



Knighly News

Hollis Brookline Middle School



March 2003

Volume 6, Issue 5

From the Administration

Although it is not quite visible, spring is around the corner. Soon, Hollis Brookline Middle School will be humming with spring sports tryouts, the drama performances of *Bye, Bye Birdie*, student placement for the '03-04 school year, planning for grade 8 activities, concerts and coaching for grade 7 students as they begin preparations for the Speaking Contest.

This issue of the *Knighly News* welcomes the sixth grade students and parents of Brookline and Hollis. Please find within this mailing, two notices (blue) that highlight plans for transitioning and placement information. The letter requires a student and parent signature and should be returned to your homeroom teacher.

On March 13th we will again be honored with the Blue Ribbon Award for volunteerism. It is your time, energy, commitment and support that enables this recognition. Please know you are appreciated and valued as an important member of our learning community.

Our final staff development day, March 11 will focus on the Best School Leadership Initiative. The plan for advisory groups has become concrete and ready for fine-tuning by staff. We anticipate implementation during the fall of 2003, thanks to the commitment and diligence of the BSLI group.

Lastly, as spring events are planned, we work hard within the SAU to coordinate activities. We are presently aware of two potential conflicts for April 7 and 10 due to the HBMS concerts being scheduled on four separate evenings. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to phone.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette

Principal

PTSA President's Report

March 9, 2003

Thank you to all who continue to volunteer in our school. A direct result of parental and community involvement is that the Hollis Brookline Middle School was again awarded the Blue Ribbon Achievement Award for our outstanding volunteer program during the 2001-2002 school year.

Over the last few months, many of you have donated "Box Tops for Education" coupons or ordered items on line through their web site. There are many nationally recognized companies, such as Amazon, LL Bean, Staples, Eddie Bauer, and Lands End, whose on line order sites can be accessed through Box Tops for Education Marketplace. All you need to do is to go to boxtops4education.com. Once you register for our school, you will not have to do that again. Then just click on the place you'd like to shop, and order as usual. HBMS will get a percentage of your order.

In February our Staff Appreciation Committee hosted a luncheon. We are planning another activity towards the end of the year.

At our next PTSA meeting, Thursday March 27, 8:30 am, we will begin discussions on the 8th Grade Celebration and the 7th Grade Picnic and Field Day. Please attend and help our children have a great end to a great year. If you cannot attend the meeting, but are willing to help, please contact Merle Carrus, Volunteer Coordinator at 465-7007.

We are starting to nominate people to hold positions in our PTSA for the 2003-2004 school year. If you are interested, please contact our Nominating Committee Merle Carrus (465- 7007) Lisa Fait (465-4002) or Cindy Ullrich (672-3111).

Please consider becoming more involved in your PTSA. In order to best serve our students, school community and members, we need your input.

Lex Bundschuh, PTSA President
465-3142 UNOFAM@aol.com

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School News

BYE BYE BIRDIE

Hollis/Brookline Drama Club and the Music Department will be presenting Bye Bye Birdie as its winter musical. This production will be held on March 14 and 15 (Friday and Saturday) with a snow date of March 16. Performances are planned for 7pm. (Snow date performance at 2pm)

This entertaining musical will bring you back to the days of Elvis Presley and his adoring fans. Conrad Birdie, a popular Rock and Roll star, is off to the army and his agent is looking for one more hit song. To promote this song they choose Kim McAfee, a member of his fan club, to bestow "One last Kiss." Kim's boyfriend is not pleased with this.

Join us and enjoy other great songs including, Kids, Put on a Happy Face, and One Special Boy. Our cast and crew will work hard to bring you an entertaining evening.

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

Seventh Graders Speak Out !

Mrs. Evans

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 a.m. for a morning of wonderful entertainment—the finalists from our Annual Dr. Deb Public Speaking Competition will be presenting their speeches in the Hollis Brookline Middle School gymnasium. Parents and relatives are encouraged to attend.

FIRST AID AND CPR



The eighth grade class will be participating in a First Aid/CPR certification class this year, once again. Team 4 will be taking the course March 31 through April 4. Team 3 will be taking the course April 7 through April 11. As you may know, certifying 235 students over such a short time frame will be very difficult, and we depend upon volunteers to help us. The Hollis Fire and Rescue Team have graciously helped us each of the past three years and will be helping us again. However, we still need more volunteers to help with the certification process. If you have adult, child, and infant CPR certification, and wish to help us on any day from 12:30 until 2:15, please contact our school nurse, Ms. Adams or Mr. Johnston for more information.

7TH GRADE ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

A reminder that 7th grade students will be attending The Environmental Schools at Cape Cod from May 12th to May 16th, 2003. PAYMENT for camp is due no later than Friday, April 11, 2003. Payments may be dropped off in the office at any time between now and April 11th. Please feel free to call Mrs. Desmarais, in the office (465-2223), if there is a problem. Thank You.

Spelling Bee



Hollis Brookline Middle School held its annual Spelling Bee Competition on Wednesday, February 19th. Forty-four students began the annual spelling bee and by round ten we were down to four students. Words such as ecclesiastic, anathema, euphoric and saturnine were passed on to the students through nineteen rounds where we finally came up with a winner. Third place was a tie between Devon C. and Will S., second place went to Miles C., and first place winner of the Hollis Brookline Spelling Bee this year is 7th grader Ben D. Ben will now go on to the area Spelling Bee in Nashua on March 9th to represent our school.

Team 1 English

Mrs. Maher

Students have been working incredibly hard to earn *their choice of grade* for the Choice Assignments in the Poetry Unit. In fact, you probably saw your poet diligently working at home on his or her Choice Assignments over the last several weeks. I am incredibly proud of all poets on Team 1, as they showed tremendous determination to succeed. In fact, there were several students who chose to earn A's on their Choice Assignments. Although we have successfully finished our Poetry Unit, I must say that I did hear sighs of relief from students as they handed in their final Poetry Portfolios before departing for vacation!

Upon our return from February vacation, students are beginning a mini unit titled "Our Photo – Journalism Essays." During this unit, students will pick a topic that is incredibly important to them and use carefully selected photos and words to relay to the reader the true significance of their chosen topic. Our Photo – Journalism Essay unit will require students to apply the poetry terms and techniques to their writing. Once students finish creating their Photo – Journalism Essays, we will move on to our last major unit of the year, which will be Non – Fiction. During the Non – Fiction unit, we will examine a variety of multicultural literatures. Students will be exposed to authors from around the world.

Team 1 Science

Mrs. Cleveland

Science Gets to the Heart of the Matter

We have been quite busy with the circulatory system. We started with the structure of the heart with its major blood vessels and valves. The students made models of the heart. Using these models they showed parents their understanding of the parts and the path of blood flow through the organ. Emphasizing the importance of maintaining a healthy heart, we studied about coronary heart disease and how to reduce the chances of getting it. We continued with understanding and taking our blood pressures, discussing the importance of CPR and having a demonstration of a cardiac defibrillator (no one was "zapped"). Next came the study of the lymph, parts of the blood, and blood typing. All of this provided us opportunities to discuss transfusions, organ and bone marrow transplants, the artificial hearts, and so many other medical advances.

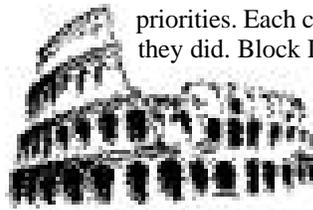


Dissecting the sheep or pig heart really impressed those who chose to do it. As always, another activity was provided for the few who were uncomfortable. Not many students will think of the heart as the typical valentine shape again.

Team 1 Social Studies

Mr. Capraro

In History on Team One, the students have temporarily 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. Did you hear about the feudalism computer game each class played called Decisions, Decisions? We medieval lords who had to determine our fief's priorities and then make certain decisions making sure we live by those priorities. Each class was awarded points for how well they did. Block D earned the most points! 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. A few lucky students even got to try on 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 even designed our own heralds which are 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' Byzantine mosaics, you're in for a treat.

We will soon be moving on to the Crusades and the changes they brought to the European West. After that, it is onward and upward to the Renaissance!

Team 1 Math

Mrs. Fordin

The next few months will have students refining their proportional reasoning skills and applying them in advanced situations. This requires students to gain and extend their knowledge in areas such as rate, unit rate and ratios. So what does this mean? Well, they will be determining the "better buy," the "best" car, the juicier juice, and create scaled maps. And yes, the time has finally come for students to create their 3D models. This is a chance for those left-brained students to use a little right-brain to show off their creative side.

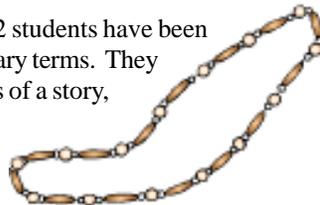
Other students are finishing a large unit on graphing. To tie up this unit they will apply their vast knowledge to the 2003 March Madness Tournament. Students will be creating portfolios by gathering data, analyzing facts and making predictions as to which teams will make it to the Final Four. This will be a fun way to incorporate our knowledge of basketball and statistics into math class!

Team 2 English

Article by Matt Brown

Since the end of the Christmas Carol unit, team two students have been reading all kinds of short stories. The stories that they have read are: "Day the Sun Came Out," "The Necklace," "Tell-Tale Heart," and "The Monkey's Paw." Along with each story comes a series of questions requiring critical thinking and reading comprehension. The students were going to take a trip to the Palace Theater in Manchester to see the stories performed, but due to bad weather the trip was moved to April 18th in Concord. What the students are really eager to see is how Edgar Allen Poe's "Tell-Tale Heart" will be performed because the story was written so mysteriously and was so gruesome.

Along with the short stories, team 2 students have been learning fiction and short story literary terms. They have worked with plot and the parts of a story, and the different types of humor: euphemism, satire, sarcasm, irony, hyperbole, and understatement. They have also been doing writing assignments such as Research-a-Word to learn new vocabulary, and creating their own ending to "The Necklace" without knowing the real ending. Another assignment was the "Three Wishes" paper. If you had the monkey's paw, what would your three wishes be?



Team two's next venture will be in the subject of poetry. Who is John Ciardi and Emily Dickenson? Can the Red Hot Chile Peppers write poetry? Stay tuned for onomatopoeia and other interesting works next month in English.

Team 2 Science, Heart Throb

Mrs. Evans

Our scientists will soon be studying the circulatory system, focusing primarily on the heart. One of the highlights of this unit is a lamb heart dissection. As noted by a former student, "There was a lot of excitement in our classroom that day as we, with scalpel in hand, cut into the heart of learning."

Prior to the dissection, we will view a NOVA movie titled, *Cut to the Heart*, which shows open heart surgery. Dr Batista, a Brazilian doctor, came up with a unique idea for treating patients with oversized hearts. He sliced off a piece of the left ventricle and then sewed the heart back together. Dr Batista's dream was to bring his idea to the doctors in America and England. Students will be able to see the different techniques for treating patients in Brazil vs United States and compare medical technology. A partial review of the movie follows: "When Dr Batista, a rancher and surgeon from Brazil, was a boy he was fascinated by the anatomy of living things. He said that when he was a child, he used to dissect animals that died on his ranch. He noticed a corresponding or similar ratio in the hearts of many animals. He assumed this ratio of a heart is vital in order to live. He would put his theories to the test on farm animals and when he later became a surgeon he would put these practices to the real test." (Micah McMullen)

The dramatic and immediate effects of nicotine will be observed by our students during the lab, "Catch the Beat." They will observe a

Daphnia (water flea) under the microscope and note its heart rate. An unknown mystery substance will be added to the slide and the heart rate will immediately increase (in many cases the heart rate will double). It will not be until the following class that the students will learn that the unknown substance is nicotine. At that point, we will have a discussion about the risks of smoking and will apply the world of science to real life.

Team 2 Social Studies

Mrs. Beale

We are just finishing our study of Byzantium and Islam. Colorful student-made travel guides, picture books and placemats encouraging one to visit Byzantium, adorn our walls.

To learn the vocabulary of the desert, and to show how geographic conditions affect the life of the desert, we created illustrated maps of the Arabian Peninsula featuring dromedaries and oases, Bedouins, the Hegira, the Kaaba and the Koran. We also tried some pantomimes showing the reforms Mohammed brought to women. Nearly everyone on our team can now recite "The Five Pillars of Islam," and explain the relationship of the jihad, paradise and kismet.

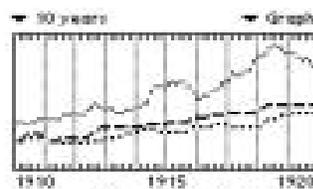
During our study of both cultures, we spent time looking at "news" in those areas today (mainly the Middle East). We discovered that Istanbul, Turkey, the former center of Byzantium still holds a "strategic position" in world events as we look at the impending war with Iraq. We watched a short news clip of Muslims on their pilgrimage to Mecca during the Hajj (one of the five pillars of Islam) and saw a close up view of the Kaaba shrine.

At the end of this unit, students will be handing in their portfolios. Our next unit takes us back to the West – Vikings and Vandals, the rise of the feudal system, lords and ladies, serfdom, the increasing power of the church, the rivalry between church and state, the Crusades – are some of the topics we will be looking at.

Team 2 Math

Mrs. Hall

The next few months will have students refining their proportional reasoning skills and applying them in advanced situations. This requires students to gain and extend their knowledge in areas such as rate, unit rate and ratios. So what does this mean? Well, they will be determining the "better buy," the "best" car, the juicier juice, and create scaled maps. And yes, the time has finally come for students to create their 3D models. This is a chance for those left-brained students to use a little right-brain to show off their creative side.



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teams will make it to the Final Four. This will be a fun way to incorporate our knowledge of basketball and statistics into math class!

Team 3 English

Mrs. Cicciu

We are in the middle of reading, discussing, video-viewing, and play-acting the scenes from The Taming of the Shrew. Students are happily saying that they have adjusted to Shakespeare's language and learned the characters' real and pretend identities and GET IT! We are looking forward to our trip to the North Shore Music Theater on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, to view the production and discover how the cast and crew will interpret the play.

To complete the Shakespeare immersion and to begin a unit on poetry, students will try their hands at sonnets in order to learn the features of traditional poetry. The creative writing challenges will be done in class, in groups, so that students have each other to help them with the regular meter and rhyme schemes. There is a possibility that a "Walt Whitman" Scholar in the Schools will visit classes to introduce the students to that poet and his style of writing. This will inspire other creative pieces that students will do individually.

The outside reading genre for March is nonfiction, 100-700 in the Dewey Decimal System. Students will be taking notes on the new facts they will learn in preparation for their final project: a 5-8 minute lesson based on the most interesting information learned. The lesson may be a demonstration, a lecture, a directed project, a hands-on challenge, etc.—creativity is strongly encouraged! The outside reading genre for April will be Realistic Fiction that focuses on contemporary social issues. We will read a class book to introduce the genre; Walter Dean Myers' Monster is an award winning book whose plot lends itself to a lively debate and requires giving proof from the text for opinions.

As we watch the snow piles melt, we'll warm up to these learning challenges! The quarter ends on April 4, 2003, with report cards going home on April 11.

Team 3 Earth Science

Mrs. Smith

During the later part of February all junior scientists have studied earthquakes by using our open lab. Students went online discovering the location of some recent and less recent earthquakes.



Students were able to better understand the intensity scales which were developed to rate how much damage an earthquake does. After completing various assignments, the best was yet to come, building a tower that would try to withstand a magnitude of five to nine on the Richter Scale of Intensity. Our days were numbered with frustration, excitement, and then, in some, disappointment!! We will enjoy watching the video tape of all the projects.

Students are visiting the library for the next week as I introduce the Science Investigation Project. The purpose of the Science Investigation Project is to help students experience the joys of science discovery. A science project is like a mystery in which the student is the detective searching for answers. This project will allow each student to develop their skills of investigating, hypothesizing, experimenting, measuring, observing, and communicating; all skills essential for uncovering clues that will

lead to a conclusion. Students will be asked to submit a proposal and have a contract signed by parents which gives them permission to work with a partner. Students are anxious to get started! Proposals and contracts are due for March 14, 2003.

The Science Fair Exhibits will be held on May 16, 2003 from 5:30 to 7:30. Please mark your calendar regarding this date as all students are requested to participate.

Team 3 Social Studies

Mr. Twichell

After studying about life in early America and the leaders and events of our new republic, students realized that America was changing very quickly. No one epitomized this change like Andrew Jackson, the hero of the "common man." His life and Presidency was studied in detail along with America's changing views and practices of democracy.

Next, we studied Westward Expansion and the concept of Manifest Destiny. Emphasis was placed on the history of the different land acquisitions. Geography and map work were major components of this unit. As America grew there were problems and issues that needed to be solved. Parts of the country or "sections" were becoming very different in life style, needs and political expectations. Reformers and reform movements swept the country in the 1840's. It was easy to make comparisons to similar movements and events in recent American history. Unfortunately slavery and its possible spread to our new lands was an issue that seemingly could not be solved and it tore our country apart.

We are now working on a Civil War internet research project focusing on New Hampshire Regiments in that great conflict.



Team 3 Math

Mrs. Mezzocchi

In the regular Math classroom (Passport), the students will be finishing the term learning about data and statistics. They will be using the TI-83 graphing calculator to produce "Box-N-Whisker" plots and they will be learning how to organize their data with "Stem-N-Leaf" plots. Once the students have a good sense of data graphs we will use the **CBR** (calculator based ranger), in other words, a motion detector. With the **CBR**, the students will be able to produce their own graphs and make up situations to go along with the graphs. This activity really solidifies the students understanding of graphs.

The Algebra classroom students will be solving systems of linear equations and inequalities after they master 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.

For all Team 3 math classes, a packet dealing with the Holocaust, will be assigned. This packet helps give the students an understanding through mathematics of the magnitude of this horrific part of history. The ending of Quarter 3 looks like it will be jam packed with all kinds of really cool mathematics.

Team Prescott English

Mrs. Grupposo

Team Prescott English classes are reading The Taming of the Shrew in preparation for viewing the performance at North Shore Music Theater on March 19. Included in the unit is history of theater, the structure of plays and drama specific elements of style. Students will write a critical review of the performance evaluating those elements.

As they learn to untangle and translate the language and style of Shakespeare, students are also discovering and discussing attitudes of the Renaissance as presented in the play. They have found that many of the issues of that time are relevant today. They have also come to realize Shakespeare's remarkable insight into human nature.



After the reading students will select, organize, prepare and perform scenes from the play. Although most of the tasks will be begun and worked on in class, students will need to support and/or to complete some at home. The unit should be finished by mid-April.

Team Prescott Earth Science Classes

Mr. Bond

Team Prescott Earth Science Students Are Looking Ahead to the Annual Science Fair

Team Prescott Earth Science students have been piling up the hours between the library and the computer lab, beginning the first phase of their Science Investigation Project. This current phase of the project involves selecting a topic which the students will research and experiment with over the next two and a half months. All of this hard work will be exhibited at this year's Science Fair to be held on May 16th.

The purpose of the Science Investigation Project is to allow students the opportunity to explore a science topic of their choice, and to share their results with our communities, demonstrating their skills and competencies. It is the goal of the Project to keep students' curiosity alive, improve their mastery of science content, teach science by using the scientific method, stress problem-solving techniques, and encourage students to explore their interests and talents in science.

Join us on Friday, May 16th, from 5:30 to 7:30, for this year's HBMS Annual Science Fair

So, join us on Friday, May 16th, from 5:30 to 7:30, for this year's HBMS Annual Science Fair. You might learn if music affects your ability to succeed on a test, or which cat litter is the most absorbent, or even if the amount of light a goldfish receives each day affects the color of its scales!

Fourth Annual Team Prescott Celebration of Student Work

Please save Monday, April 7, 2003, for the Fourth Annual Team Prescott Celebration of Student Work. This event for the whole family begins at 6:00 p.m. and ends at approximately 8:30. It includes displays of student work as well as a pot luck supper held in the gym at the Middle School. Following the supper some students will read samples of their writing. The readings tend to begin at approximately 6:45. An invitation to the event and a request for food should have come home with your Prescott student. Please return the form as soon as possible.

Team Prescott Social Studies

Mr. Lyle

Term 3 has been very busy in Room 202. It's been a quarter full of group projects and oral presentations in class (RAFTs). We've covered the war of 1812 with a group project. We did a paper comparing and contrasting the Shuttle Columbia and the Lewis and Clark journey in 1803. We worked on a project comparing 20 contemporary foreign and domestic issues.

We're moving through the Industrial Revolution in this country and have had oral presentations on the subject. President Monroe's Foreign Policy and administration is about to come up. The Election of John Quincy Adams in 1824, the "corrupt bargain," is about to be studied. Andrew Jackson will be studied to round out the term, probably in the form of a group project.

Team Prescott Mathematics

Mr. Jahns

Caution: Students Hard at Work Ahead!

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

The Pre-Algebra Math students have been collecting and working with data sets to create charts and statistics. We then jumped ahead a few chapters in the textbook to connect the related topic of *Central Tendencies* as we reviewed mean, mode and median and introduced the more visual organizations of data known by the colorful names of *Stem and Leaf* and *Box-n-Whisker* plots. Then the chances are high that we'll move on to Probability.

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

Music

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Sherrri Zarin

The music room is bustling with activity as the choruses and bands prepare for their spring concerts. Please note the dates and times as we have changed the format to avoid the overcrowding in the auditorium.

April 7 Chorus 7

April 8 Chorus 8

April 9 Band 8

April 10 Band 7

All performances will begin at 7:30 PM



Reading

Book Picks

Mrs. Dufresne and Mrs. Lucas

Here are a few book suggestions for your child to curl up with on those snowy days. (Source: Reading Connection, 2001 Resources for Educators, Oct. 2001)

Bud, Not Buddy: Christopher Paul Curtis

Bud, a 10-year-old orphan, goes on a fantastic and often-hilarious journey to find a musician he believes is his father. Paul recreates the 1930's Depression era as Bud makes his trip.

The New Way Things Work: by David Macaulay

Full-color pictures combined with words create a lively explanation of the physics and mechanics of how everyday objects work. Macaulay, a former junior high teacher, created this book for curious readers, young and old. (Also available in Spanish.)

The Trouble With Tuck: by Theodore Taylor

Taylor tells a funny and touching story of a girl and her dog. Thirteen-year-old Helen is determined to help her beloved dog Tuck when he starts to go blind. Helen's devotion to Tuck creates an unexpected solution.

No More Magic: by Avi

Chris's bike is missing, and he thinks magic is to blame. Chris and his best friend Muffin search for the bike and the magic behind the mystery. Avi's suspenseful tale has a surprise ending.

The Time Warp Trio: by Jon Scieszka

In this series, three friends tumble through time with the help of a magical book. From 17th-century Japan to ancient Rome, their adventures are suspenseful and hilarious.

The Lord of the Rings: by J.R.R. Tolkien

Monsters, dragons, and magic threaten the creatures of Middle Earth. This trilogy and the earlier book, **The Hobbit**, tell a fantastic tale of good against evil in an enchanting world. (Also a great motion picture at the theater.)



French

Bonjour from Madame Rankins

French students honored for the month of February are:

Devan C., Dan H., Sarah S.,

Vickie H., Lindsey M.

Keep up the good work!

Eighth grade French students are studying sports vocab and using the Passe Compose. They seem to be understanding it and are using it quite well. Most did a great job on the four chapter exam. Bravo, mes amis!!!

Seventh grade French students are speaking in French about cafes, restaurants, setting a table and FOOD! Obviously, their interest has been captured. They will be making Crepes for our Crepe Fete in a few weeks. Some students have borrowed a crepe maker and tried making them already. Most did a nice job on the four chapter exam before the vacation. Excellent, mes amis!!!

C'est tout pour maintenant! Au revoir!

Spanish

Hola de la Senora Lash y la Senora Banks

Our 7th grade students are beginning to explore family life. We are learning how to refer to and talk about members of our extended families. This unit will culminate in our 3D Family project. In this project we use the three ways we learned to express possession to create and describe a family. The family, which could be your child's actual family or one s/he invents, is represented in 3 dimensions. We encourage students to incorporate their personal interests in the project. We have seen some incredibly creative projects such as soccer teams in which each player represents a member of the family, a pizza on which each topping represents a member of the family and many more great ideas!

(Moms and Dads, please help your child to remember that the focus of this project is on the language. Our intention is for most time to be spent on creating the Spanish portion of the project and not the craft. We will share many simple and creative craft ideas with the kids.)

Our 8th grade students are preparing a performance-based test, which is a skit describing a funny situation in a fancy boutique. The kids are working with a rubric describing how they will earn their points. They also have a checklist that breaks down by day, the class work and homework we will accomplish during the 5 class periods we use to prepare this project. We look forward to recording the skits and viewing them together. It is quite an experience to see yourself speaking a foreign language!

Check out our homework web page which is updated for the entire week every Monday morning. We include all homework assignments, due dates, quizzes, tests and projects your child will experience during that week. We also post the date and time of our weekly study session. Take a look under the Languages and Reading link of the HBMS home page. It is a great way to get a glimpse into your child's Spanish life!

Sports Update

BASKETBALL

GIRLS

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School girls' basketball team** ended their season with 5 wins and 10 losses. "Team effort" was the key word for this team. With each game the girls became more aggressive, learning strengths to build on, and adjusted to their opponents. Their season ended with a strong showing of team offense controlling the tempo of games and the team defense playing strong to produce opportunities. Congratulations!



BOYS

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School boys basketball team** had a fantastic season ending with 12 wins and 3 losses. Team scoring, intensity and gained confidence led to their many wins placing them in the playoffs against Amherst on February 5th where they won 72-57. In the finals Hollis Brookline faced off against Pelham at Bishop Guertin on Saturday, February 8th. Although the team hustled and played hard they could not beat the three pointers put in by Pelham and lost 51-63. During February school vacation the boys played in the Bow Tournament where they brought home a championship win of 51 to 50. Come check out their VICTORY trophy in the main office. Congratulations for a great season!

CHEERLEADING

New to the Hollis Brookline Middle School sports this year was our **Cheerleading group** coached by Mrs. Landerman-Garber. Mrs. Garber, after speaking with Mrs. Goyette, Principal and Ms. Bottcher, Athletic Director, put together a proposal for the School Board in May. By August with a GO AHEAD, Mrs. Garber secured the help of two student coaches (High School students Allie H. and Allison S.) to begin a summer camp. A fundraising campaign began, and with the generosity of local businesses and civic groups, uniforms, pompoms, etc. were purchased. Although



Coach Garber's goal was to get students involved, have fun, and raise school spirit, the girls soon learned they had some hard work ahead to include a five-month commitment with workouts, cheers, and the ChaCha slide. They became a "group" and with the opening home game of the Hollis

Brookline girls and boys basketball season they set out to prove themselves worthwhile by beginning new traditions such as singing the National Anthem and announcing the players at each game.

The Cheerleading Team this year – Keri C., Brianna C., Jessica F., Mollie G., Lara H., Whitney H., Kimberly L. Danielle M., Erin P., Rebecca S. with Zoe G. as Mascot and Jessica K. as Manager.



WRESTLING

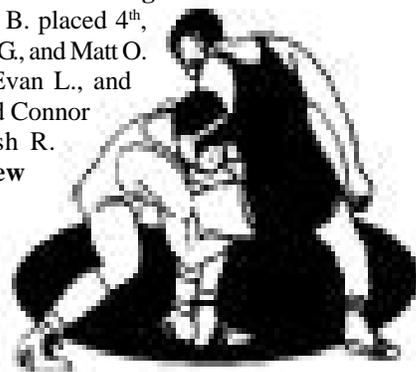
Last year Coach Melillo asked his team members to remember, to look back at the year past and reflect on their accomplishments. This year he challenged all the young men of the **Hollis Brookline Wrestling Team** to look forward, to dream big and to believe that anything is possible. These young men are the most committed, dedicated, and determined bunch of young men he has ever had the pleasure of working with. Most of all, they are dreamers not afraid to make their dreams reality. He challenged each and every one of them to set their goals high, and let nothing get in the way of accomplishing them. To live as they did this season by "Believing is seeing." Believe in something enough and it will materialize in the world around you, believe that you are something special and the rest of the world will see it in you. He thanked all the parents for their many hours of commitment to the team and to his Assistant Coach Brian Bumpus whom he feels in a quiet unassuming way inspires greatness and is a true role model.

In six post season tournaments the Hollis Brookline Wrestling Team placed in five tournaments. In the **Big East Regionals** Matt O. took 4th place, Alex A., Nick B., Nate C. placed 3rd, Alex D. took 2nd place, and Eric B., Connor B., Dan G., Mike L., Evan L., Matt L., Josh R., and Chris R. took 1st place wins. In the **Big**

East Divisionals Nick B. placed 4th, Alex A., Bryant G., Dan G., and Matt O. placed 3rd, Drew D., Evan L., and Chris R. placed 2nd, and Connor B., Mike L., and Josh R. placed 1st. In the **New**

Hampshire States James K. took 4th place, Nick B., Connor B., and Josh R. took 3rd place, Eric B. and Dan G. took 2nd place and first place wins were taken by

Alex A., Mike L., Evan L., Matt O., and Chris R.. In the **Big East Championships Bronze Division** Pat A., Bryant G., and Kyle P. took 3rd place wins. In the **Copper Division** Matt T. took 2nd place, James N. and Bob R. took 1st place wins. In the **Silver Division** Nate C. took 3rd place, Alex D. placed 2nd, and Eric B. placed 1st. In the **Gold Division** Mike L. and Josh R. placed 4th, Evan L. placed 3rd, and the **Big East Elite Gold Champions** taking 1st place this year were Alex A., Connor B., and Chris R.. **Congratulations for a great season!**



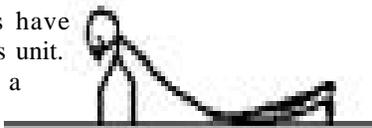
Physical Education

Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston

The seventh grade students have completed the personal fitness unit.

Students have participated in a variety of activities allowing them to evaluate themselves on

health-related and skill-related fitness components. These evaluations helped them write their own fitness program using the FITT (frequency, intensity, time and type) formula. Students learned about and experienced various types of training programs - LSD (long, slow distance), Fartlek, interval and circuit. So, if you want to “get in shape” ask your child to help you write a fitness program to meet your needs or look through the fitness booklet to help yourself.



The seventh grade students are now into the Olympic sport of team handball (basically, soccer played with the hands) learning the basic skills and strategies needed for game play. After spending a couple of weeks playing the game they will immediately go to a short basketball unit.

Our eighth grade classes have completed the basketball unit. Each class had four basketball teams that competed with each other in a round-robin tournament. During our final day, teams from the Monday/Wednesday class competed against teams from the Tuesday/Thursday class in order to determine an over-all champion, as well as second, third and fourth place. During the Wednesday afternoon before vacation, we had an open gym from 2:30 until 4:00 where eighth grade students could make their own basketball team and challenge others, as well as the teachers and staff in a double elimination tournament. We had very good representation during this after school activity that involved almost 50 eighth graders and eight teachers and staff. Our school basketball team defeated the teacher/staff team in the Championship round.



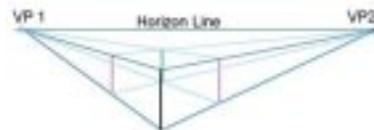
The eighth grade students are now moving into a Project Adventure unit. Students are presented with activities that provide physical challenges and critical thinking skills. The activities involve an entire class, yet challenge the individual. Cooperation, communication, leadership, decision-making, trust, and risk-taking are just a few of the skills needed to successfully complete the challenges. We are providing dynamic experiences which, when offered in an atmosphere of fun, promote team effort and a willingness to try.

Art News

Linear Perspective Shading and Team 1

Students in Mrs. Papadeas’ art classes are currently working on linear perspective assignments. This type of perspective is a way of using lines to show distance and depth. Lines appear to meet at a point on the horizon called the vanishing point. Students are working on pictures practicing one-point perspective. Many are experimenting with a variety of different size and shaped boxes. Some are taking the assignment a step further.

They are drawing letters and words in perspective. Two-point castle paintings with fantasy dragons and knights are now in progress. This ties in with Mr. Capraro’s medieval history unit.



Shading is another way artists create the illusion of three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. Students performed observational studies of different soda cans and learned how light is reflected from the three-dimensional form. It was very challenging for them to make their cans look three-dimensional and pay close attention to all of the can’s details. These wonderful drawings are now on display in the main building.

Art Club News

Our annual Valentine Day celebration was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to those who contributed. Art Club continues to meet each Tuesday afternoon in the Farley building, 2:15-3:15pm. All are welcome to have some creative fun.



Notes from Guidance

Team 4 students completed their career workshop. We used a computer search this year to survey talents, interests and academic strengths. The search then gave each student a top 20 list of careers matching his or her results. From first glance, these eighth graders will be successful investment bankers, architects, feng shui consultants and documentary producers, just to mention a few. Each student then researched three careers from their list to find salary, actual job duties and work environment.

Character and Citizenship

At the end of the month, students and staff will be focusing on the positive traits of character and citizenship. Morning announcements will include statements about the value of exhibiting respect, responsibility, caring and community. This is a SAU wide initiative with activities planned for each building.

Curriculum Council Updates

Foreign Language Task Committee

Kathy White

Linda Wheeler, chairperson of the foreign language department at HBHS, and Laurie Wenger, principal of the Captain Samuel Douglass Academy recently reported to the Curriculum Council on the work of the Foreign Language Task Committee. Foreign language is now taught in all schools in SAU 41. The goal in the Brookline elementary schools is to develop an interest in several languages/cultures with increasing proficiency in French/Spanish in Grades 5 and 6. The goal in the Hollis elementary schools is to enable students to leave the 6th grade with an increasing level of proficiency in Spanish. The goals were identified with parental input.

To accommodate and challenge children at their level of proficiency, the Foreign Language Task Committee is compiling a comprehensive curriculum handbook for the middle and high schools that includes lesson plans emphasizing differentiated instruction. The committee realizes, as foreign languages are taught in all schools in the district, it is necessary that there be district wide coordination of goals and methods. To that end the committee has as a goal the creation of a foreign language template for Level 1A (and each subsequent level) for any language taught in the district, not specifically French or Spanish.

Media Task Committee

Kathy White

Barbara Boucher, librarian at HBHS, reported to the Curriculum Council on behalf of the Media Task Committee. Since the State of New Hampshire has not established standards for school libraries, our school librarians follow the guidelines recommended by the American Library Association. With the advance of technology in recent years, libraries have changed drastically resulting in a new name, Media Centers. Students are taught new skills, for ex. the use of databases, the Internet, and the Online Public Access Catalog to enhance their research skills, and the responsible and ethical use of the related technologies. Mrs. Boucher explained that three databases are available from your home computer through the high school website, hbhs.k12.nh.us/library. Those databases are EBSCO for magazines, Newsbank for newspapers, and SIRS, a social issue resource.

Mathematics Curriculum

Kathy White

Bob Ouellette, assistant principal of HBHS and Pam Shaw, Brookline mathematics curriculum coordinator, recently reported on the current status of the mathematics curriculum for grades K-12 in SAU #41. The mathematics curriculum is a printed document, written by district teachers, and compiled into a binder. The curriculum correlates with the State of NH Mathematics Curriculum Framework, yet goes above and beyond the levels required by the State. Exit strategies for each grade level are included in the curriculum. It is the mathematics curriculum, not a textbook or math program at a particular school that drives the mathematics taught in each course or grade level and maintains continuity throughout the district.

Among the goals of the Mathematics Task Committee are to redefine problem solving strategies to ensure alignment with the local curriculum, improve communication between the teachers at the schools within the district, especially as students transition from one school to another, and to make the math curriculum available online.

Family & Consumer Science

Family and Consumer Science with Mrs. Sarvaiya

By Annabelle B.

This term, Team Two is taking Family and Consumer Science, more commonly known as home ec., with Mrs. Sarvaiya. This is in addition to our regular classes, English, history, math, and science. In past terms, Team Two has taken computer and art. Now, in home ec, we are learning to cook, design, and sew. We are also learning about nutrition, food safety, and safety in the kitchen. I think all of Team Two can agree that Mrs. Sarvaiya is a great teacher.

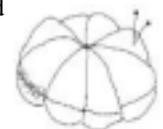


Our first project this year was designing a felt square, and then sewing it. We are still working on it in class. We could choose what we wanted to put on our felt square, so all of them are very original. When we finished our design, we traced it on tracing paper. Then we cut out each piece on the tracing paper and pinned it to the color of felt we wanted that piece to be. Then we cut out that piece of felt, unpinned the tracing paper, and then pinned the felt to our background color. Then we sewed it on. Many people chose basketballs, nature scenes, or fruit displays for their felt square.

Then we took a short break from sewing and started to learn about nutrition. We have watched several movies on eating healthy. We also discussed nutrition in class with Mrs. Sarvaiya. Recently, we were assigned a Nutrient Poster where we received a nutrient. (i.e. Vitamin C or Protein) Then we had to make a poster containing the food sources, function, effects of inadequacy, and effects of excess of that nutrient. We did this poster during class time in the computer lab.

The only other project is a written project on nutrition. This is the only "work at home" project we are going to have this year and it's a very big part of our grade in home ec. It is due on March 13/14 depending on which block you have for Home Ec. For this project, we have to make a cover page, a creative title, a copy of the food pyramid with a list of servings in each food group, explain each of the nutrients in detail, and close the article with why we should eat healthy foods and a summary on the video, "Eat Smart."

In the future, we will start cooking and will be making a pillow or a pincushion. Of course, we won't start cooking until Mrs. Sarvaiya is confident we will be careful and know about kitchen safety. Then, we can cook anything we want! So far, our experience in home ec. has been fantastic and we look forward continuing it next year.



Media Center

The importance of books in ones life can never be underestimated.

Most times I have three books going at the same time, at present I have five. I always have one in my pocketbook, one near my bed and one near the dining room table ready to read during the early morning. I would like to think that habits like these just come naturally, but I think it was my mother's constant reading and the fact that I went to the library all the time that contributed to my developing into a person who can not be without a book.

To help develop habits, you need to have something that you can grab on to. I think this year the books receiving the John Newbery Award might be the ticket for our students. This year, more then any other year, the subjects covered range from the environment, cloning, illegal immigration, drug trade, foster care, 14th Century England, mental disabilities, and finding your individual style of learning. Who could not want to read them?

There are **five** books that received this year's honorable mention and **one** that became the winner of the coveted John Newbery Award. **TRY ONE!** YOU might get hooked!



John Newbery Award Winner

Crispin: The Cross of Lead by Avi - The book covers the life of a 13-year-old orphan, whose adventurous survival gives the reader a look into 14th century England.

John Newbery Award Honorable Mention

The House of the Scorpion by Nancy Farmer - It's the future and Matt the clone lives in a closed environment where he is treated like an animal. His father, a drug lord, never lets anyone escape.

Pictures of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reilly Giff - Foster care as seen through the drawings of a 12-year-old.

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen - A construction company and corporation are going to build a project until the owls begin to destroy their plans.

A Corner of the Universe by Ann M. Martin - What happens when a disabled relative comes into the world of a 12-year-old girl.

Surviving the APPLEWHITES by Stephanie S. Tolan - Jake was sent to the Wit's End school and was expected to design his own curriculum. Was it the best way for him to become educated? Jake wasn't sure if he could handle all that was happening there.

Health News

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING 7TH GRADE

It's that time of year again when we begin to plan for next year. The Health Office would like to remind you of State guidelines for entrance to 7th grade. All entering 7th graders must have a second MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) immunization record on file in their school health record. It is possible that your child may have had this immunization and the school does not have a record. In order to facilitate entry to school in the fall, parents of students who do not have an MMR on record will be contacted this spring. Please get either documented proof to your elementary school nurse by the beginning of June or inform her of the date of your child's Doctor's appointment. If your child receives this immunization during the summer, documentation of this should be forwarded to the Middle School as soon as it is received.

Tetanus immunizations are required every 10 years for State compliance. Please check your child's last dose at your next physician's visit. For most students, this will be due during 8th or 9th grade.

The Hollis Brookline School Board has a policy requiring a recent physical for all entering 7th grade students. If this physical was received after March 1, 2003, it will meet requirements for all activities during the two years of Middle School. There will be some students who have had a physical within the past year, but not since March 2003. These students should provide a copy of their physical to the school. They will also need to provide a copy of their next annual physical as well.

SEVENTH GRADERS TO STUDY REPRODUCTION

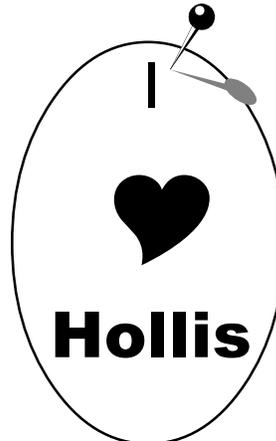
Mrs. Adams, the School Nurse, will be in seventh grade science classes this spring presenting a unit on reproduction. This unit includes discussion of the male and female anatomy as well as discussing the prenatal development of the baby. This unit is based on the chapter presented in the seventh grade science book. For any further information, please feel free to contact Dee Dee Adams at 465-2223.

Community Bulletin Board

Community Education Courses

Danielle Beaudette

HOLLIS/BROOKLINE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COURSES BEGIN MARCH 3 AND RUN THROUGH APRIL 24. New classes start each week! Classes fill up fast, so register early! For detailed information of all the courses being offered this spring, see our WEB SITE at WWW.HBHS.K12.NH.US or pick up a copy of the Hollis/Brookline Community Education BROCHURE at the Hollis Village Store in the Village Marketplace or the Brookline Village Store in Brookline center or contact Danielle Beaudette at 603-672-0283.



Softball Rec League

Martha Dufresne

Softball rec league sign-ups will be held **Saturday, March 8 and 15 at the Field House at Nichols field, from 9 AM to 12 Noon.** It is a great experience for girls to learn a team sport, to learn good sportsmanship and to meet other girls they might not otherwise know. Many volunteer opportunities are available - from coaches, assistant coaches, to team parents to field maintenance. The cost of the program is \$65.00. This is to cover the cost of uniforms and umpires for each game. For more information please call the recreation dept. at 465-2671, option 2 for Softball.



Souhegan Sabers Football Signups

5th, 6th, and 7th graders can sign up to play football this year on Tuesday, April 8th at Souhegan High School at 7:00 pm. Boys over 145 pounds can play in the NH Senior Football Club. Contact Mark Ginnard @ 673-3357.

HBHS Cavalier Football Club Membership

We are on the schedule for next fall's football season at the high school, but we still need your support to make this program happen. We are asking parents who have children who plan to sign up in the future to join our club and assist us with some of our fundraising projects. Many hands are needed to complete the work we have started. Middle School parents are also encouraged to join, as high school arrives before you know it! It isn't too early to get involved. Continued donations will also help make this a reality for our communities. We want to thank all of you who have already made donations so far. We are half way there but need your continued support!

To join our club and be placed on the email list please call: Mary Gold at 465-3208 with your name and email address and we will keep you informed of our progress.

To make a donation: **Cavalier Football Club, PO Box 607, Hollis, NH 03049**

