

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

April 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome spring! I hope that everyone has accessed the report cards through the student information system – ASPEN. If you are having any difficulties, please contact the main office staff. They will be able to assist you, especially Jane!

NES

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, 4/15/16. This should be done in writing, via email, or make an appointment through Jane Melville, (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.

World Autism Awareness Day is 4/2 – the same day as Annual Town Meeting. We will be lit up blue on 4/1. All students and staff have been asked to wear blue. Our spring vacation is from 4/16/16 - 4/25/16. Enjoy some much needed downtime!

We are so grateful for your flexibility and go with the flow attitudes around parking at NES; it has been terrific! Yet we are aware that with so few spots, arrival and dismissal have been hard for drivers. I am now writing to inform you of further parking changes coming to Nantucket Elementary School. These changes will allow room for the construction crane that will soon begin to erect the steel framing for the new school. Although we know this will present some challenges, we are excited that we have already reached this new stage in our construction project. In advance (and always), we appreciate your flexibility, patience, kindness, and adherence to the changes in store for the next five months.

Our current visitor lot of roughly forty spaces will be cut in half as of Monday April 4, 2016.

We will go down to twenty parking spots, and they will only include the two rows closest to Backus Lane. These are the furthest lanes away from the school. There will be three assigned spots for handicapped parking and a path which will meet up with the sidewalks closest to the gymnasium. So many of you are already parking at the Ice Rink, there are 10 spots in the Skate Park, and then we will only have these 20 spots remaining. The lot in the back is for staff only. There is no visitor parking in that lot, and there is no way to access entry into the building from this lot without a key.



Now is the time to start thinking of new ways to come to the school. Hopefully, the weather is on the upswing. We strongly encourage biking and walking to school. Carpooling is another wonderful idea. For those who are eligible for the bus, please consider putting your children on it. There is also drive through drop off and pick up in the circles. Several more families are doing this to avoid parking.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Again thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and assistance. Our new school is going to be amazing!

We will be doing our PARCC testing only for the end of the year. We have planned the following dates:

GRADE 5

Friday, May 13- MCAS science
Monday, May 16- MCAS science
Tuesday, May 17- PARCC ELA
Wed., May 18- PARCC ELA
Thursday, May 19 - PARCC Math
Friday, May 20 - PARCC Math

GRADE 4

Monday, May 23- PARCC ELA
Tuesday, May 24- PARCC ELA
Wed., May 25- PARCC Math
Thursday, May 26- PARCC Math

GRADE 3

Friday, May 27- PARCC ELA
Tuesday, May 31- PARCC ELA
Wed., June 1- PARCC Math
Thursday, June 2- PARCC Math

We will be sending out a formal letter with more information regarding testing very soon.

Fondly, Mrs. Kubisch

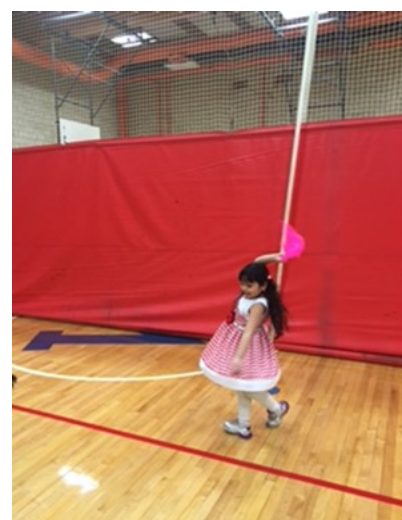
Important April Dates**April 2:****Town meeting****World Autism Awareness Day****April 5:****NPS School Committee Meeting 6PM****April 12:****NPS School Committee Meeting 6PM****April 13:****FONPS Meeting 6PM****April 15:****Poem in your Pocket Day****April 18-22:****No School April Break****April 30****Daffodil Day****Pre K : St. Patrick's Day crafts****Kindergarten News:****Melissa Long invites baby goats to come visit us in Kindergarten!****Another Kindergarten Singalong!**

We made Dr. Seuss hat with word families to celebrate Dr. Seuss' Birthday and to practice rhyming words. It was also NES Literacy Night on Dr. Seuss' Birthday.

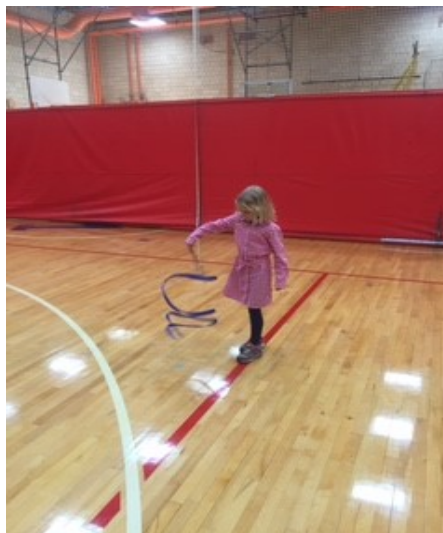
There was another dentist visit this year for Kindergarten-teners to learn about how to take care of our teeth and gums by eating healthy foods, drinking water and not too much juice and brushing and flossing.

The month of March for my K-2 students was devoted to the unit, Manipulatives. The children had the opportunity to explore and move creatively with all different kinds of "manipulatives" from hula hoops to bean bags and scarves to my favorite, ribbon wands. All of my students learned about the sport of Rhythmic Gymnastics where the gymnasts use five different manipulatives including a rope, ball, ribbon wand, clubs, and hoop while performing a combination of dance, ballet, and gymnastics on the floor exercise. I hope my students felt as inspired as I did after watching a couple of elite rhythmic gymnastics routines!

Please see my first grade student below moving creatively with her scarf.



Please see my second grade students moving creatively with their ribbon wands.



Grade 2

Hello all! It has been a busy month in second grade. We have started subtracting multi-digit numbers. We were able to see a wonderful marionette performance sponsored by the Atheneum. It really sparked our imaginations.

April is National Poetry Month. We will focus our writing on poetry, and we will choose our favorite poems to publish! We are still in the middle of our first multi-digit subtraction unit. Our students have been learning many different ways to conceptually subtract, decompose, and ungroup numbers. This unit will take us through the rest of the month.

In science we are learning about simple machines and the way that they make work easier. This is a fun, hands on unit!

The weather is finally warming up, but it is still appropriate to send your child to school with a coat or heavy sweatshirt. Our playground can be very windy!

Grade 4:

Third graders have been learning about weather and climate. We will soon be learning about water and the water cycle. In math we are learning about measurement. Students are participating in a program called ST Math on the computers. We are encouraging children to access this on the school website to use at home. Enrichment Clusters are up and running and the kids are looking forward to Fridays for this reason. Ask your children about what they are learning! Keep reading and practicing the basic math facts (addition,

Grade 4

Fourth graders are finding it hard to believe that it is already March - the year is flying by! Each fourth grade class has had the opportunity to a successful trip at the Whaling Museum Nightwatch where we learned all about Nantucket's history with whaling, practiced different map skills, and even learned a new language! PARCC is being practiced and reviewed daily to help prepare for the test in June. Students are learning skills to help navigate the assessment and becoming more familiar with the vocabulary that is being used. Chromebooks are also a consistent tool in classrooms, whether it is being used during Writers Workshop or in Math for different activities and games. We have been traveling through the regions in Social Studies learning all about the geography and working on memorizing the states and their capitals! In writer's workshop, students are writing about a topic (a landform or planet) that they have completed research on. Ask about their chosen topic and what they have learned about it so far! Math has been busy as well. We have been working away at manipulating fractions and are now transitioning into comparing decimals. We are getting ready to begin our study of rocks and minerals next in science. Be prepared to see your fourth grader spending more time than usual examining the ground! Finally, in English Language Arts we have been covering a number of skills to help us better analyze and read more closely. Students should be reading every night! While reading at home, try asking questions about the book such as: What has happened so far? Why do you think that character's role is important? What are some of the conflicts in the story? Why do you think that? Fourth grade is enjoying learning and growing this year. We are looking forward to our upcoming Boston Museum of Science trip!

Grade 5

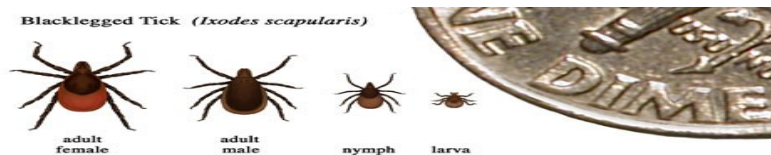
March has been a productive month for our fifth graders. Report cards have gone out the end of March. In English language arts, students have been focusing on identifying theme and main idea in reading. Students have begun their unit on opinion writing where they will be formulating an argument and organizing supporting details.

In math, students have worked on unit 6 where solving word problems went further in depth from what they have learned so far this year: adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing fractions, decimals and whole numbers. They continue to keep improving and increase understanding to better able to solve problems as well to master and maintain computational skills. We are beginning unit 8 on volume as well as measurement conversions.

During social studies, students have studied English, Spanish, French and Dutch settlements. They are now moving on to learn about the 13 original colonies of the United States. This topic also shows students how the government of the U. S. was created.

In science, we have gone to Squam Swamp to explore a vernal pool. This special temporary habitat is crucial to the life cycle of certain organisms. We are very fortunate that we are able to experience this under real life observations here on the island. Students have also been studying the earth's changing surface through weathering, erosion, and rapid processes such as landslides and earthquakes. How soil is formed as well as properties of soil are other topics we are learning about.

Information from the N.E.S. Nurse about TICKS!!!!!!



April through September is the season when ticks are most active

Here are some suggestions to help reduce the chance of picking up a tick.

Try to avoid wooded and bushy areas when outdoors.

Stay away from tall grass and walk in the center of trails.

Don't sit on stumps or fallen logs and stay away from leaf litter under trees.

Use a tick repellent, like DEET (on skin) or Permethrin (on clothing), following the instructions carefully.

Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeves so you can easily see any ticks

If possible, tuck shirts into pants and tuck pants into socks to keep ticks from crawling onto your skin

Bathing or taking a shower as soon as possible after coming indoors will help wash off any crawling ticks; follow up with a full-body tick check.

If you find a tick embedded, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick near the head as close to the surface of the skin as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the whole tick. Clean the bite area thoroughly with alcohol, betadine solution, or soap and water. See your doctor if you or your child develops a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick.



Nantucket Community School
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Nantucket Community School Corner

Summer Camp: Summer Camp Registration is Now Open!! Campers can test their skills at one of our many sport camps including: soccer, tennis, basketball, dance, field hockey and more. Full day coverage is offered at our ACKventure Day Camp. Children will spend their day on scavenger hunts, swimming at local beaches, climbing at the playgrounds, playing pickup games and doing crafts projects. There is something to capture every child's imagination. Limited scholarships are available for full summer ACKventure Day Camp. **Applications are due by April 15.** Please contact Susan Richards at 508-228-7285 x1573 or richardss@nps.k12.ma.us for further details.

Enrichment: This spring we have a variety of after school and weekend programs. Sustainable Nantucket has joined with us to offer Garden Explorers where children will learn how their food goes from garden to table. We are excited to have Kristen Laube of Gymport leading our gymnastics classes on Saturdays. Kids will gain flexibility and strength while building on their tumbling, beam, vault and uneven bar skills. Mike Harter will lead spring tennis programming both in the NES gym and down at Jetties Beach.

Coming Soon: NCS will partner with the Nantucket Culinary Center to offer after school culinary programs for upper elementary and middle school students. Please look to our website, www.nantucketcommunityschool.org, for more details.

Kelly Corbett and Karen Lee have been working hard to ready our DanceWorks' dancers for their annual dance recital. This year's show, "Colors in Motion," will take place at the Nantucket High School Auditorium on May 14th at 2:00PM. Tickets may be purchased the week prior at our mid-island location, 128 Old South Road.

Extended Day: Our after school childcare program is going strong with over 45 children. Elyse Campbell and her team welcome students each day with snack, homework and reading time followed by crafts and outdoor activities. Registration for fall 2016 will open June 1, 2016. Applications will be accepted in office only at 56 Centre Street or 128 Old South Road. Registration for this program is not available online.

Early Childhood News: Nantucket Community School and Maria Mitchell Association held the Nantucket Science Festival on Saturday, March 19th. This was a great, hands on event, for all ages and if you missed it this year, you won't want to miss out next year. We can't wait to do it again!

Cindy Horgan of Cape Cod Children's Place returns to the island on April 4th to present 'Raising Healthy Boys'. Cindy always shares valuable information with parents and caregivers. This workshop will help parents understand the unique needs of boys as they grow and develop. Please contact Pauline Cronin, croninp@nps.k12.ma.us or 508-228-7285 x1166 for more information.

Casey Weaver Coats (Morrow), Youth Enrichment Coordinator

Engaging, Strengthening & Connecting our Community

508-228-7285 x1361

www.nantucketcommunityschool.org

We provide a diverse level of high-quality, affordable programs, encourage life-long personal growth and reach out to all members of the community; spanning every age and stage.

[Sign Up For Our Email Updates!](#)



For Math Minds!

The Game of Pig (Grades 3–8)

Math concepts: This game for two or more players gives students practice with mental addition and experience with thinking strategically.

The object: to be the first to score 100 points or more.

How to play:

Players take turns rolling two dice and following these rules:

1. On a turn, a player may roll the dice as many times as he or she wants, mentally keeping a running total of the sums that come up. When the player stops rolling, he or she records the total and adds it to the scores from previous rounds.

2. But, if a 1 comes up on one of the dice before the player decides to stop rolling, the player scores 0 for that round and it's the next player's turn.

3. Even worse, if a 1 comes up on both dice, not only does the turn end, but the player's entire accumulated total returns to 0.

After students have had the chance to play the game for several days, have a class discussion about the strategies they used. You may want to list their ideas and have them test different strategies against each other to try and determine the best way to play.

Music notes

Kindergarten students are singing a variety of songs about spring and have learned a Spanish counting song. They enjoy playing instruments and incorporating movement into songs. First grade students can now identify many small percussion instruments by sound and in April will revisit the instrument families through Benjamin Britten's *Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. They also are working on notating and reading simple melodies. Fifth graders learned about 6/8 time in March and worked on a four part accompaniment to a song using 6/8. Students particularly enjoyed using the contra bass xylophone bars and the conga drum.

Fourth graders continue their study of the Beatles, with emphasis on the world-wide musical influences the group incorporated into its compositions. Fourth graders will also study a true American art form: the musical.

Chorus News

Chorus meets every Thursday afternoon right after school until 3:15 p.m. in Mr. Sheppard's room. We are already well underway towards our scheduled performance on Thursday, May 5. Please note the day of this performance. Thank you all for your support of this important program.

Band Notes

NES Fifth Grade Band is working on two exciting new full length pieces for their June concert which will be June 1 with CPS and NHS Bands. It is important for all students to come to rehearsal every week! Flutes, clarinets and trumpets may come on Monday or Thursday and trombones and percussion should come on Tuesdays from 2:30 – 3:15. Extra help is available before school every day and by arrangement on Fridays after school



From the Reading Corner:

On March 2nd, NES held our fifth annual Family Literacy and Math Night. Over 350 students attended and could be found participating in the following activities just to name a few: designing bookmarks, making letters with play-dough and shaving cream, playing word games, exploring magnetism, visiting with The Cat in the Hat, meeting Amelia Bedelia, and entering the Curious Café – which included fun and educational math activities. It was a very exciting night where “Math met Literacy” at NES as a great addition to our traditional Literacy Night. We were thrilled with the attendance and encourage all our families to keep literacy and math alive at home.

April is Poetry Month! This month, classrooms around the school will be bringing poetry alive through reading, writing, and/or reciting poetry. April 15th 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.

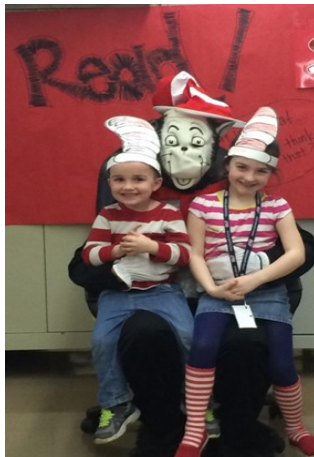
Reading Teacher Poetry Recommendations:

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



Art Room with Miss Grant

We are pleased to announce that the annual art show held at the Nantucket Artist Association Art Gallery on 19



Washington Street will be April 1st-April 9th. The opening will be from 3-5pm on April 1st. This year we are showcasing work from second and third grade students.

Kindergarten students have done several Dr. Seuss themed projects this month. We are working with color and line to create Seuss-like creatures. First graders have been busy learning about Aboriginal art and Japanese Gyotaku fish prints. Second graders are finishing their pinch pot monsters using air dry clay and a

variety of multimedia items. These will be shown at the art show. We hope to see you there!

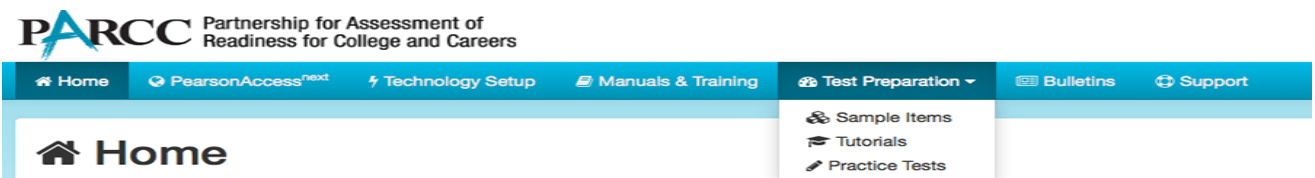


From The Computer Lab

This month, all students in third, fourth, and fifth grades have been practicing the PARCC tests in the computer lab. We have discussed the ways in which practicing helps us to feel comfortable with the digital tools, the structure, and the subjects that are covered on the actual tests.

As part of a school-wide effort, we have worked toward familiarity with the online tests, reaching from classroom curriculum to navigation and use of the technical tools used within the PARCC program.

Often, I ask students if they have shown their grown-ups the practice tests. For those of you who might like to see them or even take one, go to: parcc.pearson.com. You will need to use the Internet Explorer web browser if your current browser isn't compatible with the program. Choose "Test Preparation" from the menu bar, as seen in the example below.



Students can show you around the tutorials, and the different tests that are available for practice (answer keys are provided) within their grade level. Parents sometimes ask what the test is like. Here's a key that will help answer that question.