

Nantucket Elementary School May Newsletter

Dear Families,

May 2015

Finally, it has begun to look and feel like spring! The weather has been so enjoyable recently. What a very pleasant change of pace! It feels good to put away the cold weather gear and dust off the spring clothing. It's also lovely to see spring colors.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR SUPPORT AT TOWN MEETING AND AT THE BALLOTS! We are very excited about the new school. The plans, as you may know, are very ambitious, and our hope is to have the doors open by 9/2017. We would not have this opportunity without your cooperation and assistance. I am very grateful to work with all of you!

It is scary to think about how fast this year is flying by! Our countdown until the end of the year is getting chock full. Please attend to all the dates. May is a busy month! There is: the NES Chorus Performance, the FONPS dance (please be sure to send in your raffle item donations), Teacher/Staff Appreciation Luncheon (we would be grateful for your participation – watch for emails), Fifth Graders versus the Staff in the annual basketball game, the Boston Museum Trip for 4th graders, and our final standardized testing begins next week.

Here are the upcoming PARCC (*Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers*) testing schedules for grades 3, 4, and 5:

GRADE 4

Tuesday, May 5 - ELA

Wednesday, May 6 - Math

Thursday, May 7 - Math

GRADE 3

Wednesday, May 13 - ELA

Thursday, May 14 - Math

Friday, May 15 - Math

GRADE 5

Tuesday, May 19 - ELA

Wednesday, May 20 - Math

Thursday, May 21 - Math

This round of PARCC testing is called the 'end of year assessment' (EOY) and will be from 8:20am – 10:20am each scheduled day.

More information about PARCC can be found at: www.parcconline.org

Grade 5 students will also complete MCAS for science:

GRADE 5

Monday, May 11 – MCAS Science Session 1

Tuesday, May 12 – MCAS Science Session 2

With the warm weather, children are always anxious to be outside. Be sure that children are dressed properly for the playground. This means no flip flops! The new playground should be in place in the next two weeks. While there is no structure, children are playing in the fields. Another reminder is - lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, and other hard instruments cannot be in school. There are more than 100 students outside at recess each session, and this is a very potential danger. In addition, **the doors to the school do not open until 7:35 am**. There is no supervision outside until then. Please do not drop children off early. Thank you in advance for adhering to this. Also, please be sure that children know where they are going at dismissal. The office can be a very busy place at the end of a school day, and children who might want to change their dismissal plans can experience challenges.

It is also very important for me to mention that food service accounts must be paid in full. Unfortunately, children will not be able to participate in a variety of events including field trips, dances, ceremonies, etc. if the bills are not paid. Children will not be allowed to charge a lunch if they do not have a positive balance. A memo explaining this was emailed and sent home near the end of April. Please take care of these bills ASAP. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Warmly (let's hope),
Mrs. Kubisch

Important Upcoming Dates:

Week of May 4th:

Teacher Appreciation Week

PARCC Testing Begins

May 5th:

PARCC Testing Begins

School Committee Meeting 6:00 PM

May 6th:

NES Chorus Concert 6:00 P.M.

Grade 5 Family Living Parent Meeting @6:00 P.M

May 7:

NES School Council Meeting 3:00 P.M

May 8:

Principal Coffee 8:00 A.M

May 10:

Mother's Day

May 11:

Polished Dental Group

May 12:

5th Grade Parent Information Night at CPS 6:00 P.M

May 12:

MA Biographies Mrs. Latter and Mrs. Lemaitre's grade 3 classes

May 13

Noon Dismissal

Teacher Appreciation Luncheon

May 14 and 15

4th Grade Boston Museum of Science Trip

May 18

MA Biographies Mrs. Aloisi, Mrs. Mooney and Ms. Wolff's Grade 3 Classes

May 21

5th Graders Vs. NES Staff Basketball Game

May 25:

No School Memorial Day



The NHA is coming to Kindergarten!!

During the first week of May Claire White from the NHA is visiting all the Kindergarten classes.

She is teaching the children all about mapping. They will learn to read a map of Nantucket and then make a map of the island by themselves!

We appreciate the collaboration the NHA has with the public schools. It is a great way to get our children involved with the history of Nantucket!





Grade 1:

This month, the first grade students will continue 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 have been and will continue to enjoy 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 are working on including details and descriptions. 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:

Full STEAM Ahead!

We can't believe April vacation has come and gone, and we sure have been busy getting ready for the next 2 ½ months! Teachers at NES have been fortunate enough to attend some national conferences for professional development this spring. We are always learning! In March, the National Science Teachers Association held its annual conference in Chicago, IL. April brought National Council of Teachers of Mathematics to Boston, MA. Both associations put the spotlight on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math. We are looking forward to sharing what we've learned with our students, our colleagues, and our families.

Our math studies have turned to a new measurement unit. Time and graphing are the focus of Unit 5. Second graders build upon what they have learned in first grade about time to the hour and should be able to read a clock to the nearest 5 minute mark by the end of second grade. We have discussed the differences and similarities between analog and digital clocks. We will also review the passage of greater measurements of time such days, months, and years. We will use what we've learned about collecting information to create graphs, analyze the data and interpret what we see. You can help out at home by pointing out to your child how much time has passed from one activity to another, asking your child what time it is, and practicing reading not only digital clocks but analog as well.

In Science we have been learning about how things move and how they may balance. Students will be exploring a variety of motions such as rolling, spinning, turning, and bouncing. Testing objects for balance and equilibrium will give us the chance to experiment with the different types of force. Once we understand how and why things move, our stage is set to learn about simple machines. Students will have the opportunity for hands-on exploration of the several types of simple machines including: inclined plane, lever, wheel and axle, and pulley. It is an exciting time to be in 2nd grade!

Grade 4

We are Camping In! Grade Four is so excited because we have the opportunity to stay overnight at the Boston Museum of Science. It is a ton of fun, a ton of learning, and very little sleeping. The Camp-In program includes the Omni Theater and the Planetarium, and Theater of Electricity, as well as many hands-on activities and presentations that match our science units on Rocks and Minerals, Bird Adaptations, Magnets and Electricity, and Our Solar System. We are looking forward to this fun, educational experience to celebrate and reinforce the learning that has been going on this year.

Music Notes:

🎵 Chorus Concert

Please come to our spring concert in the NES cafeteria on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 PM

The Walden Chamber Players return to NES on May 19. Mrs. Knapp and Ms. Horyn's classes will play a ukulele and string arrangement of *Rocky Mountain* with the ensemble in a

🎵 performance at The Dreamland on Thursday, May 21. Student performers and composers from CPS and NHS will also be featured on the concert.

NES Band, conducted by Mrs. Dorothy Thompson, will perform on Wednesday, May 27 at 7:00 PM in the NHS Auditorium. CPS Bands and NHS Band will also perform. Students are busy rehearsing *Hotaru Koi*, *Slip and Slide* and *Mary Ann* which they will play with the sixth graders. Please come hear our school bands!

Music Web Sites:

Students and parents may want to check out these web-sites that will reinforce lessons taught by Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Sheppard:

www.carnegiehall.org --- Listening Adventures

www.sfskids.org – “Music Lab”

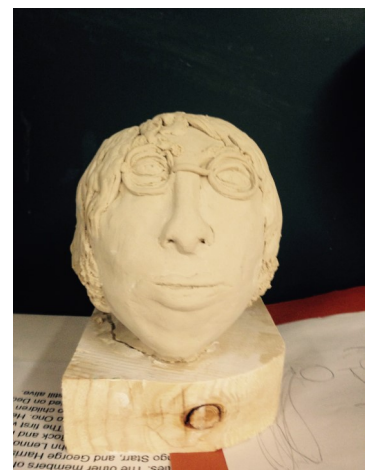
www.dsokids.com – Games/Composers and instruments

www.musictheory.net --- Note naming and theory lessons

Thanks for your continued support of NES music!

John Lennon Sculpture

by Ava Mossdrop



Grade 5

Fifth graders are barreling towards year's end with abandon. Has your student begun to challenge your authority with increasingly complex and organized arguments? We apologize, but that may well be the result of recent work writing opinion essays. Is your student speaking in metered metaphors and waxing poetic? Then our recent poetry units may be spilling over into home life. Have you asked your son to scrub the dirt from under his fingernails, only to have him lecture you on the composition of the offending matter? That's our science unit on soil, erosion and weathering. If your student isn't volunteering evidence of our work at school quite so readily, be sure to ask! There's lots of learning going on.

Your students will tackle the Science MCAS in a couple of weeks, hot on the heels of a very successful field trip to Squam Swamp to collect specimens and study vernal pools. After that we'll go one last round with PARCC testing, and will be off to Nature's Classroom shortly after that! We'll soon begin a P.E. unit on swimming, and one on "Family Living," too (Please get those permission slips back in ASAP!). We look forward to the spring dance, and thank all of you parents who have contributed items for our raffle baskets.

These last two months of school will fly, and we look forward to packing each precious day chock-a-block with more opportunities to learn.

**Yours,
Grade 5**

Grade 3

Third Grade Enrichment Clusters were a great success! We all participated in a Share Fair on the Friday before the vacation to learn about what other third graders learned about in their "cluster".

We are learning about fractions in math! We continue to work on memorizing our basic facts and bettering our problem solving skills.

We are studying famous people from Massachusetts. Within our classrooms, each child is researching a different person. They are researching with the students in the other classes that are studying the same person. We will use our research to create a power point presentation, poster, and script. Students will be presenting downtown at the Atheneum on May 11th or May 18th. Be on the lookout for an invitation! We will soon be learning about the events that led up the American Revolution and the American Revolution.

April is Poetry Month and we have been reading and writing poetry! We have also been working on writing opinion pieces.

As the weather begins to get warmer, we will look forward to our study of plants and soil!

We sprang into spring by celebrating poetry during the month of April. This month we are rereading some of our favorite spring books and getting ready for the warm months when we can read and enjoy a good book on the beach. We encourage all families to visit the Atheneum to make sure everyone has a good book to read.

Save the Date! Please join us Friday, June 5th at 8:00am at the Principal Coffee where there will be a summer reading presentation.

Some of our spring favorites:

It's Spring by Susan Swan and Linda Glaser

Spring is Here! By Will Hillenbrand

Everything Spring by Jill Esbaum

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb by Marion Dane Bauer

The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Clifford's Spring Clean-Up by Norman Bridwell

Frog and Toad by Arnold Lobel



Have you filled your bucket today????

2015 Bucket Fillers

Deshawni Baker, Alison Bamber, Eduardo Barragan, Michael Benitez, Triston Berrio, Harryson Carpio Valle, Marina Cassano, Aubrey Connors, Alexis Connoles, Brooke Damian, Lilah Feeley, Tristram Grimes, Alex Hilmer, Cora Iller, Andrew Lavin, Stacey Mancina, Marin Mooney, Ashley Montoya, Dayanne Nazareth, Colby O'Keefe Julie Pires, Stefany Ramos, Lily Remick, Lauren Sadjak, Edward Taveras, Jefferson Tejada, Sandra Tejada, Kymani Thomas, Nicholas Trescher, Patrick Valero, and Kyden Whitfield

School Counselor News...

We are ready (and waiting) for Spring! This month the focus of our classroom-based instruction and small groups will be goal setting, perseverance, and celebration of self and others! We'll look at their strengths and abilities, and how social and emotional growth is key to their success. Children deserve our ongoing support and constant reminders that we believe in them.

Student objectives include:

- Understanding the importance of facing challenges using persistence and positive attitudes.

- Realizing that having hopes and dreams helps us plan for the future.

- Learning how to set goals and plan the steps to achieve them.

- Celebrating their growth and success during the school year.

As our school year begins to wind down we will continue to support students as they prepare to transition to the next grade level and the successes and challenges that await them. For many students this can be a very emotional time as they begin to realize they will be leaving their teachers and may not have the same peers with them next year. At home, they may appear irritable or 'out of sorts'. These are normal reactions to change.

Please feel free to contact the School Counselor at your child's grade level if you have any school-related questions or concerns. Ms. Clark (PreK-Grade 2) can be reached at ext. 2109, and Ms. Hood (Grades 3-5) can be reached at ext. 2110.

We are happy to assist in any way we can!



Information from the N.E.S. Nurse

April through September is the season when ticks are most active. It is quite possible that this year may be worse than most because of all the snow we had, so here are some suggestions to help reduce the chance of picking up a tick.

- Try to avoid wooded and bushy areas when outdoors.

- Stay away from tall grass and walk in the center of trails.

- Don't sit on stumps or fallen logs and stay away from leaf litter under trees.

- Use a tick repellent, like DEET (on skin) or Permethrin (on clothing), following the instructions carefully.

- Wear light-colored long pants and long sleeves so you can easily see any ticks

- If possible, tuck shirts into pants and tuck pants into socks to keep ticks from crawling onto your skin

- Bathing or taking a shower as soon as possible after coming indoors will help wash off any crawling ticks; follow up with a full-body tick check.

If you find a tick embedded, use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick near the head as close to the surface of the skin as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure to remove the whole tick. Clean the bite area thoroughly with alcohol, betadine solution, or soap and water. See your doctor if you or your child develops a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick.

From the Gym Closet

Spring time in the gym is one of my favorite times of the year! The sunshine seems to lift everyone's spirits and the children seem happier and more energetic than ever!

School wide, we danced away the last couple of weeks in April preparing for the Friends of **Nantucket Public Schools' (FONPS) Dance that is on Thursday, May 7th**. The theme this year is "Neon." The upper elementary children learned a dance to Meghan Trainor's, Nantucket's own, song "Lips are Movin'." How cool is it that this now famous performance artist attended NES and had PE in this very same gym taught by Ms. Gardner? We are so proud of Meghan and all of her success, and hope that our students feel inspired to pursue their own dreams whatever they may be. The lower elementary students learned a dance to Taylor Swift's song, "Shake It Off." On the night of the dance, we hope you enjoy watching your children's hard work when we dance together as a group to show you their choreographed dances. Thank you in advance to all who attend and assist in the organization of this year's school dance. What a fun night it will be and we so appreciate all of your fund-raising efforts.

The upper elementary students have also spent the month of April playing whiffle ball. We work hard in the gym to create an environment in which players of all skill levels and experiences feel comfortable. We take the time to teach the skills and strategies involved in a diamond sport such as whiffle ball and encourage those students with higher levels of skill and knowledge to assist those who are new to the sport. In whatever the unit we are involved, our emphasis is always on teaching, learning, and sportsmanship. There is nothing more important to us than all of our students feeling comfortable and exhibiting great sportsmanship with a desire to learn. At a sports banquet I recently attended, the coach ever so wonderfully reminded all of us that "you can teach skill, but you can't teach will." Indeed, with good teaching/coaching and a healthy environment, we can teach skill, and we hope that our students, with your help, of-course, come to PE with the will to learn and exhibit great sportsmanship.

The upper elementary students begin their swim unit in May! We would appreciate your help in reminding your child to come prepared on their swim days with their suit, towel, and goggles, if necessary. If you are interested in volunteering in the water and/or in the locker rooms, please let us or your child's teacher know.

We hope you and your child can participate in **Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 6th**! Thank you for all of your continued support in helping your child come to PE with sneakers and comfortable clothing, especially as the weather becomes warmer.

NES SPRING DANCE

THURSDAY MAY 7TH 5:30 - 7:00 PM

FREE ADMISSION

CHANCE BASKETS \$2.00/TICKET

PIZZA BY THE SLICE \$1.00/EACH

TONS OF FUN!!



BRING IT ON...

WEAR YOUR NEON!

*** PARENTS MUST SUPERVISE STUDENTS * THIS IS NOT A DROP OFF EVENT**

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Family Night: Vive El Cuento! Stories from Around the World with Leeny Del Seamonds

Friday, May 8, 6:30 PM

Atheneum Great Hall

Get ready to dance! This energetic lady delights her audience with her amazing voice and spontaneous wit. She sings songs of love, loss, joy, and pain. Her repertoire is comprised of traditional Mexican rhythms, her original songs, some English tunes, and melodies from other Latin-American countries. Ms. Robles has performed, produced, and hosted for major television networks such as Televisa, TV Azteca, Univision, WGBH, and Telemundo, where she currently hosts and co-produces the popular show "Orale con Veronica" since 2002. Appropriate for families with children grades K-12. This program is made possible by a generous grant from Northern Trust.

Music with Mollie (Ages 2-7)

Tuesdays, May 5, 12, 19 & 26

10:15-11:00AM

Atheneum 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, May 7, 14, 21 & 28

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, May 6 & 13 Atheneum 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)

Wednesday, May 6 & 13

4-4:45 PM Atheneum 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, May 9, 10:15-11:00AM

Atheneum Gallery

This week we will be reading *A Gift for Mama* by Linda Ravin Lodding and creating flowers for Mother's Day! All supplies will be provided. Free admission. Space is limited. Program tickets available at the Children's Desk 30 minutes before program begins.

Library Lego Challenge (Ages 5-10)

Thursday, May 28, 3-4:00 PM

Saturday, May 30, 10:30-11:30 AM

Atheneum Gallery

Come join us for some creative construction! The

library will supply the LEGO bricks and a suggested theme. Space is limited. **Registration is required** online or by phoning the Weezie Desk at 228-1110 x 103. Please register for only one session per month.

Minecraft Club

Saturdays, May 9 & 30

1:00—3:00 PM

Atheneum Learning Lab

Minecraft Club Saturdays, May 9 & 30

1:00—3:00 PM

Atheneum Learning Lab

Join our Minecraft club! Our club is different in that we use the MinecraftEdu game, which allows for all players to be in one world at the same time. The worlds we choose will vary as the club unfolds. Different worlds may focus on building things, solving problems, facing a particular challenge, survival, or much more. Many times participants will have multiple goals and need to work together as a team to find solutions. **Registration is required online or by phoning the Weezie Desk at**

228-1110 x 103.

