



KNIGHTLY NEWS

!! HAPPY NEW YEAR !!

From the Administration

Happy, healthy New Year! We hope you have begun 2005 with a renewed sense of energy and purpose! We have quickly resumed our rapid pace. Highlights follow.

Parents of grade 8 students who plan to attend the Washington, DC trip have been mailed a letter that includes final payment information, a contract and a list of 'what to bring.' The final payment and signed contract should be returned on January 24th as I need to finalize our numbers with Capital Tours. Please note the two dates being offered for a mandatory parent/student meeting. You may attend either meeting. Parent chaperones will be contacted by Feb. 4.

Grade 8 students will be participating in the NECAPS on January 25, 26, and 27. The New England Common Assessment Program is being piloted this year with our students in writing. Although we do not receive the results, our involvement will support any modifications to the test for next year.

Quarter 2 grades will close on January 21 with report cards going home January 28. Again, we ask you to simply sign the envelope and return it to school. This will indicate to us that you have reviewed the progress with your child.

Our transition plan has begun for grade 6 students. During the months of March and April many specific pieces of the plan will occur to include visits by middle school staff, basic assessments in reading and math, choices made (electronically) for foreign language and music, a Parent Orientation and finally in May a visit to the middle school to meet teams and specialists.

Many thanks to parents (and driving siblings) who have participated in our new p.m. carpool process. We are pleased with the results. Thank you for your patience as we make subtle ongoing changes during our renovation/expansion project.

Lastly, please take time in the next two weeks to look through our LOST and FOUND table in the foyer. There are many articles of clothing, sneakers and shoes. All contents of the table will be packaged and donated on January 28. Please stop by.

Please feel free to call with any questions. We welcome your involvement.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal

PTSA President's Report

Happy New Year Everyone!! Wow, 2005 and one half of the school year already gone! Hard to believe isn't it? A huge thank you to all of our volunteers for everything they have done to make the first half of the 2004-2005 school year go so smoothly. We have much to do in the coming year, so keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities to join in and help. If you didn't get the paperwork in at the beginning of the year, or find that you now have a little time and would love to help out, we have lots of things coming up where your time and efforts would be greatly appreciated.

You can also help just by supporting the school's extracurricular activities. The Drama Club will be performing "Guys and Dolls" on February 18th & 19th. If you haven't attended any of the schools performances, please come check this out. It is sure to be a big hit! Our basketball teams and wrestling team are all working hard, come on out and check out one of their meets or games. The kids all appreciate the cheers from the stands. 8th Grade parents will soon be hearing more about the 8th Grade End of the Year Celebration. This is a big undertaking and those in charge would appreciate everyone's cooperation and help. We will also begin planning the 7th Grade Barbecue in the upcoming months, so 7th grade parents watch for your opportunity to help out there as well.

Finally, if you haven't had the opportunity to join us for a PTSA meeting, we would love for you to join us. We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the office conference room. As I said, we have much work to do and look forward to having our regulars and all newcomers that would like to help out. Feel free to email or phone me with any questions or concerns.

Trish MacDonald, PTSA President

465-2898/trish_macdonald@charter.net

Volunteers



Valuable is the work you do.
Outstanding in how you always come through.
Loyal, sincere and full of good cheer,
Untiring in your efforts throughout the year.
Notable are the contributions you make,
Trustworthy in every project you take.
Eager to reach your every goal,
Effective in the way you fulfill your role.
Ready with a smile like a shining star,
Special and wonderful - that's what you are.

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School and Community News

!! TALENT SHOWCASE !!

We hope you will join us on the evening of Friday, March 11 for a night of great talent and entertainment. **Students, start working on your routines!** Tryouts will be held before winter break on Thursday, February 24 at 2:30 PM. Bring your own music (absolutely no lyrics allowed), and be "performance ready"! More information will be available in early February.

THE SCHOOL BOARD IS LOOKING FOR A NEW SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK- Responsibilities include taking notes at the Hollis Elementary Schools district meeting (March 7, 2005) and accepting and submitting information for open positions on the school board (January 2006). If you are a Hollis resident and are interested in this paid position, please call 465-7118.

Calendar of Events

| | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Drama Club Play "Guys & Dolls" | Feb. 18 & 19 | HBMS Gym 7:00 pm |
| President's Day | Feb. 21 | No School |
| Mid-Winter Vacation | Feb. 28—March 4 | |
| Talent Show | Mar. 11 | |
| 8th Graders Visit D.C. | Mar. 29—Apr. 1 | |
| Generations | Mar. 30 | 7th Grade |

Please come join the **Cavalier Football Club** at our new **Comedy Night** Fundraiser:



Saturday, Jan 22, 2005 from 6pm-8pm in the HBHS Auditorium. We have a juggler and an illusionist who will combine comedy and terrific performances to entertain the whole family! So come and enjoy a fabulous evening after the holiday rush is over! The ticket price is \$12 adult, \$10 student/seniors. Tickets can be purchased through Mary Gold at 465-3208

NOW SHOWING ...



GUYS AND DOLLS will be presented by the Hollis Brookline Middle School Drama Club on **Friday and Saturday, February 18th and 19th at 7pm.** The performances will be held in the Middle School Gym and doors will open at 6:30 pm. Tickets may be purchased for \$5 at the door. (Snow date: **Sunday, February 20 at 1pm.**)

Cast and Crew are hard at work to bring you this wonderful classic Musical. This show provides you with great music by Frank Loesser and such great songs as Luck be a Lady, Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat, and of course the title song of Guys and Dolls. The unlikely romance between a pure at heart urban missionary and a slick Broadway gambler provides one of the two romantic story lines. The show's second romantic storyline involves Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide, who have been engaged for fourteen years. Nathan organizes the "oldest established, permanent floating crap game in New York," and Adelaide is the main attraction at the Hot Box nightclub.

Please join us and the Guys and Dolls for an entertaining evening as we present you a picture of a 1940's New York.

Integrated Specialists/Progress Report Dates

Because Integrated Specialists have a shorter grading period, they will send out progress reports at different times. Integrated Specialists will hand out progress reports for the remainder of this school year on the following dates:

3rd Rotation – Monday and Tuesday January 31/February 1

4th Rotation – Thursday and Friday March 31/April 1 for 7th grade

Monday and Tuesday April 4/5 for 8th (as they are in Washington DC the week before)

5th Rotation – Wednesday and Thursday May 25/26

2005-2006 FRESHMAN REQUIREMENTS

All incoming freshmen need a current physical on file to enter the High School. Physicals received between March 1 and June 4 may be given to Mrs. Adams at the Middle School. After June 4 documentation of physicals need to be sent to Mrs. Cathy Saunders at the High School. **Please Note:** Any students planning to try out for High School athletics must have a physical on file in the Nurse's office by Friday August 13. You will not be allowed to try out without this documentation on file.

It's not too early to look at your child's immunization needs. If you have a child entering 9th grade in the fall, they may be due to receive a Tetanus booster. The State is now MANDATING that all students MUST have an updated Tetanus booster. Tetanus boosters are required every 10 years. Some students may have already received this immunization, but there is no record of it at the school. Those students in Grade 8 needing to be immunized before the start of school in September will be notified by phone before February vacation. If your child has already received their updated tetanus booster please send documentation of this to the nurse's office. If you have any questions regarding your child's immunization status, please call the school nurse (Dee Dee Adams 465-2223) Documentation of this immunization may be sent to Mrs. Adams up to June 3rd. After this date it should be sent to Cathy Saunders, nurse at the High School.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

TEAM CAESAR

Science with Mrs. Cleveland

We have finished our work with the microscope and the microscopic by learning how to estimate the size of the cell or the microorganisms that we saw. 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.

We have studied the parts and the functions of the cells' organelles. When we took samples, stained, and observed our own cheek epithelial cells, the students realized how form and function relate in the human body. Students also observed plant cells and compared and contrasted them to the animal cells that they had already seen.

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

Once again, I would like to thank the parents for their support in helping with the dissections and for their financial help with their donations to help offset dissection costs. It is greatly appreciated.

Math with Mrs. Fordin and Mrs. Hall

This month students will find themselves graphing linear equations while working with slope, intercepts, and functions. Other students will be solving equations and modeling real-life situations with equations. Many students have been working with fractions, dividing parcels of land and determining who traded acres of land with whom. They will continue their study of fraction concepts while incorporating their artistic and problem solving abilities. Some students are researching the mathematics involved in billiards and miniature golf. They will use this research to design their own models. All students will continue to receive their weekly WOWs. Tremendous growth has been observed in this area of critical thinking. Later this month every student will practice his or her ability to "mind read". Make sure to ask your son or daughter about this at home!

History with Mr. Capraro

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

I continue to include the art of the people and time we are studying into our lessons. Mosaics are the art form that has 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 or check out my website! And as always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

English with Chris Cieto

To kick off the New Year we have started our Poetry Unit. The theme for this unit is *Carpe Diem*—Seize the day! Over the next five weeks students will be learning about the fundamental elements of poetic technique including, but not limited to: metaphor, personification and everyone's favorite word—onomatopoeia (bang!). We will be reading a selection of poems from Whitman, Frost, Dickinson, Shakespeare and others; seeing what they have to say about love, life, and seizing the day. The project for this unit is a poetry portfolio consisting of 21 different tasks where they will have an opportunity to analyze famous works and create their own. My hope is that the students will come away with a love and knowledge of poetry and how they can impact their world by seizing the day. ----Chris Cieto

Family and Consumer Science

Team 1 is starting Family and Consumer Science. We will learn about food science, safety, nutrition, meal planning, food preparation, and table service. During this course, we will learn by seeing demonstrations, reading, listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, watching films, and doing cooking labs in which we will plan, prepare, enjoy, and clean up our messes!!! By the end of the course, we will have been highly educated on how to read and follow a recipe correctly; plan and prepare scrumptious, healthy meals; use and care for utensils properly; follow the rules about kitchen safety, courtesy, and cleanliness; and successfully prepare a variety of foods. In our cooking lab, we will learn about kitchen safety, cooking tools and terms, measurement, function of ingredients, and reading and interpreting a recipe. During our nutrition and food science unit, we will learn all about the nutrition food pyramid; what comprises a nutritious breakfast, lunch, and dinner; healthy snacks; microwave cooking; and food science and safety. We already know to read labels before buying ANYTHING!!! In addition, we will be completing two sewing projects: one with fabric and patterns and one that is a craft. We will be working with clothing and textile designs. Will be able to read and follow sewing instructions and use a variety of sewing tools. We will also identify the parts of a sewing machine. We will be able to operate a sewing machine; measure, lay out, cut, and sew patterns; and embroider.

By: Jenny Grossman & Katarina Struckmann

Science with Mrs. Evans

TEAM EMERSON

Students take a "Breather"

Thank you for your continued interest and support of our science program. We collected enough donation money and, therefore, were able to order pig hearts and lamb lungs for two additional dissections. The kinesthetic experience from these two labs reinforces the importance of maintaining a strong and healthy heart and smoke-free lungs.

In a few days, the seventh grade students will be "singing" their way through the respiratory system--so, 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 was quite a challenge !!! Working in teams of two, the students made a respiratory system from items such as: Y tube, a rubber glove, two small balloons, a two-liter bottle and rubber stopper. Their challenge was to make their model inhale and exhale without blowing into it.

Using the scientific method to solve a problem, each student will soon 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.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team Emerson

English with Mrs. Jahns

Benevolence

Recently, on Team Emerson, we have been learning about helping families who are having troubles like the Cratchits in the novel A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. We did our share on gathering items for a local girls' shelter and The Family Connections program through the state of NH. We successfully collected 32 book bags (book, tape, stuffed animal) and 27 towel bundles (soap, shampoo, brush, etc.). We would like to give a huge thanks to all who contributed.



Also, in the 7th grade, we focused on reading and understanding Dickens' writing. We have dug out the details so that we would be prepared for the play at the North Shore Music Theater. The play was extraordinary with its laughs, cries and very scary scenes. The actors and actresses did an amazing job. Thank you to all of our teachers.

Part Two: The Notorious Ebenezer

For years, Ebenezer Scrooge has been a symbol of Christmas cheer, hope, and giving, as well as a "wincing, scowling, old sinner!" The main character in the novel A Christmas Carol is Ebenezer Scrooge, made famous by Charles Dickens' many adjectives. Now, what exactly do people mean when they call someone a "Scrooge?" Why, greedy, of course! In the book, Scrooge teaches himself, as well as others, the true meaning of Christmas. A Christmas Carol is one of my favorite books with characters such as Scrooge and Tiny Tim who will warm your heart at any time of the year.

By Team Emerson Students: BECCA REID & ALYSSA DION

Social Studies with Mrs. Beale

We are currently studying the Byzantine Empire, the stronger eastern part of the Roman Empire that managed to survive the Germanic invasions. Much of our discussion has focused on the "strategic location" of Constantinople, the center of Byzantine life and the capital of the Eastern Empire. Students had an opportunity to express their own points of view on the major issues that caused the great schism between the Eastern Orthodox Church in Constantinople and the Roman Catholic Church in the West. We read a primary source by Procopius about Theodora's courage in encouraging Justinian to stay and defend his empire in time of civil strife, and created our own law codes, along the lines of Justinian's code. Each student learned how to write his name in Cyrillic, the alphabet devised by the Byzantine monks, Cyril and Methodius. Classes are currently practicing a six-act play about Justinian and Theodora which we hope to present during the next week. Our final project will be a travel brochure or placemat showing the wonders of Constantinople during the sixth to fourteenth centuries.

Team McClintock

Math-Science-English-History with Ms. Ellerin, Mrs. Gruposso, Ms. Hasychak

The New Year brings new beginnings; with this in mind we have re-organized notebooks, started a few new projects, and have increased the expectation of student responsibility. First Term students took home a missing assignment slip for a parent signature each time work was not handed in. Second Term students received periodic summaries of missing work for parents' signatures. Third Term students will receive reminders of missing work with the expectation that they will take independent and timely action. Parents will be contacted if a student is in serious jeopardy, as well as with the mid-term progress report.

In English class students have started a unit on nonfiction. As part of the unit they are reading and keeping response journals on free-choice nonfiction books that will be due on February 4. They have also selected an article on a topic that interests them that will be used to practice using appropriate voice and tone. The final assignment will be to write formal editorials, some of which may be sent to the appropriate publication.

As we move into the Middle Ages in History, we will take some time to read parts of Shakespeare's Julius Caesar and will also watch the 1953 movie with Marlon Brando. Students will discuss Shakespeare's interpretation of Julius Caesar's assassination, Hollywood's interpretation of Shakespeare, as well as what we believe today is the truth of that event.

With the new year in Science, we'll be looking to the future- a thousand years to the future- to the year 3005. Students will be using their imaginations, understanding of the body systems and research skills to predict how the human body could change in a thousand years. Current technological advances such as bionic eyes, cochlea implants, the C-leg and SensorSpeedHand are just some of the examples that can be used to support their predictions for the Bionic Body project.

In regular 7th grade Math, students are puzzling out patterns and turning the patterns they find into algebraic expressions. From there, we will be working with integers and all the operations associated with this set of numbers.

In Accelerated Math, students are getting into more complex algebraic ideas such as solving two-step and multi-step equations for mathematical statements with variables on both sides.

It's hard to believe that we are halfway through the year. We have seen some nice growth in organization and pride in work. We especially appreciate the students' continued enthusiasm towards learning.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team 3

Earth Science with Mrs. Smith

I hope all had a wonderful winter vacation. A very warm welcome awaited me from all of my students, it is very much appreciated. A BIG thank you goes out to Chris Spader for substituting while I recovered. She kept me well informed of the progress in each block.

At the present time we are studying about Plate Tectonics. Students have been asked to watch the Discovery Program on "Tsunamis." It is an informative program discussing plate tectonics and tsunamis. I have chosen several experiments that help to explain the theory on plate tectonics. Ask your child about the theory; I'm sure they would be happy to give their perspective.

Again earthly phenomenons have overtaken our air waves and students have a natural curiosity about these newsworthy items. So everyday as new and interesting discussion topics emerge, we devote 15 minutes of each class for such discussion.

Our next topic of study will be Earthquakes. Students will build a three-story building and then test it on an earthquake simulator. Stay tuned for the interesting results in our next Knightly News!

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.

English with Mrs. Cicciu

Radio Plays! The reactions to this project range from "this is so much fun—let me tell you my idea" to "if I don't have a partner, I won't have to do it." This project is meant to put students' responsibility, time management, ability to compromise, creativity, technical skill, and attention to detail to the test. Thank you, parents, for providing transportation and a safe place for the students to work. Beyond that, nothing is expected of you. You will be amazed that even when students face difficulties, they manage to problem-solve and find a workable solution. They will solidify their friendships, appreciate each other's talents, and be proud of "pulling it all together" when they pass in the final product. Listening to the radio plays from all the members of their class is one of the activities they enjoy the most. There will be nominations for "best" categories and a segment during the spring awards assembly where their outstanding efforts will be recognized

Because of the intensity of the radio play assignment, students will have no other homework other than to do their monthly reading requirement. In January the genre is mystery, and in February it will be historical fiction.

Classwork will focus on learning more editing techniques with grammar and usage lessons, expressing creativity through poetry writing, and reading some plays to practice dramatic reading and analyze story structure.

We are looking forward to hearing from our Japanese pen pals again. They are in the process of preparing a virtual tour of Tokyo for us that we will be able to view on the Internet. Our project for Iraq was a huge success. We sent two shipments of material aid to Iraqi children between Thanksgiving and Christmas and have received back pictures of them hugging our stuffed animal gifts and wearing the tee shirts.

Math with Mrs. Mezzocchi

Welcome to the year 2005!!!

Coming up in 8th grade pre-algebra will be the study of data & statistics. The students will learn how to organize and manipulate data using Stem & Leaf Plots and Box & Whisker graphs. Continuing with the school district's Math Task Force initiative in Problem Solving, the classes will learn more strategies for conquering their WEEKEND worksheets. Throughout the year we have been and will continue to use the TI-83 calculator and learn new capabilities with each unit.

In algebra class when we finish the unit on linear equations, we will move on to graphing and quadratics. This unit makes the real connection between algebra and geometry. The students will be able to take real life situations and solve them both algebraically with equations on the abstract level, and geometrically with graphs on the concrete level. Once the students become fluent in working with equations, they will learn all of the same concepts with inequalities and quadratics. Third term will also include solving systems of equations and inequalities.

In geometry the students will start to prove several properties of triangles. We will get into some real die-hard geometry with proving the many properties about triangles and other polygons. Through several investigations the students will write their own conjectures and finally prove many geometric theorems.

It is still very exciting to experience 8th grade mathematics at the middle school.

U.S. History with 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 2005 by looking at life in America in 1800 for the average American which was much more basic and crude than it was for our famous leaders. We 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.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Prescott

It's the Right "Time" ***in Team Prescott Earth Sciences Classes***

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 website at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bond> to get the latest from our new on-site weather station.

Math with Mr. Dean Jahns **Caution: Students Hard at Work Ahead!**

It's not easy, but between the holidays and snow days 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 equation, and using Algebra as a problem solving approach in story problems. We are now doing multi-step equation solving. This is not easy for all students, but we are laying an excellent foundation for next year in whatever class students end up in.

My Geometry class continues to build its knowledge base of definitions and to explore geometrical situations, reaching conjectures on parallel lines, triangles, etc. We are beginning to focus more on the concept of the logical "proof". These most often take the form of a less formal "paragraph" style, rather than the more formal "two column" approach many parents may remember with deep fondness! Nonetheless, the purpose remains the same. Starting with "given" information, the student must reach a valid conclusion through a series of logical steps, and be able to give an acceptable reason for each step along the way. In other words, we are starting to have some fun now!

"Help Night" continues to be Thursdays, but during the period leading up to the Spring play, I may have to cancel or reschedule a few Thursdays due to my involvement in the play.

Language Arts with Mrs. Corliss

As a teacher new to the HBMS community, one of the first traditions of which I was made aware was the traditional radio plays crafted by eighth grade students. Following the holiday break, the mystery, suspense and adventure of radio plays were introduced. In class, we have all listened to Agnes Moorehead's classic reading of "Sorry, Wrong Number" and discussed how, using dialogue only, the author was able to create setting. By now, most families have signed off on calendars and groups and are probably listening to dramatic reading, and sound effects being created by small kitchen appliances and tools from the garage.

Shortly we'll be discovering how the Middle and Southern colonies of the U.S. got their start. Once established, we'll be talking customs, maps and timelines on the same!

In class we are reading and responding to poetry and short stories that model the elements and style features unique to suspenseful, mysterious literary works. "Foul Shot" by Edwin A. Hoey is a poem about a boy on the foul line during a basketball game with two seconds left. It takes us through those moments when a basketball player moves to the line, calculates the shot before him, and releases the shot that so often seems to move in slow motion to the hoop. Hoey's use of diction, imagery, and rhythm to provide suspense allow us to understand the importance of well-chosen words and their placement. In-class work will focus on reading, vocabulary, grammar, and, of course, writing as we enjoy our unit and the creation of radio plays.

History with Mr. Lyle

We've recently completed making Crossword Puzzles on the U.S. Constitution. These turned out very nicely for most folks. This completes our government and civic tour for Grade 8.

Now we've turned our attention to George Washington's two terms in office. We've talked about precedents, political parties, elections, trouble with Britain on the high seas, and trouble with the Miami Indians in Ohio.

We're taking a deep breath here as we study the first real election in 1796. George Washington steps down and two men step up to run for the office: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Both men are in disagreement about a great deal going on around them in the government. Both are qualified but can't agree on much. One will be the next President, the other his vice-president. How's that for gridlock!

We're about to embark on a journey with Lewis & Clark across the wild and wooly wilderness. This 27-28 month journey provided all kinds of information to the public that aided in their making a decision on moving west or not. We'll be working in small groups to cover some of this exciting material very shortly.

WOW!! A NEW
SCHOOL RECORD!!!

1058.1 —
AWESOME!

Technology Education Mr. Picariello



On December 12, 2004, Kyle Beiter, a member of Team 3, claimed the new record for Bridge Efficiency in the Technology Education class. As part of the class, students are introduced to building forces (compression, tension) through the exercise of creating a truss bridge made from 1/8" by 1/8" balsa wood. They first use a computer program called Bridge Builder to test their bridge and then draw it to exact size (15" long by 6" to 9" tall by 3" to 6" wide). They may not laminate the bridge, but may use wood glue and pins to help construct it. After the bridge is built, they test it for efficiency rate, the weight the bridge held in grams divided by the weight of the bridge in grams. Kyle's bridge weighed 13.3 grams and held 14,074 grams making its efficiency rate 1058.1. This broke the record held by A.J. Ouellette of 862.6. Josephine Johnson also broke A.J.'s record with an efficiency rate of 989.6 as her bridge weighed 16.4 grams and held 16,203.5 grams.



Don't miss the next Pats victory!!

January 23rd— 6:30 PM

Patriots vs. Pittsburgh Steelers

Then it's on to the SUPERBOWL!!!

February 6th — 6:00 PM

GO PATRIOTS!!

**ON TO THE
SUPERBOWL!!!**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Submitted by Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston



The seventh and eighth grade volleyball unit culminated in a spirited, full school assembly just before vacation. The eight class-period champions that challenged the HBMS staff showed great determination, powerful serves, well placed sets, timely spikes, and a tremendous amount of hustle – AWESOME JOB!

The seventh grade students did a week of cooperative activities and are now 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 18 for Team 3 and February 25 for Team Prescott.

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.

Their first meet was the Londonderry tournament on December 12th where Autumn Savoy, Justin McQuaid, Steve Murphy and Kevin Lynch placed in the top four. On December 13th the team traveled to Milford for a 102-42 victory. On December 22nd the Hollis Brookline team hosted Milford for another win of 93-24 and on December 23rd the team hosted Nashua Catholic again winning 48-36. The New Year brought the team to the Salem tournament on January 9th where Stephen Murphy, Philip DeSignore and Justin McQuaid placed in the top three of their weight class qualifying them for the Nationals in Ohio.

BASKETBALL



BOYS—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 teams' effort to support one another has given all players confidence and led them to a standing of 7 wins and 3 losses as of January 11th.

GIRLS—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 and great hustle. Standings as of January 11th are 4 wins and 6 losses.



Reading

Mrs. Dufresne and Mrs. Lucas

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| <p>Messenger by Lois Lowry</p> <p>In this much-awaited companion to <i>The Giver</i> and <i>Gathering Blue</i>, Matty, a boy with an ability to heal, must convince Kira to return to the village with him before its doors are closed forever. A completely enchanting, haunting story - readers will be absorbed in thought and wonder long after all the pages are turned.</p> | <p>Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli</p> <p>Misha, a curious and naïve street orphan in pre-Nazi Warsaw, witnesses the arrival and rise of the Nazis. At first, Misha finds the Nazis exciting and wants to be like them. Eventually she sees their evil ways, as she realizes that the people who are put on trains are never coming back. This historical novel can be appreciated both by readers with previous knowledge of the Holocaust and by those who share Misha's innocence.</p> |
| <p>The Civil War, An Illustrated History by Catherine Clinton</p> <p>This year-by-year account of the Civil War tells the story through eyewitness accounts; profiles of famous and ordinary people; point-of-view sidebars that capture the essence of the many differences between the North and South; and period art that shows the people, places, and landscape of the United States from 1860 to 1877.</p> | <p>Among the Brave by Margaret Peterson Haddix</p> <p>In the fifth book in this best-selling futuristic series, Trey risks his life to go undercover as a Population Police officer and free imprisoned third children. A compelling story, full of intrigue, danger, and adventure.</p> |
| <p>Time Pieces by Virginia Hamilton</p> <p>Moving backward and forward in time, Valena, 11, struggles with racism in her daily life and listens to and learns from her mother's tales of her family's proud history. These pieces of Valena's life blend to form a moving portrait of the ties that bind her family together over generations.</p> | <p>Some websites for finding great books:</p> <p>ALA Resources for Parents, Teens and Kids: www.ala.org/parents/index/html</p> <p>The Book Bag www.teenreads.com</p> <p>Teen Hoopla www.ala.org/teenhoopla</p> <p>Reading Connection, 2000, Resources for Educators</p> |

Library Media Center

It's BEE Time at the Middle School Library! The 15th Annual Geography Bee was held on Wednesday, January 5, from 7:30-10:30AM. The students, all boys except one girl, loved the challenge and there was a fierce competition to see who would win. The runner-up was Craig Berry and the winner was Tyler Booth. Tyler received a medal from the Quizmaster, Mr. Lyle.

On January 17, there will also be a SPELLING BEE in the media center from 7:45-10:30AM. Mrs. Jahns and Mrs. Grupposo will pronounce and give definitions for the words. Students interested in being in the spelling bee need to sign-up with Mrs. Jahns.

Starting January 31, Team 6 students will begin the Computer/Library Project in the media center with Mrs. Ball. Students will research a person who has contributed to the history of computers. Students will complete a PowerPoint presentation in Mr. Gruce's computer lab after completing research, works cited and notecards in the media center with Mrs. Ball.



French

Madame Rankins

French Students recognized in the month of December:

- Derek Reilly
- Erin Marquis
- Josh Cone-Roddy
- Becca Cielinski
- Jordan Cote

French 7 students are now working with the verb *Aller* as well as restaurant and food vocabulary. Some have already borrowed my Crepe maker to try out at home. They completed an autobiography about their family and house after the vacation. Nice job, and quite interesting too! Bravo, mes amis!

French 8 students are working with sports vocabulary and are beginning to use the *Passé Composé*. They recently completed a 2-3-paragraph composition about their holidays and vacation. Their writing skills have improved. The final drafts were a pleasure to read. Bon Travail!

La clase de Español



Señora Banks y Señora Lash

It is unbelievable, but we are halfway 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. In this project students will be putting together a package to give to a Spanish speaking exchange student at HBMS. This package contains all the information and materials a new student needs to succeed in his/her first week here at the middle school.

Eighth graders are working on the past tense. Along with these verbs, they learned how to describe trips and vacations they took during the summer-time. They have been able to apply the principles they have learned about the present tense to the preterit tense. They will also be working on a project-based assessment activity that will incorporate all the pieces learned thus far. Students will put together a scrapbook about a trip they have taken to a Spanish speaking country. They will be able to incorporate real experiences or design the trip themselves. We are looking forward to seeing their work!!!

Please keep checking our website for homework, study sessions and other activities.

Hasta la proxima!

Art



by Mrs. Papadeas

I have just begun my third rotation of art students. Team 3 will have art until February vacation. Students are working on a drawing assignment that is entitled "A Reflection of Self". To start this project, the students first had to plan out a rough draft that had several different categories about themselves. For example, they sketched their favorite foods, sports, animals, logo, and title of bands. A discussion on what makes a good composition was held. Several art principles such as unity, variety, and emphasis were noted. Elements of line, shape, and value were also discussed. Students were encouraged to focus on attention to detail and placement of their images. The assignment was to draw a 12x18 collage with at least eight different images and overlapping shapes. Students were very motivated when they saw examples of former student work. As part of the evaluation, students can critique and grade themselves.

I have also been busy preparing for the 6th Annual Scholastic Art Awards of N.H. The Bedford Mall is the sponsoring host site.

Only superior quality work was delivered on Friday and will be judged on January 10th. Several students entered work and are anxiously awaiting the judging results. The exhibition will be open January 17 through February 6th. For more details you can contact Mrs. Papadeas.

Congratulations to Moriah Askenaizer who was a winner of the North Shore Music Theater's "Celebrate the Season" artwork contest. There were over 240 entries in all. The art contest was judged by the theater department and a representative from Montserrart College. Great job Moriah!

Wellness



by Ms. White

After saying goodbye to Team Caesar at the close of 2004, I have received enthusiastic hellos from seventh grade students on Team Emerson in the year 2005.

Students from Team Caesar concluded their time in Wellness by writing a letter to a future daughter/son, niece/nephew or friend. Learning through our parent interviews made us realize that many of our feelings and experiences, like stress and peer pressure, have been around forever and are normal! (Can you believe that even my mom got nervous about the way she looked? Dad was even scared to ask out a girl!) By envisioning ourselves as adults we were able to apply what we learned and maybe even understand a little of where our parents are coming from...even just a little...

Team Emerson has begun Wellness class quite energetically! Though we have only just begun I am excited for such an eager group! Team Emerson seems to have a cohesion that makes our class discussions thorough and comprehensive.

Parents/Guardians should be looking for interviews about the topics we will be covering in class. Our first unit will be on stress and stress relief. Be on the lookout for our self-made stress books!

General Music



Seventh and Eighth grade students have just finished composing a melody for the guitar. Other class members played each guitar melody. Students are now working on developing concert listening skills. We will be starting a unit on Blues music in the next couple of weeks. Students will be writing original lyrics using the topic: Respect and Responsibility. A tape-recording of each group's Blues' melody will finish this project.

We are also very excited to announce that the MIDI equipment is being ordered at this time!

Chorus



A special thank you for your attendance at our Winter Concerts in December. We had a terrific time singing for you.

We have just begun our new music for the Spring concert. We will inform you of the dates as soon as possible.

Some song highlights include: (7th Grade Chorus)-"Land That We Love", "The Addams Family", "Celebrate the Differences", "Siyahamba" and "Old Joe Clark". (8th Grade Chorus)- "Land That We Love", "Yonder Come Day", "Blue Skies", "Candle on the Water", and "Lean on Me".

BAND



Mr. Depine

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade band for their fine holiday performances. The concerts were very well received. Our primary focus for January and February is the continued development of instrumental skills through the strengthening of fundamentals. Concert music for our next performances will be introduced gradually. In addition to our concert band performances there will be scheduled performances for jazz ensemble and solo and ensemble. You will be informed as soon as dates become available.

I would also like to inform you and provide some details about our fundraiser, which will take place from January 25 through February 7. The funds raised will be used to purchase equipment and school instruments which are needed for the instrumental music program. This fundraiser will be coordinated by GBi Marketing, fundraising coordinators and exclusive distributors of Yankee Candle. GBi marketing has been very successful with fundraising for music programs throughout the region. Jim Boccia, sales coordinator for GBi marketing will be making presentations to our instrumental music classes on January 25 and 26 to provide all the information and details to participate. There is no obligation to participate in this fundraiser.

Please feel free to call me at school if you have any questions. I look forward to the remainder of the school year and want to thank everyone for their continued support of the instrumental music program.

