

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

April 2015



Dear Families,

Welcome spring! At the end of our first week in April we have finished our performance based assessments of the PARCC Testing. We will have the End of Year testing in May. The third through fifth grade worked hard and adjusted beautifully to online testing. We are very proud of everyone's efforts. In addition, the fifth graders will be taking the science MCAS in May.

We have begun our readiness for student placement. Please remember that parents are asked to communicate any child placement information you wish for me to know by no later than Friday, 4/17/15. This should be done in writing, via email, or make an appointment through Jane Melville (Freed), (508)228-7290 EXT. 2104 to see me. The teachers will be getting their final work on placements done beginning in May.

During recess, children are not allowed to play with hard toys (lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, baseballs, etc.). These pose a danger, as there are so many children at recess. Also, as **flip flop** season approaches, be advised that these cannot be worn on the playground or in the gym. If students wear flip flops to school, they must have a change of shoes to participate in recess and PE.

Our spring vacation is from **4/18/15 - 4/26/15**. Enjoy some much needed downtime! But, please be advised that the current playground structure will be removed during the vacation and some of our new pieces will be installed the week we return to school.

I was thrilled to participate in Annual Town Meeting this past week. We are lucky to live in such a wonderful community. The proposed new school article was passed, and we go on to the ballot on Tuesday, April 14th. Please make every effort to vote. This is important – “we can't wait”!

Happy Daffy!

Fondly,

Mrs. Kubisch

Important Upcoming Dates:

April 14:

Annual Town Election

Don't forget to vote!!!!

April 20-24:

No School

Spring Break

April 25:

Daffodil Day



Too Sick For School!!!!

The most frequent cause of vomiting in children is due to infections of the digestive tract. This illness, called gastroenteritis or the "stomach flu", is very common, especially in children and is caused by viruses that people come in contact with every day. Besides vomiting, gastroenteritis may also cause nausea and diarrhea.

Gastroenteritis usually does not last long, but it can make your child very uncomfortable and he/she needs to be close to a bathroom. Any child, who is vomiting, even the night before school, should stay home until the illness has passed.

Frequent vomiting and/or diarrhea can cause dehydration especially when the child is unable to drink enough fluids. This can lead to further illness. If your child has repeated episodes of vomiting and is unable to drink fluids, please, call your doctor.

Because gastroenteritis is caused by viruses, it can easily spread to other people. Keep your child home from school until there has been no vomiting for at least 24 hours. And remember, good and frequent hand washing is the best way to protect yourself and others from many infections.



Have you filled your bucket today????

2015 Bucket Fillers

Melanie Bamber, CJ Clark, Porter Corbett, Anna Cronin, Hannah Dalton, Agnes Dolloff, Soren Edwardes, Kate Ferreira, Danielle Holmes, Anna Hudzik,, Jahlani Immanuel , Lydia Johnson, Kaila Lemus, Efrain Macias, Karla Matos, Suzanne Morris, Cydney Moss-crop, Nolen Moss-crop, Patrick Norris, Emmae Oberg Bender, Vanessa Orellana, Jacob Paradis, Henry Pena, Jonathan Reynoso Ar-gamonte, Amelie Roberts, Emma Smith, Aiden Steele, and Michael Travaglione

Award winning Author, Jacqueline Woodson visits NES Students



Highlights in First Grade ELA



First Graders LOVE ELA!

First Graders are enjoying a multitude of reading opportunities! From our Journey's books to reading group, whole group stories and individual book choices: First Graders love to read!

Writing has taken on a life of its own! Recently, students have been working on their 'informational writing' skills through the Writing Workshop, as well as writing poems, personal narratives, opinion pieces, and more. You may have seen writing pieces about the moon, sun, biographies, life cycles, and more come home. At this point in first grade, students are writing daily, more independently, and with confidence and pride.

Highlights in First Grade Science and Social Studies



Hand's On Learning!

The First graders are working with Sustainable Nantucket and Katherine Minihan to explore the lifecycle and needs of plants. We are exploring various plant growth scenarios, and experimenting on what factors most affect plant health and growth. We are discussing, planting, experimenting, watering, growing, and researching. These hands on small group centers have been enriching and rewarding.

The first graders have had multiple connections with the Nantucket Historical Association to explore Nantucket History. Claire White has been working with our classrooms to help bring 'history to life!' We examined historical Nantucket tools and artifacts, and then designed our own 'medals' to reflect American history and values. We also learned about the history of Sailor's Valentines, and then made our own Sailor's Valentines, bringing in all of the many principles of geometry, measurement and mathematics.

Math Highlights



Problem Solving, Data and Graphs.

First grades mathematicians are hard at work in their daily math explorations. Problem solving has been a very big focus for our students, and First Graders have been working with story problems galore, to find differences, total sums, fewer and more; working with multiple math concepts and skills. Adding and subtracting to and beyond 20 continues to be daily work, and is usually incorporated in story problems. Our most recent study is learning about 'Time' and it's many impacts on our day and schedules.

Parent Notes



Upcoming Activities and Important Information:

If you have a favorite "spring" book that you would like to share, please have your child bring it into school for us to read.

Please keep sending warm "recess appropriate" clothing to school. Even though it is "spring" it still can be very chilly outside! We do try to go outdoors as much as possible.



School Counselor News...

In April, the focus of our classroom-based instruction and small groups will be transitioning from bullying prevention to the power to make good choices and cooperation!

Our objectives are that students will :

Learn what it means to be responsible for our own actions.
Practice treating people with fairness and respect.

Making good choices is an important life skill. There are many challenges facing children... their ability to think through situations in a positive way will help them make appropriate choices in their lives.

Please feel free to contact the School Counselor at your child's grade level if you have any school-related questions or concerns. We are happy to assist in any way we can! Ms. Clark (PreK-Grade 2) can be reached at ext. 2109, and Ms. Hood (Grades 3-5) can be reached at ext. 2110.

Grade 2

Second graders have been working hard to master subtraction with regrouping. Each student has been learning many place value models to solve, show, and explain his or her thinking. Good mathematicians can think about numbers and problems in many different ways! Understanding place value, manipulating numbers, and showing multiple ways to solve a problem builds a strong foundation of number sense that will last throughout their entire educational careers!



We are looking forward to April where we will be writing poetry, learning about balance and motion, and enjoying some warmer weather!

Grade 3

The third grade finished their first round of PARCC testing. Our Enrichment Clusters are up and running and have been a huge hit! Ask a third grader what they've been learning about during this time. We just started another round of math rotations. The students are rotating through the different third grade classrooms three days a week (for 20 minutes) to better their understanding and problem-solving abilities with fractions. Many third graders need to continue working on their fact fluency (multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction). Please help your child to practice these facts at home. We have finished up our informational books and are now learning how to write opinion pieces.

Next up in science and social studies are the events that led up to the American Revolution and the water cycle.



Grade 4

April showers will sprout a multitude of poems by our creative fourth graders. This month students will be perfecting their writing of poems while analyzing the components of poetry and how they compare to literary work. Have a look around the classrooms and you will see metaphors and similes galore!

Students just finished up their research projects on unique landforms of the United States. They used Library/Computer time to research their landform of choice and wrote beautiful essays on the description, flora fauna, history, location, and interesting facts of these wondrous places found around the country.

Along with the unique landforms of the United States, students have been traveling the fifty states learning about climate, resources and, the major cities of each state. Whether they traveled by train, boat, airplane, or bus, they have read about some amazing places across the country. Don't be surprised if your child comes home wanting to visit Mall of America, Hershey Park, or even the White Mountains. It is a fabulous country we live in and the children are enjoying their time in all five regions.

Thank you to all the parents for your help this past week with PARCC. It is a challenging test for everyone, but your children rocked it! We are very proud of all of them. If we work together as a team we will see the success in all our children!

Grade 5

As spring begins to show its first shoots, NES fifth graders are busy displaying the fruits of their winter labor. PARCC tests are underway and early exit polls revealed many confident students. Your student is currently putting the finishing touches on a memoir that blends the skills he learned writing the essays and personal narratives with which we began the year. We have read some really terrific work already. Ask your child to share her work with you. The Social Studies curriculum is moving through the first thirteen American colonies and into studies of a budding new nation, just as the daffodil bulbs we planted for Science in the fall should be beginning to sprout in your yards. We look forward to taking a field trip to study vernal pools in the coming months. Math classes continue to march through the required standards, and fluency with multiplication facts continues to be the necessary base for these new concepts. Try zipping through the 7, 8, and 9 times tables with your student over dinner or in the car to make sure he has the base he needs.

From the Nurse



Here is some information about measles and the regulations mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health in regard to the recent outbreak in several states across the country.

Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease. Symptoms include a high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and a rash. The rash consists of tiny, red spots that start at the head and spread to the rest of the body. Measles can be a dangerous disease for anyone, but especially for babies, young children, and those whose immune system is compromised.

How do you catch measles? Measles is spread through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The virus can linger in the air or on surfaces for up to 2 hours, so a person can become infected without direct contact with someone who has the measles. An ill person is contagious four days before the rash occurs until four days after the onset of the rash.

Because so many families travel across the country and internationally during school breaks, there is always the chance, although small, that someone might be exposed to the virus. This is not a problem for those who are vaccinated, but an unvaccinated individual would most likely contract the disease and potentially spread it to others. If a case of measles were to be reported in the school setting, those students not vaccinated for measles (2 doses) would be excluded from school. Here is the law mandating school exclusion.

Exclusion from school during disease outbreaks:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health has developed guidelines for exclusion from school in the event a serious communicable disease occurs in the school setting. These guidelines include measles. The law reads:

*In situations when one or more cases of a vaccine-preventable or any other communicable disease are present in a school, all susceptible, **including those with medical or religious exemptions**, are subject to exclusion as described in the Reportable Diseases and Isolation and Quarantine Requirements (105 CMR 300.000)*

Mandated requirements in the case of measles:

For Case and Symptomatic Contacts - Exclude student/staff through 4 days after onset of rash. (Count the day of rash onset as day zero.)

For asymptomatic contacts – If one case of measles: exclude susceptible from work or classes from the 5th through the 21st day after their exposure. If multiple cases or continuous (two or more days) exposure: exclude susceptible through the 21st day after rash onset in the last case.

These restrictions remain even if the contact received immune globulin (IG).

Protecting the health and well-being of all school and community members is the goal of these regulations and as a public school we are required to follow them. Therefore, all children without two MMR vaccinations will be excluded from school if a case of measles is reported.



Spring Highlights From The Computer Lab

What does a duckbill platypus eat? **Kindergartners** are travelling to The Australian Outback, The Indonesian Rainforest, and The African Savannah. Hosted by Kratt brothers, Chris & Martin, children are introduced to amazing creatures and their habitats on different continents around the world. Join in on their adventures by going to <http://pbskids.org/wildkratts/>

April is Math Awareness Month!



First graders are learning the names of common coins as they investigate how many pennies they might need to exchange for a quarter, dime, or nickel. We have even been skip counting by 25 (quarters) to 100! Visit the US Mint for fun games that help young learners establish the foundations of financial literacy. <http://www.usmint.gov/kids/>

Second graders are busy earning gold medals and prizes as they delve into double-digit subtraction using the .ixl online math program <http://www.ixl.com/>, while **Third and Fourth graders** have been exploring fractions via a popular website among elementary math teachers around the country. Have your learner show you how to “find grampy”. <http://www.visualfractions.com/>



Fifth graders have been helping the Egyptian female mathematician, Hypatia, and Pythagoras pit their wits against one another as they compete in an intriguing estimation game. Estimation is a great help when performing long division, and students enjoy honing their skills with this clever BBC gameshow style math game. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/mathsfile/gameswheel.html>

Please visit Mrs. HD's website to find more game based learning activities that are sure to support your student's growing knowledge across the curriculum. nescomputerlab.com

Enjoy,

Ms. Penotte

From the Art Room

The Art Department is pleased to announce the annual student art show at the Nantucket Artist Association Gallery. The reception will be held on April 9th, from 3-5 PM, at the Artist Association of Nantucket Gallery on 19 Washington Street. We will be showcasing third and fifth grade work. We hope you will join us!

March has been busy and exciting in both art rooms. We have been working a lot with form and sculpture. Students in Miss Grant's room have also been introduced to weaving. Mr. Head's students have started the spring watercolor project. We look forward to seeing you at the art show.

From the Reading Corner

On March 4th, NES held our fourth annual Family Literacy Night. We are so proud of the large amount of children who attended and could be found participating in the following activities: making hats, drawing, making letters with play-dough, playing word games, studying scallops with Town Biologist Leah Cabral, visiting with The Cat in the Hat, Harry Potter, Things 1 and 2, and helping The Man in the Yellow Hat find Curious George. We were thrilled with the turn out and encourage all our families to keep literacy alive at home. Finally, thank you to all the teachers who came out and made the event a tremendous success.

April is Poetry Month! This month, classrooms around the school will be bringing poetry alive through reading, writing, and/or reciting poetry. Thursday, April 30th is Poem in Your Pocket day at NES! On this day every child will carry a poem in his or her pocket and read or recite it at certain points throughout the day.

Reading Teacher Poetry Recommendations:

A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein

If Not for the Cat by Jack Prelutsky

When the Teacher Isn't Looking by Kenn Nesbitt

My Dog Ate My Homework by Bruce Lansky

Keep A Poem In Your Pocket

By Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

Keep a poem in your pocket
And a picture in your head
And you'll never feel lonely
At night when you're in bed.
The little poem will sing to you
The little picture bring to you
A dozen dreams to dance to you
At night when you're in bed.
So - -

Keep a picture in your pocket
And a poem in your head
And you'll never feel lonely
At night when you're in bed.





From the Gym Closet:

I recently read that a variety of sliced American cheese had won distinction from a panel of nutritionists and dieticians. The brand will carry a logo that says "kids eat right", and as it turns out the company paid the panel of nutritionists and dieticians a lot of money in order to place the "kids eat right" logo on their product. Is it any wonder we all have such a hard time in our country, to make good nutritional choices for ourselves and our families?? With this in mind, I want to let you know that our students in grades 1-5 will be studying the "4 cornerstones of wellness". The "lower's" (1-2) experience will be on the lighter side, with reminders to eat lots of fruits and veggies and to ask you for more, exercise, go to bed when they are told it's bedtime, and take care to wash hands etc. The upper's (3-5) will study this in greater detail of course, and as a result, we will be looking at nutrition, exercise, rest, and personal hygiene-the 4 cornerstones of wellness.

The NES dance will be coming up again in May. This is a collaboration between NES PE and the FONPS. This year, we will be celebrating Nantucket's very own Meghan Trainor! We will have raffle baskets for sale, best costume and best dancer prizes, and also have a neon theme! It should be a wonderful night of fun for your family. As we get closer, you will receive more information. Thinking ahead, now is a great time to think about dusting off the fleet of bikes in your shed or garage, find helmets, pump tires and get back to riding to school/work!

Signing up for after school sports is a good way to see that your child is getting enough daily exercise. 60 minutes per day is the absolute minimum. Recess is 30 minutes every day, PE twice per week. So if that is all the exercise your child is getting, you may want to look into more. The benefits are often more than just exercise too. Each day that your child is involved in after school activity (interest-based), they are practicing resilience, perseverance, and getting hundreds more chances to try skills than those who do not participate. They are also busy building the foundational skills for lifelong physical activity too!

Swimming is also just around the corner for grades 3-5. Our program has been in operation for 20+ years and it is a collaboration between NES PE and NCP. We believe that all children should have exposure to the water environment and that children should have the opportunity to learn to swim. Our program consists of 6 classes of swim instruction that is based on current skill level. Third graders will take a swim test and be placed accordingly. We are always looking for parent volunteers to help us in the water. On deck, we have two teachers and one lifeguard on duty. If you would like to come in and assist us with teaching in the pool-this is not hard, and we will work with you so that you can feel comfortable and the kids get more experiences during each class. We are looking for one volunteer for each academic classroom. Some parents ask will my child learn to swim within the 6 classes assigned for swimming? The answer is, it really depends on the child. Some children are very nervous and hesitant or resistant to try different water skills. Although this is normal, it means those students need more time in lessons and practice. I was actually one of them, never wanting to blow bubbles through my nose in order to learn rotary breathing! We provide a good foundation in learning to swim, but most likely your child will need additional opportunities to practice such as family swim times, or, additional lessons.

For our youngest students, the success rate for learn to swim is most high for those who attend the Nantucket Community Pool learn to swim lessons. This is an excellent program. You may look at the pool website, or contact Jim Pignato. Our community boasts a very successful learn to swim program between NCP and NPS, and also a very successful competitive swim program either in Dolphins Swim Team or at NHS athletics! I would advocate that preschool-grade 2 should be signed up for Learn to Swim lessons at the pool if at all possible! Water safety as you can imagine, is extremely important on Nantucket.