

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

NES

January 2017

Dear Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had wonderful holidays and an enjoyable break with your families. The Kubisch family spent a week with family and very dear friends in Delmar, New York. I met my newest nephew, Harrison! It has been hard receiving pictures since December 13th and not being able to get my hands on him. This is my youngest brother's first child, and he couldn't be any cuter!

As we return to school, it is "RE" month. January is the time we take advantage of reminding kids, reinforce practices, review expectations, and re-model important information for all students to re-focus and return to the efforts that they were all exerting before the break. We will be doing a lot of writing work, math review and critical thinking work, and readying our older students for the MCAS 2.0 tests. The official Massachusetts testing season also begins this month. All of our ELL students will be taking the ACCESS test. There will be a **School Council meeting** on 1/5 at 3:00 pm and a **Principal's Coffee** on 1/6 at 8:00 am. We will be discussing budget for 2017. Mid-month, from 5:30pm – 6:30 pm on January 18th and 19th, we will have our **Kindergarten Registration** nights. If you know of any children who will be 5 before September 1, 2017, please tell the families about these nights. It is a wonderful opportunity to come in, meet the Kindergarten teaching staff, and visit classrooms.

We appreciate all that you do and we are grateful for your continued support. I hope that 2017 brings good health, happiness, high academic achievement, and prosperity for us all.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Kubisch



Important January 2017 Dates

January 3

Back to School

School Committee Meeting

6:00PM NHS LGI

January 5

NES School Council Meeting

3:00PM NES Library

January 6

NES Principal Coffee

8:00AM

January 13

NES Pre-K Screening

January 16

No School Martin Luther King Day

January 17

School Committee Meeting

6:00PM NHS LGI

January 18 and 19

Kindergarten Registration Nights

Children must be 5 years old before September 1, 2017

5:30 -6:30 PM

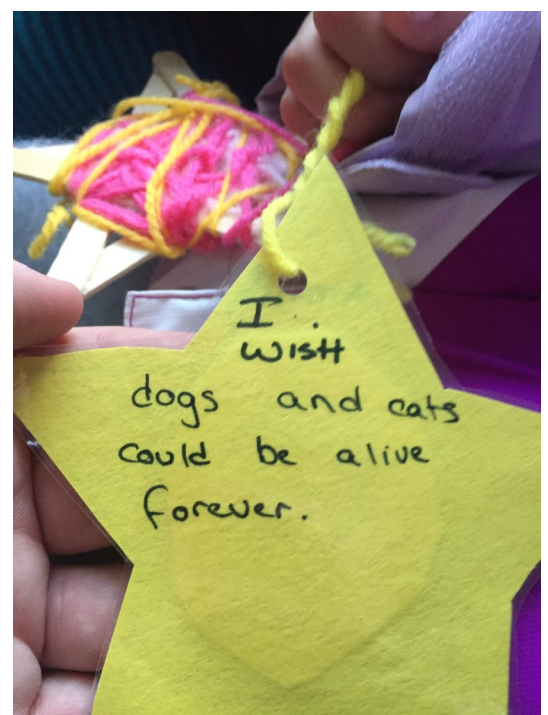
For more information please call (508)228-7290

January 25

District Early Release Day

Kindergarten Update:

Kindergarten has had a busy November and December! We learned about the the first Thanksgiving and attended performances of the Thanksgiving plays done by the third grade. We took a field trip to town and decorated 2 Kindergarten trees in front of The Hub. Our theme this year was; **If we had one wish for the world what would it be?** The Nantucket Historic Association invited the entire Kindergarten to the Festival of Trees! It was such a special treat! We also madvisited the CPS middle school students and made more ornaments!



...more Kindergarten photos.....



Grade 2

Second graders have been busy. They have just finished up learning about solids, liquid, and gas. They are able to identify them and sort them into the correct properties. In math they have been learning how to measure by using a centimeter and inch ruler. One of the math vocabulary words that they learned about was **estimate**. Many of the measurement activities had them estimate the length of an object before they used a standard form to measure the same object. During English Language Arts, the students read many non-fiction pieces. They learned about text features and their purposes. Students are also wrapping up their opinion pieces in writing and some classes will celebrate their writing together. Eventually, all classes will be learning about their heritage and ancestors. Students will locate the countries that their ancestors came from and will do a research project about one of the countries. This is an exciting project that needs many hands to support it. Be on the look out for further information about this project from your child's classroom teacher.



Grade 3

The Third Grade Team will soon be learning about weather and climate! Help your child make deeper connections by talking about the weather, watching the weather report, and looking at weather patterns. In the area of social studies, we will begin learning about the Puritans. We will work on comparing and contrasting the Pilgrims and the Puritans. We have been continuing our study of multiplication, division, and area. We have implemented games into our math work stations to allow the students to work on memorizing their basic facts. Any extra time spent at home working on these facts would be beneficial. In the area of writing, we have started, or will soon be starting, to write about our opinions. We read every day! Ask your third grader what they have been reading in school

Grade 4

Students are working hard this month in fourth grade. We wrapped up our study of magnets and have moved into learning all about electricity! Experiments involving switches, small motors, and lightbulbs will be taking place in our classrooms. In math we have been working hard on learning different methods for multiplication and have begun division! Please continue helping your child memorize their 12 by 12 math facts. We want them to be automatic with all of the facts – this will help immensely with division. Quiz them at home, after practice, in the car, or on the boat! Last month students picked a bird and spent time researching their habitat, what type of flyer it was, the food that it eats, and their nesting. The final product of all their time spent researching was a "guess who" bird book and informational piece consisting of what they had learned. In Term 2 fourth grade will revisit the English Language Arts skills they learned in Term 1 with a few new strategies including compare and contrast, visualizing, and cause and effect. Lastly, we are continuing our study of map skills in social studies and will be starting our travels through the regions starting here in the Northeast!



Grade 5

December has flown by! 5th grade students have been hard at work, experimenting in science, defending opinions in writing, and learning new concepts in math. 5th grade students in science have begun work in a collaborative unit from the Boston Museum of Science that deals with environmental pollution. Students have been testing the Ph of water and soil samples, engaging in discussion and creating solutions to varying pollution problems. This Engineering unit was purchased through funds graciously provided by the Nantucket Land Council, and is a unique opportunity for 5th grade students to engage in project-based learning.

In other news, the famous 5th grade citrus sale will begin soon. Students will be updated as to when the sales begin, and deliveries will be made after the February break. Proceeds go to help defray the cost of the 5th grade trip to Nature's Classroom in the Spring.

The entire 5th grade has also begun participating in a monthly grade-wide meeting. These meetings are a way to promote community and well-being. Each month, a different classroom leads the meetings. So far, Mr. Minella's class and Mr. Millen's class have lead the meetings.





Music Notes!

The holiday season brightened the kindergarten, first, and second grade music classrooms this month; we studied various musical traditions surrounding December's holidays. All three grades worked hard to learn the lyrics to classic holiday tunes in preparation for NES's whole-school sing-a-long on December 22. Their diligent practice helped improve their singing technique, and the students are sounding wonderful! Each grade also learned a traditional Israeli folk dance in honor of Hanukkah, as well as singing and performing in percussion ensembles to help celebrate that special time of year. The primary grades also learned about the creation of Kwanzaa -- they sang, danced, and performed in drum circles

to a variety of African songs/chants. We studied *The Nutcracker* this past month, too; many of our students participated in Nantucket's own performance of the ballet at the Dreamland theater! Students moved and played instruments along with countless numbers from the show, and each class observed professional dancers performing to the numbers they studied. Kindergartners, first graders, and second graders all learned a great deal about the vast array of holiday music and traditions that are rapidly approaching, and I'm sure they would be happy to share some of their new musical knowledge with you over break! I sincerely hope

your family enjoys the Winter vacation; I look forward to seeing the students in 2017 for new songs, dances, and instrument playing!

Chorus News

Beginning January 5, the NES fourth and fifth grade elementary school chorus is scheduled to meet Thursdays right after school in the cafeteria. Through January, chorus will end at 3:10 p.m. We have a wonderful group of fourth and fifth graders this year, and we are looking forward to a stellar chorus season. Please e-mail Mr. Sheppard at: sheppards@nps.k12.ma.us with any questions or concerns.

Freewheelin' with Woody and Dylan

From the Computer Lab

Mindfulness Moments

Students' transition to the lab setting is an active event. Often, they arrive from art, P.E., music, lunch, or recess, and in every case, they have travelled to get here. It can be a challenge to simply sit down and instantly focus on a brand new task.

It has been well received by students from first through fifth grade and many ask to do it "just one more time". This small moment (about one and a half minutes) brings me great pleasure as it connects us as a team and helps us focus on the task of learning.

For more information and research on mindfulness, visit [Mindful Schools.org](http://www.mindfulschools.org)

<http://www.mindfulschools.org/about-mindfulness/research/>

Enjoy,

Ms. Penotte



K-2 Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette

We dribbled away the month of December in our unit, Dribbling, Volleying, and Striking! See my first graders working hard at their dribbling skills "basketball style"!



I love watching my students try new skills like dribbling for the first time! I always encourage my students to give their best effort and I remind them that I expect them to make mistakes. I can often be heard saying familiar words "the only mistake you can make is not to try." In order to help my students feel comfortable trying a new skill like dribbling, for example, I give them a choice to dribble with two hands and/or one hand so they can feel comfortable and challenged at their level. I also really encourage my students to be kind and helpful towards each other in the hopes of building a very supportive environment. Whatever their level may be, I hope to instill pride and joy in their work.

As we enter the winter months, more and more students are arriving to PE in their boots. I would really appreciate it if you could also make sure that your child has sneakers on their PE days. I have a bin of used sneakers that have been generously donated for the kids to borrow; however, they are often not the best fit especially for my youngest students with the smallest sizes. On that note, if you have gently used sneakers ranging in kids' sizes from 10-13 that you are not using anymore, I would greatly appreciate your donation. Of-course, the best case scenario is for your child to arrive to class prepared with their own sneakers. In this way, I am hopeful to see all of my students prepared to do their best work in PE! Thank you!

MATH IN THE HOME

YOUR HOME IS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE MATH WITH YOUR CHILD AND, AT THE SAME TIME, BUILD HIS OR HER SELF-CONFIDENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF MATHEMATICAL IDEAS. THIS IS A CHANCE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD TO "TALK MATH" THAT IS, TO COMMUNICATE ABOUT MATH WHILE DISCOVERING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN NUMBERS. BEING ABLE TO DESCRIBE MATHEMATICAL PATTERNS AND RELATIONSHIPS, SUCH AS THOSE BETWEEN "ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION" OR "ODD AND EVEN NUMBERS," IS IMPORTANT TO LATER SUCCESS IN MATH.

THE ACTIVITY IN THIS SECTION IS INTENDED TO BE ENJOYABLE AND INVITING AND USE ITEMS THAT CAN BE FOUND IN YOUR HOME. WHILE DOING THE ACTIVITY KEEP IN MIND THAT AN UNDERSTANDING OF MATH AND A SENSE THAT MATH IS ENJOYABLE WILL HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP SKILLS THAT THEY WILL NEED FOR SUCCESS THEIR ENTIRE LIVES.

MONEY'S WORTH GRADES 1-3



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

COINS, GROCERY STORE COUPONS, AND A PENCIL

WHAT TO DO:

- 1. COIN CLUES.** ASK YOUR CHILD TO GATHER SOME CHANGE IN HIS OR HER HAND WITHOUT SHOWING WHAT IT IS. START WITH AMOUNTS OF 25 CENTS OR LESS (FOR FIRST-GRADERS, YOU CAN START WITH PENNIES AND NICKELS). ASK YOUR CHILD TO TELL YOU HOW MUCH MONEY AND HOW MANY COINS THERE ARE. GUESS WHICH COINS ARE BEING HELD. FOR EXAMPLE, "I HAVE 17 CENTS AND 5 COINS. WHAT COINS DO I HAVE?" (3 NICKELS AND 2 PENNIES).
 - 2. CLIP AND SAVE.** CUT OUT GROCERY STORE COUPONS AND TELL HOW MUCH MONEY IS SAVED WITH COINS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF YOU SAVE 20 CENTS ON DETERGENT, SAY 2 DIMES. ASK YOUR CHILD WHAT COULD BE PURCHASED USING THE SAVINGS FROM THE COUPON. A PACK OF GUM? A PENCIL? HOW MUCH MONEY COULD BE SAVED WITH 3, 4, OR 5 COUPONS? HOW COULD THAT MONEY BE COUNTED OUT IN COINS AND BILLS? WHAT COULD BE PURCHASED WITH THOSE SAVINGS? A PACK OF NOTEBOOK PAPER? A MAGAZINE? HOW MUCH MONEY COULD BE SAVED WITH COUPONS FOR A WEEK'S WORTH OF GROCERIES? HOW WOULD THAT MONEY BE COUNTED OUT? WHAT COULD BE PURCHASED WITH THOSE SAVINGS? A BOOK? A MOVIE TICKET? WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE ORIGINAL PRICE IS THE COUPON WORTH?
 - 3. COUNT THE WAYS.** HOW MANY WAYS CAN YOU MAKE 10 CENTS, 25 CENTS, 30 CENTS, 40 CENTS, OR 50 CENTS? YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ADD THE COINS IN VARIOUS WAYS TO GET DIFFERENT ANSWERS.
- TRY PLAYING THE COIN GAMES WITH COINS FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY.



NES

From the Reading Corner

Ring in the New Year with a good book! Encourage your child to curl up with a favorite book during these cold winter months. Reading fiction can be a lot fun, and take you to places you never imagined. However, don't forget to read informational text from time to time, so your child can learn about new things, places and people!

Reading Teacher Recommendations:

Fiction for Fun:

Skippy Jon Jones by Judy Schachmer

Little Critter: Just a Snowman by Mercer Mayer

Snowmen at Night by Caralyn Buehner

100 Snowmen by Jennifer Arena

Pete the Cat (series) by James Dean

Duck for President by Doreen Cronin

Informational and Interesting:

If I Were President by Catherine Stier

Martin's Big Words: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by Doreen Rappaport

National Geographic Readers: George Washington by Caroline Crosson Gilpin

Magic Tree House Fact Tracker: Abraham Lincoln by Mary Pope Osborne

Snowflake Bentley by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

So You Want to be President? by Judith St. George

Smart About the Presidents by Jon Buller

Chapter Books:

Frog and Toad are Friends by Arnold Lobel

Shoo, Fly Guy! By Tedd Arnold

Magic Tree House #47 Abe Lincoln at Last! by Mary Pope Osborne

Amelia Bedelia Chapter Book #1: Amelia Bedelia Means Business by Herman Parish

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Long Haul By: Jeff Kinney



Leslie Malcolm

Head of the Weezie Library for Children

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ALL programs are FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Story Time

Thursdays, January 5, 12, 19 & 26

Toddler Time, 18mo-3yrs, 10-10:30 AM

Preschool Story Time, 3-5 years, 11-11:30 AM

Atheneum Gallery

Music in the Morning (Ages 2-7)

Tuesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

9:45-10:30 AM

Atheneum Gallery

Music program with educator Lizza Obremski. Fun & engaging songs, singing games, & movement activities that teach musical skills. Space is limited. Tickets available at the Weezie Desk when the library opens.

ALL programs are FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Kids Yoga with Marjory Trott (Grades K-3)

Wednesdays, January 11 & 25, 4-4:45 PM

Atheneum Gallery

Space is limited. Tickets available at the Weezie desk 30 min. before program begins.

Nanpuppets with Lizza (Ages 2+)

Friday, January 20, 9:45 AM

Atheneum Gallery

Join educator and puppeteer Lizza Obremski and her puppet friends for some magical fun. Space is limited. Tickets available at the Weezie Desk when the library opens.

A Handful of Quiet: Happiness in Four Pebbles (Ages 7+)

Friday, January 20, 3-4:00PM

Atheneum Gallery

Developed by Thich Nhat Hanh, pebble meditation is a playful and fun activity that parents can do with their children to introduce them to meditation. It is designed to involve children in a hands-on and creative way that touches on their interconnection with nature. Practicing pebble meditation can help relieve stress, increase concentration, nourish gratitude, and can help children deal with difficult emotions. Each participant will create their own meditation set and learn the simple practice of using them. All materials will be provided. Space is limited, please register online at www.nantucketatheneum.org or by phoning the Weezie Desk at (508) 228-1110 X103.

Library LEGO Challenge (Ages 5-10)

Tuesday, January 24, 3-4 PM

Saturday, January 28, 10-11 AM

Come join us for some creative construction! The library will supply the LEGO bricks and a CHALLENGE for you to complete. Space is limited. Please register for only one session per month at: www.nantucketatheneum.org or by phoning the Weezie Desk at 508-228-1110 x103

Makerspace for Teens: The Kindness Rocks Project (Ages 12-18)

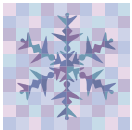
Friday, January 6

3:00—5:00 PM

Atheneum Gallery

The world needs more kindness-let's see how much we can spread! We will paint positive messages on rocks, and randomly place them around the island. With the hashtag #TheKindnessRocksProject we can post pictures and let others know where they are. All tools and materials will be supplied.

Registration required online at www.nantucketatheneum.org

**School Counselor News...**

Happy 2017! We hope you enjoyed your holidays and had a restful vacation with family and friends. We are looking forward to enjoying more daylight as the days get longer.

January is a great time to revisit classroom routines, agreements, and hopes and dreams that were created in September. Learning is more joyful when we take time to teach and reinforce caring, cooperation, kindness, and self-control.

In Grades K-2 we are noticing similarities and differences among us. We are learning that there are similarities and differences on the outside, and on the inside. Noticing both helps us to understand each other better and become more accepting and tolerant.

In Grade 3, we have been talking a lot about what makes us individuals and how having differences can be really a wonderful thing. We will complete our unit on *Accepting Differences*, and move into the unit on *Personal Safety/Bullying*. In Grades 4 and 5, have been focusing on being responsible for our own behavior. We will continue our unit on *Responsibility/Bullying*. Students have done a wonderful job discussing a very difficult topic.

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 (PreK-Grade 2) can be reached at ext. 2109 and Ms. Hood (Grades 3-5) can be reached at ext. 2110.