
❖ Knightly News ❖

December 2010

Hollis Brookline Middle School



From the Administration

Professional Development, Nov. 24th. With increased curriculum mapping involvement across the SAU, we have become re-energized with our maps. The staff spent the morning in what is called a *mixed group review*. Three guiding questions focused our work; is the *content* specific and expressed as a *noun*, are the *skills* described as *action verbs* that are observable and measurable and is the *essential question* an overarching goal?

Teachers sat in groups other than their team and outside of their department. Each person's map was discussed and feedback was written on the map. Conversations were rich and substantive feedback given. The afternoon was then spent by teachers working individually to revise their map. Excellent use of time!

Early Release, December 6th. We had a variety of professional development activities organized for the early release day. To begin, Maggie Gruposso (yes, she is retired) and Katrina Hall presented to the RMMS staff on curriculum mapping. They described the process implemented at the middle school and demonstrated Curriculum Connector, our software for mapping. Additionally Karen Coutu and Claudia Dufresne presented at HUES.

The remainder of the staff had three options; time for mapping, continued Google Sites or Google mail training.

Guests. Some of you may remember Lynn Westberg. She is a resident, former parent and was instrumental in the afterschool Y program we housed for a year. Presently she is a guidance counselor at the middle level in Westford, Ma. As part of their professional development they are visiting successful schools to help generate ideas for their own school improvement. Lynn and another counselor will visit our middle school in January. We are pleased to be asked and to share.

Washington, DC Final Payment. The initial payment schedule listed January 7th as the final payment due date. Please be advised that the date has been extended. The deadline is being extended to incorporate the January SCRIIP order. Please remember that 1% of your shopping cards may apply to the DC trip. A letter will be snail-mailed to your home stating the balance owed. You will receive the letter by January 13th or 14th.

Emergency Procedures. A totally unexpected fire drill on the coldest day of the year (while the Superintendent and Chair of the Coop Board were present) has led us to develop a specific plan for accountability of our students during lunch times. The students proceeded out, staff supervised

to the best of their ability and all were accounted for, however it was not as systematic as we would want. We will practice an emergency exit during lunch with both grades.

An appropriate transition in this paragraph speaks to flip flops. We are gravely concerned with students who are still wearing flip flops to school. It was a mere 10 degrees when we had to vacate the building last week. Parents are asked to please have a conversation with your child. If you have follow up questions please don't hesitate to call.

Student Council. Student Council again this year sponsored a canned food drive to support the Nashua Soup Kitchen. ROCK groups collected and the Student Council delivered 50 boxes of non-perishable food. The students were very proud of their combined efforts.

Common Assessments. The math Professional Learning Communities(PLC's) are working fast and furiously on their common assessments. Rather than wait for a common quarterly assessment, they have been creating common formative assessments. This has enabled them to pinpoint weaker areas quickly and address through what they call BCW's (before class work).

Concerts. Our 7th and 8th grade winter concerts will be held in the middle school gymnasium on Dec. 21st and 22nd respectively. Each night the band and chorus students will be performing.

Tradition. The last hour of school on Thursday, December 23rd will be devoted to the staff versus student volleyball game. Eighth grade classes are in the midst of the culminating volleyball tournament in physical education. The top four teams will challenge the staff. Please feel free to join the staff as we are always looking for more players!

Janu - hairy. Please be warned that many of our male staff members will be participating in a fundraiser during the month of January! That is - no cutting of hair from the neck up for the 31 days of January. Sponsors are being sought for a daily amount or one lump sum. All proceeds will go to the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

We applaud their willingness and efforts!

School will close at dismissal time on December 23rd and reopen on January 3rd. *We wish you special time during the Holidays for family, friends, relaxation and rejuvenation! Happy New Year!*

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal
Stephen R. Secor, Assistant Principal

LITERACY NEWS FROM . . .THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

In history, literacy lends itself to all areas of instruction and student understanding. The nature of the study of history is to reflect on primary and secondary sources to piece together a better understanding of how the past has influenced and changed our world today. Students learn the skill of note-taking during lectures and from a variety of sources. This skill will support them in all areas of education. Research skills are important in history as well. Through reading, students learn to examine how events relate to the people and places where they occur in order to identify similarities and differences which form patterns in time.

Seventh grade European History students apply literacy skills in writing, reading and speaking. The students read and analyze primary sources. They also research and present in front of their peers. The students view various media while taking notes and examining the pieces for writing and ICT projects. Students explore different technology using web pages, comic creation sites, and linking other resources. The seventh grade history teachers have introduced the idea of properly citing all resources used. As many students continue to explore the new vocabulary and use of a textbook, we work on understanding the parts of a text, using questions to guide the reading and discussing main concepts.

Students in 8th grade American History have been working on Contest Essays for the DAR. This assignment required a great deal of research including using one primary source and one print source. The EBSCO database was valuable as it provided reliable sources to be used in the essays. This contest essay had students write from the perspective of Paul Revere and focus on the events for which he would want to be remembered. Students completed peer edits in class and worked to help one another improve his/her essay.

Eighth grade students have also completed an ICT that involved literacy. As we study the rebellions leading up to the American Revolution, political cartoons are unavoidable. Students analyzed a variety of political cartoons in class and then were asked to create one of their own using Microsoft Paint. The ICT required them to transfer the image into a Word document and write two paragraphs explaining his/her work. The first paragraph explained the political concept and the second paragraph was an explanation of the cartoon.

Two nights of celebration and affirmation of student's artistic achievements.

7th Grade HBMS Winter Concert
Tuesday, December 21—HBMS Gym
Concert Start time: 7:00 pm

***7th grade Band and Chorus students should arrive by 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the music department.**

8th Grade HBMS Winter Concert
Wednesday, December 22—HBMS Gym
Concert Start time: 7:00 pm

***8th grade Band and Chorus students should arrive by 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the music department.**

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, black socks and their best dress shoes.

SAU 41 Parent Partnership Community Workshop

The SAU 41 Parent Partnership, consisting of Hollis and Brookline parents in conjunction with Jeanne Saunders, SAU 41 Special Education Director, is hosting a FREE community workshop titled Disability Awareness on February 3, 2011 from 6:00-8:30 at the Lawrence Barn in Hollis. Students from Hollis and Brookline will be presenting an interactive workshop designed for the community to experience what it is like to have a disability. Students, parents, staff members, and community members are encouraged to attend. Please email Jeanne Saunders at jeanne.saunders@sau41.org by January 30, 2011 if you will be in attendance.

PTSA update....

A special Thanks this month goes out to Beth Ide, Cheryl O'Donnell and Rachana Suchdev for a fantastic job organizing a Thanksgiving feast for our wonderful staff!! Thank you to all those that baked and contributed! The staff couldn't thank the PTSA enough for the delicious feast!

Another very special THANKS to Leslie Eisenberg for organizing the holiday spirit wear order! Leslie has done a fantastic job over the past two years and is now looking for someone to take over this position next year. Please contact Leslie or one of the PTSA officers if you are interested in taking on this rewarding position. You will still have one last chance this year to order Spirit wear in the Spring! Watch for information.

The next Scrip Order is due January 10, 2011. You can download the order form on the PTSA website www.hbmspts.org.

Please join us on December 17, 2010 at 8:30am for our next PTSA meeting.

Wishing all of our families and staff at HBMS a Happy and Healthy Holiday!

Ruth Kabel and Lisa Schmalz

Calendar Of Events

Each month we will share dates that span the upcoming two months. The dates may help with reminding students or, in fact, support your schedules. We hope this will help with your planning.

Dec. 21—7th Grade Concert—7:00 PM

Dec. 22—8th Grade Concert—7:00 PM

Dec. 24-31—Holiday Recess

Jan. 14—Early Release

Jan. 17—No School

Feb.—Early Release

Feb. 28-March 4—Mid-Winter Vacation

March 8—Early Release

March 22-25—8th Grade Washington, DC Trip

Teen Pizza and Support Wednesdays

**January 5, February 2, March 2,
April 6 and May 4
3:30 - 5:00 pm**



For Teens whose parents, family members or loved ones have cancer. Come meet others, share stories and enjoy pizza and drinks together.

Facilitators: Roxanna Shinall, BA, MSW Intern and Gavin O'Brien, BA, MSW Intern

Please call 603-230-6031 to Register. Group will be held at Concord Hospital's Payson Center for Cancer Care 1st Floor Conference Room

The same group will also be held at Elliot Hospital on 1/26, 2/23, 3/30, & 4/27. Please call 663-2398 for more details.

**ATTENTION 7th and 8th grade Artists, Musicians,
Photographers, Writers, Dancers, and Film Makers.**

We would like to invite you to showcase your talent and compete in the PTSA Reflections Art competition. Entering is as simple as;

1. Pick up an entry form in the Middle School office.
2. Create your art submission based on the Theme: "Together We Can."
3. Turn your project into the Middle School office by the Deadline: Friday, January 7.

This is a great chance to be recognized for your artistic talents. Paint a picture, take a photo, write a poem or a song, or maybe even create a Claymation film or a tap dance. For further information and examples of past winners, you can visit http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/about_reflections or contact Reflections chair: Michelle Jimeno at mrtdtkj@charter.net phone: 603-673-7673.

Good Luck! You are going to be WONDERFUL!


PTAreflections.org

PTA[®] Reflections

unleashes

your artistic talents

Dance Choreography

Photography

Film Production

Musical Composition

Literature

Visual Arts

2010–2011 Theme: "Together We Can"

Reflect on the theme. Create an original work. Be recognized.

Deadline for entries:

For details, contact



National Media Sponsor of PTA Reflections Program





PTA REFLECTIONS