

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

School Dances

Dance dates have been established for the school year as follows:



September 26	February 6
October 24	April 3
December 12	May 15

All dances are on Friday evening beginning at 7:00. Dismissal time is 9:00 for 7th grade students and 9:15 for 8th grade students. Please be prompt for drop-off and pick-up, and carpool when possible to help reduce traffic congestion. We always welcome parent volunteers to chaperone dances. Please contact Mr. Secor by phone or e-mail if you wish to be added to our list of chaperones. secors@sau41.k12.nh.us

Special Education— Mrs. Saunders

Now that October is almost here, it is a great time to start thinking about how you can help your son/daughter establish good study habits. Middle school teachers frequently share the following tips for success:



- Create one place for your son/daughter to complete homework. Be sure this is an area that is free of distractions such as the television.
- If your son/daughter comes home daily stating he/she has no homework, ask to see their agenda or check the homework website. Typically, students are assigned 30 minutes per night per subject of homework; not all work can be completed during skills class. If there is no homework, encourage your son/daughter to read, work on long-term projects, or organize binders for a specified amount of time (e.g. 1 hour).
- Schedule 30 minutes for reading each evening. Reading before bedtime is often a good time.
- Place the computer in a central location in the home to monitor student use. Although many students are adept at multi-tasking, instant messaging can become a homework distraction.
- If your son/daughter frequently forgets assignments here at school, come back to the building to pick-up homework. Adding this as an option frequently helps them to remember the first time!
- Encourage review of notes on a daily basis to assist with studying for tests and quizzes.
- When a long-term project is assigned, add interim due dates to the family calendar and check-in frequently to prevent project completion 1-2 days before the due date.

Healthy Snacks '08-09

Healthy snacks are encouraged for our students for snack breaks at school. Fruit and Vegetables are always welcome. In addition, the following snacks may be purchased from the vending machines before ROCK: (Cookies, chips and other treats may not be purchased to eat at snack time).



String Cheese
Whole Grain Cereals like Cheerios- **(please discourage anything containing nuts)**
Popcorn—**no Cracker Jack please**
Pretzels (no peanut butter)
Goldfish + Crackers (preferably whole grain)
Drinks - **water only please!**

THE FUNDRAISER YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...HONESTLY!

GIFT CARDS by UnitedScrip will be available the **first full week of each month**. You may purchase gift cards for face value; at the same time, the school receives a specific percentage.

What a great way to spend your regular grocery money at Shaw's, get your morning coffee from Starbucks, holiday or birthday gifts at LL Bean, or to pay for your Marriott Hotel room! HBMS will reap the rewards without you spending any extra money!

Each month a reminder and order form will be emailed. (The first full week of every month.) Print your order form, complete it, attach a check **payable to HBMS PTSA**, and return them to the front office in an envelope labeled GIFT CARDS. Orders are due by 9:00am on Friday. Within 2 weeks you will be emailed to pick up your cards!

The **order form is slightly different each month**. You may also access it from the PTSA link on the left side of the HBMS website screen, under "Gift Cards" heading.

Any questions, email Susan Holroyd at sbolroyd@charter.net. In advance, thank you for supporting Hollis Brookline Middle School.



Apple Festival Needs

7th & 8th Grade Volunteers

The Hollis Woman's Club & Hollis Town Band are seeking 7th and 8th grade volunteers to help during the annual Apple Festival, from 2-4pm on Sun., Oct. 5th, on the Town Common in Hollis. Your help will count towards community service hours! If interested, please email your contact information to HollisAppleFestival@gmail.com.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY NEWS

From The Health Office



In the next few months, vision, hearing, scoliosis, height and weight screenings will begin on both 7th and 8th grade students. Parents/guardians will be notified of any abnormal results. Please contact the Health Office if you do not want your child to participate in any of these screenings.

Please remember to forward a copy of any tetanus immunizations your child may receive to the Health Office. Middle-school-aged students usually receive a booster of this vaccination.

We have students at HBMS who have severe nut allergies. You may wish to consider whether the snacks you are sending to school contain peanut products. Please refer to the school's website for peanut-free foods. To do so, click on Nurse's Office then Peanut Allergy Information. Also this year we have students who have latex allergies, so we are not allowing latex gloves, balloons or koosh balls at HBMS. Thank you for your interest in keeping all of our students safe.

I look forward to meeting all students and parents as the year progresses (hopefully in a healthy, non-injured state). Please contact me with any health issues/questions you may have concerning your child.

Sheila Mandragouras, R.N, BSN
465-2223 mandragourass@sau41.k12.nh.us

Parenting Talk at Milford Middle School "MySpace, YouTube, and Internet Safety"

Wed., Oct. 15, 6:30-8:30pm

Parent-to-Parent and the Milford Police Department presents the first of a series of five parent-planned interactive talks for parents of elementary and middle school students on Wed., Oct. 15. Officer Mark Pepler is currently serving as the juvenile and gang officer, and has over 32 years of law enforcement, including training with the Hillsborough County-South Task Force on Internet Safety, the NE State Police Information Network on MySpace, and the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center on Cyber-Bullying. The talk will be held at the Milford Middle School from 6:30-8:30pm; there is no fee for the talk and 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 open gym time and make a Fall craft. For younger students, there will be a seasonal craft, stories, and games. Complimentary snacks will be provided, with no fee if the parent attends the talk.

The talks are sponsored by the NH Children's Trust Fund, Community Action for Safe Teens (CAST), MMS Enrichment, and the Youth Council in Nashua. Questions? Contact Libby Anderson at mmsenrich@charter.net or 672-9876.

Join the Hollis Woman's Club today!

All area women ages 18 and older are welcome to attend Hollis Woman's Club meetings, held the 2nd Wednesday of the month from Sept. to May at Faith Baptist Church, 43 Wheeler Rd. Members and guests gather

at 11am to socialize, and the business meeting begins at noon. Babysitting is available for \$5/family starting at noon by contacting Ellen at 465-7981. Come check us out and find out about our 14 activity groups! Please visit www.holliswomansclub.org for more information, or contact President Jane Taylor at 465-2849.

Destination Imagination

It's DI time! Destination Imagination (DI) gives you a unique opportunity to explore the unlimited potential of your imagination. It encourages students to work creatively as a team to solve challenges, while promoting creativity, critical thinking, self-confidence and teamwork.

Teams choose one of five problems, work together on a solution, and then present their solution at a Regional Tournament in March. Each team must design and make their own sets and costumes, write the dialog and build technical elements, without any adult interference. Teams need members with a variety of skills and interests, as everything must be done by the team members, not the parents.

For more information about this fun program, go to www.nh-di.org or call Joyce at 465-3783. Students who are interested in participating should pick up a registration form on the HBMS website or in the HBMS office. Forms should be returned to the office by Friday, October 31, 2008.

Consider joining a team this year, it's a lot of fun!!

Calendar of Events

Sept. 30	Progress reports distributed
Oct. 5	Apple Festival, 2-4pm Hollis Town Common
Oct. 6&7, 14-16	NECAP Testing, 7th/8th grades
Oct. 15	Parenting Talk-Milford Middle School
Oct. 15	Wash., DC 1st payment due
Nov. 7	Report cards distributed
Nov. 7	"The Mouse that Roared" 7pm, HBMS Gym
Nov. 17	Ski Program applications due
Dec. 4	"Pirates of Penzance" Try-outs 2:15-3:30, HBMS Rm. 201

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team McAuliffe Science—Mrs. Evans Seventh Graders are Using Their Brains

Our seventh grade scientists are exploring the central nervous system, focusing primarily on the brain. 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 and discussions, determined his/her own dominant hemisphere in the brain. Whether they are right brain or left brain, we are happy they are using their brain.....

To help better understand the function and structure of the brain and spinal cord, our scientists will have an opportunity to dissect a cow's spinal cord and a sheep's brain. As the students work in pairs, they will tap into their interpersonal, kinesthetic, spatial and mathematical intelligences while feeling, exploring, measuring and cutting. The most challenging part of the **spinal cord** dissection will be to cut seven equal pieces. The most challenging part of the **brain** dissection will be to cut twelve pieces and put it back together to make the brain look as if there were no cuts made at all.

Team McAuliffe English --Mrs. Rasmussen

During the month of October, Team McAuliffe English students are introduced to short stories and to Edgar Allan Poe. As a class, we will read Poe's short story "The Tell Tale Heart," and the narrative poem "The Raven." The students will be asked to paraphrase passages, look-up allusions (references to art, literature...) and to identify the story elements within the texts. Students will also read short stories on their own this month for their free choice reading assignment. Books of short stories are available in the school's library as well as the Hollis Social library. The Toadstool Bookstore and Barnes and Noble also have several good collections of young adult short fiction. To culminate the unit, students will create a PowerPoint presentation explaining the story elements.

Team McAuliffe History--Mrs. Connolly History is happening!

What is history? That is such a great question! Our year started with students defining history and considering all aspects of this question. We discussed history as a perspective and record of events, people and places throughout time. The students brought in all kinds of items in boxes to share their concepts of history. We discovered that history is in all areas of our lives.

We moved on to study timelines in Excel. Each student created an ICT project which included pictures or clip art about their own life. This information will be the groundwork for their timelines of Ancient Rome and other cultures we'll study throughout the year.

Some of you have heard the statement, "Location, location, location." The five themes are location, place, region, movement and human-nature interaction. We examined the various places around the world and found that most of our clothing travels farther than most of us will in our lifetime!

Student cartographers created beautiful maps, and will make Ancient Roman timelines to learn about various events that occurred in the Roman Republic and Empire. We are studying the Ancient Roman wars, Emperors' reigns, and will focus on Julius Caesar, Augustus, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius and Nero.

Our exciting unit project is coming home soon. Students will be making masks with a teammate, and we'll have a Wax Museum during October where students don Ancient Roman apparel, masks, and take on the persona of ancient famous figures sharing their own myths. Be sure to watch for your invitation.

Please check out Team McAuliffe and Mrs. Connelly's web pages for more information. Finally, I want to thank parents for their support. I look forward to seeing you again at the upcoming Wax Museum.

<http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/connellys>

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 affect 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, temple or 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 the coming weeks we will be taking 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 will ask 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.

SEVENTH GRADE NEWS

Team McAuliffe Math--Mrs. Werne & Team Jordan Math—Mrs. Hall

Math is off to an exciting start. We have looked at powers and exponents in various ways, including why a number with zero as an exponent has a value of one, what it means to have an undefined value, and why bases with negative exponents have fractional values. Students are now ready to extend themselves even further by studying ways in which exponential growth can change the world positively and negatively.

Students have also reaffirmed the importance of order in Mathematics and in showing that order when they simplify and evaluate expressions. They have moved beyond their elementary years by extending their knowledge of the order of operations to include roots and grouping symbols. Their next task will require the use of their creative sides to show and share their newfound knowledge of the order of operations. Keep an eye out for artistry, drama, music and poetry!

Finally, students will become engaged in solving algebraic equations. The subtleties and nuances of using numerous mathematical properties will be explored, together with a focus on the acquisition of vocabulary associated with algebraic equations. As the year progresses, we will focus more and more on students' ability to express their mathematical ideas, both verbally and on paper. We are confident that this will lead to stimulating dinner conversations!

Team Jordan Science—Ms. Ellerin

Amoebas, protists and bacteria, oh my! The scientists of Team Jordan 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 on to 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; karate moves have been used to show the parts of a microscope; drawings have been made to relate ideas together.

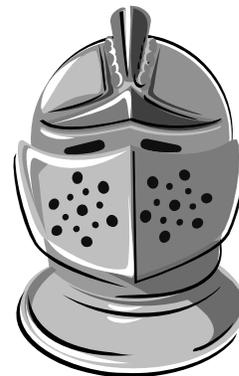
The next unit of study will be the nervous system. We will continue to use the seven categories of multiple intelligences, as well as add to our understanding of ourselves by figuring out who in the class is left-brained, right-brained or whole-brained.

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 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 craft well-structured, quality paragraphs. A series of fun, informative activities has served to enhance their writing techniques and also their interpersonal skills. Already, in the short time we have been in school, their writing has significantly improved!

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. Students will utilize technology later in this unit to create a creative class presentation detailing their knowledge and application of literary elements.



EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Hypatia Earth Science—Mrs. Smith

I enjoyed meeting many, many parents the night of Open House. It was a whirlwind of an evening, I know, with so many of you trying to figure out your child's schedule.

All students have completed the laboratory safety module. Please ask your child what the 17th safety rule is. If they don't say, "When in doubt ask," have them review their packet. I have zero tolerance for horseplay in the laboratory, due to the many hazards that can exist with each experiment. Using glassware, electricity, Bunsen burners, and chemicals safely can produce the most exciting experiment, but adding any kind of horseplay can create a disastrous situation.

We are on to the astronomy module which will take up a great part of the Fall. Please expect homework such as star, moon, and constellation observations. Some of these assignments will take weeks to accomplish, especially the observations of the moon. We will begin studying various scientists (Aristotle, Ptolemy, Copernicus, Brahe, Kepler, Galileo, and Newton) whose observations revolutionized the study of astronomy. Expect to be bedazzled with information about astronomy!

Team Hypatia U.S. History—Ms. Lawler

Students are adjusting to 8th grade expectations and are learning the importance of good note-taking, time management and organization. We started the year off with a refresher on note-taking and students just completed their second notes comparison quiz. This type of quiz requires them to compare their notes to mine in order to figure out where they can improve.

In class we just finished The New World, a film about the early years of Jamestown. Students are working on a paper focusing on the film, which portrayed one of the three characteristics of early colonies (reliance on natives, conflicts with natives and the impact of overseas decisions). They will also use research to support why the characteristic of their choice was the most important.

Students have been making great use of Team Hypatia's websites. On the American History page they can print out various forms and view homework assignments. Feel free to visit and check things out!

<http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/lawler1>

Team Hypatia English—Mrs. Gruposso

The focus for Team Hypatia's 8th 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 exercised their creative problem-solving and public speaking skills as they prepared and delivered their group presentation answering "big picture" questions relevant to Transall Saga. "Reading Response Journals" connected to their Independent Reading are also in process.

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 ones. 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.

The Team is excited about our plans around the national election. Students have practiced newswriting in their journals. They will be exercising this skill to report on the debates occurring in U.S. History classes. A follow-up question will be, "How difficult is it to write an unbiased news article when you have a strong opinion on the subject?"

Study Skills are continuously emphasized as we strive to help students learn to plan their assignments. Time management using the Agenda, as well as the organization of the binder and accurate 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 are off to a great start this year. Your students have come to class focused and prepared to work.

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.

We have completed units on the Real Number System and Order of Operations, and are about to enter the world of Data and Probability.

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. Students will begin delving into the use of input and output tables, along with gaining knowledge of the interconnection of equations, graphs, lines and real life word problems.

Team Prescott Earth Science—Mr. Bond

A Shaky Start in 8th Grade Earth Science

This year's hurricane season has certainly kept us busy in Earth Science classes. For several weeks, our daily routine included satellite views and predicted tracks of Hanna, Gustav and Ike, as they churned across the Atlantic and eventually impacted the Caribbean and United States. Students were all in agreement that while living in New England poses many weather challenges from time to time, being plowed into by a full-scale hurricane like Ike is an experience nobody would want.

In addition to hurricane watching, and after brushing up on their lab and safety skills in the first few weeks of school, Team Prescott Earth Science students have been

EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Team Prescott-Mr. Bond (ccont'd)

exploring the shaky business of plate tectonics. Several recent activities in the lab have explored 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 sea floor is lower than the continents. In upcoming activities, students will discover the consequences of living on a dynamic planet – the relentless activity of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Team Prescott English—Mrs. Coutu

Thanks to all the parents who were able to attend the Open House last week. It was great to meet you. During the presentation, I gave out a hand-out that summarized content area information, as well as key information that I feel you should know about the course. I posted the hand-out on my website as well. Therefore, if you were unable to attend or stopped in early and did not get the handout, please visit my website (www.sau41.k12.nh.us/coutuk) to read the information.

We finished reviewing literary terms and the essay format. We are applying the concepts to the novel Transall Saga by Gary Paulsen. Student-prepared presentations on plot, theme, characterization, and setting will occur at the end of this week. Students will use the information from the presentations, as well as their own notes, to write an essay on the novel. This will be done in school and will conclude our formal introduction to science fiction. The genre will resurface throughout the year in the form of film and an occasional short story. We will analyze how science fiction reveals to us a society's hopes and fears within a given historical time period. It matches well with the history content and opens the doors for us to learn the history of film/analysis of film (viewing). By June, I am sure I will have *many* science fiction fanatics on the team as they are already emerging.

October will bring essay contest writing, finalization of our poems, writing of short stories, and the beginning of the study of historical fiction. From the following selection, students will choose one novel to read: My Brother Sam is Dead, Johnny Tremain, April Morning and A Tale of Two Cities. The reading levels vary and I will help students match their abilities with the texts. We will form literature circles for our analysis of the stories. When we are done, we will go into the computer lab to create BroadSides (a newspaper from colonial times).

Please visit the website often to stay abreast on the activities and homework.

Team Prescott History—Mr. Lyle

We hit the ground running this year in Room 10! All students began the year working on Jamestown, Roanoke Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Next, we were all engaged for a week or so in the colonization of the Middle and Southern colonies along the Eastern seaboard. Folks like William Penn and James Oglethorpe loom large in this time of fast change and much conflict.

Lately we've been engaged in the computer lab put-

ting together Power Point presentations built around Native Americans. The students have been hunting up their information all week to build their slides. Most work for this will be done in school but some small measure must be done at home to ensure that it will be finished on time. Flash drives will be used to blend two people's work together as one presentation. The finished product will be transferred to a file provided by the techno guru here at school. That person and I have collaborated successfully on this project several times over the years. This year, again, it's being submitted as an ICT project to address the state of N.H.'s technological requirement for grade 8!

Soon we'll be jumping into the French and Indian War and watching "Last of the Mohicans." (Daniel Day Lewis) The movie really gets across the vicious nature of the frontier, coupled with the realism of siege warfare at Fort William Henry. I feel it's a good show.

We should be off soon to visit the witch museum and witch dungeon museum in Salem, Ma. This should further remind the student body of the harsh nature of Puritan living here in the new world.

Team Prescott Math -- Ms. Mezzocchi

The school year 2008/2009 has had a very positive start. The students overall are doing their homework regularly and are very attentive in class. All the Math classes this year begin with a 10-minute review of basic concepts. These concepts include multiplication of multi-digits and long division, work with fractions and decimals, and work with integers. In this review, we are hoping to get the kinks out of the basic skills and assure mastery for the higher mathematics classes that all these 8th graders will be entering into the next year or two.

The **Algebra** classes will be delving into matrices for the next unit, and also reviewing equation solving, along with studying inequalities. This quarter, they will be introduced to the TI-84 graphing calculator as a tool for problem solving.

The **Gateways** class is also being introduced to the TI-84 calculator and working with matrices. The students in this class will be working with the order of operations in more complicated expressions and some equation solving with rational numbers.

In the **Pre-Algebra** classes, the students are learning about patterns and will eventually be able to turn these patterns into equations. The 10-minute review has become more of a 15-minute review as these students brush up on their basic skills. They are doing an awesome job at mastering all of these skills.

All classes are doing well on their WeekEnd Worksheets (WEW's.) Some students have managed to get 100% on these (quite) difficult problems and thus earning extra credit on their homework grades. As I mentioned at Open House, all resources can be used to help these budding mathematicians.....even a Mom or Dad can work on the WEW's with their child. The only stipulation is that the solution to the problem be explained to the (real) student, so that the student can return to class and explain it to the class. Thank you all for the help you give to your children on these worksheets.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE NEWS

Math with Mr. Jahns

7th Grade Intervention Math -

Remember the story of the little Dutch boy, Hans? <http://www.thehollandring.com/hans-brinker-story.shtml> He is the one who put his finger in the hole to stop the water coming through the dike. Even though he was only very young, he understood that if the hole was ignored, it would grow bigger until the entire dike failed.

The same thing sometimes happens in Math. For various reasons a concept is missed, and a little hole appears. Over time, as new concepts are introduced which depend on the missed concept, the hole grows larger. Upon arriving at a course like Algebra I, which assumes mastery of numeracy skills, fractions, decimals and percents, the hole is sometimes large enough to cause a failure.

So call me 'Hans'. One of my jobs this year is to plug holes. My objective is to prepare students for Pre-Algebra, so they can be successful in Algebra after that. My intention is that we have a little fun along the way.

8th Grade Intervention Math -

We continue to review and build on what we began last year. After a review of basic number facts and operations, we move on to a project on MPG (miles per gallon), reviewing decimal operations (especially sub. and div.) along the way! Then we begin a unit on recycling at school, which will help review fractions, decimals and percents.

8th Grade Geometry -

We are building on Algebra I and are taking a discovery approach to Geometry. We take daily advantage of our computers by using the web-based version of our text (allowing the big heavy one to stay home) and Geometry Sketchpad. Ask your student about "patty paper" constructions, a new (??) innovation in Geometry since you took it, probably. Sometimes low-tech is still the best!!

Technology Bytes - 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 here. 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.

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

Reading Recommendations—

By C. Jahns



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. We look forward to a productive year!

Celebrate your freedom to read! Banned Books Week, Sept. 27-Oct. 3, is sponsored by the American Libraries Association, following is a statement from the ALA website:

"American libraries are the cornerstones of our democracy. Libraries are for everyone, everywhere. Because libraries provide free access to a world of information, they bring opportunity to all people. Now, more than ever, celebrate the freedom to read @ your library!"

<http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/supportingbbw/supportingbbw.cfm>

In October, the LMC recognizes the annual Teen Read Week, held Oct. 12-18 this year. The theme is Books with Bite @ your library! HBMS students will have the opportunity to nominate their own favorite books during ROCK this month; top books for HBMS will be announced following final voting. See the Young Adult Library Services Association site for a listing of "top ten" nominated books from teens across the country: <http://www.ala.org/ala/valsa/teenreading/teenstopten/teenstopten.cfm>

In several classes throughout the year, students will be learning about the databases available to our school. The Library Media Center page is located on our school website: <http://www.hbms.k12.nh.us/>

The DATABASES link will display three databases: EBSCO, NewsBank, and BIOGRAPHY RESOURCE CENTER. Students may access the databases from school or home (passwords available from each team's teachers) to use these dependable resources. The *Research Guide* and *Search Tips* presented in the Biography Resource Center are extremely useful for students in how to better their search and organization of reliable information. Great prep for high school, too!

INTEGRATED SPECIALS

Wellness--Ms. 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!

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

Team Prescott will move on to discuss substance use/abuse, HIV, and eating disorders before the term is over.

Team Prescott will finish health on October 31st. I look forward to welcoming Team Hypatia to Health in November.



French--Ms. Cloutier

Bienvenue à la classe de français!

The seventh grade classes are starting Chapter 2 already, after a great introduction to the French language with greetings, classroom words, descriptive adjectives and a simple verb, in order to tell facts about themselves and others in class. They have been introduced to a couple of language games which are popular with the students and are useful for reviewing. It seems some days that there are so many wonderful activities to do with foreign language! This year they will be learning about words, verbs and grammar which talk about their lives, school, friends, family, houses, food and ordering at restaurants, grocery shopping and transportation and travel. The seventh grade program is referred to as French 1A and it puts down a very good foundation for the eighth grade program.

The eighth graders have just finished a comprehensive review of the French 1A material and are on the way with French 1B. The students remembered almost everything after their initial jump start when first returning after vacation. Our first chapter is fun with vocabulary related to summer activities at the beach and some sports. The timing is excellent as the warm days begin to wind down in late September. The students have ten chapters this year and will have a busy program. They will learn about clothing and take part in our annual fashion show in the fall. They also study about sports, cars and travel, their daily routine, skiing, a chapter on health and ailments in time for the February cold season, leisure time events, and using money and hotels. They will also have cultural materials to make it easier for them to better understand the customs and people of French speaking countries even better.



8th Grade Family and Consumer Science

By Keelin

This year, Team Hypatia is getting the opportunity to start the year off in Family and Consumer Science with Mrs. Sarvaiya. Students will learn about a variety of skills that will likely be helpful in the future. To begin the first quarter of the 2008-2009 school year, Team 3 (Hypatia) has been working hard on geometric felt pieces. Students were able to choose from a selection of geometric patterns. Once everyone decided what colors they would use on their choice of design, they started transforming plain felt into unique masterpieces with some creativity and effort.

While the felt project was still in progress, students also got the chance to try using a sewing machine to create a small pillow out of extra felt. It was a great opportunity and, for many, a great challenge to learn how to work the machines in Mrs. Sarvaiya's classroom. Like driving a car, using a sewing machine takes a *lot* of practice in order to get the best results, but exposure to a faster way of sewing was a good learning experience for students.

There is still more sewing to come as students make stuffed animals, pillows, bags, and so on designed by Haan Crafts. After picking out a couple of designs from the many options found in the catalog and waiting for projects to arrive in the mail, students are now beginning to work on their projects in class. Since the sewing is more difficult and it is critical to follow instructions, Mrs. Sarvaiya has to help all the students so that they can, step by step, end up with an item close to what was pictured in the catalog. This big project is important because it teaches everyone how to use different sewing methods, but at the same time, shows students how vital it is to follow directions and pay attention in class.

Sewing isn't all students will be focusing on in Family and Consumer Science. They will also experience hands-on instruction in the kitchen. Students will learn about making healthy choices and that nutrition is the key to having a body that functions properly. Plus, everyone will cook several types of foods that will include pizza and quesadillas. Along with all the healthy food students will be taught to make, dessert will find a way into the curriculum as everyone will learn how to make delicious cheesecake.

Family and Consumer Science is a fantastic way for students to gain skills and knowledge that will serve them well in their lives. Students learn to work cooperatively with classmates, discover the importance of healthy decisions and how they affect our lives, and much more. The concepts students learn in Family and Consumer Science are skills that will stand by them forever. The relaxed learning environment Mrs. Sarvaiya provides leaves a positive impact on all students who walk into her classroom.



INTEGRATED SPECIALS

Reading—Mr. Gershgorin

The first month of Reading has certainly been productive! Many of the students are beginning to understand the importance of literature through the reading survey that each one took during the second week of school. Throughout September and the beginning of October, students will dissect the elements of a short story through readings and various activities, which complement the short story unit that they will begin in English shortly. In October and into November, each class will begin their first class novel. Some will attempt to conquer Mount Everest with Peak Marcello in Peak, by Roland Smith, while others will set off on an ecological mission to save a parliament of burrowing owls with Roy Eberhard in Hoot by Carl Hiaasen. Either way, students will continue to develop their fluency as well as comprehension through their specific literary work.

Grades 7 and 8 Reading - Mrs. Dufresne

Both grades 7 and 8 Reading classes started the year with short stories. Grade 7 read "Shadowland" by Scott Ingram, and grade 8 read "The Stone Boy" by Gina Berriault. The focus skills for this unit revolved around the review and mastery of literary terms and plot development. Using a story form as a graphic organizer, students filled in each component of plot development. From inciting force to resolution, details were jotted down. Laptops were dusted off from a long summer rest. Using the graphic organizer, students created a fabulous story summary on the laptops, complete with literary terms just to show off. The ITC skills for Word document creation, saving to folders and editing were reinforced.

October will bring us to biography month. Students will choose their own book, and the exit project will be a Power Point presentation on their famous individual, as well as weaving in our two presidential candidates into the fray. Students will use internet sites for candidate information and create a works cited for all referenced material.

Please remember to check the reading website for homework and assignment information.

El Español—Senoras Banks & Lash

We have had a great start to our year!! Our 7th grade students are transitioning well into a Spanish class that meets every day. We are taking opportunities to talk about how to prepare for class and how to develop strategies for independent studying. We are beginning to take a look at different parts of speech and how they relate to each other in Spanish. It is fun to see

how similar and different our two languages are! Ask your children to show you some of our strategies for learning the language.

Our 8th grade students have finished the review unit of our text. We are also reminding them of strategies that enhance the quality of their work. We started our unit on skiing and skating. We are learning how to talk about these and other winter sports.

Mini Cultural Projects for Spanish-speaking countries will start in October. Thank you for reviewing and signing the document we sent home with your student. Next month: We are looking forward to these presentations and are excited to learn more about our world.

Hasta la próxima!

Art—Mrs. Papadeas

Linear Perspective and Shading

Students in Mrs. Papadeas' art classes are currently working on linear perspective assignments. This type of perspective is a way of using lines to show distance and depth. Lines appear to meet at a point on the horizon called the vanishing point. Students are working on pictures practicing one-point perspective. Many are experimenting with a variety of different size and shaped boxes. Some are taking the assignment a step further: They are drawing letters and words in perspective. Two-point perspective drawings of barns, houses, chairs, and fish tanks were very challenging to draw for the students. These will be on display in the halls for all to view and appreciate.

Shading is another way artists create the illusion of three-dimensional form on a two-dimensional surface. Students will be drawing and shading different geometric shapes. They will also be drawing different types of cans and learning how light is reflected from the three-dimensional forms. It is very exciting for them to make their cans look three-dimensional and pay close attention to all of the can's details. Some students will prefer to shade other objects such as vases, stuffed animals and trees. The goal is to have at least five different values of shading. Many students like to experiment with charcoal, while others prefer shading with colored pencils. Both mediums have wonderful results.



MUSIC--BAND--CHORUS

General Music - 7th Grade

Mr. Hinkle's classes:

7th Grade Band

The seventh grade instrumentalists have made the transition into middle school life and are already sounding like professionals. They have a new routine in place and one playing quiz already under their belts! This week, they will receive three pieces, Paul Murtha's *Forward March*, Timothy Loest's *Battle of the Samurai*, and James Swearingen's beautiful arrangement of *The Water is Wide*. These three pieces will be featured in the winter program.

8th Grade Band

Eighth grade band has the privilege every year of playing at the Veteran's Day assembly on November 10th. This year they will be performing the Star Spangled Banner and the Navy Hymn. This week, eighth graders will be receiving three winter program pieces, Moussogsky's *Night on Bald Mountain*, James Hosa's *The Spirit Endures*, and a medley of marches by John Philip Sousa.

Jazz Band

Jazz Band will be starting with an informational meeting from 4:30 to 5:00 pm this Thursday, 9/25. Rehearsals will begin every week thereafter from 4:30 to 6:00 pm on Thursdays.

Mrs. Spencer's classes:

8th Grade General Music

Eighth grade students are learning new piano skills in the next few weeks of general music. Students first practice the right hand melody to *America* for a sticker. Next, students practice the left hand chord pattern for a checkmark. Finally, both hands are practiced together for a project grade. 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 acoustic guitars.

7th Grade General Music

Seventh grade students are learning new piano skills in the next few weeks of general music. Students will learn melodies highlighting the right hand then the left hand. Songs include *Alpha*, *French Folk Tune* and *Flowing River*. Our next unit will be acoustic guitars.

7th Grade Chorus

In only a short amount of time, seventh grade choral students are sounding wonderful! 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. Choral students do not need to wear concert dress outfits for this assembly. 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. I look forward to seeing and hearing the eighth grade chorus model good concert etiquette while singing for our seventh grade chorus at the November 10th Veteran's Day Assembly. Choral students do not need to wear concert dress outfits for this assembly. This week, we are starting our winter program songs.

Drama Club

The Hollis Brookline Middle School Drama Club will be presenting, The Mouse That Roared, on Friday, November 7th, at 7pm in the Gym. This full-length comedy adapted by Christopher Sergel from the book by Leonard Wibberley is presented through the courtesy of The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold at the door. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

A Girl of 22 happens to be the present Duchess Gloriana, sovereign of a microscopic country in the Alps founded centuries ago by a roving band of English bowmen. Gloriana's unique solution to the near bankruptcy of her tiny domain is to declare war on the U.S.! When her "declaration" is considered a prank, Gloriana decides to escalate! Tully Bascomb, presently in charge of the bowmen, is to launch an attack so they can surrender and reap the rewards. Serious-minded Tully, however, upsets all calculations when he and his bowmen do the last thing expected—they win!

The cast and crew have been working hard and are eager to share this enthralling play with you. Mark your calendars and join us on November 7th. Please sign up for an audition time with Mrs. Spencer by Dec. 2nd.

TRYOUTS FOR THE DRAMA CLUB MUSICAL

Pirates of Penzance

Thursday, December 4, 2:15-5:30, Room 201-202.

Hollis/Brookline String Ensemble

The Hollis/Brookline String Ensemble is a String Orchestra for Middle and High School students. It provides both an ensemble experience and some semi-private instruction. All ability levels are welcome. The repertoire is carefully selected to cover a wide range of technical ability in order to accommodate all students.

Rehearsals are held Tuesdays beginning at 6:20pm at the Middle School band room. For more information and a registration form, contact Deborah Jordan, Coordinator, 465-9509 or strings@netjordan.com.

Hollis Apple Festival & Band Extravaganza

The Hollis Woman's Club & Hollis Town Band are sponsoring the annual Apple Fest & Band Concert from 2-4pm on Sun., Oct. 5 at the Town Common. Rain location will be the high school. Come enjoy the music and feast on homemade apple pie or apple crisp topped with Doc Davis ice cream!



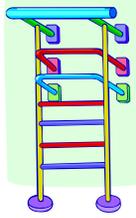
PHYS. ED. AND SPORTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION—

Mrs. Bottcher and Mr. Johnston

Ms. Bottcher's seventh grade classes began the year participating and debriefing team-building activities. They have just finished playing 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. Pedometers were integrated into the last few classes to gather information for the ICT project in the spring. The students are now studying the Olympic sport of field hockey played by both men and women. They are working on skills and basic strategies needed for small game play.

Mr. Johnston's eighth grade students just finished a Frisbee unit in physical education class. We divided the classes into four teams of 5-6 players and played a "round-robin" style tournament, crowning a champion on the last day. Transition from defense to offense and offense to defense was a priority in class and it kept the students moving at a fast pace. The skills and health-related components of physical fitness were integrated into the classes. Soccer will be the next unit of activity for the eighth grade. Basic skills and rules will be learned, although positioning, teamwork, and transitioning will be a prime focus for our students.



FIELD HOCKEY

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Field Hockey Team** has played some intense games so far this season, with 2 wins, 1 loss and 1 tie as of September 25, with the Mountain View game rescheduled to October 6. 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 this year, with a record of 1 win and 4 losses. The girls have come out strong, with some of them going 100% behind the service line, great digs, and many aces and kills, but they have ended up on the short end by just a point or two too often. Coaching the girls again this year is Coach Amy Dunbar.



SPORTS UPDATE

BOYS SOCCER

The Hollis Brookline Middle School **Boys Soccer Team** has 5 wins and 0 losses as of September 25th! 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. 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 4 wins and 1 loss and 1 tie as of September 25. Great job by sweeps and half-backs 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. Great teamwork has been a hallmark of the season! Coaching the girls soccer team again this year is Coach John Gray.

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 once, 2nd once and 5th (of 10 teams) once as of September 25. The boys and also had one 1st and one 2nd place finish, as well as one 4th of 10 teams. Coaching the team once again this year is 8th grade Physical Education teacher Coach Ron Johnston, along with 8th grade Science teacher Dave Bond and 8th grade Social Studies teacher Laura Lawler.



SKI TIME

Applications for the Hollis Brookline Middle School after School Ski Program will be available in the office beginning Monday, November 3. Skiing is at Wachusett Mountain on Monday afternoons/evenings, beginning on January 5th and running for six consecutive weeks. Eligibility is on a first-come, first-served basis so students should return applications as soon as possible. Application deadline is November 17th, no exceptions. Due to a conflict in schedules, however, students doing interscholastic winter sports **ARE NOT** eligible for the ski program.



Hollis-Brookline Middle and High School



October 2008 Cafeteria Menu



<p>Please be sure to include your student's first/last name and student ID # on all checks. Thank you!</p> 	<p><u>MENU'S ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE</u></p> 	<p>1 Chrysanthi's Pizza or Cook's Choice Chips Veggie Sticks & Dip Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>2 Hot Ham & Cheese Melts Oven Potatoes Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>3 Chicken Fajita Subs Onions & Peppers Cheesy Refried Beans Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>6 Buffalo Chicken Wrap Pretzels Garden Veggies Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>7 Pasta w/ Meat Sauce Crusty Dinner Roll Green Beans Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>8 Chrysanthi's Pizza or Cook's Choice Garden Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>9 Grilled Chicken Melt Sandwich Lettuce & Tomatoes Corn Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>10 French Toast Sticks w/Syrup & Cinnamon Apples Sausage Patty Hash Brown Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>13 Columbus Day No School!</p>	<p>14 Crispy Chicken Tenders Pasta & Broccoli Salad Carrots & Dip Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>15 Chrysanthi's Pizza or Cook's Choice Corn Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>16 Chili in a Bread bowl Mixed Veggies Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>17 Oven Baked Chicken Rice Sweet Green Peas Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>20 Mozzarella Cheese Sticks w/ Sauce Baked Beans Garlic Breadstick Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>21 Meatball Subs! California Veggies Pretzels Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>22 Chrysanthi's Pizza or Cook's Choice Caesar Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>23 Cheese or Chicken Quesadillas Sour Cream & Salsa Rice Baby Carrots & Dip Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>24 Pasta Bar! Marinara or Alfredo Sauce Dinner Roll Broccoli Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>27 Grilled Cheese & Bacon Wrap Tater Tots Green Beans Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>28 Cheeseburger/Bun or Veggie Burgers Lettuce & Tomato Spicy Oven Fries Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>29 Chrysanthi's Pizza or Cook's Choice Veggie Sticks & Dip Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>30 Chicken Patty/Bun-Crispy or Spicy Corn Chips Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>31 Taco Bar! Beef & Cheese Lettuce, Salsa, & Sour Cream Spanish Rice Assorted Fruit</p>

