



Hollis Brookline Middle School

KNIGHTLY NEWS

June 2, 2008

From the Administration

As usual, students have begun counting down and the staff wishes the days could be extended to complete all the essential tasks. **Placement** has occupied the majority of our time: incoming 6th to 7th and our present 7th graders to 8th. Although time-intensive, we feel it is beneficial for students to know their Team prior to leaving for the summer. Thanks are extended to all the parents who sent input by the publicized date. We are set and ready for the 08-09 school year!

During the second week of May, we conducted the **Science NECAP** testing with 8th grade students. I am pleased to report that only 4 students needed to take make-up tests. Attendance was terrific, students were cooperative and genuinely helpful with clean-up after the inquiry task. You will receive individual results through the mail.

Adequate Yearly Progress Reports were made public in early May. We are pleased to report that adequate progress was made in all areas. In fact, our school progress far surpasses the State's index score.

Our primary focus for two years has been the **Information Communication Technology Initiative**. HBMS staff is to be commended for embracing the goal of technology to be embedded in all content areas, rather than taught in isolation. The result has been increased applications for students across the board.

Next we will be describing our **Literacy Action Plan**. A three-year timeline will be introduced to staff, which describes ongoing staff development, writing/reading integration with curriculum maps, and book talks. Three staff members will serve as Literacy Coaches to support individual teachers as needed. During the first year our focus will be reading and writing.

The 08-09 School Calendar has been approved. Please note one change from prior years for the opening week. Our **grade 7 Orientation** (and Freshman Orientation) will be held **August 27, using an early release day schedule**. This means students will be dismissed at 12:00pm. August 28 and 29 will be full days for all students.

For your information, **summer office hours** will be Monday through Thursday, 8:00am-12:00pm, beginning July 1st through August 13th. While the hours are the same as last year, a new voice may greet you. Mrs. Linda Desmarais will be retiring after 28 years of service. Over the years, many of you have grown to rely on Linda as the 'go to' person for any answer. Staff and students alike have been supported by Linda in numerous ways. We wish Linda the absolute best in the weeks to come. Mrs. Susan Nierendorf will join our front office crew. We expect that her skills will only serve to enhance our services. Please join us in welcoming Mrs. Nierendorf.

In addition, **Mrs. Jackie Lucas** and **Mrs. Carolyn Cicciu** will join **retirement** status. Their commitment, energy, and content knowledge have served the young adolescents of Hollis and Brookline well! In addition, Mrs. Cicciu's leadership in our ICT initiative is noteworthy. We wish them good health and happiness in the upcoming years!

Thanking individuals is always risky for fear of leaving anyone out. To our PTSA officers, coordinators and general members, **what would we do without you?** Please know that we appreciate everything you do! You provide the foundation of our success!

Sincerely,

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

PTSA President's Report

We would like to congratulate all of our Destination Imagination students on a job well done in Tennessee. They worked so hard this year, and it truly paid off.

Our 8th Grade Celebration will be June 13th from 7 - 9:30pm. If you would still like to help out, please contact us. Thank you to all of the incredible parents who have volunteered their time and energy. It will be a wonderful night for our children.

Although our new fundraising efforts will not include a magazine drive, you can still renew your subscriptions by going online to www.qsp.com, click on the "Just Shopping" link and enter the Hollis/Brookline ID# 425013255.

This will be Ruth and my last newsletter. We appreciate the opportunity to have been your Co-Chairs, and wish all of you a safe and fun summer. Good luck to all of our graduating 8th graders. We hope high school will be a wonderful experience.

Susan Holroyd

sbholroyd@charter.net

Ruth Kabel

arkabel@juno.com

Inside This Issue

School & Community News.....	2-3
7th Grade News.....	4-5
8th Grade News	6-7
7th & 8th Grade News.....	8

Integrated Specials .	9-10
Music, Band, Chorus.....	11
Phys. Ed. & Sports	12

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

"Wuzzup, Dude?"

The Hollis Shredders skateboard group is meeting with the Hollis Board of Selectmen June 16th at 6:00 pm at the Hollis Town Hall. WE NEED YOU THERE! Bring your parents, friends and neighbors...(and even your skateboards). This is what we've been waiting for! We hope to see you there. For more information, contact Mrs. Jasinski.



Hollis Strawberry Festival

Mark your calendars and plan to join the fun at the annual Hollis Strawberry Festival on June 22nd from 2-4 pm. Historic Monument Square will once again be the site for this small town favorite.



In addition to fresh, homemade strawberry shortcakes and sundaes there will be a couple of new additions: strawberry frappes and strawberries dipped in chocolate.

Fine artists and crafters will be on the square to show and sell their items, and face painting for the kids and candy for sale will be found under the Sweet Shoppe tent. And, of course, The Hollis Town Band will be on the green entertaining everyone with their much loved music.

In the event of rain, the fun will be moved to the HBHS large gymnasium. For more information, contact Chairman Diane Raitt at 882-9350 or Co-chair Jane Taylor at 465-2849 or taylorclan3@charter.net.

The Hollis Woman's Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to enriching the social, philanthropic, and educational life of the community. All who are interested in finding out more about this active club and all of their activities should visit their website at www.holliswomansclub.org or call President Diana Kroeger at 465-2392.

Recital

The Hollis Middle School

String Ensemble

Students of Nancy Goodwin

Wednesday, June 11th, 7PM

Nashua Public Library

Auditorium

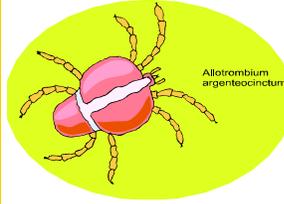


RACHEL'S CHALLENGE MEETING DATES

Mondays from 2:30 – 3:30 PM

unless otherwise announced

June 16



Ways to Prevent Contracting EEE, West Nile Virus, and Lyme Disease

Now that the nice weather is here, so are the bugs. Here are some ways from the NH Department of Health and Human Services to decrease your chances of getting these insect-transmitted diseases:

- When outside between dusk and dark, wear long pants and long sleeved shirts.
- If possible, stay inside between dusk and dark, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Consider using an insect repellent with DEET according to manufacturer's directions when outside.
- Put screens on windows and make sure they do not have holes.
- Eliminate standing water from your property.
- Wear light-colored clothing to make ticks easy to see.
- Tuck pants into socks and shirts into pants.
- Check after every two to three hours of outdoor activity for ticks on clothing and skin
- A thorough check of body surfaces for attached ticks should be done at the end of day.
- If a tick is attached to your skin for less than 24 hours, your chance of getting Lyme disease is extremely small. But just to be safe, monitor your health closely after a tick bite and be alert for any signs and symptoms of illness.

I hope you and your family have a healthy and restful summer.

Sheila Mandragouras, R.N.

Allergy Information

Starting Fall '08, no latex balloons or koosh balls will be allowed at HBMS due to students with latex allergies.

We also have procedures in place to protect students who have peanut allergies. There are two tables in the cafeteria designated as peanut free. These tables are clearly marked. In addition, snacks will be fruit only. We ask that parents consider carefully any ingredients that may be included in food prepared for school events or activities.

Thank you for helping to keep our students safe. If you have any questions, please contact Sheila Mandragouras, School Nurse at 465-2223.



SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Requirements for Students Entering 7th Grade



The Health Office would like to remind you of NH State guidelines for entrance to the 7th grade. All entering 7th graders must have a second MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, and a reported history of Chicken Pox (Varicella) or the vaccine. Updated immunization records must be on file in the student's school health record. It is possible that your child may have had these immunizations, but that the school does not have record of them. Parents of students who do not have these immunizations on file will be contacted this spring/summer. If your child receives these immunizations during the summer, please forward a copy to HBMS (attn: School Nurse) as soon as they are received.

Tetanus immunizations are required every 10 years for NH state compliance. Please check your child's last dose at your next primary care provider visit.

The Hollis Brookline School Board has a policy requiring a recent physical for all entering 7th grade students. If this physical was done after March 1, 2008, it will meet requirements for all activities during the two years of Middle School. If your student has had a physical within the past year, but not since March, please provide a copy and also send a copy of their next annual physical as well.

Up-to-date immunization and physical records are mandatory requirements for entrance to the 7th grade. Please contact Sheila Mandragouras, RN at 465-2223, if you have any problems meeting these requirements.

Requirements for Students Entering 9th Grade



All students entering 9th grade at Hollis Brookline High School must have a physical on file per School Board policy. A physical done after March 2008 will meet that requirement. Any students who have had a physical within the last year, but before March 08, should also forward a copy of that physical to Cathy Burbee, RN at Hollis Brookline High School. A copy of the student's next annual physical will need to be provided as well.

Tetanus immunizations are required every 10 years for NH state compliance. Please check your child's last dose to see if they need an updated vaccine before entering Hollis Brookline High School. Thank you for your attention to these important health issues.

10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1



**Last Day
Of School
Is
Friday, June 20
Have a GREAT
Summer!!!**



Calendar of Events

June 2	7th Grade Choral Concert - 7:15 HBHS
June 3	8th Grade Choral Concert - 7:15 HBHS
June 11	HBMS Jazz Band Concert - 7:00 HBHS
June 20	Last day of school - HBMS
June 23	Last day of school - HBHS
August 27	Grade 7 (and Freshman) Orientation / Early Release - 12:00
August 28 & 29	All classes begin 1st day of school

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team McAuliffe Science—Mrs. Evans

“Take a Breather “

Soon, the 7th grade students will be "singing" their way through the respiratory system-- ask any Team One 7th grader to share our rendition of "Respiration, Respiration," (sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells").

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

Using the scientific method to solve a problem, each student will also determine his/her own lung capacity. Each class will be divided into seven groups, and each group will be given a different list of materials from which they have to create their own plan and run their own experiment. After collecting and analyzing data, they will finally state a conclusion which indicates the variables that impact one's lung capacity. To make this lab more complete, the students will tap into their mathematical intelligence and create a 3-D cube that represents their own personal lung capacity.

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

Team McAuliffe English --Ms. Rasmussen

For the end of the year project, the Team One 7th grade English students will use their knowledge of story elements, figurative language, and writing styles to craft their own short stories. So far they have come-up with a plot idea that includes the basic situation, conflict and characters for their story, and have written an in-depth character sketch of their main character. They have also written a descriptive essay, using sensory details, to describe their story's setting, and have practiced writing stories from different points of view. Students will be writing in the lab all week and will then revise and edit at home. Look for your child's finished story on June 6th.

Team McAuliffe History--Mrs. Connolly

As the year winds up, we have finished our Medieval Unit with great castle games and a fascinating simulation about the Crusades. Be sure to check my website for great pictures of students in Crusader's costume. Students traveled from Leon, France through Rome, Italy to Constantinople, Turkey and south to Jerusalem answering questions about the crusades. Some crusaders reached the holy lands; others were killed by Muslims, caught the plague, or had to go home to care for ailing parents. It was quite a trip.

As we move into the Renaissance, students have been turning in great Guild projects. It's been a fun time sharing many, many loaves of bread with cinnamon, butter and jelly, and some with chocolate chips! The handmade paper, ink and pomander balls are beginning to add more decorations to our room with beautiful stained glass win-

dows. We have some amazing weavers and candle makers who might find jobs in their future if they decide to go that route. If you have a chance, peak in to see our amazing heralds, guild work, signs and stained glass. The students' presentation is fabulous.

As our 7th grade year comes to an end, we will be exploring art, music, literature and government or political structures from the Renaissance. Ask your son or daughter about the creation of island governments and Thomas Moore's, *Utopian Society* and Machiavelli's, *The Prince*. Be sure to listen for tidbits about Shakespeare's plays, Michelangelo's and Leonardo da Vinci's artwork, and Galileo's scientific works and their impact on society as we join some bottegas (studio or workshop) from Italy (in class) trying our hand at art, science and inventions. We will learn about the Age of Reformation and Explorers as we move on into June.

It will be a grand finale as we see how some famous explorers traveled across the great oceans to discover the new world, just in time for summer and 8th grade. I am grateful for the many lessons we've shared this year, and the wonderful young people who shared it with me. It has been fun. Have a great summer.

Team McAuliffe Math--Mrs. Fordin

We are well into our last quarter as 7th graders are beginning preparations for summer. Before breaking free from school, we have a final unit of study to focus on, Geometry. For many *adults* this brings back bad memories of formulas and memorizing. Well, our students are using their spatial intelligence to learn *how* various formulas are created so they can have a true understanding of the formulas and how they work. From here, students will progress into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume, with the grand finale being a fun project focused on these concepts.

As the home stretch comes upon us, we want to send a great big "Thanks!" to all of the 7th grade students for their enthusiasm towards learning this year. Have a great summer and we will see you next year!

Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

In History on Team Jordan, we are working on bringing the year to a conclusion. We are knee-deep in the Renaissance right now and will continue to be for most of the time we have left. We have completed a look at Renaissance painting and sculpture. One of the most interesting things we did was to compare the Middle Ages style of painting to the Renaissance style. I must say that the students have become quite good at analyzing a painting and determining in what period it was painted.

I think a favorite activity of the unit was when we studied the painting of the Sistine Ceiling. We took a close look at the central panels, prophets and sibyls. Then, after looking at all the parts of the Ceiling, we mapped it out! We finished by taking a close look at the Last Judgment along the back wall of the Sistine Chapel.

(continued - Page 5)

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team Jordan History-- Mr. Capraro (cont'd)

We were amazed by Michelangelo being able to sculpt the "Pieta," paint the Sistine Ceiling and design St. Peter's basilica. And da Vinci, who painted the "Mona Lisa" and "Last Supper" while inventing things like the elevator, the helicopter and many war machines! Truly, they are the very definition of "Renaissance men!" Ask your child about da Vinci's notebooks!

We read some Renaissance writing. We have read portions of Thomas Moore's, *Utopia*, and had great discussions regarding what is utopian. We also spent time looking closely at some of Shakespeare's writings (with particular emphasis placed on his famous tragedy, Romeo and Juliet) as well as the Globe Theater. We may also read portions of the Canterbury Tales. With time in the school year so quickly running out, it is hard to fit it all in!

We looked briefly at the life and teachings of Martin Luther and the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. We finished the unit by examining the impact of Gutenberg's printing press on European learning, Copernicus' new theory of the universe, and (my favorite activity) giving a close look at the family tree and hereditary succession problems of Henry VIII and his family! Who doesn't love the Tudors?

All we have left to do is introduce the European exploration of the New World that was taking place in the 16th Century and our journey through European history will be done! So little time, so much to do! If time permits, at year's end, we will spend some time reviewing all we have done in European history so far this year, from the Fall of Rome up to the Renaissance. All in all, I think we have had a very interesting and educational year!

Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Hall

We are well into our last quarter as 7th graders are beginning preparations for summer. Before breaking free from school, we have a final unit of study to focus on, Geometry. For many *adults* this brings back bad memories of formulas and memorizing. Well, our students are using their spatial intelligence to learn *how* various formulas are created so they can have a true understanding of the formulas and how they work. From here, students will progress into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume, with the grand finale being a fun project focused on these concepts.

As the home stretch comes upon us, we want to send a great big "Thanks" to all of the 7th grade students for their enthusiasm towards learning this year. Have a great summer and we will see you next year!

Team Jordan Science—Ms. Ellerin

Team Jordan scientists have just completed an exploration of the respiratory system. We saw the close connections not only between the circulatory system and respiratory system but also how cellular metabolism plays a role in our need for oxygen. In this unit, we dissected a sheep's lung, one of the most exciting dissections because we not only saw the parts of the respiratory system, we also used an air pump to see how it can be inflated and

deflated. Students also found their own lung capacity; first, by using the concept of displacement, and then by creating their own technique when given a certain set of materials. There was a lot of blowing, splashing and measuring going on during these labs.

Soon we'll be adding 60 new members to our science class; we've started the incubation of chick eggs and the countdown to the hatch date has begun. Each pair of students will be responsible for an egg, candling and weighing their egg at each class. The candling process will allow us to see the development of blood vessels and the growth of the chick during the twenty-one day incubation process. Students have made a hypothesis regarding the weight change of the egg over the incubation process; stay tuned to find out if their data supports their hypotheses.

Team Jordan students will begin chomping their way through the digestive system. We'll be eating pretzels to taste and feel the digestion of carbohydrates in our mouths; we'll be digesting pieces of egg in hydrochloric acid and pepsin; we'll test-taste several liquids to locate the four taste buds on our tongue. Students will build a living model of the digestive system complete with props such as spray bottles and containers of water, to show how each organ of the digestive system works when food and drink enters. We'll be culminating this unit with a dissection of a leopard frog.

Team Jordan English—Mrs. DiZazzo

Team Jordan students spent the month of April submerged in a poetry unit, where they had the opportunity to be creative readers and writers of poetry. Many different types of poems were explored and created by the students.

Figurative language was tackled during this unit, and students learned how to include such language into their writing to enhance the meaning, sound, and creativity of their work. The unit culminated with the creation of a poetry book, containing ten poems crafted by the students. We celebrated their work with an impressive Poetry Café; a well-deserved opportunity for students to share their original poetry with classmates, parents, and staff.

Currently, English students are busy getting to know the *Greasers* and the *Socs* as they read and discuss the beloved novel, *The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton - a poignant tale of a group of misfit young adults who learn many valuable lessons during their journeys. We are discussing conflicts and resolutions, characterization, and point of view as we explore this text, and students will end the year creating a narrative of their own, based on a life experience they have been through, keeping *The Outsiders* and story elements in mind.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Hypatia Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

Students have completed a module in Earth History and are now busily at work building a website on a favorite dinosaur. This is the last computer project for the year and it has been an interesting one. We have short and tall dinosaurs, carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, some that are mean-looking and some that are cute, some that walk like dogs and some that have small upper appendages. These websites are pleasing to the eye and full of informative tidbits about dinosaurs. Who doesn't like a dinosaur anyway?

Once this project is complete, we will move on to rocks and minerals, probably the last module of the year. Students will gain insight about what is so important about rocks and minerals. Identifying is not so easy when some minerals look alike. A twelve-station lab will wind down the year.

On June 6, we will venture off to the White Mountains to observe geology in the making. We will ride the tram to the peak of Cannon Mountain (hopefully we will see some black bear as well), and walk the Flume trail where weathering is in its finest display. This is truly a wonderful field trip to take in all the beauty the North Country has to offer. Don't forget to pack a lunch; we will picnic at the Pemigewasset River's edge. Everyone will have a great time. This is my favorite field trip!

Don't forget to bring in current event articles about science in the news to receive bonus points on tests and quizzes. You only have until June 13 to do so. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

Students recently completed a project about social issues during the 1800s. They were required to research their issue and show how similar problems manifest themselves today. Issues included: slavery, women's rights, native removal, immigration, conflicts with Mexico, and urbanization/pollution.

After creating a PowerPoint and discussing how individuals were able to overcome difficulties in English class, students presented their findings in History class.

The last few weeks we focused on the ideas of Manifest Destiny, and students demonstrated their knowledge by creating Manifest Destiny Character Cards. Ideas of movement West and the addition of new territories and states brought many changes to our country. In addition, new land presented questions about slavery that would help to fuel the Civil War.

As we bring the year to a close, students are learning about the Civil War. Within the next few weeks, students will be given an assignment that requires research of an important figure during the war. The research will allow them to represent a specific point of view during the Civil War. The goal of this assignment is to further develop research skills, allow students to verbally express this research during a debate-like activity, and give them a better overall view as to why the Civil War occurred.

Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruposso

Students are almost finished reading *Twelfth Night*, by William Shakespeare. Once the reading is completed, they will pick scenes and parts to learn from the play. The group will block the scene and perform it for the class. Individuals will design their ideal costume and set and complete a character analysis for the "One Liner" assignment.

At the same time, students are reading modern realistic fiction, starting with the award-winning young adult novel, *Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers. In his speech accepting the Nobel Prize for literature (parts of which the students have read), Faulkner made a point about the responsibility of the artist to point out the ills of society in order to improve it. As they read *Monster*, students will look through a window into an urban lifestyle that they, for the most part, have never experienced. The problems of the hero in this modern novel are not unlike those experienced by Kino in *The Pearl*. This also connects to their work on social issues, and serves as an excellent exercise in close reading as well as finding and citing evidence to support a thesis. Students will use this information when debating the innocence or guilt of the story's main character, and then to write a well-supported and cited essay.

The final piece of realistic fiction for the year is *Speak*, another award-winning young adult novel, by Laurie Halse Anderson. We will use it as a springboard for discussion on the last day of class.

The final assessment for writing will be based on a portfolio of three pieces of writing. In mid-May, students gathered together the year's writing. From that they decided which pieces they would like to take to the next level. The portfolio must have an essay (not from a contest), two other pieces - only one of which may be a poem, as well as an essay - justifying what they believe should be the portfolio's grade. The portfolio is due on June 2-3.

Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

It has been a quick year! During the last four weeks of school, Team Hypatia **Algebra students** will continue with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing polynomials, as well as operations with radical expressions. They will have a two-day final planned for June 16/17. **Gateways** will complete the geometry unit with volume of polyhedra, and will briefly delve into linear and non-linear relationships. **Pre-Algebra** will also complete volume of polyhedra and finish with the Pythagorean Theorem. Thanks for a great year!

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond

Students in Mr. Bond's Earth Science classes have been logging a lot of hours in the lab ... working with water. Recently, they finished up a lab investigation where the process of distillation was explored. Students built a distilling apparatus designed to purify water. Tests for pH and chloride were run on the "contaminated" liquid before and after distilling and the data was compared, to demonstrate how the distilling process is really a purification process. Our lab-built system was compared to the natural distillation process of the earth's water cycle.

Students are continuing their work in the lab as they explore the chemistry of their home well water. Tests for pH, chloride, iron, copper and hardness will be completed so they can compile a basic water quality report of their own tap water. Also, classes have been collecting information on the type and depth of their home well and will research the causes and effects of their home water chemistry.

Next on tap for our "Earth's Water" unit will be a lab project exploring the source and underground movement of pollution. Using lab testing and map interpretation techniques, students will identify the source of a pollutant, track the subsurface movement of it, and predict its impact on the local environment.

Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Prescott English is wrapping up Shakespeare. We studied *Twelfth Night* this year, which was filled with many tricks and disguises. Students are forming acting troupes and learning lines. Shakespeare performances are slated for June 9 and 10th and will be performed in the courtyard barring any foul weather. Students have the flexibility to change setting and adding a theme; they just can't change Shakespeare's language. This is always a memorable activity and I'm sure it will be this year as well.

I just gave the students back all of their writing for the school year. Quarterly, we have done binder clean-outs and I collected all of their work. They went through their work and are selecting three pieces of writing to rework, take to final form and place in a portfolio. Students can conference with me on their writing either in person or via-email. Students can also conference with each other or with parents. From their final pieces, they will write me a letter reflecting on their growth this year. Portfolios need to be bound and are due to me by June 13th. I've encouraged students to get them in earlier. The final day will be June 13th.

After we finish Shakespeare, we will be reading *The Pearl*, by John Steinbeck. It is a quick read, but the style and theme of the writing will be our focus. We will explore, through discussion, social issues and how they impact society.

The end of the year is quickly approaching. I want to thank all the parents for their support throughout the year. I hope students continue to find literature that will take them to many places and let them step into someone else's shoes for awhile. I have tried to instill a love for literature, and hope they realize that reading is more than letting the eyes pass over words. I know that they have taken away strategies for writing and wish them all the best of luck at HBHS. Have a wonderful, safe summer.

Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

Lately, students have been sizing up the differences between the industrial Northern states and the agricultural Southern states. Students have been studying the intricacies of the "Cottonocracy" and the plantation system in the South. We have discussed slavery and the Underground Railroad in class at length.

Politics and laws, laws and politics...all related to slavery and reform. Students will be studying the short-term reasons for the outbreak of Civil War in the U.S. in a few days. We'll be able to see, step by step, how these two areas of the country, so very different economically-speaking, cannot reconcile their differences. As a result, they feel as though they need to go to war. So began the biggest calamity our country had ever faced up to that point.

Students will gain insight working on a group project dealing with the "War of Northern Aggression". I know that I love dealing with the topic and hope some of that rubs off on my excellent students!

FYI and Special Note: I'm taking part this next weekend in a burial service for Private McElroy of the Rhode Island Volunteers. Private McElroy's bones washed out from near a bridge in Cranston, R.I., and the Sons of Union Volunteers are having a massive funeral for him (and others) on May 31st (open to the public, by the way).

Team Prescott Math -- Mrs. Mezzocchi

In the **Pre-Algebra & Gateways classroom**, the students worked on solving two-step equations, followed by simplifying equations, and then solving more complicated equations. They have just been tested on perimeter and area of two dimensional figures. We will be finishing up the year with surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures and we will end with a FINAL EXAM.

In the **Algebra classroom**, the students are just finishing the unit on Radicals. They now will begin the unit on Polynomials. This will be the last unit of the year and the curriculum will be fulfilled. The students will go into Geometry next year and they are well prepared.

All classes are taking finals which will include material from the entire year. The finals are scheduled from June 12 through June 17. The students should be reviewing their quizzes and tests for the year and then they turn them in for EXTRA CREDIT points on their FINAL. Each quiz turned in is worth ½ a point and each test is worth 1 point. These points make a big difference in their final grade.

It is hard to believe that the year is nearly over. I can vividly remember the first week of classes with all the smiley faces. Now I am seeing smiley faces again, but I don't think for the same reason. Summer vacation is in the air, and a well-deserved one at that.

So good luck in high school to all my students and have a safe, healthy and happy summer.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Math with Mr. Jahns

Seventh Grade Math – We have finished our Fractions, Decimals and Percentages unit, culminating in our Chunky’s field trip, where we pre-ordered off the Chunky’s online menu, calculating the correct tax and tip by hand and with a spreadsheet. At Chunky’s, we handed our spreadsheets directly to the waitstaff, doing half their job for them! We are now well into our Integers unit, “dancing the number line,” trying to improve our skills with positive and negative numbers.

Eighth Grade Math – We have just finished our Probability and Statistics Unit. At least now if your child gets on “Wheel of Fortune”, they know which letters they should call to win enough for you to retire early! We have just begun our unit on roots and exponents, concentrating on squares and square roots. This unit will end with a project involving the Pythagorean Theorem and kite flying.

Seventh Grade Algebra – Well, we can now solve any quadratic equations, thanks to the Quadratic Formula. We have also learned to use the Discriminant (b^2-4ac) to tell whether an equation has 2, 1 or has no real solution (is unsolvable.) Some fun side trips included programming the TI-83 calculators and Excel to solve quadratic equations (using the formula) given just the A, B and C coefficients. We’ll finish the unit with some quadratic inequalities. Next, we look at the “complete the square” method of solving quadratics as a prelude to deriving the Quadratic Formula.

8th Grade Geometry – We have now pushed further into the text than I have ever pushed before. I feel like Captain Kirk with my faithful bridge crew on the Starship Enterprise! We are planning to finish the year with a little Solid Geometry and Trigonometry.

Technology Bytes - Mr. Gruce Student Files to Remain

This is the time of year that students start bringing items home. Here at the Middle School, we ask that students do not delete any items from their network folders.

Eighth Graders who are interested in retaining the files from these past two years are welcome to bring a large enough USB drive, about 200MB, to accomplish this. Their work will not follow them up to the high school. They can copy the files over using any desktop computer normally available to them during a skills period. Please do not use a laptop, it may take too long.

Seventh Graders are able to copy items to a USB as well, with the same stipulations stated above. They also should not delete any work out of their folders, as this will limit the items available to them when it comes time for them to create their portfolio in eighth grade.

If you have any questions; please contact either Ms. Cicciu or Mr. Gruce here at the Middle School. Have a great summer!



Summer Reading Recommendations!

By Mrs. Jahns

End dates for the Library Media Center are: **All books due June 16th**, that is also the last day for students’ use of the library. All fines should be paid by this date as well.

Get Caught Reading was celebrated in May, with teachers and staff “catching” students reading when they chose to do so on their own, highlighting reading for enjoyment. Two students’ names from each team were drawn for prizes -- thank you to all who participated!

Realistic fiction has been the focus this quarter, and students have discovered some new authors and a few books they had not noticed before. A couple popular young adult fiction titles are, *That Was Then, This Is Now* by S. E. Hinton, *Just Listen* by Sarah Dessen, *Sunrise Over Fallujah* by Walter Dean Myers and *The Big Field* by Mike Lupica. All of these would be good reads over the summer, too!



Books of the month:

The Final Warning by James Patterson, the first book in the new James Patterson Pageturners collection. Great adventure and intrigue!

Trickster’s Queen by Tamora Pierce

Six of this fantasy author’s books have been on the New York Times Children’s Chapter Books Best-Seller’s list; two reached #1: *Trickster’s Queen* and *Lady Knight*.

Sites of the month:

Michael Sullivan, author and speaker, has lists of great summer reading books under, “He Said, She Said” on his website. I heard him present at a conference and he really knows what kids like to read for fun.

<http://www.talestoldtall.com/>

Teen Ink is a publication written by teens. This site has fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, interviews, ways to publish your own writing, and much more.

<http://teenink.com/index.php>

INTEGRATED SPECIALS

El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash



It is hard to believe that we are coming to the close of another year! We are very proud of our **7th graders'** progress. We just finished a fun sports unit. We had some awesome sports broadcasting presentations. Soon, we will learn about the present progressive tense – allowing us to describe actions in progress and to accurately describe pictures and photos.

We are looking forward to more learning and challenges next year!

Eighth graders recently finished a unit on foods. We had a great time talking about dishes in different Spanish speaking countries. They just finished an independent, mini research project that ended in our sampling a dish from a country of their choice. We are also finishing up with the preterit tense. They are very happy to see the LAST group of irregular verbs!

We are very pleased with our 8th graders' hard work. They have come a long way since September of 2007. We will miss them all as they go on to bigger and better Spanish things!

Wellness--Ms. White



On our first day of health, Team McAuliffe students were introduced to the concept of wellness. Students have been encouraged to think of wellness as something that is more than the absence of illness. In our class we learn that health is biological, psychological and social in nature.

In the course of introductions to one another, we learned that we were all in a similar boat – pretty stressed! Through discussion in small groups, class discussion and discussion with our parents, we learned that many of us were stressed about the same things: school, parents, siblings, homework, sports, and friends to name a few. Next, we moved on to the important part – how do we get rid of stress? We brainstormed as a class and now have a solid list for our reference. Our stress unit was complete when we all made our own “stress book.” In its first section, we identified things specific to ourselves that stressed us. In the second half, we identified things that we could specifically do to help us relax. These stress books were extremely creative and wonderfully put together.

We moved on and talked briefly about media and advertising. We discussed how advertisers and media can mislead consumers. We also discussed what we can do to become more educated consumers. We finished this unit with an advertising project in which we worked in our groups to create a product and advertise it. Students did a great job in the lab and in class working on their projects!

Lastly, we began talking about the immune system and how it works. Team McAuliffe will also work with Mr. Melillo on self-esteem and emotion management. Finally, we will also discuss the reproductive system and alcohol awareness.

French--Mrs. Cloutier



Bonjour mes amis! The **7th grade students** have recently completed an ICT project with Microsoft Access to create a verb database. They will now have a great source for themselves and it was a good chance to review. We are finishing our last chapter in the book about travel and “RE” verbs in the next two weeks. Many of the students sound wonderful as they talk together with our numerous vocabulary words. It is fun to see them come up with great sentences when combing two random flashcards! They really turned a corner after the month of March; their previous lessons really clicked and they made the next step in language acquisition.

The **8th grade students** have finished giving presentations to one another about specific villages and cities in French-speaking countries. They made posters, used personal photographs, talked to the class and brought in regional food items to share. We had a great time learning more about these areas. The 8th gradets also finished an ICT project with a verb database. They were able to cover even more verbs than last year and were able to put this information on their flash drives and print a copy for use in high school. We are ready to study verbs conjugated with être in the past tense, which wraps up their major lessons! It has been nice to see their progression in two years and to think of all they can say in French!

Bonne chance au lycée!

Technical Education--Mr. Picariello

“Keep the Marble Rolling”

During the marble maze unit for Tech Ed., students needed to keep a journal for their ICT project. Part of the journal included a reflection. Here is one example that clearly speaks to the success of the project:

“The Marble Maze was the most fun I have had in school in a long time. It was challenging, exciting, fun but it was also frustrating at times, but even with these frustrating times I was still able to have a good successful project. You had the ability to get up and walk around to talk with your fellow students and talk how to fix the marble maze and test out their marble maze. I think it would be a shame and a huge disappointment if Mr. P was not to continue this project next year. It was that great of a project.”

Written by Dominic

INTEGRATED SPECIALS

Reading-- Mrs. Dufresne and
Mrs. Lucas

Newbery Unit



Seventh grade reading classes have been busy reading Newbery Award and Honor books this term. The Newbery Medal was named for 18th century British bookseller, John Newbery. It is awarded annually by the Association for Library Services for Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the author of the most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. A complete list of winners can be found on the web: www.ala.org/ala/alsc/awardsscholarships/literaryawards/newberymedal/newberymedal

After the students completed two Newbery books, they created a PowerPoint presentation based on one of the books. They wrote a shorter version of the story in their own words and created original drawings to go along with the text in the computer lab. Upon completion of the project, each student presented their project to their classmates. The projects were very well done and it was a pleasure to view the interpretation and creativity of each student's project.

These projects have been saved in each student's folder and can be used at the end of 8th grade for one of their ICT (Information and Communication Technology) project.

Hopefully, all will take the time this summer to read and enjoy good literature.

Eighth grade reading classes joined the English classes in reading realistic fiction this month. We added *Voyage of the Frog* by Gary Paulsen and *Hope Was Here* by Joan Bauer to our collection. Several classes are also reading the *Downsiders* and *Steal Away Home*.

The focus skills for this unit revolve around taking notes, using a variety of graphic organizers. Students are encouraged, with a partner, to try different styles of note-taking. The hope is to develop a method that best helps them organize information in a visual way. Students are required to go back and use notes from a prior week to take a quick quiz, write a short summary, or recall facts for class discussion.

Reading classes will finish the year working on laptops taking bullet notes on nonfiction articles to further hone their skills.

I encourage all students to continue reading over the summer. The Hollis and Brookline libraries are a cool spot to curl up with a good book. The HBMS library website offers many suggestions for summer reading. The following website offers links to several sites of recommended reading for young adult literature:

<http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~dweaver/youngadulit4409.htm>

Please remember to check the reading website for homework and assignment information. Have a terrific summer!

MUSIC--BAND--CHORUS

General Music - 7th Grade

Mr. DePine's classes:

In 7th grade General Music, we have watched the movie musical, "The Music Man". We discussed the characteristics of a musical in addition to plot and character development.

We are now completing a unit focusing on the study of Blues music. Students studied this music from a historical perspective, from its origins in the 1800's to the present day.

In performance, students performed a 12-bar Blues progression on bass guitar and piano, and divided into small groups for performance.

In composition, students wrote a 12-bar melody based on the notes of a Blues scale. We will be finishing the year with guitar increasing knowledge of chords and performance practice.

Mrs. Spencer's classes: We have finished practicing and playing the familiar tune, "Happy Birthday To You," using chords with the left hand and the melody with the right hand. Turning on the MIDI computers, students have started the process of writing individual songs. Using the form A-A-B-A, students are composing "good" melodies that use musical repetition and variation.

General Music - 8th Grade

Mr. DePine's classes: We have recently watched the movie musical, "Fiddler on a Roof". We discussed the characteristics of a musical in addition to plot and character development. We are now completing a unit on Jazz music, with a particular emphasis on Blues. The two components to this unit are composition and performance. Students are composing a 12-bar melody based on the Blues and are also performing using percussion, piano, and bass guitar and dividing into small groups for performance.

We also studied a "Music Alive" magazine article entitled, "Music of the 20's and 30's," which traces the development of this music in that time period. We will be finishing the year with guitar increasing knowledge of chords and performance practice.

Mrs. Spencer's classes: We recently finished our unit on guitars with a performance of "Royal Blues" on Wednesday, May 28. Invited guests were treated to a live performance of all guitar students, along with two small group performances showcasing individual student talents. Great work by all students involved! We are currently using the sequencing program, "Fruity Loops" to arrange original songs and discuss popular forms of music.



Chorus

Congratulations to all 7th and 8th grade singers for a great Spring concert! It has been a pleasure working with you this year.



Band

The 7th and 8th grade bands continue to rehearse in preparation for the Spring concert. The programs will feature a variety of music and reflects the continuing development of performance skills. Students have also started to learn the skills required for the next level of music which they will be performing next year.



The bands recently performed at the 2nd Annual All-District Concert on May 22nd which took place in the high school gymnasium. The program featured performances of the bands from Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, Hollis Upper Elementary School, Hollis Brookline Middle School and Hollis Brookline High School.

The Hollis Brookline Middle School Jazz Band recently performed at the Team Hypatia celebration and was very well received. Jazz band students are also preparing for their concert on Wednesday, June 11 in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature a variety of Jazz styles from the band in addition to solo performances. See you at the concerts.

PHYS. ED. AND SPORTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—Ms. Bottcher

The **7th grade students** just completed the sport stacking and racket sports unit involving pickle ball and badminton. Sport stacking promotes hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, quickness and concentration. The students learned the 3-3-3 stack, 3-6-3 stack and the cycle. The students participated in pickle ball and badminton, learning the basic rules, etiquette, strokes and strategy needed for the singles and doubles. The students completed their second ICT project, looking at their steps and time active for three of the units. We are doing a mini-track unit where students will experience the discus, shot put, javelin (turbo jav), starts and hurdles, before moving on to the final unit of target archery.



Our **8th grade students** finished their lacrosse unit last week and will begin a modified golf unit. Students will learn the grip, stance, and swing, while using a variety of woods and irons. Wiffleballs will be used for woods and the longer iron shots. Real golf balls will be used for 7, 8, 9, and wedge shots. We will also learn golf etiquette, rules, and scoring while playing Frisbee golf.



SPORTS UPDATE

Baseball and Softball

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School Baseball and Softball Teams** have had a great workout season with practice and games and have done very well.

Baseball

Great pitching, catching and fielding efforts along with solid defense and aggressive, smart base-running for all team members have been impressive. The Hollis Brookline Middle School boys' baseball team has ended their season in **first place with 11 wins and 1 loss**, placing them in the **semi-finals** against Pelham on Tuesday, May 27th. The boys then hosted Mountain View in the finals on June 2nd and became the new Tri-County League Champions defeating Mountain View 6 to 3. **Way to go!**



Baseball team members this year are: Quinn B., Al B., Daniel B., Michael C., Mitchell F., Kyle G., Jeremy H., Jake L., Jacob L., Garret M., Jake McP., Andrew P., Colin P., Stephen R., Ethan S., Thomas S., Cameron S., Connor W., and James W. Coaching the team again this year is Mr. Rossetti.

Softball

The Hollis Brookline Middle School softball team has put together great overall effort with pitching, catching and some amazing double plays. Fielding has been exceptional along with team spirit for a season of **7 wins and 4 losses**. The girls faced Goffstown in the quarter-finals for a win of 7 to 0 with great hits and base-running by all. The



girls continued into the semi-finals playing against Amherst on May 28th where they lost 6 to 8. **Great season ladies!**

Softball team members this year are: Kirstin B., Kelsey B., Lia B., Charli B., Tanina C., Sarah D., Kristyn G., Allison K., Lori L, Alyssa M., Kristen P., Madison R., Kayla S., Samantha S., and Cortney Z. Returning to coach the girls again this year is Mr. Dulac.



TRACK AND FIELD -

The Hollis Brookline Middle School girls and boys **Track and Field teams** began in March with **113 student athletes**. As the year wound down, we capped off at **94 athletes**. This year has been an up and down season considering we were without some key athletes due to injuries. Healthy again, we headed to the **Division II League Meet on Wednesday, May 28**.

The girls and boys teams have been successful with a total number of **36 qualifying for the league meet**. The girls were a team to reckon with as they have made their mark in the league winning all but three meets, and also winning the overall relay invitational. Taking first place in the league meet the girls became the **Tri-County Champs**.

The boys running team on the other hand have had their ups and downs, but the field team has been consistent throughout the season.

As their coaches, we are very proud of each athlete's commitment, either as an individual or as a team effort. Each athlete has put forth a great deal of time and energy into their practices as well as their dedication during the meets. Our very best to the whole team as we end our 2008 season. Have a healthy and safe summer.

Coaching the track and field teams once again this year are Mr. Lyle, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Gray.

