



# Hollis Brookline Middle School

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

May 16, 2007

### From the Administration

Without question spring fever is observable in many ways. We need your help by reinforcing the HBMS dress code with your child. Class meetings were held last week to remind students of their responsibilities for the remainder of the year; staying focused, being punctual and prepared for class, completing homework and being dress code compliant. Your support from home is truly appreciated.

This is the time of year that students begin the countdown and we as administrators and teachers 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."

Parents of grade 8 students have received a letter summarizing the remainder of the year. The NECAP Science Pilot will be administered May 16 and 17. Individual results will not be shared with the pilot. The goal is to improve the test for administration in May 2008.

Our final Professional Day is scheduled for May 25. At this time the teachers will create their blocks for 2007-2008. We hope you enjoy a four-day weekend!

When reflecting on the ICT Initiative and the work that has been accomplished across all content areas, we are convinced the change in standards was appropriate. Students have had far more practice and meaningful application. Mr. Gruce and Mrs. Cicciu are recognized for the lead role they assumed in this endeavor. We are front leaders throughout the state.

Train the trainers is the model we have used to implement Tech Paths, the web-based software for our curriculum maps. Nine staff members received initial training prior to vacation. We will now offer training to staff during the summer, in CPTs and after school. Our goal is to use all early-release time during the 07-08 school year for the purpose of mapping.

With very full hearts we wish Mrs. Rizzo Saunders well in her new position as Principal of Winnisquam Regional High School and Mrs. DeeDee Adams in her new life chapter of retirement. Both have been pillars of strength in our learning community and have served as exemplary role models. They will be genuinely missed.

Concurrently, we welcome Mr. Steve Secor to the position of Assistant Principal and Mrs. Sheila Mandragouras as School Nurse. Their skill, energy, knowledge

and compassion for young adolescents will integrate well within our community.

I always hesitate to publicly thank people for fear of leaving anyone out. First to our parents, there is little that is more rewarding than reading your input sheets or listening to your feedback after completing a year. "I would just like the whole Team to move to the next grade!" Middle school can be a most turbulent time. Working collaboratively is a win-win for your student. **Thank you for your time, care, respect for our organization and willingness to volunteer in any fashion!** Sue Holroyd and Ruth Kabel, thank you for serving as Co-Presidents for our active PTSA. To our officers, coordinators and many volunteers, please know you make a significant difference. I dare say there is not another middle school in the state that draws over 30 parents to monthly meetings!

We hope you have a restful summer,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal  
Kimberly Rizzo Saunders, Asst Principal

### A NOTE FROM KIMBERLY RIZZO SAUNDERS

As many of you now know, I will be leaving at the end of the school year to become the principal of Winnisquam Regional High School. Reflecting on the past four years at Hollis Brookline Middle School, I recognize how truly fortunate I have been as I have very fond memories. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your children, they are a wonderful reflection of the community: intelligent, generous, and optimistic. Thank you for the opportunity to work with the staff of HBMS; they have become highly valued professional colleagues and an extended family. Thank you for welcoming me into your community and treating me with the respect given to a professional and the regard given to a friend. My tenure here has been a gift, I have learned much, smiled often and have grown both professionally and personally. Should our paths not cross again it will always be with deep appreciation and affection that I remember my time at Hollis Brookline Middle School.

My best to each of you.

Kimberly Rizzo Saunders  
Assistant Principal

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# School and Community News

## PTSA President's Report

With the spring weather comes our spring sports. Please come out and support our teams. We, as parents, know our kids have busy practice schedules; let's acknowledge their hard work and determination by going to their games and cheering them on.

We had a wonderful talent show before our spring break. It was very well attended, with a great cheering section in the audience. Congratulations to all of the students who performed. You all did an amazing job! Thank you to Kim Barron for her hard work and to Erin White for being our teacher representative.

It was very nice to meet many of our incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents at the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation. Please feel free to come to our PTSA meetings, the third Friday of the month at 8:30am in our library. Our next meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade barbeque will be on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, at Alpine Grove. Included in this newsletter is a form for you to fill out and return to HBMS. We are looking for volunteers for that day, as well as food/drink donations. Thank you to all who will help make this a success. The students really have a wonderful time!

We would like to remind our 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents to return their donations and pictures for the Power Point for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade celebration. The deadline for the pictures is May 24<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to email your pictures, the address is: [kagenski@charter.net](mailto:kagenski@charter.net). The celebration is on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, so please get your donations in as soon as possible. This is really such a wonderful way for us to celebrate the hard work and success of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

And finally, thank you to everyone who contributed their delicious salads and desserts for our staff appreciation luncheon. It was a wonderful meal that was appreciated by our remarkable staff. Thank you to Cindy Ullrich, Cherie Wholey and Linda Falcone for their help.

Enjoy the rest of the school year!!

Sue Holroyd & Ruth Kabel  
Co-Presidents

## PHYSICALS FOR ENTERING 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS



All incoming Freshmen need a current physical on file to enter the High School. Physicals received before June 4 may be given to Mrs. Adams at the Middle School. After June 4, documentation of physicals needs to be sent to Mrs. Cathy Saunders at the High School. **Please Note:** Any students planning to try out for high school athletics must have a physical on file in the Nurse's office by Friday August 10. You will not be allowed to try-out for any sports without this documentation on file.

## TETANUS SHOTS DUE FOR MANY 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS



It's not too early to look at your child's immunization needs. If you have a child entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall, they may be due to receive a Tetanus booster. The State is now MANDATING that all students must have an updated Tetanus booster. Tetanus boosters are required every 10 years. Some students may have already received this immunization, but we may not have a record of it at the school. Those students, in Grade 8 needing to be immunized before the start of school in September have been notified by phone before February vacation. If your child has already received their updated tetanus booster, please send documentation of this to the nurse's office. If you have any questions regarding your child's immunization status, please call the school nurse (Dee Dee Adams 465-2223). Documentation of this immunization may be sent to Mrs. Adams up to the first week in June. After this date it should be sent to Cathy Saunders at the High School.

### Calendar of Events

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>May 14-24</b>     | <b>NECAP Gr. 8 Testing</b>   |
| <b>May 22</b>        | <b>All District Band Concert<br/>7:00 p.m.<br/>HBHS Auditorium</b> |
| <b>May 23</b>        | <b>Team Hypatia Celebration<br/>and Potluck Supper</b>             |
| <b>May 29-June 1</b> | <b>Baseball / Softball Playoffs</b>                                |
| <b>May 31</b>        | <b>Track &amp; Field League Meet</b>                               |
| <b>June 4</b>        | <b>7th Gr. Band/Chorus -<br/>7:00 p.m.<br/>HBHS Auditorium</b>     |
| <b>June 5</b>        | <b>8th Gr. Band/Chorus -<br/>7:00 p.m.<br/>HBHS Auditorium</b>     |

# School and Community News

## INVITATION TO THE SECOND ANNUAL INCOMING FRESHMEN FAIR WEDNESDAY, MAY, 30 2007 6:30-8:00 PM

All eighth grade students and their parents are invited to visit the high school on **Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM.** This is an informal evening to help you get acquainted with the high school, its resources, and the activities that are offered.

### **6:30 – 6:45 Welcome (Auditorium):**

A short welcome by Principal, Tim Kelley, with introductions of the Assistant Principals and Director of Guidance. Freshmen class representatives will present their impressions of their first year of high school.

### **6:45 – 8:00 Open House Activities: Guided group tours of the building.**

Clubs, activities, and sports will be showcased in the gym and around the building. A list and locations will be available at the door (with maps). After your tour, please take advantage of the time to explore and learn more about your new school!

**7:15 – 7:45 Performing Arts presentations** in the Auditorium. Highlights from different performing arts, tech and drama groups.

Guidance, the nurse, and administrators will be available for questions. Come and join us for what we're certain will be a very enjoyable and informative evening!

## HBHS FALL CHEERLEADING

There will be informational meetings for anyone interested in tryouts for the 2007-08 HBHS Fall Spirit Squad on Thursday, June 7<sup>th</sup> in the Mini-café at 2:45 p.m. for cheerleaders and Monday, June 11<sup>th</sup> in room 332 for parents. Information will be provided about the season, summer workouts, choreography, practice schedule, etc. More information is also available on our website at <http://www.hbhs.k12.nh.us/athletics/SpiritSquad/index.htm>



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Walk For Mental Health

Did you know in the United States there are 53 million people who suffer with mental illness? One in ten children and 1 in five adults are struck with some form of mental illness every year. However, in any given year less than 20% of these children receive needed treatment. Stigma associated with mental illness reinforces silence and continues to be the single most significant barrier to people getting the help they need.



On Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m.-noon, the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Walk for Mental Health** will take place at Nichols Field. This walk originated after Devin MacDonald, then a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student at HBMS, was disturbed by the idea of the stigma that those with mental illness have to deal with. Ms. Christy, the Middle School counselor who teaches this piece in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Health class, helped Devin get the word out and the first walk raised money for NAMI. Last year, the money went to both NAMI and the Nashua Community Council. The walk is a lap walk around the track at Nichols. Young students can walk, ride a scooter, or a bike. Donations are usually flat donations and we count the amount of people and the number of laps that they walk. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Christy at the Middle School, or Trish MacDonald at 465-2898 or [trish\\_macdonald@charter.net](mailto:trish_macdonald@charter.net) for more details. Please join us on the 16<sup>th</sup>!!!

## New Hampshire Math Team Off to Texas!!

Lasya T. and Greg P. are two of the four members of the New Hampshire State Mathcounts team. They will be heading to Fort Worth, Texas along with two other students from Derryfield and Amherst along with Mrs Mezzocchi as the State Coach to compete in the National Mathcounts competition. They will leave on May 10<sup>th</sup> and return on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Good luck is wished by the Hollis Brookline Middle School community to these fine MATHLETES and Coach Mezzocchi



# Seventh Grade News

## Team McAuliffe Math---Mrs. Fordin

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

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

## Team McAuliffe History-Mrs. Connelly

As the year winds up, we have finished our Medieval Unit with plays about the Plague and Joan of Arc as the Messenger. We made mini-books that were dedicated to an important adult who has made an impact on each student's life. There are many places students found role models and had the nicest things to say about the people in their lives. Students completed amazing guild projects displaying their fantastic talents as cooks, blacksmiths, paper makers and more on our team. Colin M. even shared his blacksmith forge and talents with the students in his class. Be sure to come in and check out their great guild work which is on display in our room or take a look at some great photos on my webpage. It's been a fun time sharing many, many loaves of bread with cinnamon, butter and jelly and even cranberries while wrapping up the Middle Ages! This unit reached students using all of the seven intelligences.

We'll be wrapping up our 7<sup>th</sup> grade year together learning about the Renaissance, Age of Reformation and Explorers and we'll be busy. Be sure to ask your child about Shakespeare's plays, Michelangelo's and Leonardo Da Vinci's artwork, Galileo's scientific works and their impact on society. Students will explore the British, French and Spanish royalty, discovering facts about the Tudors and life of Queen Elizabeth. I plan to squeeze some of the Age of Discovery and Exploration into our final days together. It will be a grand finale. I am grateful for the many lessons we've shared this year, and the wonderful young people who shared this year with me. Have a great summer.

## Team McAuliffe Science-Mrs. Evans

### "Take a Breather"

Currently, the seventh grade students are "singing" their way through the respiratory system-- ask any Team McAuliffe seventh grader to share our rendition of "Respiration, Respiration" (sung to the tune of "Jingle Bells").

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

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

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

## Team McAuliffe English-Mrs. Rasmussen

We are currently reading and writing poetry and the students are working very hard on their anthologies which are due May 18<sup>th</sup>. The students have read several poems from various sources and have looked at the craft of poetry through identifying figurative language, determining rhyme schemes, and meter. The students have enjoyed practicing their craft by writing several original poems, many of which they've shared in class. For the last few weeks of school, students will be reviewing story elements and writing their own short stories. It has been a great year, and I wish you and your families a great summer, and continued success to all the students next year.

## Team Jordan Mathematics- Mrs. Hall

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

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## Team Jordan History--Mr. Capraro

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

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# Seventh Grade News

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

If time permits, I will ask the students to pair up and paint a section of our own ceiling. When all the "panels" are finished I put them up. Team Jordan's very own Sistine Ceiling will soon be complete! I invite you all to come up and take a look. If you thought the stained glass windows were great, wait until you see this! I'm keeping my fingers crossed that we can squeeze this great activity into the time we have left. So little time, so much to do! In the coming days we will continue to look at Michelangelo and DaVinci as two examples of "Renaissance Men."

Currently we are preparing to read some Renaissance writing. We have read portions of Thomas Moore's, Utopia and had great discussions regarding what is utopian. We read a very funny excerpt from Cervantes' Don Quixote—the "windmill scene." We also spent time looking closely at some of Shakespeare's writings as well as the Globe Theater. We may also read portions of the Canterbury Tales. With time in the school year so quickly running out, it is hard to fit it all in!

We will finish the unit by examining the impact of Gutenberg's 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!

## Team Jordan Science--Ms. Ellerin

In proving some of the characteristics of light, we have made a hidden paper clip reappear, turned two pennies into three and bent an inflexible fork. But probably the most dramatic characteristic we've proven is that light is a form of energy using magnifying glasses and leaves.

Students will be expanding this last characteristic into an inquiry-based experiment. Students have already come up with a list of questions that intrigue them; here are just a few: Does the number of magnifying glasses used affect how quickly a hole is burned into a leaf?; Does the size of the magnifying glass affect the burning rate of leaves?; Does changing the light source affect the rate of burning?; Do different types of paper burn at different rates, and does different colored paper affect how quickly a hole is burned? Once each person has chosen the question they want to answer, we'll be figuring out the variables of the experiment, the materials needed and the procedures for the experiment. Testing will take place and data collected. Graphs and tables will be made and data will be analyzed into a conclusion proving or disproving each person's hypothesis.

Not only have students been exploring the characteristics of light, we've been linking these characteristics with the physiology of the eye. Refraction of light happens in the cornea and the lens; cones on the retina react to different wavelengths of light to allow us to see color; and in order to see an object, light must be reflected from the object into our eye. The dissection of the cow's eye will end our unit.

Soon we'll be adding 60 new members to our science class: We'll be starting the incubation of chick eggs in the middle of

this month. Each pair of students will be responsible for an egg: candling and weighing their egg each class. The candling process will allow us to see the development of blood vessels and the growth of the chick during the twenty-one day incubation process.

Students will also be working on their end-of-the-year bionic body project. Teams of students are working together to convince "investors" that their biotechnology company should be awarded "grant money" to fund their design ideas. Creativity and current events abound in the bionic body project.

The last unit of the year will be the nervous system in which we concentrate on the brain, ending with the dissection of a sheep's brain.

## Team Jordan English--Mrs. Mendola

In Team Jordan English, we've been putting the finishing touches on our story webs. Students wrote exciting Middle Ages short stories incorporating all they have learned with Mr. Capraro. The story webs came out great! Students followed a step-by-step tutorial to build their web pages, from setting up templates, to creating a Works Cited page, to creating hypertext links. Students practiced analyzing a short story and identifying the story elements. The project required students to divide their short stories into separate web pages corresponding to the story elements, for example, the inciting force, the rising action, and the turning point or climax. They also worked with Mr. Capraro in the lab to develop glossaries defining the terms used in their stories. It was great fun for the students to customize their websites for their own stories, searching for just the right images to illustrate their stories. And of course, they cited each image they imported from the Internet. The story webs look terrific.

We've moved on to our poetry unit. The beauty of the poetry we are reading coincides quite nicely with the beauty of spring-time after that protracted New England winter! This month, students are partaking in a Poetry Buffet — they will choose from a wide variety of poetry projects to complete their buffet selection. Students will develop lessons to teach the poetry elements. In small groups, they'll prepare their lessons, identify poems that illustrate their poetry elements, and perform the poems they have chosen. Students will write essays and newspaper articles analyzing poetry, and they'll write their own poetry, including Middle Ages poems that they'll add to their story webs.

We'll be winding down the school year reading and interpreting the novel, "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton. Students love to discuss and analyze this timeless novel. It's amazing how far the seventh-graders have come with their analytical abilities over the course of the year. We have great discussions analyzing poems and stories.

It has been an honor to be a part of this very important year of their lives. Enjoy the summer! If students are looking for summer reading suggestions, they can view their peers' book reviews on my website: [www.hbms.k12.nh.us/mendolak](http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/mendolak).

# Eighth Grade News

## Team Hypatia Science—Mrs. Smith

Well, we are coming to a close and students need a little recharging! The weather is nice and outdoor activities abound. The remainder of the science year will include the history of the Earth and rocks and minerals. We have the last school project, a timeline of the 4.6 billion years, being worked on as this goes to print. Students will have quite a sense of how long we have been around! The next unit will include many labs that will take a great deal of their time in the lab. They will never look at rock the same way.

Remember that we have the Cannon Mountain and the Flume Gorge trip coming up June 8<sup>th</sup>. If there are any volunteers for chaperones please call me at the school so that I may put you on my list. Both 8<sup>th</sup> grades will be in attendance. This should be another wonderful field trip for the students to enjoy. Students have studied geology all year, and hopefully they will make some important connections.

Remember that current events are being accepted until June 8<sup>th</sup>. Find those interesting earth science articles and get 5 extra points on a test or quiz.

Have a safe and healthy Memorial Day.

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

Currently students are putting the finishing touches on their Manifest Destiny Diaries. The assignment required them to write a series of entries that demonstrated their understanding of westward movement, the different waves of settlers and the events that took place during this time period. Students have enjoyed this assignment because it has allowed them to be creative with history.

We will finish the year by talking about the social movements that led up to the Civil War. We have talked about Irish immigrants, the resistance to their arrival and the Know-Nothing Party. In the next few weeks students will learn about changes in technology, the temperance movement, the women's rights movement, the abolitionists' movement and other issues regarding slavery. The year will conclude with an activity that will allow students to better understand why the Civil War was fought.

## Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

What a wonderful job the students did on their memorial and their essay! These emotion-filled works of art will be displayed at Team Hypatia's celebration of student work. Algebra students are working on polynomials and factoring. Geometry students are finishing up Chapter 11 on trigonometric properties and will finish the year with tessellations. Eighth grade math has done a great job with the distributive property and will continue with their practice of one-step, two-step and multi-step equation solving.

## Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Grupposo

Students have just wrapped up their study of The Pearl by John Steinbeck and are moving into modern realistic fiction as they read the award-winning young adult novel, Monster, by Walter Dean Myers. In his speech accepting the Nobel Prize for literature (parts of which the students have read), Steinbeck made a point about the responsibility of the artist to point out the ills of society in order to improve it. As they read Monster, students will look through a window into an urban lifestyle that they, for the most part, have never experi-

enced. The problems of the hero in this modern novel are not unlike those experienced by Kino. This connects to our unit – In Search of the American Dream – Who Has It and Who Does Not? This novel also serves as an excellent exercise in close reading as well as finding and citing evidence to support a thesis. Students will use this information when debating the innocence or guilt of the story's main character and then to write a well-supported and cited essay.

Students will continue to read modern realistic fiction as they research social issues of their time during class. Groups will be asked to make a presentation explaining the issue, what they perceive is the cause and offer solutions to correct the problem. The format of the presentations will be student-directed within teacher guidelines.

The final assessment for writing will be based on a portfolio of three pieces of writing. During the week of May 14, students will gather the year's writing. From that they will decide which pieces they would like to take to the next level. The portfolio must have an essay (not from a contest), and two other pieces – only one of which may be a poem. The portfolio will be due early June.

The Team is looking forward to our celebration on May 23. At this time we expect about three hundred people. If you would like to help with this event, please call Annette Jacoby at 465-9264.

## Math with Mr. Jahns...

**Seventh Grade Math** – We are finishing our Fractions, Decimals and Percentages unit, including our Shopping Spree on the Internet project and an upcoming Unit Test. We introduced “Number Wars” so as to keep our numeric skills sharp and increase our recall speed.

**Eighth Grade Math** -We have been looking at formal Algebra and related concepts. This includes identifying and combining like terms, using the Distributive Property and solving simple 1- and 2-step equations. This is a good introduction for the students going to Transitional Math next year and essential skills for the students moving on to Algebra 1.

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

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# Eighth Grade News

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## Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

Term 4 has been whizzing by for Team Prescott students! We started off studying about the presidency of James Madison. His presidency was all caught up in the War of 1812. The war left a bitter taste in the mouths of many New Englanders, particularly the merchants. Moving into the Oval Office after Madison was his neighbor and friend, James Monroe. We studied this man's presidency and times. The Seminole Wars, 3 or 4 major treaties, goodwill tours, and of course, the Monroe Doctrine, were all studied at length.

Lately students have been studying the Age of Jackson. They've been working on a political cartoon assignment this week, which should be revealing in light of current politics in Washington. Prescott students will be tested later this week on the three main crises of Andrew Jackson's administration: The Nullification Crisis, the fight with the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Bank, and his Indian Removal policies. I hope I was able to convey the message to the good students of Team Prescott of what a hard job it is to be President and what a character Andrew Jackson really was!

Next we'll be studying Westward expansion in earnest (Oregon Trail), the mountain men and fur trade, Texas Independence, Mormon Emigration, and California Independence.

## Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Prescott English is in the midst of exploring social issues. We kicked off the unit by reading Monster by Walter Dean Myers. This fast-paced read led to a debate before April vacation that provoked discussions entailing friendship choices, morals, personal responsibilities, crime/violence, and the criminal justice system/prison. Students then used evidence or proof from the book to write essays regarding the verdict of the main character, Steve Harmon. From there, we started reading poems and examining song lyrics that address social issues such as poverty, prejudice, and social classes. This week students were given Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. We will use this novel to discuss peer pressure, cliques, family situations and personal responsibility. Continuing with this theme, we will finish the year by reading The Pearl by John Steinbeck. Throughout these novel readings, students will continue to work on note-taking skills, essay writing and creative writing.

As our culminating activity for the year, students will select a social issue from the lists we have generated and create an informational piece (i.e., ad or pamphlet) that presents facts regarding the issue and potential solutions. Through the social issues unit, it is my hope that students will begin to broaden their views of the world and make decisions that will contribute solutions to issues in our society. These solutions can be as simple as reaching out to someone struggling in the hallway to helping a friend make a healthy decision.

I have enjoyed working with all Team Prescott English students this year and watching them develop as both readers and writers. I wish everyone a relaxing, safe summer. As always, keep reading!

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." ~ Joseph Addison

## Team Prescott Math--Mrs. Mezzocchi

As the year winds down, it produces many challenges to teachers. Not only making sure the entire curriculum gets taught but keeping students focused on school also. In math, you will be relieved to know that everything is right on schedule for preparing your child for the challenges that face them in higher mathematics at the high school.

In the Algebra classes, we will end the year learning how to factor polynomials and the quadratic formula. We are at present finishing up a statistics unit using Stem-and-Leaf plots to organize data and then drawing Box-and-Whisker graphs to interpret the data. All in all these students are ready for the challenge of GEOMETRY.

In the Pre-Algebra classes, we are refining our NUMBER SENSE. Following the study of numbers in all forms, we will start working with "rational" (just another word for fractional) equations. We will end the year working with the Pythagorean Theorem and (hopefully) use this theorem when we fly kites. So we should hope for some warm, WINDY weather in June. These students are more than ready to enter ALGEBRA classes at the high school.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing your children with Team Prescott this past year. It has been a good year academically. We certainly have some fabulous mathematicians among us. Have a great summer and a great four years of high school ahead of you.

## Team Prescott Science—Mr. Bond

### Earth Science Students Are All Wet!

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

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

# INTEGRATED SPECIALS

## French--Mme. Cloutier

Bonjour from the French classes! The last two months in French have been very busy, *comme d'habitude* (as usual).

**The seventh grade classes** just had the chance to enjoy a café scene that came to life in our classroom! The students, with the help of parents, (Merci!) brought in French café food items, ordered in French, took the part of the wait-staff and/or client and had a great time. They really had been looking forward to this for several months. It helps vocabulary retention if you can look at it and taste it, too.

In the seventh grade classes we are able to speak even more French within the context of the chapters they have studied. We have casually introduced the past tense after learning the verb *avoir* (to have) and studying regular verbs. It seemed the right time to start the simplest form of past tense, although it is often not formally taught until 8<sup>th</sup> grade. We sometimes have great discussions about the evolution of language and the way things are expressed in English and French.

We will take a look at the other and older French book in our room for 7<sup>th</sup> graders soon. Their current text is packed with information but has fewer chapters than some texts so I would like this year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders to have a couple months with the book that many students used here at HBMS, *Bienvenue*. It introduces different points of grammar and vocabulary and will be a wonderful complement to the book they have been using.

**In eighth grade**, we have just begun the winter sports chapter which is fun for the students and comes at the right time of the school year. We just need some snow now! They all agreed the chapter before about team sports seemed rather easy to remember with many cognates and similar words and the skiing and skating chapter should be like that, too. They are also learning irregular verb formations in the *passé composé* in this chapter. They have to memorize them by ear as well as by eye for they follow no set rule.

Before the holiday break, both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders presented very short talks about holidays in French speaking countries, or information about skiing, *Mardi Gras*, travel in Quebec, France, etc. We enjoyed some French *Buches de Noel* then and other holiday treats.

In December, the eighth graders all participated in simulations about their driving chapter in which they had to work in a group, write a short (5 minutes when presented) skit, and say everything in French. They pretended to drive, have a flat tire, take a driving test, get stopped by the police, buy gas at a station, etc. The simulations were wonderful, very creative and they were proud of what they had done.

It is exciting to see their development in French as the year progresses. They are able to see little mistakes they have made very quickly and have most or all of the class in French. When we play a certain vocabulary game in which they describe a word in French for a partner to guess, it is a challenge for them but rewarding to see as they realize they **are** able to give clues only in French and their partner understands.

## El Español—Senora Banks & Senora Lash

It is hard to believe that we're coming to the close of another year! We are very proud of our 7<sup>th</sup> 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. We are looking forward to more learning and challenges next year!

Eighth graders just finished the unit on fashion. We had a great time discussing outfits and preparing our *Desfile de Modas*. It was a great success! Now we are starting a new unit on traveling. We are also finishing up with preterite tense. They are very happy to see the LAST two groups of irregular verbs!

We are very pleased with our 8<sup>th</sup> graders' hard work. They have come a long way since September of 2006. We will miss them all as they go on to bigger and better Spanish things!

## Art News - Mrs. Papadeas

Team Two's last Life Skills rotation for spring is now in art. Students have just completed a unit on various types of design. Students were experimenting with different types of design on 6x6 inch squares of drawing paper. The first type of design was line design and the movement of line. Some students even started drawing optical illusion images. The second type of design was symmetry, which is the balance of shapes on each side of the paper. Students were allowed to draw portrait images and even cartoon faces as long as they were in symmetry. Next they began drawing radial designs, which was their favorite because they enjoyed the rotational style arrangements. Many students drew spider and flower type images. Asymmetrical was a little harder to do but many of the pictures were looking really colorful and almost abstract. We really worked on overlapping the shapes to create more depth in the design. Pattern was another type of design and students were asked to draw two recognizable objects in an alternating pattern. The very last type was concentric, this is a shape drawn inside a shape. All of the designs were arranged and glued on colorful construction paper and they were allowed to add any other drawings that would enhance their piece of art. Overall, students felt very successful with their work and had fun learning all the different types of design images. Currently we are working on aboriginal-style art from Australia. This style of art was produced 40,000 years ago. Students are painting with Q-tips and acrylic paint on colorful poster board. Giant lizards, kangaroos, turtles, birds, and lots of concentric circles are emerging from the art room. The art students from Team 2 want to wish you all a happy and creative spring!



# Integrated Specials—Cont'd

## Reading - Mrs. Lucas

The seventh grade reading classes are reading Newbery Award and Honor books during the fourth term. Students are required to read a minimum of three Newbery books. They will receive credit for extra books read. The students will pick their favorite Newbery book and create a Power Point presentation.

The completed project will be presented to their class in the hope of selling their book to their classmates.

### Newbery Book Suggestions

**Bridge to Terabithia** by Katherine Paterson

Jess wants to be the fastest runner in the fifth grade, but then he's beaten by the new girl. In spite of this rocky start, the two create an imaginary world and a thriving friendship. This is a Newbery Award winner.

**The Watsons Go to Birmingham - 1963** by Christopher Paul Curtis

This is a wonderful middle-grade novel narrated by Kenny, 9, about his middle-class black family, the Weird Watsons of Flint, Michigan. When Kenny's 13-year old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, they head south to Birmingham to visit Grandma, the one person who can shape him up. They happen to be in Birmingham when Grandma's church is blown up.

**Joey Pigza Loses Control** by Jack Gantos

In this rollercoaster of a ride, ingeniously and breathlessly narrated by Joey himself, readers are treated to an up-close introduction to life with attention deficit disorder – or being wired, as Joey puts it. Readers will know almost from the start that Joey's not just a good kid – he's a great kid

**Source:** The Best Young Adult Books of the Decade and How to Use them in Your Program by Walter Mayes, BERG, Bureau of Education & Research, Bellevue, WA, 2005

## Reading - Mrs. Dufresne

The final countdown has begun. All the reading students just finished the Gates Reading Test. Grade 8 students have Canobie Lake on their minds and Grade 7 students already consider themselves eighth graders. I thought I spotted a few of them down in the Grade 8 wing checking out lockers for next year.

Grade 8 classes are finishing the novel *Kiss the Dust* about a young girl in Iraq in 1984 who is forced to flee with her family to a refugee camp in Iran then to freedom in London. Sadly, the story parallels the events going on today in the Middle East. The second novel, *The Downsidiers*, about a secret society and community that lives beneath the streets of current-day New York City will also come to a close this week. Students reading this novel also completed a research project on a gentleman named Alfred Ely Beach. Ask your children what a "pneumatic train" is and what it has to do with the NYC subway system. All Grade 8 classes will complete a short art/writing project to synthesize and illustrate one of our essential questions from both novels, which was "what are some of the characteristics of a community?"

Grade 7 students finish the novel *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen this week. They completed a week-long project in the computer lab that delved into the twelve endangered animals and plants in the state of New Hampshire, the final product being a business letter to Governor Lynch. As a treat next week they will watch the movie version of the novel *Hoot*.



Comparing the book to the movie will be one of the tasks as we watch the film. The film actually does a terrific job telling the author's story. The film and the novel try to impress upon the youth of today that a single individual or small group does have the power to effect change.

## Library Media Center--Mrs. Jahns

### May Hurries Toward Summer in the LMC

May is hot on the heels of a busy April with students checking out realistic fiction and poetry books. Some classes are finishing up their "how to" books and some will be starting their Newbery Award books. Students do need to look in their books for DUE DATES as many are overdue and fines are assessed at 5 cents per day. Students have also been using computers for numerous assignments; it is interesting to see some of the graphic organizers students are creating. The laptop computer carts have been transported to classrooms throughout April and now May has high requests as well. Students have become very adept at using the laptops by signing for them in classes here or in their classrooms.

May is "Get Caught Reading" month, a reading promotion sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English and the International Reading Association. The Library Media Center is supporting "Get Caught Reading" with a weekly drawing for prizes. Teachers will submit student names when they catch students reading (without being instructed to do so). You may wish to have a look at the following site as it has many links and detailed information:

<http://www.readwritethink.org/index.asp>

The photo display of staff and volunteers with their favorite teen books has had great "viewing"; many students were surprised at some of the adult book choices and several students checked out a title referenced by a staff member. The photo "wall" will remain throughout May so come in and see it!

**Book of the Month:** Love That Dog by Sharon Creech

**Site of the Month:** <http://www.loc.gov/poetry/> Library of Congress

## Health & Wellness--Ms. White

### Team McAuliffe Health

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

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

Students are currently working with Ms. Christy, the guidance counselor, on issues such as self-esteem and mental illness. After that we will be starting our unit on media and advertising.



# Music, Band, Phys. Ed.

## Chorus--Mrs. Spencer

Students have been working very hard learning all the lyrics and melodies to our Spring Concert songs. Visit our school website to view our current repertoire. (Click on faculty, then Spencer, then Chorus.) Our concert dates are as follows:



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade HBMS Spring Chorus and Band Concert**  
**7:00 pm High School Auditorium**  
**Monday, June 4, 2007**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade HBMS Spring Chorus and Band Concert**  
**7:00 pm High School Auditorium**  
**Tuesday, June 5, 2007**

**\*Choral students should arrive at 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the chorus room across from the stage.**

### Concert Dress:

**Girls** need to wear a white shirt/blouse, black school length skirt or black dress pants, and their best dress shoes. **Boys** need to wear a white collared shirt, black dress pants, a tie and their best dress shoes.

We look forward to singing for you!

**Congratulations to All District Honor Chorus members** for a superb concert at Cawley Middle School in Hooksett, NH on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. I hope you ordered a CD of your singing (I know that I did!!!) Thank you for all your hard work at rehearsals and remember to be prepared to sing next year for some special performances.

## General Music--Mrs. Spencer

7<sup>th</sup> grade general music classes have recently finished a composition based on AABA form. Students are now working on the guitar learning the notes e-f-g on the 6<sup>th</sup> string and a-b-c on the 5<sup>th</sup> string and applying these bass notes to the song, "The Ghost of Tom". Students are also refining their skills with training the ear and tuning the guitar. New chords that have been introduced are D, G, and A7.



Eighth grade general music students are currently studying the form of reggae music on the guitar. Students are practicing the down and up stroke on the guitar along with the unique rhythmic pattern of quarter rest-quarter note-quarter rest-quarter note reggae sequence. This pattern may also be added to any existing song to create a characteristic reggae feeling.

Our next unit is composition. A new musical composition unit will be introduced using the MIDI systems. Students will be writing original melodies in small groups according to a given melodic contour picture. Songs will be written based on Boston's skyline (A section) and a mountain range (B section.). The final song will be written in A-B-A form.

## Band--Mr. Depine

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade band students are continuing to develop skills in the areas of rhythm, tone production and ensemble playing from method books. Students are also preparing music for our spring concerts which will feature a varied program. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade concert will be Monday June 4<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade concert on Tuesday June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Hollis Brookline High School Auditorium. Concerts will begin at 7:00 with chorus performances followed by the band at 7:45. Band students should plan to arrive no later than 7:00.



On Tuesday, May 22 the bands of Captain Samuel Douglass Academy, Hollis Upper Elementary School, Hollis Brookline Middle School and Hollis Brookline High School will present a combined band concert at the Hollis Brookline High School gymnasium. Each band will perform separately and the final performance in the program will be a selection involving the combined bands. The number of students participating in this program will be approximately 300. This is the first performance of this type known as a "Step Up Concert" to show the progression and development of skills in the instrumental music program. We are very excited about this upcoming concert and hope to generate visibility and enthusiasm for our program. Students should plan to arrive at the high school no later than 6:30 in preparation for the 7:00 performance.

Concert attire for all performances is: Girls- white shirt/blouse, black school length skirt or dress pants, dress shoes; Boys- white collared shirt, black dress pants, tie, dress shoes. See you at the concerts!

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

The seventh grade students just completed a unit in sport stacking and the racket sports of pickle ball and badminton. When the students were not playing pickle ball or badminton they timed themselves in sport stacking. This activity promotes hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, quickness and concentration. The students learned the 3-3-3 stack, 3-6-3 stack and the cycle. The students participated in pickle ball and badminton learning the basic rules, etiquette, strokes and strategy needed for the singles and doubles. The students are working on their second ICT project looking at their steps and time active for all the units we have completed. We will do a mini track unit where students will experience the discus, shotput, javelin (turbo jav), starts and hurdles before moving on to the final unit of target archery.



Our eighth grade students have begun a lacrosse unit in physical education class. Rules of the game, positions, skills, and game play will be learned. Primary emphasis will center on cradling, overhand throwing, catching, scooping, and dodging techniques. When playing a game in our co-ed class, girls' rules will be enforced so that protective equipment and contact will be minimal. Our year will end with a golf unit. Proper stance, grip, and swing using a variety of clubs will be learned. Students will also learn the basic rules and etiquette of golf. Any golf ball donations would be gladly accepted.

# SPORTS SCHEDULES

## SPORTS

### BASEBALL/SOFTBALL

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School Baseball and Softball Teams** have been hard at work practicing their pitching, catching and fielding efforts daily and despite having to postpone their first three games because of rain and soaked fields, they have done very well.



#### Baseball-

On April 19<sup>th</sup>, at Pelham, the **Hollis Brookline Middle School baseball team**, with great pitching performance and low pitching count by Eric S. who pitched a complete game, returned home with a **6 to 0 win**. The Knights played solid defense. Traveling to Milford on May 1<sup>st</sup> and trailing 3-0 through five innings, the Knights offense came to life with four runs in the sixth and two more in the 7<sup>th</sup> to bring another **win home of 6 to 3**; another solid team effort with all seventeen team members making an appearance in this impressive “come from behind” win. On May 3<sup>rd</sup>, hosting a doubleheader against South Meadow, the boys once again pulled two impressive **wins of 6 to 3 and 6 to 3**. Mark S. earned his second victory of the season, Garrett M. had two stolen bases and also drove in the game winning RBI. Hosting to Litchfield on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the boys played a terrific game **winning 5 to 4**. Mark S. pitched an outstanding game striking out ten batters in six innings and Justin P. had an excellent sacrifice bunt that eventually set up Nick C. to score the winning run. Traveling to Nashua Catholic on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May however, the team played a tough game losing 0 to 4 despite having scoring opportunities. The boys played another rough game on May 11<sup>th</sup> against Litchfield losing 6 to 13 despite some nice catching and stolen bases. Great pitching by Mark S. and Nick B. and great hitting by Nick C. and Eric S. on May 15<sup>th</sup> led to a **12 to 2 victory** against Pelham. **Terrific team effort!**

**Standings as of May 16<sup>th</sup> are 6 wins and 2 losses.**

**Baseball team members this year are:** Nick B., Nick C., Michael C., Kenny G., Brian L., George L., Garret M., Justin P., Colin P., Stephen R., Steve R., John S., Mark S., Eric S., Cameron S., Zach W., James W. with Tom S. as manager and coaching the team again this year is Mr. Rossetti.

#### Softball-

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School softball team**, on April 19<sup>th</sup> in Pelham, won their first game of the season **14 to 3**. Awesome catches in the outfield by Bernadette A. and terrific infield plays by the entire team along with a great homerun by Garlande B. led to this victory. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, despite great fielding by all players and great hits by all, the team lost to Milford with a score of 9 to 16. Hosting the doubleheader on May 3<sup>rd</sup> against South Meadow, the girls had great hits and bunts by all along with great base running for a double victory. Great pitching by Kirstin B. and Kelly C. led to a **15 to 3 win and a 17 to 1**



**win**. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, against Litchfield, the girls lost 1 to 17 despite some awesome pitching and great base running. Traveling to Nashua Catholic on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the girls team played a fantastic game **winning 24 to 12**. Great base running by all, great double play at second by Kaitlyn S., great catching by Sam S., and great pitching by Kirstin B. and Kelly C. Hosting Litchfield on May 11<sup>th</sup>, it was another rough loss of 1 to 17 for the girls despite some nice catching and pitching. Playing host to Pelham on May 15<sup>th</sup> the girls were victorious with a **12 to 3 win**. Once again, great pitching by Kirstin B. and Kelly C. with an amazing bunt by Kelsey B. along with great cheering by all led to their win. **Great team spirit!**

**Standings as of May 16<sup>th</sup> are 5 wins and 3 losses.**

**Softball team members this year are:** Bernadette A., Maura A., Garlande B., Kirstin B., Kelsey B., Kelly C., Laura G., Allison K., Melissa L., Kristen P., Madison R., Kaitlyn S., Samantha S., Kayla V. with Kristyn G., and Lauren M. as managers. Returning to coach the girls again this year is Mr. Dulac.

### TRACK AND FIELD

The **Hollis Brookline Middle School Track and Field teams** have entered into a great season with a strong 114 students participating – **56 boys and 58 girls**. Despite having their first two meets cancelled because of soggy fields, the teams finally traveled to Pelham on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Participating in a five-school meet along with Pelham, St. Pat's, Presentation of Mary and Sanborn, both the boys and girls took a first place win. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the teams traveled to Merrimack for a meet against Merrimack, Bow and Milford where the boys took second place and the girls took first place. In a late evening meet at Timberlane on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, Hollis Brookline Middle School participated with Timberlane, Sanborn and Elm Street where both the girls and boys took third place. Hosting their first meet of the season on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, HBMS along with Fairgrounds and Nashua Catholic, took another first place win for both the boys and girls. In their second home meet on May 7<sup>th</sup>, HBMS hosted Hudson and Amherst where the boys took third place and the girls took another first. Traveling to Bow for a four school meet on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the HBMS girls took first place and the boys took a second place. In a meet with Hudson including Amherst, Milford and HBMS on May 14<sup>th</sup>, the girls took first place once again and the boys took fourth. As of May 14<sup>th</sup>, the **Hollis Brookline Middle School track and field team has approximately 25 athletes who have qualified for the Division meet** to be hosted at the Korcoulis Track on May 31<sup>st</sup>.



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