



# Hollis Brookline Middle School

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

December 11, 2006

### From the Administration

On November 22<sup>nd</sup> the HBMS faculty participated in their second full professional day. **Curriculum Mapping** was the focus, with the integration of **differentiated instruction**. You may ask, what exactly is mapping? Teachers have been writing **diary maps**; looking back on a unit to identify the concept, skills, activities, assessment and essential questions. It is the means to make curriculum alive! Heidi Hayes Jacobs describes mapping as the hub: the tool to analyze what is taught and when, to identify redundancies and/or gaps in the curriculum and to address new initiatives and monitor progress.

During the professional development day, teachers diary mapped the month of November on an electronic template. Once completed, the teachers worked in mixed groups to highlight **evidence of differentiated opportunities**. Later, by department, teachers reviewed their maps for differentiated instruction by ability.

Administration modeled for teachers how to create a curriculum map and how to use the map to examine differentiated instruction within their classrooms. Our plan is to practice mapping as we research software options and prepare for Heidi Hayes Jacobs on February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Our fall **Recognition Assembly** was extremely well attended. Over two hundred parents joined the student body and staff to recognize students for academic achievement, interscholastic competition and performance in drama. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade student My Voice survey results relate directly to your involvement. Specifically 96.8% responded 'yes' to the statement, 'My parents care about my education.'

The **My Voice** student survey was processed by The Center for Research and Educational Advancement. The report is organized around each of the 8 conditions that make a difference in promoting student aspirations as identified by Dr. Russell J. Quaglia; Belonging, Heroes, Sense of Accomplishment, Fun & Excitement, Curiosity & Creativity, Spirit of Adventure, Leadership & Responsibility and Confidence to Take Action. The results are fascinating and warrant time to analyze.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007 ninety three of our eighth grade students will participate in **the National Assessment of Educational Progress** (NAEP). NAEP, also known as The Nation's Report Card, measures student achievement in the United States. The program is a congressional project of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The students will be selected by NAEP, and a letter will be sent from us to inform you if your child has been selected to participate. **For more information visit <http://nationsreportcard.gov>.**

Before closing we would like to address a couple of **housekeeping items**, supervision after school and student clothing. First, basketball and wrestling are underway as well as the continuation of Art Club and the musical production of Oklahoma. Students are encouraged to participate either directly or as a spectator. In either case he/she is in a **supervised area**. Students may not walk off school grounds (i.e., to Dunkin Donuts or Monument Square) and then return later. Our primary concern is the safety of your child.

Secondly, although we have roller coasted from 65 degrees to 20 degrees it is bound to stay cold for a while. Our heat is set at 67 degrees; therefore it is important for students to be **dressed appropriately with warm layers**. Many students have gone from flip flops to Uggs and back again! In this case, the comfort and good health of your child is our focus.

Finally, on behalf of the entire HBMS staff, we wish you a warm, peaceful holiday and a happy and healthy New Year!

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal  
Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Assistant Principal

### PTSA President's Report

We can't believe the holiday season is upon us already. The snow is just around the corner!

We are very excited to tell you that our PTSA membership is in the 260's. If you haven't done so, it is not too late to join. We meet on the third Friday of the month. Not only are we here for the benefit of our students, our meetings are a way to hear about things going on in our school system and school district. Mrs. Goyette and Mrs. Rizzo-Saunders are very generous with their time and their sharing of information.

We would like to thank Rich Melillo for a wonderful job as our guest speaker for Community Conversations. We hope those who attended enjoyed his 3-night series, Understanding and Managing Your Emotions.

We once again look forward to assisting during 8th grade Generations. It is such a great opportunity to spend time with our children and other parents in our community. The workshops are so varied that there is something that will interest everyone. We hope parents of 8th graders can attend the December 14<sup>th</sup> event.

We celebrated Thanksgiving with our wonderful HBMS staff by offering them a delicious buffet. Family and friends of our students contributed a huge variety of amazing dishes. We would like to thank all of you who helped, whether it was your time and/or cooking expertise.

Quick Reminders:

You can order or renew magazine subscriptions by logging onto [www.qsp.com](http://www.qsp.com), click on the "Just Shopping" link and enter the Hollis/Brookline ID# 425013255. The school will receive credit for the order all year long.

You can drop off your BoxTops4Education in the front office. Hannaford Helps Schools: Place your certificate from your qualifying purchases in the envelope in the front office.

Stop & Shop A+ Bonus Bucks: Designate HBMS using your own Stop & Shop card and our school ID #05282. Do this on line at [www.stopandshop.com/aplus](http://www.stopandshop.com/aplus) or in person at the store.

We wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.

Susan Holroyd [sbolroyd@charter.net](mailto:sbolroyd@charter.net)  
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# School and Community News

## Christa McAuliffe Planetarium Events

Special events at the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium:

- The second Friday of each month is Teen Night. Teens aged 13-19 are invited to come to the Planetarium for a special educational yet entertaining program. Check the website for specific program details each month. [www.starhop.com](http://www.starhop.com)
- December 14<sup>th</sup> is the Geminid Meteor Show, expected to peak early morning between 2:00 and 4:00 a.m.
- December 15<sup>th</sup> is Spectroscopy: Light, Color and Astronomy. Learn from a re-enactment of the Kirchoff Bunsen flame test experiment of 1859.
- December 22<sup>nd</sup> is Fun Astronomical Facts for the Family night. Space trivia at its best!
- December 29<sup>th</sup> is Planets for the Family. Learn where to find planets in the night sky then make and take your favorite planet home on a wall-hanging designed and made by you!

## Hollis Woman's Club Holiday Coffee

It's time for the Hollis Woman's Club's annual holiday coffee which is being held on December 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-12:00 at Faith Baptist Church on Wheeler Road. Come and enjoy some coffee and holiday treats while socializing with old and new friends. Learn more about the Hollis Woman's Club, and perhaps even do some shopping! This was a very successful event last year – Don't miss it THIS year!! For more information, please call Diana Kroeger, President at 465-2392.

## PTSA Reflections Contest

**REMINDER:** The deadline for the PTSA Reflections Contest is Friday, January 5, 2007. All pieces that are being submitted should be turned in to the HBMS office. Judging will be done the week of January 8th.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 12	7th Grade Band Concert 7:00pm HBHS Auditorium
December 13	8th Grade Band Concert 7:00pm HBHS Auditorium
December 14	Generations Day - 8th grade North Shore Music Theater - 7th
December 15	PTSA Meeting - 8:30am
December 18	Basketball - St. Joe's -- 3:30pm
December 19	Ice Skating -- Tm. 2
December 20	Co-op Board Meeting -- 6:00pm
December 21	Wrestling -- 4:00pm
December 22	Staff/Student Volleyball -- 1:00pm
<b>December 25-Jan. 1</b>	<b>No School - Holidays</b>
<b>January 2</b>	<b>School Resumes</b>
January 4	Basketball - Litchfield - 3:30pm
January 8	Wrestling -- 4:00pm
January 11	Basketball - So. Meadow -3:30pm
<b>January 15</b>	<b>No School, Martin Luther King</b>
January 17	Co-op School Board Mtg.--6:00pm
January 19	PTSA Meeting -- 8:30am
January 26	Dance -- 7:00pm
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Early Release Day -- 11:55am</b>

# Seventh Grade News

## Team McAuliffe Math---Mrs. Fordin

Students received their first math WOW for this year a couple of weeks back. Initially, they were asked to write up a draft solution for this problem. We then spent considerable time identifying the characteristics of high quality work, which students were then asked to incorporate into their own finished solution to the WOW. I am excited at the high quality of work that was passed in by so many students!

We just wrapped up a unit on Scientific Notation and have begun working with Absolute Value. This unit is a self-paced, "tiered" unit that requires that each student and I meet to discuss the level at which they will be working. Although we just recently began this unit students appear to appreciate the amount of choice that is available for them.

During the week of Dec. 18 we will be working on making kaleidoscopes in math class. Be on the lookout for these clever, colorful devices! Happy Holidays!

## Team McAuliffe History-Mrs. Connelly

On Team McAuliffe, we have finished our study of the fall of the Roman Empire. We learned about the beginning of Christianity, the new religion, including where it originated, what the beliefs were/are included, and most importantly the effect it had on the Roman Empire. While learning about the fall of Rome, we discovered that the empire split in two, one section falling to the barbaric invaders and the other becoming the great eastern empire of Byzantium.

One of our favorite parts of the last unit was the creation of a Roman theater mask, pictures of which are online for your viewing pleasure. The students were asked to research a figure from Roman or early Christendom history or literature. Then they worked with a partner to create a mask to represent that person. The masks ranged from Julius Caesar to Cleopatra to Neptune and many other famous people or gods of the period. The results are fantastic!

Since then we have been working to integrate technology into our History work. Students have used the web to locate ancient Byzantium locations labeling maps, created vocabulary puzzles, and are currently making fantastic travel brochures about Byzantium. As we wrap up our brochures in the computer lab, we will celebrate our efforts with the upcoming Victorian tea.

You are invited to your child's class on the 21<sup>st</sup> to have tea with us in Mrs. Connelly's room. Students will share their projects, cookies, play parlor games and enjoy some time with families and friends to celebrate their hard work. Please make time to come, look at their accomplishments, and share their learning about history with them.

We will make Celtic illuminations and plan to write our names in Cyrillic, which is named after St. Cyril, a missionary from Byzantium. It was invented during the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD and has been adapted to write over 50 different languages.

All of the students' works will be on display during the tea. As we continue to learn about the changes that occurred to Byzantium with the influence of Islam and Mohammad, we will see how everything connects as we move on to the Middle Ages and the Crusades in the New

Year. We hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup> and I wish you and your family a happy holiday season.

## Team McAuliffe Science-Mrs. Evans

Parents, thank you very much for donating "dissection" money so that we can continue teaching science through a hands-on approach. We have collected enough money so that we can buy lamb hearts and lamb lungs from Blood Farm in Groton, Ma. Our next dissection will be in January.

The students are actively involved in solving a genetic and forensic mystery. Three sets of parents (Mr. and Mrs. Dom N Ant, Mr. and Mrs. Gene E Tics and Mr. and Mrs. Herod E Tee) all claim to be the parents of an amnesia victim (CPR mannequin). Could the red-haired parents have a daughter with blonde hair? Is it possible for the brown eyed parents to have a blue eyed daughter? Could parents with type A blood and type B blood have a daughter with type O blood? By using their knowledge of genetically inherited dominant and recessive traits, our geneticists will match the rightful parents to our Mystery Maiden, and write a legal document (Affidavit) confirming their findings.

The Mystery Maiden also claims that someone has taken her frog pendant from the necklace she was wearing. She remembers a bit of a struggle, but cannot recall the details. Whose fingerprints are on the necklace? Whose blood type matches that of the blood found under the victim's fingernails? Will the footprint found at the scene help us determine the height of the suspect? Does the "DNA fingerprint" supply any incriminating evidence? Using all the clues, detective reasoning and scientific evidence, the suspects (staff members) will be narrowed down until the students have enough evidence to zero in on one suspect.

One final word..."Move over Sherlock, a new generation of detectives has emerged"

## Team McAuliffe English-Mrs. Rasmussen

Seventh grade students are in the midst of reading Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, and there are several activities planned to enhance not only our understanding of the novel but of the Victorian period as well. First, on **Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** we will be taking part in a well loved Victorian pastime, ice skating. **From 9:40 to 11:40** Team McAuliffe students will take over the ice at Conway Arena in Nashua. Then on Thursday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>** the entire seventh grade will travel to Beverly Ma. to experience The North Shore Music Theater's sensational production of *A Christmas Carol*. Finally on **Thursday, December 21**, the day will be dedicated to everything Victorian. From Victorian fashion to a Victorian tea party, students will get to enjoy learning about and recreating some well known Victorian traditions.

Looking ahead to January, Team McAuliffe English students will be reading and writing biographies. The genre of the month will be biography and students are to begin thinking about what well known person or persons they would like to read about and write about. Perhaps a good biography would make a great holiday gift? Enjoy the season and Thank You to all who have donated items for our collections. It is greatly appreciated.

# Seventh Grade News

## Team Jordan Math-Mrs. Hall

Seventh Grade Math is concentrating on all things fractional: GCFs, LCMs, Reducing, Comparing, Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, Dividing, etc. Soon we will be spending time on a special program designed to drill multiplication facts in a fun way (read “game”) I was privileged to see “Timez Attack” demo’d by the president of the company at the NECC conference in San Diego last July and was very impressed. It seems to succeed even when many other methods have failed before. We will then proceed into decimals, percents, ratios and proportions.

## 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 definite 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 have 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 Science-Ms. Ellerin

Students are in the middle of our circulatory system unit. Linking our previous unit on cells, students began the exploration of our circulatory system by studying blood cells under the microscope. Students viewed prepared slides of human blood. Using the skills developed with our earlier microscope work, students focused at 400X magnification in order to see red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets. At this magnification, students were able to see which cells contained nuclei and which did not. Students were also able to compare the size of each type of blood cell and relative concentration. Using an able-bodied class mate and a piggy-back demonstration, students discussed why red blood cells get rid of their nuclei.

Our jelly bean blood lab gave students a chance to integrate math work with science. In this lab, students were able to determine the percentages of each type of blood cell as well as plasma. Though students couldn’t eat the jelly beans, they did get to eat pretzels as we figured out the big picture question, “Where does body heat come from?” This led to an exploration of cellular respiration and a quick tour of the periodic table as students built their own made up marshmallow molecule.

We then moved onto blood typing. As a kinesthetic activity to introduce the compatibility of blood types, each student be-

came a red blood cell with a given antigen “name tag”. Each student was also given a plasma antibody in the form of a red or black pen. We then began our game of “blood tag”. To reinforce this idea of blood typing, students participated in a simulated blood typing lab. Students needed to determine the blood type of four different people using a blood typing kit. Students analyzed the clotted or clear blood to determine the blood type of Mr. Smith, Mr. Green, Mr. Jones and Ms. Brown. We then made use of a wonderful web site at nobelprize.org. Students became emergency room doctors for part of the class as they analyzed blood samples from three patients who needed blood transfusions. Students have so far built two models: a blood parts model and a blood vessel model. We have also used class time to develop study guides on parts of the blood and blood vessels.

Within the next week, students will be performing their first dissection on the heart. Into the early part of December students will get a first hand look at how stimulants and depressants affect heart rates when we begin our Daphnia lab. To culminate our unit, we’ll be talking about advances made in biotechnology with innovations such as polyheme and the bionic heart.

## Team Jordan English-Mrs. Mendola

This month, we are studying Dickens’ classic novel, *A Christmas Carol*. As we head into another frosty New England winter, it’s fitting that we reflect on Dickens’ universal theme of goodness overcoming despair. Ebenezer Scrooge begins as a cold and lonely character, “solitary as an oyster” (Dickens 2). By the uplifting end of the novel, he reinvents himself as a joyful, charitable man, eliciting “a splendid laugh, a most illustrious laugh. The father of a long, long line of brilliant laughs!” (Dickens 114). I love that quote!

Just as Scrooge begins to make a difference in the lives of Tiny Tim and others, you have made a difference in the lives of New Hampshire children by donating welcome bundles to the Antrim Girls Shelter, as well as books and tapes for the children of incarcerated parents through the New Hampshire Department of Corrections’ Family Connections Center. While Scrooge’s old friend, Marley, forged his ponderous chain with each link representing a selfish act, we have forged a decorative chain in our classroom with each link representing a charitable donation you have brought in. Thank you so much for your contributions!

For our Dickens unit, we have each chosen a Victorian topic to research. Most of us have researched a Victorian societal ill and have developed business letters to suggest ways to alleviate the harsh living and working conditions of the working class of Victorian England. Some of us have researched Victorian fashion and architecture, as well. In the lab, I have looked over many a shoulder at creative, fact-filled letters. Nice work!

After having worked so hard on our immigration narratives, interviews, essays, Victorian letters, and multiple book reviews, our students deserve some fun times. We look forward to attending “The Christmas Carol” play at the North Shore Music Theater, as well as ice skating at the Conway Arena. Also, for our interdisciplinary Victorian unit, our English classes will be developing Found Poems based on Dickens’ figurative language. We will create découpage representations of our poems, so please send in Victorian images that you encounter — either in print or on the internet.

Have a wonderful holiday and enjoy the break before we begin our Short Story unit!

# Eighth Grade News

## Team Hypatia Science—Mrs. Smith

During the month of December we will begin our studies in plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes respectively. I will have presented a power point presentation in plate tectonics as an introduction to this topic. Students will become quite curious about the geological processes of our Earth and how they affect their lives. Please ask your child to describe Pangaea. I am sure they will be able to give an accurate description into the theory. This unit will aid each student's understanding of what a restless Earth we really live on.

Speaking of the restless land masses, we will be following plate tectonics with another unit, volcanoes. Each student will report about his/her favorite volcano. They will adopt this volcano and research its characteristics as well as give its exact location using longitude and latitude. Students will also participate in labs replicating a volcanic eruption and using a topographic map to profile a volcano.

Later students will study earthquakes by using our open lab. Our junior scientists will explore websites that enable them to locate past and recent earthquakes, realize how the intensity scales were developed, and read about a famous strong earthquake in New Madrid, MO. The students at California State University have designed an interactive website for students of high school and middle school level to become virtual seismologists. Many students will receive a certificate of completion. After completing various assignments, the best is yet to come: building a tower capable of withstanding an earthquake with a magnitude of five to nine on the Richter Scale of Intensity. Our days will be numbered with frustration, excitement, and then, in some, disappointment!! It's fun to see the intensity (sorry for the pun) in each student as they wait anxiously to test their tower.

Don't forget as the second quarter slips away to bring in those extra credit articles on plate tectonics, volcanoes, and earthquakes. The due date for the extra points is January 12.

**"The Z Block Gang"** Volcanoes were the topic of discussion for the most recent unit! Some were tall and cylindrical, others were tall and stout, and then others were caldron like. If you know volcanoes then you know we were speaking of strato volcanoes, cinder cones, shield and then the ever evolving super volcanoes. Students have participated in labs where they have erupted volcanoes and observed an erupting cinder cone. Another lab was completed when students profiled Mt. Capulin. Students also viewed "Super Volcano" which erupted lots of discussion on Yellowstone National Parks stability. The next unit will be in earthquakes -- what an earth shattering experience that will be!

## Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

Students recently handed in DAR contest essays on Jamestown. This essay was assigned over the period of one month to allow students time to develop their writing. We worked on using specific evidence to support their thoughts, in addition to spelling, grammar and organization. The result were quite impressive. In the meantime, we continued to move through history.

In the past month we have discussed and read about the struggles of establishing colonies. Students learned about the after effects of the French and Indian War (Seven Years War) and how upsetting "The Acts" were to the colonist. "The Acts," when compared to their own lives, gave them an understanding as to why the American Revolution happened. We are currently gearing up to the battles of the Revolution.

Students have been making great use of Team Hypatia's websites. On the American History page they can print out various forms and view homework assignments. Feel free to

visit and check things out! <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1>

## Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

Eighth Grade Math has already worked on "Timez Attack" (see Team Jordan—Math), with some very impressive results for the students who have finished it. All students will have the chance to finish as soon as we have it installed on our school network. We are also doing a review of all things fractional, but going deeper for the 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

Algebra is on track and making good progress. We have been studying Linear Equations and Inequalities. Students were exposed to some non-linear equations, such as those involving absolute value. We've also worked with functions and function notation. Most recently, we've been doing a little Statistics, including Measures of Central Tendency, Stem and Leaf graphs and Box-n-Whisker plots. By the time you read this, we should have finished our current unit on inequalities and taken the unit test. We are all impressed that we will make p. 400 in their textbook before we are halfway through second term.

## Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruposso

English students on Team Hypatia are thoroughly into Mystery / Suspense / Tension, our unit on style. They have practiced analyzing style using short stories such as "Runaway Rig" and poems such as "Foul Shot." The independent reading journals give practice for analyzing the elements of style: diction, emphasis, rhythm, imagery / figurative language. The ultimate purpose of the study is to help students energize their own writing using vivid verbs and precise nouns, varied sentence structure to create a desired rhythm / flow, as well as "show, don't tell." They have written some wonderful poems and many have an excellent start on their short stories. Students will be invited to submit pieces to the Scholastic Writing Awards in January.

Shortly after their return from vacation in January, students will show their understanding of style in an oral essay which will explain their translation of the style found in twenty lines of prose – from a mystery or adventure novel – into another art form. They will also examine a couple of radio play scripts in preparation of writing and producing their original radio plays, an eighth grade tradition at HBMS. Students may work in small groups or solo, bringing in actors only for the taping. Detailed information will come home for your perusal at the beginning of this assignment.

January will also bring the beginning of our Shakespeare unit which will culminate with February's viewing of a live performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream in Boston. Students will also have an opportunity to prepare and perform scenes from that play.

## Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

I overheard some students recently lamenting that there wasn't enough to do in history so, I thought I would help them out and keep 'em hoppin' down here in American history! We started off the semester with a field trip and subsequent project on the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria.

We spent some quality time studying the French and Indian War. The prize here, of course, was North America! The English win out but then the trouble starts. The crown tries to raise monies by applying external taxes. Then they try some internal taxes. All they succeed in doing is bumbling away one of the most prized possessions a country ever colonized. We're gearing up for the War for Independence. We'll be studying General Washington, his general staff, the problems that the army faced at every turn, the Indian allies, the battles, the women that stepped up to help, the foreigners that gave us immeasurable help, and more.

# Eighth Grade News

## Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle (cont'd)

We will finish this unit off with a poster project starting next week. I'm continually amazed at how we persevered and beat the mightiest army in the world at the time. We had so very little in the way of provisions and ammunition at times.

After the war we'll be studying our new experiment in government in the form of the Articles of Confederation. From there we will be studying the Constitutional Convention and paying special attention to the two Founding Fathers in attendance from New Hampshire.

## Team Prescott Science—Mr. Bond

8<sup>th</sup> Graders Learn What Happens...When the Ground Begins to *Move!* Mt. St. Helens continues to puff steam twenty-six years after its catastrophic eruption in 1980. Last week, torrential rains from a typhoon in the Pacific triggered devastating mudslides in the Philippines. 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 firsthand 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 pin-point 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 web site at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd>. You can even check out "Are You A Super Sleuth?" or get an up-to-minute weather report from our weather station!

## Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Students continue to do well with completing the outside reading requirements. We have just transitioned from the adventure genre to the mystery genre. Many students are seeing the similarities in the genres, especially when it comes to examining tension and suspense in literature. We have also read several short stories and poems such as "Runaway Rig," "Most Dangerous Game," and "Foul Shot" which have the style elements that the students are exploring. Students have begun the writing process for two creative pieces, one that will turn into a short story and the other which is developing into a poem. Before the month of December is over, students will be dramatically presenting their memorized poem; a task that is daunting for many, but allows them to continue to gain confidence for public speaking. The culmi-

nating assignment for the "Mystery, Suspense, and Tension Unit" will be their presentations of their interpretations of style. Students will be translating the style elements into another art form. They will present their art form orally beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>.

Their dramatic presentations and oral presentations will also bridge us from exploring suspense and tension to the world of Shakespeare. In January, we will begin A Midsummer Night's Dream. We will be listening to the story in class while we discuss Shakespeare's style. We will be attending the theater production in February to help us prepare for our own scene productions of Shakespeare's work.

January is coming fast. During this month, the genre focus will be classics. This is a change from the original genre list I gave out in September. Also in January, Mrs. Grupposo and I will be giving out the Radio Play assignment. This is a cross team assignment meaning students can work in groups with members from either team. If a student prefers to work solo, he or she may do so. Students will be writing, directing, and performing a radio play. Upfront I would like to thank all parents for their support of this assignment as students will need your assistance for transportation, space to work, and potentially with the technical sides of the assignment. Details will come out the first week we return to school from vacation. As always, feel free to check the website. The assignment will be due mid-February.

I wish all of you a restful, happy holidays. Enjoy!

## Team Prescott Math--Mrs. Mezzocchi

The beginning of second term found all math classes in the computer lab. The students produced spreadsheets involving the use of formulas related to geometry. A packet was passed in at the end of the week including all assignments from the lab along with the spreadsheets. Following this unit the students took a test on spreadsheets and the outcome was fantastic. Eighty-nine (89%) percent received above average grades on this final spreadsheet test. Also during second term all the students will learn the art of origami and the halls will bear the results of this unit. Making decorations with origami is fun but there is a lot of geometry involved too.

In algebra class, the students have learned many of the properties of mathematics along with solving and graphing linear equations and functions. The graphing calculator (TI-83 plus or TI-84) remains an important tool in the algebra class. So if any parent is at a loss for a gift for a child this would be a very useful one (hint, hint!) They will be able to use it all through high school and college, so it is worth the investment. Along with the TI-83/84, the students will be introduced to some new technology: the Calculator Based Ranger (CBR). The CBR will allow the students to collect, view and analyze data that they produce with the sonic motion detector, calculator and several fun filled activities. Stay in tune with your child to hear about these activities and all the mathematics they will be learning this term.

In pre-algebra class, solving one-step equations and setting up problems from the verbal model to the solution has become second nature to the students. They have really stepped up to the plate in showing their work. If you are ever observing them doing their homework, PLEASE make sure that they are showing their work (reinforcement at home helps-thanks.)

Don't forget that extra help is available every Thursday afternoon and by appointment any other afternoon with Mrs. Mezzocchi. As soon as a student is struggling, extra help is

# INTEGRATED SPECIALS

## Family and Consumer Science

Have you ever wondered how many times you've told your child to be safe in the kitchen? Wouldn't it be helpful if your child knew how to cook? Are you tired of cleaning up after them? This semester, we will learn how to be safe and efficient in the kitchen. And how many times have you told your child not to eat so many sweets? This course will cover basic nutrition and how to make healthy food choices using the FDA's food pyramid. We will be learning about food science, microwave safety, food preparation, table service, measurements and how to interpret a recipe. Mrs. Sarvaiya will teach us how to do important things that we will carry with us forever. From helping around the house now, to when we are grandparents baking cookies with our grandchildren, it is important that we know these skills. Not only will we learn the fundamentals of cooking; we will also learn how to sew.

Sewing is a fun and useful skill of which everyone should know the basics. This course will cover basic knowledge of clothing and textile design. This semester, we will each complete a colored pencil drawing of a design that interests us. With the help of Mrs. Sarvaiya, we will learn how to cut and pin the pattern so we can begin sewing our felt projects.

By the end of this course, we will know how to follow sewing instructions, identify a sewing machine's parts, and use a sewing machine. We will also learn how to measure, cut, sew and embroider. Along the way, we will learn about pattern layout.

Wow! That sounds like a lot to learn in nine weeks, but as the days go by, we will have fun in class while learning everything we will need to know. And parents, you'll find it has a big payoff too!

**By Cecille, Rachel, and Isabelle**

## French--Mme. Cloutier

The 7th Grade class has started a great chapter about Quebec in our text book. The book has a nice audio system with it in which the students can hear the Canadian French students speaking with one another. The main character, Emilie, describes activities that she and her friends like to do and introduces many verbs and ways to tell what they enjoy. Our students do hear the difference when we hear French speakers from France, Africa or Martinique. They have been saying what they like to do and learning new grammatical points in each chapter. We recently did small skits and the students sounded wonderful speaking French. Please remember that homework is to reinforce what we have learned in class and a chance for students to try it on their own to see if they understand the concepts introduced in class.

The 8th Grade students just finished a chapter with reflexive verbs which can be a bit different than our native tongue. They discussed their daily morning routine with these verbs (to wake up, to get up, to wash up, etc.) and then we studied ways in which to get in shape and maintain physical fitness. We have recently begun a new chapter with information relating to cars, vehicles, and driving vocabulary. The students just gave a small talk about a favorite vehicle with a description in French and a photo or drawing which they presented to the class. We have very expensive taste here in 8<sup>th</sup> grade! We have been studying at a good pace and the students seem ready for all challenges.

## El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash

Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have just learned the first conjugation of verbs. Exciting stuff! Through this skill they 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. Ask your son or daughter to share with you how we study verbs in Spanish class. It is probably not what you think! We combined this skill with our vocabulary themes of friends, school and classes.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have just completed an important unit on the verbs Ser and Estar. Thanks for your hard work. We combined these two big verbs with our unit on health. Your son or daughter can now describe their ailments and communicate with a doctor and a pharmacist! 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.**

**Señora Lash and Señora Banks**

## Health & Wellness--Ms. White

My time with Team Prescott has come to a close. Students finished the quarter with CPR and first aid.

In the short time Team Hypatia has had in Wellness class, we have brushed up on eating disorders. We have looked into the lives of people with eating disorders. We have learned that eating disorders have very little to do with food and/or weight. We examined magazines and other media to see how incorrect their depiction of a healthy body size really is. We also got to look at the biological, psychological and social factors that influence and result from eating disorders.

We have just begun our unit on HIV. We are looking at the impact it would have on someone's life. We have also realized that *anyone* can become infected. We have created characters and will be discussing how our character would be affected by HIV if they became infected. We will finish our work on this project when Mr. Melillo is done teaching.

Beginning in January we will begin our largest unit on CPR and First Aid. Students will all have the opportunity to become certified in adult, child and infant CPR as well as, first aid. Students must pass (with an 80% or better) written and practical tests. During this time it is important that students review class notes on a daily basis. I am always looking for volunteers to help out with CPR training and testing. If you are interested in coming in please notify me at

[white@sau41.k12.nh.us](mailto:white@sau41.k12.nh.us).

# Integrated Specials—Cont'd

## Students in Action at the Library Media Center--Mrs. Jahns

November was a bustling month for students in the library. Seventh grade students (Team 2) were researching large and small numbers in various topic areas and eighth grade students (Team 3) were researching space objects and NASA spin-off inventions. In total, the laptop computers were signed out **416** times while in the library this month. In addition, the laptops were used in an English classroom (Team 4) for a week. Students are becoming adept at researching with databases, nonfiction and reference resources, as well as word processing and power point.

The number of students signed into the library this month, not including whole class visits, was **1,679**. Each team is generally assigned a specific genre' or category of fiction or nonfiction for the month. For December, one team will be reading mystery, another adventure books, and one will be working with memoir, autobiography and biography. Other classes often request categories of books to be selected and shelved together for the students to easily access for that month. I am happy to assist students in finding books to read or locating needed information.

Students need to check the due date in the book they have checked out so that they can return or renew it **before the due date**; 103 overdue notices were handed out this month with fines at 5 cents a day.

Book of the Month: Eragon by Christopher Paolini (movie coming out soon)!

Site of the Month:

<http://www.greatsource.com/iwrite/index.html> (Great Source Education Group writing center)

## Art News--Mrs. Papadeas

Team Prescott has been producing some very creative art. Students have just completed a collage about themselves. They were asked to illustrate and include various items such as their favorite food, music, place, animal and logo. Students were told to arrange their illustrations in a pleasing composition and to have several overlaps of objects. They also had to make color choices and a background design. The results were very dynamic and were very pleasing to look at. These images are now on display.

Students on Team Prescott are beginning a painting unit on impressionism. Students have been interested in the artist Claude Monet who was one of the first artists to take a serious look at how shapes and colors change according to light. Monet realized that there is a giant step between what you see and what our mind tells us we see. Monet made it very popular for artists to sketch outdoors and to set up easels and paint what is in front of them. Students will be experiencing painting on canvas board with acrylic paint. For many, painting on canvas is a first time experience and is quite difficult. We are currently practicing Van Gogh's line techniques which are dots, dashes, swirls, and cross-hatching. When we begin painting on canvas board students will be trying to paint in the style of the impressionistic artists. They can work from master artist paintings, photographs, and pictures. I will be encouraging them to stick with landscapes and to omit black from their paint palettes.



This was very common when painting in the impressionistic style. Instead, artists from this era mixed blues, greens, and violets to create their dark colors. I am very excited for Team Prescott to experience the fun of painting.

## READING

Mrs. Dufresne and Mrs. Lucas

**Star Girl** by Jerry Spinelli

Susan was home-schooled until tenth grade. She has utter disregard for convention by the time she enters Mica High. Her hugely embarrassing behavior, such as playing the ukulele and singing "Happy Birthday" in the lunchroom appalls Leo, a junior. He is both attracted and repelled by this young woman who calls herself Star Girl.

The novel, which Leo tells in the first person, unfolds. Slowly Leo and the reader come to know the girl's behavior is based in kindness. *Star Girl* is a unique love story and humorous tragedy.

**Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key** by Jack Gantos

"In this rollercoaster of a ride, ingeniously and breathlessly narrated by Joey himself, readers are treated to an up close introduction to life with attention deficit disorder – or being wired, as Joey puts it. Readers of this compelling tragic-comedy will know almost from the start that Joey's not just a good kid – he's a great kid." --Starred. *The Horn Book*

**The Giver** by Lois Lowry

In the future, there is no pain, unhappiness, sickness, or death. Jonas believes in this world until the Giver shares the truth with him. Author Lois Lowry encourages readers to think about what is beautiful in the world.

**The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963**

by Christopher Paul Curtis

This is a wonderful middle – grade novel narrated by nine year old Kenny about his middle – class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's thirteen year old brother, Bryan, gets to be too much trouble, they head south to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. They happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

**The House of the Scorpions** by Nancy Farmer

Matt is a clone, livestock and no better than an animal. Generally, human clones have their brains destroyed at birth, but for some reason, Matt's patron has left his mind in tact. What could he want from him?

**This book continues to be a favorite.**

**Some websites for finding great books**

ALA Resources for Parents, Teens and Kids

Yalsa (Young Adult Library Services Assoc)

<<http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/yalsa.htm>>

The Book Bag

<[www.teenreads.com](http://www.teenreads.com)>

Teen Hoopla

<[www.ala.org/teenhoopla](http://www.ala.org/teenhoopla)>

PSLA Book Reviews

<<http://www.psla.org/association/committee/mediaselectionandreview/topforty.php3>>



# Music, Band, Drama & Clubs

Chorus --Mrs. Spencer  
Our winter concert season is  
here!



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade HBMS Winter Chorus and Band Concert

**Tuesday, December 12th - 7:00 pm**  
**High School Auditorium**

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade HBMS Winter Chorus and Band Concert

**Wednesday, December 13th - 7:00 pm**  
**High School Auditorium**

**\*Choral students should arrive at 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the chorus room across from the stage.**

### Concert Dress:

Girls need to wear a white shirt/blouse, black school length skirt or black dress pants, and their best dress shoes.

Boys need to wear a white collared shirt, black dress pants, a tie and their best dress shoes.

We look forward to singing for you!

### **Band --Mr. Depine**

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are currently preparing for their winter concerts. The programs consist of original music for band, holiday music and marches. Following the concerts, students will be working on skill building at the next level. This includes the development of speed, technique, rhythm and tone individually. As an ensemble we will continue to focus on blend, balance, intonation and precision. Jazz ensemble will continue to rehearse on Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.. Thank-you for your support of our band program.

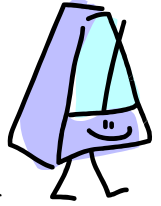


### **General Music--Mrs. Spencer**

Students have just completed a 10 lesson unit on acoustic guitars using the H.O.T. (Hands-On Training) lesson book by Nancy Lee Marsters. Our course goal was to provide a positive music learning experience through the development of guitar skills. Students are able to play E minor, A minor, and E major with accuracy. Along with their new guitar skills, students were also asked to sing the melodies to the folk tunes "The Ghost of Tom", "Drunken Sailor" and "Hey, Ho, Nobody Home."

After discussing appropriate audience behavior at a classical or school concert, general music students will be asked to produce a concert conduct brochure during their skills class over the next few weeks in the computer lab. This project brochure will be due in music class by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please refer to the rubric given to each student for more details.

Our next unit will be MIDI-Musical Instrument Digital Interface music composing.



# SPORTS & PHYS. ED.

## BASKETBALL

### Boys---Coach Gray

The HBMS **boys' basketball** team has been hard at work with practice and games. Struggling with their defense however, the boys have lost both of their games against Litchfield and Nashua Catholic. Coaching the boys again this year is Coach John Gray.



### Girls---Coach Stopera

The HBMS **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 two **wins against Litchfield and Nashua Catholic**. Coaching the girls again this year is Peter Stopera.

## SKIING

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.**



## WRESTLING

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School Wrestling program** is well on its way. **Practices** began on Monday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and take place **every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2:30 until 4:15 p.m. at the middle school**. The team will compete in **eight dual meets**, the **Tri-County League meet** and the **Regional**. **Students that qualify** will participate in the **Meet of Champions Tournament**. There is also the **opportunity for wrestlers to compete in several OPTIONAL weekend tournaments** throughout the season, the first taking place in **London-derry on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**. Our first dual meet will take place on **Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> against Milford**, 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.

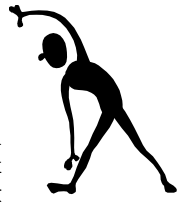


## PHYSICAL EDUCATION— Ms. Bottcher & Mr. Johnston

The seventh and eighth grade physical education classes have just completed work on the rules, skills, etiquette, and positioning necessary to play volleyball. Classes have discussed what good sportsmanship means in preparation for the class round robin tournament. The unit will culminate with the championship team from each class period playing against the HBMS staff in a school-wide assembly on Friday afternoon, December 22.

The New Year will find the seventh graders working on a personal fitness unit. This unit will cover self evaluations, health-related and skill related fitness components, types of fitness programs, target heart rates, and developing a fitness brochure in the computer lab.

The eighth grade students will begin a Challenge Unit when they return from the holiday vacation. The unit offers a variety of physical tasks that require the students to work in a group and use communication, problem solving, and leadership skills in order to successfully complete each task. We finish the unit learning how to rock climb, spot safely, tie appropriate knots, use the hardware correctly, and belay. This has always been a student favorite.



## DECEMBER LUNCH MENU

<b>FRESH FRUIT OR 100% JUICE AVAILABLE DAILY</b>	Please be sure to include your student's first/last name and student ID # on all checks.  Thank you!			1 Foot Long Hotdog on a Roll Rice Vegetable Chilled Fruit
4 Cheeseburger on a Bun Vegetable Chilled Fruit	5 Ultimate Nachos w/ Seasoned Beef & Cheese Corn Chilled Fruit	6 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Vegetable Chilled Fruit	7  <b>Cooks Choice!</b>	8 French Toast Sticks Sausage Patty Potato Rounds Chilled Fruit
11 Chicken Tenders Rice Vegetable Chilled Fruit	12 Chicken & Pasta Al- fredo Dinner Roll Vegetable Chilled Fruit	13 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Vegetable Chilled Fruit	14 Chicken Patty on a Bun Pretzels Vegetable Chilled Fruit	15 Hot Ham & Cheese Wrap Vegetable Chilled Fruit
18 Mozzarella Sticks w/ Dipping Sauce Breadstick Vegetable Chilled Fruit	19 Chicken or Cheese Quesadillas w/ Salsa Spanish Rice Corn Chilled Fruit	20 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Vegetable Chilled Fruit	21 Chili in a Bread Bowl Rice Vegetable Chilled Fruit	22 Ravioli w/ Tomato Sauce Dinner Roll Vegetable Chilled Fruit
<b>VACATION!</b>	<b>VACATION!</b>	<b>VACATION!</b>	<b>VACATION!</b>	<b>VACATION!</b>

Student Lunch \$2.00 MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Daily lunch alternates- pizza, sandwich, or salad. Milk available in whole, 1%, skim, & low fat chocolate for \$.50

# January 2007

## Hollis/Brookline Coop Lunch Menu

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 <b>VACATION!</b>	2 Chicken Tenders Spanish Rice Vegetables Fruit	3 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad Fruit	4 Pasta & Meatballs Dinner Roll Vegetables Fruit	5 Grilled Cheese Sandwich & Tomato Soup Vegetables Fruit
8 Chicken Finger Sub Vegetables Fruit	9 Ultimate Nachos W/ Beef, Cheese, Salsa Vegetables Fruit	10 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad Fruit	11 Cheeseburger on a Bun Seasoned Pasta Vegetables Fruit	12 <b>Cook's Choice!</b>
15 <b>No School! Martin Luther King Day</b>	16 Chicken or Cheese Quesadillas Spanish Rice Vegetables Fruit	17 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad Fruit	18 Mozzarella Sticks Oven Baked Pretzel Vegetables Fruit	19 Hot Ham & Cheese Wraps Baked Chips Vegetables Fruit
22 Chicken Teriyaki Dippers Seasoned Rice Vegetables Fruit	23 Meatball Subs Pretzel Baggie Vegetables Fruit	24 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad Fruit	25 Chicken Patty on a Bun Seasoned Pasta Vegetables Fruit	26 Hot Dog on a Roll Baked Beans Vegetables Fruit
29 Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes Breadstick Fruit	30 Pasta & Meatballs Garlic Bread Vegetables Fruit	31 Domino's Pizza <i>or</i> Chicken Salad Sandwich Garden Salad Fruit	<b>Fresh Fruit or 100% Juice Available Daily</b>	Please be sure to include your student's first/last name and student ID # on all checks. Thank you!

Student Lunch \$2.00 MENU SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Daily lunch alternates- pizza, sandwich, and salad. Milk available in whole, 1%, skim, & low fat  
chocolate for \$.50



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