

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

NES

June 2016

Dear Families,

I cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by! It seems to go faster and faster every year. I hope it has been a great year for all of you. It has been a wonderful one for me as well. This year, I have a daughter who is graduating from NHS. This has been such a bittersweet time for me and my family. I think that is the other reason time seems to have flown by. I will be around in the summer. I am sure I will see some of you then.

Thank you to all of you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding while the building project has been moving along – also at breakneck speed! Our students will be in the building by September of 2017. This summer, a great deal of paving work will be done to our parking lots and the cross campus drive. There will be some landscaping done as well. Everyday it seems as if something new appears outside our windows; I am sure it will be the same for the summer time.

We will be sending home placement and registration information by August 12th. Our hope is to have most of this set up electronically. Reminder that our school policy does state that there will be no changes to assigned classrooms until after 6 weeks into the school year. I have been very public about the student/class assignment process, and I trust you all will recognize and honor this. A great deal of thought has gone into who your child will have for a teacher next year.

Pay close to our dates listed in this document. There is a great deal going on in the next few weeks. Our Principal's Coffee, with our Summer Reading and Math presentation, will be held on **6/10** as opposed to 6/3. On **Monday June 6th through Wednesday June 8th**, the Fifth Grade will be at Nature's Classroom. Mr. Horton will be with them. What a wonderful way to build community as we bid our big fish goodbye and send them off to CPS. On **June 10th**, our fifth graders will transition up to CPS for the morning and lunch. This is one of the pieces we have in place to support getting our students ready for middle school. There will be Citizenship Awards from each class presented on Flag Day, **June 14th**. On **June 20th (rain date June 21st)**, we will be having Field Day. Our students will be split up across the day. More information to follow. **June 21st is the last day for Pre-K students. June 22rd is the last day for Kindergarten students.** Remember, we had one snow day to make up this year, so we are getting out on the 24th rather than the 23rd. **And June 24th is a half day and the last day for all of our Grade 1-5 students!!!**

I want to offer my sincere thanks to all of you who have supported our children, our staff, our activities, and our events. This is a partnership, and we could not do it without you. This includes not only our families but our community partners too. I continue to feel very lucky to live and work in this wonderful community. Thank you for sharing your children with me. I have been honored to get to know them. Be sure children continue to practice math facts and READ, READ, READ this summer. **Join us for the final coffee of the year – Friday 6/10/16 at 8:00 am for our wonderful summer reading and math presentations!** I hope everyone has a restful, safe, happy summer. Enjoy!!

Finally, at the end of this school year, we will be bidding a very fond farewell to Dotty Thompson – Music Teacher and Janet Brannigan – Fifth Grade Teacher. It was my distinct pleasure to work with these women for the last five years. They have provided wonderful support to our students, our staff, our families, and our community for several years. They will be very hard to replace. I know I am not alone in wishing them a wonderful, exciting, and restful retirement. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them. Thank you so very much ladies and best wishes!

Fondly,
Mrs. Kubisch

Important June Dates:

June 6-8:**5th Grade Nature's Classroom Trip****June 9:****Tri School Council Meeting 3:00 PM****June 10:****Principal Coffee 8AM****5th Grade jump Up Day****June 11:****NHS Graduation****June 14****Flag Day****June 21****Last day of Pathways****June 23****Kindergarten Celebration****June 24****Last Day of School****5th Grade Promotion**

Pathways Pre K



The end of our preschool year is rapidly approaching. We would like to make you aware of some special days and dates to remember!!!

Thursday, June 9, Field Day, Rain date Friday, June 10

Please dress your child for lots of physical activity, sneakers only please. Come prepared for the weather. Sunscreen and visors or hats will be needed.

Monday, June 13, End-of-the-year Party, Jetties Beach Playground, Rain Date Tuesday, June 14

Please join us for our end-of-the-year party at Jetties Beach Playground. This is the traditional sight for our last hurrah! Time 8:30 - 10:00 A.M. Please sign up if you are able to bring party food or drinks.

Tuesday, June 21, 8:30 AM Certificate Ceremony & Last dy of pathways

Families are invited to attend a certificate ceremony honoring children moving on to Kindergarten and celebrating those children who will return to Pathways for another preschool year. Students will arrive to school as usual and at the end of the cel-

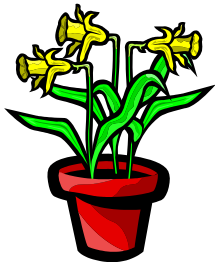
Kindergarten News



We have begun the ABC Countdown to Summer! Students kicked off our countdown wearing red, white, and blue for America day and danced their hearts out on Dance Party day. This month we have been learning about living and nonliving things

while observing plants growing inside our classrooms. We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to the Salt Marsh with Mariah Mitchell to further explore plants and animals on the shore of Nantucket

Grade 1



This month, the first grade students have continued to read in our Journeys Reading program, with a focus on spring themes. From butterflies to flowers, friendships and lifecycles, we are reading about the world around us. Additionally we are enjoying literature by various authors, and are writing daily about topics of interest and as responses to our reading. Students are writing sequential pieces, personal narratives, and descriptive pieces. Be on the lookout as the students' writing come home!

First graders are also continuing to read in their individual reading groups too. Children are reading books at their instructional reading level, in small groups, with partners and individually. Enjoy these with your child as they come home.

Grade 2

It seems impossible that this will be our last newsletter for this year! It has been a busy and fun year. We will end the same way we began- working hard. We are entering our last math unit where we will learn about arrays, multiplication, and fractions. This will build a foundation for math in 3rd grade. In science we are studying fossils and how they tell us of times long ago. This month we will be reading many folktales and fairy tales from various cultures. We will analyze them, compare and contrast them, as well as study story structure.

By the end of 2nd grade all students should know by heart addition and subtraction facts through 20. Please be sure your child is practicing this important skill each night. Additionally, students should be reading 20 minutes each night.

Grade 3

Third graders have been learning about geometry and solving various word problems in math. Problem solving will be a focus in the upcoming month. We have finished up our units on the American Revolution in social studies. Each third grader has studied a different person from Massachusetts and they are now working on a writing project to show what they have learned. We are currently learning more about our state of Massachusetts, the New England States, and our community. Soil and plants are topics that we will be exploring in science. We will continue to better our skills across the curriculum to help us prepare for fourth grade!

Grade 5

Wasn't it just yesterday you were sending your student off to their first year at NES? They say "time flies!" This 5th grade year has been a busy one, a hard-working year full of learning, friendship and growing. Your students are ready for the next chapter in their book of education. Keep learning fresh over the summer by reading and using their and using their math skills everyday. We wish them all the best at CPS.

Musical Notes:

NES Chorus performed a concert on May 5 under the direction of Mr. Steve Sheppard. Selections included songs from *Sound of Music*, *Puff, the Magic Dragon*, *Best Day of My Life*, and *We Are the Future* by Mr. Sheppard. **NES Band**, under the direction of Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, performed during the NES, CPS and NHS Band Concert on June 1. They played *Funny Bones* and *Construction Zone* with the sixth graders. Congratulations to our singers and band members!

The NES music department offers its sincere thanks to Mrs. Thompson for inspiring generations of Nantucket students and wishes her all the best in her retirement! Thanks, Mrs. Thompson, for bringing music into all our lives!



NES Band Concert



NES Chorus Concert

News from the Eleanor C. Jones Library!

It has been a busy year in the Library with daily classes, research projects, author/photographer Michael Patrick O'Neill's visit, week-long book fair and daily book exchange. There were over 13,000 books circulated so far this year! We are fast approaching the end of the school year and that means getting all books returned to the library for safe keeping over the summer. Please remind your child to return their library book. Books must be returned (or lost books paid for) before June 17th in order to participate in Field Day, tentatively scheduled for the last week of school.

The Suggested Summer Reading list will be available online as a link from our library as well as school website. This list contains a variety of current fiction and nonfiction books, separated by grade level.

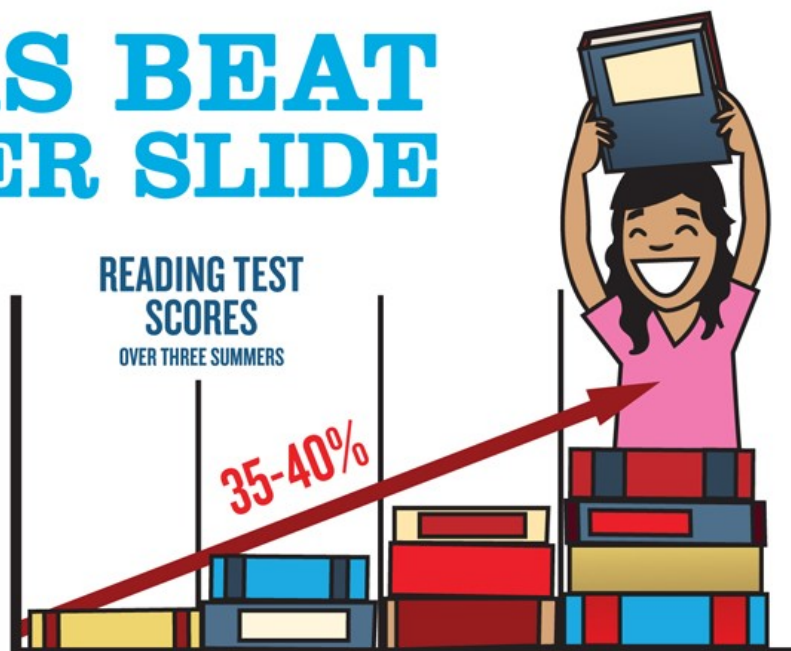
Leslie Malcolm, Children's and Youth Services Librarian from the Nantucket Atheneum will be visiting NES during the first week of June to explain the Summer Reading Program available to all island children. Your child will have the opportunity to sign up for the program during Mrs. Malcolm's visit.

Enjoy the summer and remember to Read, Read, Read!!!

Mrs. Coburn

BOOKS BEAT SUMMER SLIDE

Children who are given access to books over the summer perform 35-40% better on reading achievement tests than those without access to books.



SOURCE: Allington, Richard L., Anne McGill-Franzen, Gregory Camilli, Lunetta Williams, Jennifer Graff, Jacqueline Zeig, Courtney Zmach, and Rhonda Nowak. "Addressing Summer Reading Setback Among Economically Disadvantaged Elementary Students." *Reading Psychology* 31.5 (2010): 411-27. Web.

Math Game of the Month

Think Big!

Grab a deck of playing cards, and let's go! Challenge your child to find the largest sums possible. Whoever can find the biggest answers gets the points! Your child will have fun while improving his knowledge of how addition works.

What You Need:

- ☐ One deck of cards
- ☐ Pencil and paper
- ☐ Timer

What You Do:

1. The object of the game is to win points by forming the largest sum.
2. Remove tens and face cards from the deck. If you have jokers, add them into the deck. Jokers will equal zero.
3. Shuffle the cards. Give each player six cards.
4. Players have exactly one minute to make a 3-digit plus 3-digit addition problem using the

numbers on their six cards. Players should experiment and double check their work to ensure

they have the largest sum possible.

5. The player with the greatest sum wins the round and one point. The first player to earn 10

points wins the game.

Variations:

- ☐ For younger players, deal two or four cards and form 1 or 2 digit sums.
- ☐ Adjust or remove the time limit.
- ☐ Change the scoring so players earn the number of points in their sum.



From the Reading Corner

As the summer months approach, we want to remind everyone about the importance of having your children reading, writing, and practicing math facts and playing math games while away from school. Research shows us that children who don't read and keep their minds active over the summer months actually regress up to two to three months.

Mark your calendar:

NES PRINCIPAL COFFEE: SUMMER READING AND MATH PRESENTATION:

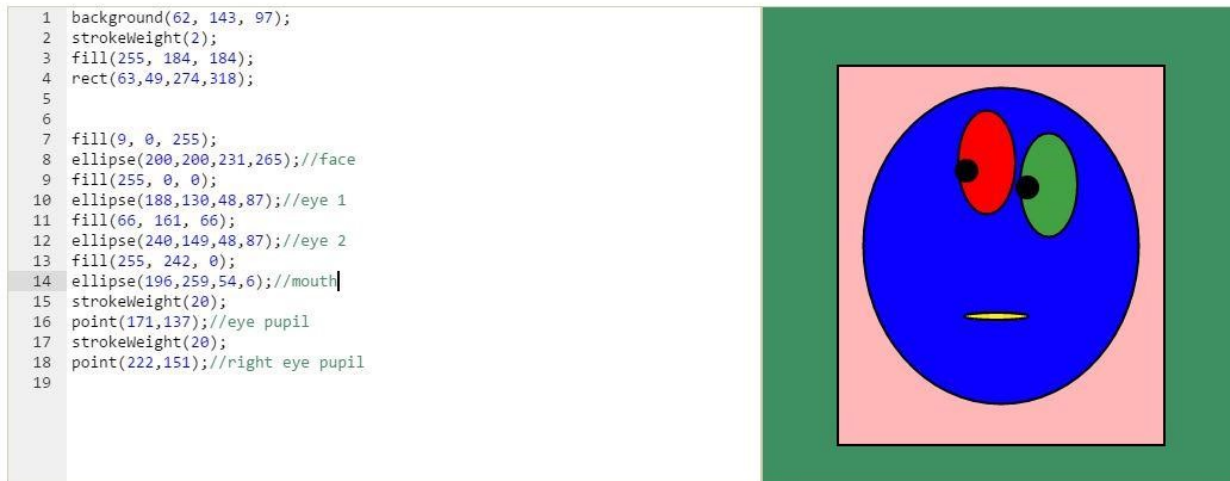
FRIDAY, JUNE 10 at 8AM

Coming soon to the NES website:
Summer Reading Book Recommendations for Summer 2016!

Happy Reading!
The Reading Team

From The Computer Lab

In the lab this month students have been learning the basic computer language, JavaScript, in a fun and colorful way! This playful introduction to computer science has been amazing. Not only have kids been learning to code, they have been coding to learn.



Mitch Resnick, the director of the Lifelong Kindergarten group at MIT Media Lab, has noticed that children cultivate valuable skills as they engage in the process of creating fun games and images with code. Among these, he has noted a facility to work with mathematical variables, the persistence to take a complex idea and break it down into small manageable steps, and a willingness to find and fix bugs when things go wrong. The world of technology is a rapidly changing one. Here in the NES computer lab, students are learning not only to be the users of technology, but the creators as well.

I invite you to watch an inspiring TED talk given by Mr. Resnick by using the link below.

https://www.ted.com/talks/mitch_resnick_let_s_teach_kids_to_code?language=en#t-984966

Then, log on to Khan Academy, and learn to create your own images, or try MIT Scratch, and create an interactive greeting card. Happy programming!

K-2 Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette

The month of May was devoted to the unit, **Balance, Stunts, and Tumbling**. Many of the skills we worked on come from my favorite sport, gymnastics. Whether it's my students' favorite sport or not, though, I reminded them that all of the strength and flexibility it takes to learn tumbling skills will certainly help them in whatever their favorite sports may be! I am so proud of all of their hard work!

Please see my second grade students from Mrs. Mosgrober's class working on their bridges! What great work!



3-5 Gym Closet

We have been enjoying whiffleball, running the mile to finish up cardiovascular fitness unit in grade five, working on our "family life" unit, as well as drugs/alcohol/tobacco unit also in grade five.

With regard to whiffleball, we have worked hard on vocabulary unique to the sport of baseball. Students can explain the outfield, infield, foul territory, baselines, grounders, line drive, pop fly, bases loaded, grand slam, strike zone, and release angle. They also have been working to master the "pop fly/line drive" rule for baserunners. All of the classes really enjoy the game, and they have learned SO much, I am so proud of their progress, and I just love hearing little voices shouting out "bases loaded" or, "grand slam"! It's also great to see our top athletes showing kindness to beginners, help them to learn, to feel like a true member of the team, but most of all, to start loving the game of baseball, our own national sport! We even had an impromptu sing of "take me out the ball game" at the beginning of PE class. I know they learn this song in music class! .

As it's the end of the year, it gets tougher for many students to stay focused. In this regard, the SPARK curriculum "umbrella" which is how we play everything in the gym comes in handy:

Listen and follow directions, Kindness given is kindness returned, Participate 100%, Always think safety, and support others and be a good sport. As we roll into June, we are also at a good time to mull over the qualities necessary for any GREAT team to possess. They are: **Encouragement, Teamwork, Citizenship, Trust, Listening, Responsibility, Cooperation, Respect, and Appreciation**. It's a daunting list-hard for an adult, right? Kids see us and follow our lead, and with that in mind, one of the things that is very hard for students at this age, is to refrain from yelling at each other, and telling one another what to do in the context of sports and activities. For example, in whiffleball, it is quite common for a student to be running back and forth from first to second base, and ultimately getting thrown out at the base. When I speak with the baserunning child, they will often tell me that they were listening to peers and trying to "do the right thing". With this in mind, I have been urging students to allow their peers to make mistakes, and to choose what they do either with the ball when they catch it, or as baserunners, so that each child can begin to accumulate knowledge of their own. In this way, each child begins to make a true contribution to the team and to the activity at hand whether it's baseball or soccer. The bold-faced list above, could make for some great family discussion around what makes a truly GREAT team. As this is the area I teach each day, I am constantly amazed at how the world we live in is divided into teams, and how important the skill of teamwork truly is. With SPARK, I feel that our school has a very powerful tool with which to reach children and families, in teaching the essential components of teamwork.

In our family of teachers, there are some who stand above the crowd, doing so much for so many. Mrs. Roberts, who was my colleague for about 19 years, is one who personified the word teamwork for me. She and I had a lot of fun teaching together for a very long time, we had a ton of funny stories and great moments with kids. I am in her debt, for reaching out to me over the years, and helping me to understand what it means to be a great teacher to each age and stage, to all abilities. It's a journey, not a destination, and each day, I hope I can embody the fine qualities that Sally had to reach individual students, to help other teachers, but mostly to be the best team player I can be here at NES.





Note from the N.E.S. Nurse

New MDPH regulations - Students who will be in the fourth grade next year will need a new physical examination. Please, call your physician and arrange to have this done over the summer. Also, remember that 2 doses of MMR and 2 doses of varicella are now mandated for all children enrolled in kindergarten through grade 5. These are requirements issued by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to help protect the health of all children enrolled in school.

Sun Safety - The sun's rays are much stronger during the summer months and everyone needs protection from the harmful ultraviolet light. Apply sunscreen liberally 30 minutes before going outside. Sunscreens should be at least SPF 15 and protect against both UVA and UVB sun rays. Other ways to protect your skin are wearing sunglasses and a hat and staying in the shade during midday when the rays of the sun are the most harmful.

For more information about safety in the sun, please, visit NPS Wellness and click on Summer and Sun Safety of use this link

<http://nantucket.ma.schoolwebpages.com/education/components/docmgr/default.php?sectiondetailid=6360&linkid=nav-menu-container-2-252552>

Wishing you a summer filled with fun and new adventures.



School Counselor News!

Here we are at the end of another school year! There are many activities and celebrations throughout the building. In this month we try to be available as much as possible to staff and students as we transition into summer.

While wrapping up our classroom-based instruction and small groups we will focus on what we have learned together this year. We want to impart an encouraging message and celebrate their growth and success!

It has been a pleasure getting to know the many students at our grade levels and we look forward to continuing our work with you and your children next year! We also appreciate all of your support both at home and here at school as volunteers!

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