



Knighly News

Hollis Brookline Middle School



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From the Administration

Happy New Year! It seems like yesterday that we were anticipating the new millennium, now we enter 2004 with renewed purpose and energy!

I begin first by thanking Mrs. Smith for initiating the **nomination** of our PTSA for the **New England League of Middle Schools' Parent and Community Group Award 2003-2004**. Supporting letters were written by teachers, an administrator and the nominated group that responded to the question "How does your group actively support the development of Young Adolescents through the promotion of effective Middle Level Education activities and programs?" The finalist will be notified in March.

Report Cards for quarter 2 will be distributed **January 30**. Again we ask that you sign and return via your child the envelope only. Should you have any questions please contact the office.

Within many areas of the core curriculum contest opportunities are made available. We are very proud to announce that **Paul T. Smith**, an eighth grade student on Team Prescott, has been announced as the **VFW's "Patriot's Pen"** essay winner from Hollis-Brookline, District and the State of New Hampshire. Paul will be recognized at a banquet on January 17.

The final payment for the Washington, DC trip is due January 16 and 20. I will be in the cafeteria for Team 3 on Friday and Team Prescott on Tuesday for the collection of \$130.00 and the completed student contract. Two hundred four students have committed to the trip. Parents, who will be asked to chaperone, will be contacted by January 21. Please mark **March 9 or 16** on your calendar for a **mandatory parent/student meeting**. (We are aware there is no school for students on the 9th.) You may attend either meeting which will start at 6:30 and conclude by 7: 15.

As always your input is valued.

Please feel free to phone with questions or feedback.

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal

PTSA President's Report

Thanks to all of you who volunteer in any way in our school. The parental involvement that we have at HBMS is wonderful and a tribute to you as parents. The students and staff certainly appreciate all that we as parents and volunteers do to help them.

The Staff Appreciation Committee, consisting of Lisa Schmalz and Kristen Berry, remains active and unstoppable. The Thanksgiving Feast was reported to be phenomenal. Thanks to all who baked, cooked, served, and cleaned. This was truly a display of our appreciation for the staff.

The HBMS PTSA will be sponsoring two evenings of Community Conversations organized by Ruth Kabel. The first will be a Drug Awareness Program co-sponsored with the HBHS PTSA. This is tentatively scheduled for February 11th at 7:00 PM at the HBMS Library. This should be very informative. Parents and community members are encouraged to attend. On April 14th at 6:30 PM we will sponsor a presentation by NH Higher Education Assistance. This program will provide information to parents on helping their student prepare for college. Yes, even we, as Middle School parents, should find this helpful.

I encourage each and every one of you to attend the March Cooperative School District meeting and vote. Please encourage your neighbors and friends to vote as well. We need all the support we can get to correct the overcrowding at our Middle School.

Our monthly PTSA meetings are held the third Thursday of the month, 8:30-10:00 a.m. in the HBMS Conference Room. However, the March meeting will be held on Friday, March 19, instead. If you have any item for the agenda, please feel free to contact me.

May you all enjoy a wonderful and healthy New Year.

Lex Bundschuh,

PTSA President; 465-3142; UNOFAM@aol.com

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!! IMPORTANT !!

Date Changes for Band Concerts

Due to the primary elections being held at the High School on the 27th, the 8th grade concert will be held on Wed., January 28th. Students will need to be at the auditorium at 6:30 PM for warmups. The doors will open for parents at 6:45 PM.

The 7th grade concert will be held on the January 29th as previously scheduled. Students need to report to HBHS auditorium at 6:30 PM for warmups and the concert will start at 7PM. Doors open at 6:45 PM.

Girls- black skirt, white blouse, shoes
Boys-Dark dress pants, white dress shirt, tie, shoes (no sneakers)

Admission is free. Hope to see you there.

THE KING AND I

Reminder !!! Save the dates !!!!! March 12 and 13

Rehearsals are underway for our March production. All cast and crew are working hard to bring you a great show. Don't forget to save the dates.

Two PTSA Sponsored Programs in the Works

Drug Awareness - 4 community members, DEA officer, Hollis DARE, Brookline DARE and State Trooper, will come and talk with parents about drugs. They will discuss the latest "trends" for kids, what to look out for, etc. This is tentatively set up for Feb 11th at 7:00 PM.

The NH Higher Education Assistance Foundation is coming to speak to parents and students. Parents will learn about college costs, financial aid, admissions, etc. Kids will play a game, "Who Wants to be a College Grad?" to learn what they should do to get ready for college (eg. high school courses, etc.). This will be held on April 14 at 6:30PM.

LOST AND FOUND

Many valuable items have piled up on our **lost and found** table. We have many fleece jackets and vests, windbreakers, dozens of gym shorts and sweat pants, T-shirts, sweatshirts, sneakers, shoes and lunch bags.

Please feel free to **drop by the school and check our table** if your child is missing items. They are on display as you come through the front door. The entire lot will be removed and sent to a charitable organization by **Friday, February 6, 2004.**

Handicap Parking

A reminder to parents and visitors that we have only **one handicap parking place** located directly in front of the main entrance to the school. We ask that parents and visitors be thoughtful and courteous when picking up students and **not park** in that spot (even for what you would consider a minute). Several times the spot has been occupied by non-handicapped vehicles when needed for a handicapped person. We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

For PTSA information and back issues of Knightly News, visit the HBMS PTSA on the Web at www.hbms.k12.nh.us/ptsa OR click the link on the school home page www.hbms.k12.nh.us

Lunch Checks/Accounts

It would help the kitchen personnel tremendously if, when you send in a check for your child's lunch account, you would please **put your child's first and last name on the check.** If you are aware of your **child's ID number**, that would help also. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Team 1 English

Mrs. Maher

After a busy December reading A Christmas Carol, experiencing Victorian life, and then travelling to view "A Christmas Carol" at The North Shore Music Theatre, we are going to slow things down a bit this New Year.

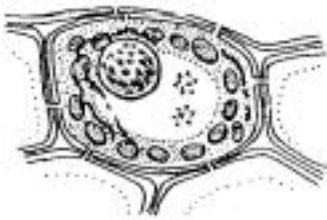
Our next unit will be Poetry, and we will officially start this week. During this unit, students will examine many different types of poetry, analyze their own definition and opinion on poetry, and study over 20 different poetry terms to help them better understand the poetry they will read. Stay tuned for more specific information, as I will post it on my website.



Team 1 Science

Mrs. Cleveland

We continue our work with the microscope and the microscopic by learning how to estimate the size of the cell or microorganisms that we see. When we speak of measuring in microns (one micron is one one-thousandth of a millimeter), we really begin to comprehend how small these cells really are. The students truly enjoy watching these protozoa swim and dive on the slides. The children are realizing how important patience is when dealing with finding,



following, and drawing these little critters. This year we have a digital microscope on which students can photograph especially good cells and video others.

We will be studying the parts of the cell and seeing how these cell parts all work together to form cells, tissues, organs, systems, and organisms. We will then be able to refer back to the digital

micrographs to see the parts as we study them. As part of our study of the individual organelles we will incorporate work with Mrs. Fordin to complete a project using ratio and proportion.

After concluding cells, we will begin our study of the respiratory system. We have a lot of activities planned so students will have a better understanding of all that is involved in that system.

Team 1 Social Studies

Mr. Capraro

We are coming to the end of our study of the Byzantine Empire. We started the unit with a look at what caused an empire as great as Rome to slowly weaken and fall. Ask your child about the cycle the Romans found themselves in that caused a definite downward spiral! We looked at how the empire basically split in half—the West going through a difficult period of unrest and the East organizing itself as the Byzantine Empire. There are three main points I wanted to cover. First is what brought Rome down and what happened to the empire after the fall in 476 AD. Second is how Byzantium was like Rome but also how they learned from Rome's mistakes and changed some things. Third is a brief introduction to the "new" religion of the Byzantines: Islam. We will be finishing this chapter before the end of the month (the chapter test and notebook will be due in the coming weeks). After our study of the Byzantines, we can dive right into the Holy Roman Empire and feudal Europe.



I continue to include the art of the people and time we are studying into our lessons. Mosaics are the art forms that have become most closely associated with the Byzantines. Look for your student (alone or with a partner) to be designing and creating their own mosaics. Once completed and collected, the mosaics will join the cave paintings and Celtic illuminations on the class wall. My classroom continues to evolve to reflect what we have learned; stop by for a look sometime! And as always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

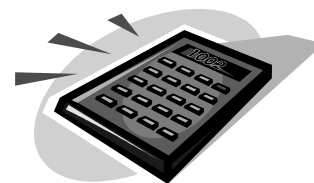
Team 1 Math

Mrs. Fordin & Mrs. Rossetti

Over the past few weeks, we have been reintroduced to our long forgotten friends, fractions. We continue to reminisce over our past experiences with fractions and are now looking at different ways in which to model and manipulate these friendly numbers.

During some classes, we have been writing expressions and combining like terms, in hopes of solving equations in the very near future. We have also been working hard on incorporating the order of operations, integers and fractions into our daily lives. We are determined to be accurate in our calculations by the end of the year!

There are those of us who have been focusing on solving equations using the good old algebraic methods our parents learned in school. This will lead nicely into activities involving the coordinate plane and linear modeling.



Team 2 English

Written by Brian Q., Team 2 Student

The Plum Pudding Report

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year long," Scrooge proclaimed after being accompanied by the three Christmas spirits. In English during December we've been reading A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and learning about Victorian times in London. Team two students have developed a vivid vocabulary and can quote many of Scrooge's words! Also, a **big thanks** to all of you who helped with our charity endeavor. Eighty percent participation!

This second quarter has given us memories to last us a life time, ranging from "A Christmas Carol" at the North Shore Music Theater to ice skating. A lot of Team two students enjoyed ice skating at the new Conway Arena, from falling down on the ice to getting back up. Many people said they made some progress, even the teachers! To Team Two, this quarter has been a unique learning experience. Next quarter we will be reading short stories.

Team 2 Science

Mrs. Evans

Seventh Grade Scientists Meet "Denis the Meniscus"

Observing birth, head on collisions, and unusual eating habits-Where are these amazing events taking place? Right before our eyes-under the microscope, of course!! Our microbiologists recently had an opportunity to observe a variety of microscopic organisms, including rotifers, paramecium, and spirostomum. The unique behaviors, movements, and habits of these one-celled organisms were easily observed using our compound light microscopes.



Recently, while practicing their skill using graduated cylinders, our students met "Denis the Meniscus". Because the water forms a "smile" when it is poured into a glass graduated cylinder, finding the meniscus is not always easy. With a lot of patience, careful observation and much practice our scientists were successful at determining the meniscus.

We are now "balancing our act" using triple beam balances. The next challenge using the triple beam balance and the graduated cylinders is to determine the weight of water. After completing this lab, the students should conclude that the weight of water in grams is equal to its volume of water in mL.

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

Making a model of a "working" respiratory system will be quite a challenge!!! Working in teams of two, the students will make a respiratory system from items such as: Y tube, a rubber glove, two small balloons, a two-liter bottle and rubber stopper. Their challenge will be to make their model inhale and exhale without blowing into it.

Using the scientific method to solve a problem, each student will also determine his/her lung capacity. Each class will be divided into seven groups, and each group will be given a different list of materials from which they have to create their own plan and run their own experiment. After collecting and analyzing data, they will finally state a conclusion which indicates the variables that impact one's lung capacity. To make this lab more complete, the students

will tap into their mathematical intelligence and create a 3-D cube that represents their own personal lung capacity.

Our culminating activity for this unit will be a lamb lung dissection. The kinesthetic experience from this lab reinforces the importance of maintaining strong, healthy, smoke-free lungs.

Team 2 Social Studies

Mrs. Beale

We began our study of the Middle Ages with the Byzantine Empire, one of the three western civilizations of the Middle Ages. Students had an opportunity to express their own points of view on the two major issues that caused the great schism between the East and the West. Much of our discussion has focused on the "strategic location" of Constantinople, the center of Byzantine life and the capital of the Eastern Empire. To get a little better picture of the Byzantine culture, students wrote and presented short skits depicting the great Emperor Justinian and Empress Theodora, the strength of the powerful Byzantine army and navy with their secret weapon, "Greek Fire," and the Eastern patriarchs meeting with the Roman bishops at the Council of Chalcedon. Before finishing this unit we will look at some of the cultural achievements of the Byzantines: Justinian's Code of Law, Saint Sophia's Cathedral and the remarkable brothers Cyril and Methodius who devised a new alphabet for the people of Eastern Europe.

During the second and third weeks of January we will also spend some time gearing up for the New Hampshire Primaries. We will begin by determining what qualities make a good leader, what some of the key issues are and how we would solve them, and finally, how the presidential candidates measure up to our own individual expectations. The culmination of our NH Primary unit will be a candidates' debate complete with all the pomp and paraphernalia of a nominating convention, as students create their own campaign materials.

Team 2 Math

Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Rossetti

Over the past few weeks, we have been reintroduced to our long forgotten friends, fractions. We continue to reminisce over our past experiences with fractions and are now looking at different ways in which to model and manipulate these friendly numbers.

During some classes, we have been writing expressions and combining like terms, in hopes of solving equations in the very near future. We have also been working hard on incorporating the order of operations, integers and fractions into our daily lives. We are determined to be accurate in our calculations by the end of the year!

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Team 3 English

Mrs. Cicciu

During December and January English students on team 3 have been reading and analyzing selected adventure and mystery selections as preparation for their major project: writing and recording of a radio play script, complete with sound effects. Students are in the process of choosing their collaborators (one to three other eighth graders from either team) with whom they will brainstorm ideas, outline a plot diagram, write the script, incorporate style devices that contribute to suspense, improvise realistic sound effects, and record with final dramatic result on tape. This project is completed outside of school, so parents have been asked to sign a calendar on which students have planned their meeting places, dates, times, and goals; thank you in advance for the transportation you will be asked to provide! This project teaches cooperation, coordination, compromise, time management, ability to use a list of criteria, and perseverance, all life skills that will prepare them for future challenges. The results are always enjoyable and amazing, in spite of minor disasters along the way!

The students' outside reading this month is focused on the mystery genre. Maybe by the end of the month they will be real sleuths, on the path of bringing criminals to justice. Certainly their reasoning skills will have improved as they try to solve the crimes, using the clues presented in the stories. Their final project is to complete a fact sheet for each book read during the month and to participate in a debate based on their reading of Walter Dean Myers' *Monster*.

The second quarter of the school year ends on January 23rd. Hasn't the year gone by quickly? Students who are committed to completing homework nightly, setting goals, seeking help with skills that are challenging, and engaging enthusiastically in class discussions, lessons, and projects are to be commended. Their enthusiasm and determination are inspiring!

Team 3 Earth Science

Mrs. Smith

During the past four weeks we have had many interruptions, from snow delays to illness among the students, and then Christmas vacation. This has not discouraged us from our unit on plate tectonics. Our unit of study has included three labs, *Inside Earth*, *A View from the Top*, and *Hutton's Great*

Heat Engine. All of which present a greater understanding of the relationship between plate motion and our present location. We are constantly reminded of our very special Earth as it is ever evolving and enriching us with new information. As this goes to print we will be studying another geologic phenomenon, volcanoes. This involves making several types of volcanoes and learning how to read a topographical



map. Mt. St. Helens and Mt. Vesuvius will be the volcanoes of choice.

Students 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.

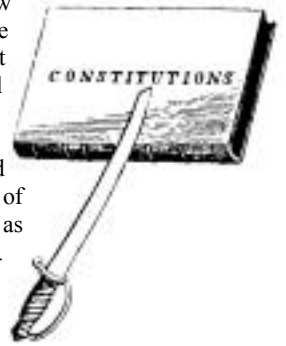
I hope everyone enjoyed a healthy holiday and Happy New Year!

Team 3 Social Studies

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 2004 by looking at life in America in 1800 for the average American that was much more basic and crude than it was for our famous leaders.

We are now focusing our attention on the events and times of Presidents Jefferson and Madison. We will soon be exploring the changes taking place in America epitomized by Andy Jackson and the theme of expansion.

Team 3 Math

Mrs. Mezzocchi

In the pre-algebra classes, students finished the old year with researching, learning, making posters and presenting ten (10) algebra properties. The math classroom looks very bright and cheerful with these elaborate posters decorating the walls. To begin the new year, integers is the topic of concern for January. In the first week back, addition and subtraction of integers has been presented and maybe we will get to do the integer "DANCE" on the number line.

In algebra class, all students are becoming experts in slope and intercepts. Their graphing techniques are improving with time. The connection between algebra and geometry via the graphing of linear equations is being made daily. This class will finish up the term with linear equations. The new term will begin with the study of inequalities and then linear systems of equations.

In geometry class, the students are in the process of discovering and writing the triangle properties of congruence. From triangles they will move on to the properties of polygons and then on to circles. It is exciting to observe middle school students "discovering geometry" because it is a totally different experience than with high school students. I've always said that 8th grade is the "ah-ha" stage of mathematics because concepts click at this stage of development. So to see this happening in a geometry setting is very unique and enjoyable experience for the teacher.

All Team 3 math classes ended the year by examining the connection between surface area and volume. The activity that culminated this study was the making of an "Origami" cube. Students blew me away with the precision that they put into these projects. I hope everyone has a renewed motivation in mathematics as we begin 2004.

Team Prescott English

Mrs. Gruposso

In all classes students are currently exploring a literary genre chosen by individuals from three options: script writing with our guest teacher, Jessie DiGiacinto; poetry, in some cases with our new team member, Mrs. Greenfeder, in others with Mrs. Gruposso; and short stories with either Mrs. Miron or Mrs. Gruposso. This series, which will take about ten classes to complete, is inspiring some thoughtful and insightful discussion as well as some excellent writing.

The eighth grade radio play project will be introduced to team students on January 15th or 16th. A calendar will come home for a parent's signature. Please go over this calendar with your son or daughter to make sure there are no conflicts and to help in problem solving.

Since group members are not in the same class, there will be no class time given to group meetings. Students are encouraged to pick others who live close by or share study hall time. They can also stay after school if they make arrangements with Mrs. Gruposso ahead of time. The completed play will be due February 20th. However, there may



be some students who will begin earlier in order to work with members of Team Three. Those students need to understand that they must adhere to Mrs. Cicciu's due dates. Although the writing and recording of the radio play is a lot of work, for most students it stands out as a highlight of their eighth grade English experience.

The final products will be available for your listening pleasure during our Team Celebration in the spring.

Team Prescott Earth Science

Mr. Bond

It's the Right "Time"

Throughout the remainder of January, 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 eighth graders will be looking at "time" from a different angle. 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 web site at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd> to get the latest on NASA's mission to Mars. Click on *NOVA Mars: Dead or Alive* for a colorful look at Spirit's successful touchdown on the red planet.

Team Prescott Social Studies

Mr. Lyle

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."

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Team Prescott Math

Mr. Jahns

Caution: Students Hard at Work Ahead!

It's not easy, but between the holidays and snowdays, we are even getting a little math done, believe it or not! This requires more revision and concentration on the part of the student, not always easy at this time of year. But, it's onward and upward!

The *Algebra* class is continuing to slide the slippery slope as we further our study of Linear Equations and Inequalities ($y = mx + b$, get it??). Systems of Equations (a.k.a. Simultaneous Equations) will soon follow. A supply of graph paper will be helpful!

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 equations 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 we are laying an excellent foundation for next year in whatever class students end up in.

"Help Night" continues to be Thursdays. Students should come with their questions in hand, ready to go! I am here, right after school, until all questions are answered (or 3:15, whichever comes first!)

Sports Update



Linda Desmarais

Physical Education

Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School boys' basketball team has been hard at work with their defensive press and effort at fast breaks. The offense has been doing a great job with rebounding and the team's effort to support one another has given all players confidence and led them to a standing of 6 wins and 2 losses as of January 5th. Team members this year under the coaching of John Gray are: Craig B., Joshua C., Ben D., Sean D., Andrew D., Mike G., Nick G., Bryan J., Alex K., Ben M., James T., Matt V., Chris W. and team manager David S..

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School girls' basketball team has been working very hard but has had some tough games. The girls are very supportive of each other and are working extremely hard on some key skills. Standings as of January 5th are 2 wins and 6 losses. Team members coached by Nicole Adamson this year are: Kelsey C., Kristen D., Kristie D., Megan F., Hannah G., Arielle K., Kelsey L., Maura M., Alex M., Courtney P., Danika R., Gabby S., Meagan V. and team manager Katelyn M..

WRESTLING

The Hollis Brookline Middle School wrestling team has been hard at practice each Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday since December 1st. A time consuming and exhausting sport, this year's young team, has their work cut out for them in defense of our Big East Regional title. Although their first meet on December 8th against Merrimack was cancelled due to inclement weather, the team is hard at work anticipating their next meet. Team members coached by Rick Melillo this year are: Philip A., Sean D., Philip D., Andrew D., Joshua E., Nicholas G., Bryant G., Sean H., Joey H., John H., James K., Aaron L., Kevin L., Justin M., Stephen M., Jared N., James N., Marty P., Autumn S. and team managers Joshua B. and Ryan M..



The seventh and eighth grade volleyball unit culminated in a spirited, full school assembly just before vacation. The eight class period champions were - Proud Snow-captain Jack S., Killer Frosties-captain Bryan J., Yellow Snow-captain Jenna T., Red Nose Reindeer-captain Kyle J., We Believe in Santa-captain Ryan L., Turkeys-captain Sam A., The Rabid Snowmen-captain Adam C., and \$20.00 Snow Coins-captain Alex K..

These students challenged the HBMS staff showing great determination, powerful serves, well placed sets, timely spikes and a tremendous amount of hustle. The results were 3 wins for the students, 4 wins for the staff and 1 tie - AWESOME JOB!!!



The seventh grade students are working on a personal fitness unit. The students have looked at their own habits (eating, sleeping, studying, activity) and feelings about fitness. They are learning to take their pulse and what various activities do to their heart rate. The students will figure out their own target heart rate (where to exercise to strengthen their heart) and do self-evaluations on health-related and skill-related fitness components. They will use this information in the culminating activity - writing their own fitness program.

The eighth grade students have moved on to Project Adventure. Students are presented with activities that provide both physical challenges and critical thinking skills. These activities involve an entire class, yet challenge the individual. Cooperation, communication, leadership, decision-making, creativity and organization are just a few of the skills



needed to successfully complete the challenges. We are providing dynamic experiences which, when offered in the atmosphere of fun, promote team effort and a willingness to try. The culminating activity

for this unit will be a field trip to Boulder Morty's indoor climbing wall. The dates are February 6 for Team 3 and February 13 for Team Prescott.





La Clase de Español

Señora Banks y Señora Lash

It is hard to believe that we have nearly completed two quarters! We've come a long way since September. Our 7th graders will soon begin their first major project for Spanish Class. It is a project based assessment piece that incorporates the many parts of language and abundant vocabulary we have learned to use. In this project the students produce an orientation package which could be given to a Spanish speaking exchange student at HBMS. This package includes all the information and materials a new student would need to make it through their first week at the middle school.

Eighth graders are doing a fabulous job delving into the past. They are very successfully applying what they know about the present tense to this preterit tense.

We just completed an exploration of Spanish art. Together we experienced and discussed four artists from Spain who lived in four different centuries. Many interesting observations were shared comparing style and technique of the various artists and periods. We ended our exploration by choosing the painting we most admired and recreating it lending our own personal style and technique. Many of us were surprised at how well we were able to recreate these masterpieces!

Remember to check out our homework pages. Everything you need to know about your child's Spanish life is available there for you.



French

Madame Rankins

French students recognized in ...

November:

Patrick K.
Kristen D.
Lauren T.
Ryan L.
Cade M.

December:

Alex W.
Jonothan K.
Jordan M.
Jonathan H.
Tyler T.I

Seventh grade French students are busy working with family and house vocabulary. The famous verb AVOIR, to have, is also being learned and put to use. Their ER verb projects were very well done with some creative illustrations! We all enjoyed watching *Trouver Nemo* in French before the holiday break. Happy New Year to everyone!!! Au revoir.

Eighth grade French students are busily working on gas station vocab and driving terms, etc. Their projects describing their routine for a day were great. Very interesting illustrations! They also liked *Trouver Nemo* en Francais! Merci to Jess K. for all of her Help!



Bonne et heureuse annee a vous!



Media Center

Eileen Ball

The winter months are the best to tackle some extra reading. It is also a great time to read a story aloud with someone else in your family. Recently, I had the good fortune to borrow a book from one of our reading teachers, Mrs. Lucas. She had a copy of *The Secret School* by Avi. What impressed me about the book was the great lengths that the main character, Ida and her friend Tom went through to complete the eighth grade during the spring of 1925. The story brings up issues of overcoming obstacles in order to complete an education.

Another inspiring book I read was *Hermans / Sisters* by Gary Paulsen. The story is about two girls, one is Hispanic and lives alone in south Los Angeles. The other girl is wealthy and lives with both parents in North Hollywood. By unusual circumstances the girls meet and this chance encounter changes both of their lives. The story crosses both cultural and economic aspects and reveals how both of them overcome roadblocks in their lives.

Like adult literature, books written for young adults are rich in characters and have great stories that help our students face their everyday obstacles and decisions. I thought I would share these two books, because it's always great when books speak to us.

During January two significant events will take place in the library media center. The Geography Bee will be held on Tuesday, January 13th; and the Spelling Bee will be held on Tuesday, January 20th.



Family and Consumer Science

Mrs. Sarvaiya

Written by Steph P. and Lauren N.

This term Team Three has the privilege of studying family and consumer science (home economics) with Mrs. Sarvaiya. First, the students started off the term by designing felt pieces. To do this the students first chose a design that they wanted to turn into a felt piece. Then the students colored and cut out their designs. After that the students pinned the designs to a piece of felt. Then they cut out the correct colored felt pieces and sewed them onto the original felt piece. The finished products came out rather well.

A few weeks after Team Three started home economics, they began to cook. The students started out by cooking brownies and banana bread. Then for the holiday season they made a lot of festive types of cookies and had a cookie swap. The cookies came out very well and everyone enjoyed them. In the future, students will be making pizza and Chinese food.

Currently we are making stuffed animals that were ordered in the middle of November. The students could order anything that they wanted from mice to elephants. To complete the assignment the students have to complete two objects by the end of the quarter. If the students didn't want to make stuffed animals, they could make blankets, pillows, bags, and even clothes. Team Three has enjoyed cooking and sewing in family and consumer science with Mrs. Sarvaiya this quarter.



GUIDELINES FOR GOOD HEALTH DURING THE FLU SEASON

Recently we have had a number of students with colds as well as the flu. Many of the viral illnesses are spread by contact with infected body fluids. In order to reduce the risk of the spread of these illnesses the following guidelines are recommended:

Students *should be* encouraged to wash their hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol based hand gel.



Students *should not* share chap stick or lip balm.

Students *should* be reminded *not* to share food or drinks with anyone.

Students *should be* reminded to use and dispose of tissue in the appropriate location.

Any student who has a temperature over 100 degrees should remain home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

MEDICATIONS NEEDED IN SCHOOL

During the present cold/flu season, the Health Office has had requests from a number of parents to administer over the counter medications to their children. Please be reminded that in order to comply with school guidelines this medication must be kept in the Health Office so that its administration can be supervised. Medication should also be brought to school in its original container, and a request from a parent in writing should accompany the medication. Thank you for your cooperation.



Book Picks For the New Year

Locomotion by Jacqueline Woodson

Lonnie Collins Motions' teacher, Ms. Marcus, has been showing him how to express his feelings through poetry. Locomotion is the story of Lonnie's life told through his poetry. He has finally found a way to speak about parents he lost when he was seven years old, his foster Mom, Miss Edna, his sister Lili from whom he's been separated, and his views of life, God and family.

The Cheat by Amy Goldman Koss

Cheating on the geography mid-term is just the beginning. What was done without much thought leads to greater, as we discover from six talkative eighth graders who are willing to share every juicy detail. Told in the irresistible multi-voiced style of the acclaimed novel *The Girls*, this fast paced look at middle school's minefield is full of truth, humor, and heart.

A Step From Heaven by An Na

A young Korean girl describes her family's bittersweet emigration to America. Young Ju, her parents, and her brother struggle in their new world, weighed down by the difficulty of learning English, their narrow-minded family life and the traditions of the country they left behind. An Na's striking language authentically reflects the process of acculturation as Young Ju grows from a child to an adult.

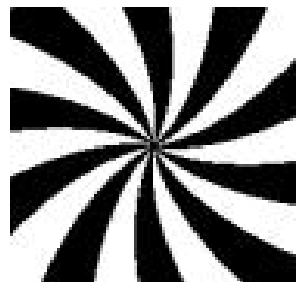
The Angel's Command by Brian Jaques

Ben and Ned, the boy and dog who were sent on an angel's errand in *Castaways of the Flying Dutchman*, find themselves swept up in adventures both at sea and in the mountains of Spain in this exciting installment, *The Angel's Command*. Their never-ending quest of helping those in need brings the castaways to an elderly man whose grandson has been abducted by an evil robber gang. Aided by two new friends, a painter, and a gypsy girl, Ben and Ned embark on a perilous journey to reunite the family.

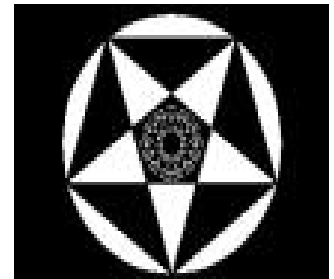


Color Wheels and Abstract Paintings

Team 2 just completed color wheels and paintings. Students studied primary, secondary, intermediate, and tints of colors. One requirement was an illustration at the center of the wheel. Much latitude was allowed in the treatment of the center illustration. Some art students created deeply shaded pencil renderings while others cut and pasted images in the center. Another choice was to paint a motif or frame around their wheel. Classes could see with the final results that the color wheels were not just simple color studies. The color wheels were works of art that showed craftsmanship and originality. Students really had a lot of fun creating them.



Another assignment in Mrs. Papadeas' art classes was to develop an abstract painting using a series of geometric designs. Using their basic understanding of colors, relationships of color, mixing and application, students were asked to create an abstract painting. Plastic triangles, circles, rulers and templates were provided for this process. Students were asked to develop an interesting composition and visual design in their painting. Results were very colorful and exciting to look at. All Team 2 students will be bring home their art portfolios and hopefully will share them with you.



Hollis Brookline Middle School Yearbook Committee



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Update on the Yearbook's Progress

Thanks to the aggressive salesmanship of the yearbook committee members, over thirty-three area businesses have contributed advertisements and financial support to the 2003-2004 edition. Please support these business establishments, groups or individuals who have shown their interest in Hollis and Brookline students.

Christopher's Subs and Pizza
Infiniti of Nashua
Hollis Hair Design
Coldwell Banker – Joyce O'Connor
The Brookline Schools
Focus on Fitness / Nashua Athletic Club
Dr. Edward L. Klopfer, Orthodontist
Hollis Village Grocery
Hollis Brookline Middle School PTSA
Crafts Appraisal Associates, Ltd.
Kathy Blake Dance Studios
Brookline Police Department
Aviva Custom Photography – Amy Cielinski
Coldwell Banker – Cynthia N. Coughlin
McLaughlin – Mayflower Movers
Mrs. Woodrow
Adamyk Homes, INC.

The Marino Family
Curves of Hollis, NH
Quiltopia
B & C Cuts
Nashua Nutrition
Martial Arts Center for Personal Development
Mary Kay Skincare (Ginnie Foye)
S. R. Tardif Remodeling, Inc.
Page Two Entertainment
Hollis Auto Service
RE/MAX Prestige – Diane Perlack
Sabo Design Solutions, INC.
Parker's Maple Barn
NH Power Yoga
The Churchill Family
Amherst Orthodontics
Hollis Brookline Middle School Staff

Another thank you goes out to Donna Cormier, the PTSA volunteer coordinator, who contacted parents for two other yearbook-sponsored events, and to all the parents who respond so generously with their time. The following parents responded to the request for chaperones for the November 14th dance: Mrs. McConney, Mrs. Howling, Mrs. Nemecek, Mrs. Goupil, Mr. Calo, and Mrs. Knecht. The pre-sales event of the yearbook took place with the help of Mrs. Hammond, Mrs. Hurt, Mrs. Cormier, and Mrs. Hyde who collected money during lunches on December 8 and 9, 2003. The money from all these fund raisers helps the yearbook committee meet the financial deadlines from the yearbook publisher and keeps the cost of the yearbook to a reasonable level. As enrollment has grown, more pages have had to be added, just to accommodate the individual pictures of students alone; this adds up to higher costs.

One final fund raising event will be held during the next week. Parents are invited to write a short message to their graduating eighth graders at a cost of \$5.00. We ask that you limit the number of words to 20 or less, including names. The form below may be used for the message and should be enclosed in an envelope along with payment (cash or check to HBMS); envelopes may be placed in Mrs. Cicciu's or Mrs. Lucas's mailbox in the office. The firm deadline for your submission is January 23, 2004. Thank you for your support.

To (name of student) _____

Message _____

From _____