

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

February 2015

Dear Families,

♥ Happy February! ♥

I am so hopeful that the weather starts to turn around soon. It has been a challenge for all who have to take care of our facilities in these conditions. Thank you for your updates and concerns regarding conditions outdoors. They have been passed on to our staff, and they are doing their very best to take care of these issues. I promise. Please help us out by driving slowly in the parking lot and roadways. Please encourage all to walk carefully and slowly.

It is important that all children come to school dressed for the weather. As long as the temperature is over 15 degrees (factoring in the wind chill), the children may be going outside. With the snow, they need to wear boots or some other waterproof shoes. Children should have hats or hoods, gloves or mittens, and a warm coat. In addition, as this week reflected, there will be mud and wet areas on the field. Part of the preparedness especially for younger students should also include: a change of clothes, pants, socks, and change of shoes, in particular. Please send these items in for your child. They can stay in the cubbies if they are not used. We are also taking up a collection of no longer needed but in good condition coats, gloves, snow pants, or boots. If you have these items and no longer have need for them, we would be grateful for your donations.

The new dismissal plan began on 2/2/15. We have had the assistance of our School Council members, administration, and staff providing reminders to folks outside and inside to help make this transition. The memos explaining the process were sent home via email and backpack last week. If you did not see this, please check our website – www.nps.org and click on Nantucket Elementary School.

Also, please make sure students know their dismissal plan in the morning before they get to school to avoid confusion at dismissal time.

We have some exciting events going on this month. Please check the dates and mark your calendars. We look forward to your participation in our school and district events. Some of these events this month include:

- 5th Grade Band Concert on **Wednesday 2/4/15 at 7:00 pm** in the MPW Auditorium
- Principal's Coffee is at **7:00 pm on Thursday 2/5/15** in the NES Café – **New Building Conversation**
- the FONPS Spelling Bee (I am very excited to be the Pronouncer again this year) and our NES teachers are competing on **FRIDAY 2/6/15 at 6:30 pm** in the MPW auditorium
- the Walden Chamber Players Instrument Petting Zoo is on **Tuesday 2/19/14 at 6:00 pm in the NES Café**
- **School is closed on Monday, 2/16/15 for President's Day**
- Our Winter Break is from **2/23 – 2/27/15.**

Please take note of our January "Fill Your Bucket" students. We are recognizing students weekly for showing characteristics or evidence of CARES – which reflects cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control. Students are selected by adult staff members. The students bring a star, heart, or whale down to the office. These shapes, that have the student's name and the CARES trait circled, are put on the bulletin board in our hallway. In addition, they are given an NES pencil with one of the CARES traits listed. We are so pleased to see our bulletin board bucket overflowing with our amazing children! The board will change monthly, but if you are in the building be sure to check out our student stars, hearts, and whales.

Students have been using the new Chromebooks at NES. We are very excited to have these new devices. We will be using these in our PARCC testing coming up in March. I encourage all of you to take a look at the PARCC information that is out there right now. Visit www.doe.mass.edu/parcc and www.parcconline.org to learn more about these tests. We will be sending more information home this month as the testing window gets closer.

As always, I welcome your feedback, questions, concerns, participation and conversations. Please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you again for all you do to support your children and our efforts!

Stay warm and dry,



Are you looking for a fun evening in these cold, darkened days of winter? Would you like to help the *Friends of Nantucket Public Schools* in their mission to support our students? Then we've got the perfect event for you!

Join us on **Friday, February 6th**, for the **Annual Community Spelling Bee**. This year the Bee will feature two teams of teachers from Nantucket Elementary School! Join, sponsor, or cheer on a team of spellers from the Nantucket Community to see who will 'bee' this year's champion!

Dinner will be provided by Mark and Eithne Yelle from 5:00-7:00pm in the NHS Cafeteria. (*Adults: \$15 Children: \$10*) The Bee itself is FREE and will begin at 6:30 in the high school's auditorium.

If you would like to do more than cheer on the teams, there are many ways to help! You can sponsor a team or advertise in our program. We are also looking for volunteers to help sell raffle tickets, provide items for the bake sale, and man the auction tables. Email Jayne Culkins at jaydiamond01@aol.com to find out how you can help.



Stay connected! New in January 2015: We are now on Facebook! Find information about our events, current projects and recent news. Like us at: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofnantucketpublicschools>

Remember that **Principal Coffees** and **FONPS meetings** are great ways to stay informed and involved. Join us!



NES Principal's Coffee
Thursday, February 5, 2015
7:00 P.M

NES Cafeteria

Guest Speakers, Superintendent Cozort and Members of the NPS Building Committee will share current information about the new building project for the Nantucket Public School District.

Bring your questions to the meeting!

First grade has been working hard reading biographies and learning facts about famous Americans in history. Some of the people we have been studying about are Martin Luther King, Jr., Abraham Lincoln and Harriet Tubman. In addition, we have been learning and practicing "Freedom Songs", that coincide with our biographies. We hope you were able to enjoy our First Grade Sing that took place on January 30th.



Grade 2

What's your Opinion?

Second graders have been practicing stating their opinions and supporting their opinions with reasons or evidence from the text.

In mathematics, a new unit has begun pertaining to Geometry and Measurement. Students have been learning the attributes of a variety of shapes. Students will also be practicing measuring object with the appropriate tools such as rulers and yardsticks.

Grade 3:

Third graders have been learning about weather in the area of science. We are currently planning a Weather Day for all third graders! Our focus in social studies will be on the Puritans. We have finished up our units on multiplication and division, but will continue to work on bettering our problem solving strategies in the upcoming months. Third graders need to memorize these facts. If your child does not have their addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division facts memorized, they should spend some extra time practicing these facts at home. We have started to learn more about measurement. This includes learning about customary measurement, metric measurement, length, time, and liquid volume. We just finished up our math rotations for area. (The students rotate to different teachers three times a week for twenty minutes each time to better their math skills in the specified area.) This was definitely a success! We will be continuing with these rotations, but will focus on time and measurement. We are practicing for the PARCC assessment here at school. Allowing your child to practice their keyboarding skills and take the practice tests online at home would be beneficial. You can access the site for practice through NES's computer lab website.

Grade 4



All Aboard! Our study of the states and capitals has commenced. With the help of our Social Studies text, we begin in the Northeast where we board a train and visit West Quoddy Head Light, the easternmost point in the contiguous United States. Our trip continues on to Mount Washington in New Hampshire, Boston, and Plymouth. We learn about locks on the Erie Canal, visit Hershey, Pennsylvania where we learn about mass production and even get to create our own assembly line. Our tour finishes in New York City and Washington, D.C. where we learn about skyscrapers, diversity, and democracy.

After our tour we were quizzed on our states and capitals of the region. Students were expected to know where each state is located and its capital. Flash cards were sent home and students began preparing. Here are some helpful websites to assist your child at home:

Flashcards and Games: www.quizlet.com

Matching game:

<http://www.yourchildlearns.com/mappuzzle/us-states-capitals-regions.html>

Match all 50 States to their Capitals:

http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/USA_Caps_1b_1024.html

*There are also many apps out there to assist with states and capital learning.

Our tour continues on to the Southeast, Midwest, South, and West. We thank you in advance for your continued support with learning these states and capitals at home.

From the Reading Corner:



Save the Date!

Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2nd. In celebration of this event, schools and libraries around the country celebrate by bringing literacy into the lives of children. To celebrate, we will be hosting our 4th annual Family Literacy Night next month! This night will be Wednesday, March 4th from 5:30-6:30pm. This year's event will include games and activities for children of all ages and a special visit from The Cat in the Hat and other surprise guests! We are looking forward to this school-wide event and hope that you will come and join us. There will be a surprise treat for each child who attends this event.

4th Annual Family

Literacy Night

Wednesday, March 4th

5:30-6:30 p.m.



Recommended Reading:

Green Eggs and Ham

The Cat in the Hat

One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish,

Blue Fish

Oh, The Places You'll Go

The Lorax

The Sneetches

Horton Hatches the Egg

There's a Wocket in my Pocket

Fox in Sox

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Treasury of Curious George

Curious George and the Firefighters

Curious George at the Baseball Game



Grade 5

Like snow-laden pines, bowed but unbroken, NES 5th graders are carrying the weight of their studies through the winter with grace and determination. We began the year with maximum visibility as students struck out into the community hawking fine winter grapefruits and oranges. Thanks to dedicated effort from parents and students alike, we reached and surpassed sales goals, and we look forward to the trip to Nature's Classroom in the spring that our sales helped to fund.

We give special thanks to everyone in the community who bought fruit, and we look forward to raising a vitamin C-filled toast in your honor when the fruit arrives in early February. Particular thanks are due to the Nantucket Land Council, which has donated \$2,500 to the class to help offset the cost of the trip to Nature's Classroom. Their gift is a big part of what makes the trip possible.

Our thanks here in the New Year also go out to the Rotary Club and to the Maria Mitchell Association for the native tree planting program that our students enjoyed earlier in the year. The Rotary donated \$1,500 to the MMA to fund the program



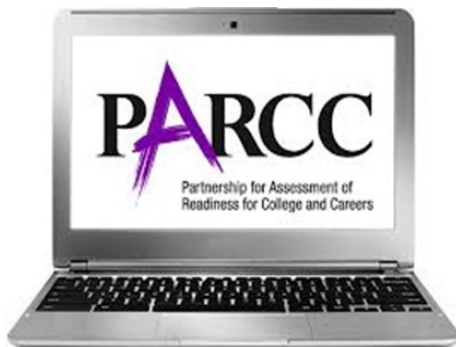
Musical Notes



Instruments! Instruments!

Music continues to be a vital ingredient in education at NES. As February commences, fourth grade students continue learning ukulele. Third graders, meanwhile, have just been introduced to the recorder and will be learning their first songs on it this month. Fifth grade band students have a performance on February 4 at 7 PM in the NHS Auditorium. NES families are encouraged to attend this brief concert; it is a great introduction to band for younger students.

First and second grade students are studying "Peter and the Wolf" and "Carnival of the Animals". They will finalize their units with videos of live performances of the works. Kindergartners are enjoying songs and activities with letters, days of the week, and months of the year.



Greetings from the Computer Lab! My name is Cody Penotte.

As of January, it has been my pleasure to be teaching in the NES Computer Lab. Mrs. HD and I have enjoyed many hours of planning to ensure a smooth transition. Here are some highlights of the student's recent activities in the computer lab.

Chromebooks were ordered, and are now being shared in the third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms. Students and teachers are currently using them to learn about the PARCC assessments which students will take this winter and spring. Students can practice at home using this URL: <http://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/> In the lab classes, students are learning how to use tools and navigate the PARCC computer program.

IXL is a great online learning resource that students really enjoy. Each student, 2nd through 5th grade, has their own personal login. With IXL, students can review and practice previous years of math curriculum, as well as current and advanced curriculums. Also with IXL, English language arts can be practiced in the same manner. The IXL site can be reached by this link: <http://www.ixl.com/signin/nan>

Please feel free to contact me at penottec@nps.k12.ma.us

School Counselor News...



School Counselor News...

As we wrap up January, our work with students on problem solving will naturally progress to situations in which these skills are critical...

In the month of February, our classroom-based instruction and small group work will focus on:

- ⇒ **Respecting others**
- ⇒ **Teasing**
- ⇒ **Bullying**
- ⇒ **Being a Positive Bystander**

We will be working with students on accepting each other for who they really are...not what they look like or appear to be. Our lessons will focus on the importance of compassion and kindness, and how these life skills influence one's ability to be a positive bystander. Although conflicts may occur in the daily lives of children, our goal is to equip our students with the necessary problem solving skills to deal with issues in peaceful and productive ways.

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 help if we can! Ms. Clark can be reached at ext. 2109 and Ms. Hood can be reached at ext. 2110.

As exercise is good for growing bodies, children at N.E.S. will go outside for recess every day except when it's raining or when the temperature and wind chill is extreme. Here are the guidelines we use to keep your children safe and warm while playing at recess. In fact, specific guidelines have been established by the Mass Department of Early Education and Care concerning children playing out of doors during extreme cold weather.

- *Children will not be allowed to play outdoors in cold weather whenever they are not wearing proper clothing in the judgment of the homeroom teacher.*
- *Children will be kept indoors when any combination of cold and wind results in a wind chill at or below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature poses a significant health risk.*



Dressing in layers offers the best protections against the cold. This traps air warmed by body heat and insulates against cold temperatures. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Coats/parkas should be tightly woven, water repellant and have a hood. Mittens offer better finger protection than gloves and should fit snugly at the wrist.

Sick - could it be the flu or just a cold?

This is the season for colds and flu. For the most part, the viruses that cause these illnesses are spread from person to person by direct or indirect contact. Direct contact occurs when you come into contact with an infected person and they cough or sneeze near you. Indirect contact occurs when you touch an object with the virus on it and then touch your mouth or nose. By practicing good hygiene, you can help prevent the spread of these germs and reduce your chances of becoming sick.

The seasonal flu and common cold have different symptoms.



Flu symptoms: The onset of the flu is sudden and will include a fever of 101 to 102 degrees, headache, which may be severe, chills, muscle aches, cough, sore throat, and fatigue or exhaustion.

Common cold: The common cold is a bit different in that the onset is gradual and fever, if present, is mild. Symptoms include a cough, sore throat, sneezes, and a runny nose. Mild tiredness may occur, but extreme exhaustion is not a symptom of the common cold. Discharge from the nose may change in color from clear to yellow to green and gets thicker as the cold runs its course.

A typical cold lasts a week or 10 days. If symptoms last longer, please, call your doctor. Also, see your physician if you have a fever over 102 degrees, if the fever lasts longer than three days, if you have a severe headache, stiff neck, earache, persistent cough, vomiting or abdominal pain, difficulty breathing, or your child exhibits persistent crying.



“Have you filled your bucket today????”

2015 Bucket Fillers

**Sydney Ard, Alondra Barragan, Tshauni, Brown, Hunter Bistany, Justin Bloise, Jayden Buckley, Paddy Carroll, manuel Castro, Aubrey Connors, Evan Cranston, Brooke Damian, Rex Dixon, Soren Edwardes, Sammy Faust, Kate Ferreira, Paxton Fitch, Lilly French, Emeron Garcia, Chloe Girvin, Alex Hilmer, Justin Hoshe, Cora Iller, Allicia James, Dine Kebbati, Sami Lester, Julia Marks, Tamoy Marner, Chloe Marrero, Silas Moore, Ruby Muise, Cate Oberly, David Ramirez, Christopher Simpson, Edgar Tejad, Milagro Tejada, Sayam Thapamagar, Ky-mani Thomas, Karina Valdez, Patrick Valero, Wilfredy Villa, Karson Wellington and
Maclaine Willett**



**Kindergarten Fun in
the Snow!!**

