



Knightly News

Hollis Brookline Middle School

October 2009

From the Administration

Building Goals. Our primary focus continues to be literacy. Claudia Dufresne, Steve Capraro, and Karen Coutu are leading the action plan. The result of a two-day summit last year was a three-year timeline. Professional development has been provided at both staff meetings thus far and will continue monthly. Beyond practical strategies for incorporating more writing and reading strategies across all content areas, we are asking teachers to post their essential questions. A consultant facilitated work by departments on Oct. 2nd.

Road Show. Mrs. Mandragouras and I traveled through each block of all four teams to share common messages; H1N1 protocols and our two major emergency evacuations, fire and drop drills. Students were attentive and asked serious, appropriate questions.

NECAP Testing. My October report again this year emphasizes the time and energy devoted to the New England Common Assessment Program. Mrs. Nierendorf has provided valuable coordination for the testing procedure. All students tested during their core blocks with their Team teachers. Data from last year's results showed that the majority of students completed the test in 45 minutes, however up to 90 minutes is allowed. Grade 7 students participated in three sessions of math and three sessions of reading. Grade 8 completed the same plus two sessions of writing. Overall testing time including make-ups was three weeks.

PowerSchool Implementation. Middle school teachers continue to gain familiarity with the PowerTeacher Gradebook program and are becoming effective users of the product. The staff is working with their colleagues, Mr. Secor, and a core group of teachers who were trained through the "train the trainer" model to troubleshoot and answer questions as they arise. Mr. Gruce has provided invaluable tech support in our building. Your patience is appreciated as we work out the 'bugs.' Report cards will be distributed November 13th.

Community Service. Once again ROCK groups engaged in their first service project; gift baskets, which were raffled off at the *Jordan's Walk for Wishes, Dash for Dreams*. The baskets raised

three thousand dollars toward the grand total of \$3,162.

Student Council Elections. Steve Capraro and Katrina Hall continue as Student Council Advisors. They organized a meaningful process of nominations, campaigning and speeches. Voting occurred Thursday, Oct. 1st during ROCK. Congratulations to our officers and representatives.

Veteran's Day Assembly. Steve Capraro has organized our Veteran's Day Assembly scheduled for November 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the HBMS gymnasium.

Supervision. As our daylight hours begin to decrease, I would like to emphasize the importance of your child being in a supervised area after school. Each student needs to plan in advance if he/she wants to stay after school with a teacher. The same process is necessary to use the library. Our HBMS library is not supervised daily, but can be with advanced planning with administration. It won't be long before the basketball season will begin. Although most games do not begin until 3:15, the gymnasium will be considered the supervised area at dismissal. Please note, students may not leave school grounds (e.g., Monument Square, Dunkin Donuts) and then return.

Feedback. You are an important part of our school community. Should you have questions or concerns, please feel free to phone or email. Your feedback is valued.

Sincerely,

Patricia Lewis Goyette, Principal

Stephen Secor, Assistant Principal

PTSA Message

The HBMS PTSA did not have an individual to take the President's role this year but we did form a Leadership Committee to work with the elected officers. The committee and officers are: **Ruth Kabel, Lisa Schmalz, Dianne Bonta, Kathy Reuter, Denise Pustizzi, 1st VP-Cindy VanCoughnett, 2nd VP-Lynn Goldberg, Treasurer-Ellen Allen and Secretary-Debi Davis.**

Our 2009-2010 HBMS PTSA year is off to an awesome start!! The 7th Grade and 8th Grade Open Houses were successful and well attended this year. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped with both of the Open Houses. The HBMS and HBHS PTSA sponsored a concession stand at the Hollis Old Home Day, a big **Thank You** to all who helped our Committee Chairs- Dianne Bonta and Debi Davis with the preparation and working at the booth.

Jordan's Walk was in September. The ROCK groups put together some amazing and creative baskets from their donations. Thank you to the Student Council for providing the lovely baskets. PTSA members wrapped and delivered the baskets this year.

We continue to have **two major fundraisers** this school year. The first **Spirit Wear** order has been received and the children love to show their school spirit. Watch for our next order in time for the Holidays. The **Shopping /Gift Cards** are now available to order on a monthly basis. We need your participation to make this a success. We can't continue the financial support of the school programs/requests unless we can be successful in our fundraisers. Do you have any **Box Tops for Education** or **Hannaford's** receipts? Please send Box Tops in to the front office by October 30th.

Congratulations to the Student Council winners. **Thank You** to those that helped with the Student Council reception. A **congratulations** also goes out to Laura Santer, her design will be featured on the Student Directory cover this year. The student directories will be out early November.

The PTSA meetings are every second Friday of the month and our next meeting is

November 13, 2009.

We have had good attendance at both our September and October general meetings, join us and bring a friend. If you miss a meeting, check out our updated website design and read the minutes. **Thank You** Iris Realmuto.

*The Leadership Committee
HBMS PTSA*

School & Community News

Health Office Information

Mrs. Mandragouras

Health screenings are done on all students during the months of October and November. Seventh grade students are screened for vision and hearing. Eighth graders receive vision, hearing, and postural screenings. If your student doesn't pass a screening test, you will receive written notification of the findings and be advised to contact your child's health care provider for further evaluation. Please contact Sheila Mandragouras at 465-2223 if you do not want your child to participate in health screenings.



Now that the cold and flu season is here, and this year with the added concern of the H1N1 virus, here are some guidelines to keep in mind:

- Please keep your child home if s/he has a temperature over 100° and has a cough and or a sore throat.
- A sick student can return to school after 24 hours have passed with a normal temperature (98.6 degrees) without the use of fever-reducing medications like acetaminophen (Tylenol) or ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil). As a reminder, aspirin should not be given to children or teenagers who have the flu; this can cause a rare but serious illness called Reye's syndrome.
- Not touching our eyes, nose and mouth, 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.
- If your child has a chronic illness like asthma, diabetes, etc., you may want to contact your health care provider to see if they recommend that your child receive both the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines.

Please contact Sheila Mandragouras RN 465-2223 with any questions.

Parenting Talk at Milford Middle School, Tues., Nov. 17

Parent-to-Parent presents the second of a series of five parent-planned interactive talks for all local parents of elementary and middle school students on Tues., Nov. 17. The topic is "How to Support Your Children When the Pressure is On!!" The influences that surround our kids and lead them to conform to certain ways of behaving can be either positive and constructive or negative and risky. We will discuss the factors that contribute to being vulnerable to negative influences. We will also explore ways in which we as parents and teachers can influence and help strengthen a student's ability to make good choices, to do what is in their best interest and to learn from their mistakes. The presenter is Wendy Hill, parent educator and consultant to students, families and teachers. She works at The Family Center of Greater Peterborough and privately. She is certified in School Social Work and Special Education. The talk will be held at the Milford Middle School from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. There is no fee for the talk. Light refreshments will be provided.

"Games Galore," a recreational program for students aged 3-14 will be held at the same time as the talk. Older students will have gym games, open gym time and fall crafts. For younger students there will be a seasonal craft, stories and games. A complimentary snack of "make your own" ice cream sundaes will be provided.

The talks are sponsored by NH Children's Trust Fund, CAST (Community Action for Safe Teens), MMS Enrichment, The Youth Council, Nashua, Brookline Women's Club, Milford Lions Club, Milford MS and Milford ES PTO. For questions contact Libby Wehrle-Anderson at mmsenrich@charter.net or 672-9876.

Substitutes Needed

Many of you volunteer regularly in our building. Please consider becoming a substitute teacher. Mr. Secor and I would be happy to discuss the responsibilities of a substitute and the support that is given.

You may fill out an application at the SAU 41 office or call us for more information.

Private School Application Process

Students who will be applying to private schools this year **must** submit all forms, including individual teacher recommendation forms, to Ms. Christy in Guidance. Guidance will then deliver the necessary forms to each teacher for completion. This will allow Guidance to track each student's application and ensure that all forms are mailed together in a complete package. Forms must be submitted **at least two weeks** prior to the application deadline to ensure they are mailed out in time. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Christy directly.

Hollis Hoedown

The Annual Hollis Hoedown will be held once again at the Lawrence Barn on Saturday, November 21st from 6:30-9:30 p.m! There will be live music for dancing as well as renown 'caller' Frank Woodward. Kids 6th grade and younger that dress in 'country' costume will be entered in our contest for prizes. This is a great family event and very popular last year! Spread the word and join the fun - all ages welcome. Tickets are available now by emailing hollishoedown@gmail.com or calling Jeanne Cleveland at 465-2097. Adults are \$15, teens 13-19 \$10, children 4-11 \$5, ages 3 & under are free. Sponsored by the Hollis Woman's Club.

Upcoming school and community events:

Hollis Brookline COOP School Board Meeting October 21, 2009-7pm

HBMS School Dance October 23, 2009-7pm

HBMS Drama Production November 6, 2009-7pm

NO SCHOOL November 11, 2009-Veteran's Day

HB High School PTSA meeting November 12, 2009-8:30 am

96th Annual NH PTA Convention Radisson Hotel, Nashua November 13 & 14, 2009

Hollis Elem. PTA 3rd Annual Auction online bidding from Dec. 6-13th

Seventh Grade News

Team McAuliffe – English

Ms. Rasmussen

Team McAuliffe English students are currently studying short stories. We began our unit by reading Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart" as well as learning a bit about the author himself. Students are also reading short stories of their choice and keeping a log for October. Throughout this month and into next the students will continue to study the craft of short stories and will read and discuss Jack London's "To Build a Fire" and Doris Lessing's suspenseful "Through the Tunnel." The culminating activity for the unit will be a PowerPoint presentation which the students will create in the computer lab at school.

Team McAuliffe – Mathematics

Mrs. Werne

We are well into our first quarter as 7th graders. We have successfully learned our way around the school and how to open a jammed locker!

Our first unit of study is focused on Geometry. For many adults this brings back bad memories of formulas, proofs and memorization. To avoid this negative connection, our students are using their spatial intelligence to discover how various formulas, theorems and laws are created. Our goal is for students to develop a true understanding of Geometry and its various applications.

We have truly jumped into our work. We have classified angles, studied the relationships between parallel lines, transversals and angles and created flip-charts. We have learned about multi-sided polygons, their interior angles and relationships that can be found in these rich figures. Most recently, we have learned how to determine if a triangle is real or an imposter by applying the Triangle Inequality Theorem.

From here, we will advance into the three-dimensional world to work with surface area and volume. Our grand finale will bring together all that we have learned in a fun three-dimensional project. Watch for details coming home soon.

Seventh Graders are Using Their Brains

Mrs. Evans

Our school year began with students discussing at length Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligence. Each student determined his/her area of greatest intelligence thus allowing each one to note the strengths he/she brings to our science class, team, and school. Come see our "intelligence" board in room 101.

To further enhance our study of the brain, each student, through a series of questions, discussions, pictures, a lab titled "Shifty Eyes," and an optical illusion of a ballerina determined his/her own dominant hemisphere in the brain. Below are the results of our team:

- 29 % Right Brain
- 4 % Left Brain
- 24 % Whole Brain
- 34 % Whole Brain favoring the right
- 9 % Whole Brain favoring the left

Whether they are right brain or left brain, we are happy the students are using their brain.....

As we continue to study about ourselves, our main focus now is on the brain and spinal cord. To help better understand the function and structure of the spinal cord, our scientists had an opportunity to dissect a cow spinal cord. As the students worked in pairs, they tapped into their interpersonal, kinesthetic, spatial and mathematical intelligences while feeling, exploring, measuring and cutting. The most challenging part of the spinal cord dissection was to cut seven equal pieces. The study of the central nervous system continues as we now focus on the major parts of the brain and the function of each part.

Team McAuliffe – History

Mrs. Connelly

The students started the year off exploring the use of various tools used by historians including timelines, map making, and other resources that we found available while researching in the library including books, encyclopedia and reference materials.

While learning about Ancient Rome, students found that history is made from the stories and artifacts left throughout time.



We've read sections of the textbook, looked at models of ancient Rome while viewing movies, read famous pieces of literature including a myth and speech related to Julius Caesar's demise (William Shakespeare's Marc Anthony speech from Julius Caesar), examined famous ancient Roman architecture and continue to learn about Roman society in class. We've moved from the Roman Republic to the Empire Period and will soon see how the expansion of the empire became one of the many reasons Rome fell.

October 28th and 29th, students will be presenting their Roman Theater performances in togas with masks in the HBMS Library. We hope that you can come hear the presentations and celebrate students work and successes. If you can't make it, then check out the student photos on Mrs. Connelly's web page 'student work' link. The students have started this year off successfully!



7th Grade Reading

Mr. Gershgorin

What a year it has been thus far in seventh grade reading! Once all the paperwork was out of the way, students began to examine and discuss short story elements (character, setting, plot, point of view, etc.). They read "Cornered," "Shadowland," "To Serve Man," and "Hail and Farewell." In addition to the readings, students dissected the elements of a short story through various activities, which complement the short story unit that they began in English class.

As November approaches, most of the classes will begin their first class novel, while everyone will continue to develop their reading skills (fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension). Some will venture into the unknown with Ken, as he attempts to locate his soul in The Boy Who Couldn't Die by William Sleator, while others will follow Jason Miller as he discovers that nothing is what it seems in The Dark Side of Nowhere by Neal Shusterman.

Team Jordan – English

Mrs. DiZazzo

Team Jordan English students have been hard at work! After settling in to their new role as middle school students, the team has been busy getting to know each other and, in the process, learning how to construct well-structured, quality paragraphs. Already, in the short time we have been in school, their writing has significantly improved!

Students also took part in a brief mythology unit, where we discussed the characteristics of a myth and of a hero. Students were engaged and thoughtful as they discovered the “formula” for a myth through reading and discussing, and were creative and reflective in crafting a myth of their very own.

During the month of October, we will embark upon our short story unit, which will take us through mid-November. Within this unit, students will be exposed to the elements of fiction and read a handful of classic and contemporary short stories of excellent quality. We will discover how authors tell us about characters, how and why conflicts evolve, what theme—or message—is intended in a story, and much more.

Team Jordan – Mathematics

Mrs. Hall

We are well into our first quarter as 7th graders. We have successfully learned our way around the school and how to open a jammed locker!

Our first unit of study is focused on Geometry. For many adults this brings back bad memories of formulas, proofs and memorization. To avoid this negative connection, our students are using their spatial intelligence to discover how various formulas, theorems and laws are created. Our goal is for students to develop a true understanding of Geometry and its various applications.

We have truly jumped into our work. We have classified angles, studied the relationships between parallel lines, transversals and angles and created flip-charts. We have learned about multi-sided polygons, their interior angles and relationships that can be found in these rich figures. Most recently, we have learned how to determine if a triangle is real or an imposter by applying the Triangle Inequality Theorem.

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mensional world to work with surface area and volume. Our grand finale will bring together all that we have learned in a fun three-dimensional project. Watch for details coming home soon.

Team Jordan – Science

Ms. Ellerin

Ameobas, protists and bacteria, oh my! The scientists of Team Two have started out the year with a unit on cells. Though these are the basic units of life, cells are far from basic themselves. In this unit, students are developing microscope skills with plenty of hands-on opportunities. Students practiced focusing on prepared slides, drawing their observations, and computing total magnification; we then moved onto more challenging microscope work by viewing live animals through ready slides and wet mount slides. Students then furthered their microscope skills by not only preparing a wet mount slide of their own cheek cells, but staining these cells as well in order to see some of the organelles found in eukaryotic cells. Finally students prepared a wet mount stained slide of bacteria cells found in yogurt as a way to compare the differences between eukaryotic and prokaryotic organisms.

Along the way, students were introduced to dichotomous keys which were used to identify the single-celled animals being observed under the microscopes. Students were also introduced to three organelles of a typical animal cell, the idea of homeostasis and the key characteristics of living things.

Students were also introduced to the idea of multiple intelligences. Students have made study guides for themselves based on their particular intelligence strengths: songs have been sung; charade games have been played to show the parts of a microscope; drawings have been made to relate ideas together.

The next unit of study will be the nervous system. We will continue to use seven categories of multiple intelligences as well as add to our understanding of ourselves by figuring out who in the class is left brained, right brained or whole brained.

In the previous unit, we talked about cells in general. In the nervous system, we'll focus on a specific type of cell- the neuron. We'll also be performing our first dissection.

Team Jordan – History

Mr. Capraro

On Team Jordan in 7th grade History, we are just finishing our study of the end of the Roman Empire. We have been paying particular attention to the “new” religion in Rome: Christianity—where it came from, what it believes and most importantly, its effect on the Roman Empire in the first few centuries AD. From there we will move to the fall of Rome and the split of the Roman Empire into the Byzantine Empire of the East and the Middle Ages of the European West. One of our favorite parts of this chapter was the creating of our own model Roman city. I gave the students the choice of building a Roman home, a Roman temple or an aqueduct. The results are amazing! The city will spread out on the back half of the room. Please stop by sometime and check it out...you'll be impressed! In recent weeks we took a brief look at Celtic illuminations. These were elaborately designed letters used to decorate the pages of a hand copied Bible. After looking at some illuminations, I asked the students to try their hand at making one. They will find out that making an illumination is not as easy as it looks! The illuminations made by the students will be organized into words and hung up as a banner in the classroom. Stop by sometime and check out the illuminations too!

We will finish up our unit on the Fall of Rome and Christianity by reviewing all of the vocabulary and important people in the chapter as preparation for the chapter test. From there we will move forward in history looking at the empire that developed in the eastern half of the Roman Empire after the Fall—Byzantium.

Eighth Grade News

Team Hypatia– English

Mrs. Gruposso

The focus for Team Hypatia's eighth grade English classes has been analyzing story structure (plot, character, setting) using Transall Saga; writing, including informal journals, literary essays and contest essays (VFW and FLEET Reserve). In addition students have reviewed the friendly letter in their reviews of September's independent reading. They have also begun a short story.

Students will soon begin reading historical fiction [My Brother Sam Is Dead (James and Christopher Collier), April Morning (Howard Fast), Johnny Tremain (Esther Forbes), or A Tale of Two Cities (Charles Dickens)]. As they read, students will gather information about story structure and compare the historical issues to the fictional. The culminating activity will be an original broadside created in the computer lab and using required ICT skills. From events of the historical fiction read, students will choose, write, format, and layout a variety of original pieces including a news article, editorial and obituary.

Study Skills are continuously emphasized as the Team helps students learn to plan their assignments. Time management using the Agenda, as well as the organization of the binder and note taking are critical skills that contribute to student success. Please be aware that we make an effort to keep accurate homework pages on the school website.

Team Hypatia – Math

Mrs. Rossetti

Welcome to 8th grade Math! The 8th grade math classes have gotten off to a great start this year. Throughout the year we will keep revisiting our basic skills while learning new ones and applying them to real life. The integration of key concepts such as number lines (timelines), graphs, communicating mathematical thought through writing, and note taking will continue across the 8th grade curriculum. In the 8th grade math class, we have completed units on triangles and the students have been busy creating the Pythagorean Spiral. We will continue with polygons and quadrilaterals.

The Algebra students have been practicing solving one step and multi- step equations using

addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in the "traditional" algebraic method of steps. They have also begun reading and writing about graphs, ask them about "Pop Corn" graphs. Students will begin delving into use of input and output tables along with their gaining knowledge of the interconnection of equations, graphs, lines and real life word problems.

Team Hypatia – Earth Science

Mrs. Smith

Plate Tectonics is our present topic. A PowerPoint presentation about how granite was made will be seen before the end of the unit. Students will surely have a better understanding of why our planet is so dynamic. Ask your child who is Mrs. Smith's favorite scientist. They have information on him and why he is my favorite. Imbedded into this module is the scientific method. Each student will be following this model for all formal lab reports. As we come to a close with plate tectonics and after several experiments we will move on to volcanoes.

A slide presentation will be presented on Mt. St. Helens, a stratovolcano. We will be visiting the webcam which is always an interesting site, because we get to see the volcano blowing off some steam. It's always easier to teach a topic if it's in your backyard. Mt. St. Helens is under careful watch by volcanologists because it is in a rebuilding stage. Students are encouraged to go to the website and report any unusual happenings. Hint: Lately the mountain has been having some temblors or in other words, living on shaky ground (pun intended). Our next topic will be on earthquakes, another shaky topic if you ask me!

Remember to have your child look for current events. These points will be used on tests and quizzes. The due date for quarter one current events is October 30, 2009.

Team Hypatia – American History

Ms. Lawler

To start the year students have been focusing on the skills necessary for learning. We have worked on note taking, organization, and time management. Students have also experienced

responsibility checks to ensure they have the materials necessary to be prepared for class.

Students have completed their first writing assignment, an essay on Jamestown. In 8th grade we are taking writing to the next level by including research (or evidence) in order to prove a thesis. In order to help students the assignment was broken down into several check points (research, outline, and drafts).

We will soon be jumping into the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. Students will be asked to think critically about the actions of the Native Americans, colonists and the British government. We will also be viewing an edited version of The Patriot in order to learn "big picture" characteristics of the American Revolution.

Feel free to visit my webpage to find out about homework and other long term assignments. <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawlerl>

Family and Consumer Science – Team Hypatia

By Emily, 8th Grade Student

The sounds of whirring sewing machines fill your ears. The smell of freshly baked pizza wafts through the room. The children smile as they work on different projects. As you look around in wonder, you see equipment for cooking, cleaning, and sewing. You ask the kind teacher of the class, Mrs. Sarvaiya, what this class is. She tells you that this is the Family and Consumer Science room. You wish that you were a student on Team Hypatia and got to enjoy the wonders of this class.

The Hypatia students all start their year with Family and Consumer Science. One of the first things that they will do will be to make a small felt design by coloring in a paper model, transferring it onto a piece of wax paper, and cutting out the pieces, and assembling the piece. The students will be graded on the neatness of their stitches, and how well the colors work together. This first sewing project of the year is a great way to begin the quarter in this class.

The Haan Craft projects arrive in huge cardboard boxes that students immediately demand to open. The boxes are pried open and the room is, at once, a jungle of stuffed dogs, cats, bears, monsters, pillows, blankets, and more. The students exercise their patience as they learn how

to complete their projects. By the end of the term, it will not be uncommon to see 13 and 14 year-olds dragging their teddy bears in the halls.

One of the most important parts of this exciting class is the nutrition component. During this part of the class, Mrs. Sarvaiya will teach the class all about how to eat, exercise, and be healthy in their everyday lives. The students will expand their knowledge considerably. Learning about nutrition, the students will participate in a fun way and be trained in the ways of nutrition in the process.

The class will then transition into the final major component of this class, which is all about cooking. The class observes as Mrs. Sarvaiya makes a recipe, which they copy and take notes off of. Later, at home, they will type up the recipes and bring the typed copy to school. They will then make their own culinary pieces in small groups at kitchen stations. Their recipes are culinary delights. After baked and cooled, the students have a snack time to enjoy their tasty treats.

As the quarter ends, the children will file out of the room with remorse, wishing that the quarter could be just a little bit longer. Though they know that they will miss the class, the students of Team Hypatia will smile with satisfaction as they walk out the door.

Team Prescott – English

Mrs. Coutu

The beautiful colors outside the window remind me that the year is already flying by. As of now, our classroom rituals have been established and we are building on the foundation from seventh grade English. Our first task was to review literary terms and apply them to literature. We have done so with short stories “The Most Dangerous Game” and “Charles” and, our first whole class novel, Transall Saga. While reading the works, we also began to analyze story craft and how specific literary elements impact plot development. Students have expressed their understanding of plot and plot development through writing. We have worked on paragraph development as well as the multi-paragraph essay. Paint-by-Numbers provides the structure for writing essays. Establishing structure and adding details to their writing are areas that need to be further developed.

To assist essay writing, as well as creative writing, we are working through the writing process. I have structured activities to model for them how a piece of writing moves through the drafting process from brainstorming to revision through multiple drafts, conferencing and final

draft. We have practiced this with the Civics Contest Essays. Students will add to their revision toolbox in the coming weeks as we work with drafts of poems and their short stories.

What will students face in the coming weeks? They will have a novel of revolution to read with a specific reading schedule. We will use the novel as a springboard for creating a broadside, a newspaper from revolutionary times. Students will produce at least three pieces of writing: feature article, obituary and editorial. We will use the computers to build the broadside the first week of December. We will have another literary term quiz shortly. Students should continue to study the terms including new ones we have added since our previous quiz. Finally, we will begin drafting writing pieces for the Letters About Literature Contest and the Alliance for Young Writers/Scholastic Contest.

Team Prescott – Mathematics

Mrs. Marquette

Now with the year underway and NECAP testing complete, we can pick up where we left off. It is a good time to review some of the tools that are available to families. On the team math website are links to the textbook, homework assignments, general expectations and other helpful math sites. It is strongly recommended that students visit and utilize this site. Of course, parents are always welcome to peruse this site as well.

Building on previous concepts, eight grade math continues with a study of two and three dimensional space. We just finished our unit on triangles and the students have been busy creating masterpieces using the Pythagorean Theorem. They will be on display in the classroom so feel free to stop by and check them out. Our exploration will continue into polygons and quadrilaterals. They will be investigating properties and testing flight with paper airplane designs.

The algebra classes are preparing the way for linear equations. They just finished up a unit of review of basic skills that they will use throughout the year. With the unit ending with probability, they discovered the difference between theoretical and experimental probability in a hands-on activity dealing with tossing a penny. Ask your student what they found out. They will be learning about patterns, functions, and eventually writing equations which will gear them up for their first computer project of the year!

A Shaky Start in 8th Grade Earth Science

Mr. Bond

Mother Nature has been on the rampage this fall. Team Prescott Earth Science students are using a world map to plot the locations of natural disasters that have recently occurred on our planet ... A killer tsunami in Samoa ... back-to-back earthquakes in Sumatra ... a devastating typhoon in the Philippines. We're all in agreement ... the planet needs to take a break!

And, as nature has been the lead story on many days in class, we have been exploring the “shaky” business of plate tectonics. Several recent activities in the lab have modeled how the earth's internal heat provides the forces necessary to crack and shift the relatively thin crust of the earth. One activity in particular helped to answer why the seafloor is lower than the continents. In upcoming activities, students will explore the consequences of living on a dynamic planet – the constant activity of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Team Prescott – History

Mr. Lyle

We started the year studying the earliest of the English colonies on the eastern seaboard. For a week Team Prescott engaged in the study of the Lost Colony of Roanoke, Jamestown, Plymouth and Boston. We learned about indentured servants and public humiliation. We discussed the stocks, the pillory, the whipping post and the ducking stool at length. Some wondered why those tools weren't being used anymore! We brought that up to date (and drove it home into the bleachers) with a writing assignment on Corporal Punishment in U.S. public schools. It was very revealing and every person who wrote on the subject had very strong feelings.

Students jumped right into a PowerPoint project on Native Americans for three weeks in ye olde computer lab. They worked in pairs but were graded individually on their overhead oral presentations. It was a huge success. Each student had to prepare 6 slides and elaborate on food, shelter, clothing, roles of women, interesting customs, and prepare a chart (bar graph or pie chart). Most students excelled at the task and moved it into their ICT portfolio.

Currently we've been studying Colonial Lifestyles, government, and commerce. We've engaged students in conversations about slavery

and the Triangular Trade. There's a test on this subject about the time this article goes to press. Our culminating activity is visiting Salem, Mass to deal with the Witchcraft Hysteria in 1692. The Witch Museum and the Witch Dungeon Museum should help drive home the major tenets.

Team Prescott – Health Class

Mrs. White

Team Prescott started the year in health class learning CPR and first aid. Students worked hard to pass both the written and the mannequin tests for adults. These potentially life-saving skills are second nature to us now. We have completed our unit on adults and will have moved on to child and infant CPR. In a few weeks students who passed their tests will have their certification cards. Be on the lookout for them at home!

Team Prescott then moved on to discuss substance use/abuse. We just recently completed a debate on whether marijuana should be legal. Ask about our findings!

In the next few weeks we will work with Ms. Christy, the guidance counselor, on career development. Though they are not planning their entire futures, but taking a first glance at what they might do after high school.

8th Grade Math

Mr. Jahns

We have been working on basic pre-Algebra skills, like number fact automaticity, integer rules, order of operations, variables, substituting and evaluating. We have begun to use a textbook some this year, since they should be used to it for ninth grade at the HS. We will next start a project where we "drive" across the country and calculate our MPG as we go.

Algebra Algebra has settled down into more steady pace as we finished the chapter 1 & 2 review of pre-algebra concepts. We are now deep into formal algebra. Next we'll be looking at graphing linear equations and developing the $y = mx + b$ format. The kids are still making the adjustment to the expectations of an advanced class which has caused some consternation, but I think things are evening out now. Normally, I do not allow test "retakes", as I feel students need to be ready the first time. However, I will be offering a retake on our first chapter test, as part of this adjustment period.

By the time you read this, it should be done and I will supply students with a new report so they can see the impact on their overall score.

Geometry Geometry is a course of discovery. We use inductive reasoning to search for patterns and relationships. Then we use deductive reasoning to try to explain why what we have observed has to be true. This is the beginning of the geometric proof we all know and love dearly! At this point we are taking a pretty informal approach to our proofs, but we will gradually get more formal as we proceed.

Grade 8 Reading

Mrs. Dufresne



Grade 8 reading classes started the year with the short story "The Stone Boy" by Gina Berriault. The focus skills for this unit revolved around the review and mastery of literary terms and plot development. Us-

ing a story form as a graphic organizer, students filled in each component of plot development. From inciting force to resolution, details were jotted down. We dusted off the computer lab from a long summer rest. Using the graphic organizer plot diagram, students created a fabulous story summary on the computer complete with literary terms just to show off. The ICT skills for Word document creation, saving to folders and editing were reinforced. October brought us to biography month. Students chose their own book and the exit project will be a PowerPoint presentation on their famous biographical character. Reading comprehension and note taking are the target goals for this unit. Our essential question revolves around what makes an individual or an individual's life accomplishments extraordinary. Sudokus and WOW weekly sentences continue to be a staple in our class. We practice thinking and writing skills through these venues. Please remember to check the reading website for homework and assignment information.

Integrated Specialists

Bytes & Bits from the Technology Department

By Mr. Gruce



With the "rush" of the first weeks fading, I thought it would be a good time to remind students and parents about transporting files back and forth from home. Hollis Brookline Middle School uses the Microsoft Office XP Professional Office suite. This includes the Word, Excel, and PowerPoint programs that your child uses almost daily at school. I know that many newer computers are being sold with updated Office programs, Office 2007 for Windows machines, and Mac Office 2008 for the Apple/Macintosh computers. Both of these programs should have a provision to save any Word, Excel, or PowerPoint "document" as an earlier version. I recommend that it be saved in one of the following formats;

Word/Excel/Powerpoint 95 – 2003

Word/Excel/Powerpoint XP

Word/Excel/Powerpoint 95/6.0

Your child may lose some of the advanced graphics from the newer versions of Office, but their content should remain. We appreciate your help in this.

Just a reminder to eighth graders that you should not delete your folders from last year, you will need those files as part of the ICT Portfolio process that starts in January.

I am conducting an informal survey about what applications you have at home for your child to complete a word processing, spreadsheet, or presentation (slide show) "document." Please copy and paste the following address in to a web browser. There are just three questions to answer. I will also have this as a link on my website at the middle school.

<https://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dFJqcENiLVdaUTRkMIRkY0x0Umd3WkE6MA>

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Gruce here at the Middle School. Thank you.

Integrated Specialists

Library Media Center Happenings

By Carolyn Jahns



In September, orientation for Grade 7 students is held in the Library Media Center. Included are the location of resources, use of the Destiny catalog, access to the school web page and library web page, and the expectations and pass system in the library. September is also when we celebrate our freedom to read by highlighting Banned Books Week with posters and announcements.

In October, the LMC recognizes **Teen Read Week** which is held Oct. 18-24 and sponsored by YALSA, the Young Adult Library Services Association. The theme is Read Beyond Reality @ your library. You can check the YALSA site for their proclamation and a listing of nominated books from teens across the country—the annual Teens Top Ten: <http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>

In several classes, students have been learning about the print resources available and the DATABASES accessible on the Library Media Center page located on our school website: <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/>

The DATABASES link will display four databases: EBSCO, NewsBank, BIOGRAPHY RESOURCE CENTER, and Junior Reference Collection. Students may access the databases from school or home. The *Toolbox* in the Junior Reference Collection presents extremely useful information for students. Please take a look at these valuable resources.

Currently, all our new books are on display; Historical Fiction is set up for Grade 8 and Short Stories are arranged for Grade 7 this month.

Book of the Month: *Chains* by Laurie Halse Anderson – Historical Fiction [pre-Revolutionary War] and National Book Award Finalist. Also, see our Book Reviews on the LMC web page!

We are fortunate to have several VOLUNTEERS for the Library Media Center this year! If you know one or meet one, please thank them for giving their time to our middle school students.

Hola de Señora Lash y Señora Banks

Congratulations to our 7th grade students who have just completed our Empecemos unit! During the past several weeks we have learned how to have polite introductory conversations. We learned how to ask and answer about many basic things including how we are, where we are from, our telephone number and email, what time it is, what day and date it is and much more! During our next unit we will learn how to express our likes and dislikes while we focus on foods and some after school activities. We will take on the first conjugation of verbs. Through this skill we will expand our vocabulary and greatly enhance our ability to communicate.

Our 8th grade students are well into our unit on food. This is a topic everyone likes to talk about! An important part of our study focuses on the verbs Ser and Estar. These can be very tricky for English speakers. We are also learning how to offer to help with the chores at home! Wouldn't it be great to hear – “¿Necesitas ayuda?” Do you need help? or “¿Puedo ayudar?” Can I help? Soon we will be moving on to forming familiar commands like those you might use when asking for help with the chores!

Please keep checking our web sites for homework and other activities.

Hasta la próxima vez.

Bonjour from the French classroom!

Mme Cloutier

The seventh grade classes say that they have learned a lot since the beginning of school and they are excited about that. They have covered the verb “être- to be” and have described people and things with appropriate adjectives, too. They have been writing in journals already even if their early sentences are simple. They will be surprised how much they can write very soon. Most have made the adjustment to having French every day with homework every day, also. We will soon learn the first regular verb conjugation (ER verbs) and their conversational abilities will double. When they can say what they do during and after school, where they live and what they like to do in their spare time, they are thrilled. They are having a lot of fun with our various language games, too.

In the eighth grades the students have surprised me by stepping into the position of more mature and informed people. Our review section was rather lengthy, although we began a new chapter of vocabulary words right away to have some different things to learn. It is wonderful to see many students challenging themselves and each other. They are truly capable of going further this year and being responsible for a deeper understanding. We have nice sized classes which allow for more French, more interaction among students and the ability to do various activities. We will soon be starting the clothing chapter and will be having the very popular Fall Fashion Show sometime in November. A la prochaine!

Color Wheels and Abstract Paintings

Mrs. Papadeas



Team 2 just completed color wheels and paintings. Students studied primary, secondary, intermediate, and tints of colors. One requirement was an illustration at the center of the wheel. Much latitude was

allowed in the treatment of the center illustration. Some art students created deeply shaded pencil renderings while others cut and pasted images in the center. Another choice was to paint a motif or frame around their wheel. Classes could see with the final results that the color wheels were not just simple color studies. The color wheels were works of art that showed craftsmanship and originality. Students really had a lot of fun creating them.

Another assignment in Mrs. Papadeas art classes was to develop an abstract painting using a series of geometric designs. Using their basic understanding of colors, relationships of color, mixing and application students were asked to create an abstract painting. Plastic triangles, circles, rulers and templates were provided for this process. Students were asked to develop an interesting composition and visual design in their painting. Results were very colorful and exciting to look at. All Team 2 students will be bring home their art portfolios and hopefully will share them with you.

Integrated Specialists

Music Department News

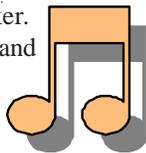
8th Grade General Music

Eighth grade students have learned new piano skills in the last few weeks of general music. Students first practiced the right hand melody to *America* for a sticker.

Next, students practiced the left hand chord pattern for a checkmark.

Finally, both hands were practiced together for a project grade.

Superb work by all! If you have access to a piano or a synthesizer (electronic keyboard), ask your son/daughter for a personal performance of *America*. Our next unit will be the music notation software program *Sibelius*.



7th Grade General Music

Seventh grade students have just completed group speech ensemble songs. As a final part of our rhythm unit, students composed an original four line percussive pattern modeled after the song *Popcorn* by Sandra Howard. Great job by all students on their class performances! Our next unit will be piano. Students will be taught the songs *Alpha*, *French Folk Tune* and *Flowing River* using the synthesizer.

7th Grade Chorus

In only a short amount of time, seventh grade choral students are sounding wonderful! We have learned many warm-up activities including the Jackie Gleason Game and the singing telephone game. Our first performance will be on November 10th for our Veteran's Day Assembly. We will be singing *Land That We Love* by Jill Gallina with the eighth grade chorus in our gym at 9:00 a.m. Choral students do not need to wear concert dress outfits for this assembly, regular school clothes are appropriate. This week, we are starting our winter program songs.



8th Grade Chorus

Thank you to all eighth grade choral students for a fantastic opening to our school concert season. We have been reviewing the song, *Land That We Love* by Jill Gallina, for our Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10th in our gym at 9:00 a.m. I look forward to seeing and hearing the eighth grade chorus model good concert etiquette and singing with our seventh grade cho-

rus. Choral students do not need to wear concert dress outfits for this assembly, regular school clothes are appropriate. This week we are starting our winter program songs including *Sing A Joyful Song* by Cynthia Gray, *Over The Rainbow* arranged by Teena Chinn and *There's No Place Like Home For the Holidays* arranged by Mark Hayes. Honor chorus nomination forms are available at this time on our school website under Faculty-Spencer-Chorus. Interested students may complete the form and return to Mrs. Spencer by December 23rd.

7th and 8th Grade Band

In seventh and eighth grade band we are in the middle of rehearsing for upcoming performances. The first performance is the Veteran's Day assembly on November 10th during which the bands will be performing the Star Spangled Banner together. This is an important assembly and all members of the community are invited to attend! Seventh grade band is learning new skills through Pearson Red Book. We are now also rehearsing Canon of Peace (Dona Nobis Pacem) and Appalachian Overture. These two pieces will be featured at the concert in December. The eighth grade band is currently at the beginning of the Pearson Blue Book and rehearsing Sleigh Ride and An English Celebration.



Presenting
The Hollis Brookline
Middle School's
Drama Club's Fall
Production

"Alice's Adventures
Underground:
A Modern Retelling"
by Jess DiGiacinto

November 6, 2009

Doors open at 6:30 pm
Production begins at 7 pm
Cost \$5.00

Hollis Elementary PTA 3rd Annual Auction!

Items can be reviewed starting in October at

www.hollisptauction.com

On-line bidding from December 6 – 13th
Distribution of items on December 15th

*Great Opportunity to buy holiday gifts AND
support the Hollis Elementary Schools at the same time!*

If you have items you'd like to donate or would like to be a family or business sponsor, download forms at www.hollisptauction.com or email hollisptauction@yahoo.com

Physical Education & Sports

Physical Education

By Gayle Bottcher and Ron Johnston

Ms. Bottcher's seventh grade classes began the year with a game from Switzerland called Tchoukball. This game requires the students to work together throwing and catching a ball without any defense. The object of Tchoukball is to rebound the ball off one of the two frames located at either end of the playing field so their opponent cannot catch the ball on the fly. The students are now studying the Olympic sport of field hockey played by both men and women. They are learning and working to improve their dribbling, dodging, tackling, shooting and passing techniques. We will discuss basic strategies needed for small game play and the goalie position before playing small sided games. Since we will be outside until the end of the month, it is advised that students wear sweat shirt and pants, (even gloves if their hands get cold easily), and shin guards during these games. The volleyball unit will begin in November.

Mr. Johnston's eighth grade physical education class just finished an ultimate Frisbee unit. We learned several ways to throw a Frisbee and began playing the game of Ultimate. Classes were divided into four, small teams and we began playing round-robin, tournament style games. Presently, we are beginning a soccer unit. Students are learning how to perform throw-ins, traps, open and closed field dribbling, side of foot and instep passes, tackling of the ball, and goalie techniques. We will select teams, learn proper positioning of players, learn defensive and offensive strategies, and play the game. A volleyball unit will follow in November.

Sports News

BOYS SOCCER

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Boys Soccer Team** has 5 wins and 2 losses and 2 ties as of October 24th. Quick feet and crisp passing, good insight and aggressive movement by sweeper and stopper all contributed to good teamwork. Great work by midfielders redirecting the ball rallied the defense in all games. Offense has done great with ball control and passing in tight situations and assists in goals.

The team has exhibited great sportsmanship and effort! Coaching the boys' soccer team once again this year is 8th grade Social Studies teacher Coach Barry Lyle.

GIRLS SOCCER

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Girls Soccer Team** has had a great season so far with 2 wins and 5 losses and 2 ties as of October 14. Great job by sweeps and halfbacks in defense have kept the pressure on the offensive side of the field. Offense has been doing an equally great job fighting for the ball and maintaining pressure and control. The girls have worked hard at improving their skills and learning to work as a team! Coaching the girls soccer team again this year is Coach John Gray.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Field Hockey Team** has played some intense games so far this season with 3 wins, 4 losses and 2 ties as of October 14. The strong play at the Mountain View game had spectators on the edges of their seats – Mrs. Smith said it was the best game she has ever coached. Defense has done a great job moving the ball through the field and pushing to the offensive line. Offense has been working equally hard trying to gain ground. Great stick handling and determination by all! Coaching the field hockey team once again this year is 8th grade Science teacher Patricia Smith.



VOLLEYBALL

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Girls Volleyball Team** has had a rebuilding season so far. The girls have played some very close games so far, with a record of 4 wins and 6 losses. The girls have come out strong with some of them going 100% behind the service line, great digs, and many aces and kills. Team chemistry has been great and the girls have learned a lot and had fun. Coaching the girls again this year is Coach Amy Dunbar.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams** have been off and

running for the season with 29 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 girls have taken first place 3 times and 2nd twice as of October 14. The boys and also had one 1st and three 2nd place finishes. Individual performances have been outstanding, and many runners have dramatically improved their times. Coaching the team once again this year is 8th grade Physical Education teacher Coach Ron Johnston along with 8th grade science teacher Dave Bond.

SKI TIME



Applications for the Hollis Brookline Middle School after School Ski Program will be available in the office beginning Monday, November 9. Skiing is at Wachusett Mountain on Monday afternoons/evenings beginning on January 4th and running for six weeks. Eligibility is on a first come first served bases so students should return applications as soon as possible. Application deadline is November 13th, no exceptions. Due to a conflict in schedules, however, students doing inter-scholastic basketball **ARE NOT** eligible for the ski program.

Winter Interscholastic Sports



Basketball Tryouts will begin on November 9, 2009 – Boys from 2:15-4:00 and the Girls from 4:15-6:00. There will be a supervised study area for the girls trying out who cannot go home before tryouts begin. Please arrange your rides for prompt pick-up after your tryout ends.

Wrestling will begin on November 23, 2009 with a meeting for all interested students and their parents at 2:30 in the MPR. Practices will begin on November 30th from 2:15 – 4:15. Please arrange your rides for prompt pick-up after practice.

