

# Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter



March 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to March! As an Irish girl, I love this month. However, it can be long and dreary weather-wise. Thank goodness we have had a better winter than last year! For the first time since we moved here, my daughters and I headed to a warmer climate for the February break. We went on a Caribbean cruise to Mexico, Belize, and Honduras. I hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and that time provided all of you the chance to enjoy family, friends, some down time, and rest. This year seems to be flying by.

**Literacy (Math) Night is upon us already!** Please bring your children to our fifth annual Literacy Night event. As we have placed a significant focus on math this year, you will find many math activities as an option too! On Wednesday, 3/2 from 5:30 – 6:30, come and enjoy a multitude of activities to support literacy and math. We have games, giveaways, fun characters, and lots of information to share. This is always a well-attended, enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing you all there!

**School Council News** Be sure to get your sign up forms in for Lip Sync show in May! We are very excited to be hosting our first Lip Sync show. This is an opportunity for students to put a group together to plan and practice a 3 minute performance pretending to sing a song. There will be dance moves, costumes, a few surprise performers, and lots of fun! Any questions, please review the documents on our website!

**Driving at NES** Thank you so much for your patience as we continue to embrace the construction project! They are working efficiently and every day brings about much progress. We will continue to count on your patience, flexibility, and kindness. I have been asked by the police department to encourage all those who are pulling in to the circle to try your best to time your arrival. Cars cannot be in the circle until the busses leave at 2:20 pm.

- ◆ If you are driving in the circles for drop off please let your child climb out on the school side of the building. If you, as the driver need to get out of your car, you need to park in the visitor lot. The circles are for drop off only.
- ◆ Parking in the circles is prohibited. This is most critical during arrival and dismissal times.
- ◆ Handicapped parking is just that. No one should be in those parking spots unless they have a tag. I have asked Officer Thompson to assist with monitoring these spots.
- ◆ If you are dropping off or picking up your child, please do not leave your car running. This is incredibly unsafe and not great for the environment.
- ◆ I am aware of the challenges and frustrations with waiting in the traffic circle lines. However challenging or frustrating, please do not pass other cars and go out on the left side. I have seen children get out of cars on the left. This is an accident waiting to happen.
- ◆ Arrival is between 7:35 am and 7:50 am. Children should not come earlier in the morning.
- ◆ Dismissal is at 2:20 pm. Dismissal is not earlier than 2:20 pm. Please do not ask to release your child earlier than dismissal unless there is a doctor's appointment.

## **Dismissal Reminders**

- ◆ If you are walking in to pick up your child, please go to the gym doors. They will be opened for you by 2:20. During inclement weather, we will invite you in. Otherwise, your children will come out the gym doors after 2:20 pm. Do not come to the main lobby doors. These are exit only for many students.
- ◆ If you are doing the drive through pick up, feel free to pull into the drive through circle lanes (in front and in back) and line up to go through the circle. The cars will not be allowed in the circle until the busses have left and the walkers/bike riders have been dismissed.

## **Upcoming Events**

- ◆ LITERACY NIGHT – NES Weds. 3/2 5:30 – 6:30 pm
- ◆ NES Principal Coffee - NES Café Friday 3/4 8:00 am
- ◆ NPS Joint School Council - CPS Café Thurs. 3/10 3:00 pm
- ◆ Lip Sync Forms are due! 3/11
- ◆ Daylight Savings – Turn clocks ahead 3/13
- ◆ NES Term 2 ends 3/18
- ◆ NES Report Cards available 3/25 – They can be viewed online through ASPEN.

Welcome back,

Kim

## Important March Dates:

### March 2:

Literacy Night 5:30-6:30

### March 4:

Principal Coffee 8:00 AM

### March 13:

Daylight Savings Time Begins

### March 17:

St. Patrick's Day



### March 20:

First Day of Spring

### March 21-25:

NES Book Fair

### March 25:

Good Friday

*Report Cards- they can be viewed online through ASPEN*

### March 27:

Easter



**Preschool** had a great February learning all the holidays; Groundhog day, Valentine's Day, and Presidents day! We worked on Healthy Habits and Peaceful ways to be! To finish out the month and hopefully welcome spring, we had a visit with Baby Goats! The babies were 2 weeks and 3 days old, and chaperoning them was "Dottie the Goatie" who was born in 2014 and visited the classroom then!

Thank you Melissa Long and Nicole for bringing in the babies and sharing them with us!



## Kindergarten Happenings:

Kindergarten has had a busy February! Taking guesses about the groundhog seeing his shadow! Learning all about ice and how snow is made! Celebrating Valentine's day with lots of love and learning! Some Kindergarten students made Valentine's for the residence of the Landmark House. While other Kindergartners visited the Salt Marsh Center and passed out Valentines and sang for the elders.

## Grade 1

The Nantucket Historical Association has been visiting our first grade classrooms to help us make "Sailor's Valentines!" Angie is sharing all sorts of historical artifacts, so that we can 'touch and hold' a bit of Nantucket's history. We are learning all about the history of these special projects, and we are each making one to bring home. Be on the lookout for these special projects. J This is an exciting 'hands on' Social Studies project.



Spring is right around the corner! We will be focusing on the season of spring, and all that it has to offer! This dovetails nicely with our big unit on "The Sun," and learning that the sun provides heat and light, and our on-going focus on the season and the changes of the weather from season – to – season!

## Grade 2



It has been another great month in 2nd grade! In Social Studies, we are all working on wrapping up our unit on continents, oceans, and major rivers and mountains. It has been fun to locate our place in the world! This will lead us into our unit on Balance, Motion and Simple Machines and well as a visit from the Nantucket Historical Association. We are also ending graphing and telling time- and now that we have become experts, we are going to begin double digit subtraction with and without ungrouping. Each student will have the opportunity to learn many subtraction strategies to help increase number sense and problem solving skills! While these will look different from the ways that we learned, they will help students understand the process and reasoning behind borrowing.

The weather will remain unpredictable throughout the month of March. Please be sure that your child is appropriately dressed with hats, mittens, and a warm coat. Snow pants and boots will be necessary when there is snow on the ground. Thank you for your cooperation.

## Grade 3

What's new in third grade? Third graders are learning about the Puritans. Ask a third grader how the Puritans and Pilgrims were similar and different. In the area of science, we are learning about weather and will soon be learning about the water cycle. In math, we have been learning about fractions. The third grade team recently implemented a new math program called ST Math. We are using this as part of our math work stations. It involves helping a penguin named Jiji solve problems. The kids are loving it! Ask your child about Jiji! In the area of English language arts, we are revisiting informational writing and are learning how to use strategies to help us locate evidence in the text to answer questions when reading. Third graders will be participating in Enrichment Clusters for one hour each Friday between the February and April vacations. This is often a highlight of their year in third grade!



## Grade 4

Fourth graders have been working very hard and having a lot of fun! In reading, we have been revisiting main idea and details and drawing inferences. After February break, we will focus our attention on cause and effect and comparing and contrasting author's point of view. Please remember to read 15-30 minutes every night!

In writing, we are beginning research for our informational writing. Each student picked a unique landform in the United States to research. The unique landforms include mountains, rivers, caves, waterfalls, National Parks and volcanos.



In math, we are learning about fractions! We are learning about unit fractions, numerators, denominators, adding/subtracting fractions and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts through 12x12 at home!

In science, we just finished the moons rotation and revolution and now we are on to the planets! We're studying the order of the planets from the closest to the sun to the farthest away, size order, surfaces, atmospheres, temperatures and the length of each planets day and year.

Nantucket Night Watch took place on February 12, 2016 and half of the fourth grade class attended! It was a wonderful and engaging overnight field trip! The other half of the fourth grade will attend this field trip on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



## Grade 5



The Fifth Grade team would like to thank everyone involved in making this year's citrus sale a success. Great job to fifth graders and parents for selling and picking up the oranges and grapefruits. This fundraiser covers a significant portion of the cost of our 3 day trip to Nature's Classroom this June.

Students have been working on long division with multi-digit whole numbers and decimals. Be sure your students know their multiplication and division facts through at least tens. (facts for 6, 7 and 8's are the hardest). Practice is available on [www.IXL.com](http://www.IXL.com).

The fifth graders are finishing their unit on informational writing. They have been writing a piece on the American Revolution. This also is part of our grade five social studies curriculum.

In science, we have been distinguishing between weather and climate. They are also able to determine the different types of precipitation. Given January and February weather, we have had a lot of great examples to foster our class discussion. Be sure to ask your child questions about weather and climate.

### K-2 PE with Mrs. Beaudette

The K-2 children spent the month of February playing different games such as "Crazy Cones," "Color Tag," and "Stuck in the Mud." The goals in the gym when we play a game are the following: (1) Follow the rules, (2) Get exercise, (3) Have fun, and (4) Be a good sport. I've asked the children to think about the skill of sportsmanship and how that looks and sounds when we play a game. I hope that the children leave the gym with knowledge of how to be good a sport and why it's so important in and outside of the gym.

In the photo below, see my second grade students playing "Stuck in the Mud!"



I really enjoy the opportunity to exercise, have fun, and discuss important life skills with your child. Thank you for all that you do to instill sportsmanship and respect in your child. I continue to appreciate your support in helping your child come to PE prepared with comfortable clothing and sneakers.



## From the Reading Corner

We will be celebrating our fifth annual Family Literacy and Math Night! This year the night will bring together math and literacy in one fun night of games, guests and giveaways! This family event is on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm. We hope you will bring your family and come to enjoy literacy games and activities. Be on the lookout for The Cat and Hat, Thing One and Thing Two and other special guests.



**Spring into a good book this March!**



## School Counselor News...

In the month of March, we will continue to address what we all can do to stop bullying from happening in our school, on our playground, and in our world by "teaming up for success." Within this unit, our lessons will focus on:

- ◆ Social interaction skills
- ◆ Responsibility
- ◆ Decision-making
- ◆ Teamwork
- ◆ Sharing

Our students will explore the importance of cooperation as a life-long skill. Accountability, responsibility, being a good team player, and communicating effectively are all skills that will be explored and practiced. Being a part of a team or a group is not always easy for children because they may have a difficult time sharing, listening, taking turns, or following directions.

In an effort to teach skills associated with being part of a team, we hope to again collaborate with the Nantucket Food Pantry. We have suggested a Food Drive for one week in March. In the past, our Food Drives have been very successful and students have enjoyed being a part of this worthwhile effort. We'll keep you posted!

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.

## Books for Younger Readers:

*Frog and Toad All Year* by Arnold Lobel  
*Have You Seen My Duckling* by Nancy Tafuri  
*Mudflat Spring* by James Stevenson  
*Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett

## Chapter Books

*Savvy* by Ingrid Law  
*Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan  
*My Father's Dragon* by Ruth Stiles Gannett  
*Lavender* by Karen Hesse

## Students in Grades 4 and 5:

Keep reading your Massachusetts Book Award books! Voting will take place later this month!



## Greetings from the Eleanor C. Jones Library!

Students have been busy in the library this month.

Kindergartners spent the month learning about author and illustrator, Mo Willems. They listened to his popular Knuffle Bunny series, the Pigeon series and Elephant and Piggie series. They learned how to draw the Pigeon and watched Willems make Piggie's "slop" on the internet.

First graders learned about the history and significance of the Caldecott Medal in children's literature and voted for their favorite contender. Amazingly, 81 first graders voted for Finding Winnie by Lindsay Mattick, the ultimate winner of the 2016 Caldecott Award gold medal.

Second graders have been working on the organization of the library in preparation for them to be able to access information using the online catalog and locating their books on the shelves.

Third graders have spent the past two months working on the RACE (Re-state, Answer, Cite evidence and Explain your answer) approach to constructive response to literature – a district-wide focus this year. They've explored a variety of folk tales and culturally significant stories while learning and practicing how to answer complex literary questions.

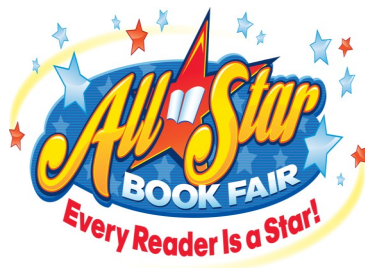
Fourth and fifth graders have been learning about plagiarism and the importance of citing sources. They have practiced locating and entering information from print sources to complete an MLA-formatted bibliographic citation.

We are planning to have a school-wide book fair during the week of March 21<sup>st</sup> through March 25<sup>th</sup>. All students will have a chance to visit the fair during the week. There will be after-school hours daily and evening hours on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once again, the books and small gift items will be supplied by Nantucket Book Partners! A detailed book fair flyer will be distributed to families in March.

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. If a book is more than three weeks overdue, a student may not check a book out until the late one is returned.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Coburn



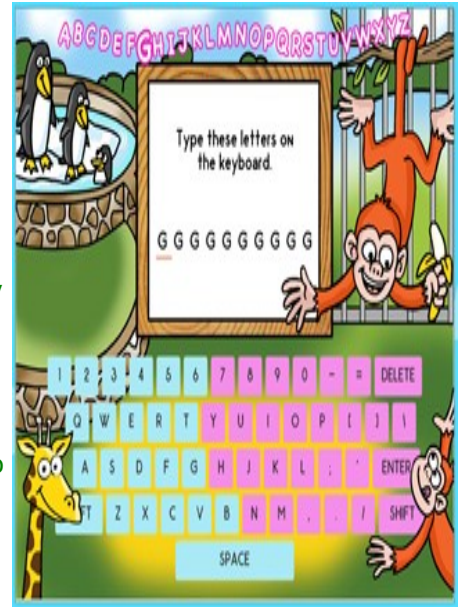
**March 21, 2016 – March 25, 2016**

## From The Computer Lab

Kindergarteners have been busy during February in the computer lab! They have spent the first half of the school year honing fine motor skills by using the mouse to navigate games that teach letter sounds, how to balance scales, helping frogs to catch flies buzzing by, exploring the undersea world of aquatic plants and animals, and working through memory & matching games. This month, they've begun to learn how to open a computer program, and they have begun using the keyboard to type letters. As the month progresses, they will practice typing the alphabet with guidance from some animal friends in the "Keyboarding Zoo". At this stage, children often ask questions such as "Where is the Q?" and make statements along the lines of "This keyboard doesn't have a "K". It's fun to watch, as they gain confidence that every letter in the alphabet is at their fingertips. If you would like to visit the keyboard zoo, use this URL:

[http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding\\_practice.htm](http://www.abcya.com/keyboarding_practice.htm)

And remember, at the Keyboarding Zoo, "I" stands for Iguana!



### Musical Notes:

Kindergarten students continue to sing simple songs, play instruments, and move to a variety of music. In February, first graders studied **Peter and the Wolf** culminating in viewing a narrated performance by the Vancouver Symphony. Students are identifying basic wind instruments by sound and understand the families of instruments. Fifth graders are finishing their projects on George Gershwin. They have learned about and listened to **Rhapsody in Blue** and researched his life and works.

In February, fourth graders continued a study of Beatles music, and an exploration of how their melodies, and songwriting, evolved. This is a fun, and educational unit, that incorporates the beginnings of rock and roll, twelve bar blues, and folk music. Fourth graders will also learn about the science of sound and its importance to music.

In third grade, we will begin our recorder unit shortly.

### 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 performed a concert on February 3 in the NHS Auditorium. Students demonstrated the progress they have made since starting in November and performed their first band arrangements. We look forward to the NES, CPS, NHS Band Concert on June 1! Rehearsals continue after school on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 2:30 - 3:15. Extra help is available before school every day and by arrangement on Fridays after school.



# Art with Miss Grant



Students have been weaving during the month of February. Kindergarten and first grade students worked on paper weaving while 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students practiced weaving with cardboard looms. We also began working with air dry clay. We will finish our weaving and continue our work in clay for the next few weeks.

I continue to add artwork to Artsonia. Please contact me if you need a permission slip. I love to see all of the wonderful comments about the art.





## From the Gym Closet: Ms. Gardner

I am so very proud of the work my students have been doing in grades 3-5 PE classes. Skill levels are getting more and more proficient, and perhaps more significantly, students are beginning to embody the five SPARK PE teacher expectations: Listen and follow directions, Kindness given is kindness returned, Always think safety, Support others and be a good sport, and Participate 100%. These sportsmanship values are so important for humanity at any age, and I love that SPARK PE highlights and reinforces these values-as they truly are life-skills that follow our students as they grow and mature.

In this second semester, we have been focused on how to be a "proactive student" who gets the most out of every class. We are also working on how model demonstrations (either student or teacher generated) work, and how to learn from them. For example, when watching a model demonstration of a volleyball serve, I have asked the students to notice what the feet, knees, hips, shoulders, hands, are doing during the serve. When they get up to practice, they are trying to think about what they saw, and how to recreate it, in order to build skill. Last we have spent some time on troubleshooting how to "fix" problems with skill execution. Student ability to work independently and with success leads to self-confidence within any sport! Again, you can be very proud of the work students are doing along these lines-it's exciting!

Moving forward, we are looking forward to returning outside for PE class, and warmer weather. Each morning, I can hear more birds singing as I leave home-a sign that spring is definitely around the corner. As spring is approaching so quickly, this is a good time to locate bathing suits/goggles for swim classes. These classes have a permission slip for your information. I encourage each and every student to return a signed permission slip, because we live on an island, learning to swim is really crucial to health and safety and it's FUN, FUN, FUN!! It is our student's most favorite unit. If your child is nervous about this, PLEASE contact me, we can work together to get your child in the water and have them feel safe and learn to swim! This unit is one of my favorites, and I feel very strongly about our students being able to swim. If you have any free time and would like to volunteer, we would love to have you! We will also be doing our family life and drug/alcohol awareness units for fifth graders in the near future, as well as scoliosis screening which is also only for fifth grade students. You can look forward to more information coming to you via email or backpack flyers in the near future.

I am SO thrilled to see the new construction work begin, and the progress being made. We are doing the best job we can in the current NES gym running K-2 classes on one side of the divider, and 3-5 classes on the other. However, I am certainly looking forward to our new school, and specifically to our NEW gym!! I dream of how our 3-5 students will have great new space to work in!

I hope you had a chance to be active with your family over the February break-if you were on island-that you had a chance to visit our beautiful conservation areas for hikes, and family swims and free skates at the pool or the rink. It's time to dust off the bikes, get the helmets, and get ready for a new season of exercise and good health!