



KNIGHTLY NEWS

From the Administration

This is the time of year that students begin the countdown and we as administrators would like time to stop in order to accomplish the varied tasks needed to bring closure to the year. Placement commands the majority of our time. Many thanks to all of the parents who shared information and to those who did not, simply stating, "I trust the process."

Our **incoming 7th grade students** will receive their placement letter on or about May 23rd. They will then visit their assigned teams on May 25th. **Next year's eighth grade** class will receive their placement letters before the school year is out. And, the **current 8th graders** have just completed course selections for their freshman year. Transitions are taken seriously at the middle school, both in from the elementary schools and out to the High School.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, the items on our **Lost and Found** table continue to multiply. Inevitably, when items are bagged and sent to charity organizations, someone comes looking. Please understand, all items on the Lost and Found table will be removed **June 1**. We will again discard items at the close of school.

During Teacher Appreciation Week, I was notified of exciting news. **Hollis Brookline Middle School wins Spotlight School Award and is named a 2005 NELMS (New England League of Middle Schools) Spotlight School.** Dr. Robert C. Spear, Executive Director of NELMS, stated, "The school was selected because of its record of providing a dynamic learning environment for young adolescents and its consistent observance of effective middle level best practices." According to Spear, "HBMS's active hands-on classrooms and parent involvement are but a few of its outstanding qualities." "Permeating the culture of HBMS is a deep concern for and understanding of the adolescent learners it serves." Mrs. Saunders and I frequently refer to HBMS as a learning community. The Spotlight recognition is evidence of the collaborative work produced by parents, teachers, students, support staff, administration and community members.

During the **summer months** you will find **administration, guidance and secretaries** located in the portables. The phone number and email address will be the same; however, our physical working space will be in Portables 1 and 2. The main brick building will begin aggressive renovation on June 22 and therefore will be considered a construction site. **Please do not use the main entrance!** At this date we anticipate the new construction to be ready for occupancy at the start of the 05-06 school year. Also, major renovations will be complete. We expect the lower level to be the primary area where work will continue as students arrive. We will continue to use the portables and the downstairs of Farley only until final moves can be made. The anticipated date for **final completion of the project is early November.** A few 6th grade students I have met have expressed concerns about getting lost. The truth is even the most veteran staff member will be learning a new travel pattern in a new environment!

Recently I spoke with several 7th grade students and asked if they felt ready to assume the leadership role as 8th graders. They responded, "YES, after a nice long summer!" We wish you all a safe, enjoyable summer.

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal

PTSA President's Report

Spring has finally sprung!!! I know we haven't had the warmest, driest spring but the snow is gone! Well, I have completed my first term as President and hopefully have not messed anything up. I want to thank the Executive Committee for their incredible support. I would not have been able to function without them. We will be saying goodbye to our treasurer, Dianne Bonta. Dianne's boys are heading to the high school, but fear not she will be back with her beautiful little girls in a few years. Thank you Dianne for keeping our finances in such good shape. Our committee chairs have been top notch and have kept this PTSA running very smoothly all year. We are saying goodbye to several of them this year as well. Donna Cormier, Lisa Schmalz, Kristen Berry, Dot Miller, Dianne Fitzmaurice, Jill Russell, Nerissa Calo, Linda Casazza will be leaving us this year. These people have spent two years, some of them more, keeping this PTSA running smoothly. If you will be returning to us with your younger children, we eagerly await your return. For our friends who will be permanently moving along, your dedication to this PTSA and our Middle School has not gone without notice. We want to extend our sincerest thanks to all of you. We want to thank your families as well for allowing us to have so much of your time.

Even though things are wrapping up, we have been busy on the track. The track team has just completed its three home meets on the new track. These meets take a lot of time and work. Thank you so very much to the parents who have helped with setting up, timing, measuring, and cleaning up. Without this parental support our track meets, which last approximately 4 hours, would be going on for many more hours. Awesome job!!!

The **8th Grade Celebration** committee has been spending many hours planning this terrific event. The Celebration for our 8th graders will take place on **Friday, June 17th**. 8th Grade parents have received letters asking for their help and the students will soon be receiving their invitations. Thanks to Marie Salamone and Lisa Schmalz for heading up this endeavor!!

Plans are also starting to take shape for the **7th Grade Barbecue**, which will take place on **Tuesday, June 21st**. 7th grade parents will find a letter regarding this in this newsletter. For this year only, the 7th grade barbecue will be held at Alpine Grove thanks to the generosity of the Archambault family. The move to Alpine Grove was necessary because of the ongoing renovation and the need to keep our students safe. One other event that is on the horizon is the **Walk for Mental Illness**. This event will take place on **Saturday June 4th from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at our new track. More information will be coming home with the students. Please join us in raising awareness and money for such a great cause.

Finally, our **next meeting** will be on **Friday May 20th at 8:45 a.m.** We will vote on the positions in the Executive Committee and go over the places that we will need help for next year. Please join us if you can. Your vote and voice are important. Many thanks again to all of our volunteers for the many, many hours they have given to us this year and in years past. Have a safe, family-fun filled summer and I look forward to serving with all of you again next year!!!

Trish MacDonald, PTSA President
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HOLLIS BROOKLINE MIDDLE SCHOOL 2005 SPRING RECOGNITION ASSEMBLY

On Wednesday, May 4, 2005 the first of two Hollis Brookline Middle School Spring Recognition Assemblies was opened by Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal welcoming staff, students and parents, and in particular, students who had achieved both academically and in extra-curricular activities. Mrs. Goyette thanked parents for their participation and patience relative to the lack of parking during the renovation/expansion project. Mrs. Goyette then presented a special plaque to Linda Desmarais, Secretary, for her 15 years of outstanding service given by Wachusett Mountain as a group coordinator for the after school ski program.

Mrs. Goyette, Principal, then announced our honor roll students in the 7th grade, praising these students for their high levels of achievement above and beyond expectations. For the Comprehensive High Honor Roll – all A's, fifty-four 7th graders were called to receive certificates. For the Comprehensive Honor Roll – all A's and B's, seventy-five 7th graders were recognized. In the Academic High Honor Roll – which takes students from the Comprehensive Honor Roll that have achieved all A's in classes that meet daily, Mrs. Goyette recognized four 7th graders.

Mrs. Goyette then recognized Nancy Rosenberg from the Hollis Rotary who presented an Excellence in Education grant in the amount of \$500.00 to Sandra Papadeas, Art teacher. This special award supports excellence in education within the community and is designed to help encourage innovative and creative approaches to enhance the current curriculum.

Talent Show certificates presented by Tom Borick, paraprofessional and Linda Casazza, parent were next on the agenda. On March 11th, despite a snowstorm, 25 students performed in front of an enthusiastic audience for the Hollis Brookline Annual Talent Show. Performances of singing, piano solos and duets, instrumental arrangements, several styles of dancing that ranged from swing to contemporary to Irish step, and a contortionist which amazed the audience were enjoyed by all. The evening's performance raised over \$700.00 for the band fund.

Coach Rick Melillo for the Hollis Brookline Middle School Wrestling Team was next at the podium stating that it was his heartfelt opinion that there is no harder, demanding sport than wrestling. The wrestling team had a wonderful season with wins against Milford, Goffstown, Nashua Catholic, Londonderry, Merrimack and Keene. They participated in the Con-Val Tournament, the NH State Meet of Champs and the Tri-County League meet finishing their season as the Tri-County League Champion Wrestlers. Coach Melillo reflected that he had almost passed up the opportunity to work with this terrific group of young men, with last year slated to be his last year coaching. As fate would have it, he once again found himself rolling out the mats for another season. "Wrestling has a funny way of pulling me back in whenever I think I am out." A unique bunch of young men, they should be proud of their accomplishments this year. They have surpassed every expectation along with learning that quitting is never an option. Upon receiving certificates each wrestler also received a championship t-shirt. Coach Awards were renamed Inspirational Teammate Awards and were presented to Kevin Lynch and Steve Murphy by their teammates. Mr. Melillo was thanked by his team captains for his dedication and hard work, for the mental as well as the physical challenge, and for teaching them self-confidence as well as discipline.

Mrs. Kimberly Saunders, Assistant Principal, then took her position at the podium to announce the 8th grade Honor Roll for the second quarter. For the Comprehensive High Honor Roll – all A's, forty-three 8th grade students were called to receive certificates. For the Comprehensive Honor Roll – All A's and B's, sixty-seven 8th graders were recognized. In the Academic High Honor Roll – which takes students from the Comprehensive Honor Roll that have achieved all A's in classes that meet daily all year, twelve students were recognized.

Mrs. Maggie Grupposo and Mrs. Lauren Corliss, English teachers were next at the podium to hand out Essay Awards. Mrs. Grupposo, 7th grade

Mrs. Grupposo recognized 7th grader, Alexandria Monaco, for her DAR essay, "Along the Trail with Lewis and Clark and the Corps of Discovery, May 1804 -- September 1806." Having researched the subject, Alex wrote her creative essay from the point of view of Sacagawea. The essay won in the 7th grade category locally and has been sent on to the next level. Mrs. Corliss, 8th grade English, then stepped forward to announce several awards received by her 8th graders. In the DAR essay contest, a packet containing a certificate, a medal for excellence in history, and a \$25.00 check was awarded to Allison Langley for her creatively written essay from the point-of-view of Meriwether Lewis's Newfoundland dog which took readers on the journey we know of as the Lewis and Clark expedition. In the Letters About Literature Contest which the Center for the Book at the NH State Library co-sponsored with the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., three 8th grade students were recognized as semi-finalists from Hollis Brookline Middle School among 300+ letters received from NH students. Congratulation certificates were given to: Ashley Repp, Zac Smith, and Maddie Whitaker. From the Fleet Reserve Americanism Essay contest, a certificate was given to Matt Bonta as the branch-level winner. Matt's essay will be sent to the regional level for further competition.

Last at the podium were 8th grade "Academy" students Andrew Lu, Allison Bubello, Joshua Cone-Roddy and Alexaundra Zanella to introduce the Annual Radio Play Awards. In its sixth year now, students in 8th grade English classes form groups to write and produce original plays and perform for their peers. This involved dedication, time, effort and schedule planning. Music and sound effects from any resources could also be added. Final productions of the radio plays were listened to in English classes and students nominated and voted on plays and categories. The "Academy" awarded certificates and flowers to the following winners:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| Best Sound Effects – | "The Haunted Hotel" – Beth Cowan, Rebecca Neth, Maegan Teichman, Emily Kalenik |
| Best Use of Music – | "Ostensible Odontophobia" – Teagan Daly, Allison Harrow |
| Most Suspenseful - | "Ostensible Odontophobia" – Teagan Daly, Allison Harrow |
| Best Comedy – | "The Sombrero" – Alex Petropulos, Matt Reynolds, Cole Etten, Phil DelSignore |
| Best Supporting Actor – | Alex Petropulos in "The Sombrero" |
| Best Supporting Actress – | Lauren Ross in "Victoria's Secret"
Alexaundra Zanella in "Fasten Your Seatbelts" |
| Best Actor – | Sam Sherman in "Kidnapping of a Girl Named Sue" |
| Best Actress – | Rebecca Moverman in "One Bad Potato" |
| Most Creative - | "The Sombrero" – Alex Petropulos, Matt Reynolds, Cole Etten, Phil DelSignore |
| Best Overall – | "Ostensible Odontophobia" – Teagan Daly, Allison Harrow |

Congratulations to all Academy Award Winners!

Mrs. Kimberly Saunders closed the assembly by announcing to all that the Hollis Brookline Middle School has been selected to be recognized as a 2005 NELMS Spotlight School. HBMS was selected because of its record of creating an excellent learning environment for young adolescents and its observance of middle school practices. The award is given to one of thirty middle schools and will be in place for three years.

The Assembly ended with a standing ovation by students to all teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

TEAM CAESAR

English with Chris Cieto

Down the stretch they come...in last month's issue, we had started our culture unit as students studied a variety of different countries. The unit was a smash as students' eyes were opened to life outside of the United States. Students wrote a rigorous report about five different aspects of culture and shared that information by interviewing each other as experts of their country. Several students in each class brought in recipes from their country and dressed up in native clothing as well.

To end the unit we watched the film Hotel Rwanda. Many students were struck hard by the content of the film (it is based on an incident of genocide in Rwanda ten years ago) as well as the message that a human life anywhere is still a human life. We are now in the process of writing a letter to our state senator as well as the President, expressing our concerns.

Currently we are beginning our last major unit, which is about the process of research. It can be a bit dry, but students will benefit in the future as they learn the ability to find information, evaluate a web page, and cite sources. The last couple of weeks in June will be spent on either a choice novel or creative writing unit. I have had a wonderful half of the year with the Team 1 students and greatly enjoyed my time teaching them. They should be very well prepared for 8th grade English and beyond. Have a relaxing summer!

Science with Mrs. Cleveland

We have continued our work with respiration with a lab to see how to see how energy in food is released when the nutrients are oxidized in the cell. We used marshmallows as our food source. We then calculated the number of calories released in a gram of that food. Our results weren't very close to the numbers given on the package but our coffee can calorimeters are a little less refined than the ones the manufacturers use. The concept was understood and that is what counts. Students really enjoyed the lung dissection where they could actually blow up the lungs (using a bicycle pump) to see how the healthy lung looked and felt.

We are now doing a rather quick study of the digestive system, seeing how important enzymes are in so many chemical reactions in the body. We will then do the frog dissection which will emphasize how all the systems are interdependent on one another. Our final unit will be on genetics and will conclude with a little genetics based detective work. The final week will be spent on an end of the year project which will be done in class.

The year has flown by. It has been a wonderful year full of learning, discoveries, and activities. I am so proud of my young scientists and of all they have accomplished. I would also like to thank the parents for all their support in so many ways. Have a wonderful summer.

Math with Mrs. Fordin

Many students are working on identifying and graphing linear equations. By the end of the year, these students will be able to determine the best deal around, whether it be phone company offers, video rentals, or even amusement park visits. Others will be using equation solving techniques and proportional reasoning to determine the best buy at the mall using coupons and discounts. Another group of educated consumers out there!

There are even groups of students who will be learning about exponential functions and will enjoy an introduction to quadratic equations!

All students are slaying dragons this term, while using descriptive language and poetry to describe how this happened.

Our year culminates with a trip to the Museum of Science where we will be focusing on the Mathematical and Proportional Thinking Exhibits at the museum.

History with Mr. Capraro

We are coming to the end of our long unit on the Middle Ages. Since the last newsletter we have completed our study of the Crusades and the unbelievable changes they brought to Europe. Ask your student what two F's we moved from and what two T's we moved to! Each student chose a guild to join and the room is filled with the sights and smells of the chosen projects. This year I had a record number of bakers! We have spent the last few weeks looking at the culture of the late Middle Ages. We read some literature, with the epic poem Beowulf and the morality play Everyman being particular favorites. Did you know that only Good Deeds follow Everyman to Heaven? We looked at what makes a cathedral "Gothic"—the new architecture of the late Middle Ages— and played a game called "Gothic or Not?" as we looked at several Middle Ages cathedrals. Take a look up at my class' windows as you drive by in the morning; you'll see the stained glass windows we created! We even listened to some Gregorian chants—not a favorite among the students but interesting to listen to, nonetheless! We finished this unit with a close look at the Magna Carta and the Black Death and their effect on Europe in the 14th century.

We are about to dive into the Renaissance to finish the year. I like to use real people like Michelangelo, Shakespeare, Queen Elizabeth and Johann Gutenberg to unlock the secrets of that time period. We will again spend time on the literature, music and especially the art of this important time. We will finish the unit by examining the impact of the printing press on European learning and (my favorite activity) giving a close look at the family tree and hereditary succession problems of Henry VIII and his family!

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!

Our room is nearly complete—only the "Sistine Ceiling" is missing. I hope I have time to get that done! I invite you to take a moment and see what the room looks like. The students are pleased with the way their work is displayed and I am glad to have such great examples of historical art displayed! Stop by if you can...and if you can't, check out the pictures of the classroom found on my website!

TEAM MCCLINTOCK

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

On the evening of May 11, Team McClintock students, families and teachers packed the Middle School gym for their first annual Celebration of Student Work and Pot Luck Supper. Over 150 people attended this event to view, listen and honor the students' hard work. Setting the celebratory tone was the music of the Hollis Brookline Jazz Band, under the direction of Glen DePine. This entertainment was followed by a sumptuous meal provided by McClintock parents and organized by Mrs. Hoynacki who also was responsible for colorfully transforming the gym. The evening wrapped up with readings of student work, a piano solo, and choral demonstration provided by Mrs. Spencer's McClintock students. This was indeed a night for parents, teachers and students to celebrate each other.

The positive atmosphere of that evening carries us into the end of the year activities. Having explored the life of the Middle Ages and the King Arthur legends, as well as other literature, history /English students will examine the changes in perceptions of the world, attitudes and art that grew in the Renaissance. English students will read some literature and practice poetic forms that gained popularity in this period.

English classes will also connect with science as students study advertising techniques and the tricks of the persuasion trade. Having analyzed a number of ads, students will be asked to use similar techniques in their culminating bionics project.

Visit us on the internet at www.hbms.k12.nh.us

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Students will be presenting their bionic body design advertisements to Team One students as a simulated grant proposal from the National Science Foundation. Currently science students are working on the Respiratory System. We will be doing a lung dissection in the coming weeks. This body system allows for a strong geometry link since each student will calculate his/her own lung capacity. We are also linking science with math through the concepts of mass, area and volume. For the last few weeks of the school year, science classes will be exploring Embryology with a chicken-hatching project and will investigate the Digestive System.

Team Emerson

Math with Mrs. Hall

Many students are working on identifying and graphing linear equations. By the end of the year, these students will be able to determine the best deal around, whether it be phone company offers, video rentals, or even amusement park visits. Others will be using equation solving techniques and proportional reasoning to determine the best buy at the mall using coupons and discounts. Another group of educated consumers out there!

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Science with Mrs. Evans Keep Your Eyes on Science

Our most recent focus (no pun intended) was a unit on the eye. The students had an opportunity to test their peripheral vision, determine their dominant eye, note the differences between a near and farsighted eyeball, view cataract surgery and dissect a cow eye. In addition, they compared the size of their right eye blind spot to that of their left eye blind spot. In this lab, titled, Mapping Your Blind Field and Blind Spot, the students used trigonometry to determine the size of these blind spots after they tested their blind field (blind field is the area on paper where a person is blind from a distance of 300mm).

I hope the parents enjoyed dissecting the eyeball "model" that students made. They were very diligent and precise when making their eye model and were eager and excited about doing an "eye dissection" with their parents. Many of the students did not let on to their parents that the dissection was an eye "model" and many parents were quite stressed in anticipation of doing a dissection. The next day, the students were very eager to share feedback. Here are a few comments from the parents:

"I loved the fact that my son made me think it was a real eye! He even put it in the refrigerator."

"Now I see the true science of the eye. What a ball! "

"Great model! She had me fooled. I thought it was real. "

"I enjoyed doing this dissection with my daughter. She got me good! (thinking I would be using a real eye)."

"I enjoyed dissecting the 'eye' and it helped me remember things I forgot."

"Great project- I wish it was real."

"When my son put the bag with the eyeball model in the refrigerator, I moved everything away from it."

"It would be nice to do again but with a real eyeball."

"My daughter really did a great job. I never knew any of it."

"It was a fun activity to do together and I learned a lot."

Social Studies with Mrs. Beale

We have just finished our feudal system projects. Each student chose a feudal role (king, lord, lady, vassal, knight, freeman, artisan, reeve, serf), researched their daily routines and relationships to others in the feudal pyramid and presented their findings in the form of a skit, interview, story, picture book, game, video or journal. Our classroom became a research center and production room. Now that all the projects have been presented and graded, we are planning an exhibition day when students can play some of the games, read journals, and take a closer look at some of the work done by their colleagues in other classes.

We will soon have a variety of artisans' guild banners hanging high above the desks. Students chose from a list of 25 guilds to create banners, mottos and standards of quality for. A bonus point question for this unit activity was "what workers' organizations today are similar to the guilds of the Middle Ages?" Extra points if you can name any or bring in a logo. We're always trying to make connections between the past and present.

We will end the year with a quick look at the Renaissance. After a brief introduction of Renaissance ideas and people, students will be responsible for their own learning about this fascinating time as they create headlines, articles, cartoons, editorials and want ads for their Renaissance newspapers. We will also perform a couple of plays about some famous people and inventions of the Renaissance.

English with Mrs. Jahns

In English the past few months, we've done a great deal with short stories. The Tell Tale Heart, written by Edgar Allen Poe, was a dramatic, spooky story, and we worked with point of view. In The Necklace and The Monkey's Paw, we also examined the mood, turning point and possible new endings. With the short stories, including The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, we had fun actually getting to see them in the theater. We have written our own short stories as well, on any topic we liked. We have started moving away from short stories to dealing with our own books in our book talk project. We were to read a challenging fiction book and write about the five parts of plot, and then make either a t-shirt design or song. This was an individual project, but now we are beginning to read The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton. We have been doing character webs and vocabulary to understand the storyline. We've also been answering questions and talking about setting and conflicts in this book.

By Lindsey Swank, student

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team 3

Earth Science with Mrs. Smith

Happy Spring finally! During the month of May we will be completing Earth History and moving on to rocks and minerals. Speaking of rocks and minerals did you know that it has already been two years since the falling of The Old Man of the Mountain? The Old Man was made of Conway Granite and has been weathering and eroding for many, many years. Over these years there were cracks and crevices made. The constant freezing and thawing of water created a break down of the rock. Another weathering process is chemical weathering. It occurs when a combination of water with oxygen and carbon dioxide forms a chemical, which breaks down certain minerals in the rock. Gravity plays a very important role here since the Old Man was being held up by cables. Geologically speaking it was very unstable due to the three forces working against it. There have been two scenarios for the reason the Old Man fell. Obviously, due to weathering and erosion, but the second is an unconfirmed report of perhaps a small earthquake that had precipitated the fall. So as we mourn another year of his passing just remember that the very same force that created him also took him away! The next time you drive through Franconia Notch look up and see what isn't.

We will be looking as we approach the Notch during our field trip to Cannon Mountain and the Flume. **PLEASE also note that the date has changed for the field trip: it is now JUNE 9th instead of June 1st.** There were many sports conflicts so we needed to change the date to accommodate all the students and coaches.

As the close of the year comes to an end we will be studying hydrology and perhaps get some interesting weather facts in as well. Enjoy the rest of the year. I have certainly enjoyed my school year.

English with Mrs. Cicciu

Students should be very proud of themselves as fourth quarter winds down. They have produced some wonderful writing this year. The latest pieces have been formal essays with detailed examples, including parenthetical references, and business letters meant to convey information as well as persuade to action. Sprinkled through the year were some remarkable poems and creative stories, and, of course, the radio plays showed phenomenal effort. In the area of reading, most students seem to push themselves to achieve the goal of 600 pages a month...remember back in September when they thought this was an insurmountable goal? In class now we are finishing some activities within a literature circle arrangement where they are reading, analyzing, and sharing observations and reactions together in small groups. The final unit will be our reading and study of William Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream; everyone will be given the opportunity to exercise their dramatic side! This has been a productive and fun year. Students should feel good about meeting challenges and, perhaps, exceeding what they expected to accomplish. I wish all the team 3 students well in their high school work and hope this will be a rejuvenating and pleasant summer for everyone. Thank you for all you parents do to be partners with us at school.

Math with Mrs. Mezzocchi

It's that time of year again, the end of another school year. As a teacher, I reflect back on the year to measure the students' growth and accomplishments. In doing so, I found that it has been a very good year in math.

The pre-algebra students have mastered all of the concepts that will prepare them for algebra in high school. They are not only equation solvers, expression simplifiers, data collectors, graphers, organizers and statisticians but they are also good problem solvers.

The algebra students are closing in on a complete year of algebra I concepts. The only topic yet to be studied is the dreaded quadratic equation and formula. Some students have taken it upon themselves to memorize the formula while we were studying polynomials. So they are aware of the use of this formula but have not been formally taught it.

The geometry students are working on circles, chords and their properties. We will end the year with an in-depth study of proofs while proving the conjectures that they have discovered this year.

All math classes have a FINAL exam given the last week of classes. This test contains ALL the math they have learned over this school year. Although this is slightly intimidating to some students, they usually do very well on it if they use their tests and quizzes taken over the year to study from. An incentive, (they do know about) for keeping their tests and quizzes throughout the year, is that each test and quiz they pass into me when they take their FINAL adds points onto their FINAL exam score. This exam counts as 10% of their final year's grade.

Thank you parents for sharing your children with me this year. I have enjoyed teaching these students. Have a great summer and good luck in high school. Mrs. Mezzocchi

U.S. History with Mr. Twichell

Team 3 History students have been very busy studying the many changes in American society after the Civil War. Many topics have been investigated including Reconstruction, Industrialization, the Last West and Great Plains, and the change in culture in America at the turn of the last century. The diversity of these topics has allowed us to work on many skills areas. Some of the skills areas that have been emphasized are essay writing, note taking, charts, graphs, concept maps, collages, short booklets and oral presentations.

The rest of the school year we will be studying the Twentieth Century. Although other topics will be covered, our focus will be on WWII and the Decades of the 50's to the 90's. The Decades Project has the students do an extensive interview with their parent(s) or grandparent(s). After sharing their interview information, each student will choose a personality from their decade to research. Posters and presentations from the first person point of view will be a fun and worthwhile way to end the year

Library and Computer—Teams 3 AND 4

Students on Teams 3 and 4 have or are currently working on the Eighth Grade Exit Project. Students who successfully complete this project will receive ½ credit towards graduation at the Hollis Brookline High School. To receive this credit your child is required to achieve 132 points out of the 165 points. If their skill level is below that value, they will not receive the ½ credit and be required to take the Computer Literacy course at the high school before they graduate. On each student's report card, they will receive one of the following grades to indicate whether or not they have passed:

P = Passed the Eight Grade Exit Skills Project and will receive the ½ credit for high school graduation at the Hollis Brookline High School.

NC = No Credit, has not passed the Eight Grade Exit Skills Project and has not received the ½ credit for graduation at the Hollis Brookline High School. The high school has been notified that the student needs to take the Computer Literacy course at the high school.

Mrs. Ball and Mr. Gruce oversee the administration of this Project. The students work with Mrs. Ball on gathering the content information, while reinforcing their note taking and works cited skills. While with Mr. Gruce, the students create the items to be evaluated. They are required to use the word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation software to demonstrate their skill level within these software programs.

Mr. Gruce has posted all of the documentation, calendars, and due dates for the project on his website. You can access this information at www.hbms.k12.nh.us, click on either the Faculty Index or go to the Home Work page to find links to his site. Please contact Mrs. Ball or Mr. Gruce with any questions.

Visit us on the internet at www.hbms.k12.nh.us

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Prescott

Team Prescott Earth Science Students Are Climbing to New Heights

Students in Mr. Bond's Earth Science classes are beginning their study of meteorology by climbing to new heights -- up Mt. Everest. Classes have viewed the PBS Nova film, [Mt. Everest: The Death Zone](#), as an introduction to the effects of high altitude climbing on the human body and, especially, the brain. The film explores the nagging question, "Why do seemingly rational people make poor, sometimes fatal decisions as they approach the peak (of Everest)?" Using mobile laptop computers in the science lab, students logged on to the HBMS Earth Science Department web site, and linked to the NOVA Everest Online Adventure, where they experimented with some of the same brain function tests climbers on Everest were subjected to. We are using our experience with Mt. Everest as a centerpiece for our study of the atmosphere -- what the atmosphere is made of, why it thins out as altitude increases and how it functions as a protective shield surrounding our planet.

If you would like to try a sample of the tests used by researchers to test the reaction time, short-term memory, concentration and problem-solving abilities of climbers at 29,035 feet, log on to <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bond> and click on NOVA Everest Online Adventure, then a link to "Exposure", and "Test Your Brain."

Math with Mr. Dean Jahns

The Pre-Algebra classes are finishing Exploring Number Theory. We'll then begin, Real Numbers and Inequalities. This involves the study of Squares, Square Roots and Irrational Numbers. The highlight of the chapter will be the study of the Pythagorean Theorem, one of the "big ideas" of 8th grade math. Studying Pythagoras means students have been introduced to the Quadratic Equation, but in disguise. As a culmination, if the weather ever cooperates with a little breeze and no rain, we plan to go outside and fly kites. No keys, no electrical storms, just kites! We'll be using Pythagoras to calculate the altitude of the kites! In theory, we'll then finish off the year with a few numbers, Number Theory that is!

The Algebra class has just wrapped up Exponents and Radicals and officially entered the land of Quadratic Equations. We are looking at graphing quadratics, recognizing and solving special cases, factoring quadratics and using the Quadratic Formula.

Geometry has just finished Discovering and Proving Polygon Properties and is just beginning Discovering and Proving Circle Properties. Yet to come... Area Formulas (...where do they come from?) and the Pythagorean Theorem revisited.

I'd like to remind all my students and parents that all my math classes end the year with a Final the last two days of class. (This will occur Thursday, Friday and Monday, depending on Block schedules) Quizzes, Quests and Tests saved through the year for studying will count as extra credit toward the Final Test

"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!)

As this is the last newsletter, I'd like to thank all my students for their attention and efforts, and all the folks at home for their support and consistency. Good luck next year in the high school and beyond!

English with Mrs. Corliss

Team Prescott English students are busily completing essays and poems before wrapping up the year studying Shakespeare and reading a book of realistic fiction. Probably composed in 1595 or 1596, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* is one of Shakespeare's early comedies but can be distinguished from his other works in this group by describing it specifically as the Bard's original wedding play. Prescott students will study the play very interactively using dramatic techniques to recreate scenes. The ultimate goal is for eighth graders to look forward to reading and studying Shakespeare again. To wrap up the year, we will read Laurie Halse Anderson's *Speak*. In her debut novel, Anderson's main character, fourteen-year-old Melinda Sordino, has essentially stopped speaking. One of the reasons is because the world has stopped listening to her, after calling the police on an end-of-the-summer party, Melinda enters ninth grade as a pariah, ostracized by everyone in the school, including her best friends. Reading the book will allow us to discuss the important adolescent issues of relationships and decision-making and the profound effects of many of our choices.

History with Mr. Lyle

As the term opened all students were studying the industrial textile boom in the Northern states. It was contrasted with the explosion in cotton production in the American South. Essentially this is Antebellum America, just before the Civil War.

It was a busy place in the 1840's, no matter where you were! Out West we've got the California Gold Rush, the Oregon Trail, the Mexican War of 1846-1848, the annexation of Texas and California. Back East there is a huge immigration bubble of Irish and Germans to the East coast. Police Depts. and Fire Depts. are coming full time. Business is booming. So is crime. Students did a nice collage on the Gold Rush.

Lately we've been studying Reform in the 1840's. Students have eyeballed Abolition, the Women's Movement, the mentally ill, the deaf, the blind, and the creation of an American literary persona. We've had some fun with the latter in class.

We're gearing up for some fun with the American Civil War!



Reading

Mrs. Dufresne and Mrs. Lucas

2005 Newbery Medal: Kira-Kira by Cynthia Kadohata

Glittering. That's how Katie Take-shima's sister, Lynn, makes everything seem. The sky is kira-kira because its color is deep but see-through at the same time. The sea is kira-kira for the same reason. And so are people's eyes. When Katie and her family move from a Japanese community in Iowa to the Deep South of Georgia, it's Lynn who explains to her why people stop them on the street to stare. And it's Lynn who, with her special way of viewing the world, teaches Katie to look beyond tomorrow. But when Lynn becomes desperately ill, and the whole family begins to fall apart, it is up to Katie to find a way to remind them all that there is always something glittering -- kira-kira -- in the future.

2005 Newbery Honor Book: Al Capone Does My Shirts by Gennifer Choldenko

Moose Flannagan moves with his family to Alcatraz so his dad can work as a prison guard and his sister, Natalie, can attend a special school. But Natalie has autism, and when she's denied admittance to the school, the stark setting of Alcatraz begins to unravel the tenuous coping mechanisms Moose's family has used for dealing with her disorder.

When Moose meets Piper, the cute daughter of the Warden, he knows right off she's trouble. But she's also strangely irresistible. All Moose wants to do is protect Natalie, live up to his parents' expectations, and stay out of trouble. But on Alcatraz, trouble is never very far away.

Set in 1935, when guards actually lived on Alcatraz Island with their families, Choldenko's second novel brings humor to the complexities of family dynamics and illuminates the real struggle of a kid trying to free himself from the "good boy" stance he's taken his whole life.

2005 Newbery Honor Book: The Voice that Challenged a Nation: Marian Anderson and the Struggle for Equal Rights by Russell Freedman

"A voice like yours," celebrated conductor Arturo Toscanini told contralto Marian Anderson, "is heard once in a hundred years." This insightful account of the great African American vocalist considers her life and musical career in the context of the history of civil rights in this country. Drawing on Anderson's own writings and other contemporary accounts, Russell Freedman shows readers a singer pursuing her art despite the social constraints that limited the careers of black performers in the 1920s and 1930s. Though not a crusader or a spokesperson by nature, Marian Anderson came to stand for all black artists--and for all Americans of color--when, with the help of such prominent figures as Eleanor Roosevelt, she gave her landmark 1939 performance on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, which signaled the end of segregation in the arts.

2005 Newbery Honor Book: Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy by Gary D. Schmidt

Set in Maine in 1912 and propelled by a tragic historical event, Schmidt's powerfully haunting novel probes the forbidden friendship between a preacher's son and a dark-skinned girl from a nearby island. Steeped in imagery and laced with surprising humor, this book explores power-fulness, possibility and the profound impact individuals can make.

Publisher's Comments:
Athenaeum Press, February 2004
Clarion Books, May 2004
Simon Schuster, March 2004
G.P. Putnam's Sons, March 2004

French



Madame Rankins

French Students recognized in the month of April:

- Ali Tomer
- Rachel Birch
- Patrick Kennedy
- Mitch Takessian
- Kyle Johnson

French 7 students are pausing to do some review before tackling their last chapter. This will also help to get them ready for their end of the year project! Most students have worked very well this year and will be ready to move ahead in September. Thanks to you for a productive year! Have a super summer!

French 8 students are now working on the Passe Compose with etre. They will be finishing up the year with a project that includes everything learned this year. These 2 years have flown by and I wish all of you the very best at the high school. Thanks for 2 great years!!!! You will be missed a lot! Au revoir, mes amis!!!!

La clase de Español



Señora Banks y Señora Lash

It is hard to believe that we're coming to the close of another year! We are very proud of our 7th graders' progress. We are now finishing a fun sports unit and soon we will learn about the present progressive tense -- allowing us to describe actions in progress and to accurately describe pictures and photos.

Eighth graders are finishing up with the unit on foods. We had a great time talking about dishes in different Spanish speaking countries. They are now working on an independent, mini-research project that will end 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 2004. We will miss them all as they go on to bigger and better Spanish things!

Library Media Center

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

I just read this year's Newbery Award Winners (above) and I am so glad I did. In my opinion, they were as good as almost any adult novels that I have read. I realize it might be early to think about summer reading, but any one of these books, are great to read.

Eileen Ball

Art

by Mrs. Papadeas



The last rotation in art is with Team 2 and students are off to a fantastic start. They began art with drawing different designs. They were encouraged to draw a line design with movement. Some students' designs used symmetry, radial balance, and high intense color. These eight designs were arranged on their personal portfolios with added details.

For the next assignment students created surreal giant watches with patterns. A visual repetition was created with two recognizable objects on the watchband. Students were encouraged to come up with a theme for their watch. A wide variety of themes had emerged such as sports, spring images, candies and animals, which are just some of the creative ideas. The face and buckle of the watch were designed with their imagination. Their "time for spring" watches will be displayed in the main building.

Coming up soon, Team 2 students will begin the study of value and shading. They will be introduced to the term "chiaroscuro." This is a technique that was introduced by Italian artists during the Renaissance. It is a method of arranging light and shadow in a 2-dimensional art to create the illusion of 3-dimensional form. This is a very challenging unit for students but I know that they will enjoy it!

Health & Wellness

by Ms. White



The year seems to be going by faster and faster. My time with Team Prescott students ended with the beginning of April vacation. Our time together was short-lived but extremely valuable.

Much of our time was spent working on our CPR skills. Students had the opportunity to become certified in Adult CPR, First Aid and Child and Infant CPR. Students worked very hard to master the skills necessary to become certified. Many thanks go to Mr. Johnston, Mrs. Cleveland, Marie Degulis, Trish MacDonald, Cathy Clement, Jone LaBombard and Ellen Walker for volunteering their time to help us practice our skills with the mannequins.

Some of our time together was spent discussing the biological, psychological and social influences of eating disorders. We analyzed magazines and were fascinated by the amount of articles, advertisements and pictures related to body image, weight loss, and dieting. Disappointment in our societal expectations for men and women was soon exchanged with acknowledgement of our empowerment to do what we can to change or, at least, not contribute to these impractical notions.

Finally, students were treated to guest speakers. The speakers who came put a face to drug addiction and alcoholism. Our guests spoke candidly and informatively about their life experiences with substances and described how difficult they are to stop using. The conversation was one of honesty and their message was one of hope. Many thanks go to Terry Crisp for helping organize these wonderful speakers.

Health class will close its year with Team 3. As a reminder, all students need to bring in \$8.00 if they have not already done so for CPR training. Any parent who would like to become involved in CPR training can contact me at whitee@sau41.k12.nh.us

General Music



General Music: Seventh and eighth grade general music students are working with the new Yamaha PSR273 Synthesizers containing over 480 different instrument and voice settings. Both grades are learning to play the piano individually using both right and left hand positions. We have been playing "Alpha", "French Folk Tune" and the "Flowing River". Students will next be playing with both hands at the same time in parallel motion. A mini unit on timbre is being taught in the next two weeks. Groups are creating a sound pattern for a variety of everyday activities using the synthesizers. Examples include: playing a pattern that sounds like you are riding a skateboard, scuba diving and the sound of falling snow. Our next unit = Guitars.

Band

Mr. Depine



We are currently preparing for our 7th and 8th grade band concerts. The following dates have been scheduled at the Hollis-Brookline High School auditorium.

7th Grade Band- Tuesday, June 14th
8th Grade Band- Wednesday, June 15th
Jazz Band/ Solo and Ensemble Concert- Thurs., June 16th

The concerts will be presented together with the 7th and 8th grade choruses and begin at 7:00 with the chorus performing first followed by the band at 7:45. Band students should arrive at 6:45 and report to the high school band room. Concert attire will be the following:

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

On Thursday June 16th at 7:00 the Hollis-Brookline Middle School Jazz Band and Various solos and ensembles will present a concert at the high school auditorium. The Jazz band has recently performed for 7th grade orientation night and was received enthusiastically.

A special thank-you to everyone for the strong support we received for our fundraiser and for the talent show. Proceeds from the talent show were donated to the band program. The money we raised from these activities will significantly benefit the program and our students. Hope to see you at the concerts.

SPORTS NEWS & UPDATES

BASEBALL and SOFTBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School Baseball and Softball Teams have been hard at work practicing their pitching, catching and fielding efforts daily.



In their first game of the season on April 14th, the baseball team, with opening day jitters and cold weather to battle, lost to a tough Hudson team 8 to 1. On April 18th the team traveled to Milford for another tough game losing 3 to 8. On April 19th the boys faced West Running Brook where a solid, all around effort by everyone and great defense led to a 17 to 5 win. On April 21st, traveling to Timberlane, the boys fell short in the 7th inning losing 7 to 3. Hosting Milford on May 3rd, after spring break, the boys played a good solid game with some key double plays but lost 8 to 5. Their double-header with Amherst on May 5th brought them a loss of 3 to 4 and with some great overall effort a 9 to 1 win. Traveling to Hudson on May 9th the boys stayed close for five innings and then fell short in the seventh losing 11 to 2.

Baseball team members this year are: Justin Dapolito, Eric Dupler, Cole Etten, Kyle Farwell, John Hoffman, Kyle Johnson, Dominic Mangano, Ryan McGrath, Justin McQuaid, Jordan Musto, Joe Napolitano, Joey Perricone, Kyle Pucci, Ryan Quigley, Craig Schmalz with John Hyde, Manager. Coaching the team again this year is Mr. Tom Walker.

Baseball Standings as of May 10th are 2 wins and 6 losses.

The softball team, despite some great plays also lost to Hudson on April 14th, 9 to 2. On April 18th however, with great defensive effort, great catches, and great bunts, the girls won 10 to 2 against Milford. April 19th the girls played against West Running Brook where with great overall effort by the entire team, they won 18 to 4. Traveling to Timberlane on April 21st, the girls played a tough game losing 9 to 12. Returning from a well-deserved spring break the girls hosted Milford on May 3rd however lost 1 to 13. May 5th brought a doubleheader for the team at Amherst where the girls performed outstandingly with great overall defense, winning 12 to 0 and 8 to 2. The girls played a great defensive game against Hudson on May 9th, which went into an extra inning for a loss of 1 to 2.

Softball team members this year are: Julia Boulay, Lorin Field, Rachael Filer, Meghan Gervais, Kimmie Glover, Liana Gual, Shelby Longland, Laura Lombard, Alyssa Melone, Dani Posa, Rebecca Powell, Kelsey Smith, Jenna Testa, Chelsea Theriault and Tiffany Williamson with Cori Matthews and Alicia Pillion as Managers. Returning to coach the girls again this year is Mr. Bill Dulac.

Softball Standings as of May 10th are 4 wins and 4 losses.

TRACK AND FIELD

The Hollis Brookline Middle School Track and Field teams have entered into a great season with over 100 students participating. In their first meet of the season on April 14th with Fairgrounds, McLaughlin and Parkside, both the girls and the boys came away with first place wins.



On April 18th the team traveled to Hudson where both the girls and boys teams took second place. In the first home meet of the season on April 20th, Hollis Brookline played host to Windham, West Running Brook and Nashua Catholic with the girls and boys again taking first place wins. Returning from a spring vacation the teams traveled to Bedford for a meet including Londonderry and Merrimack where the girls placed third and the boys second. A meet with Goffstown on May 5th brought two first place wins once again with the teams. Traveling to St. Joe's for a meet including Hudson and Milford on May 6th, the boy's team took first place and the girls second.

Coaching the track and field teams again this year are Barry Lyle and Patty Smith.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Submitted by Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston

The seventh grade students just completed a racket and speed-stacking unit. Students experienced playing both singles and doubles in pickleball and badminton. Lessons involved safety, the basic skills, strategies and rules necessary for game play. In speed stacking, the quickest hands at HBMS include Megan Kagenski, Max Calkin, James Lu, Alicia Papineau, Jeff Porter, Pat Clark and Brian Rich. The students are currently involved in a track and field unit where they are learning about starts, running form, hurdles, relays, shot put, discus and the javelin. The seventh grade year will conclude with a target archery unit. Students will use a recurved bow while shooting. They will learn the safety necessary when using a bow and arrow, how to string and unstring a bow, remove arrows from the target and follow the seven stages of shooting.

The eighth grade students just completed a fitness unit with the emphasis on strength training. Discussion centered around setting up the program, understanding the benefits of strength training, learning and performing exercises for each muscle group, understanding the principles of overload and progression, and safety. They also reviewed cardiovascular training, its benefits, types of training and training zones. The eighth grade classes went to the track and did some continuous, Fartlek and interval training. Pedometers, breathing (perceived exertion), and heart rate were related to intensity of training. We are now moving on to lacrosse. Rules of the game, positions, skills, and game play will be learned. Primary emphasis will center on cradling, scooping, throwing, catching, and dodging techniques. When playing the game in class the girls' rules will be enforced so that protective equipment will be minimal.