

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter



NES

December 2016

Dear Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. For me, it is great to get together with my family and some old, dear friends. I apologize to any of you who were on the Steamship car ferry last Tuesday at 5:30 pm. I was at the front of the line and my car battery died. I'd like to say it was my daughters who were running electronics, but I think it was me leaving the accessories on. The Steamship folks were terrific and jump started the car in less than a minute. We did not turn the car off until we arrived in Delmar, NY at 12:00 am. And, I bought a new car battery while we were off! As always, this mini break for Thanksgiving serves as a nice pause before we rev up for the Christmas holidays!

We are on the countdown now – 3 and a half weeks until the Holiday Break! Some of our students will head down to decorate the trees in town this Thursday 12/1. There is a half day on Wednesday 12/7. Report cards will be published on Friday, 12/9. This means they will be available in ASPEN as of 3:00 pm. We have been paperless for the last two years. Should you need assistance, please visit the NES website and follow instructions for ASPEN help. Our school council meets jointly with NHS and CPS on Thursday 12/15 at 3:00 pm in the CPS café. It will be a challenge for everyone to stay focused on the work, but it so necessary for the students. Please be cognizant of the important dates that are listed here. We are packing everything in we can.

It is my greatest wish for each and every one of you to have a wonderful holiday with your families and friends, to get the rest and relaxation everyone looks forward to over an extended break, and that all our students come back to school ready to continue putting in their best efforts!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fondly,
Kim Kubisch

Important December Dates at NES

December 1:

Pre-K Open House 2:30-3:30

December 2:

FONPS Holiday House Tour

December 6:

School Committee Meeting 6PM

December 7:

District Early Release Day 12PM

December 9:

Report Cards Available online

December 10:

December Delight

December 15:

Tri-School Council Meeting 3PM

December 20:

School Committee Meeting 6PM

December 21:

First Day of Winter

December 23 - January 2

Holiday Break



January 3:

Back to school

Pre-K Thanksgiving Celebration



Kindergarten

The month of November was a busy one in Kindergarten! As part of our Social Studies Unit on Community Helpers we were fortunate to visit our Local Police Station and Fire station. While at the Police Station the students were given a tour of the new building. They quietly observed the 911 dispatch station, the police work room, the jail cells, and they were able to sit inside a real police car!



At the Fire Station the students learned about safety centering around everyday household items such as an iron, a lighter, and a pan of hot water. It was a great discussion about what is hot and not hot and how to stay safe and aware with these items. We saw Firefighter Sean get into his fire gear and learned how each piece of clothing he places on himself helps keep him safe. Then we ended our trip by climbing aboard the big fire truck!



A big thank you to Officer Cassie Thompson and the local police department, as well as a big thank you to Firefighter Sean Mitchell and the local fire department for their generosity.

Grade 1

November First Grade News Update:

- November has been a flurry of activity and excitement at NES in first grade!
- From attending our Friends' improvisational performance, working on Veteran's Day Projects with the Nantucket Historical Association's Museum in our School Program, hosting guest readers in our classes before Thanksgiving, and making "Nautical or Nice" ornaments for our Christmas Stroll Trees, and enjoying various Turkey projects, it's been a busy and fun month!
- First grade readers are blossoming. The progress has been substantial in our young readers, and the first grade teachers want to thank all of the parent and guardian support with reading with your child at home each night! Thank you!
- In addition, our first grade mathematicians are calculating up a storm! From simple equations to word problems and problem solving, our students are clever and working hard in math each day. Again, thank you for all of the homework support at home, and for taking the time to play card and board games which foster the love of, confidence in, and proficiency in number sense and skills.

Grade 3

The annual third grade trip to Plimoth Plantation was a success! We were sad to miss out on seeing the Mayflower II, but added the grist mill to our itinerary! The rain held off until later in the day, but it allowed many of us to enjoy some wonderful stories in the wetu and longhouse in the Wampanoag village at the end of our day. Each third grade classroom presented a play about the Pilgrims, Wampanoag, and the First Thanksgiving. All third graders should be able to tell you all about the Pilgrims, Wampanoag, and the trip on the Mayflower. Multiplication and division are our focus in math right now. All third graders would benefit from practicing these basic facts at home. We are finishing up our informational writing. Our next unit will be on opinion writing.



Grade 4

Grade 4 has been working hard in ELA to learn a variety of skills and strategies that can be used when reading! We can identify a character trait, make an inference about the text, determine the main idea and supporting detail, recognize the author's purpose, and more! If you catch a 4th grader with a book in their hand, quiz them! Ask us to sequence the events of the story, make an inference about the reading, or determine the theme of the book. We can take a challenge! We spent a lot of time studying bird adaptations and are now researching and writing an informational piece about a specific bird of our choosing. Fourth graders are also beginning to wrap up our unit on magnets before diving into our study of how electricity works. In math we have covered adding, subtracting, rounding, estimating, and comparing numbers up to the hundred thousand place. Wow! We have been exploring different methods to use when multiplying whole numbers and will soon begin practicing division. Finally, map skills are popping up again and again in our classrooms. Evan, from the NHA, came to fourth grade to help us draw maps, read maps, and use them! We are looking forward to what lies ahead after the break.



In

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K-2 Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette

The month of November was devoted to the unit, Parachute! Along with making many cool shapes such as a class portrait and a dome (as seen below), my students learned about the very important skill of cooperation! My students saw first-hand that when they utilized the skills of cooperation such as listening and following directions, they were successful in the task at hand, and hopefully really enjoyed this group activity.



This month and next month, I am inviting all of my students to make a favorite fruit and/or vegetable out of paper so I can add it to my bulletin board entitled, "Eat a Rainbow Everyday!" We are extremely fortunate to have nutritionist, Kathleen Minihan, volunteering her time to work with my second graders to learn about the importance energy from food along with vitamins and minerals to grow healthy and strong. I continue to feel very thankful to have the opportunity to work with your children. I also really appreciate your continued support helping your child come to PE with comfortable clothing, sneakers, and a positive attitude.



Greetings from the Eleanor C. Jones Library!

Students in Kindergarten have been busy exploring the difference between fiction and nonfiction books. Grade 1 has been exploring fiction and nonfiction books as well and are set to begin their special Caldecott unit. Grade 2 has been learning about the different sections of the library and have been practicing locating books by the author's last name. Grade 3 has started their Native American folktale unit. Grades 4 and 5 students have been introduced to the 25 new titles on the Massachusetts Children's Book Awards list. They are encouraged to read as many titles as they can this year, and vote for their favorite book in the Spring.

Local author and former NES teacher, James Sulzer, will speak to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on November 29th. Mr. Sulzer just published his first novel for children, The Card People, which explores the fascinating new branch of science, nanotechnology.

I am in the process of "weeding" our library collection in preparation for splitting the collection between NES and NIS in June. Students are bringing home books from the Free Book cart which are all marked "Discarded" on the front and back inside cover. These are yours to keep!

We are planning to have a school-wide book fair in the spring!

Just a reminder to parents to help their child remember to return their library books on their due date. The due date is stamped or written in the back of each book.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Coburn

From Nurse Bonnie Ray



Late fall is always the time of year for an increase in respiratory viruses. Please, encourage all family members to wash their hands thoroughly and frequently with soap and water. Handwashing has been shown to be the best method to prevent the spread of germs. In addition, it is not too late to get a flu shot. Check with your physician.

A couple of cases of head lice have been found, there is no evidence of wide-spread infestation. That's good news. If at any time you suspect you're child has head lice, please, call me or come by my office. We are happy to help you deal with this issue.

Hearing and vision screenings are still being done. All children are given two chances to pass the screenings before a referral is made. If they are unable to pass the screenings, I will call you to recommend a visit to your child's doctor and a letter will be sent home. If you have any questions, please call or email me.

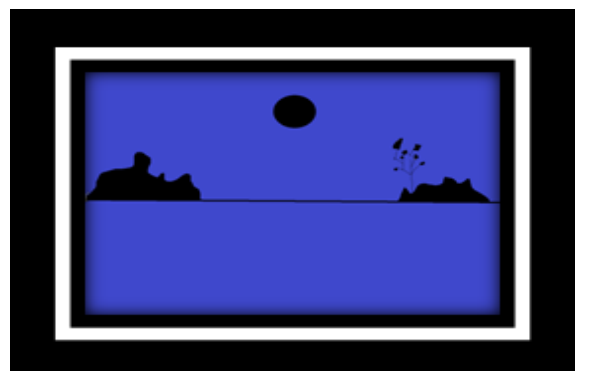
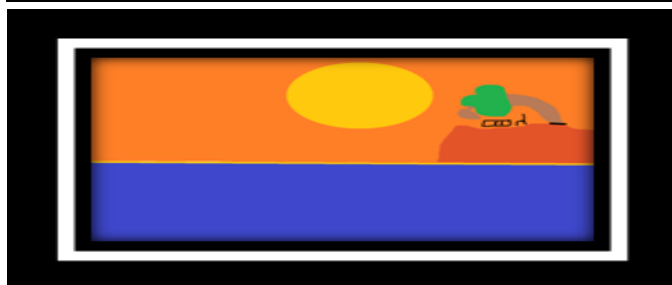
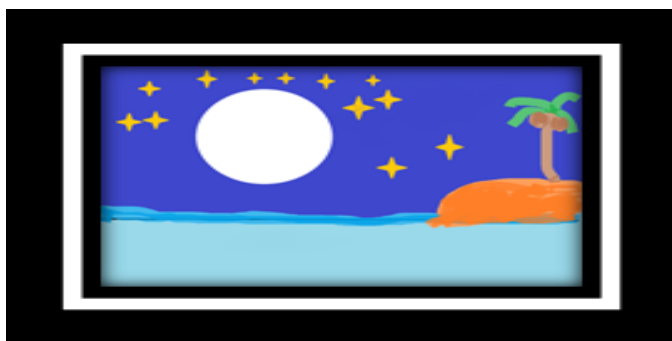
From the Computer Lab

Students have been honing their creative talents (and refining mouse skills) by using digital tools to create digital artifacts. Grades 1- 3 are using a drawing program to create landscapes. Here are a few recent masterpieces!

As the year progresses, students will discover how to save their artwork to a file, then insert it into a text and become illustrators! Stay tuned . . .

Enjoy,

Ms. Penotte



PE Grades 3-5 Ms. Gardner

We have continued to be outdoors and enjoy the beautiful late fall weather, and will continue to go outdoors as much as possible! We have more space to enjoy and love to get fresh air and sunshine. Please dress properly for outdoor activity; this is best achieved by layering. Hats and gloves are also really important as we go forward. Thank you parents, for sending your children in to school with water bottles, and please continue to do so. This is a great help, as we share a classroom space with K-2 students and the water fountain is on "their side". This way, we stay out of Mrs. Beaudette's classroom! As we approach boot season, please remember to pack sneakers for PE class.

We have been working on skills and strategies for the game of Ultimate Ball/Frisbee as well as doing cardiovascular work this past month. The students are doing very well understanding and working inside the boundaries of the court space, and the direction of play (north-south or east-west orientation of court), they are grasping and in some cases mastering what it means to have a "markup partner", and they have been working on cross-fakes, and pivot turns in Ultimate! For safety reasons, we mostly use nerf balls as we learn to control our throwing and aim for targets. In most cases, we have three different games going on simultaneously, where independent student work is going on, and I rotate through the groups-this is classic SPARK PE curriculum arrangement for game play, similar to age group soccer.

For cardiovascular work, we are practicing distance, and also more importantly, we are working on the tools necessary to do this work. They are:

- Readiness which includes proper clothing, sneakers, and water;
- Weather awareness which includes temperature, wind speed/direction and humidity which are all factors that affect us as we exercise, throughout our lives!
- Strategies: these are choices like exercise buddies, walk a lap/jog a lap, walk short side and jog long side of rectangle, jog 50 steps/walk 50 steps, or even jog and sing the alphabet song then walk and sing the alphabet song.
- Listen to your body: At the conclusion of each of 5 laps around the soccer field, I ask the students how they are feeling and to adjust their pace based on how they feel-cramps or pains slow down and walk, or feeling good, stay steady or increase the pace
- Mental awareness: When we think we can't, we can't! When we believe we can, we will! The SPARK PE umbrella is particularly useful here-be kind, be supportive, be safe, participate 100%.

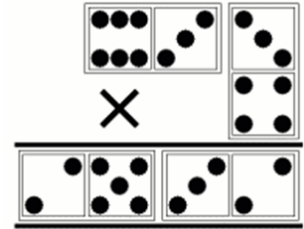
The children are doing well and should be encouraged in all of their efforts, this is a big challenge for them and they are rising to meet it. I am so proud when they use their tools and come away feeling so good about what they have accomplished. Each time they run, they learn more about themselves!

I am thankful for all the hard work, dedication, and good sportsmanship, and happiness that your children put into their PE classes, and look forward to the good work we will be doing in the coming months!

Math Game of the Month!

Domino Multiplication

Here you have four dominoes laid out in the pattern of a multiplication sum. Can you make seven multiplication sums like this using all 28 dominoes? This organizes the dominoes into seven sets of four.



Musical Notes

Kindergarteners, first, and second graders sure are feeling grateful for music this month! First and second-graders have been working hard on moving to a steady pulse and mastering their mallet playing. Second-graders also composed their own chants, and first-graders composed their own rhythms. Going forward, they will be continuing to increase their understanding of rhythm, healthy singing technique, and they will be learning a diverse variety of holiday/folk tunes throughout the month of December. Kindergartners learned some classic folk songs/games throughout this past month, and more will be coming as December begins! We had a blast singing/playing "Ten in the Bed," in particular. Kindergartners will also be learning about lullabies and practicing their percussion-playing technique in the upcoming month. Ask your children to sing some of their newly learned songs, at home!

Band has officially started at NES! The fifth graders have made great strides in only two weeks' worth of rehearsals, and I look forward to helping them learn and watching them grow as musicians over the course of the school year.

It is not too late to sign up for band! If your child is interested, please email me at lafrenierem@npsk.k12.ma.us for more information.

Sing Out! Fourth and Fifth Grade Chorus.

Elementary school chorus is scheduled to begin Thursday, December 8, with fourth grade auditions. All fourth graders are eligible, and all are encouraged to try out! Simply sing a song of your choosing (either alone, or with friends). It's easy, and fun!

Fifth graders who were not in chorus last year can also audition on December 8. Auditions are slated to be held in the NES cafeteria right after school.

All returning chorus members do not need to audition and do not need to attend on December 8.

Chorus will begin on Thursday, December 15, in the cafeteria. Chorus begins right after school and in the beginning will end around 3:10 p.m.

Please contact Mr. Sheppard at sheppards@nps.k12.ma.us with any questions.

Happy Holidays!



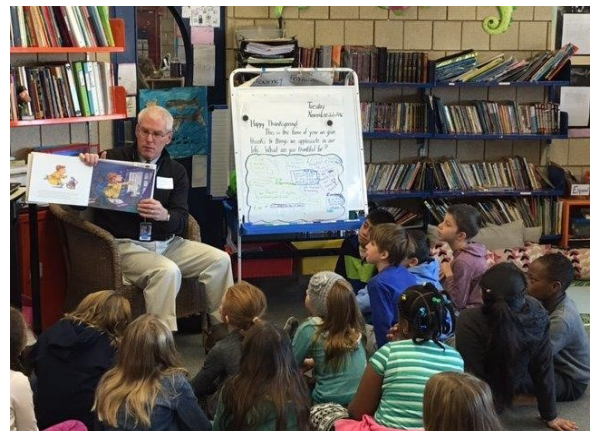
Sincerely,
Mr. Sheppard and Ms. Lafreniere

Reading Corner

With the spirit of gift giving and sending cards in the air, it is a great time to get your child writing. Children of all ages can take part in making and writing holiday cards, tags, or gifts to give to friends and family. Don't forget: books, journals and magazine subscriptions make great gifts that can be enjoyed throughout the year.

December is a great time to cuddle up and enjoy a good holiday or winter themed book with your child. Below are some of our favorites:

- *Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg
- *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas* by Dr. Seuss
- *Star Mother's Youngest Child* by Louise Moeri
- *Light the Lights! A Story About Celebrating Hanukkah and Christmas* by Margaret Moorman
- *The Legend of Old Bafana or The Legend of Poinsettia* by Tomie de Paola
- *Snowmen at Night or Snowmen at Christmas* by Caralyn Buehner
- *The Wild Christmas Reindeer or Who's that Knocking on Christmas Eve* by Jan Brett
- *Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- *Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft





The Nantucket Community School held their monthly ACKventure Putt Putt on November 18th and 19th with over 75 individuals attending. The next tee time is scheduled for December 30th and 31st from 11:00am-3:00pm at NES in the Sally Lamb Roberts Gymnasium and is a fundraiser for the Nantucket Education Trust. Stop by with your family and friends for a round of indoor mini golf. The cost is \$5 per person per game.

Katie Manchester

Children's Enrichment Coordinator

ACKventure Day Camp Supervisor

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Nantucket Community School

Engaging, Strengthening & Connecting our Community

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.



News from the Art Department

November has been a great month.

Kindergarten students have been learning about primary colors and secondary colors. Students have



been learning how to mix orange, green and purple using the primary colors.

First and second grade students have been working on color value scales and warm and cool colors. They have also been learning the difference between organic shapes and geometric shapes.



Students in third, fourth, and fifth



grade have been learning about color value. They have been creating value scales by practicing mixing tints and shades of colors. They will use this skill to create projects like the solar system and the cake.

Both art rooms continue to add work to our students' online gallery. We thank you all for your support with Artsonia. If you still need to sign up for Artsonia you may contact either art teacher or ask your child to get another permission slip sent home. We would be happy to help you join.