



Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

March 2015

Welcome to March! As an Irish girl, I love this month. However, it can be long and dreary weather-wise. This winter, I have been told by those who have lived here far longer than I, that this is the worst winter they have seen. It has certainly been a challenge. I don't mind the snow as much as I mind the cold. While we are all on vacation this week, I hope everyone is having a nice winter break and that this time is providing all of you the chance to enjoy family, friends, some down time, and rest. This year seems to be flying by.

This month is the start of **PARCC testing for English Language Arts and Mathematics**. The students will be testing for 5 straight days in the mornings. They will be doing what is called performance based tasks on the computers. The testing will begin occur between March 16th through April 10th for grades 3-5. The schedule for each grade's specific testing is:

Grade 3 – 3/16 through 3/20

Grade 4 – 3/23 through 3/27

Grade 5 – 3/30 through 4/3

MCAS Alts due – 4/1

Make Ups for all grades – 4/6 – 4/10

It is important that children get to bed early, eat a good breakfast, and come to school ready for the testing. As parents, please tell your children not to worry but to do their best. That is all we can ask!

New Building

We are providing multiple opportunities for families and community members to come and learn about proposed new school buildings and additions. Please make an effort to become informed. The dates listed below are information sessions – all are welcome. Please also visit the website www.nantucketschoolsproject.com for more information.

Literacy Night is upon us already! Please bring your children to our fourth annual Literacy Night event. On Wednesday, 3/4 from 5:30 – 6:30, come and enjoy a multitude of activities to support literacy. 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!

Driving at NES

Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Freed, and I are often outside in the morning and in the afternoons. We are noting some traffic issues that need to be addressed. I am asking for your assistance please.

- **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 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 Carnevale 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, families are walking in from the parking lot, and little kids can be bolting from their parents. 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 then 2:20 pm. Please do not ask to release your child earlier than dismissal unless there is a doctor's appointment.**

Dismissal Updates

Thank you all so much for your cooperation and feedback regarding our new procedures. This process has been working very well to date (despite all the bad weather). The most important thing that each of you can do is to be sure to let your children know their specific dismissal plan each morning. Here are a few reminders regarding dismissal time:

- **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 our parking lots 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.**

Thank you in advance for your assistance and anticipated cooperation with our traffic policies. This may represent a slight inconvenience for the adults. I hope that all of you will agree with me that this small inconvenience is worth it to protect our students.

Stay warm,

Kim



Upcoming March Events

LITERACY NIGHT – NES Weds. **3/4** 5:30 – 6:30 pm

New Building Meeting – LGI Thurs. **3/5** 6:00 pm

NES Principal Coffee - NES Café Friday **3/6** 8:00 am

Daylight Savings – Turn clocks ahead **3/8**

NPS Joint School Council - CPS Café Thurs. **3/12** 3:00 pm

ASAP Presentation: Social Media Mania & DNA.....Facts about Drugs **3/12** 6:00pm

Movie Matinee to Benefit NES :Mr. Popper's Penguins 3/15 12:00 pm Dreamland

NEW BUILDING PUBLIC FORUM – MPW Auditorium Monday 3/16 7:00 pm

St. Patrick's Day **3/17**

PARCC Testing Window – **3/16 – 4/10** (see above for specific dates)

NES Term 2 ends **3/20**

NES Report Cards available **3/27** – They can be viewed online through ASPEN.

Preschool!

Because it is winter, we are ok with the SNOW! We love ice, snow and are learning about it! Thank you to Nantucket ICE for hosting a great field trip to learn about the new ZAMBONI and all the events at the Ice Rink.

Preschool also had a great time learning how to make Sailors Valentine's with Claire White from the NHA. She came to our classroom and helped us make a traditional Valentine for our friends and family.

Thank you NHA and Claire!



At Pathways, we are always looking for fun places to explore and learn about within our fantastic Community! Bring on Spring and some NEW ADVENTURES!

Pathways Preschool Team

Nantucket Elementary School Presents:

3rd Annual

Family Literacy Night

*Build Reading Skills Through
Everyday Games and
Activities*

*Wednesday, March 4
5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
at Nantucket Elementary
School*

What's Going On?

- 📖 **Games!**
- 📖 **Literacy projects & activities!**
- 📖 **A Special Visit from the Cat in the Hat and friends!**
- 📖 **Other surprise visitors!**
- 📖 **Online games & resources including Reading Eggs!**

All children must be accompanied by an adult for this family event.



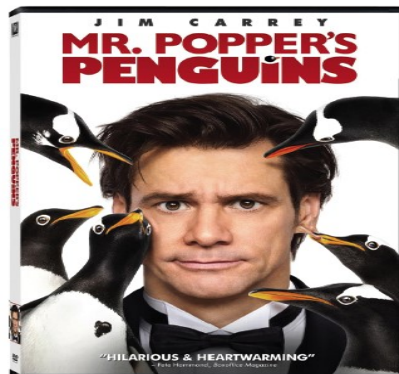
Have you filled your bucket today????”

2015 Bucket Fillers

Johan Agramonte, Jose, Aguilar, Adrian Alecquiez, Alfred Applegate, Maddie Bartleman, Emmerson Benitez, Avery Bell, Abigail Borneman, Mariella Brownell, Sadie Cardoza, Caroline Correia, Lauren Cutone, Agnes Dolloff, Sola Dallanara, Hawkin Edwardes, Soren Edwardes, Mitzi Espinoza, Sami Faust, Chloe Fraizer, Antonia Gameroni, Chelsea Gross, Shelbi Harimon, Alex Hilmer, Milo Kardell, Kinnick King, Erick Lemus, Natalie Mack, Sara Marshall, Nolen Mossdrop, Tim Murphy, Vanessa Orellana, Zulma Osegueda Conteras, Alex Palencia, Hunter Stronjy, Kashvi Thapamagar, Sayam Thapamagar, Tessa Torres, Michael Travaglione, Rocky Van Peterson, and Gabe Zinser

Great Job!!!!

MOVIE MATINEE to benefit The Nantucket Elementary School



**DOOR
PRIZES!!!**

**rated PG
Sunday, March 15th
12 pm
at The Dreamland Theatre
\$7.00 per ticket**

Tickets can be purchased at www.nantucketdreamland.org or at the box office.

Grade 5

Are you undone by the recent weather? Have you yet yelled, face to the snowy skies, “When will all this end? What is going on?” If so, next time just try asking your 5th grader the same questions. Through our recent study of weather and climate, NES students have become masters of the troposphere, and will happily tell you about the polar currents that are affecting our climate and weather patterns. When not bounding through the snow on the playground here, impervious to cold, they’ll be happy to identify the stratus clouds and wintry mix that have you so vexed, and will proceed to tell you how that precipitation is formed. Just ask.

Your student won’t stop to observe the latest high-pressure system and cumulus clouds for long, though, because our studies have reached full-bore here in the heart of the school year. We look forward to a first round with the very challenging PARCC tests at the end of March, and are working hard at the kind of complex, real-world, college and career questions that the tests will ask your child to answer.

In Math that means hammering away at basic operations, and particularly it means improving at identifying *which* operation to use in a given situation. Word problems are real-world problems, and when your student learns to read the directions carefully and answer the right question, she is also learning how to do the right job for a boss, customer or client. Push your child to work through the “stretch your thinking” problems that conclude nightly math homework, and maybe stretch your own thinking a little in the process!

In ELA being ready for the PARCC means going deeper than just answering questions about what your student has read. Now we’re asking them to dig for meaning, to draw conclusions, and to determine what big idea or lesson is really being delivered. A recent unit on writing fables has helped your child work from the other side of the coin, as they worked to craft a story that would deliver a specific moral. Ask to hear the excellent work your student produced.

Take a look at the test your child will take by visiting parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/ and try taking a practice test yourself, or working through a few sections with your student. It’s a doozy!

Finally, a big thank you to all of you parents who lugged cases of grapefruit and oranges through the snow and ice last month. Your efforts were terrific, and when you hear your student rave about Nature’s Classroom in the spring you’ll swear you’d lift twice as many boxes again. In your honor, we raise our fresh-squeezed-juice glasses.

2014-2015 DAR Essay Contest

The DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Essay Contest is a nation-wide history essay on a specific topic. This year’s topic was on the immigrant experience at Ellis Island.

“A Child’s Journey through Ellis Island”

The year 2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Ellis Island as an immigration station. On a typical day, immigrants arriving on the island could expect to spend up to seven hours in processing activities intended to determine whether or not they were legally and medically fit to enter the United States. Imagine yourself as a child traveling through Ellis Island in 1892. How would you describe your experience to your cousin who has never heard of Ellis Island?

http://www.paradisevalleydar.com/Essay_Contest.html

The DAR Essay is the first ISLE Interest Group offered to fifth graders during the school year, and is open to all fifth grade students. This year there were 14 participants. After several months of hard work researching, writing, and editing, the fifth graders’ essays were sent to judges at the local level. Once the winner was announced, the DAR Essayists were invited to dessert and a recognition ceremony at the Faregrounds with the local DAR Chapter. Finnbar Kelly emerged as the winner for the Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter of Nantucket. His essay then went forward to compete at the State level.



A hearty “well done!” to all of the essay contest participants and congratulations to Finnbar!



From the Gym Closet

The winter months are flying by here in the gym. Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students have been busily perfecting their volleyball skills in our Volleyball unit. Students in the upper grades are provided with six to eight lessons for each unit covered in order to give them ample time to learn, practice, and perfect skills. We are also hopeful that our units spark interest and excitement for individual and/or team sports! Ask your child to show you his/her newly learned volleyball skills such as the forearm and overhead pass. Don't worry, you won't need a volleyball and/or a net at first! Simply let your child know that you can "shadow" him/her, a skill we use often here in the gym when we are teaching new skills. In "shadowing," we show the students the proper motions of the skill and ask that they first go through the motions *pretending* they have a ball in their hands and/or a net in front of them. In this way, we are hopeful that each of our students develops his/her new skills with great form and proper technique. Once the students grasp the newly learned skill without the ball and/or net, then, the fun begins, and the students begin to practice the skill with a volleyball!

Our kindergarten, first, and second graders have worked on a variety of lessons including dance, ribbon wand exploration, dribbling basketball style, hurdling, and partner stunts. Ask your child to tell you about the meaning of and an example of a *Counterbalance*! The children learned that they could support one another in various positions when their weight was working in *opposition* to their partner's weight. In addition to holding the counterbalance, the children learned about the importance of talking to their partner, helping one another, and problem solving! Indeed, our students are not only active here in the gym, but we are working on life skills that we hope our students will carry with them in all aspects of their lives!

It's truly a pleasure working with all of our students. We would like to ask that you please continue to support your child in being prepared for physical education by **making sure that he/she has sneakers**, especially during these winter months when so many children are wearing boots! Thank you for your support!



Grade 3

The third graders have learned about weather and climate. They will soon be learning about how water cycles through the atmosphere. We have enjoyed learning about the Puritans and every third grader should be able to tell you how the Pilgrims and Puritans differed. In the area of math, we have been learning about different types of measurement. We are learning about time, distance, volume, weight, and graphing. Soon we will be learning more about fractions.

All of the third graders will be participating in Enrichment Clusters on Fridays for one hour (between the February and April vacations). The students will each sign up for six choices. They will be assigned to one of these groups. All of the third grade teachers, third grade teaching assistants, other school employees, and community members will be teaching these 'clusters'. This has been a highlight of third grade over the past couple of years!

Ask your third grader what they have been reading and writing about at school!

Musical Notes

February brought the Walden Chamber Players to many of our music classes. They performed short pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, and Schoenberg and demonstrated different bowing effects on the violin, viola, and cello. Some students experienced the thrill of playing a violin, viola or cello during an evening or an in-class instrument "petting zoo". The musicians will return in May to visit more classes.



Notes From the Nurse:

Scoliosis screening for students in grade 5 is scheduled to begin in early March.

Each of us has a spine with a gentle curve allowing us to walk, run, and maintain our balance. When the curve becomes abnormal and curves laterally, the condition is known as scoliosis. Scoliosis is not uncommon; about three out of every 100 people have some degree of abnormal curve. For most, the condition is benign, but sometimes the curve gets worse, potentially causing problems, and needs to be treated. Scoliosis typically develops slowly, affecting girls more often than boys. The diagnosis is most often made during adolescence; a time when the body grows rapidly. For this reason, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires students in grades 5 through 9 to be screened annually for signs of scoliosis.

At N.E.S. the screening takes place in the nurse's office during physical education classes. A short movie will be shown prior to the screening to acquaint students with the procedure. I know the student's get nervous about this, but it is a quick procedure, performed individually and privately in the nurse's office. If any abnormalities are noticed and a physician's exam is recommended, you will be notified. If a diagnosis is made, your doctor will want to do regular checkups to make sure the curvature isn't increasing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please, call my office, email me, or stop by.

"Times have changed. As parents, we need to keep up!"

Social Media Mania & DNA...Facts about Drugs and Alcohol

Thursday, March 12, 2015
6pm – 8:30pm
2- one- hour presentations w/ Q&A

NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL
Large Group Instruction Room

**Presented by ASAP – 'Community Cares'
Series**



About the Speaker:

Mary Beth Uberti

Mary Beth Uberti is the Director of Program Development at Operation: PARENT who as a mother of two school-aged children is fully immersed in today's teen culture. She has presented to over 5000 parents, students, school administrators and counselors providing up-to-date information and effective strategies on challenging topics including alcohol and drugs, the teen brain, social media, technology, and more.

Mary Beth is also a Certified Life Coach and prior to her career at Operation: PARENT she worked as a software trainer and a systems engineer. Her love is public speaking and crafting presentations that will provide her audience with practical, evidence based information that will have immediate impact. Her engaging and easy presentation style connects with her audience whether they are parents or students.



About Operation: PARENT

Founded in 2005, Operation: PARENT is a non-profit organization specializing in "parent education" on over forty issues including alcohol, drugs, technology, social media, dating, suicide, and more. Operation: PARENT's mission is to provide ongoing education, support and hope to those raising teens and pre-teens in today's culture. This mission is achieved by offering a wide variety of educational products and services that (1) resonate with today's busy parents (2) support evidence based practices and (3) are continually updated.

Products and services include: a Parent Handbook (English/Spanish/Christian editions available), video-driven programs, in-home drug testing kits, and community presentations for both parents and students.

Operation: PARENT's ultimate goal is always "prevention" however, when a family is beyond prevention, Operation: PARENT strongly encourages parents to seek professional counseling and/or treatment.



1350 Kentucky 393, LaGrange, KY 40031 (502) 265-9045 operationparent.org





March Programs

Family Night: Manguito Friday, March 6, 6:30 PM Athenaeum Great Hall

Experience the joyous music of Latin America such as rumba, bomba, plena, and Dominican merengue. Five internationally known musicians take children on an interactive musical tour on a variety of musical instruments. Children can participate throughout via sing-a-longs, clapping rhythms, playing instruments, and dancing. In addition, this program provides children with an appreciation of the unique fusion of Spanish, African, and Native American cultures in Latino culture. Appropriate for families with children grades K and up. This program is made possible by a generous grant from Northern Trust.

Music with Mollie (Ages 2-7) Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 10:15-11:00AM Athenaeum Gallery

Music program with local cellist Mollie Glazer. Fun and engaging songs, singing games, and movement activities that teach musical skills. Free admission. No reservation required, but program is limited to first 10 children each with one caregiver. Tickets available at the Weezie Desk when the library opens.

Story Time Thursdays, March 5, 12, 19, 26 Babies into Books, 0-18 months, 10:05AM Toddler Time, 18mo-3yrs, 10:30AM Preschool Story Time, 3-5 years, 11:00AM

Dance(sing) Movement Wednesdays, March 11 & 18 Athenaeum Gallery Ages 10mo-3yrs, 10:15-10:55 AM Ages 3-5yrs, 3:15-4 PM

Creative movement with yoga and dance instructor Marjory Trott. Class is limited to first 15 children. Tickets available at the Children's Desk 30 minutes before program begins.

Kids Yoga with Marjory Trott (Grades K-3) Wednesdays, March 11 & 18 4:00-4:45 PM Athenaeum Gallery

Space is limited to 10 children. Tickets available at the Children's desk 30 min. before program begins.

Story & Craft with Jackie Lefebvre (Ages 4-10) Saturday, March 7, 10:15-11:00AM Athenaeum Gallery

This week we will be reading *The Treasure Chest* by Dominique Falda and creating bejeweled treasure chests of our own to take home. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited. Program tickets available at the Children's Desk when the library opens.

Maker Space for Kids with Dina Warren: "Take What You Need" (Ages 8-11) Saturday, March 21, 10:30-11:30AM Athenaeum Gallery

Our project for this class is a gift to the community. It's been a long cold winter, perhaps you're in need of a little hope, some patience, courage, healing or love? We'll be creating Take What You Need flyers to spread around our community's bulletin boards. All supplies will be provided. Registration is required online or by phoning the Weezie Desk at 228-1110 x 103.

Library Lego Challenge (Ages 5-10) Tuesday, March 10, 3-4:00 PM Saturday, March 14, 10:30-11:30 AM Athenaeum Gallery

Come join us for some creative construction! The library will supply the LEGO bricks and a suggested theme. Space is limited. Registration required. Please register for only one session per month.

Hora del Cuento Sábado, 28 de marzo 2015 10.15

Galería de Nantucket Athenaeum
Por favor únase a nosotros para una hora del cuento presentado en español para los miembros de nuestra comunidad de hablantes de español. Los niños van a disfrutar de los cuentos y rimas simples. Tiene una duración de aproximadamente 30 minutos. Después de los cuentos, por favor quédese y tome un refresco con nosotros.
El programa es para niños de 18 meses a 5 años de edad. Por favor, registrarse en la recepción de Weezie Desk cuando la biblioteca se abre a las 10:00 AM.

All programs are FREE to the public