



Hollis Brookline Middle School

KNIGHTLY NEWS

May 26, 2009

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. The end of the year activities are privileges to be earned.

This is the time of year that students begin the count-down 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."

The Science NECAP was administered to 8th grade students on May 13 and 14. Attendance was terrific, resulting in very few make-up sessions. School and Individual results will be publicized in the fall.

Grade 6 to 7 placements have been completed. Students will visit the middle school by Teams on May 21.

The final day for students is June 19th.

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 is recognized for the lead role he has assumed in this endeavor. We remain front leaders throughout the State.

Our *third quarter Recognition Assembly* will be held Tuesday, June 9th at 7:35. Please watch for an invitation sent electronically! Also, the *Final June Awards* ceremony will be held on the last day of school, June 19th, 7:40 am. Parents of students who will receive an award will be called.

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!** Robin Gegg and Cindy Van Coughnett, thank you for serving as Co-Presidents for our active PTSA. We would like to thank Kathi Lewis and Sue Holroyd for their time and energy supporting the United Scrip Gift Card project. Thanks also to Peg Teichman for publishing our Knightly News. (Has it been 10 years now, Peg?) (Not quite that many, but gettin' close, Pat!) 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 which draws over 30 parents to monthly meetings!

We hope you have a restful summer,
Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal
Stephen R. Secor, Asst. Principal

From the PTSA

It is hard to believe we have almost finished a year as officers for the HBMS PTSA. We hope we have done a good job and would like to thank our executive board for all of their hard work and support this year. All of those who have helped organize and work events, how do we say enough about your volunteer time? It could never have been accomplished without you, so we are grateful for all of you!

We still have a few weeks left of school and several big events are still coming together.

The Talent Show is scheduled for **May 28th at 6:30**. Come out and see the Talent we have in our school! Thanks to Kim and Mary for their work on this event.

8th grade celebrations will be **June 18th**, help is always needed with food, decorations, etc.. Please contact Lori Gates at lorigates@hotmail.com if you can help.

The **7th grade BBQ** will be **June 19th** at Alpine Grove. Parents will be asked to help out with food donations, set up and clean up. Please contact Shelly Gillis @shelly_gillis@hotmail.com or Kathy Reuter mail@thereuters.com if you can help on the 19th.

Many of the current volunteers are moving up as their children head to the High School. We appreciate all of their hard work and we need to fill those shoes. We have some people signing on to be committee chairs but we need officers to hold the monthly meetings and help to coordinate events. Please consider volunteering; your children benefit from the HBMS PTSA.

We are making changes to our Membership for next year. We are excited to introduce a membership that will include the HBMS membership, one student directory and one HB window sticker. This also means only *one form/one check!*

We are also offering a pre-buy discount, so sign up now for next year. Look for the forms in the office and on the HBMS website under the PTSA link.

Please note that due to the last day of school, our June general meeting will be held **Friday June 12th**, from 8:30am-10:00am. Mark the next meeting on your calendar now.

Cindy Van Coughnett cwvanc@gmail.com
Robin Gegg robingegg@hotmail.com

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Milford Middle School Summer Programs—Grades 5-9

What are your teens and preteens doing this summer? The Milford Middle School Extended Day Summer Program is now registering. The local program is open to students entering grades 5-9 in September. Brochures are available at the following website or by contacting the Program:

www.milfordschools.net/middleschool/enrichment

The program runs every summer vacation day from 6:45am to 5:45pm and part-time is available, as are scholarships. Based at Milford Middle School, the program includes student choice of activities, daily walk to Keyes Field, and weekly field trips. Field Trips include the ocean, Canobie Lake, and a Fisher Cats game! For more information, please contact the Program at 582-0274 or by email at mmsenrich@charter.net.

New this Year- Summer Arts Camp! This is for students going into grades 5-9 from all local schools. Intensive art courses will be taught by local professional working artists with a knack for working with teens. Summer Arts Camp is run by the Milford Middle School (MMS) Enrichment Program in partnership with Mt Vernon Artisans. It is funded in part by the NH State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The camp will run the weeks of July 13 and July 20 from 12:30 to 3:00 pm at MMS. During the week of July 13, courses offered will be “Colorful Copper—Whimsical Wire” by Karen Mitchell, and “Drawing Unleashed” by Beth Cianci. During the week of July 20, courses offered will be “Mosaic Madness” by Susan Ries and “Telling Stories Through Illustration” by Joann Kitchel. Students can attend the regular MMS Extended Day Summer Program before and after Art Camp. For more information, contact Libby Anderson at 672-9876 or mmsenrich@charter.net or Nina Zotcavage at 673-7365 or jzotcavage@aol.com.

From the Health Office

All 8th grade students attending HBHS next fall must have a current physical on file in the H.S. Nurse’s Office before starting school in Aug. 09. A current physical is one that was done after March 1, 2009. No special form is required, just a copy of the form your health provider uses. If not noted on the physical, please attach an updated copy of your student’s immunization record. This physical will also allow students to try out for sports during their 9th + 10th grade years. An additional physical will be required for students before the start of their junior year, if they wish to participate in athletics. Please contact Cathy Burbee RN or Sue Patz RN at 465-2269, ext. 3, with any questions.

Immunizations

New Requirement: Children 11 years of age or older, and for whom it has been 5 years since the last tetanus (toxoid-containing) vaccine, will need a one-time dose of a Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. For a complete list of Immunization Requirements please go to the following website <http://www.cdc.gov/>

vaccines/recs/schedules/child-schedule.htm or for questions, call the N.H. Immunization Program at 1-800-852-3345 x 4482 or Sheila Mandragouras, R.N., HBMS at 465-2223.

Please forward a copy of any physicals or immunizations your child may receive this spring or summer to Sheila Mandragouras, HBMS, 25 Main St., Hollis, NH 03049. Thank you!

7th Grade HBMS Spring Concert

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009
High School Auditorium
Concert Start time: 7:00 pm

***7th grade Band students should arrive by 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the room across from the stage.**

***7th grade Chorus students should arrive by 7:00 pm and report for warm-ups in the high school band room.**

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, black socks and their best dress shoes.

8th Grade HBMS Spring Concert

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2009
High School Auditorium
Concert Start time: 6:45 pm

Special Guest Performers:
Hollis-Brookline String Ensemble

***String Ensemble students should arrive by 6:15 pm and report for warm-ups in the high school band room.**

***8th grade Band students should arrive by 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the room across from the stage.**

***8th grade Chorus students should arrive by 7:00 pm and report for warm-ups in the high school band room.**

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, black socks and their best dress shoes.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

DESTINATION IMAGINATION LETTER TO HOLLIS COMMUNITY



Dear Hollis Community,

Destination Imagination Global Finals 2009 teams would like to extend a sincere **THANKS** to all of our supporters!

We have met the goal of raising the \$12,000 needed to register three Hollis teams for the Global Finals competition in Knoxville, TN. We will proudly represent Hollis schools and the state of NH during the competition between May 20th and 23rd. Teams from all 50 states and 20 countries are getting ready to make the same trip for an inspiring experience.

Special thanks to our corporate sponsors: **Elbit Systems of America** of Merrimack and **Exertus** of Hollis for seeing the educational benefits of participating in DI and the enriching experience of attending Global Finals.

Thanks to the Hollis Schools Administration and the **PTA** for your ongoing support through the season. This year you supported close to 100 Hollis students who participated in the program. A special thanks to all the teachers who supported us in class and at the local tournaments.

Special gratitude to **Mrs. Fowler, Mrs. Goyette, The Hollis Women's Club** and the **Hollis-Brookline Youth Soccer League** for inviting us to host bake sales and raffle sales and for the use of your facilities.

During the month of April, DI was asking for your support at every school and community event. We sincerely appreciate the many families and individuals in the Hollis community who understood our tremendous pressure to raise money in such a short time and who helped us by donating funds and baked goods in spite of our intrusion.

Each and every one of you is instrumental in our success!

Thank you for believing in such a worthy program!

Creatively yours,

Hollis Global team members:

Kenzie, Gracie, Kenzie, Aaron, Josh, Johanna, Emily, Emma, Mandy, Sara, Elizabeth, Noam, Julia, Abby, Jenna, Kyle, Patrick and Amit

HOLLIS WOMAN'S CLUB STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL NEWS

The annual Strawberry Festival will be held from 2pm-4pm on Sunday, June 28th, on the Town Common in the center of Hollis. Come and enjoy freshly made strawberry shortcakes and sundaes while listening to music provided by the Hollis Town Band. Artisans will be along the road with their works, and the Sweet Shoppe will offer face painting, assorted candy, and Hollis-themed items for sale. Children's games will be provided. Rain location will be at the Hollis Brookline High School.

Volunteers are needed, and your help will count towards community service hours. If interested, please email a note and your contact information to HollisStrawberryFestival@gmail.com.

End-of-School Anticipated Events

May 28	6:30pm	Talent Show
June 8	7:00pm	7th Gr Spring Concert—HBHS Auditorium
June 9	6:45pm	8th Gr Concert/Jazz Band—HBHS Auditorium
June 9	7:35am	3Q Recognition Ceremony
June 10		Library books/Fines due
June 12		Team Hypatia Geology Field Trip
June 16		Final Day for Library Usage
June 18		8th Gr Celebrations
June 19		7th Gr Celebrations (BBQ)
June 19	7:40am	4Q Recognition Ceremony
June 19		Final Day for Students



Did someone say June 19th is the last day of school?????

YOU BETCHA!!!

Have an AWESOME, action-packed and fun-filled summer!

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team McAuliffe Science—Mrs. Evans

Take a Breather

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

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

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

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

Team McAuliffe English --Mrs. Rasmussen

The Team McAuliffe students have just finished their poetry unit. The students studied figurative language, meter, rhyme, and even a Shakespearean sonnet. Students wrote several poems, including metaphor poems, rhyming poems and syllable count poems. They also put together an anthology of poems as a final project and will read from those anthologies at the poetry cafes being held on Tuesday May 19th and Wednesday May 20th. In our final unit, the students will use their acquired knowledge of story elements and figurative language to craft their own short stories. It's always fun to read and share the student's stories. Lastly, I want to take this time to thank you for your support throughout the school year and to wish you all a wonderful summer.

Team McAuliffe Math and Algebra — Mrs. Werne and Mrs. Marquette

We are well into our last quarter as 7th 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 for Algebra, the students have been working with

polynomials. They learned how to factor and solve them as well as graphing. They learned about the quadratic equation and when to use it. What does it mean? Ask your student. April was Math History Month, so they investigated a famous mathematician and found out not only personal information, but what they are known for. We actually tried solving some of their problems! We will be wrapping up the year with rational expressions and preparing for their final.

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

Team McAuliffe History—Mrs. Connelly

As we bring the Middle Ages unit to a close, students have finished with great castles, manors, and Cathedral buildings, a fascinating simulation about the Crusades and the power of the royalty. Be sure to check my website for great pictures of students in Crusaders' costume. Students traveled from Leon, France through Rome, Italy to Constantinople, Turkey and south to Jerusalem answering questions about the crusades. Some crusaders reached the holy lands; others were killed by Muslims, caught the plague, or had to go home to care for ailing parents. It was quite a trip.

As we move into the Renaissance, students have turned in great Guild projects. It's been a fun time sharing many, many loaves of bread with cinnamon and butter! The handmade paper, ink and pomander balls definitely add more decorations to our room with beautiful stained glass windows. We have some amazing weavers and candle makers who might find jobs in their future if they decide to go that route. If you have a chance, peek in to see our amazing work. The students' presentation is fabulous.

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

As we move on to June, we will have a grand finale as we see some famous explorers' life stories and how they traveled to discover the new world, just in time for summer and 8th grade. I am grateful for the many lessons we've shared, and the wonderful students who shared this year with me. It has been fun. Have a great summer!

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team Jordan Math and Algebra — Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Marquette

We are well into our last quarter as 7th 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 for Algebra, the students have been working with polynomials. They learned how to factor and solve them, as well as graphing. They learned about the quadratic equation and when to use it. What does it mean? Ask your student. April was Math History Month, so they investigated a famous mathematician and found out not only personal information, but what they are known for. We actually tried solving some of their problems! We will be wrapping up the year with rational expressions and preparing for their final.

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

Team Jordan Science—Ms. Ellerin

The respiratory system will be our next body system to explore. Dinner conversations should be lively during this unit as students should be able to explain why we hiccup, why milk can squirt out our noses, and explain where ailments such as laryngitis, bronchitis and pneumonia occur in our body.

We’ll see the close connections not only between the circulatory system and respiratory system but also how cellular metabolism plays a role in our need for oxygen. In this unit, we will be dissecting a sheep’s lung. One of the most exciting dissections because we’ll not only see the parts of the lung, we’ll use an air pump to see how it can inflate and deflate.

We will also add a little physical science into our study of the respiratory system. Since the diaphragm helps us to inhale and exhale by changing the pressure inside our body cavity, students need a way to understand pressure. We began by piling newspaper onto a brave volunteer; the more newspaper we added the more pressure (s)he felt on their legs. Once we were able to figure out a definition for the word pressure, we went on to see the three ways pressure can be changed. Hypotheses were made and tested as students pulled pins out of bottles filled with water, handled a Cartesian diver and created a vacuum using a candle, water and a jar.

We’ll wrap up the respiratory system by doing an experiment to find our own lung capacity.

Along with the respiratory system, we are incubating

chick eggs. Students have made a hypothesis regarding each egg’s weight over the 21-day incubation process. We have been weighing and candling the eggs to collect data to find out if our hypotheses are proven correct.

June will bring us to the last unit of the year, the digestive system.

Team Jordan History—Mr. Capraro

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

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

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

We read some Renaissance writing. We have read portions of Thomas More’s Utopia and had great discussions regarding what is utopian. We also spent time looking closely at some of Shakespeare’s writings (with particular emphasis placed on the opening scene of his famous tragedy, Romeo and Juliet), as well as the form and function of the Globe Theater.

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

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

SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Jordan English—Mrs. DiZazzo

Team Jordan students spent the month of April submersed in a poetry unit, where they had the opportunity to be creative readers and writers of poetry. Many different types of poems were explored and created by the students. Figurative language was tackled during this unit, and students learned how to include such language into their writing to enhance the meaning, sound, and creativity of their work. The unit culminated with the creation of a poetry book, containing ten poems crafted by the students. We celebrated their work with an impressive Poetry Café; a well-deserved opportunity for students to share their original poetry with classmates, parents, and staff.

Currently, English students are busy getting to know the *Greasers* and the *Socs* as we read and discuss the beloved novel, *The Outsiders*, by S. E. Hinton - a poignant tale of a group of misfit young adults who learn many valuable lessons during their journeys. We are discussing conflicts and resolutions, characterization and point of view as we explore this text, and students will end the year with many thematic activities relating to the novel.

Team Hypatia Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

Students will be completing a module in Earth History and will also be learning about rocks, minerals and fossils. This is the last module for the year. Students will gain insight about what is so important about the Earth and its history. Identifying different rocks and minerals is not so easy when only using one type of characteristic. Students will soon experience that a geologist needs to use more than one type of observation to determine a rock's mineral composition. As with minerals, color alone or texture alone does not provide enough information for identification. A twelve station lab will increase each student's understanding of these characteristics.

On June 12th, we will venture off to the White Mountains to observe geology in the making. We will ride the tram to the Peak of Cannon Mountain (hopefully we will see some black bear as well) and walk the Flume trail where weathering is in its finest display. This is truly a wonderful field trip to take in all the beauty the North Country has to offer. Don't forget to pack a lunch; we will picnic at the Pemigewasset River's edge. Everyone will have a great time. This is my favorite field trip!

Don't forget to bring in current event articles about science in the news to receive bonus points on tests and quizzes. You only have until June 5 to do so. Be sure to take advantage of this opportunity.

Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti

It has been a quick year! During the last four weeks of school, Team Hypatia Algebra students will continue with factoring of polynomials and operations with radical expressions. They will have a two-day final planned for June 15/17.

Gateways and Pre-algebra will be completing the year with a Geometry unit. They will be delving into the practical applications of the measurement of geometry, such as perimeter, area and volume of a polyhedron, and finish with geometrical concepts and the Pythagorean Theorem.

Their two-day final will be given the week of June 15. Thanks for a great year!

Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

Students have just completed Manifest Destiny journals. Based on their interested, they covered topics from the Oregon Trail and the Whitmans to the Alamo and Davy Crockett. Through research students created historical fiction journals that demonstrated the waves on westward movement, starting with mountain men (who walked to the West) and ending with Americans traveling by rail.

As we bring the year to a close, students are learning about the Civil War. In class we have started watching *Glory*, a film that explains the African American perspective of the Civil War. Students have been learning about how the North and South developed into distinct regions in the 1800s in terms of social and economic factors. These issues flooded into politics as evidenced by Charles Sumner and Preston Brooks' disagreement and the addition of new states such as Nebraska and Kansas.

Within the next few weeks, students will be given an assignment that requires research of an important figure during the war. The research will allow them to represent a specific point of view during the Civil War. The goal of this assignment is to further develop research skills, allow students to verbally express this research during a debate like activity and give them a better overall view as to why the Civil War occurred. We will wrap up the year with a brief discussion of Reconstruction and Lincoln's assassination.

Feel free to check out homework and other assignments. <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawlerl>

Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruppaso

Students are just starting *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, by William Shakespeare. Once the reading is completed, they will pick scenes and parts to learn from the play. Each group will block the scene and perform it for the class. Individuals will design their ideal costume and set and complete a character analysis for the "One Liner" assignment.

Students are finishing up the classics for May's reading and will begin reading modern, realistic fiction for June. As we complete Shakespeare performances, they will read the award winning young adult novel, *Monster*, by Walter Dean Myers. When reading *Monster*, students will look through a window into an urban lifestyle that they, for the most part, have never experienced. It is also interesting to note that the problems of the hero in this modern novel are not unlike those experienced by Kino in *The Pearl*. This novel will serve 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 during the last week of school.

The final assessment for writing will be based on a portfolio of three pieces of writing. In mid-May, students gathered together the year's writing. From that they decided which pieces they would like to take to the next level. The portfolio must have an essay, two other pieces - only one of which may be a poem as well as an essay / letter justifying what they believe should be the portfolio's grade. The portfolio is due on June 8-9.

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond

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

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

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

Our year in earth science will close out with a look at global climate change. Is the news of "global warming" media hype? What has science concluded about historical shifts in the earth's climate? Are we the cause ... and, will we find ourselves moving to higher ground as ocean levels rise? Students will explore the science of climate change ... the contributing factors and the consequences.

Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Prescott English is just beginning Shakespeare. We are studying *A Midsummer Night's Dream* this year. At the end of listening to it on tape and our class discussions/note taking activities, students will have the chance to act one of the scenes. They will have the flexibility of changing the setting and adding a theme. They just can't change Shakespeare's language. This is always a memorable activity and is a great way to end the year.

I just gave the students back all of their writing for the school year. Quarterly, we have done binder cleanouts and I collected all of their work. They went through their work and are selecting two pieces of writing to rework, take to final form and place in a portfolio. Students can conference with me on their writing either in person or via-email. Students can also conference with each other or with parents. From their final pieces, they will write me a letter reflecting on their growth this year. Portfolios need to be bound and are due to me by June 10th. I've encouraged students to get them in earlier.

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

strategies for writing and wish them all the best of luck at HBHS. Have a wonderful, safe summer.

Team Prescott Math -- Mrs. Mezzocchi

As the year draws to an end, the Team 4 math students are learning the last concepts for their classes. Each of the classes has successfully completed either the Pre-algebra or Algebra curricula.

At present, the Pre-algebra and the Gateways classes are learning about the coordinate plane, including graphing linear equations and finding slope and intercepts. They will have one more project which will be a graphing design. This project will be graded on accuracy (50%), complexity/creativity (25%), and aesthetics/colorfulness (25%). Following the project, the students will be preparing for the FINAL EXAM in Pre-algebra.

The Algebra classes are now working with polynomials and quadratic equations. The students are factoring and solving quadratic equations. This is the last unit of the year so when it is over, the students will be preparing for their FINAL EXAM in algebra.

The FINALS are scheduled to begin on June 11th and run until June 17th. There are two (2) parts to each FINAL, administered in two (2) Blocks. The FINAL will be graded and will count for 10% of their year's grade (not 4th quarter). The last two (2) days of school will have the students taking an algebra or geometry entrance assessment.

Then finally summer vacation, and for me, Retirement. It has been a pleasure teaching your children for the past 29 years (that includes some of you Moms & Dads out there, too). It is now time for me to begin the next phase of life. Thank you all for the memories.

Team Prescott History — Mr. Lyle

Students are actively engaged in a group project on the American Civil War. The project has three parts. Each student acts in concert with others making a booklet on the war. Then they'll set up authentic reproduction wedge tents and shebangs. Finally, they'll read a novel, Red Moon at Sharpsburg.

There are a number of literacy pieces to the reading of the novel, like word walls, diary entries, personal letters, notebook charts, and a letter to the President stating why there should have been a war or not. Each student must back up his/her claim with proof of some kind. There are 3 quizzes sprinkled throughout the month of May as well, all on the novel Red Moon at Sharpsburg.

The project will conclude on June 5th. At this point we will go back and review some major causes of the War Between the States.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Math with Mr. Jahns

Seventh Grade Math –We are finishing (or have finished) our Fractions, Decimals and Percentages Unit, culminating in our dine-out field trip, where we pre-ordered off the menu, calculating the correct tax and tip by hand, with a calculator and with a spreadsheet. At the restaurant we handed our spreadsheets directly to the wait staff, doing half their job for them! Next, we'll be starting our Integers unit, "dancing the number line" trying to improve our skills with positive and negative numbers.

Eighth Grade Math - We have just finished our Ratios and Proportions Unit. Probability and Statistics Unit comes up next. If your child ever gets on "Wheel of Fortune", at least they'll know which letters to call based on probability. They just might win enough for you to retire early! We finish the year on roots and exponents, concentrating on squares and square roots. This unit will end with a project involving the Pythagorean Theorem and kite flying. **Up . . . Up . . . and Away!!**

Eighth Grade Geometry – We have now pushed further into the text than we have ever pushed before. I feel like Captain James T. Kirk with my faithful bridge crew on the Starship Enterprise! We are planning to finish the year with a little Trigonometry. Students have also been challenged to read the classic, **Flatland (1884)** by Edwin Abbott. Extra Credit will be awarded. Students who read the book (100 pages) will also be rewarded with a showing of "**Flatland - The Movie**" with Martin Sheen, Michael York and others. There is a good review at knackeredhack.com/2008/05/20/flatland-why-i-read-it-slowly/. The book is available in my room, HBLMC and online at (**Flatland at Project Gutenberg** or **Flatland: Free Online Library** or **Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions** at Google Books. Enjoy!

Library Media Center— By C. Jahns

End dates for the Library Media Center are: **All books due June 10th; all fines must be paid by this date as well.** The last day for students' use of the library is June 16th.

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

Classic fiction has been the focus this quarter in **Grade 8**, and students have discovered some "new" authors and a few books they had not noticed before. Examples of classics discovered are: **Old Yeller** by F. Gipson, **To Kill a Mocking Bird** by H. Lee, **Never Cry Wolf** by F. Mowat, **Lord of the Flies** by W. Golding, **Journey to the Center of the Earth** by J. Verne, plus several Austen, Twain and Tolkein novels.

Grade 7 has free choice this month; some popular fiction varieties have been: **Everlost** by N. Shusterman, **13 Little Blue Envelopes** by M. Johnson, **A Curse Dark as Gold** by E. Bunce, the *Pagan Chronicles* series by C. Jinks and the *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series by R. Riordan, the *Shadow Children* series by M. Haddix, the *Last Apprentice* series by J.



Delaney. **Favorite authors** for both grade levels have been Tamora Pierce and Anthony Horowitz. Much adventure and intrigue!

Book of the month:

The Last Olympian by Rick Riordan, Book 5 of *Percy Jackson & the Olympians*; imagine demigods in New York city while the monster Typhon rampages.

Site of the month:

Teen Ink is a publication written by teens. This site has fiction, nonfiction, poetry, book reviews, interviews, ways to publish your own writing, and much more. <http://teenink.com/index.php>

Grades 7 and 8 Reading—

Ms. Dufresne

Grade eight students completed this month's novel study with a choice of reading **I Am David** by Anne Holm or **Kiss the Dust** by Elizabeth Laird. Both novels dealt with the journey of individuals who had to struggle courageously to escape countries engulfed in war over politics and religion. Students made Power Point presentations depicting the journey of the main characters, and illustrated each text slide using the Paint/Draw programs to create a children's version for their novel.

Grade seven students completed a similar Power Point project creating a children's version of their novels. Students read either **Things Not Seen** by Andrew Clements or **Locked Inside** by Nancy Werlin. Careful planning went into the design of the projects prior to stepping into the lab to work on the computer. Layout, design, text and proof-reading each slide on their gang sheet made the project much simpler to complete and in a fraction of the time. Students edited each other's presentations for mechanical spelling, grammar and story accuracy.

Mr. Gershgorin

As each class completes their middle ages novel, they will turn to science fiction to conclude the year. Each class will have the opportunity to dive into the mind of Neal Shusterman in **The Dark Side of Nowhere**, a thriller that brings futuristic weaponry and the extraterrestrial to life. Students will work on connecting different aspects of the novel to their everyday life, while continuing to build their vocabulary and understanding of the genre.

Students will continue to work towards their specific goals through the last month of the year. While some students focus on their decoding development, others will employ their comprehension strategies on challenging text. Students will pull out specific passages from their reading, for example, and explain their significance to the overall piece of literature. In addition, each class will continue to discover different ways to approach difficult text.



INTEGRATED SPECIALS

French--Ms. Cloutier

Bonjour pour la dernière fois cette année! We are finishing the 7th grade year with some important regular verbs to add to our foundation. The “ir” verbs are not difficult but are a bit different. They are introduced in our chapter of airline travel, which is fun for the students to discuss in French. We will also learn the “re”verbs to finish the year but will review them all again in the fall.

The 7th grades have recently completed the marketing chapters and have learned many words for grocery items, fruits and vegetables. We have been able to use this vocabulary in many situations, partner conversations and language games. We hope to have a café soon to practice speaking, serving and trying some delicious foods.

The 8th grade students are trying hard to finish our chapters! After winter sports, we studied the health chapter and were able to discuss various ailments in French! We’ve recently started the chapter about cultural and leisure activities, and they are learning vocabulary about museums, films and plays. Their last chapter will introduce the verbs that form a past tense, using être instead of avoir, and we’ll practice these using several helpful hints.

Eighth graders have started to give a short presentation about a town, city or village in a francophone country. This is a great way to learn more about the geography and culture. The students also bring in a small item of food that is popular in the region of their presentation to share with the class. We have already heard about Clermont-Ferrand (France), New Orleans, Port au Prince, (Haiti), Bordeaux, and Dijon, (France). Bien sûr, on a goûté la moutarde! It has been a lot of fun for all.



HOLA de SEÑORA LASH y SEÑORA BANKS!

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the close of another year! Our 7th graders just started the last unit of this year, entitled “En Casa con la Familia” We will learn how to describe people, express ownership with adjectives and prepositional phrases, and make negative sentences. We will also discuss different aspects of the culture of Chile.

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

Eighth graders finished the unit on foods. We had a great time talking about dishes in different Spanish speaking countries. They are just finishing 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 2008. We will miss them all as they go on to bigger and better Spanish things!



INTEGRATED SPECIALS

Wellness--Ms. White

On our first , 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 worked in class and created collages and captioned why these were stressors for us. In the second half, we identified things that we could specifically do to help us relax. One of our favorite parts was listening to a guided meditation. Some of us really benefited from this; some of us even fell asleep!



We then entered our unit with Ms. Christy on mental health. We explored everything from stereotyping to the details of different mental illnesses.

We moved on and talked briefly about media and advertising. We discussed how advertisers and media can mislead consumers. We also discussed what we can do to become more educated consumers. We have also discussed how norms influence behavior and our health.

Team McAuliffe will finish off their year in health talking about the immune system, the reproductive system and HIV.

Bytes of Technology—Mr. Gruce

“What do I do with my files?”

This is a common question around this time of year. Fortunately, the answer is a simple one!

Grade 8 - Nothing, unless you want to take them home. If that is the case, please copy them to a USB drive before **June 18th**. No copying will be done on **June 19th**.

Grade 7 – **NOTHING**, just leave the files and folders alone so you have these items for your ICT Portfolio selections in **March of 2010**.

At this point in the year the **ICT Portfolios** of the eighth graders have been evaluated and all students have been notified as to whether or not they are proficient. Those that have not achieved proficiency at this point will have to take an additional course at the Hollis Brookline High School for no credit. As always, if you have any questions, please contact me here at the middle school or by email. Have a great summer.

Op or Pop Art — Mrs. Papadeas

Students in Mrs. Papadeas’ art classes on Team 3 need to make a decision on what type of art they wish to produce. The first choice was Op art which captured the world’s attention in the 1960’s. Op art is not what we see but how we see the image. This process is called optics or optical illusions. Our eyes try to make sense of abstract or nonrepresentational images. Students were asked to create illusions of three-dimensional space on a flat surface using lines and shapes. They could include geometric forms such as squares, rectangles, and triangles. Many used grids of different scales to increase the variety of optical effects and make their drawings more interesting. Students added color to create paths for the eyes to follow and it was suggested they look for color combinations that had strong contrast. Many students choose this assignment.



A second choice was Pop art drawings in the style of Andy Warhol which was during the late 1970’s. Pop art images were often thought to be a negative commentary on the mass produced. The soup can reminded Warhol of his childhood but eaten everyday by millions of people. Students could draw stereotypes of everyday products and images. They were asked to make at least a double repetition using complementary colors or related colors. Images were hopefully simplified and stylized.

As a third choice students could draw something with the Jasper Johns style. He worked with symbols and the American flag image. Jasper liked to transform ordinary objects into extraordinary works of art. There were so many interesting choices that Mrs. Papadeas had the students make two drawings. Some students did two different Ops and some did two different Pops. All of these wonderful works will be on display at the Team’s Celebration on the 27th of May. The students and I hope you can distinguish between what is Op and what is Pop art!

PHYS. ED. AND SPORTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—

Mrs. Bottcher and Mr. Johnston

Since the last newsletter, the seventh grade students have played half-court basketball games, improving their ball handling, passing, shooting, defensive positioning, rebounding and teamwork. They also experienced the fast-paced, high-scoring Olympic game of team handball, learning the basic skills, strategies and rules needed for game play. Team handball is like “playing soccer with your hands,” and combines the sports of basketball, soccer and hockey. The students grew to really enjoy this exciting game. Currently, the seventh graders are involved in the track and field unit, where they are learning about starts, running form, hurdles, relays, shot put, discus and the javelin. They will end the year in a target archery unit shooting a recurved bow. They will learn the safety needed to participate in this unit, how to string and unstring a bow, remove the arrows from the target and follow the seven stages of shooting.

The eighth grade students are completing a Lacrosse Unit. The students have learned how to cradle, throw, catch, scoop, stick check, and dodge. We have learned some very basic rules in men’s and women’s lacrosse, as well as positioning, and are currently playing full field lacrosse games. Our next unit will be golf.

SPORTS UPDATE

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

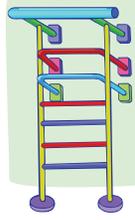
Baseball-

Great pitching, catching and fielding efforts along with solid defense and aggressive, smart base running for all team members have been impressive. The HBMS boys baseball team currently has a record of **6 wins and 2 losses** with 2 games remaining. Should this allow them to qualify for the playoffs, they will start on May 29.

Baseball team members this year are: Quinn B., Ryan B., Jared C., Matt C., Emmett C., Graham F., Mitch F., Jeremy H., Cam L., Jake L., Jacob L., Eric N., Nick P., Austin P., Tim R., Jason V., Sam V., Connor W., Shea W. Coaching the team this year is Mr. Laurent.

Softball-

The HBMS softball team has put together great overall effort with pitching, catching and some amazing double plays. Fielding has been exceptional along with team spirit for a **season of 5 wins and 3 losses** with 2 games remaining. The girls should also be able to qualify for the playoffs, which start on June 1.



Softball team members this year are: Jenn V., Sara T., Sarah D., Tanina C., Lori L., Alissa M. Cortney Z., Charli B., Kayla S., Laura D., Michaela Da., Sydney M., Michaela Do., and Nicolette A. Returning to coach the girls again this year is Mr. Dulac.

Track and Field -

The **HBMS** girls and boys **Track and Field teams** began in March with 101 student athletes, and after a strong season we are looking forward to the **Division II League Meet on June 2 at Souhegan High School**, weather permitting.

The girls and boys team have been successful, with a total number of 36 qualifying for the league meet. The girls team was a team to reckon with as they have made their mark in the league, losing to only three teams and also winning the overall relay invitational. The boys running team on the other hand have had their ups and downs, but the field team has been consistent throughout the season. Good luck to all participating in the league meet! Perhaps we will have another trophy to bring home.

As their coaches, we are very proud of each athlete’s commitment, either as an individual or as a team effort. Each athlete has put forth a great deal of time and energy into their practices as well as their dedication during the meets. We offer our very best to the whole team as we end our 2009 season. Have a healthy and safe summer.

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

