



# Hollis Brookline Middle School

## KNIGHTLY NEWS

November 24, 2008

### From the Administration

A chill in the air, but warmth in our hearts as we begin our Thanksgiving break. On behalf of the HBMS Staff, **thank you** for your service, support, communication, care and active participation in our learning community.

Each Knightly News I intend to update you on progress with our **Literacy Building Goal**. The November 4th Professional Development Day was extremely productive. Each staff member was requested to bring samples of student writing and the rubric used to assess the piece of writing. I would like to stress this included all teachers; core plus PE, tech. ed, family and consumer science, art and music. We recognize that the specialists are dominant in a kinesthetic instructional mode; still writing, primarily through reflections, is present.

After examining the writing, teachers met by department to brainstorm the weaknesses. Again, as a full staff the weaknesses were recorded, categorized and prioritized, thus creating our first semester, full school writing goals. For the next three months, all teachers will assess following directions, mechanics and process writing. For the last part of the workshop, teachers met by core teams to talk specifically about implementation and reinforcement of the identified skills. Through our work we are reminded that although our 'plates feel full,' **literacy is the plate!**

On Monday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> Steve Capraro led the celebration of our annual **Veteran's Day Assembly**. The 192 member chorus sang, 8<sup>th</sup> grade band performed, Robert E. Kelly Character Award was described and verbal tributes heard, all in honor of our local veterans. It is clearly the favorite assembly of the year. Follow-up to the assembly includes handwritten postcards to veterans thanking her/him for their service. This activity is completed during the advisory time by seventh grade students.

Grade eight students are anxiously awaiting our **senior luncheon guests** on December 16th. We expect 25-30 senior citizens will join us monthly for their lunch in our multi-purpose room.

We have transitioned to our new **VOIP** (Voice Over Internet Protocol) phone system. Although we are still in the process of learning the nuances, for the most part we are functioning as usual.

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, grade 8 students and parents will participate in our annual **Generations Day**. Generations is a parent-student-teacher workshop day focusing on a variety of issues affecting our young adolescents. Some workshops are designed for parents only, and others for both parents and their children. Parents are encouraged to

attend all or any part of the day.

**Progress Reports** for 2nd quarter will be distributed on December 10th. Please ask your child to review them with you. Progress Reports should be signed and returned within a couple of days.

In advance, we wish you and your family a relaxing, happy Holiday.

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

### PTSA President's Report

The seasons are changing and winter is quickly approaching. The support from our PTSA volunteers remains strong. In September, PTSA volunteers put together over 40 baskets for the Jordan's walk. All the contents were donated by the students and teachers. Thank you to all that helped with this event. The Hospitality volunteers helped with receptions for the Open Houses and the Student Council event in early October. We continue to collect "Box Tops", just send them in an envelope marked PTSA. Thank you to the Girl Scouts for helping process them.

As we are approaching Thanksgiving, we all reflect on things to be thankful for. Many parents at HBMS would include the **Administration and Staff** in that list. We are grateful that you are there for our children and are happy to help support you as PTSA members. Some other **Special Thank You's** :

To Cherie Wholey and Katy Burgess. If you haven't had a chance, take time to look at the bulletin boards when you are in the school. They spend many hours putting them together each month.

To Susan Holroyd and Kathi Lewis for all their efforts on the "Newest fundraiser". Please remember that by purchasing gift cards, you support various programs and events at the Middle School. Do some of your "Holiday shopping" from "**Scraps**". The next deadline is December 5, 2008.

To Laura Landerman Garber for her dedication to the Spirit Wear fundraiser.

To Peg Teichman for her continued support on the Knightly News.

To Kristine Farhat for organizing and working the Thanksgiving Staff Appreciation luncheon. Also a big THANK YOU to all who donated food and helped out with the luncheon.

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# SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

## PTSA President's Report—Cont'd

To all of the Committee Chairs that give their time to make this organization run smoothly.

If you haven't joined the PTSA, please consider doing so. It is a great way to help support your school and the programs the children enjoy, like Reflections, Generations, the Talent Show, etc.

Due to the **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Generations** Program on **December 19<sup>th</sup>** our next General meeting will be on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> in the school library, at 8:30am. Thanks for your support.

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

## NAEP Testing at HBMS

HBMS has been selected to participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), a test administered to selected schools across the country in the areas of Reading, Math and Science. The test will be administered at HBMS on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009 to a sample of our eighth grade population. The sample will be selected by representatives from NAEP, and will likely include approximately 90-100 students. After the sample is selected, I will be in touch with the families of the selected students with more information. Below is some basic information on NAEP, as well as a link to their website if you would like further information.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) is a congressionally-mandated project overseen by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) to continuously monitor the knowledge, skills, and performance of the nation's children and youth. As "The Nation's Report Card," NAEP measures and reports on a regular basis what America's students know and can do in core subjects like Reading, Mathematics, Writing and Science. For more information, visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>.

If you have any questions in the interim, please contact me at school, 465-2223.

Mr. Secor

## From The Health Office

Now that the cold and flu season is here, we all need to be extra diligent about staying healthy. Not touching our eyes, nose and mouth will decrease the chance of germs entering our bodies. Washing our hands often and coughing and sneezing into our elbows, will diminish the germs we will contract and give to others. By getting adequate sleep, 9-10 hours for adolescents, we can optimize the functioning of our immune systems. Eating a diet rich in fruits and vegetables (5-7 servings a day) and aiming to exercise daily, can also help our bodies resist infection.



Height, weight, and scoliosis screenings will begin for the 7<sup>th</sup> graders after the holiday break. Please contact the school nurse (Sheila Mandragouras 465-2223) if you don't want your child to participate in these screenings.

**Sheila Mandragouras, R.N, BSN**  
**mandragourass@sau41.k12.nh.us**

## Hollis Woman's Club Annual Holiday Coffee and Expo

All area women are invited to attend the Hollis Woman's Club's annual **Holiday Coffee and Expo from 10am-2pm on Wed., Dec. 10, at Faith Baptist Church, 43 Wheeler Rd.** Come see members' interests, hobbies, and goods for sale! This event is a fabulous opportunity to meet new women, spend time with old friends, and enjoy holiday music in a more relaxed atmosphere. Members interested in signing up for table space should contact Program Chair Ellen at 465-3639 or [bluesky@tellink.net](mailto:bluesky@tellink.net). Babysitting is available at 10 am for \$5 per family, so please pre-register for this service by contacting Ellen at 465-7981. In keeping with the season of giving, our charity project will be to adopt a local family through the Shepherds Fund. For more information, contact President Jane Taylor at 465-2849.

## REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

Are you looking for a way to express yourself and show others your talent as a photographer, visual artist, writer, composer, choreographer, or film producer? Then you should participate in your PTA's Reflections Program!

The 2008-2009 theme is "Wow!" Let your talent shine! Think about what you can do to make a difference. Then create an original piece of artwork in one of six categories:

Musical Composition	Literature
Dance Choreography	Visual Arts
Film Production	Photography

Express your thoughts and creativity, and earn recognition. Entries are due Friday January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and must be accompanied by a completed Student Entry Form. The form can be found at <http://nhpta1.org/indexstuff/pages/reflections.html>.

Questions? Contact Kathy Reuter at 465-3635 or [mail@thereuters.com](mailto:mail@thereuters.com).

## Calendar of Events

Nov.24	Ski Program applications due
Nov. 26-28	Thanksgiving Recess
Dec. 4	"Pirates of Penzance" Try-outs 2:15-3:30, HBMS Rm. 201
Dec. 10	Progress Reports issued
Dec. 12	School dance
Dec. 16	Senior lunch
Dec. 16 & 17	Chorus & Band Concerts
Dec. 19	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Generations Day
Dec. 24-Jan. 2	Winter Holiday Recess

# SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

## **Team McAuliffe Science—Mrs. Evans**

### **Scientists Observe the Invisible World**

Observing birth, head-on collisions, and unusual eating habits—Where are these amazing events taking place? Right before our eyes—under the microscope, of course! Our microbiologists recently had an opportunity to observe a variety of living microscopic organisms, including: paramecium, volvox, blepharisma, stentor, euglena and spirostomum. The unique behaviors, movements, and habits of these microorganisms were easily observed using our compound light microscopes. I loved hearing the “ooooh’s” and “aaaaaah’s” as the scientists first observed their protist! Each student was challenged to identify his/her microorganism by using a Dichotomous Key. Biologists use Dichotomous Keys to help them identify various organisms. A user of the key goes through several pairs of contradictory statements and chooses the one from each pair that best describes a particular trait of an organism. By a process of elimination, the key guides the user to an end set of statements where the organism is finally identified.

Coming soon –the study of the eye. As always, keep your eyes on Science!

## **Team McAuliffe English --Mrs. Rasmussen**

The students have just completed their PowerPoint projects, and now we will begin reading Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*. In addition to the novel, student’s free choice reading for November/December includes a fantasy/adventure book of their choice. We have scheduled two field trips in conjunction with our study of *A Christmas Carol*. First, on December 18<sup>th</sup> we will enjoy one of the Victorian period’s favorite forms of recreation, ice skating. On that day, we will travel to Conway Arena in Nashua to skate. Students are encouraged to bring their own skates, but rentals are available. Then, on December 19<sup>th</sup> all seventh grade students will go to Chunkys in Nashua to watch a film version of *A Christmas Carol*. More details will be forthcoming when permission slips go home. In honor of the season of giving, we will also be collecting items for two local charities. Look for details on my website. Thank you in advance for your participation.

## **Team McAuliffe History--Mrs. Connolly**

We have finished our study of the fall of the Roman Empire. We are learning about Christianity, the new religion, including where it originated, what the beliefs were/are included, and most importantly the effect it had on the Roman Empire. While learning about the Fall of Rome, we discovered that the empire split in two, one section falling to the barbaric invaders and the other becoming the great eastern empire of Byzantium.

One of our favorite parts of the last unit was the creation of a Roman Theater Mask and Wax Museum, which will be online for your viewing pleasure. The students worked with a partner to create a mask to represent that person and wrote a myth about that person.

The masks ranged from Julius Caesar to Cleopatra to Neptune, and many other famous people or gods of the period. Their presentations in the library were fantastic! Check out the pictures on my webpage link, ‘Student Work’.

During this quarter, we will make Celtic illuminations and plan to write our names in Cyrillic, which is named after St. Cyril, a missionary from Byzantium. It was invented during the 10 century AD and has been adapted to write over 50 different languages.

All of the students’ works will be on display in the classroom or hallway. As we continue to learn about the changes that occurred to Byzantium with the influence of Islam and Mohammad, we will see how everything connects as we move on to the Middle Ages and the Crusades in the New Year. We hope to see you soon, and I wish you and your family a happy Thanksgiving and holiday season.

## **Team McAuliffe Math--Mrs. Werne &**

### **Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Hall**

We can’t believe the first quarter of the year is over already - wow, how time flies! We’ve created gifts for our teachers utilizing the order of operations, created scientific notation posters and studied the patterns of arts. Now we are going into the abstract world by simplifying and combining like terms in equations and evaluating expressions.

Currently, we are in the process of learning a dozen or so math properties including associative, commutative and the distributive properties. We are creating flip-charts to help us remember the ways we can use these properties.

We will then continue on to a unit in problem solving, followed by more study of integers and equation solving. All that, plus Thanksgiving and the holiday break, will keep us very busy.

The Algebra students just completed their graphing assignment using linear equations – what a beautiful combination of Mathematics and Art! Next up – Graphing Inequalities.

Stay tuned for the Sherlock Holmes Mystery!

## **Team Jordan Science—Ms. Ellerin**

Students began the nervous system unit with the essential question of “What makes you, you?” To jump start this discussion, students were given the following scenario to unlock their ideas: “*Suppose for a minute that brain transplants were possible, as in a science fiction movie. If you had a brain transplant, would you be you, or would you be the person who donated the brain? Why?*”

We began the exploration of what makes you, you by determining who in the class was right-, left- or whole-brained thinkers. Using paintings, a shifty eye activity, and a written brain dominance test, students were able to determine their own brain dominance.

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# SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

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## **Team Jordan Science--Mrs. Ellerin (Cont'd)**

A unit on the nervous system must include the basic unit of the system - the neuron. Students designed and constructed a model of a typical neuron using diverse materials such as clay, aluminum foil, pipe cleaners, toothpicks and plastic wrap. Students then went on to make a live action model of a nerve impulse that traveled through the nervous system.

The students also completed their second dissection of the year. The lab was buzzing with excitement as these young scientists donned their safety equipment and gathered their dissection instruments. The respect, courtesy and care they all showed during the dissection was impressive to see. Depth of grey and white brain matter was measured; the corpus collosum was identified and measured; the strength of the dura matter was tested; and regions of the brain were carefully cut and separated. Many students were surprised at the fragility of the brain.

Students then went on to the very spatial activity of constructing a brain map cap. This cap can be converted between a two-dimensional and three-dimensional representation of the brain, including the four lobes, sensory cortex and motor cortex.

With the coming of the first snowfall of the season, students will be participating in a "snowball fight" review game to conclude this unit of study. In December, we'll be moving on to our next unit of study, the eye.

## **Team Jordan English--Mrs. DiZazzo**

Students are continuing to work diligently! Our short story unit came to a close with impressive and thorough literary elements, PowerPoint projects, furthering the students' technological skills in creating informative, entertaining, and comprehensive presentations.

Of course, we continue to work on writing, as well as reading quality pieces of literature. Students are given the opportunity for daily writing in the classroom, as well as the chance to read a variety of genres both in class and through the Free Choice Reading Program.

Recently, we have embarked upon our Victorian unit, which will take us through the end of December. This unit began with an introduction to Charles Dickens and also the Victorian Era, which provides the students with background knowledge and a sense of setting as they begin to read the classic novel. Students are currently busy reading and exploring the themes of generosity/selflessness, charity, and what it means to be a benevolent person. The unit culminates with a team-wide, week-long celebration of the Victorian time period, including a viewing of a movie, a Victorian tea party, and more!

After the New Year, students can look forward to beefing up their writing skills in daily writing workshops, resulting in a multitude of writing pieces, ranging from informative to imaginative.

Visit us on the internet at [www.hbms.k12.nh.us](http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us)

## **Team Jordan History--Mr. Capraro**

We are coming to the end of our study of the Byzantine Empire. We started the unit with a look at what caused an empire as great as Rome to slowly weaken and fall. Ask your child about the cycle the Romans found themselves in that caused a definite downward spiral! We looked at how the empire basically split in half—the West going through a difficult period of unrest and the East organizing itself as the Byzantine Empire. There are three main points I wanted to cover. First, is what brought Rome down and what happened to the empire after the fall in 476 AD. Second, is how Byzantium was like Rome but also how they learned from Rome's mistakes and changed some things. Third, is a brief introduction to the "new" religion of the Byzantines: Islam. We will be finishing this chapter soon; the chapter test and notebook will be due in the coming weeks. After our study of the Byzantines, we can dive right into the Holy Roman Empire and feudal Europe.

I continue to include the art of the people and time we are studying into our lessons. Mosaics are the art form that has become most closely associated with the Byzantines. Did you see your student designing and creating their own mosaics? Some were truly outstanding! All the mosaics will join the Roman city and the Celtic illuminations on the class wall. My classroom continues to evolve to reflect what we have learned; stop by for a look sometime or check out my website!

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# EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

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## **Team Hypatia Earth Science--Mrs. Smith**

All students have completed their studies on the scientists and we are moving on to planets and space exploration. In the next few weeks we will be designing, building and testing a balloon rocket to see if it can travel horizontally in a straight line for forty feet. This is quite a feat when one tries to prove Newton's Laws of Motion. Each group of students will have an opportunity to build and test their model against their plan. If it should fail, they will have one more chance to fix and test again. Sometimes plans look good on paper, but when tested, they fail. This is what rocketry was all about during the early years. So be on the lookout for your child asking for certain unusual items from your house so that they can "put together" the "best rocket" ever. In conclusion of this lab investigation, all students will be watching "October Sky." This is a great movie to show determination as well as collaboration.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving!

## **Team Hypatia U.S. History--Ms. Lawler**

Students just completed their study of the French and Indian War (Seven Year's War). We discussed the land in the Ohio River Valley, the French claim and British desire for this land. Students were asked to

# EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

## **Team Hypatia History—Ms. Lawlor (cont'd)**

think about how trade impacted native and colonial society. We also analyzed the role that natives had in the French and Indian War. In the end, they all came to a conclusion as to who they believed was the most deserving of this valuable land. We are currently studying the founding of our country and the American Revolution. Important figures such as George Washington, Samuel Adams, and John Hancock have been part of our recent discussions. Students have started to work on Political Cartoons that express the roots of the Revolution. These cartoons will make their way into an upcoming English assignment.

To end the American Revolution Unit, students will watch an edited version of The Patriot. This film gives great examples of many of the themes we will discuss about the Revolution.

As always, the website is a great tool for both parents and students. <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1>

## **Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruppiso**

Students have finished reading their historical novel and are now writing pieces for their broadsides, which are one-page newspapers. The pieces will include a letter to the editor, an obituary, a news article, a political cartoon which was completed in history class, and a commemorative poem. In preparation, students read "Paul Revere's Ride," "Concord Hymn," and a first-person account of the Battle of Lexington. Using these and an obituary as models, they talked about the characteristics of traditional poetry, letters to the editor (another essay), obituaries, and reviewed news articles.

In addition to the broadsides, students are finalizing Letters about Literature and working on short stories. Some will be invited to submit their letters to The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and other pieces to The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

As we move toward winter break, students will talk more and more about elements of style, which will be the focus of the Mystery, Suspense, and Tension Unit. This is the study that ultimately leads to the original radio plays, which will be assigned in January.

Students have been working hard. In all core classes, the Team has emphasized following directions, timeliness of assignments and the characteristics of a good student. With the activities / jobs assigned in connection with the historical fiction read for class, I have seen growth. We will continue to hone study skills as we finish up the pieces of writing and move into the next unit.

## **Team Hypatia Math—Mrs. Rossetti**

Students have completed their first ICT project for math. Using the statistics from last year's HBMS championship baseball team, students were required to use spreadsheets and all associated formulas to find out who were the top three ball players based on batting average, slugging percent and on-base percent. Algebra class is continuing their investigation into slope, intercepts and the equations of lines. They have worked hard on understanding functions and how a particular function graph behaves. **Pre-Algebra** continues with the data analysis unit. They have graphed and discussed box and whisker plots, bar graphs and circle

graphs. Once the students have achieved mastery of the concept, the graphing calculator was used as a tool to further enhance mathematical discussion. The class is beginning to undertake inputting data, drawing and interpreting histograms. **Gateways** students have completed the Data Analysis Unit and are starting their journey into the world of patterns. On Dec 8<sup>th</sup>, we will say goodbye to Mrs. Solfiell as she finishes up her student teaching. We wish her luck as she graduates with a Masters in Teaching Mathematics.

## **Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond**

### **8<sup>th</sup> Graders Learn What Happens...When the Ground Begins to Move**

Mt. St. Helens continues to puff steam twenty-eight years after its catastrophic eruption in 1980. Last week, a strong earthquake rocked Indonesia. News of glaciers melting around Mt. Everest as a possible result of global warming has scientists and environmental policy-makers scurrying. The earth continues to provide a showcase of natural events as students in Mr. Bond's earth science classes have been exploring the phenomena of one of the planet's most extraordinary spectacles...volcanoes.

In the weeks to come, students will continue their study of our dynamic planet as they explore the causes and effects of another of nature's displays ... earthquakes. One of the highlights of this unit will be experiencing first-hand what it takes to design and build a skyscraper that remains standing when the earth beneath it begins to move. Playing the roles of architects, engineers and contractors, earth science students will be brainstorming, sketching, drafting and building scale balsawood models of 150 foot skyscrapers, then subjecting them to a simulated earthquake. The quakes will be generated by a machine designed to simulate the seismic waves that result

### **Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle/Mr. Gruce What Price for Independence?**

Since the beginning of the second quarter Mr. Lyle's class have been studying the conflicts, both political and military between the 13 Colonies and England. The students have investigate the various Acts passed by parliament and King George III to keep the colonist in control and help support the England's cost's in protecting them. In the last three weeks, under the guidance of Mr. Lyle, Mr. Gruce, and the students have taken an in depth look at the Declaration of Independence. The signers, the document, and the "behind the scenes" negotiations that it took to get the document passed. The students have chosen, researched, written, and presented the backgrounds and roles of at least two signers of the Declaration of Independence. They also viewed select portions of the movie "1776" to get a look at the process of creating the Declaration of Independence and the personalities of the key players in the process. The final classroom project before the assessment was that the students had to create a newspaper headline and subtitle on one of their two signers and present them to the class.

It has been my pleasure teaching the students of Team Prescott in Mr. Lyle's absence.

# EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

## **Earth Science —Mr. Bond (Cont'd)**

during an earthshaking event. As the buildings are “put to the test,” they will be videotaped, and the videos will be played back so that each student can evaluate the stress points in their building, as well as pinpoint the section of the building that failed first. Last year, our best engineered building withstood a 9.0 magnitude quake for a period of 15 seconds. And, while many buildings withstood a minimum 5.0 quake, by the conclusion of the project, we had accumulated a pretty big pile of broken balsa sticks! We'll see how this year's buildings do!

P.S. To get a better idea of some of the topics your student is exploring this year in Earth Science class, in addition to homework, study guides and some of the activities they will participate in, check our Earth Science Department website at <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/bondd>. You can even check out, “Are You A Super Sleuth?”, or get an up-to-the-minute weather report from our weather station!

## **Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu**

Students are finishing the novels of the Revolution study. We are starting our written pieces that will go into our broadsides (a newspaper from revolutionary times), an ICT project. Students are writing feature news articles, editorials, and an obituary. Students can also add graphics, ads, poetry, and political cartoons to increase the authenticity of the broadside. We will spend the week after the Thanksgiving break in the computer lab working on this assignment. We will finish with a reflective essay on all of the work we have done on the novels of the revolution.

Students also are working on writing short stories. To help them organize their ideas and begin the *writing process*, they created sticky storyboards where they drew the events of the story on stickies and then placed them on a large sheet of paper. In class, we completed activities to help them consider point of view of the story, which parts of the story need imagery, or “show not tell,” and where to begin writing the story (i.e., starting with the inciting force immediately pulls in the reader). From the lessons, students continued the *writing process* by drafting their stories. Several students shared their drafts and we had whole-class conferences in which all students were able to see how they can improve their stories. We will put these drafts aside and pick them up again in the middle of December once we read other short stories. We will use techniques we observed in the short stories to fine tune our drafts and take them to final form before the holiday break.

We are also working on our next contest essay, Letters about Literature. Students are writing letters to an author whose work inspired them or impacted their lives in some way. The letter-writing assignment is one I especially enjoy working on with the students because it helps them find their voices and work towards one component of the reading-writing journaling that I have wanted them to avoid, no summaries. These letters also help students reflect on how literature does indeed impact their lives.

This contest is sponsored by the Library of Congress and Target. If you see mail come to your house in February or March marked with a return address relating to the above organizations, or about Letters about Literature, please open it and respond to it. We have had several state semi-finalists in the past and hope to have another added this year.

Speaking of reading-writing journaling, I have been modeling for the students alternative ways to respond to literature. I am stressing with the students that the purpose of the journaling is to track their thinking as they are reading. I am interested in seeing the connections they are making (text-to-text, text-to-world, and text-to-self), the predictions that are creeping into their minds, as well as their comments about how the author crafted the story (diction, imagery, and plot layout). They also can take direct quotes from the text and react to them. I will continue to model journaling for them based on various novels, and look forward to see the changes in their responses.

For genres, we are finishing the study of historical fiction as of November 30<sup>th</sup> and our next focus will be mystery and adventure. We will continue to analyze style and examine how authors create tension in a story. We read “Tell-Tale Heart,” “Runaway Rig,” “The Lottery,” “The Gun” and “The Most Dangerous Game.” The students all love the twists that are in these stories. Mrs. Grupposo and I will be introducing the radio play project shortly after the start of the new year.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and a restful holiday break in December.

## **Team Prescott Math -- Mrs. Mezzocchi**

In the regular **Math classroom** (Passport), the students will be finishing the study of equation solving and integers. The next unit will be about data and statistics. They will be using the TI-84 graphing calculator to produce “Box-N-Whisker” plots and they will be learning how to organize their data with “Stem-N-Leaf” plots. The students always enjoy using these sophisticated tools.

In the **Algebra classroom**, the students are learning how to identify linear equations and inequalities. They will soon learn how to find the slope and intercepts, along with the “Real Life” meanings to these parts of the equation. Students will have to demonstrate their mastery by being able to write equations in all forms and distinguish between slopes and intercepts of various lines.

In the **Gateways classroom**, after finishing up the Formulas Unit and mastering the Pythagorean Theorem, we will begin a Measurement Unit. Throughout the year we will be using both the computers in the Lab and the TI-84 graphing calculators as tools to enhance the learning of mathematics.

At this time of the year, all math classrooms will embrace the art of Origami. The students will learn to make colorful decorations for the holiday season. The Origami Unit emphasizes the connection with geometry and will build the students' knowledge of mathematics and its connection throughout their world.

# SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

## Math with Mr. Jahns

### 7th Grade Intervention Math -

Students have finished their in class time with Timez Attack. With their newfound confidence, we are now working on the concepts and calculations of perimeter and area. We are about to begin a project that brings these two skills together as we remodel your home! Next we'll be moving on to all things fractional: GCFs, LCMs, Reducing, Comparing, Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying, Dividing, etc.

### 8th Grade Intervention Math -

Students have been working on the order of operations, including Powers and Roots. We have also been revisiting Integer Math before we start our Recycling Survey project, in which we surveyed the entire student body and staff to estimate recycling potential here at HBMS. Subsequently, we'll be plunging into Algebra concepts.

### 8th Grade Geometry -

Geometry students have most recently been exploring the properties of parallel lines and have just finished the properties of triangles and the congruence thereof. (You remember! . . . SSS, ASA, SAS, SAA) We have been making extensive use of our compass/straight-edge, patty paper and Geometry Sketchpad (software) as discovery tools. With each discovery comes a new Conjecture to add to our list of "known facts." We are also looking at and doing occasional "proofs."

## Reading Recommendations—By C. Jahns

### Adventure and History in the LMC—by C.J.

November has been a lively month for students in the library. Usage varies from a quiet place to read or work to finding an interesting book, or perhaps working on the computers. Students are beginning to improve on checking due dates and *renewing* books in time! Students know that they can ask me for help in finding a good book!

Seventh grade students have been reading **adventure/survival & fantasy** books; favorites are the Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz; the City of Ember series by Jeanne DuPrau; the Twilight series by Stephenie Myers; several Tamora Pierce books; Sarah Dessen books; and, as always, many of Gary Paulsen's books.

Eighth grade students have been concentrating on **fiction based on historical events**, often requesting books that were "book talked" in classes by Mrs. Jahns or their classroom teacher. Most requested has been Year of the Hangman by Gary L. Blackwood, and Assassin by Anna Myers, both of which use "alternate history" to tell the historical fiction tale. Also in demand are Fallen Angels and Sunrise Over Fallujah by Walter Dean Myers, House of Dies Drear by Virginia Hamilton, and Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac. Samples of both Historical Fiction and Historical America are organized

and available on the display shelves.

Please be aware that databases provided by the state of NH are available at school and at home. Students receive the user names and passwords from their team teachers and then can access EBSCO, NewsBank, and Biography Resource Center from home. Eighth grade students are becoming adept at researching with databases and citing resources; however, seventh graders need more orientation and practice.

**Book of the month:** A series, actually, the Warrior Heir series by Cinda Williams Chima, is popular in both grades.

**Site of the month** <http://www.teenreads.com/reviews/index.asp> has reviews, author info, series books, new books, books into movies, and more.

## Grades 7 and 8 Reading—Mrs. Dufresne

Both grade 7 and grade 8 Reading classes have just finished their biography unit. The essential question woven throughout this unit dealt with what makes an extraordinary man (or woman) or an extraordinary life. Each student selected a biography from our library. Coincidentally, the presidential elections were taking place at the same time. The classes reported on their own biographical character, and on Senators Obama and McCain. Both candidates were perfect examples of men who have led and continue to lead extraordinary lives. A PowerPoint presentation allowed the students to take notes, create slide design sheets, and organize their research on the computer. All classes watched the second debate and reported on five different debate questions. After collecting information on the individual candidates and watching the debate, each student created an additional slide in the presentation to cast their vote for President. The slide included why they cast their vote for a particular candidate. The presentation included a fabulous works cited, of course!

This month we have switched gears and will delve into the world of science fiction. Although, some of the antics in this last election could be considered science fiction...

Nightly reading is assigned from their novels. Please watch the website.



# INTEGRATED SPECIALS

## Wellness--Ms. White

In the last few weeks, Team Hypatia has been working hard to understand the effects of alcohol, marijuana and prescription medications on the brain. We have talked about use, abuse and dependence of the substances. We have reviewed our knowledge from last year about the brain and then learned what changes when alcohol is introduced. We were also visited by Officer Dunne during our alcohol unit. We had a lot of laughs but also understood an important message. Alcohol and other substances change the way we see things!

In the next week we will move on to our CPR and First Aid unit. Students should expect to be studying between ten and fifteen minutes per night. Team Hypatia will end their time in wellness with Mr. Melillo's unit on career development.



## French--Ms. Cloutier

The French classes are very busy as we are several weeks into the second quarter. The **seventh** grade students are doubling their speaking ability by learning the first and largest verb conjugation – the “er” verbs. They are now able to tell me all about their pastimes, sports, likes and dislikes and many other activities in school or after classes with these verbs. They enjoy asking each other questions with their new abilities and then describing them also in paragraphs about themselves or about another in the class. French class could become a bit more difficult for some as we continue to work through the lessons and the grammar and vocabulary of the language build upon itself. We have to remember to review so that we don't lose the content covered in previous chapters.

The **eighth** grade students are presenting their fall fashion show this week to the Spanish classes next door and they will reciprocate with the spring show! The students have worked for several days planning their outfit descriptions and then have practiced with another student who reads for the model. We get a great variety of fashion ideas and they have a lot of fun with it. After our chapter test we have to buckle down with the reflexive verbs which can be a bit confusing at first. I have also put in a review for some of the widely used irregular verbs so that the students won't forget them.

I attended the NH Assoc. of World Languages Conference on Nov. 7 and it was a wonderful chance to meet with other teachers in NH and get new ideas from several workshops.

## El Español

**HOLA de SEÑORA LASH y SEÑORA BANKS!**

Congratulations to our 7<sup>th</sup> grade students who have just finished their first ICT project in Span-



ish. They were able to use the vocabulary, verbs, adjectives and question words we have been working on during the past few weeks. They will soon learn how to express their likes and dislikes. Next we will take on the first conjugation of verbs. Exciting stuff! Through this skill they will expand their vocabulary and greatly enhance their ability to communicate.

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students have just completed an important unit on the verbs “ser” and “estar”. We combined these two big verbs with our unit on health. Your student can now describe physical symptoms and communicate with a doctor and a pharmacist!

Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students also completed a computer project which incorporates all aspects of the language we focused on in our unit on health. We now are moving on to our beach unit, during which we will explore the preterit tense and direct objects.

Please keep checking our website for homework and other activities. Hasta la próxima vez.

## Reading—Mr. Gershgorin

It has certainly been a busy two months. Using their novel, some classes worked relentlessly with unfamiliar vocabulary, while others developed their comprehension through various strategies. The majority of classes worked with unfamiliar complex and multisyllabic words using phonetic and structural analysis. By using dictionaries, thesauruses, and electronic tools, students were able to determine pronunciation, meanings, and alternate word choices. In addition, students were able to analyze word structure and use context clues to comprehend new vocabulary.

December will bring our first ICT project of the year! Each student will have to read a Newbery Medal book and then create a book jacket for that particular title. Students will be using Microsoft Word and Paint to craft a truly unique creation. While the students read their novel during the early part of December, we will work directly with the vocabulary from A Christmas Carol, which students will be reading in English class.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Family and Consumer Science—Mrs. Sarvaiya

A pleasant sight greets anyone who walks into Mrs. Sarvaiya's room. The students on team Prescott, at the moment, are seated comfortably around various tables, working on their sewing projects. Most are sewing felt quilt patterns in geometric designs, but few are already working on projects from Haan Crafts. Students, based on their skill levels and interest, chose their projects from a catalog. At one table, a large donkey is underway, and an adorable teddy bear at another. Sewing projects, like these, help students learn to follow directions and strengthen their fine motor skills. These projects also put an emphasis on the importance of student responsibility. They are required to remember to bring their



# INTEGRATED SPECIALS

## Family & Consumer Science— (Continued)

materials to class and to complete their projects on time.

The focus of Family Consumer Science is not only on sewing, but also on achieving a healthy diet and nutritional values. We have recently completed a Nutrition Research PowerPoint presentation. We were required to research the importance of eating a variety of vegetables and their benefits. This activity helped us to not only work on using technology but also to increase our skills and knowledge about nutrition.

Another focus of Family Consumer Science is based in the kitchen. We will be learning how to cook a variety of foods such as pizza, Mexican food, cheese cake, and cookies. We learn how to make our recipes healthy. Each and every food we made last year was enjoyable and a blast to make. This year is going to be even better. With new and more advanced recipes, working as a team in the kitchen is important. We are all excited for our cooking adventure this year!

Family and Consumer Science is a class that helps us become more independent and healthy individuals. When entering the room there is a positive learning environment. Thanks to Family Consumer Science, students of HBMS have a bright day to look forward to.

Also if any parents have any extra sewing materials at home we would be delighted to have them.

**By Erin, Kira, Emma, and Griffin**



## **Our winter concert season is here!**

### **7th Grade Chorus and Band:**

**Tues., Dec. 16, 7pm, HBHS Auditorium**

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### **8th Grade Chorus and Band:**

**Wed, Dec. 17, 7pm, HBHS Auditorium**

Choral students should arrive at 6:30 pm and report for warm-ups in the chorus room across from the stage. Band students should arrive at 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, black socks, a tie and their best dress shoes.

We look forward to singing and playing for you!

**Mrs. Spencer and Mr. Hinkle**

## **MUSIC-BAND-CHORUS-CLUBS**

### **General Music- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students have just started a ten-lesson unit on acoustic guitars using the H.O.T. Hands-On Training lesson book by Nancy Lee Marsters. Our course goal is to provide a positive music learning experience through the development of guitar skills. Students will be able to play E minor, A minor, and E major7 with accuracy. Songs include "The Ghost of Tom", "Drunken Sailor" and "Hey, Ho, Nobody Home."

Our next unit: After discussing appropriate audience behavior at a classical or school concert, general music students will be asked to produce a concert conduct brochure using the computer lab during music classes.

### **General Music- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Students have been investigating different sound effects with the synthesizer. In small groups, students were asked to create the sound of snow falling, riding a skateboard, scuba diving and playing a video game. The project includes writing an original, creative story using a minimum of seven (7) sound effects to enhance the plot. Performances will be our final product for the class.

Our next unit: Writing original compositions using the music notation program *Sibelius*.

### **Drama Club**

### **"Pirates of Penzance"**

Tryouts for the Drama Club musical will be held on Thurs., Dec. 4, 2:15-5:30, Rms. 201-202.

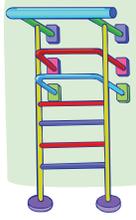
# PHYS. ED. AND SPORTS

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION—

### **Mrs. Bottcher and Mr. Johnston**

Currently, the seventh grade physical education classes are studying volleyball. Students are learning the safety, basic rules, etiquette and skills necessary for game play. They have been working hard to improve their underhand and overhead serves, overhead pass (set), forearm pass (bump), drive, spike (basic motions), block and dig. Classes will discuss and post the qualities and sounds of teamwork and good sportsmanship in preparation for the class round robin tournament. In support of Red Ribbon week, the students enjoyed a PowerPoint presentation on drugs by Officer Dunne. The New Year will find the seventh graders working on a personal fitness unit covering self-evaluations, health-related and skill-related fitness components, types of fitness programs, target heart rates, and creating a fitness project.

The eighth grade students are mid-way through their volleyball unit. They have practiced their overhead and underhand serves, overhead and underhand passes, back passes, digs, and drives. They will be learning how to spike, tip, and block, as they continue to encourage and practice teamwork. All classes will be split into four teams, each with a captain. A round robin tournament will begin December 1 and the best teams will challenge our faculty and staff during an all school assembly on Tuesday afternoon, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. After the holiday break, they will begin the Challenge Unit, which involves team building skills and the indoor rock climbing wall.



## **SPORTS UPDATE**

### **BOYS SOCCER**

The **Boys Soccer Team** had 10 wins and 0 losses for the 2008 regular season and was the Tri-County League Runner-Up. The team was unstoppable in all of their contests, overcoming all competitors with ease. Their use of quick feet, good insight and aggressive movement by sweeper and stopper aided their play. Great work was done by midfielders redirecting the ball. Offense did great with ball control and passing in tight situations and assists in goals. The team showed great sportsmanship and effort! Coaching the Boys Soccer team once again this year was 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher Coach Barry Lyle.



### **GIRLS SOCCER**

The **Girls Soccer Team** had a great season, winning 9 games, with 1 loss and 1 tie. A great job was done by sweeps and halfbacks on defense, resulting in very few goals scored against the team. Offense did an equally great job fighting for the ball and maintaining pressure and control. The team had many great shut-outs and great teamwork, and made the playoffs, losing in the Semifinals! Coaching the girls soccer team again this year was Coach John Gray.

### **FIELD HOCKEY**

The **Field Hockey Team** has played some intense games and had a winning season with 5 wins, 3 losses and 3 ties. Defense did a great job moving the ball through the field and pushing to the offensive line. Offense worked equally hard trying to gain ground and clearing the ball. Great stick handling and determination by all! The team lost to Amherst in a close game in the Semifinals. Coaching the field hockey team once again this year was 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science teacher, Patricia Smith.



### **VOLLEYBALL**

The **Girls Volleyball Team** had a rebuilding season in 2008. The record of 3 wins and 9 losses does not reflect the determination and spirit of the team. The girls came out strong, with many of them going 100% behind the service line, great digs, and many aces and kills, and improved blocking and setting. Coaching the girls again this year was Coach Amy Dunbar.



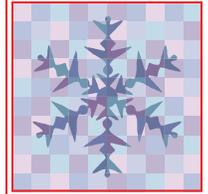
### **CROSS COUNTRY**

The **Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams** were off and running for the season with 21 boys and 17 girls. Battling some powerful schools, the teams have done very well in their meets, always placing overall finishers in the top slots. The teams developed a spirit of closeness that helped inspire every runner. The teams again participated in the Tri-County League Championship and the State Meet at Londonderry High School, and turned in excellent performances. Our girls' and boys' teams medaled, placing second and fourth respectively. Coaching the team once again this year is 8<sup>th</sup> grade Physical Education teacher Coach Ron Johnston, along with 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher Dave Bond and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher Laura Lawler.





## Hollis Brookline Middle School December Cafeteria Menu



Monday 12/1/08	Tuesday 12/2/08	Wednesday 12/3/08	Thursday 12/4/08	Friday 12/5/08
<b>Deluxe Burger or Veggie Burgers</b> Oven Potatoes Capri Veggies Assorted Fruit	<b>Ultimate Nachos!</b> Beef, Cheese, Salsa & Sour Cream Spanish Rice Assorted Fruit	<b>Chrysanthi's Pizza</b> Corn Snack Pretzels Assorted Fruit	<b>Egg &amp; Cheese Sandwich</b> Hash Brown Patty Sausage Link Assorted Fruit	<b>Pasta and Meat Sauce</b> Garlic Breadstick Caesar Salad Assorted Fruit
Monday 12/8/08	Tuesday 12/9/08	Wednesday 12/10/08	Thursday 12/11/08	Friday 12/12/08
<b>Hot Dog or Chili Dog</b> Baked Beans Pickle Spear Assorted Fruit	<b>Meatball Subs</b> Spicy Fries Carrots & Dip Assorted Fruit	<b>Chrysanthi's Pizza</b> Tossed Salad Teddy Grahams Assorted Fruit	<b>Chicken Fajita Subs</b> Peppers & Onions Tater Tots Assorted Fruit	<b>Cook's Choice</b> Vegetables Assorted Fruit
Monday 12/15/08	Tuesday 12/16/08	Wednesday 12/17/08	Thursday 12/18/08	Friday 12/19/08
<b>Sloppy Joe/Bun</b> Corn Snack Pretzels Assorted Fruit	<b>Turkey Dinner!</b> Mashed Potato w/ Gravy Stuffing Roll, Cranberry Sauce	<b>Chrysanthi's Pizza</b> Capri Veggies Chips Assorted Fruit	<b>Beef &amp; Cheese Enchilada</b> Seasoned Rice Baby Carrots & Dip Assorted Fruit	<b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b> Dinner Roll Green Beans Assorted Fruit
Monday 12/22/08	Tuesday 12/23/08	Wednesday 12/24/08	Thursday 12/25/08	Friday 12/26/08
<b>Freshly Baked Pizza!</b> Assorted Toppings... Buttered Noodles Veggies Assorted Fruit	<b>This N' That Day!</b> Veggies Assorted Fruit	<b>No School Holiday Vacation</b>	<b>No School Holiday Vacation</b>	<b>No School Holiday Vacation</b>
Monday 12/29/08	Tuesday 12/30/08	Wednesday 12/31/08	Thursday 1/1/09	Friday 1/2/09
<b>Enjoy Your Holiday Vacation!!</b>			Please be sure to include your student's first/last name and student ID # on all checks.  Thank you!	<b><u>MENUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE!</u></b>  Complete Student Lunch \$2.25