

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

NES

Dear Families,

April 2017

Welcome spring! Let's hope the weather has begun to turn. I hope that everyone has accessed the report cards through the student information system – ASPEN. If you are having any difficulties, please contact the main office staff. They will be able to assist you, especially Jane!

We have begun our readiness for student placement. **Please remember that parents are asked to communicate any child placement information you wish for me to know by no later than Friday, 4/14/17. This should be done in writing, via email, or make an appointment through Jane Melville, (508)228-7290 EXT. 2104 to see me.** The teachers will be getting their final work on placements done beginning in May.

During recess, children are not allowed to play with hard toys (lacrosse sticks, baseball bats, baseballs, etc.). These pose a danger, as there are so many children at recess. Also, as flip flop season approaches, be advised that these cannot be worn on the playground or in the gym. If students wear flip flops to school, they must have a change of shoes to participate in recess and PE. Cell phones are against the policies listed in the NES Handbook. Recently, some fifth graders have been seen with them. If you allow your child to have a cell phone, please remind them that they stay off in school and should only be used after the school day has ended.

Our spring vacation is from 4/15/17 - 4/23/17. Enjoy some much needed downtime! My daughters and I will be joining my dad and other family members in Hilton Head, South Carolina. We can't wait to be in the sun, at the beach, playing tennis and golf, and enjoying all the gang!

We will be doing our MCAS testing beginning as soon as we get back from April Break. The students should get to bed early (be well rested) and eat a good breakfast on their testing days. They can do this! We believe in them! We have planned the following dates for April and May 2017:

| Grade 5 | Grade 4 | Grade 3 |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Tues., Apr. 25 ELA | Thurs., Apr. 27 ELA | Mon., May 1 ELA |
| Weds., Apr. 26 ELA | Fri., Apr. 28 ELA | Tues., May 2 ELA |
| Thurs. Apr. 27 ELA | Thurs., May 11 Math | Mon., May 15 Math |
| Mon., May 8 Math | Fri., May 12 Math | Tues., May 16 Math |
| Tues., May 9 Math | | |
| Weds., May 17 Sci. | | |
| Thurs., May 18 Sci. | | |

There will be some paving done in the parking lots during the break. As a reminder, visitors are not allowed to park in the Surfside Road lot except for the Visitor and Handicap spaces. In the lot off of First Way, visitors are only allowed to park in the 5 visitor spots. No one should park in blue lined spaces and no one should park in numbered spaces. The best place for visitor parking is the Backus Lane lot. I am also aware that several people use the rink lot for pick up and drop off. As this is a business, I would not recommend long term parking there.

We are very excited to begin the transition planning for our 3rd-5th graders into NIS. We have hired a principal, Evemarie MacNeil. She will be joining us in July 2017. In May, I anticipate we will take the 2nd through 4th grade students on a tour of the new building. Shortly thereafter, there will be a parents and community tour. The custodial staff has a very big job ahead of them this summer. They will be moving the 3-5 staff over to NIS, they will be moving 2nd grade to the green cluster, and they will be moving those who have not had an office or a classroom space into a classroom here at NES!! The good news – none of our PreK, Kindergarten, or First Grade classrooms are moving anywhere. They are staying put! We will also be welcoming the Special Education Services office into two classroom spaces in the red cluster as well as the Community School into two classroom spaces in the red cluster.

I hope everyone's spring is off to a terrific start!

Warmly, Kim Kubisch

Important NES Dates

April 11

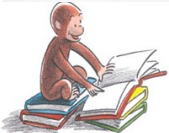
School Committee Meeting 6PM

April 14

Good Friday

April 16

Easter Sunday

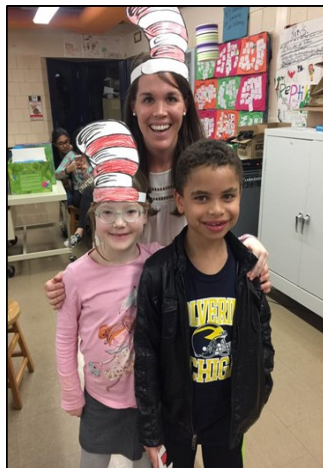


From the Reading Corner

On March 9th, NES held our sixth annual Family Literacy Night. We are so proud of the large amount of children who attended and could be found participating in the following activities: making hats, drawing, making letters with play-dough and shaving cream, playing word games, learning about technology and publishing books, visiting with The Cat in the Hat, Amelia Bedelia, Harry Potter, Things 1 and 2, and helping The Man in the Yellow Hat find Curious George. It was exciting to welcome Ms. Frizzle from Magic School Bus and had fun trying to find Waldo and Wenda. We were thrilled with the turn out and encourage all our families to keep literacy alive at home. Finally, thank you to all the teachers who came out and made the event a tremendous success.



April is Poetry Month! This month, classrooms around the school will be bringing poetry alive through reading, writing, and/or reciting poetry. Thursday, April 27th is Poem in Your Pocket day at NES! On this day every child will carry a poem in his or her pocket and read or recite it at certain points throughout the day!



Keep A Poem In Your Pocket

By Beatrice Schenk de Regniers

Keep a poem in your pocket
And a picture in your head
And you'll never feel lonely
At night when you're in bed.
The little poem will sing to you
The little picture bring to you
A dozen dreams to dance to you
At night when you're in bed.
So - -
Keep a picture in your pocket
And a poem in your head
And you'll never feel lonely
At night when you're in bed.

Grade 1

ELA Update

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.

Math Update

During the month of March, the first grade students have focused quite a bit on working with interpreting and sharing data, while working with various types of graphs. Number sense with strong addition and subtraction skills are a constant emphasis in first grade. First grade students should have their basic math facts to 20 mastered automatically. We are now focusing on working with adding and subtracting greater numbers, counting on, and grouping tens sticks and ones for combining these larger numbers.

Science Update

For the next few weeks we will continue to study the great outdoors: life cycles in plants and animals, with a special focus on frogs, butterflies, chickens, and plants and flowers. Science in first grade is an exploration of our world around us. We like to observe, investigate, discuss, draw and write about our discoveries. As always, we welcome community members and parents to join us in sharing interesting observations about the world around us.

Social Studies Update

Our Social Studies focus is currently on citizenship. We completed our biography unit this winter, and are moving into citizenship, and all of the component of citizenship. We will be looking at American symbols, American traditions and Heritage. Much like Science, first grade Social Studies is an opportunity to explore the world around us, and learn how and where we fit.

Grade 2

In Second Grade, we have been learning about the world around us!

We started by studying maps and globes. We created maps of our classrooms and our bedrooms. We are building on the student's map skills knowledge from first grade.

Next up was the seven continents and the five surrounding oceans. The children have been working hard to learn the location and name of the con-



Kindergarten



NES kindergarten students annual assembly with dentist Dr. Torre

Grade 3

The third grade team has kicked off our unit on fractions and the children seem very excited about learning something new! If your child has not yet memorized their multiplication and division facts, they should spend extra time practicing these facts at home. Our enrichment clusters continue to be a hit on Friday mornings! The third graders will be taking the MCAS 2.0 assessments for both Math and English Language Arts (on the computers) in May. We are currently working on reading various passages, locating evidence in the text to support answers to comprehension questions, and writing in response to reading (providing details and examples from the text to support answers). Upcoming units in Science and Social Studies will include soil and plants, as well as biography research.

GRADE 4

In reading, we'll be focusing on describing an event, in a story and locating and analyzing examples of similes and metaphors in stories, poems and folktales! Please remember to read 15-30 minutes every night!



In writing, we're wrapping up creative stories. April is poetry month and not only will we be reading poems we will also be writing them!

In math, we're focusing on fractions, fractions and more fractions! We're adding/subtracting fractions, building fractions using unit fractions, simplifying fractions and finding equivalent fractions.



In science, 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 planet's day and year. Soon we're moving on to our study of rocks and minerals and the rock cycle!

In Social Studies, we continue to study the states and capitals of the United States. We're also beginning to study the climate, physical features and major resources in each region.

Grade 5

Thank you to all of our wonderful families who picked up the citrus promptly and got it delivered to customers. Our fundraiser was a success, and once again we do not anticipate that we will have to ask parents to contribute any other money toward the three day trip to Nature's Classroom.

This term students will be working on informational writing. Students will research some aspect of the American Revolution and then write an informational book.

April means that testing season is upon us. Fifth graders will have seven days of MCAS testing. Fifth graders are scheduled to take the ELA test on April 25, 26, and 27. Math testing will take place on May 8 and 9, and Science and Technology/Engineering testing will happen on May 17 and 18. Teachers have begun to prepare students for the upcoming tests by giving the ELA practice test to students so they are familiar with question types and expectations. We hope all students have a restful April vacation

Grade 2 Musical Reminder:

As your child may have informed you, primary music has focused heavily on World Music since returning to school after February vacation. We have studied the music of several countries: Puerto Rico, Lithuania, Ireland, Thailand, Jamaica, Bulgaria, Nepal, Dominican Republic, and El Salvador. The students have learned a variety of folk songs, dances, and games from these countries; I am so proud of their hard work! To celebrate the many special heritages in each class, in addition to all that the students have learned throughout the past month, we will be having a World Cultures party in the students' last music class before April vacation!

For the celebration, I would like to request your help. If you and your child would be willing to make a small food from your family's heritage to share with the class on the day of the party, that would be wonderful! **Due to a short class period, the foods cannot be extravagant; cold finger foods, such as rolls, muffins, or other small snacks would be best.**

Each class's party date is listed below by classroom teacher:

Wednesday, April 12: Tornovish; Barber; Daume; Kessler; Caires

Thursday, April 13: Davis; O'Keefe; Murphey; MacLellan; Tarpey; Myers

Friday, April 14: Fey; Muffly; Ellis (Abbott); McGuinness; Gottlieb; O'Banion

For more info email Miss. LaFreniere: lafreneirem@npsk.org

Greetings from the Eleanor C. Jones Library



With the school year more than half over (really?!!) students have been engaged in many library activities. Fifth graders are in the midst of a research project being co-taught with Ms. Penotte. Students chose a topic of interest, generated focus questions, and located print and online sources to help them answers these questions. They have been following a 10-step guideline to help them along in the research process of locating, organizing, researching and synthesizing information on topics as varied as the Stone Age, viruses and endangered sea turtles.

Fourth graders are working on their last reference source – encyclopedias. They have spent the past few months using reference materials to locate information and have been learning how to cite each source to create a bibliography.

Third graders have focused on figures of speech these past months. After listening to stories about Amelia Bedelia – the story character that takes everything literally, students created some wonderful drawings of idioms. They have also worked on similes, metaphors, alliteration and onomatopoeia.

Second graders have focused on nonfiction text and the different types of text features publishers use to present and highlight informational text.

First graders completed their Caldecott study and have moved on to fairy tales. They are listening to stories that must have 7 specific literary elements to make them a fairy tale. Ask your student what these elements are!

Kindergartners continue to enjoy both fiction and nonfiction books. They have learned parts of a book as well as parts of a story. We have also talked about the freedom authors have to write about anything they want – from pesky squirrels to underpants!

Please remember to check the due date of your child's library book to make sure they get returned on time!

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Coburn

K-2 Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette

The month of March was devoted to our unit called Manipulatives. Each time the students came to class, the students explored and moved creatively with different manipulatives such as jump rope sticks, ribbon wands, hula hoops, scarves, and jump ropes.



See my second grade students, Mia and Molly, being creative making the letter "M" with their jump rope sticks, and Michael and his classmates working hard with their jump rope sticks



See my second grader, Yanique, being creative in a split with her ribbon wand



Thank you for your continued support in helping your child come prepared to PE with comfortable clothing and sneakers!

Reminder from Nurse Bonnie Ray:

There is a virus going around the school presently with flu-like symptoms and fever and many children are absent. If your child is sick, please, keep him/her home during the course of the fever and for an additional 24 hours after the fever has passed. Children should be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Handwashing is one of the best ways to protect yourself and your family from getting sick. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another and throughout the entire school community. Here's how to do it effectively:

- Wash often and wash well. Use soap and water to make a good lather.
- Rub your hands together for 20 seconds, washing fronts and backs, between fingers and under nails.
- Rinse with plenty of water.
- Dry with a paper towel and use the towel to turn off the faucet.
- Use of an alcohol-based (60% alcohol) hand cleaner (like Purell) is also effective.

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

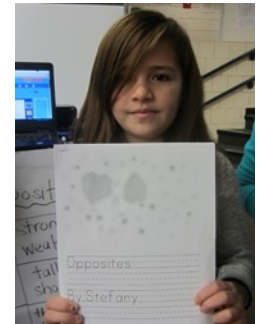
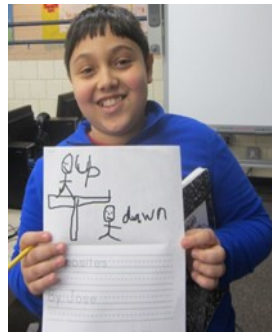
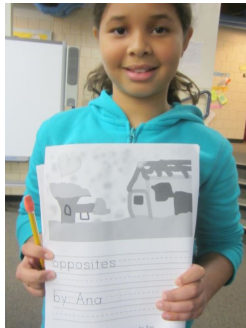
Hoping to keep everyone healthy this spring.

Bonnie Ray, R.N.

From the Computer Lab

SPOTLIGHT ON NEWCOMERS !!!

During March, newcomers (those who are just beginning to speak English) have visited the computer lab to learn about digital tools for writing. For a study on “opposites”, each student wrote and illustrated a book. Pictured here are the proud authors and a few excerpts from their published works.



Digital storytelling can be a fun and rewarding project. It's a great way to focus literacy projects from spelling, vocabulary, and grammar, to character development and setting. Whether the subject is science, history, language arts, or learning beginning vocabulary, students love to write stories and see their work published. Check out this simple program @ http://www.abcy.com/story_maker.htm
Enjoy,

Ms. Penotte





School Counselor News...

In April, the focus of our classroom-based instruction and small groups will be transitioning from bullying prevention to the power to make good choices and cooperation.

We will explore what it means to:

Be a leader.

Be responsible for our own actions.

Believe in ourselves.

Making good choices is an important life skill. There are many challenges facing children...their ability to think through situations in a positive way will help them to show leadership, take responsibility and believe that they can make a difference.

On another note, we are excited to have Seanda Bartlett here at NES working with Lisa Hood and students in Grades 3-5, as a school counseling intern. Seanda is currently enrolled in a School Counseling Program at New York University. She will be here several days a week and will be involved in the different various parts of our counseling program, including classroom lessons, small group work and individual student support.

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 assist in any way 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.



NES Staff at Literacy Night in March