



# Hollis Brookline Middle School

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

January 28, 2008

### From the Administration

As we begin the third quarter, Mr. Secor and I will focus on **transitions**, both from grade six to HBMS and grade eight to HBMS. To date we have met with CSDA and HUES teachers to review the overall plan. Although the discussion of transition may seem early, there are many details which contribute to our overall successful placements.

Parents of eighth grade students are invited to attend an informational meeting at **HBHS March 31st, 6:30pm (tentative) in the auditorium** at which time the course selection process will be explained. The next day, April 1<sup>st</sup>, HS teachers will come to the middle school to meet with students within a core block. The same course selection process will be described and students will have the opportunity to ask questions in small groups.

Final details are being addressed for the **Washington, DC trip**. Please note the dates and time for a **mandatory parent/student meeting**. Two nights are offered for your convenience. Both will be held in the HBMS gymnasium.

March 17	March 20
6:30 pm	6:30 pm

During the February 13<sup>th</sup> early release day teachers will be evaluating the eighth grade students' **electronic portfolios**. Students who receive *proficient* will be prepared to take advanced technology courses at the HS. Students who receive *repeat* may need to take a basic course. We anticipate having sufficient time to work with individuals with a repeat rating to then evaluate later in the year.

Mark your calendars for **March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**, for the spring musical production, **Once Upon a Mattress**. Students and advisors have been working diligently since December preparing for their performance. The show will begin at 7:00pm, doors open at 6:30pm.

The **Cooperative School District Annual Meeting** is scheduled for **March 6**, 7:00pm in the HBMS gymnasium. Attendance and participation is highly encouraged.

And finally, seventh grade parents, please make note of **Generations, March 28<sup>th</sup>**. Generations is a special student, parent, teacher workshop day offering a host of sessions, some designed for parents only, some for students and some combined. Please plan to spend the day or part of it. It is an annual tradition that receives exceptional reviews!

Sincerely,

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

### PTSA President's Report

With Spring right around the corner, the PTSA will have plenty of opportunities for you to be involved with HBMS.

There are quite a few of our board members "graduating" to high school in September. This means that we will have quite a few open positions. Our next PTSA meeting will be on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. We will have a list of available positions, and will explain what each one entails. We are especially interested in seeing current 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents who would like to be involved. Stop in and bring a friend!

Keep your eyes open for our fundraising survey, which will be in your child's report card. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it inside the envelope. We truly value your opinion regarding possible fundraising events for next year.

We are looking for parents to be involved with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade barbeque and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade barbeque is usually on the last day of school (date TBA). Our 7<sup>th</sup> graders really enjoy this time of fun, games and great food. Please contact one of us if you would like to be a committee member. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade celebration is usually held on the last Friday night of school (date TBA). This is a wonderful "last hoorah" for our 8<sup>th</sup> graders. It includes games, photos with friends, wonderful food, prizes and an awesome slide show. The PTSA runs this event, which is only made possible by our incredible parent volunteers. If you are interested in helping with a committee or the planning process, or if you just want some more information, contact Susan Holroyd at 673-3835 or [sbholroyd@charter.net](mailto:sbholroyd@charter.net). Also, 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents are welcome to help, especially if they want some ideas for next year.

We are beginning to plan our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Talent Show. Last year's was a huge success. Please encourage your children to be a part of it; it's a wonderful way for them to show their creativity, teamwork and individualism. Our talent show is planned for Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. More information will be posted at the school and on our website.

Our Spirit Wear was well received. We plan to have another chance for you to purchase our "Hollis Brookline" themed-wear within the next couple of months. There will be some new products, so keep your eyes open for the order form!

We hope to see you at our next PTSA meeting on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. Remember, if we have a delay due to weather, our meeting will begin at 10:30am.

Susan Holroyd  
Ruth Kabel

[sbholroyd@charter.net](mailto:sbholroyd@charter.net)  
[arkabel@juno.com](mailto:arkabel@juno.com)

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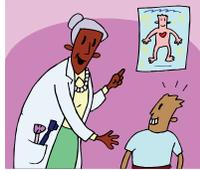
# School and Community News

## Rachel's Challenge Update

### RACHEL'S CHALLENGE MEETING DATES

**Mondays from 2:30 – 3:30 PM  
unless otherwise announced**

February 11	April 21
March 10	May 12
March 24	June 2
April 7	June 16



## From the Health Office- Mrs. Mandragouras

It is sometimes difficult to decide whether or not you should keep your child home from school due to illness. Here are some basic guidelines to refer to. Of course when in doubt, it is always best to contact your healthcare provider concerning your child's health.

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher within the past 24 hrs.
- Vomiting or severe diarrhea within the past 24 hrs.
- Very sore throat or red throat with white or yellow patches.
- Unexplained rash. Earache or drainage from an ear.
- Red, itchy eyes) with dried yellow mucous.
- Excessively runny nose or a productive cough, especially with yellow/green drainage or sputum, accompanied by a fever.

Please contact Sheila Mandragouras, R.N. at 465-2223 with any questions

### ***HBMS Theater Proudly Presents:***

#### ***"Once Upon A Mattress", a musical***

***March 14th & 15th***

***Doors open: 6:30 pm***

***Show begins promptly at 7:00 pm***



## **DON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT!**

### **COME SUPPORT THE**

### **HBHS WRESTLING TEAM**

**10<sup>th</sup> Annual Cavalier Invitational**

**Dual Meet Tournament**

**February 9, 2008**

**HBHS Gym**

**9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Food, Fun, Raffles, Excitement!**

**Admission is 3.00 adults and 1.00 kids/students**

## **Calendar of Events**

**(see inside newsletter for details)**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Feb. 9</b>            | <b>HBHS Wrestling Tourney<br/>9:00-4:00 HBHS Gym</b>   |
| <b>Feb. 11</b>           | <b>Floor hockey practice 2:20</b>  |
| <b>Feb. 13</b>           | <b>Early release - 12:00</b>   |
| <b>Feb. 13</b>           | <b>"The Pressure to Succeed"<br/>Workshop - 7:00 HBHS<br/>Auditorium</b>                                   |
| <b>Feb. 15</b>           | <b>8:30 PTSA Meeting</b>   |
| <b>Feb. 25-29</b>        | <b>Winter Recess</b>   |
| <b>March 6</b>           | <b>Co-Op District Annual<br/>Meeting - 7:00 HBHS<br/>Auditorium</b>  |
| <b>March 14 &amp; 15</b> | <b>"Once Upon A Mattress"<br/>Musical - 7:00 pm</b>  |
| <b>March 17</b>          | <b>Track &amp; Field practice 2:20</b>   |
| <b><u>SPORTS</u></b>     | <b>Softball tryouts - 2:20pm</b>   |
| <b><u>NEWS !!!</u></b>   | <b>Baseball tryouts - 5:00pm</b>   |
| <b>March 17</b>          | <b>Washington, D.C. 8th Gr.</b>  |
| <b><u>Or 20</u></b>      | <b>Mtg. 6:30 HBMS Gym</b>  |
| <b>March 28</b>          | <b>Generations Day</b>   |
| <b>March 31</b>          | <b>HBHS Orientation<br/>For 8th grade parents<br/>6:30 - HBHS Auditorium</b>                               |
| <b>April 11</b>          | <b>Middle Level Honors Band<br/>concert (with members<br/>from HBMS Jazz Band)<br/>Keene Middle School</b> |
| <b>April 24</b>          | <b>PTSA 2nd Annual<br/>"Talent Show" - 6:30pm</b>  |

# School and Community News

## “The Pressure to Succeed” February “Parent Ed” Series

We want our children to succeed. We want our children to make good choices and take advantage of it all, to have it all. When is it too much? As parents, as a society, are we pushing them too hard? How do you as a parent set goals that are within their reach and healthy for your child? What happens when we have pushed too hard or they push themselves too hard? Lynne LoPilato from Granite State Child and Family Counseling will help us navigate through this dilemma. The Hollis Brookline PTSA S-Team will sponsor this entertaining and educational workshop, free and open to anyone in the community, on **Wednesday, February 13th, at 7 p.m., at the Hollis Brookline High School.** A snow date has been set for February 20<sup>th</sup>. For more information you may contact Pat Marquette at 673-1957

## BHYSL Soccer Sign-Ups

Registration for the 2008 Spring Season will be **Jan 27 – March 14.** On line registration at: [www.bysl.org](http://www.bysl.org). Sunday games in Hollis on 4/13, 4/20, 5/4, 5/18, 6/1, 6/8. Also, Join us for Special Hampshire Dome Day on Saturday, 5/10. Free to all players and coaches.

## Internet Safety

**Parent-to-Parent** and the Milford Police Department present the third of a series of five parent-planned interactive talks for parents of elementary and middle school students: **Internet Safety.** Juvenile Officer Mark Pepler and Detective Plummer will touch upon a range of issues including identity protection, cyber bullying and social networking sites such as MySpace. The talk will be held at the **Milford Middle School on Wednesday February 13, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.** There is no fee for the talk.

**“Games Galore”**, a recreational program for students aged 3-14, will be held at the same time as the talk. Students will be divided into two age groups and will have a choice of bingo, foosball, ping pong, foam bowling and more, depending upon age. There will also be a craft offered – making Valentine’s Day cards. Games Galore is free if a parent attends the talk.

The talks are sponsored by the NH Children's Trust Fund, Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST), MMS Enrichment and The Youth Council, Nashua. For questions contact Libby Anderson at [mmsenrich@charter.net](mailto:mmsenrich@charter.net) or 672-9876.

## DANCE DATES

Here are the dates for the HBMS dances. As a reminder, doors open for both grades at 7:00pm and end at 9:00pm for the 7th graders and 9:15pm for the 8th graders. Please keep this end in mind when lining up in the front of the building to pick your child up.

**April 4th      May 16th**



## “School Study Tips And Your Learning Style”

### HBMS & HBHS Special Education Department

Effective study strategies can help students achieve good grades on quizzes, tests, and exams. Study strategies can be simple yet effective. It is important that students develop study strategies that match their own learning style. Study methods that work well for one person may not work well for another. Most study strategies are classified under three main learning styles: visual, auditory, or kinesthetic. Students may not use one style exclusively, and there is usually overlap in learning styles. Visual learners relate more effectively to information that is written i.e. notes, pictures, webs, diagrams, etc. Auditory learners relate more to the spoken word and tend to pick up information through lectures or by reading aloud or hearing information read aloud. Kinesthetic learners learn more effectively through actual hands-on activities, imitation, and practice.

The following are some helpful tips to improve study skills at school and at home. Students will need an environment that allows for full concentration. This includes an environment that is free from distractions and has good lighting. Paying attention during class, taking notes, and reviewing class notes daily during study hall or at home will prepare students as they move from middle to high school and onward to post-secondary education. Keeping an organized binder for each subject is one method of organizing class notes, past tests, handouts, and assignments for review. Developing memorization methods such as lists, flash cards, acronyms/acrostics, and mnemonics may aid with recall of information. The following website ([www.smithhomework.us/studyskills](http://www.smithhomework.us/studyskills)) provides additional mnemonics/strategies for improving memory based on the different learning styles. Working with other students may also be a useful strategy. Study groups allow students to access other students as a resource. By working together, students may quiz each other or help review information in a different format. Do not procrastinate. Long-term planning is the key! Oftentimes we tend to put off studying until the night before the quiz/test. Know your own memory. Break up information into small chunks and study a couple of days prior to a quiz or test. Most importantly, don't forget to log on to the school's website at [www.hbms.k12.nh.us](http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us). Many teachers at HBMS have worked hard to post on their individual web sites various study skills/tools such as homework/project assignments and due dates, study guides for tests and quizzes, vocabulary sheets, rubrics, and useful links. Parents and students are encouraged to view the teachers' sites on a daily and/or weekly basis to access these useful tools.

There are a lot of creative ways to study and prepare for upcoming quizzes, test, and exams if you put your mind and memory to it. Developing study skills/strategies that work for you in middle school will also help prepare you for high school. Use the time and resources that you have now, in middle school, to earn good grades and to develop memory and study skills for the future.

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# Seventh Grade News

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## Team McAuliffe History-Mrs. Connelly

We are learning about the Islamic and Muslim culture, then we dive right into learning about the Middle Ages!

Over the last quarter, students learned all about the Miracle Stories and wrote amazing newspaper articles. They created vocabulary collages of terms from the last two units. As we examined the split of the Roman Empire, we played with Justinian and Theodora, learning what the last great Byzantine emperor and empress were like and the conflicts they had to live through. Students took on parts and acted out what it was like in Byzantium. Students participated in a Readers Theater to learn all about Byzantium and the people who revolted in the streets of Constantinople and shouted, "Nika! Nika!"

Students learned about the formation of the Cyrillic alphabet by Cyril and Methodius. This alphabet is still used today in Russia and Slavic countries. It was interesting to compare our alphabet with that from another culture that doesn't use some of the same letters and sounds that we use. There is no hard A or J in Cyrillic, so we had to figure out what to replace those sounds with in Cyrillic. Did you see your son or daughter creating a beautiful name plate? Come check out the beautiful name plates that are on display in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade wing hallway.

As we move on into Islam, students will look forward to learning about how the religion influenced the people of the Arabian Peninsula. We will see how the 5 pillars are the foundation of Islam and how this culture impacted Byzantium. They will see how the Crusades of the middle ages impacted these people and the formation of Europe. As we find out about the 'Dark Ages' we will be enlightened as we see how the changes in the social pyramid and feudal system impacted Europe. The power of the church and its impact on increasing education of the populous made way for a new era. Also, as we move into the Middle Ages and the Renaissance we will look forward to traveling to the Higgins Armory where we will see different techniques used to decorate armor and all forms of armor from this time period. Watch for more news about this upcoming, exciting field trip.

## Team McAuliffe Science-Mrs. Evans

Births, head-on collisions and unusual eating habits—where are these amazing events taking place???? Right before our eyes—under the microscope, of course!!! Our scientists recently had an opportunity to observe a variety of living protozoa, and other microorganisms including amoeba, volvox, rotifers, blepharisma and spirostomum. The unique behaviors, movements, and habits of these microorganisms were easily observed using our compound light microscopes. Using a Dichotomous Key, our microbiologists were able to correctly identify and draw an unknown protozoan observed in a drop of pond water under the microscope. Pictures of all our microbiologists are displayed on the bulletin board in room 101. Feel free to stop by and see our students in action .

Coming soon –Heart Throb

## Team McAuliffe English-Ms. Rasmussen

Team McAuliffe students are researching a person of their choice. All of the students are reading a biography or autobiography about their chosen subjects. Students have also researched their subjects using the *Biography Research Center* which may be accessed through the HBMS school library. During the next few weeks the students will be writing a research paper about their person using all of the skills we have practiced over the past few weeks, including paraphrasing, summarizing and quoting from sources, creating a works cited page, using in-text or parenthetical references and creating outlines. During the month of February get ready to take a trip back to the early 1960's when we read S. E. Hinton's, *The Outsiders*.

## Team McAuliffe Math--Ms. Fordin

Now that we are halfway through the school year, it is a good time to review some of the tools that are available to families. On the team math website are links to the textbook, homework assignments, extra challenge problems, general expectations and other helpful math sites. It is strongly recommended that students visit and utilize this site. Of course, parents are always welcome to peruse this site as well.

Traditionally this is also the time of year when student supplies run low. Please check with them to ensure that they have plenty of pencils, pens, erasers and paper. We, of course, will always accept donations of tissues, wipes and pencils.

We are currently wrapping up our unit on applying integers to real-life situations. Students should be comfortable manipulating and modeling integers. They will soon be on their way to analyzing graphs and functions. They will begin to look at patterns in a whole new way

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# Seventh Grade News

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## Team Jordan Mathematics- Mrs. Hall

Now that we are halfway through the school year, it is a good time to review some of the tools that are available to families. On the team math website are links to the textbook, homework assignments, extra challenge problems, general expectations and other helpful math sites. It is strongly recommended that students visit and utilize this site. Of course, parents are always welcome to peruse this site, as well.

Traditionally this is also the time of year when student supplies run low. Please check with them to ensure that they have plenty of pencils, pens, erasers and paper. We of course will always accept donations of tissues, wipes and pencils.

We are currently wrapping up our unit on applying integers to real-life situations. Students should be comfortable manipulating and modeling integers. They will soon be on their way to analyzing graphs and functions. They will begin to look at patterns in a whole new way.

## Team Jordan History--Mr. Capraro

The students have left the Byzantine Empire behind and are about halfway through our unit on the Middle Ages. We started out by looking at the Western half of the old Roman Empire after the fall. We spent some time on Charlemagne and the Holy Roman Empire, but quickly moved into the feudal period in Europe. We studied castles (do you know what a murder hole is?) and knighthood. Ask your child what the four parts of the Code of Chivalry are. We even got to handle some pieces of suits of armor that the school owns. I read them a story about Sir Gawain called Sir Gawain and the Loathly Lady. The Loathly Lady made quite an impression on them! We will even design our own heralds which will be proudly flying in the classroom! The classroom continues to evolve to reflect what we have learned in history this year. Stop by sometime for a look! If you haven't seen the students' heralds and Byzantine mosaics, you're in for a treat. I hope to culminate our journey through the early Middle Ages with a trip to the Higgins Armory in Worcester, MA. This museum contains the largest collection of Middle Ages armor and weapons in North America. Besides the guided tour through the exhibits, we will have a demonstration of armor and even have time for a Middle Ages art project. Look for more info about that in the coming days!

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

## Team Jordan Science-Ms. Ellerin

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

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

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

In our next unit of study, the circulatory system, students will be introduced to the major parts of the heart, blood vessels and blood. We'll also be taking a side trip to explore how our circulatory system helps to regulate our body temperature.

## Team Jordan English-Mrs. DiZazzo

Students are writing up a storm! After wrapping up the Victorian Unit with projects associated with the novel ***A Christmas Carol***, students have begun exploring the various types of writing and the styles indicative of each form. Students have been brushing up on their grammatical skills, and understanding how to better utilize the English language in their writing. Students' daily journals continue to be a source of inspiration and a place to practice their skills without the pressure of constrained topics, deadlines, or grades.

To piggyback off of ***A Christmas Carol***, students are furthering their exposure to classic literature by reading a classic novel of their choice. The diligent seventh graders are busy crafting an opinion essay relating to their chosen novel, reflecting on why he/she believes the particular classic has stood the test of time.

In the month of February, we look forward to reading a variety of nonfiction pieces, including biographies or autobiographies of their choice. Students will create a well-researched five-paragraph essay based on their reading and further exploration. Technological skills, such as creating works cited documents, note-taking, accessing databases, etc., will all be utilized and strengthened during this unit of study.

# Eighth Grade News

## Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruppiso

English students are thoroughly into Mystery / Suspense / Tension, our unit on style. They have practiced analyzing style using short stories such as “The Most Dangerous Game” by Richard Connell and poems such as “Foul Shot” by Edwin A. Hoey. As a class we will read and discuss Steinbeck’s novella, The Pearl. With their independent reading, students are identifying passages with good tension (rising action). Using some of those passages, they will practice analyzing the elements of style: diction, emphasis, rhythm, imagery / figurative language. The ultimate purpose of the study is to help students energize their own writing using vivid verbs and precise nouns, varied sentence structure to create a desired rhythm / flow, as well as “show, don’t tell.” Many have an excellent start on their original short stories with some excellent use of style elements, and all students will soon be creating free verse poems using “Foul Shot” as a model. Students will be encouraged to use this learning about the precise use of language and details to show / support / prove when writing essays.

Towards the end of the unit students will show their understanding of style in an oral essay which will explain their translation of the style found in twenty lines of prose – from the independent reading – into another art form. They will also examine a couple of radio play scripts in preparation of writing and producing their original radio plays, an eighth grade tradition at HBMS.

For parents who are not familiar with the radio play assignment, this is a cross-team assignment with students working in groups (or solo if they choose) to write, produce and perform a radio play. Since it is cross-team and Team Hypatia and Team Prescott schedules do not match up, students are expected to complete the assignment outside of the classroom. Students will be selecting groups at the end of January and parents must approve the group their child will be part of and agree that the child can meet at the location of the meeting for the allotted time on the given day. Calendars will be handed out that provide check-in dates with Mrs. Coutu and I so that the group process will go as smoothly as possible. Students will be clearly told that conflict during the radio play DOES OCCUR. It is not always wise for best friends to work together--students are encouraged to work with others with whom they can be successful. We do our best to prepare students to deal with the conflict that may arise from working with a group. Group work situations are part of our lives, and we are trying to help them learn strategies for working successfully in groups. Parents are asked to help with transportation and providing the group a location to work. It is the students’ work, however. No matter how tempting it is to get involved, we ask you to please help us keep it the work of eighth graders.

## Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

With the end of the Revolutionary War, our country faced many important decisions. The formation of the American Government was a particularly trying time and has been our focus over the past few weeks.

Students are currently learning about the creation of the Constitution and the document itself. Through an interactive game, students understand that starting a national government is a difficult process. They now have a better understanding about compromise, debate and supporting their viewpoint. This is certainly a skill that they can apply throughout their lives.

In addition, students were assigned to find a current event

showing how the Constitution is still present today. Most of these articles focused on campaign events noting the freedom of speech and the right to assemble being protected in the Bill of Rights. Students have been surprisingly engaged in the primary and caucus results. Our government unit couldn’t have come at a better time: [www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1](http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1)

## Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

Math classes have been working on an ICT project for the past week. Students were to use a PowerPoint presentation to teach a previously learned mathematical concept to their peers. These concepts included fractions and their operations, slope, decimals, order of operations, etc.

The 8th grade Pre-Algebra class has been working on the fundamental counting principle and tree diagrams to finish their unit on data and probability. Gateways completed their work on probability with the fundamental counting principle, tree diagrams and combinations and permutations. The Pre-Algebra classes will explore integers and the properties and expressions of Algebra over the next few weeks. Algebra class has continued working with slope and writing equations in their various forms. The class will begin work on solving and writing linear inequalities.

## Team Hypatia Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

Plate Tectonics is our topic presently. A PowerPoint presentation was an introduction to our dynamic planet we call Earth. Students are currently trying to figure out how scientists were able to determine what is inside the Earth. We have several experiments to complete before we move on to volcanoes.

A slide presentation will be presented on Mount St. Helens, a stratovolcano. We will be visiting the webcam which is always an interesting site, because we get to see the volcano blowing off some steam. It’s always easier to teach a topic if it’s in your backyard. Mount St. Helens is under careful watch by volcanologists because it is in a rebuilding stage. Students are encouraged to go to the website and report any unusual happenings. Hint: Lately the mountain has been having some tremors of 2.9 magnitudes to 3.2 magnitudes. Our next topic will be on earthquakes, quite a shaky topic if you ask me!

Remember to have your child look for current events. These points will be used on tests and quizzes. The next due date for quarter three current events is March 28.

## Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

The month of January was spent studying the Articles of Confederation, the founding fathers and finally, the Constitution itself. Students got their feet wet dealing with various aspects of the Federal legislature and the Executive Department. Term 2 ends as we’re in the middle of our study. Soon, the intrepid adventurers of Team Prescott will boldly attack the study of President George Washington’s domestic and foreign policies, Native American problems, in-fighting within the administration, and a host of fiscal problems. Sound familiar?! Honestly, it has an amazingly similar ring to it!

We’ll soon be in the middle of John Adams’ turbulent administration. Students will be studying the Quasi-War with France, more Native American problems in the NW Territory, etc. Soon we’ll be studying Thomas Jefferson and all that he brought to the White House. This will include problems in the Mediterranean with the Barbary pirates, and the Louisiana Purchase. The latter will be closely followed by the journey of Lewis and Clark. It’s really a very exciting time in the nation’s history and I’m hoping to share some of that excitement with all my students! We’ll take a look at the route they followed, out and back. We’ll take a look at some primary source documents so we know what these are and why they are important.

# Eighth Grade News

## Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Prescott English has weathered many interruptions over the last few weeks and is finally back on solid ground. We completed the broadside assignment, creating newspapers based on the revolutionary novels, using Microsoft Word in order to meet the ICT standards. In addition to writing for a newspaper, students learned how to format a banner, create columns, insert borders, and insert pictures using the “tight” feature so that the writing goes around the picture. Students also worked on perfecting their works cited skills. They are now expected to use the skills they learned in future assignments.

With historical fiction behind us, we moved forward with our Mystery, Suspense, and Tension Unit. Students are stepping up their analysis of literature beyond the plot level. We are studying style--specifically diction (word choice), rhythm, emphasis, imagery, and figurative language. We read “Runaway Rig,” “The Most Dangerous Game,” and the poem “Foul Shot.” They are becoming better detectives in finding style. We will also read “The Lottery” before we move to radio productions like “The Shadow” and scripts to study mystery. We are mirroring what we are studying for literature in our writing. Students drafted a short story before the holidays which they are now working on revising their leads, dialogue, diction, and plot structure. We are also drafting a poem containing suspense and tension of *one moment in time* with the goal of them independently crafting the style elements in their writing.

The radio play projects are just around the corner. For parents who are not familiar with this assignment, this is a cross-team assignment with students working in groups to write, produce and perform a radio play. Since it is cross-team and Team Hypatia and Team Prescott schedules do not match up, students are expected to complete the assignment outside of the classroom. Students will be selecting groups at the end of January. Several handouts will outline the process and the expectations. Parents must approve the group their child will be part of and agree that the child can meet at the location of the meeting for the allotted time on the given day. Calendars will be handed out that provide check-in dates with Mrs. Grupposo and I so that the group process will go as smoothly as possible. Students will be clearly told that conflict during the radio play WILL OCCUR. It is not always wise for best friends to work together--students are encouraged to work with others in which they know they can be successful. We do our best to prepare students regarding how to deal with the conflict that will arise from working with a group. Group work situations are part of our lives and we are trying to help them learn strategies for working successfully in groups. Parents are asked to help with transportation and providing the group a location to work. It is the students' work though--no matter how tempting it is to want to get involved, please help keep it 8th graders' work.

In a few weeks we will also be studying film as literature. We have done prep work for this already by watching a short film called, “The Red Balloon.” We analyzed the usage of special effects, sound, lighting, and the camera angles. We will study the history of science fiction in the form of film.

## Team Prescott Science—Mr. Bond It's the Right “Time”

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

Our earth history unit will also include an in-depth look at a very LARGE subject...dinosaurs! Students will research a dinosaur of their choice, and work in the computer lab designing and building a website that introduces the appearance and behavior characteristics of their dinosaur. Our research will provide us with information about dinosaurs that has been accumulated by scientists since the mid-1800's. As we all know, popular motion pictures have depicted the dinosaur as looking and behaving in a variety of ways. How much of what we see in movies is science fact versus Hollywood “special effects?”

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

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

## Team Prescott Math - Ms. Mezzocchi

In the Pre-Algebra and Gateways classes, we are finishing up the quarter with a review of integers and we will go straight into solving equations and inequalities. We will continue to use the TI-84 graphing calculator as a tool for going deeper into the problem solving part of the curriculum. The students did a great job with their computer project this term. It was a lesson on how to use the TI-84 to graph a Box-and-Whisker Plot from a set of data. They were able to use a computer software package that allowed them to “snap” pictures of the calculator screen to help teach the lesson. Ask your son/daughter to show you his/her project. You will be quite impressed!

In the Algebra classroom, the students will be learning how to solve systems of linear equations and inequalities since they have mastered the **EQUATION OF A LINE**. Students will have to demonstrate their mastery by being able to write equations in all forms and distinguish between slopes and intercepts of various lines. Following the systems of equations unit, we will begin the **POLYNOMIALS** unit where they will finish up the unit by learning how to FACTOR polynomials in order to solve quadratic equations. This always proves to be a very challenging unit but once learned, students feel very proud of themselves. The unit on polynomials is the pre-cursor to **THE QUADRATIC FORMULA**.

All classes will be doing a Holocaust Packet on graphing and analyzing these graphs to come up with an Impact Statement on the size of the number **6 MILLION**. This packet is in preparation for the trip to Washington, DC. We sure can use a break from this winter we are having in New Hampshire. We can all look forward to the “Cherry Blossoms” in DC.

# Seventh and Eighth Grade News

## Technology Bytes with Mr. Gruce

I have had quite a few visitations this year with students in regard to being unable to open a file brought from home. This is most often due to a different version of Office or a different word processor / office "suite" being used at home than what is being used in school. Currently HBMS uses Microsoft Office XP Professional Suite. If you have purchased or upgraded your computer or software to another version of Office, particularly Office 2007, or you are using Works, Open Office, WordPerfect, NeoOffice, or other word processing programs, your child needs to save any work he/she brings into school in the Office 97-XP 2000 file format. This will help reduce stress when your child attempts to open his/her document and trips to my room requesting to convert the item into the proper format so it will work at the Middle School.

**Important Notice:** 8th Grade students will be choosing artifacts starting next week for their ICT Portfolio. The rubric and directions for completing this project will be given out on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 29 for Team 3 and February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> for Team 4. After these dates, the eighth grade students will have until Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, to complete this project during their Skills periods. Again, if you have any questions on this topic, please contact either Ms. Cicciu or I.

## General Music--Mrs. Spencer/Mr. Depine

**Mrs. Spencer's classes: 7th Grade** students are finishing their unit on guitars for this part of the year. We have been playing the following chords- A minor, E minor, E7 and G major. Songs include "The Ghost of Tom," "Drunken Sailor" and "Hey, Ho, Nobody Home." Our strumming technique includes half-note patterns and quarter-note patterns. We have also added a bass line to the folk song "Drunken Sailor" which we perform in small groupings. Next, 7th grade general music students are viewing the musical "The Music Man" by Meredith Wilson. Students will then need to complete a research packet to compare and contrast different characters and songs. Click on the faculty tab on our school website and then my name to view the research questions and the rubric for this unit.

**8th Grade** students are finishing their unit on guitars for this part of the year. The following chords have been reviewed- A minor, E minor, E7, and G-major. Songs include "The Ghost of Tom", "Drunken Sailor" and "Hey Ho Nobody Home". Strumming technique includes half-note and quarter-note patterns. A bass line has been added to the folk song "Drunken Sailor", which is performed in small groups. Students have also been studying the unique style of reggae including history and the way in which the rhythm and bass lines are written. Students will next be working on MIDI compositions using ABACABA form.

**Mr. Depine's classes: 7th grade** students have been working on our synthesizers. We have been practicing songs in parallel motion-both hands at the same time and motion. Songs include "Russian," "Bulgarian" and "Sweet Rock." Our next unit will be class activities using the magazine series "Music Alive!"

**8th grade** students have been working on "Completing the Phrases", a music composition unit with students writing and performing their own compositions. Guidelines and compositional techniques are taught. The compositions are also typed on "Sibelius", a music notation software program.



## Chorus --Mrs. Spencer

8th grade and 7th grade students are currently learning our spring concert songs. Please take a moment and read the list of choral songs for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade on our website. Our chorus page is found under faculty and my name.

Our winter concert score knowledge was due at the end of Quarter 2. These were purple packets. All chorus students should have a Word document in their chorus folder which contains a list of works cited to be used at the end of this year.

## Math with Mr. Jahns...

**7th Grade Math** students are concentrating on all things fractional: GCFs, LCMs, Reducing, Comparing, Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, Dividing, etc. We will then proceed into decimals, percents, ratios and proportions.

**8th Grade Math** students have just finished reviewing Order of Operations (with PEMDAS - Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally) and Integers (positive and negative numbers) in multi-step problems. Fraction review will happen along the way as we begin to explore algebraic concepts along the way. This will involve becoming familiar with new vocabulary like Variables, Terms, Coefficients, Expressions, Like Terms, etc. It will also involve simplifying and evaluating expressions. We will explore the algebraic Equality, Commutative, Associative and Distributive Properties and their use in solving simple one- and two-step equations. The level of success in this unit will determine whether students are in Pre-Algebra next year as 9<sup>th</sup> graders, or in Algebra I.

**7th Grade Algebra** is on track and making good progress. We have been studying Linear Equations and Inequalities. Students were exposed to some non-linear equations, such as those involving absolute value. We've also worked with functions and function notation. Most recently, we've been doing a little Statistics, including Measures of Central Tendency, Stem and Leaf graphs and Box-n-Whisker plots. By the time you read this, we should have finished our current unit on inequalities and taken the unit test.

**8th Grade Geometry** is moving along nicely, having recently completed our study of triangles and their properties, and now we are well into polygons in general. We are making extensive use of Geometry Sketchpad to explore properties and propose Conjectures through inductive reasoning, and then to prove the validity of these conjectures with Deductive proofs. Soon, we will be moving on to Circle properties. Let's hope we don't end up chasing our tails!!

## Band -- Mr. Depine

Congratulations to the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band for their outstanding performances at the winter concert. Students are now working on building skills for the next difficulty level of music to be performed at our all-district and spring concerts. Concert music for these performances will gradually be introduced. Performing skills we are rehearsing include tone quality, intonation, rhythm, balance and various articulations.

Jazz band continues to meet on Wednesday from 4 to 6 in preparation for spring performances. Students have demonstrated excellent progress with their music. Also, congratulations to Nicole Kabel, Tanina Cadwell and Sean Flannery for their selection to the Middle Level Honors Band. This band which was selected by taped audition will be performing at



# INTEGRATED SPECIALS

## French--Mme. Cloutier

Bonjour tout le monde! The 7<sup>th</sup> grade French classes are right on schedule in our textbook and have still had the time to learn at a nice pace without rushing. We recently finished our fourth chapter about family members and house layouts which provides them with many necessary words for talking about their lives. In December, they also used this chapter as their topic for their first ICT Project in the lab. They created a color layout of their house on the computer, labeled it in French and wrote a small paragraph about their drawing in French. It was very challenging for some and took all the time allocated. We will do our second computer project in the spring. Our new chapter is about food and the students said they have been waiting for this section! They just did a partner activity replicating a café scene and took turns being the waitperson and then the client. They are also learning the verb "aller" (to go) since it is used so much with these activities. We will have a real live café in February with real food in each class. If you would like to provide something "French" you can tell your student when he/she brings home paperwork about this favorite chapter come-to life.

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade we have just finished Chapter 11 with reflexive verbs. They are a little confusing at first but with some practice the students master them. Their ICT project involved a labeled computer drawing and a paragraph using reflexive verbs describing their routine in the morning before leaving for school. Their drawings were quite creative, funny, and colorful with well-written sentences using the verbs correctly (Je me brosse les dents, Je me lève, Je me lave la figure, etc.) The chapter also addressed ways to stay in good physical shape. They have just begun a driving chapter which has quite involved vocabulary and four often used new verbs for them. The grammar is nicely introduced in this book and meshed well with the chapter topic. We are having two all French classes per week to get them used to hearing nothing but the target language. It's fun for me, challenging and fun for them and their ears are tuning in quite well. They often amaze me with their comprehension of French spoken at a normal pace. We have two really popular chapters coming: Sports and Winter Sports. In these chapters they will also learn the past tense even though we have been using it a bit to describe our weekends and other past events. A toute à l'heure!

## El Español—Senora Banks & Senora 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 7<sup>th</sup> graders began 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.



Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are still exploring the preterit tense. We added two groups of irregular verbs to their verb list!!!! It is wonderful to see how their range of communication has exploded by learning this new verbal tense! Along with these verbs, they learned how to describe trips and vacations they took during the summertime. Our students have been able to apply the principles they have learned about the preterit tense to many different situations. We are continuing to practice our past tense and are reviewing Direct Objects. Indirect Objects will be introduced soon.

Please keep checking our website for homework and other activities. Hasta la próxima!

## Art News - Mrs. Papadeas

Art students on Team 4 have been looking at many different artists and art styles to prepare themselves for acrylic painting. For many students this was their very first attempt painting on canvas board. Finding a picture of a painting that they liked was a great motivation. Students needed to research the artist and explore the style or way the artist painted. Many students found themselves interested with impressionistic artists such as Claude Monet, Paul Cezanne and Renoir. Other students chose American artists like Edward Hooper, Jasper Johns, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Students were allowed to select a section of a painting or paint in the style of their artist. They were also required to describe what they saw when they looked at the painting which was a good way to help them make careful observations. It is important for students to make an interpretation of the painting and try to figure out what the artist was trying to convey. I also stress that it is important that students make personal opinions about their work. Students expressed enjoyment in this unit and will hopefully continue painting in the future.

We have also been looking at the artist Chuck Close and drawing pictures that reflect his Pop Art style. Some students are choosing to do portraits while others are doing favorite cartoon images. Quarter 3 will end on January 25<sup>th</sup> and then these students will move on to Family and Consumer Science and Art will begin with Team 1. This is a 7<sup>th</sup> grade team and we will begin with portfolio covers and word illustration. Art work continues to be displayed in the halls and it is eventually returned to the student. Hopefully your sons and daughters will bring home some of their art work and share it with you.

## Art Club

Art Club students enjoyed the time to explore their own personal interest in art. Several students are working on drawings, paintings, cartoons, clay pieces, and yarn dolls. Art Club is always on Tuesday afternoons from 2:20pm to 3:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to come join us for some creative fun!



# Integrated Specials—Cont'd

## Reading - Mrs. Dufresne

### 8th Grade Reading

As you may recall, November ushered in the genre of historical fiction novels. In continued cooperation with the English classes, the students will be reading historical fiction novels that deal with World War II and the Holocaust. This will provide excellent background information for our trip to Washington, DC. The Washington trip will include a lengthy visit to the United States Holocaust Museum as well as the monuments to the Korean War, the Vietnam Wall and the new WW II memorials.

The first selection is the book *Street Boys* by Lorenzo Carcaterra, which takes place in 1943 in the city of Naples, Italy. A band of 200 Neapolitan orphans take on a German Panzer Division that has been sent to level what remained of the city of Naples. Feel free to borrow the book to see how these young heroes make out against such a formidable foe.

The second book is *Stones in Water* by Donna Joe Napoli. This novel begins in Venice, Italy and follows two young Italian boys, a Roman Catholic and a Jew, who are captured by German soldiers and sent to a work camp in Germany. Their brave journey to keep this dangerous secret while trying to escape to freedom is chronicled. Friendship and courage guide these boys along this dangerous path.

Mrs. Cicciu, our technology guru, will be assisting the classes again for a short project on web design. Of course, works cited documents for all our writing and internet sources will be provided to be sure we have given credit where credit is due on all our work.

Please remember to check the reading website for homework and assignment information.

## Health and Wellness - Mrs. White

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

Students are currently working with Ms. Christy, the Guidance Counselor, on career development. Clearly, they are not planning out their entire futures, but taking perhaps a first glance at what they might do after high school.

Students will finish up with Health on January 25<sup>th</sup>, when they will move on to Technical Education.



## Library Media Center--Mrs. Jahns

### Who, When, Where? at Your Library

By C. Jahns



This has been an industrious month in the LMC: we have 8<sup>th</sup> grade students seeking mystery and adventure, one 7<sup>th</sup> grade team handling “who” with biographies, and one 7<sup>th</sup> grade team experiencing “when and where” with classics. Computers were certainly in demand with Grade 8 *broad-sides* for English and Grade 7 working on their vocabulary collages or manor creations for Social Studies.

Most students can recognize mystery or adventure books, (we do set up displays and mark books with genre stickers to assist in selection), but Classics can be complicated. At About.com, “Classic literature” is defined with the following points:

- A Classic usually expresses some artistic quality--an expression of life, truth, and beauty.
- A Classic stands the test of time.
- A Classic has a certain universal appeal.
- A Classic makes connections.

For more details, see: [http://classiclit.about.com/od/forbeginners/a/aa\\_whatisclass.htm](http://classiclit.about.com/od/forbeginners/a/aa_whatisclass.htm)

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Many students have chosen Classic novels by Louisa May Alcott, Jane Austen, Frank Baum, Susan Cooper, Charles Dickens, Arthur Conan Doyle, C.S. Lewis, Jack London, Lois Lowry, Jerry Spinelli, Robert Louis Stevenson, Mark Twain, Jules Verne, or Laura Ingalls Wilder.

A literature site that PBS just recommended in their newsletter is [adLit.org](http://adlit.org) which includes book recommendations, author interviews, and much more. Check it out!



# SPORTS UPDATE

## INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS: BASKETBALL

### Boys - Coach Gershgorin

The **HBMS boy's basketball team** is having a tough season with 1 win and 11 losses so far this year. Defensive rebounding, blocks and guarding have improved throughout the season, but offensive turnovers have led to their losses. All in all, the entire team has shown great attitude, impressive work ethic and an abundance of energy and hard play.

### Girls---Coach Stopera

The **HBMS girl's basketball team** is having a great season with 10 wins and 2 losses as of January 16<sup>th</sup>. "Team effort" and "unselfish play" are the key words for this team. With each game the girls have become more aggressive, learning strengths to build on and adjusting to their opponents. Overall, the team continues to roll through their schedule and have clinched a playoff spot.

## WRESTLING--Coach Quinn

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School wrestling team** started practice on November 13, 2007 under new coach Dave Quinn. The team practices every day after school from 2:15 to 4:15 pm. The competitive season includes approximately eight dual meets with other middle schools. The culmination of the season is the Tri-County Championships on January 27, 2008. Wrestlers also have an opportunity to compete at the regional and state tournaments. Twenty-five wrestlers make up this year's team. Two wrestlers from this year's team have distinguished themselves within the Tri-County league. They include: Zack M. who has won every match except one, and captain Jake McP. who has only lost two-matches thus far. Both wrestlers have an excellent opportunity for success at this year's Tri-County and State Championships. The overriding emphasis of this year's team is to learn the basics of wrestling and be able to make the transition to high school wrestling if desired. Wrestling is not a sport for everyone but for those select few who are willing to train hard there is no greater sport. Wrestling teaches discipline, courage and how to react to adversity. And it is those life liaisons that a wrestler will carry with him or herself for the rest of their lives. Thank you all for allowing me to be part of your wrestling program for 2007-2008. I thank last year's coach, Rick Melillo, for his guidance and support and I look forward to seeing those seventh graders and new recruits on the mat next November.

## TRACK AND FIELD

Track and Field practice will begin on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:20 - 3:30 p.m. Any student wishing to join this team should plan to attend this first practice. Practices will be held every school day from 2:20 - 4:00 on good days and 2:20 - 3:30 on inclement days.



## SOFTBALL

Softball tryouts will begin on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Any girl interested in trying out should attend this first session with their glove. Practices will be held every school day from 2:20 - 4:15 on good days and on a rotating schedule on inclement days.



## BASEBALL

Baseball tryouts will begin on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. Any student interested in trying out should attend this first session with their glove. Practices will be held every school day from 2:20 - 4:15 on good days and on a rotating schedule on inclement days.



## INTRAMURAL SPORTS: FLOOR HOCKEY -

Floor Hockey will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:20 - 3:30pm beginning Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Students must attend this first session to learn the rules and be placed on a team. Once the teams are established, students will get a schedule of their games because only 3 teams will play on any given day. Students should arrange for their ride home promptly at 3:30 p.m. Floor Hockey intramurals will end on Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION- Ms. Bottcher & Mr. Johnston

The 7th grade students are working on a personal fitness unit. The students have looked at their own habits (eating, sleeping, studying, and activity) and feelings about fitness. They learned how to take their pulse and what various activities do to their heart rate. The students figured out their target heart rate (where to exercise to strengthen their heart) and assessed their health-related and skill-related fitness components. After learning their strengths and weaknesses, the students will use charts to see what activities they can participate in to improve themselves. The culminating activity will take place February 1<sup>st</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> when the students produce their first ICT project - a physical fitness brochure. The next unit of study will be racket sports - pickle ball and badminton - along with sport stacking.



The 8th grade is still involved with the Challenge unit. We are finishing group initiative problems this week and will begin climbing our wall next week. Low wall traverses with appropriate spotting techniques will precede vertical climbs on our wall. During the high wall climbs, students will learn how to use climbing harnesses, carabineers, ATC friction devices, double figure eight knots, and correct belay techniques. Team Hypatia will travel to Boulder Morty's on Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, and Team Prescott will go on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

