



Hollis Brookline Middle School

KNIGHTLY NEWS

February 15, 2006

From the Administration

In this first mailing of 2006 we wish you a happy, healthy New Year! Although our weather is causing some confusion, clearly we have begun our third quarter with a renewed sense of energy and purpose. Highlights of the next two months follow.

Over one hundred students have been practicing since December for the spring musical, "Annie." Please plan to join us February 17th or 18th at 7:00 PM in the HBMS gymnasium. The show is guaranteed to be enjoyed by all!

The HBMS Math Team participated in a regional competition Saturday, February 4th. Out of fifteen schools, our students placed second! Our Team now continues to the state level at Plymouth State University in March.

The Y-Teen Partnership with the Merrimack YMCA has become a reality! Presently, over sixty students are participating in an after-school program at HBMS to include hip-hop/jazz, yoga, scrapbooking, Xmod car racing, ballroom dance and international cooking. Many thanks to Lin Westberg for her initiative and follow-through resulting in our partnership. The first session will conclude February 24th with new program offerings to follow. Please check our website for new classes.

Recycling paper products has quickly become a daily practice. On Organization Day, during the twenty-minute advisory period (ROCK), students assume responsibility for emptying their bin into a special receptacle outside. We are proud of our progress and expect to see a significant reduction in our overall trash.

Our local veterans are invited to participate in a small group discussion with eighth grade students on March 16th. This meeting has become tradition prior to the Washington, D.C. trip; the primary goal being to increase the students' understanding of the sacrifices made in wars and conflicts that have allowed and maintain our freedom.

Parents of Grade 8 students who plan to attend the Washington, D.C. trip are reminded of a mandatory parent/student meeting scheduled for March 14th. Final details of the trip will be described as well as emergency paperwork confirmed.

Generations Day is a parent/student workshop day designed to increase communication and address issues facing our emerging adolescents. The 7th grade Generations Day is scheduled for March 24th. Please mark your calendars for this special day.

Planning for the 06-07 student placements has begun. Parents of grade 7 students will be afforded the opportunity to share input for consideration in placement. Input forms will be mailed home.

Lastly, our Winter Recognition Assembly will be held February 22nd at 7:30 am. Please check the Calendar of Events for all date reminders.

Vacation runs February 27-March 3. We wish you a relaxing, enjoyable week. As always, your observations and opinions matter. We encourage you to stay connected.

Sincerely,
Patricia Goyette, Principal

PTSA President's Report

Well, we have passed the halfway point of the school year!!! February is here which means we are also almost through the winter months. Our January PTSA meeting found us with a visit from Mr. Pike, our Superintendent. It was wonderful to have him join us and we hope that he will grace us with his presence again. Those attending the meeting and are registered members of the Hollis Brookline Middle School PTSA voted to approve our Revised By-Laws. They have been sent to the NH State PTSA office and we await their approval. By-laws must be updated every 3 years and include any state or national changes. Upon approval from the state office, a copy of the revised by-laws will be posted in the PTSA book in the front office.

We have also begun to form committees for the end of the year celebrations. The co-chairs for the 7th Grade End-of-the-Year Barbecue are Janet Listowich and Shelley Bower. They will be given the list of people who filled out the volunteer forms at the beginning of the school year who wished to help with this event. Any other 7th grade parents who would like to help out with this event can contact me by email or phone and I will make sure that you are added to that list. Our 8th Grade Celebration planning will be headed up by Regina Kozsan, Iris McLaughlin, and Angela Napolitano. 8th grade parents will be hearing more about this in a letter very soon. My thanks to all of these women for helping to get these events off the ground.

Another opportunity to put in some volunteer time is right around the corner. I will be coordinating the Spring Track Team volunteers again this season. Spring Track will begin March 27th. Anyone interested in helping out should contact me by email or phone. I would also like to encourage all parents to attend the Internet Safety and Resource Officer night on Thursday, Feb. 15th at the High School. This will be a very informative night for parents. Thanks to Kathy DeLacy for setting this up.

Finally, I want to encourage all 7th Grade parents to attend the upcoming Generations Day on Friday, March 24th. You will be receiving more information on this day, so please set the day aside and join your child for an incredible day at the Middle School. I continue to be very grateful to all the volunteers who put their time and talents to use at the Middle School. You are invaluable and help to make the Middle School as wonderful as it is.

Keep up the good work everyone!!

Trish MacDonald, PTSA President

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School and Community News

"Annie Jr."

Book by Thomas Meehan

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Presented on Broadway by Mike Nichols

Originally Produced by Irwin Meyer Stephen R. Friedman

Lewis Allen, Alvin Nederlander Associates, Inc.

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts,

Icarus Productions

Based on "Little Orphan Annie"

By Permission of The Tribune Media Services, Inc.

The last HBMS Drama Club production of the school year will take place Friday, February 17, and Saturday February 18, at 7:00 pm in the HBMS Auditorium. (Snow date-Sunday, February 19, at 2 pm). Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$5.00. Sorry, no reserved seating. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

An orphan, Annie (played by Chelsea D), and her dog, Sandy, are placed in the lap of luxury for a week as a part of a publicity campaign for the rich and sometimes heartless Oliver Warbucks (played by Steve S). However, Annie's stay turns out to be much more than anyone had bargained for as she works her way into everyone's heart and learns a few things for herself. The cast of over seventy students includes the Orphans, the Servants and the N.Y.C. ensembles singing "Hardknock Life," "I Think I'm Gonna Like It Here," "N.Y.C." and "Tomorrow," to name just a few tunes.

If you need more information, please contact HBMS at 465-2223. We look forward to seeing you!!

HBMS Annual Spelling Bee Results

The HBMS Library Media Center was very quiet this Wednesday morning. From beginning words to advanced, the 37 students competing in the 2006 spelling bee concentrated and spelled carefully. After words such as mnemonically and narcissism, the race tapered down to two students. For the next 32 rounds, these two students went back and forth, expertly spelling words such as Byzantine and Renaissance, then rhododendron and bivouac to parapsychology and dvandva, until seraphic and prescience emerged as winning words for one speller. The second place winner is Rachael Filer, Grade 8, and the first place winner is Matt D'Intino, Grade 7; both students were awarded \$25.00 gift certificates to Toadstool Books in Milford, NH. Organizers Mrs. Grupposo and Mrs. Jahns wish to thank all participants and congratulate Rachael and Matt on an amazing competition. (Student names included with parental permission)

MATH COUNTS Team takes 2nd Place

Congratulations are in order for the Hollis/Brookline Math Counts team coached by Rosemary Mezzocchi for coming in 2nd place in the Southern New Hampshire Regional Math Counts Competition. On Saturday, February 4, 2006, the team, whose members are Ryan Heden, James Lu, Kayleigh Ryherd and Lasya Thilagar, with Eric Smyth, Russell Curry, Steven Griffin and William Kiely competing as individuals, and Eric Beaudette and Ansel Renner serving as alternates, competed against 15 other middle schools in the southern New Hampshire region.

They started the day off with the Sprint round, which consists of 30 tough math questions that they worked on for 40 minutes individually. This round was followed by the Target round which consists of 8 questions given 2 at a time and 6 minutes to complete each pair of questions. Lastly, they compete as a team of 4 and were given 10 questions that they worked on for 20 minutes as a team. Finally, the sponsors, namely the Professional Society of Engineers and the National Council for Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM), the students were treated to a nice lunch.

After lunch, the top 10 "mathletes" were announced in alphabetical order and Hollis Brookline had 3 of our students, James Lu, Kayleigh Ryherd and Lasya Thilagar announced. The top 10 then competed in a Countdown round where the questions were flashed on the overhead, and with only 45 seconds given to answer, the first 7 students to raise their hand and answer a question get to move on to the next round. One of our own, James Lu, placed 3rd in this part of the competition.

Finally, the Award Ceremony came and the announcement of the top 3 teams took place. The members of the top 3 teams go on to the State competition at Plymouth State University on March 11, 2006. Sure enough, HBMS came in 2nd Place with James Lu getting the 2nd place individual trophy!

We are very proud of all of our MATHLETES and wish them luck in the State competition in March.

CONGRATULATIONS HBMS MATHLETES!

HBMS PTSA REFLECTIONS 2006 –

"I Wonder Why. . ."

The purpose of the National PTA Reflections Program is to encourage students to explore various expressive forms. Entries are four categories: Literature, Musical Composition, Photography and Visual Arts. HBMS PTSA is pleased to announce that the entries of six of our students will be moving on to the Reflections 2006 State Competition. In the Literature category, the essays of Lasya Thilagar, Kendall Nicosia-Rusin and Morgan Askenaizer will be entered in the State competition. In Musical Composition, the work of Kristopher Brown is moving on to State competition. In the Visual Arts category, entries by Eric Peterson and Steven Griffin will be entered in the State competition. We are very proud of our participants and wish them well in the State Competition.

School and Community News

GENERATIONS—DON'T FORGET!

Generations Day will take place for seventh graders and their parents on Friday, March 24. Generations Day provides an opportunity for parents to involve themselves with the school and their student. Please join us for a day of speakers, workshops, and community! Registration forms will be mailed home the week of March 6th and also available on line through our website.

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:

Mar. 27 & 28

May 30 & 31

AFTERSCHOOL SKI—ONE MORE DAY!!

Due to the lost ski day on January 30th when we had no school, we have added March 6th to our ski roster. Of course, this is weather permitting. Let's hope for some great spring skiing!



CONGRATULATIONS BAND STUDENTS!!

Congratulations to the following students for their selection to the NHBDA honors band: Tamara Liu, Devin MacDonald, Jenny Grossman and JT Trull. These students were selected by taped audition and will be traveling to Timberlane Regional High School on March 31st for a day of rehearsals and an evening performance.

Hollis Preschool Children's Clothing Resale

Get a jump on Spring cleaning! Check your closets — the Hollis Preschool is collecting clothes sized infant to 16 as well as maternity clothing. Items can be for all seasons and should be in very good condition with no stains, tears or broken zippers. All items can be dropped off at the Hollis Preschool in the Hollis Village Marketplace anytime between now and March 18th. Contact Robin Radford for questions at 465-7132. Thank you!

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The Scholastic Art Awards reception took place February 4, 2006 at the Bedford Mall in Bedford, NH. Since 1923, the Scholastic Art Awards have offered millions of students the opportunity to display their art works for regional and national recognition.



Their objective is to foster the confidence of young artists and to invite students to broaden their horizons while winning national recognition. Students in grades 7 through 12 currently enrolled in public and non-public schools in New Hampshire may submit entries by a teacher who is a member of the NH Art Education Association. Mrs. Papadeas is pleased to announce that the Hollis Brookline Middle School had two Silver Key winners at the regional level. Ali Tomer, an 8th grader, received a Silver Award for her printmaking piece of art entitled, "Incandescent Image", and Erin Vollmer also received a Silver Award for her scratchboard drawing called, "Turtle."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb. 16	Team Jordan— Boulder Morty's
Feb. 17	Team 3 — Boulder Morty's
Feb. 21	Progress Reports Issued
Feb. 22	Recognition Assembly
Feb. 24	Team Prescott — Boulder Morty's
Feb. 27-Mar 3	WINTER VACATION!!!
Mar. 7	Co-Op District Mtg. 7:00pm H.S.
March 13	Team 3 Field Trip—Plays
March 14	Washington, D.C. Trip Meeting 6:30pm HBMS (parents/students)
March 16	Grade 8 Veteran's Visit
March 21-24	Grade 8 Washington D.C. Trip
March 24	Grade 7 Generations Day
April 6th	Seminar: Manage Emotions, Control Your Behavior, Eliminate Negative Thinking — All in One! 7:00pm HBMS

Seventh Grade News

Team McClintock

Ms. Ellerin, Mrs. Gruposso, Mrs. Rossetti

English/history students on Team McClintock have recently finished their focus on nonfiction activities. Independently, they have read free-choice nonfiction books, written response/learning journals, and made "Creative Statements of Learning". Students have also been collecting, reading and summarizing news articles on the Middle East and the Muslim world in 2006 as we study the Eastern Roman Empire/Byzantium and the rise of Islam. Our discussions have moved back and forth in time as students make the connections of the past to the present. Their understanding has been enhanced with map work. The culmination of this study is a portfolio of their news articles, notes, homework, maps and a letter/persuasive essay to a living world leader making suggestions of what needs to happen in the world to ease the conflicts. Students have also written a statement of their personal learning journey throughout this study. They have done some fine work and thinking.

We are now moving into the Middle Ages. Students will study the King Arthur legends, read a little Beowulf, try writing a little Anglo Saxon verse, study the feudal system and design a castle. We are also planning a trip to Higgins Armory in Worchester to participate in their program on the Middle Ages.



Team McClintock scientists have looked at paramecium, euglenas, and other microscopic eukaryotes. Continuing with microscopic work, students were introduced to a unit of measure called micrometers. Students used conversion factors and basic math to determine the size of an individual euglena. Now, our scientists are entering the circulatory system. We are currently exploring the physical side of heat energy. To reinforce their understanding of internal energy and heat transfer, students are designing, building and testing hot water thermoses. Once we cover the physical side of heat energy, we'll turn to the biology side of heat. Our big question for this unit is, "How does our body produce and distribute heat?" The circulatory system will be a key factor in answering this question. Students will be making a model of blood; they will be finding the blood type of several different people using a simulated blood typing kit; we will also be moving on to our second dissection of the year. A special thank you goes to those who have donated money for the dissections.

We collected approximately \$250.00. Because these dissections are a big budget item, donations are always welcome. It will cost about \$400.00 for the upcoming heart dissection. The dissections are an important part of the Life Science curriculum since it is a hands-on approach to learning.

Our Math classes have been working hard investigating the properties of polygons and polyhedrons. They have worked on a packet which introduced the concept of tiling with the four basic polygonal shapes and ended with their own polygon design. We will begin integrating our math work with the history of math in the Middle Ages. We will look at the development of algebra and the introduction of the zero as a placeholder. After vacation we will begin our work with integers.

Seventh Grade News

Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

In 7th grade History on Team Jordan, the students have left the Byzantine Empire behind and are about halfway through our unit on the Middle Ages. We started out by looking at the Western half of the old Roman Empire after the fall. We spent some time on Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire, but quickly moved into the feudal period in Europe. Did you hear about the feudalism computer game each class played called Decisions, Decisions? We were medieval lords who had to determine our fief's priorities and then make certain decisions making sure we live by those priorities! We studied castles (do you know what a murder hole is?) and knighthood. Ask your child what the four parts of the Code of Chivalry are. A few lucky students even got to try on some pieces of suits of armor that the school owns. I read them a story about Sir Gawain called Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady. The Loathly Lady made quite an impression on them! We even designed our own heralds which are proudly flying in the classroom! The classroom continues to evolve to reflect what we have learned in History this year. Stop by sometime for a look! Or if you can't come to see the room, check out my website for pictures of how the room has developed. If you haven't seen the students' heralds and Byzantine mosaics, you're in for a treat.

Since we have finished the Crusades and the changes they brought to the European West, it is onward and upward to the later Middle Ages which will include glimpses of medieval literature, Gregorian chants, Gothic architecture and much more. From there, we move straight into the Renaissance!

Team Jordan English—Ms. Rasmussen

The 7th graders put a lot of hard work into writing biographies. They wrote about some very interesting subjects and did a great job researching, writing Works Cited pages, and learning how to cite sources within the text. These skills are difficult to master, and I congratulate them on their efforts and a job well done. For the month of February, the students will study poetry. Students will read several poems, including those by Robert Frost, W. H. Auden, Billy Collins and William Carlos Williams. Students will also write several poems using various forms of figurative language and sound devices. Their first attempts at poetry have been quite good, and I look forward to reading more poems from our emerging young poets. At the end of February, we will hold a poetry café. Students will be asked to bring in food and drink and each student will read an original poem for their peers. I will send a notice home in the near future with the details.

Team Jordan Life Sciences—Mrs. Cleveland

We have finished our work with the microscope by learning how to estimate the size of the cell or microorganisms that we saw. When we speak of measuring in microns (one micron is one one-thousandth of a millimeter), we can comprehend how small these cells really are.

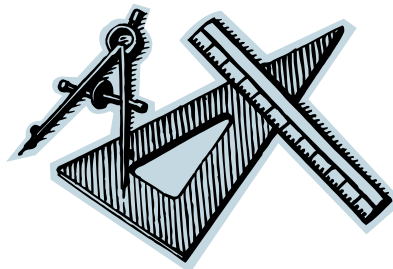
We have studied the parts and functions of the cell's organelles. We observed cells of different types, seeing the variety of shapes, sizes and functions. We saw how selective the cell membrane is by determining what enters and leaves the cell. Students also enacted the synthesis of protein at the ribosomes.

Now, we begin our first System study. We will see how the cells collectively form tissues, the tissues work to form organs, the organs will form systems, etc. We are working on the circulatory system, studying the heart, blood vessels and blood. As usual, it will be very hands-on, with the students doing activities, making models of the heart and finishing up with the sheep heart dissection.

Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Fordin

In seventh grade we are wrapping up a unit on Geometry. We will be examining the relationships between surface area and volume, and discover how changes in linear dimensions affect both surface area and volume. Our next unit will involve manipulating integers. Additionally, during this month we will begin a long-term project connected with multiple intelligences. Watch our students as they create innovative, inspired ways to teach and reinforce math concepts!

A reminder to you that February extra credit menu problems must be returned before February vacation.



Seventh Grade News

Team Emerson History—Mrs. Beale

We just finished studying the Byzantine Empire, the stronger eastern part of the Roman Empire that managed to survive the Germanic invasions. Much of our discussion focused on the “strategic location” of Constantinople, the center of Byzantine life and the capital of the Eastern Empire. Students had an opportunity to express their own points of view on the major issues that caused the great schism between the Eastern Orthodox Church in Constantinople and the Roman Catholic Church in the West. We read a primary source by Procopius about Theodora’s courage in convincing Justinian to stay and defend his empire in a time of civil strife, and created our own law codes, along the lines of Justinian’s code. Each student learned how to write his name in Cyrillic, the alphabet devised by the Byzantine monks, Cyril and Methodius. Our final project was a travel guide showing the wonders of Constantinople during the sixth to fourteenth centuries. Our next unit is, “The Beginnings of Islam.”

Team Emerson English—Mrs. Jahns

All Kinds of Conflict

During this past quarter we have been working on parts of speech and conflicts. We mainly studied verbs, subjects and predicates. These started out simple but got more complicated as we went on. We learned more about auxiliary, action, and linking verbs. It’s hard not to get tricked by these little guys, but by the end we weren’t tricked anymore. Also, we just finished up our book talks, which included the kinds of conflicts that we found in our stories.

Also during this quarter we finished up, A Christmas Carol, by seeing the amazing show of this story at the North Shore Music Theater. We wrote a review on the show and talked about the amazing lights, authentic costumes, and most of all, the way the characters pulled the crowd into the play. One of the enthusiastic watchers, Kelsey K., said, “I thought it was wonderful, creative, and fun to watch,” which is pretty much what all of us thought as we applauded in awe.

We are currently learning about mythology, from Chaos to many different myths and why they exist. Most of us would not want to experience the golden touch of King Midas! Next, we’re on to Prometheus and fire!

Written by Julia S. and Marissa R.



Welcome Mrs. Kalenik,
our new student
teacher!!

Team Emerson Science— Mrs. Evans/Mrs. Kalenik

Please join me in welcoming Mrs. Kelly Kalenik as a student teacher in our Life Science classes. Many of you may already know Kelly, a parent from Hollis with two children at Hollis Brookline High School. She is completing her last year at Rivier College and hopes to teach science in the fall. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and efficiency have made this a very positive experience for our students and myself. She is thoroughly enjoying your children and teaching science.

Our students are currently working on their lung capacity cube after determining their lung capacities from the labs, “Take a Breather and Take Another Breather”. Their cubes will soon be on display in our room. If you are in the school (after February 20), please stop by room 101 to see them.

Soon the students will be actively involved in solving a 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 and DNA “blueprints” from the blood, our scientists will match the rightful parents to the victim.

The amnesia victim 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 thought.....“Move over Sherlock, a new generation of detectives has emerged”.

Mrs. Carolyn Evans and Mrs. Kelly Kalenik

Team Emerson Math—Mrs. Hall

We have entered the 3-D world! Students are working diligently with surface area and volume. They are learning how to maximize and minimize surface area as well as maximize volume. Students have also been studying how changes in linear dimensions affect the three-dimensional objects. All in all, they have learned “volumes” about the 3-D world and we will soon apply these skills in creating packaging for a company. So what is up and coming? The wonderful world of integer manipulation!

Eighth Grade News

Team 3 Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

During the month of February and into March we will be studying plate tectonics, volcanoes and earthquakes respectively. I have presented a power point presentation in plate tectonics. Students have become quite curious about the geological processes of our Earth. 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 students understanding of what a restless Earth we really live on.

Speaking of the restless landmasses we will be following plate tectonics by 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.

Later in March students will study earthquakes by using our open lab. Our junior scientists will explore three websites online that enabled them to locate recent and less 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 not only received their certificates of completion but later go on to receive another certificate from their home. After completing various assignments, the best is yet to come, building a tower that would try to withstand 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 third quarter slips away to bring in those extra credit articles on plate tectonics, volcanoes, and earthquakes. The due date for the extra points is March 17th.

I hope you have a safe and enjoyable vacation.

Team 3 U.S. History—Mr. Twichell

History students spent much of the month of December studying the U.S. Constitution and how it is applied today. A brief look at the actual structure of our federal government was followed by some interesting and spirited mock trial cases, highlighted by some great performances from our "lawyers."

Next, we examined the problems our new republic had and the disputes that arose between our leaders as they tried to implement the ideas of the Constitution into actual practice. Connections to today were easy to make as people still have differing ideas as to how much power the government should have. The importance and accomplishments of George Washington were studied as well as events and social trends for the time period.

We began the calendar year 2006 by looking at life in America in 1800 for the average American which was much more basic and crude than it was for our famous leaders. We then focused our attention on the events and times of Presidents Jefferson and Madison. We are now exploring the changes and events taking place in America during the age of Andy Jackson. The theme of Manifest Destiny and American expansion will be our next topic of study.

Team 3 English—Mrs. Cicci

Snow days! Delayed openings! Holidays!—a hardship or a

blessing? Definitely the flow from lesson to lesson has been interrupted, but the students are to be complimented for their ability to adjust and regroup.

The month of January was focused on reading several classic short stories that involved suspenseful rising action. Lessons pointed out the domino effect among events in the story beginning with the conflict and culminating in the climax. The stories "The Most Dangerous Game" and "The Runaway Rig" and the radio plays "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "No Chance of Error" were selected as models to help students learn this tight structure that would be helpful to them in planning the stories for their radio plays. This idea was further explored in the reading of the poem "Foul Shot" and the composition of a poem themselves that required their choice of a climactic moment in an action (i.e. the seconds before the opening of the stage curtain, the winding of the handle before the jack-in-the-box pops, or the climbing of the car on the track of the roller coaster). The poems are on display in the classroom, but, even better, students will be memorizing and performing their poems before the class in February. Parents will be asked again to listen and critique students while they rehearse for the two weeks before the presentation dates. Radio plays are due on February 13th. Thank you, parents, for your chauffeuring and probably your snack buying and encouraging and all the other tasks you completed during this project to contribute to its success. It is the hope of the eighth grade English teachers that students learned about cooperation, commitment to a schedule, responsibility, short story structure, multi-tasking, and time management during this project. Having fun in the process is the bonus!

During February and March, students will be doing reading and activities in class to help them prepare for the Washington trip and their visits to some of the monuments. This will be another memorable experience that should be a highlight of eighth grade.

Team 3 Math—Mrs. Mezzocchi

It is hard to believe that half of this school year is over. The year 2006 has proven to be a good year for learning in math classes. The Power-Packed Algebra class is now taking a side trip into the world of geometry. We have been doing some "Patty Paper" investigations and discovering some geometric concepts. The students have also been writing conjectures about what it is that they are discovering. We will explore the algebra that is in geometry then return to algebra to see the geometry that is in algebra. It is an exciting class to teach as we go deeper into the mathematics of these two fields and discover the fascinating connections.

The Gateways class is beginning a unit on Statistical Analysis. They will be using Stem & Leaf Plots, Box N Whisker graphs along with the traditional circle, bar and line graphs. We will be using the graphing calculator as a tool for analysis.

The Pre-algebra classes are just finishing a unit on integers & graphing on the coordinate plane. They, too, will begin a unit on Graphs & Data. The use of the graphing calculator will become a daily exercise.

All eighth graders will begin a math project in preparation for the Washington DC trip. This project deals with the Holocaust and involves a lot of statistics. Each class is moving through the curriculum at a very steady pace. The progress being made is incredibly exciting.

Eighth Grade News

Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

The month of January was spent studying the Articles of Confederation, the Founding Fathers and finally, the Constitution itself. Students got their feet wet dealing in various aspects of the Federal legislature and Executive departments. To cap this study off, students of Team Prescott completed a writing assignment on the Bill of Rights. There was a small hitch, however. They were asked to write about one of the Bill of Rights that they could live without!

Recently, the intrepid adventurers of Team Prescott boldly attacked the administration of President George Washington. Domestic and foreign policies, Native American problems, in-fighting within the administration, a host of fiscal problems.....sound familiar?! Honestly, it has an amazingly similar ring to it.

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

Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond

In the next few weeks, Mr. Bond's Earth Science classes will be spending their "time" investigating time..."geologic" time, that is. Students will play the roles of earth history scientists, using timelines to assemble the sequence of past events and past life on earth. They will also discover how to use sequencing techniques on cross-sectional diagrams to interpret the geological history of the region of the Earth depicted in the diagram.

The Earth History unit will conclude with an in-depth look at a very LARGE subject...dinosaurs! Popular motion pictures have depicted the dinosaur as looking and behaving in a variety of ways. How much of what we see in movies is science fact versus Hollywood "special effects?"

One thing is certain. All 8th graders will be looking at "time" from a different perspective. What seems like a long time to them....like the 90 days left in this school year... can't compare to the 500 million-year-old clam!

P.S. Check out our Earth Science department website at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd> to get the latest from our new on-site weather station

Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Students have spent class time examining mystery, suspense and tension. We have read short stories such as, "The Most Dangerous Game" and "Runaway Rig." To help ease us into the cross-team Radio Play project, we listened to "Sorry, Wrong Number" and "No Chance of Error", as well as several student examples from last year. Currently, students are writing suspense poems based on the format of "Foul Shot." Their creative energies are being tapped, especially when it comes to writing figurative lan-

guage. Prior to vacation, students will be sharing dramatic presentations of their poems. We also look forward to concluding the Suspense unit with listening to the students' written, directed, and performed radio plays expected to arrive February 13th.

Although many students started the year overwhelmed by the amount of reading expected each month, most students have met or exceeded the challenge and are enjoying the opportunity to read different genres. When students reflected on their second quarter work, several students stated they were pleased with how much reading they were completing this year. One student stated he never has time to fit reading for pleasure into his schedule, however, when it is homework, it fits in easily. I am also happy to share that many students are reading great books and then passing them on to friends to read. During class I have found several students reading at times when they should be transitioning to focusing on a lesson. When "caught," they have stated they are approaching the climax and cannot put the novel down. All of these actions and comments prove that the reading habits students are establishing are healthy and hopefully will be carried with them well beyond 8th grade. Happy reading!

Prescott Math with Mr. Jahns

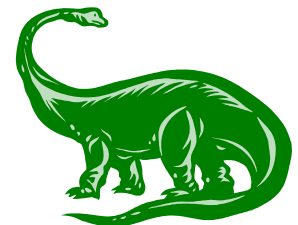
Lion and Tigers and Bears ... Oh No!

Inequalities, Absolute Values and Systems ... Oh No!

Doesn't quite have the same ring to it? The land the Algebra students have entered may feel as strange as the Land of Oz at times! We may be finishing our study of Linear Systems, but we haven't reached the end of this yellow brick road yet! Next we move on to quadratic (non-linear) equations, factoring quadratics and using the Quadratic Formula.

The Pre-Algebra class is once again looking at formal Algebra, bringing together everything we've worked on so far this year. This includes the "mechanics" of algebraic manipulation to simplify expressions or solve equation, and using Algebra as a problem-solving approach in story problems. We are now doing multi-step equation solving. This has not been easy for many students and is at least challenging to all, but all students are laying an excellent foundation for whatever class they end up in next year.

"Help Night" continues to be Thursdays. However, for the next couple of weeks, I will be involved with play rehearsals on Thursdays, so students should arrange an alternative time to meet with me.



Eighth Grade News

Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

In 8th grade History on Team Jordan, we completed our study of the American Revolution and moved on to the Articles of Confederation (and its weaknesses), the Constitutional Convention (and its compromises), and finally the Constitution and Bill of Rights! Along the way, we celebrated Ben Franklin's 300th Birthday with a team-wide interdisciplinary day of activities culminating in, of course, some birthday cake! We are now beginning a look at the Presidencies of George Washington and John Adams as we finally move into the 19th Century. I hope to spend a little time in the coming weeks taking a closer look at the story of our nation's capital, Washington, D.C..

Team Jordan English—Ms. Rasmussen

The 8th grade students have recently read several short stories, including "The Most Dangerous Game" by Richard Connell and "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson. They have studied the way authors build suspense into their stories and have written about and discussed several story elements. They have also been working hard on their radio plays, and I am looking forward to reading and hearing their productions. During the month of February, in preparation for their trip to Washington D.C., Team Jordan 8th grade students will read a book of their choice on a period, event, or influential person in American History. The book may be either fiction or non-fiction. After vacation, students will share their thoughts and opinions about their books with their classmates. Also, during the month of March, the students will research a social or political issue, take a position, and write a persuasive essay. To practice their powers of persuasion, the students will first read several letters to the editor and then write one of their own.



Washington



Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Fordin

Eighth graders have just wrapped up a unit on solving single-step equations. They are currently working on exploring patterns in the coordinate plane, and strengthening their vocabulary in this area. Our next unit will be to solve multi-step equations. Watch them as they figure out the best deal for you next time you go shopping together! Additionally, during this month we will begin a long-term project connected with multiple intelligences. Watch our students as they create innovative, inspired ways to teach and reinforce math concepts!

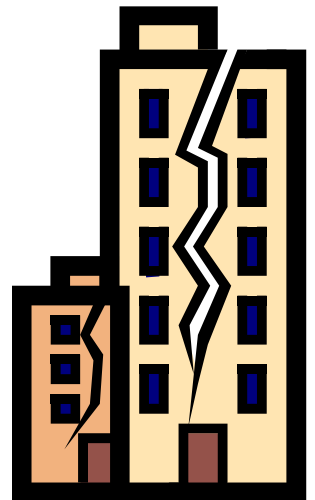
A reminder to you that February extra credit menu problems must be returned before February vacation.

Team Jordan Earth Science—Mrs. Cleveland

We have continued our study of our dynamic Earth with the study of volcanoes. Where do they come from? What types are there and what are the differences between them? What causes them to erupt? What are the different types of eruptions? These are only a few of the questions we answered. We learned how to read topographic maps and made a clay model with the contours of Mt. St. Helens. Students did a wonderful job researching their "adopted" volcano. The unit ended by watching and discussing a Discovery Channel video on the Super Volcano---Yellowstone.

We are now starting our study of earthquakes. Included in our study, students will be designing and building a four-story building and then testing it on our earthquake simulator.

WOW! That one measured 6.0 on the Richter Scale!!



LIFE SKILLS

El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash



Boy, have we come a long way since September! Our 7th graders are now completing their first major project for Spanish class. In this project they produce an Orientation Package for a Spanish exchange student coming to HBMS! This package includes all the information and materials a new student would need to make it through his/her first week at the Middle School.

In addition to producing the Orientation Package, students will take part in a skit they create. In this skit a veteran HBMS student talks with the exchange student about his/her first week here at school. This project allows for lots of creativity! The real bonus is we get to show our dramatic side!

Our 8th graders continue their study of the Preterit tense. It is wonderful to see how their range of communication has exploded by learning this new verbal tense! There is a lot of new material involved and it requires a lot of independent studying. We are very proud of how our 8th graders have studied up!

We have also been learning about other parts of speech that allow us to communicate more like native speakers. We have seen how using pronouns to refer back to nouns already mentioned helps us to speak in Spanish in a more natural way, as we do in English.

Keep those current events coming! It is a great way of earning extra credit. Check out our website for more information about extra credit opportunities and lots more

French—Madame Rankins



French students recognized in the month of January:

S. Cambray K. Nicosia-Rusin
J. Gual C. Devlin C. Proksch

French 7 students have finished up with the four-chapter review and are now into the food unit. The verb ALLER is being sung and practiced and used too. The students' likes and dislikes will be discussed which always proves to be very interesting!

French 8 students also did an extensive four-chapter review and are now being challenged with the introduction of the Passé Composé. We are also practicing and using sports vocabulary, which is always of interest to them!

C'est tout pour maintenant! Au revoir!

Family and Consumer Science

Team two is starting Family and Consumer Science with Mrs. Sarvaiya. In this enjoyable class, students will be learning the basics of food preparation, meal planning, food science, nutrition, and food safety. During this course we will learn by diverse styles, for example; observing demonstrations, watching videos and reading books, listening to lectures, note-taking and hands-on projects. So far, this class has been a complete success at HBMS.

The cooking unit is a favorite of the students. Foods made in Mrs. Sarvaiya's lab vary with different international

styles of cooking. One day there will be the distinct scent of brownies in the air, while the next day you'll smell vegetables

and garlic hummus. So far this year students have followed instructions clearly to make fabulous brownies, plus chopping, dicing, and cutting cool, crisp veggies to make Mediterranean wraps. There are more cooking experiences awaiting us in the future. The cooking classes we had were fun for seventh graders, who now have experienced cooking and cleaning in a kitchen, while enjoying their creations.

As for the sewing, neat rows of stitches have been appearing on felt. These students were inspired upon hearing that a former student actually embroidered words on cloth for a class assignment and handed it in for a great grade. "I thought it was outstanding and very creative," says student Marissa. In class, students are sewing colorful felt design creations, which are to look like a drawing that we had sketched earlier in class. Other topics covered in the sewing unit include basic stitches, using sewing machines, basic sewing information, and information about measuring, pattern layouts, cutting and sewing patterns and embroidery.

Hopefully Team Emerson students are enjoying Home Economics as much as the other students in HBMS have!

By: Bianca, Sarah, Shelby, Alicia, Caroline, Marissa and McHale.

Health & Wellness—Ms. White

My time with Team Prescott is exciting! Students are eager to participate and learn!

Team Prescott's time in Wellness class began with a brush-up on eating disorders. 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 then moved on to the subject of HIV. We learned what happens to someone when they get HIV, and how it can impact their lives. We also examined ways to help end the epidemic. We ended our HIV unit with students creating a hypothetical AIDS awareness program. Students had wonderful ideas and some created real examples including radio advertisements, public service announcements, television announcements, pamphlets, and informational signs/posters. Next time you are near the health room stop in to see them!

We finally entered into the CPR portion of class. Students learned that even though we only know the tip of the iceberg when it comes to "fixing" someone, we can still save a life! Testing occurred on Tuesday, January 31 and Friday February 1 -- students did an excellent job! Though snow days and delays held up some of the unit, we ended Adult CPR/First Aid just in time for Ms. Christy to talk to students about career development.

After their time with Ms. Christy, students will start in on the Child and Infant CPR portion of the class. This will conclude their time in Wellness class.

Life Skills—Cont'd

NON-FICTION

READING SUGGESTIONS

MS. DUFRESNE/MS. LUCAS



Stranded at Plimoth Plantation 1626 by Gary Bowen

Christopher Sears is a 13-year-old orphan stranded at Plimoth Plantation while he waits for transportation to Jamestown. Every day he finds new things to describe in his journal, like visits with Indians, eating pumpkins and lobsters for the first time, attending a birth or a funeral. He passes his time making woodcuts and printing with natural dyes. With each turn of the page the reader watches Christopher's artistic skill evolve from simple black and white to detailed multi-colored prints.

Sir Walter Raleigh and the Quest For El Dorado by Marc Aronson

One of the best biographies for teens ever written. This is a compulsively readable, well-researched account of the life and times of a man who may very well have defined Elizabethan era, at least what it was like to be a man of privilege in those days. Aronson does what all good biographers should do, but so few rarely achieve: he makes the reader see the subject in the context of his time, not refracted through the lens of contemporary mores. A fabulous piece of work.

In My Hands: Memories of a Holocaust Rescuer by Irene Gut Opdke with Jennifer Armstrong

One of the most important contributions to the literature about the Holocaust for young people in years. Smoothly written, yet full of the inexorable pull of a good suspense thriller, this is a book of true heroism and one woman's commitment to love in a time of hate.

Yankee Doodle Gals: Women Pilots of WWII by Amy Nathan

Solid look at a little known aspect of women's involvement in the war. Though they did not fly combat mission, they were in danger and made a terrific contribution to the war effort. Solid facts and photos help bring these gals to vivid life.

We Goddesses: Athena, Aphrodite and Hera by Doris Orgel

Three Greek goddesses, Athena, Aphrodite and Hera tell their own stories, coming out of the shadows usually cast by their more boisterous male counterparts. Includes information about Greek society and religion and is accompanied by stunning paintings by Marilee Heyer.

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

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
 Teen Hoopla
www.ala.org/teenhoopla
 PSLA Book Reviews
<http://www.psla.org/association/committee/mediaselectionandreview/topforty.php3>



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY??

Music, Band, Drama & Clubs

General Music

Seventh grade music students are currently learning skills on midi keyboard exploring the various uses and applications of the instrument. Fundamental keyboard knowledge and performing skills are emphasized. Future projects including music composition and internet use will be implemented in the near future.

Eighth grade students are currently practicing piano harmonization with the song "Happy Birthday To You". Their right hand will play the melody and their left hand plays the chord accompaniment at the same time. MIDI stations are in the process of being set up for our new music composition lessons.

Band

Congratulations to seventh and eighth grade band students for their outstanding performances at the winter concerts. Rehearsals are currently focused on skill development from instruction books. Music for our next concert will be introduced gradually and will be a varied program. Jazz Band continues to meet on Wednesday with the introductory level from 4:30 to 6:00 and advanced students from 6:00 to 7:30.

Congratulations to the following students for their selection to the NHBDA honors band: Tamara Liu, Devin Macdonald, Jenny Grossman and JT Trull. These students were selected by taped audition and will be traveling to Timberlane Regional High School on March 31st for a day of rehearsals and an evening performance. Also, the 7th and 8th grade band is now conducting a fundraiser to purchase school-owned instruments. Products are from Yankee Candle and Wolfgang Chocolates. We thank everyone for their continued support of the program. See you at the concerts.



ART

Art students in Team 6 are currently working on color wheels and paintings. Students are learning what the primary, secondary, intermediate, and terms of colors are. A color wheel is made up of twelve colors, or hues, which is a very useful tool for organizing colors. After making a color wheel, students will then select a CD, DVD, computer game cover, or any other picture they have selected and come up with an overall color theme for their picture. Both the picture image and the color wheel will be glued on a piece of colored construction paper. Mrs. Papadeas has done this lesson in the past and it has been both challenging and knowledgeable for the students. Students come away with the knowledge of color terms such as monochromatic, complementary, analogous, and triadic colors. These pictures will be on display in late February.

Chorus

Seventh and eighth grade students are currently working on their spring concert songs. The seventh grade will be singing "Wall Street Rhythm," "I'm A Believer," "Turn The Beat Around," "Land That We Love" and "I Bought Me A Cat". The eighth grade will be singing "Old Time Rock and Roll," "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride," "How Can I Stop Singing My Song," "The Road Less Traveled," and "I Can See Clearly Now."



SPORTS & PHYS. ED.

BASKETBALL

GIRLS –

The Hollis Brookline Middle School girls basketball team ended their season with eleven wins and three losses. “Team effort” and “unselfish play” were the key words for this team. With each game the girls became more aggressive, learning strengths to build on and adjusting to their opponents. Their total team effort and all around game play led them into the semi-finals on Wednesday, February 01, 2006 against Milford where they fought a rough and tough game losing 54 to 46. Great season ladies!



BOYS –

The Hollis Brookline Middle School boys basketball team also had a great season with twelve wins and two losses this year. Team scoring, intensity and gained confidence led to their many wins placing them in the playoffs against Nashua Catholic on Wednesday, February 01, 2006 where they returned home victorious by a score of 48 to 45. On Saturday, February 4th, they played Pelham in the finals losing by three points.

WRESTLING

A note from the wrestling team Coach

Sometimes in life it's not about winning or losing, it's about never giving up! No matter how difficult the task, or how formidable the foe, or how painful the struggle, some of our greatest victories in life are the ones that are not acknowledged by others or rewarded with trophies or medals.



These silent victories are more personal, more real, and more rewarding than any trophy or medal could ever be. These are the everyday internal victories that arise from deep inside of an athlete when they realize that they have pushed themselves further than they ever thought possible.

When the pain seems unbearable, exhaustion inescapable, and every ounce of strength is gone, victory comes to the athlete who hears the voice deep inside screaming, “NEVER GIVE UP, NEVER QUIT!” I believe the greatest outcome of being a wrestler is that wrestling helps young men find that voice, and find it often. Finding that voice, finding the courage to never quit was the goal of the 2006 Hollis/Brookline wrestling team.

Comprised of mostly first-time wrestlers who prior to joining the team had never even stepped on a wrestling mat, the members of the 2006 wrestling team grew stronger and stronger as each week passed, and with each week their internal voice became louder and louder, and by the time we reached the final tournaments of the season we were a force to be reckoned with. We may not have been the most talented or the most experienced, but we NEVER QUIT!!!! And that is what really matters.

To the 2006 wrestling team. thank you for NEVER GIVING UP! You are an inspiration to your family, friends, teachers and coaches, and you should be proud to call yourselves wrestlers.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

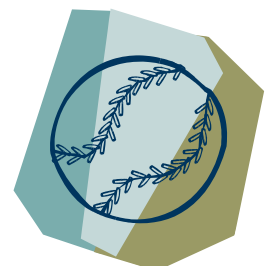
The seventh grade students completed the personal fitness unit doing self-evaluations of health-related and skill-related fitness components. After learning what their strengths and weaknesses were, the students used a chart to see what activities they can participate in to improve themselves. Currently the seventh graders are studying volleyball. They are learning the safety, basic rules, etiquette and skills necessary for game play. They have been working hard to improve their serve, overhand pass (set), forearm pass (bump), drive, spike, block, dig and dink. Classes brainstormed and then discussed the qualities of good sportsmanship in preparation for the class round robin tournament. The next unit will be team handball.



The eighth grade students are presently doing a Project Adventure unit. Students are presented with activities that provide both physical challenges and critical thinking skills. The activities involved an entire class, yet challenge each individual. Cooperation, communication, leadership, decision-making, creativity and organization are just a few of the skills needed to successfully complete the challenges. As an extension of this unit, the students will be going on a field trip to Boulder Morty's indoor climbing wall in Nashua. Team Jordan (eighth grade) will go on Thursday, February 16th. Team 3 will be going on Friday, February 17th and Team Prescott will be going on Friday, February 24th. Boulder Morty's is offering free belay lessons to parents and students who wish to belay during the field trip. Lessons are offered Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:00p.m. and Sundays at 5:00p.m. Finally, our own climbing wall located in our new multi-purpose room is ready. Staff is in the process of getting trained and we hope to begin using our wall before February break.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPRING SPORTS

Tryouts for spring sports (baseball, softball, track & field) will begin on March 27th. Depending on the condition of fields the exact times and locations will be made available at a later date.



Inside Story Headline

