and what happened to the empire after the fall in 476 AD. Second is how Byzantium was like Rome but also how they learned from Rome's mistakes and changed some things. Third is a brief introduction to the "new" religion of the Byzantines: Islam. We will be finishing this chapter soon; the chapter test and notebook will be due in the coming weeks. After our study of the Byzantines, we can dive right into the Holy Roman Empire and feudal Europe.

I continue to include the art of the people and time we are studying into our lessons. Mosaics are the art form that has become most closely associated with the Byzantines. Did you see your student (alone or with a partner) designing and creating their own mosaics? Some were truly outstanding! All the mosaics will join the Celtic illuminations on the class wall. My classroom continues to evolve to reflect what we have learned; stop by for a look sometime or check out my website!

## Team Jordan English—Ms. Rasmussen

Team Jordan 7<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently reading *A Christmas Carol* and are looking forward to the field trip to the North Shore Music Theatre on December 13<sup>th</sup>. The team would like to thank you for any donations made to our *Spirit of Giving* drive which runs through December 16<sup>th</sup>. We are collecting food items and toiletries for The Nashua Soup Kitchen, Marguerite's Place and Greenbrier Terrace. See the homework website for details. A special thanks to Bridget Rines for making phone calls and decorating the collection boxes. Hope you all have a safe and happy holiday!

## Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Fordin

Seventh graders are well into second quarter and have started a unit of study on Geometry. For many adults this brings back bad memories because we were given formulas and had to memorize them for the test. Well, our students are using their spatial intelligence to learn how the various formulas are created so they can have a true understanding of the formulas and how they work. From here students will progress into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume.

Extra credit for both seventh and eighth grade has been made available. Remember that all extra credit is due December 20, 2005.

## Team Jordan Life Sciences—Mrs. Cleveland

Thank you for supporting our science program with your donations toward the cost of our "dissectible" items. We, the seventh grade science teachers, feel the dissections are a truly enriching experience for those feeling comfortable doing them. It is with your help that we can continue to provide more of these activities.

# Seventh Grade News

## Team Jordan Life Sciences (Cont'd)

We have done an in-depth study of the eye. After learning the parts of the eye we did many activities which involved peripheral vision, dominant eyes, blind spots, and optical illusions. We have also discussed various common eye disorders. Our scientists did very well with the eye dissections. They also did well making their eye models. (I think they will look and think of ping pong balls differently now) I hope you were impressed with their knowledge as they explained the parts to you as you "dissected" the model.

We are now moving from how we see to seeing the microscopic world. It is always a thrill to watch the students' excitement as they see these microscopic "critters" moving and diving in a mere drop of water.

## Team Emerson History—Mrs. Beale

We finished our unit, "Christianity and the Roman Empire" with our main emphasis on how the religion grew and spread and why it was so appealing to the masses. Some of the activities we did for this unit were illustrating and then pantomiming pieces from the Beatitudes, filling in a map showing the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire, watching a video showing the irony of Saul/Paul's transformation and journeys. Students worked on persuasive essays: "The Fire of Rome: Arson or Accident" as a segue into our next unit on the "Fall of The Roman Empire." Creating a timeline and preparing a solution for one of the many problems that led to the fall of the Empire were two learning activities that helped students in their understanding of this unit. Next we will take a look at the mighty Byzantine Empire and the culture that emerges as the center of the Roman Empire moves from Rome to Constantinople.

## Team Emerson English—Mrs. Jahns

### News Article: The Spirit of the Season

By: Melanie, Team Emerson Student

Over the past few weeks, Team Emerson's English classes have been reading A Christmas Carol, a classic story by Charles Dickens, an astonishing author. This is a well-known book that many people have read, and it is getting everyone ready for the giving season. Therefore, Team Emerson is trying to show more benevolence\* by donating to charities that lend a hand to children of all ages. These people have not had the easiest time and could use some help from our school to get back on track. (Ask your student for the hand-out.) We have also worked with vocabulary\*, story comprehension, characterization, and setting. We illustrated our favorite quotes from Dickens' writing and explained their importance. Also, we have looked for real world connections to this story and found many in advertisements and other places.

In addition, we are seeing the play "A Christmas Carol" at the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, MA. It will be a time of affability\* for genial\* students. This is a very exciting play and we are all looking forward to seeing it after we have read the book.

Our team hopes you and your family have a happy holiday season.

## Team Emerson Science—Mrs. Evans

Thank you for your continued support of our science program. We collected enough donation money and, therefore, were able to order lamb lungs and pig hearts for two additional dissections. The kinesthetic experience from these two labs reinforces the importance of maintaining a strong and healthy heart and smoke-free lungs.

Observing birth, head on collisions, and unusual eating habits—Where are these amazing events taking place? Right before our eyes—under the microscope, of course!! Our microbiologists recently had an opportunity to observe a variety of microscopic organisms, including: rotifers, paramecium, volvox, euglena, euplotes and stentors. The unique behaviors, movements, and habits of these one-celled organisms were easily observed using our compound light microscopes. Ask your child to tell you about the "package" we received from the prominent owner of Micro Scientific in Washington, DC. Their willingness to respond to her "unusual" request, and their appropriate attitude throughout the whole process made me very proud.

Recently, while practicing their skill using graduated cylinders, our students met "Denis the Meniscus". Because the water forms a "smile" when it is poured into a glass graduated cylinder, finding the meniscus is not always easy. With a lot of patience, careful observation and much practice our scientists were successful at determining the meniscus. We are now "balancing our act" using triple beam balances. The next challenge using the triple beam balance and the graduated cylinders is to determine the weight of water. After completing this lab, the students should conclude that the weight of water in grams is equal to its volume of water in ml.

In a few weeks, the seventh grade students will be "singing" their way through the respiratory system--soon, ask any Team Emerson seventh grader to share our rendition of "Respiration, Respiration" (sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells").

## Team Emerson Math—Mrs. Hall

We are well into second quarter and have started a unit of study on Geometry. For many adults this brings back bad memories because we were given formulas and had to memorize them for the test. Well, our students are using their spatial intelligence to learn how the various formulas are created so they can have a true understanding of the formulas and how they work. From here students will progress into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume.

Please keep a watchful eye out for using their multiple intelligences and creative sides to show off what they have learned thus far in math. We have students working on movies, plays, poetry, games and other creative mediums, to demonstrate their understanding of various mathematical concepts. Who would have thought art, drama, music and poetry could be used to teach and learn mathematics!

# Eighth Grade News

## Team 3 Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

Earth science students have completed the module on the solar system. I hope that you have had a chance to speak to your son or daughter about the stargazing exercise. Students find the topic of planets and the sun to be very interesting which causes us to sidetrack from time to time, especially when the conversation turns to space exploration.

Space exploration is the last topic in this module and it will include several experiments about the science of flight. Students will pair up for the final project of the unit designing, building, and testing a model plane/rocket. The project will require research and then development of their idea. They will be given a list of materials that they have to use to build their prototype. They may add to the materials, but it is not necessary. At the end of this project all students will enjoy watching the movie "October Sky." Hopefully we will wrap (no pun intended) things up by Christmas vacation.

Speaking of vacation, I wish each and everyone a happy healthy holiday season. Enjoy the season!!

## Team 3 U.S. History—Mr. Twichell

Team 3 enjoyed a successful and informative field trip to the Isle of Shoals. Much of the information and sights fit right in to our study of the Revolutionary War which was studied in some detail. New Hampshire's contribution to the winning effort was emphasized.

After a brief study of our country under the Articles of Confederation, we studied the Constitutional Convention, the goals of the Constitution and the major principles that were used as a guide for the document. We are now beginning a detailed study of the Constitution article by article. We look forward to some role playing exercises related to the functioning of our government to be culminated with a mock trial.

## Team 3 English—Mrs. Cicciu

'Tis the season...to realize time is whizzing by, but there is still so much to do! That overwhelmed feeling? The English students have many projects "in the works." They are learning, through whole class, paired, and individual writing opportunities, to write a detailed, organized essay on one topic. Since they have just completed three-page creative stories, the students will be expected to utilize their observation that diction, figurative language, imagery, and sentence variety add to the appeal of a piece of writing while writing their nonfiction pieces. The goal with eighth graders is to develop a personal writing style, to "show" rather than "tell." They are challenged to make readers feel like they are *there* and are absorbing the scene or the passion for the argument.

Team 3 students are reading from the adventure genre this month—journeying through natural disasters or challenging exploits in the "real" world. Students may choose nonfiction or fiction. Their culminating project will be an oral presentation of one tense scene from the book. They will have a list of criteria which will guide them in their practice of their delivery and upon which the final evaluation will be based. Parents should expect to become an audience during the "rehearsal" stage; your honest input will be appreciated so that on the day of the delivery, students will be confident in

their presentation skills and effective in their delivery to the class. In January, students will be reading from the classics genre. Again, parents may want to guide students in their selection of a book from their childhood that was a memorable experience.

In January, parents will be expected to help students develop a calendar of meeting dates for students to work outside of school on their radio play projects.

A last important date for Team 3 is Friday, December 16, 2005, when the team will be sponsoring the monthly middle school dance. Proceeds will be used to fund two community service projects. One is to supply sporting equipment and books for schools in Lesotho, a tiny country inside South Africa. Students have begun a pen pal exchange with students in that country and are learning about culture and, in particular, the primitive conditions in which these children live. The second project will focus on helping the victims of the flooding in Walpole, NH.

## Team 3 Math—Mrs. Mezzocchi

It is hard to believe that the calendar year is nearing its end. Quarter 2 is half over and the students are growing, both physically and intellectually. In Power Packed Algebra, the students have finished the units on quadratics and factoring polynomials. They are quickly realizing that although they have learned and have been assessed on each concept, these concepts reappear again when least expected. Presently we are working on rational expressions, equations and inequalities, all of which they have already mastered using integer coefficients and linear equations. But now we have added exponential and quadratic equations to our toolkit and this has complicated matters. These students are such enthusiastic *mathematicians* that I thoroughly enjoy working with them.

The Gateways classes have been doing a lot of work with spreadsheets and geometric formulas this term. They have investigated the change in volume when the dimensions of a figure are doubled by using origami to make boxes. We will be doing more origami as the holidays approach. The classes in origami tie together many geometric concepts and art. There is always excitement during these classes and the decorations are beautiful.

The Pre-Algebra classes are going through a transformation from doing calculations in their head to actually writing the verbal form for all their problems. This is a difficult concept for most students but they are giving it their best shot. Taking a word problem through the whole process of writing the verbal form, labeling using variables, writing the algebraic equation and finally solving it, is a huge task. We will be spending a lot of our time this term on mastering these skills.

These classes, too, will work with *Origami* before the holidays. So keep your eyes open for the beautiful cubes and pinwheels that will be coming home for the Holidays. Happy Holidays to everyone and let's hope for a Happy New Year!

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# Eighth Grade News

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## **Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle**

Students here have been complaining that there hasn't been enough work. So, I came to their aid with all kinds of information and charts which gave a good indication of why we, the American colonists, were in a state over this tax and that tax. This, of course, would end with Lexington and Concord. Once corralled, the 6500 British soldiers and roughly 1,000 loyalists would remain bottled up til the following March 17<sup>th</sup> — that's almost a year!

This is the kind of thing we're now studying. We've been watching the new fledgling Congress dream up a new Continental Army and dispatch George Washington to lead it. We've made up charts on how both sides stack up at the outset of the war. We will continue with all aspects of the Revolution for a while yet.

In January, we'll study the new national government under the Articles of Confederation. Once one sees the things the government couldn't do to meet its obligations, then it's an easy notion to understand that a new and stronger document was needed to pull the country together and govern more efficiently. So a new constitution does become a necessity. A convention will be called and we will study the document, the Founding Fathers, and the 27 Amendments that have been added to it.

There will be at least two maps and a project due before the semester is over. As we speak, 97% of Team Prescott has secured passing grades, the vast majority clinging to the higher end of the spectrum!

## **Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond** **8<sup>th</sup> Graders Learn What Happens...When the Ground Begins to *Move***

Mt. St. Helens continues to puff steam and ash twenty-five years after its catastrophic eruption in 1980. A few months ago, Pakistan was rattled by a strong earthquake. Last December, a horrified world watched as a tsunami washed ashore in Indonesia. News of glaciers melting around Mt. Everest as a possible result of global warming has scientists and environmental policy-makers scurrying. The earth continues to provide a showcase of natural events as students in Mr. Bond's science classes have been exploring the phenomena of two of the planet's most extraordinary spectacles...volcanoes and earthquakes.

In the weeks to come, students will be experiencing first-hand what it takes to design and build a skyscraper that remains standing when the earth beneath it begins to move. Playing the roles of architects, engineers and contractors, earth science students will be brainstorming, sketching, drafting and building scale balsawood models of 150 foot skyscrapers, then subjecting them to a simulated earthquake. The quakes will be generated by a machine designed to simulate the seismic waves that result during an earthshaking event. As the buildings are "put to the test," they will

be videotaped, and the videos will be played back so that each student can evaluate the stress points in their building, as well as pinpoint the section of the building that failed first. Last year, our best engineered building withstood a 9.0 magnitude quake for a period of 15 seconds. And, while many buildings withstood a minimum 5.0 quake, by the conclusion of the project, we had accumulated a pretty big pile of broken balsa sticks! We'll see how this year's buildings do!

P.S. To get a better idea of some of the topics your student is exploring this year in earth science class, in addition to homework, study guides and some of the activities they will participate in, check our Earth Science Department website at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd>. You can even check out "Are You A Super Sleuth?" or get an up-to-the-minute weather report from our new weather station!

## **Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu**

# Eighth Grade News

## Prescott Math with Mr. Jahns

My Pre-Algebra classes are about halfway through our third unit, and may have done so by the time you read this article. We have primarily been working on Integers (both positive and negative whole numbers) and the rules for adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. There will be a Unit Test, given in the second half of Term 2. We'll then go back to Algebra and integrate our Integer skills. We'll be moving beyond one-step equations and inequalities, doing more complicated multi-step problems in the next unit. Word problems and using Algebra as a method of problem-solving will be emphasized for the rest of the school year.

Algebra I students, having done all of the above last year, are concentrating more on a formal approach to learning the properties needed to understand the steps of equation solving, such as the Distributive, Commutative and Associative Properties, Identity Elements, Properties of Zero, etc. We are currently concentrating on the process and ramifications of graphing linear equations, and how this related to "direct variations" and "functions".

We continue to have homework most nights because dough doesn't turn into bread without a little kneading. I can only provide the ingredients and a little yeast. The students "knead" to roll up his or her sleeves and do the work! Extra Study Sessions are available Thursday after school, 2:15 - 3:15, or when the questions run dry, whichever comes first.

## Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Fordin

Seventh graders are well into second quarter and have started a unit of study on Geometry. For many adults this brings back bad memories because we were given formulas and had to memorize them for the test. Well, our students are using their spatial intelligence to learn how the various formulas are created so they can have a true understanding of the formulas and how they work. From here students will progress into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume.

Eighth graders have been busy working with equations. Using correct math vocabulary while describing how an equation can be solved has been a focus this month. Students have been distributing, collecting, simplifying, combining, and modeling all types of equations. We look forward to working with integers and absolute value, and moving into the realm of solving multi-step equations.

Extra credit for both seventh and eighth grade has been made available. Remember that all extra credit is due December 20, 2005.

## Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade history, we completed our look at the French and Indian War and spent a good deal of time looking at the "chain of events" that connected the French and Indian War to the American Revolution. It was truly a time of worsening relations between the colonies and their mother country. We spent time on many events and Acts but focused on the Stamp Act, the Boston Massacre (and looked at Paul Revere's depiction of it), the Boston Tea Party and, of course, the Declaration of Independence. We even read the whole thing! A highlight was watching the portions of the musical "1776" that dealt with who should write it and the controversies surrounding the text of the Declaration.

We are now beginning a study of the American Revolution. We will start by looking at the advantages and disadvantages each side had and then move on through the long, sad course that war took.

## Team Jordan English—Ms. Rasmussen

Team Jordan 8<sup>th</sup> grade English students are currently reading *Monster* and gathering evidence for our upcoming debate. Recently, the students wrote thoughtful letters to their favorite authors to submit to the Letters About Literature contest while others participated in the FRA Americanism essay contest which asked the students "What Will My Vote Mean to Me?" Good Luck to all of the students who participated in both contests. After the holiday break, students will be choosing their groups for radio plays. Look for the calendar of due dates that will be sent home with students. I wish you all a festive holiday season and a Happy New Year!

## Team Jordan Earth Science—Mrs. Cleveland

Having completed our unit on meteorology, we began our study of geology. We have been discussing the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift. With various activities, we have been able to demonstrate how the heat of the mantle provides what is needed to move the plates that form the crust of the earth. We have also shown, in a lab, why the seafloor is lower than the continents. Our explorations will continue as we delve into the dynamics of volcanoes and earthquakes.

# LIFE SKILLS

## El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash

Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who will soon learn the first conjugation of verbs. Exciting stuff! Through this skill they will expand their vocabulary and greatly enhance their ability to communicate. We are proud at how quickly students have caught on to the concepts leading up to this critical skill. It reflects very well on their effort and work habits. Ask your son or daughter to share with you how we study verbs in Spanish class. It is probably not what you think!

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have just completed an important unit on the verbs Ser and Estar. We combined these two big verbs with our unit on health. Your student can now describe physical symptoms and communicate with a doctor and a pharmacist!

8<sup>th</sup> graders are now working on a performance assessment called “La Conferencia de Medicos”. It is a project that combines the medical/health vocabulary and grammar learned in this unit. The students will write and perform skits that are fun and show off our creative, dramatic side. We look forward to moving on to Direct Object Pronouns and working on a cultural project as we head into the Holidays.

Hasta la proxima vez.

## French—Madame Rankins

French students honored in the month of November:

V. Bajenaru      E. Tamposi  
B. Schaefer      N. Ullrich  
A. Zagorianakas

Grade 7 students are very busy speaking French to their classmates. Now that they know more vocabulary and verbs they can communicate with each other. A lot of progress is being made by most students.

Grade 8 students are speaking to each other about their routines at home as well as how they stay in good shape, stay healthy, etc. They have had many interesting conversations. There is a lot of effort shown by most students.

I would also like to welcome Madame Ravelle, who is teaching one 7<sup>th</sup> grade French class. She seems to be settled in here at HBMS and is doing a great job. Bienvenue, Madame!

## Family and Consumer Science

### Team Prescott

In Family and Consumer Sciences, Team Prescott is making individual projects. First, we made a felt quilt square to learn the fundamentals of sewing and following directions. Once we were done with this, we chose two stuffed animals that we wanted to make out of a catalog with about 200 choices. Some students chose more than two so that they could use them as presents for the holiday season. While we waited for our stuffed animals to arrive, we had some fun in the kitchen making delicious brownies. On the healthier side, later in the class we will be making pizza from scratch. When our projects arrived, Mrs. Sarvaiya taught separate lessons because everyone was working on a different project.

She was very patient with our difficulties in understanding the directions. She managed to help every one of us. We all enjoyed the sewing part because we could do it on our own, but it was also very important to learn about our nutritional needs.

In our recently finished library we watched a movie about the new food pyramid. After being inspired to live healthier, we started a packet on our daily nutrition and exercise. Inside this packet we learned how much of each food group we need to consume to lead a healthy life. We also went to [www.mypyramid.gov](http://www.mypyramid.gov) to get a personalized nutrition plan. In our packets, we followed the format for writing how much we ate, how much more or less food we needed, our daily exercise, and ways to improve.

The skills we learned in this class are unlike any other. They are important skills that we would not be able to learn on our own. We have learned how to live healthier and that will help us later in life because of the healthy habits we have formed. We also learned important life lessons such as responsibility by having tasks completed by deadlines and remembering daily to bring supplies. Although we are leaving this school next year, the skills that we acquired while having a blast in Family and Consumer Sciences will stay with us forever.

If any parents have any yarn or fabrics that they do not need at home, their donation to our class would be greatly appreciated.

**Written by Grace and Martha**

## Health & Wellness—Ms. White

My time with Team 3 has gone by quickly. We began class talking about eating disorders. We looked at biological, psychological, and social factors that contribute to eating disorders here in the United States. We analyzed magazines and were fascinated by the amount of articles, advertisements and pictures related to body image, weight loss, and dieting. Disappointment in our societal expectations for men and women was soon exchanged with acknowledgement of our empowerment to do what we can to change or, at least, not contribute to these impractical notions.

Much of our time was spent working on our adult CPR skills. Students have thus far had the opportunity to become certified in Adult CPR and First Aid. Students worked very hard to master the skills necessary to become certified. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who came in to help students work with the mannequins.

Students are currently working with Ms. Christy on career development. After their time with her we will pick up with Child and Infant CPR. We will finish our time together developing HIV Awareness Programs for a middle school population.

# Life Skills—Cont'd

## NON-FICTION

### READING SUGGESTIONS

#### MS. DUFRESNE/MS. LUCAS



<p><b>The Boys of Winter</b> . Coffey, Wayne. Crown Publishers, 2004 288p. Gr. 7+.</p> <p>The Boys of Winter brings the triumphant story of the 1980 U.S. Olympic hockey team to life. The basic plot of the team's underdog status, their amazing victory over the Soviet Union and going on to win the Gold Medal is well known. Coffey's real work was making this familiar story fresh for readers. He accomplished this goal through exhaustive interviews and unique details which shed noticeably more color on the basic plot details. The book is an entertaining read for both readers who are relatively new to the intricacies of the team as well as those readers who followed the team intently. Coffey's book is readable, interesting and well done.</p>	<p><b>Yao Ming: Gentle Giant of Basketball.</b> Krawiec, Richard. Greensboro: Avision, 2004 107p. Gr. 6-9</p> <p>Yao Ming is an NBA basketball star who comes from China and has fascinated the world with his talents. This short biography introduces younger students to Yao's years in China and his desire to play in the NBA. His parents were former basketball stars who were 6'7" and 6'3" respectively, so it wasn't a surprise when their son grew to an astounding 7'3" tall. There were many political deals made in order for Yao to come to the U.S. and play basketball and this short biography describes some of the problems Yao faced. Young basketball fans will enjoy this short biography.</p> <p><b>Basketball. Peg Kleppinger</b></p>
<p><b>The Story of Science: Aristotle Leads the Way</b> Hakim, Jeffrey MacFarland, Springfield Twp. High School Faculty</p>	<p><b>Escape from Earth.</b> Ackroyd, Peter. London: DK, 2003. 140p. Gr. 6-up.</p>
<p>Joy Hakim's <i>Story of Science</i> presents the history of science in an easily understandable manner. Students as well as adults will enjoy the mixing of fact, mythology, and philosophy that brings the beginnings of science as we know it today to life. If all the other volumes are as well written as this book, make room for the set on your shelves. <b>Sandy Krieg</b></p>	<p>This overview of space exploration chronicles man's journeys into space through text and illustration; sidebars and captioned photos profile the scientists and astronauts who helped to make history. Topics include space-related scientific advancements and humanity's future in the galaxy. "A visual and factual delight." <b>Space Exploration. Candy Blessing</b></p>

<p><b>Remember D-Day: The Plan, the Invasion, Survivor Stories.</b> Drez, Ronald J. Washington, D.C.: National Geographic, 2004 61p. Gr. 5-8.</p> <p><i>Remember D-Day</i> is a large format, well organized book covering the history of World War II in Europe, the planning and deceptions necessary to execute D-Day, and the invasion itself. The loss of life and the perils involved are all detailed and made more powerful by the quotes of men who were there. A timeline, bibliography and index will be helpful to your students. <b>Sandy Krieg</b></p>	<p><b>Some websites for finding great books</b></p> <p>ALA Resources for Parents, Teens and Kids Yalsa (Young Adult Library Services Assoc) <a href="http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.htm">http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.htm</a></p> <p>The Book Bag <a href="http://www.teenreads.com">www.teenreads.com</a></p> <p>Teen Hoopla <a href="http://www.ala.org/teenhoopla">www.ala.org/teenhoopla</a></p> <p>PSLA Book Reviews <a href="http://www.psla.org/association/committee/mediaselectionandreview/topforty.php3">http://www.psla.org/association/committee/mediaselectionandreview/topforty.php3</a></p>
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## Library Media Center—Eileen Ball

### WELCOME BACK!

Our beautiful library media center opened on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The room has new carpet, paint, windows and blinds and new tables. It looks spacious and like a room that you would want to come and visit. A BIG Thank You to all of the volunteers who helped set the room up.

September-November: Team 2 completed the "Computer History Makers" computer project with Mr. Gruce.

December-January: Team 6 students are in the process of working on the "Computer History Makers" computer project.

The library part of the "Computer History Makers" computer project is when both teams are given instruction on how to write works cited and take notes on note cards. After their time in the library, students complete a Powerpoint presentation in the computer lab with Mr. Gruce, using the notes taken during their time in the library.

# Music, Band, Drama & Clubs

## Winter Concert Dates

**Tues., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> —7:00pm**  
**High School Auditorium-**  
**Seventh Grade Chorus and**  
**Band**



**Wed., Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> —7:00pm**  
**High School Auditorium**  
**Eighth Grade Chorus and**  
**Band**

## Band

Seventh and eighth grade band students are currently preparing music for the winter concert. The seventh grade will be performing “Silent Night”, “Frosty the Snowman”, “A Chanukah Festival”, and “Manhattan Beach”.



The eighth grade will be performing “Christmas Bits and Pieces” based on traditional Christmas carols, “All for Chanukah”, and “Drummer’s Christmas Carol” based on “The Little Drummer Boy”. The eighth grade also performed “The Star Spangled Banner” and “America” at our annual Veterans Day Assembly. We were all very proud of their performance.

The dates for the winter concerts are Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> for seventh grade and Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> for eighth grade. Concerts will take place at the Hollis-Brookline High School Auditorium. Students should arrive at 7:15 and report for warm-ups in the chorus room. Concert dress for the concert will be as follows:

Girls- white shirt/blouse, black school length skirt or black dress pants, dress shoes

Boys- white collared shirt, black dress pants, tie, dress shoes

We are looking to a successful year. See you at the concerts.

# SPORTS & PHYS. ED.

## BOYS SOCCER

The Boys Soccer Team ended their season with a record of 6 wins, 3 losses and 1 tie. They played a hard fought semi-final playoff game, but lost to a very strong West Running Brook team. **Congratulations to Coach Lye and the team!!**



## GIRLS SOCCER

Coach John Gray and the girls soccer team finished the season with 11 wins and 1 tie. Semi-final playoffs were played on October 27<sup>th</sup> against Amherst where they returned home with a victory of 3 - 1 after a hard fought game. The girls then faced Hood in the finals on October 28<sup>th</sup> becoming the **Tri County Champions** by a score of 1 - 0. **CONGRATULATIONS to the Team and Coach Gray for an outstanding season and for holding onto the Championship Title for the 4th year in a row!!!**

## FIELD HOCKEY

Girls Field Hockey had a great season of six wins and four losses placing them in the semi finals against Milford on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October where the girls returned home victorious. On October 27<sup>th</sup> the girls traveled to Sanborn for the finals where high energy and the "Want to Win" brought them home as **Tri County Champions** with a win of 1 - 0. **Congratulations to the Team and to Coach Patty Smith!**



## VOLLEYBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School Volleyball Team had a great season participating with schools such as Fairgrounds, Penichuck, Milford, Boynton, Sunapee, Elm Street, Mountain View, Timberlane and Nashua Catholic. They worked hard, had fun, did an incredible job producing some flawless serves and going at times 100% at the service line and **ended their season 11 - 1**. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the girls faced Mountain View in the semi-finals with yet another victory placing them in the finals on October 27<sup>th</sup> against Fairgrounds where they became the **Tri County Champions**. **CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Amy Dunbar and the team for an AWESOME season!**



## CROSS COUNTRY

Coaches Ron Johnston and Paul Picariello worked with thirty-six runners this year. Twenty boys and sixteen girls worked very hard to condition themselves for the meets with commitment and dedication for this unique team sport. The teams improved their performance daily and achieved some strong results. The teams participated in the **Tri-County League meet** on October 15<sup>th</sup> competing in the pouring rain with thirty-seven different schools and later traveled to **Londonderry to compete in the State Championships** on October 22<sup>nd</sup> where the teams saved their best performance for last running outstanding races, ending a great season.



## BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School boys basketball team has been hard at work with practice and games. The offense has been great with their fast breaks. Defense has done a great job with man to man and rebounding. The team's effort to support one another has given all players confidence, and led them to **wins against Milford, South Meadow, Litchfield and Weare.**



## GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School girls basketball team has also been working hard with practice and games. The offense has been working in a balanced team attack while defense has been scrambling and aggressive. Great ball movement and unselfish play has led to their three **wins against Milford, South Meadow, Litchfield and Weare.**

## WRESTLING

An informational meeting for parents of students interested in the Wrestling program was held on Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. **Practices** began on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and take place **every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:30 until 4:00 p.m. at the middle school.**



We will compete in **eight dual meets and two State Tournaments**. There is also the **opportunity for wrestlers to compete in several OPTIONAL weekend tournaments** throughout the season, the first taking place in **Londonderry on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**. Our first dual meet will take place on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> against Nashua Catholic**, here at the middle school. Wrestling is a very demanding and intense sport that requires commitment from everyone involved. There are no tryouts and everyone that participates in the program is guaranteed to wrestle. Coaching the wrestling team again this year is Rick Melillo, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Guidance Counselor.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION—Seventh Grade

The seventh grade students completed the field hockey unit playing mini games and enjoyed a week of adventure activities where they had to work cooperatively to solve a problem. Currently they are working on a personal fitness unit. The students have looked at their own habits (eating, sleeping, studying, activity) and feelings about fitness. They have learned how to take their pulse and what various activities do to their heart rate. The students figured out their own target heart rate (where to exercise to strengthen their heart) and are beginning their self evaluations on health-related and skill-related fitness components. After learning what components are their strengths and weaknesses are they will use a chart to list activities that they enjoy doing to help them improve these areas. Our next unit will be volleyball.



**NOTICE:** Our locker rooms are finally ready for use and the students have been given their lockers!! Students will be required to change for class beginning in January.

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## **Inside Story Headline**

**aged them during the season and for making the game “fun”.**

Mrs. Goyette closed the assembly with a sincere “Thank You” to all students, parents, teams, and coaches for all their time and support of the assembly.