



Knightly News

Hollis Brookline Middle School

February 2010

From the Administration

We have reached the half way mark with **second quarter grades** being reported **Friday, January 29th**. Students have been reminded of the importance to stay focused and reestablish goals for the remaining quarters. Seventh grade students have essential skills to master in preparation of 8th grade, while grade 8 students will soon be choosing high school classes.

Sgt. Mello spent Tuesday, January 12th at the middle school. Sgt. Mello, Officer Dunne, Steve S. and I traveled to all eighth grade blocks in the morning and met with 7th grade students in the afternoon. The topic of information was the **responsible use of the internet** with specific reference to **Facebook**. This plan was created in response to a Facebook page being created which grew out of control. Rich Mello met with me prior to the 12th to outline the information to be shared. The emphasis was on responsible use; showcasing outstanding service, athletic or academic accomplishments, social networking. He described inappropriate use and potential consequences; not being accepted into a private school or college, consequences from home or school, or from legal authorities. He described freedom of speech; what is and is not a right. And finally, Sgt. Mello reinforced that no one is ever truly anonymous on the internet. I have met with many students during ROCK and in the lunchroom for informal reactions. The most common reaction was, "I didn't know you could get into trouble for anything you posted." We are feeling as a staff that this presentation should be an annual event.

Plans are being finalized for the **09-10 trip to Washington, DC**. Two hundred sixteen students have committed to the trip. We will depart March 9th and return on the 12th. I have shared with our PTSA that serious thoughts will need to go to fundraising for a trip next year. Many more parents have asked for financial assistance this year resulting in my scholarship pool being exhausted. **Parents are reminded that there are two meetings scheduled; March 2 and 4, 6:30pm. Attendance at one meeting, for each student and a parent, is mandatory. Also, parents must plan to bring all prescription medications to that meeting. Mrs. Mandragouras will be in attendance.**

Mrs. Jean Filer is well known as a devoted parent, active community member and most recently as the HBMS front office secretary. Jean has not only supported the teachers and staff of HBMS but every student and parent who has walked into the office with a question or concern. As administrators, Steve and I have felt many times that we had a third administrator in the office. Her professionalism, initiative and balance of strength and compassion are unsurpassed. Jean has resigned to take a position at BAE. Without question she will be deeply missed. We wish her the best.

Mr. Gruce has scheduled three opportunities for students to submit their **ICT portfolios** for evaluation; Feb. 11, March 12 and April 13. The plan allows student to submit early and not have to think about it into the spring, plus submitting early will allow ample time to resubmit areas not deemed proficient. Please talk with your child about their plan for submission.

I have drafted a general outline of **6th grade transition plans** to be reviewed with the sixth grade teachers from HUES and CSDA. Once agreed upon, parents will receive a comprehensive description of events leading up to Team placement and Move Up Day in May.

PLEASE MAKE NOTE: There has been a change in our master calendar. The April early release day has been changed. Your printed schedule reads April 14th. **The early release day has been changed to April 13th throughout the SAU.**

Please join us in wishing **Mr. Secor** well as he and his wife **welcome their third child!** Mr. Secor will be home for a couple of weeks to help with the transition. There will be temporary, additional support in the office.

While we are feeling far more confident with **Powerschool** and our **2nd quarter grades**, please review report cards carefully. Should you feel there has been an error, please contact the teacher first.

In advance, thanks for your time and attention to the details of this message.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal, HBMS

From the HBMS PTSA

Happy New Year to ALL!!

With spring right around the corner, the PTSA will have plenty of opportunities for you to be involved with HBMS events. Now is also the time to think about helping out your PTSA by getting involved for the 2010/2011 school year. We will need Officers and committee chairs for the new school year.

It is hard to believe that half of the school year is over. We would like to say, a big

Thank you to all of our volunteers. Your support is key to having a successful year.

Our January 2010 PTSA meeting was well attended, some highlights that were discussed included: forming of a Nominating Committee for the open 2010-2011 PTSA positions,

Reflections deadline, the Blue Ribbon Award, and important dates for the upcoming Town Meetings: **Feb. 15 – Budget Hearing, March 17 Annual District meeting**

We wish to thank everyone who is helping to make our Scrip fund raiser a success. To date our profit is approximately \$2600, about half of what the PTSA budgeted for this year. Since it is just half way through the year, we are hopeful that we will reach our goal by June. Of the \$2600, approximately \$500 has been rebated to students for their Washington DC trip. We are happy to report that the addition of Hannaford cards has been well received. Since we all need to eat, the grocery store cards are a great way to support the PTSA without spending any extra money. The February Scrip order form is on line, so please consider ordering shopping cards this month!

Our Spirit Wear fundraiser has been well received again this year, Thank You to Leslie Eisenberg for all her hard work to make this a success. There will be one more Spirit Wear sale for you to purchase our "Hollis Brookline" items within the next couple of months, keep your eyes open for the order form!

Our Staff Appreciation committee is preparing a Valentine's Day "Decadent Dessert Buffet" for our teachers, administrators and staff, **Feb-**

February 12th, 2010. If you would like to make something sweet and decadent for this event, we would appreciate your donation. Please contact Shelly Gillis: shelly_gillis@hotmail.com or Lisa Schmalz: lschmalz@charter.net.

The 8th grade celebration that is held one evening the last week of school is in the beginning stages. This is a wonderful event for our 8th graders. It includes music, games, photos with friends, and an awesome slide show. The PTSA runs this event, with the help of the many wonderful parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping please complete the volunteer form that was sent out with the Report Cards on Friday the 29th and return it to the front office in an envelope marked **8th grade celebration.**

Our March PTSA meeting has been moved until the **3rd Friday, March 19th, 2010.** This change was made due to the DC trip and the **7th grade Generations Day** that will be on **March 12th, 2010.** Our agenda for the March meeting will include a visit from a **High School Counselor** to answer questions on the transition to the High School.

We hope to see you at our next PTSA meeting on **February 12th** at 8:30am. Remember, if we have a delay due to weather, our meeting will begin at 10:30am.

HBHS News

The high school guidance department is busy working on your 8th grade son or daughter's transition to the high school. We know this is both an exciting and anxious time and it is our hope that you find the following information helpful until we are able to meet with you in March.

Our Registration Information Night for 8th Grade Students and Parents is March 30. This night gives you a chance to hear about the registration process, graduation requirements, timeline, and pertinent information from each department chair. Following the presentation, you have an opportunity to meet with individual department heads. On March 31 the guidance department will introduce the registration process to the eighth graders at the middle school. Your son and daughter's current English, Math, Science, and Foreign Language teachers will recommend and approve their course selections. Over the years we have learned how much we trust your child's middle school teacher recommendations. There are ongoing conversations that happen behind the scenes between the high school and middle school departments to ensure correct placement. We are confident that the middle school teachers know your child's

abilities and the high school curriculum to best give input on their placement.

Following our evening presentation, parents are invited to attend one of our Parent Breakfasts at the high school to meet with administration and guidance to ask any follow-up questions they may have. We will be providing you with these dates in the near future.

Additionally, we will hold an Open House on May 6 where current high school students will give tours of the high school. The first day of high school, Orientation Day, is attended only by freshmen and transfer students. This allows your child to find their classes, meet their teachers, try their locker combinations, and attend a club and activity fair. Attendance at all transition events has proven to be a positive experience for students and families.

Hollis Woman's Club News

Start cleaning out your house and get ready to make some money! The Hollis Woman's Club is again sponsoring a giant Yard Sale on Saturday, April 17th at the Lawrence Barn from 8-11am. If you'd like to sell your treasures, you can buy a space for \$20 and bring your own table, or we can provide one for \$25 on a first come, first served basis. Set up will be Friday from 6-8pm. Call Susan Benz at 465-3607 or susanbenz@gmail.com today to reserve your space as it is limited! Meanwhile, mark your calendars to come and shop at this huge event with multiple sellers under one roof!

February Parent Education

Peter LaMonica, A Forensic Computer Analyst and founder of BeNetSafe.Org & PTSA's S-Team Parent Education workshops present:

Internet Safety and Your Children, Cyber Bullying, Cyber Predators, Identity Theft, Ever Changing Technology, The High Tech Kids, and much more! To be held at the Hollis Brookline High School, Hollis NH, Room 221, February 9, at 7 p.m. (snowdate February 16), questions call 603-465-2269/check the Hollis Brookline High School website for changes/cancellations.

Mark Your Calendars ...

***Scrip orders are due
February 10 & March 10***

Health Office Information

Ear Care

Mrs. Mandragouras

Lately, I have seen students in the Health Office who have irritated their ear canal by using cotton swabs to clean their ears. To prevent this from occurring, I have listed some ear care tips.

Most importantly, cotton swabs are bad to use for ear care because they can push the wax inward toward the ear canal or perforate the ear drum. Ear wax is a good thing; it provides a protective coating for the ear canal. Ears are usually self cleaning in that gravity and body heat pull the accumulated wax and other debris to the outer ear area where it can be visibly removed. Ears should only be cleaned if a plug or accumulation is affecting your child's hearing. If that is the case, you can squirt a stream of warm, not hot, clean water with an ear syringe into your child's ear. You also may want to soften the wax with a peroxide based solution your pharmacist can help you select. Please note, never clean out a painful ear, it may be infected.

Please contact your Primary Care Provider or Sheila Mandragouras RN School Nurse at 465-2223 or mandragourass@sau41.k12.nh.us with any questions.

Reminders for the Cold and Flu Season

Please remember to keep your child home from school if they have a fever of 100.00 degrees Fahrenheit or greater with a cough and or sore throat. Your child may not return to school until s/he is fever free without the use of fever reducers such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen for 24 hours. There is now ample supply of H1N1 vaccine if you are interested in having your child vaccinated.

Trash Talkers Request

Did you know 350,000 million cell phones and ink cartridges are thrown into landfills every year? The Trash Talkers, the HBMS recycling club would like to ask you to send in your unwanted cell phones and used ink cartridges. They will then be donated to the Nashua Humane Society, who in turn will send them to a recycling farm for cash to raise money to support their needs. There will be boxes in the front foyer to collect these items.

Please email bousquetm@sau41.k12.nh.us with any questions. Thanks for your consideration.

Seventh Grade News

Team McAuliffe — English

Melanie Madden

Students are immersed in studying the research process. They are reading biographies and then writing about the famous person. First, they completed a worksheet called “Proof of Passion” where they proved that their person met three criteria; contributed to society, a book could be found on the person, and they were passionate about this person or their career.

Students have learned the following skills which are essential in writing research papers:

- Evaluation of websites
- Differences in note taking; paraphrasing, quoting, and summarizing
- Signal phrases
- Outlining
- In-text citation
- Works Cited
- Essay leads
- Thesis statements
- Conclusions

At the end of this week/beginning of next week note cards and outlines will be due along with reading logs! Biographies will be due February 8th. There is a checklist on my website presently and soon students will be given a rubric which needs to be handed in with their paper.

Even though there is a lot of work involved in writing a research paper, I believe that students have been enjoying themselves learning about the process! Next month’s reading log genre is free choice!

Thanks for allowing me to spend this time with your children! It has been a pleasure.

Team McAuliffe — Mathematics

We are just starting our third quarter so we are just a little more than half way through the year - WOW. Finally, we are comfortable enough in our school to manage to get to our locker, get a drink, chat with a friend or two and still make it to class on time!

We just completed our unit on Geometry with our culminating project on surface area and volume. We figured out the surface area and volume of a food package, determined how we could minimize the surface area but keep the volume constant. With this new information,

we created a new, more stream-lined package. Ask us what shape box is more efficient at holding cereal. Is a cube or the rectangular cereal box more efficient at saving cardboard?

Our responses from the companies we wrote to with our suggestions have been outstanding. We have received over 30 letters back and a few packages of samples as well – yum!

From here, we have moved into the world of algebraic reasoning including the study of exponents and scientific notation. Next we will be using the order of operations and the properties of real numbers to simplify and solve algebraic expressions. For our next project, we will be using the order of operations to create the dates on a calendar.

Finally, we have two field trips coming up in March and April. Watch for details and a permission slip to be coming home soon.

Team McAuliffe— Keep Your Eyes on Science

Carolyn Evans

Our most recent focus (no pun intended) is a unit on the eye. I hope the parents enjoyed dissecting the eyeball “model” that students made. They were very diligent and precise when making their eye model and were eager and excited about doing an “eye dissection” with their parent(s). Many of the students did not let on to their parents that the dissection was an eye “model” and some parents were quite stressed in anticipation of doing a dissection while others were thrilled. The next day, the students were very eager to share feedback. Here are a few comments from the parents:

“I loved the fact that my son made me think it was a real eye! He even put it in the refrigerator.”

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

“It was very enjoyable to work with my son and refresh some buried knowledge.”

“We were a little nervous a real eye was coming home.”

“Learning about the eye this way was interesting. Looking forward to more dissections.”

“I really believed him that I had to dissect a real eye.”

“It was cool! Next time a real eyeball would be fun!!”

“I was lead to believe it was a real cow’s eyeball. I’m glad it wasn’t.”

“It was fun working with my daughter. The eye was amazing—very life-like.”

“What an eye opener!!”

During this unit, the students also had an opportunity to test their peripheral vision, determine their dominant eye, test for astigmatism, test their visual acuity, note the differences between a near and farsighted eyeball, and view cataract surgery. In addition, they compared the size of their right eye blind spot to that of their left eye blind spot. In this lab, titled, Mapping Your Blind Field and Blind Spot, the students used trigonometry to determine the size of these blind spots after they tested their blind field (blind field is the area on paper where a person is blind from a distance of 300mm). The students then followed the six steps of the scientific method and wrote their first lab report.

Team McAuliffe— History

Mrs. Connelly

In History on Team One, we have completed our Byzantine Empire Unit with a student made project instead of a test. Students made time capsules which contained artifacts related to the famous people, events and places that we studied. Check out the pictures on our team, classweb page. They are quite impressive!

While learning about the fall of Byzantium, our studies have led us into learning about the formation of Islam and how it impacted Europe. Students are seeing how the major civilizations were impacted by religion in ancient times and may connect that learning to the present in comparisons and contrasts to the world we live in now.

As we move on explore the Middle Ages, we will look at the ‘Dark Ages’ and how the development of Feudalism established order and a hierarchy of power. Students will read the ‘*Song of Roland*’ and sing a tale of Charlemagne and his nephew, Roland, in their own words. They will also read a condensed version of ‘*Beowulf*.’ We will examine the growth of manors, castles and cathedrals which served many functions in European life. Also, students will have the opportunity to be an architect of one of these intriguing medieval structures. Then in March, we will visit the Higgins Armory where students will take a tour of the largest collection of ar-

mory in North America, join in a play about being a merchant, and learn about heraldry by making their own shield. This is a fun unit with great intrigue and excitement. Be sure to ask your child about the crusades simulation which we will re-enact later this spring.

Team Jordan—Health

Team Jordan has just started health class. Students are studying stress. What causes stress? What relieves stress? What can I do to lead a low stress lifestyle? In addition to our in-class learning, students will be bringing home interviews to do with their parents. So far students have been surprised that their parents were stressed about the same things they worry about! More interviews will be on the way as the quarter progresses!

Team Jordan—English

Mrs. DiZazzo

Team Jordan English students are writing up a storm! In January, students began exploring various types of nonfiction writing and the styles indicative of each form.

Students are busy multitasking during the month of February! Over the past weeks, we have discussed and practiced researching techniques—from learning about types of sources, to finding credible and reliable sources, to how to take notes. Students will use what knowledge they have gained about the research process to actively seek out information about topics of their choice. In class, focus will be on a different type of nonfiction writing, in the form of a memoir writing workshop. Students will craft a memoir based on a life experience and will learn about effective storytelling and proper writing conventions.

Once students return from February vacation, we will embark on the journey of creating a well-researched essay on a topic that evokes much passion within them. Students will understand the value of all aspects of the writing process through this unit of study, and will focus on organizing ideas, creating formal outlines, using research to support their opinions, creating thesis statements, and much more!

In free choice reading news, students have furthered their exposure to classic literature by reading a classic novel of their choice. This month, students have moved on to non-fiction selections, and in March, we will work closely with social studies, and try out historical fiction novels set in the middle ages.

Team Jordan—Math

Mrs. Hall

Math in 2010 is off to an exciting start. If you remember as part of our previous unit we wrote business letters to different companies explaining how they could save material, money and the environment by redesigning their packaging into cube-like designs. Several companies have responded to our input which has been very exciting to think that they have taken our 7th grade opinions into consideration. Some companies have even sent us coupons but even more exiting is that they have sent some of us free samples. Every day we check the mailbox hoping to hear back from more.

Recently we have been looking at powers and exponents. We have even discussed why a number with zero as an exponent has a value of one, what it means to have an undefined value and why bases with negative exponents have fractional values. Now that we are ready to extend ourselves, we are on a quest to use the theory of exponential growth to make positive changes in the world. Keep an eye out for our random acts of kindness!

Team Jordan—Science

Ms. Ellerin

In proving some of the characteristics of light, we have made a piece of paper disappear, bent an inflexible fork, and made a hidden penny reappear. Students explored the characteristic of reflection by using mirrors and lasers to send a beam of light to specific targets set up around the room. Not only have students been exploring the characteristics of light, we'll be linking these characteristics with the physiology of the eye. Refraction of light happens in the cornea and the lens; cones on the retina react to different wavelengths of light to allow us to see color; and in order to see an object, light must be reflected from the object into our eye. The dissection of the cow's eye allowed all of team Jordan scientists to actively "see" all the parts that we have learned.

Students will then take their understanding of the parts of the eye and synthesize their knowledge in a kinesthetic way by creating their own model of an eyeball. With a nod to our linguistic learners, students will also be challenged to create an acrostic poem about two parts of the eye.

Even though we know how the eye and nervous system work, we can still fool our brains with optical illusions. Students will enjoy a day of exploring optical illusions during one of our rotation labs.

In the next few weeks, students will be immersed in the scientific method. As the six steps of the experimental process are revealed, we'll be doing activities to reinforce each step of the scientific method. Such activities include the mystery of blue ice, robot fluff, and the Crisco lab.

In our culminating activity, students will design an experiment to measure individual lung capacity. Their hypothesis, materials, procedures, data and conclusion will be written in a formal lab report. This experiment about the lungs will be our jumping off point for our next body system: the Respiratory System.

Team Jordan—History

In 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. 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. We even got to handle 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 will even design our own heralds which will be 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! If you haven't seen the students' heralds and Byzantine mosaics, you're in for a treat. We will culminate our journey through the early Middle Ages with a trip to the Higgins Armory in Worcester, MA. This museum contains the largest collection of Middle Ages armor and weapons in North America. Besides the guided tour through the exhibits, we will have a demonstration of armor and even have time for a Middle Ages art project. Look for more info about that in the coming days!

Once 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!

Eighth Grade News

Team Hypatia— English

Mrs. Gruposso

English students on Team Hypatia are wrapping up the unit on style, reading and discussing Steinbeck's novella, The Pearl. With their independent reading, as well as pieces read in class, students have identified passages with good tension (rising action) and have practiced analyzing the elements of style: diction, emphasis, rhythm, imagery / figurative language.

A major assessment to show the understanding of style, as well as following directions, is the radio play which is well underway. Students will evaluate their own success in these areas when they "self-conference" on what they hope is the final draft of their script (February 11/12). They will then have the opportunity to revise before making the recording which is due March 3/4.

The Pearl, and its themes, will act as an excellent segue to our preparation for the opportunities for learning during the week of Washington, D.C. The issues of conflict, social inequality and the power of education in the novel encourage discussions and questions while students examine those issues for the United States and the twenty-first century. Students will read other relevant pieces, participate in discussions with veterans, and will write reflective pieces in connection with these experiences.

As you may recall from Open House, the eighth grade is attending a performance of Romeo and Juliet on April 14, after we read it in class. The permission slip for that will be sent home shortly.

Because we are now in the second half of the eighth grade year, the push for students to independently practice good study / work habits is increasing. Students will be asked to re-work assignments that do not meet basic requirements. Please review with your son / daughter the homework procedures for Team Hypatia as applicable to late work and absences.

Team Hypatia— Math

Over the next few weeks, 8th grade math will be getting to know the many properties of mathematics; how they work and the significance of using the properties to provide the proof for algebraic problem solving. Students will be

practicing solving equations using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in the "traditional" algebraic method of steps and its application to word problems. This will then lead to the student use of input and output tables along with their gaining knowledge of the interconnection of equations, graphs, lines and real life. Algebra classes have just completed their unit on functions and graphing and are delving into systems of equations also known as simultaneous equations. We will be starting polynomials, factoring and quadratics in the next few weeks.

Team Hypatia— Earth Science

As you are well aware, the earthquakes in Haiti have provided a great introduction to my next module, earthquakes. We have had an opportunity to view a PowerPoint designed by IRIS, (a site I use to explain earthquakes worldwide) shortly after the earthquake took place. Students continue to bring in current events surrounding this devastating quake that has placed Haiti in the news more times than not. I can't state it enough that real events do impact my teaching which lends itself in making a positive influence on my students learning as well as their life. The information gathered from all of this has made a difference in how well they perform in the Epicenter Project by providing design information from the real world to be used in their towers, how cool is that!

Students will participate in brainstorming, designing, building, and finally testing an earthquake resistant four-story building on an earthquake simulator. After researching this interesting topic, students will learn that the most destructive waves of an earthquake are the waves that reach the surface of the earth called secondary waves or *s waves*. These waves are the waves that shake buildings up and down and side to side also giving a twisting motion. Students will build their towers to withstand this type of shaking and hopefully resist a 5.0 magnitude on a simulator earthquake machine for 15 seconds. Some students will build their tower to try and withstand a 9.0! This project can be very frustrating for students because accuracy in their measurements is a must. So please encourage their tenacity! This is a very fun lab activity for each student, as they become very competitive with each other. I will certainly enjoy watching them problem solve, cooperate, compromise, reason, and be rewarded for their

efforts. The day of testing is an anxious one. Don't forget to bring in current event articles about science in the news to receive bonus points on tests and quizzes. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. The third quarter due date is March 26.

Team Hypatia— American History

We have just finished discussing the creation of our American Government, the plans, compromises and results. Through an interactive game, students understand that starting a national government is a difficult process. They now have a better understanding about compromise, debate and supporting their viewpoints. This is certainly a skill that they can apply throughout their lives. Current events for the month were also focused on the topic of government.

Students have been recently been assigned an essay in which they will answer "How significant are the precedents set by George Washington?" We have spent a day in the lab to start researching these precedents and will work through the revision process in class. You can check out this assignment and other happening in class by visiting: <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1>

Team Hypatia— Health

Team Hypatia has finished their CPR and first aid unit. Students worked hard to pass both the written and the mannequin tests. These potentially life-saving skills are like second nature to us now. We learned first about caring for an emergency involving an adult and then about children and infants. In a few weeks, students who passed their tests will have their certification cards. Be on the lookout for them at home!

To help the relief effort in Haiti, there's a clothing drive underway in Hollis/Brookline.

Please visit www.hollishelpshaiti.org for more information.

Team Prescott— English

Tension and conflict is our study right now in Team Prescott English. We have read story after story that model for students how authors grab our attention and make us worry on page one and do not let up the tension until after the climax. We have also listened to several radio plays with tension created through music, dialogue and sound effects. Students are analyzing the tools that authors use to create the tension and are practicing using them in their poetry, short stories and radio play writing.

Starting February 1st, students will begin their study of The Pearl by John Steinbeck. Author's craft will be our focus still as we analyze the structure of the text, characterization, and style. The book will be read both in class and as part of homework. Musical connections will be played during class to mirror the mood of the main character. This will also begin to bridge our study of style from the text level to music, art, and other disciplines. Students will see that the elements of style are all around us. We will also be writing literary essays related to style and Steinbeck's story.

Outside reading for the month of February will help prepare the students for the trip to D.C. They can read fiction or non-fiction books about WWI, WWII, Holocaust, Post WWII, Cold War, or the Vietnam Conflict. Students will visit many of these memorials/museums and having an understanding of what happened historically through story will allow them to better appreciate those who have come before us.

March will bring the start of the study of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. A permission slip will be handed out the first week of February for the April 14th field trip. Please return with check/money by February 12th. With the cold temperatures and snow, it is hard to think of spring. It will be here before we know it.

Team Prescott— Math

Now that we are halfway through the school year, it is a good time to review good study habits, organizational strategies and the tools that are available to all students. On the team math website are links to the textbook, homework assignments, extra challenge problems, general expectations and other helpful math sites. In addition, students should ensure that they have plenty of pencils, pens, erasers and other math supplies since this is traditionally the time of year when student supplies run low. Preparation of materials, utilization of proper tools and

the development of appropriate habits help to develop a stronger student.

Our eight grade math continues with the study of volume and surface area of three dimensional objects. We built cubes and discovered how pyramids are measured. We began to look at packaging and how much fits inside with a hands-on activity to see what package is the best design to hold 2 cups of popcorn for a fund-raising event. We will be comparing surface area and volume in more hands-on activities. Stay tuned.....

We have just begun to enter into the real world of linear equations as well as the investigative piece! The investigative teams in Algebra just finished solving a "Who Dunit?" using linear equations and deductive reasoning. By analyzing data, they looked at correlations and determined which piece of data had the strongest relationship to height. They used this information to solve the crime and present their case to their peers. Ask your son/daughter about the Sherlock Holmes unit. Some of them came up with very creative stories about the missing student. Let's see how creative they can be as we continue on with equations and head into linear inequalities, how to solve them and seeing what their solution sets look like.

Team Prescott— Earth Sciences

It's the Right "Time"

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.

Our earth history unit will also include an in depth look at a very LARGE subject...dinosaurs! Students will research a dinosaur of their choice, and work in the computer lab designing and building a website that introduces the appearance and behavior characteristics of their dinosaur. Our research will provide us with information about dinosaurs that has been accumulated by scientists since the mid-1800's. As we all know, 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 eighth 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!

Finally ... as many have already heard, beginning this month, Mr. Bond will be taking a leave from the classroom to travel to and work on the Ice ... in Antarctica. His deployment to McMurdo Station, located on the Ross Ice Shelf, will span from mid-February to mid-October. His position with Raytheon Polar Services requires that he "winter-over" on the continent ... Brrr! He is working with school staff to employ technologies to electronically communicate with his students back in the classroom. He will return in October to work with a new group of 8th graders ... and, to visit with his current students who will have moved to the high school.

For more information on our year in science, check out our Earth Science Department web site at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd>

Team Prescott— History

We began term 3 working hard on the nuts and bolts of the Constitution itself. Having just spent a week on the Convention and the Founding Fathers this was fairly easy going. Everybody was teamed up with a partner and together folks made posters about various concepts associated with the document, like the Bill of Rights, Checks and Balances, Separation of Powers, etc. Folks presented and then put their posters up all around the room.

Next week we're diving into the administration of George Washington and we'll see how he manages to make some sense of the chaos he inherited. Many precedents that he started in the 1780's are still followed today, such as running for President twice then stepping aside.

Following Washington's Administration we'll be studying the presidency of John Adams. He was saddled with some interesting problems, both home and abroad. We'll be studying the Quasi-War with France and the XYZ Affair. Political parties begin in this administration. But President Adams and his Federalists will give way to the Democratic-Republicans in 1800 as Thomas Jefferson moves into the White House in a brand new capitol city of Washington, D.C.

Following the February break we'll be gearing up for the Washington, D.C. trip so we'll be concentrating on a group project based on 20th Century Wars. Each student does their own poster and presents as a member of a 5-person unit to the class. Then we string them up for everyone, including visiting veterans, to see.

Upon our triumphant return from the nation's capitol we'll be studying Thomas Jefferson's Administration and all the good things that the Democratic-Republicans can bring to bear on the country. For one thing we manage to purchase a huge tract of land west of the Mississippi River called the Louisiana Purchase. President Jefferson hires two great outdoorsmen and they hire a crew to make a 27 month Journey to the Pacific and back, making notes and maps of everything that they find along the way (Lewis & Clark). We fight Barbary Pirates during this period as well.

Jeffersonians will give way to the administration of James Madison. We become embroiled in a naval war with Great Britain on the high seas and Great Lakes. In class we will complete our 2nd ICT project of the year using Excel and Powerpoint for a project done in pairs on the War of 1812.

7th Grade Reading

Leonid Gershgorin

In January, each class worked diligently on their Newbery Medal book project. Students used what they learned during the short story unit to create the various sections of their book jacket. They applied their knowledge of setting, character, and plot elements (inciting force, rising action, conflict, climax, falling action) to produce their skillful interpretation of the book they read.

Through out February and into March, classes will read Call of the Wild, Black Star, Bright Dawn, or Stone Fox. Using their particular novel, students will learn the importance of character and what it takes to overcome extreme hardship. Furthermore, students will continue to utilize various comprehension strategies, in order to be able to properly analyze their specific text.

Grade 8 Reading

Mrs. Dufresne



The month of January concluded our split classes with two different novels. Now all reading classes experienced the story of Sarah Emma Edmonds reading *Behind Rebel Lines* by Seymour Reit as well as the novel by Neal Shusterman called *Scorpion Shards*. The combination adventure and science fiction genre and historical fiction novel brought us to the half-year point. Term three brings reading classes to the serious course of study of the Holocaust and World War II in preparation for their Washington, DC trip. We will read several novels including *Street Boys*, *The Devil's Arithmetic* and listen to a reading of *Night* by author Elie Wiesel. Students will be journaling through their reading for these novels and writing Found Poems around the Holocaust themes. We are finishing with the films *Jacob the Liar* and *Devil's Arithmetic* before we head to DC next month. Sudoku and WOW weekly sentences continue to be a staple in our class. We practice thinking and writing skills through these venues. Please remember to check the reading website for homework and assignment information.

Integrated Specialists

Technology Education

Mr. Picariello

During the marble maze unit for Technology Education, students need to keep a journal for their ICT project. Part of the journal includes a reflection. Here is one example that clearly speaks to the success of the project.

The marble maze project was one of the best projects this year. Since it was a trial and error type project, it held a lot of disappointment at times, but a real sense of accomplishments at the same time. This is a really hands on assignment instead of doing paperwork. I liked how we were just turned loose to do what we liked with the project instead of being given detailed step by step instructions on how to carry it out. When something went wrong – the marble stopped in the middle of the track, it went far to fast on a certain section – it was time consuming and annoying to fix. It was also a great experience because we discovered for ourselves what to do and what not to do. As Mr. Picariello stated, there is no wrong answer to this problem, just endless solutions. We did learn that

just by putting a computer on a desk does not mean that's technology – its part of technology. I think this project is one of the most enjoyable assignments we have had so far this year and it should definitely go on.

Lauren

Bytes of Technology

By Mr. Gruce



The Eighth Grade students have been given their ICT Portfolio requirements. Students must choose one of the following due dates for portfolio completion (note the change to the April due date); **February 11th**, **March 9th**, **April 13th** Students are expected to complete this project during their Skills Periods. The full details are posted on my website. If you have any questions on this topic, please contact me here at the middle school.

Office Suite Versions Conflicts

I am still having quite a few visitations this year with students in regard to being unable to open a file brought from home. This is most often due to a different version of Office or a different word processor / office "suite" being used at home versus what is being used in school. Currently the Hollis Brookline Middle School uses Microsoft Office XP Professional Suite. If you have purchased or upgraded your computer or software to another version of Office, particularly Office 2007, or you are using Works, Open Office, WordPerfect, NeoOffice, or other word processing / office suite program, your child needs to save any work he/she brings into school in the Office 97 – XP- file format. This will help reduce stress when your child attempts to open his/her document and trips to my room requesting to convert the item into the proper format so it will work at the Middle School. If you or your child has any questions, please contact me. I am working on directions and will post them to my website when they are finished. Thank you

Art and Team 4

Team Prescott started art this week. Students are excited to get their creative thoughts going once again. The first lesson for an art student is to construct a portfolio to house all their artwork. Art that is in progress and art that is completed should be



put in their portfolio. A portfolio keeps the artwork neat and wrinkle free. It can be like a journal that can be viewed year to year. Students and teachers can see how much they have grown over the years. As a teacher I have developed several art albums that have a variety of different art work through the years. They also display photographs with many examples of student artwork and all the different art materials that we have used. They have some original art work in them and many notes. Students love to browse through them for inspiration and to find some of their sibling pictures.

The cover of the portfolio is a great place for students to produce their first piece of art for the quarter. The first assignment is to draw at least five objects on the cover of their folder. The drawn objects can be in the same category such as different types of fruit or tools. The objects should be recognizable and realistic. Students need to plan out their drawing so that the objects have an interesting arrangement and with size variation. Attention to detail is a must. Students can add color and shade to enhance their image. In the past I have seen some wonderful musical instruments, flowers, animals, and food. I encourage students to save all their work. Often though they only save what they are proud of. Hopefully they will share some of their work with you and continue to experience making art for years to come.

Since Valentine's Day is just around the corner we are also working on a Valentine composition that uses many of the art elements and principles of design. Some students are incorporating writing with their art. Others are doing more of a hidden Valentine image. There are even some students who are creating objects with using just heart shapes. These pictures will soon be on display for all to enjoy.

La classe de français!

The 7th grade classes are finishing their section on the vocabulary for family members, houses and neighborhoods. They have described their rooms at home, asked others about

their siblings and cousins and told about their own. They now know two very important irregular verbs (être and avoir) as well as their "er" verbs that they can use. They completed their ICT Projects in the computer lab creating a document with a drawing and a paragraph about two relatives or a pet. The finished products are really colorful and creative. The possessive adjectives were introduced (my, your, his, hers) which can be tricky in French since they are gender specific.

In February they will start the first chapter on foods and talk about going to a café or restaurant. After they have learned some vocabulary we can have our own café in the classroom which they all love.

The 8th grade classes have just completed the reflexive verb chapter which introduces many verbs to talk about one's morning routine and getting ready for the day. This was the format for our recent ICT project in the computer lab. They created three very good drawings, (some looked like illustrations for books!) depicting reflexive verbs like brushing one's teeth, waking up in the morning, etc. and then wrote a text in French to accompany each picture. Their new chapter is the driving unit which introduces four important verbs and words associated with cars, driving, problems with cars and related grammar. They have a lot of fun with this chapter and will soon describe the car of their dreams while presenting a photo and description to the class.

Who, What, & Where @ Your Library



C. Jahns

Grade 8 students have been seeking mystery and adventure in the LMC this month and 7th grade teams are handling fact and fiction with classics, biography, and non-fiction books. Grade 7 teams also began the research process in the library with a practice session on the Library Media Center webpage, including the Destiny Library Catalog, research terms, works cited, note-taking, and database information and access. Top research topics are animal rights, environmental issues, and health related subjects. Computers were in demand for letters in English, manor creations for Social Studies, math assignments or Spanish projects as well. Grade 7 Reading classes finished with Newbery Award books just as the 2010 Newbery Award was announced: When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead.

We set up monthly displays, tag books with genre stickers, and assist in selection, but some genre' is less familiar to students. Most students recognize mystery or adventure novels, but **classics** can be complicated. At About.com, "classic literature" is defined with the following points:

A classic usually expresses some artistic quality—an expression of life, truth, and beauty.

A classic stands the test of time.

A classic has a certain universal appeal.

A classic makes connections.

http://classiclit.about.com/od/forbeginners/aa_whatisclass.htm

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Many students chose classic novels by Jane Austen, Arthur Conan Doyle, Fred Gipson, Harper Lee, Jack London, Lois Lowry, Robert Louis Stevenson, Wilson Rawls, Mark Twain, H. G. Wells, Johann Wyss, or Jules Verne. Adventurous classics are the favorite.

Book of the month: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan.

An interesting site that provides book recommendations, author interviews, and much more is: <http://www.teensreadtoo.com> Check it out!

Hola de Señora Lash y Señora Banks

It is unbelievable, but we are half way through this school year. We are very proud of our students; they have come a long way since September. Our 7th graders will soon begin their first major project for Spanish Class. This is a project that will assess all the pieces of the Spanish language, grammar and vocabulary. Students will soon learn the first conjugation of verbs. Exciting stuff! Through this skill they will expand their vocabulary and greatly enhance their ability to communicate.

Our 8th grade students just finished learning about comparisons and demonstrative adjectives. They will soon start looking at the preterit tense. We are confident that their range of communication will increase dramatically by learning this new verbal tense. Our students will also start working on a computer project that will incorporate all aspects of the language we have focused on thus far.

Please keep checking our web site for homework and other activities.

Hasta la próxima,

Señora Lash y Señora Banks

Math with Mr. Jahns....

Eighth Grade Math

We have just finished our Ratios and Proportions unit. This unit came to conclusion with a project focused on MPG and the cost of driving a car. To start the new quarter we entered the same work into a spreadsheet, which students can choose to use as their ICT project representing the spreadsheet category or their "Choice" project.

We are now beginning a new unit - Formal Algebra. Algebra begins vocabulary like Variables, Terms, Coefficients, Expressions, Like Terms, etc. We will practice simplifying and evaluating expressions and explore the Equality, Commutative, Associative and Distributive Properties. Finally, we learn to solve one, two and three step equations. The level of success in this unit will help me to determine whether to recommend students for Pre-Algebra next year as 9th graders, or to move on to Algebra I.

Seventh Grade Algebra

Algebra is on track and making good progress. We have been studying Linear Equations and Inequalities. We used graphing calculators to define a "best fitting line" (linear regression) and the correlation ("r") factor for reliability. Using the equation for the best fitting line, we then explored the usefulness of extrapolation and interpolation. Students were exposed to some non-linear equations, such as those involving absolute value. We've also worked with functions and function notation. Next we'll be doing a little statistics, including measures of central tendency, stem and leaf graphs and box-whisker plots. Then it is on to systems of equations.

Eighth Grade Geometry

Geometry is moving along nicely, having recently completed our study of triangles and their properties, and now we are well into polygons in general. We are making extensive use of Geometry Sketchpad to explore properties and propose conjectures through inductive reasoning, and then to prove the validity of these conjectures with deductive proofs. As a culmination of all this discovery, we are creating web pages to showcase the students' best interactive Geometry Sketchpad sketches, which will also count as their 8th grade ICT project. Next, we move on to circle properties. Let's hope we don't end up chasing our tails!!

Music Notes

8th Grade Band

Eighth Grade Band is currently working on repertoire for Large Group Festival on Saturday, March 20th. There was a letter sent home regarding Large Group Festival and what exactly the festival entails. For the first time, HBMS is going to participate in the Large Group Festival. This festival brings together bands from all over the state of New Hampshire to play in front of adjudicators for a rating. The 8th grade students will also have a small clinic on what they played from a judge and then an exercise in sight reading for which they will be rated. This program is beneficial because it gives the students an opportunity to showcase their talents in a new setting. It also affords them the opportunity to hear a different conductor's opinion of their playing. If the students do well and prepare sufficiently, they will come away from this experience with pride in their music department and a better idea of what they have to do to bring their performance to the next level.

This festival will take place at Goffstown High School on **Saturday March 20th**. There will be busses to and from the event with drop-off and pickup at HBMS. As of now, the schedule for the day has not been finalized and therefore we do not have a set time. The schedule will be posted in the middle of February and as soon as it has, I will notify people of the time. However, we are looking at an approximate three hour window of time from drop-off to pickup at HBMS. I do not expect the festival to go past mid afternoon.



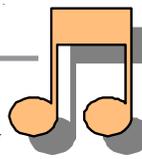
7th Grade Band

Seventh grade band is currently preparing new music for the spring. Thank you for supporting home practice time. We are currently in the process of memorizing all our major scales at the pace of one scale every two weeks. This is a large but attainable task!

Chorus

Congratulations to the following 8th grade choral students who were selected by the NHMEA South Central District Music Festival to sing on May 8, 2010 in Bedford.

Melanie N.-soprano
Emily C.-soprano
Nicole B.-alto
Alex K.-baritone



A special thank you goes to all 8th grade chorus students who were interested in being nominated for this music festival!

All are invited to attend this festival concert starting at 5:00pm at the Bedford High School. A donation of \$5.00 per ticket may be paid at the door.

Chorus members have just completed winter concert music. We will now begin spring concert music. Building singing skills is also a current goal using our Sight Singing Book series. Students have memorized and recorded the warm-up Betty Botter for 7th grade and A Toad Story for 8th grade. A copy may be found on our school website on the chorus page.



General Music- 8th Grade Classes

Currently we are practicing the melody to "Over in the Meadow" on acoustic guitar and also learning the song "Jump Blues" on piano.

Next, after discussing appropriate audience behavior at a classical or school concert, general music students will be asked to produce a concert conduct web page using the computer lab during music classes. This is considered an ICT project. Students will answer the following questions after class discussion and research: where to find concert listings, how to purchase tickets, what to do before a concert/preparation and how to follow the appropriate etiquette procedures while in attendance.

General Music- 7th Grade Classes

Students are completing a 10 lesson unit on acoustic guitars using the H.O.T. Hands-On Training lesson book by Nancy Lee Marsters. Our course goal is to provide a positive music learning experience through the development of guitar skills. Students will be able to play E minor, A minor, and E major7 with accuracy. Along with their new guitar skills, students will also be asked to sing the melodies to the folk tunes "The Ghost of Tom", "Drunken Sailor" and "Hey, Ho, Nobody Home."

Next, seventh grade general music students are viewing the musical "The Music Man" by Meredith Wilson. Students will then need to complete a research packet to compare and contrast different characters and songs. Click on the faculty tab on our school website and then Spencer/General Music to view the research questions and the rubric for this unit.

Physical Education & Sports

Physical Education

Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston

The seventh grade students just completed the personal fitness unit. The students looked at their own habits (eating, sleeping, studying, and activity) and feelings about fitness. They learned how to take their pulse and what various activities do to their heart rate. The students figured out their target heart rate (where to exercise to strengthen their heart) and tested their health-related and skill-related fitness. The students chose one area that they were willing to try to improve during the month of January and then reflected on their goals. Students spent a few days doing adventure activities with group problem solving to work on team building.

Currently, classes are playing the Olympic sport of team handball. They are learning the skills, rules and defenses for playing this fast paced and exciting game.

Our eighth grade students are still involved in the Challenge unit. We have just finished our “on the floor” group initiative problems and are now traversing our climbing wall. Following two weeks of wall traverse challenges, we will learn how to use harnesses and climbing hardware, tie knots, back-up belay and belay students who wish to climb 24 feet vertically on our wall. The unit will end with a field trip to Vertical Dreams, an indoor climbing facility located in Manchester. The field trip dates are April 1 for Team Hypatia and April 2 for Team Prescott.

Winter Sports

BASKETBALL

Boys—Coach Gershgorin

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School boy’s basketball team** finished off the regular season with very strong performances and a lot of intensity. Their record is 9 wins and 7 losses as of January 26. Defensive rebounding, blocks and guarding have been excellent throughout the season, and strong offensive rebounds have been the difference maker. All in all, the entire team has shown great attitude, impressive work ethic and an abundance of energy and hard play.



Girls—Coach Cook

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School girl’s basketball team** worked hard to improve skills and learn new plays with new coach Lindsey Cook, but struggled to find success in the win column. For the regular season, they had 2 wins and 15 losses. “Team effort” and “unselfish play” are the key words for this team. With each game the girls have become more aggressive, learning strengths to build on and adjusting to their opponents.

WRESTLING—Coach Oliva

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School wrestling team** started practice under second year coach Matt Oliva. The competitive season includes twelve dual meets with other



middle schools. The culmination of the season is the Tri-County Championships on January 31, 2010. Wrestlers also have an opportunity to compete at the regional and state tournaments. Sixteen wrestlers make up this year’s team. Many of the wrestlers have had outstanding meets, showing great determination and heart. The overriding emphasis of this year’s team is to learn the basics of wrestling and be able to make the transition to high school wrestling if desired. Wrestling is not a sport for everyone but for those select few who are willing to train hard there is no greater sport. Wrestling teaches discipline, courage and how to react to adversity. And it is those life lessons that a wrestler will carry with him or herself for the rest of their lives.