

# Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

March 2017

NES



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 pretty good winter! I stayed on island for this past winter break – it's super quiet and lonely around here. I should be grateful for this time as we start to ramp up?? 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 sixth annual Literacy Night event. On Thursday, 3/9, from 5:30 – 6:30, come and enjoy a multitude of activities to support literacy. There will also be an opportunity to buy food and beverages from 5:00 – 5:30 pm before the Literacy games begin! 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 already have 14 groups signed up! We are very excited to be hosting our second 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! Our next meeting is a joint council (NES, CPS, and NHS) meeting in the CPS café on Thursday, 3/9 at 3:00 pm

**Driving at NES** Thank you so much for your patience as we wrap up the construction at NIS. They are working efficiently and every day brings about much progress. We will continue to count on your patience, flexibility, and kindness. I must remind everyone that there is no driving in the front circle between 7:30 – 8:00 am and 2:00 – 2:45 pm. Busses only are allowed in the front circle during these times.

- 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 on Backus Lane. 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 then 2:20 pm. Please do not ask to release your child earlier than dismissal unless there is a doctor's appointment. The doors will be locked and from 2:00

**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 (both off of Backus) and line up to go through the circle.

**Upcoming March Events**

**NPS Joint School Council** - CPS Café Thurs. 3/9 3:00 pm

**LITERACY NIGHT** – NES Thurs. 3/9 5:00 – 6:30 pm

**Lip Sync** Forms are due! 3/10

**Daylight Savings** – Turn clocks ahead 3/12

**Scoliosis Screening** Grade 5 begins 3/13

**NES Term 2 ends 3/17**

**NES Report Cards available 3/24** – They can be viewed online through ASPEN.

**ASPEN Link:** <https://ma-npsk.myfollett.com/aspen/logon.do>

Welcome back,

Kim Kubisch, Principal



**Read Across America Spirit Week is March 6-10 in honor of Dr. Seuss. Each day NES will coordinate with one of our favorite Dr. Seuss books:**

**Monday 3/6 Cat in the Hat-** Wear a fun hat

**Tuesday 3/7 Fox in Sox-** Wear crazy or fun socks

**Wednesday 3/8 Wacky Wednesday-** Wear wacky clothes, such as mismatched or backwards

**Thursday 3/9 Oh The Places You'll Go-** Wear a college jersey or tee shirt  
Family Literacy Night 5:30-6:30 PM  
Food and Beverages Sales begin at 5:00 PM -

**Friday 3/10 One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish-** Wear or red or blue shirt.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten has continued to work on writing how-to books and learning addition and subtraction. We have gotten together as a grade to sing songs, including ones about Martin Luther King! We celebrated Valentine's Day and we also celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> day with fun making necklaces, bringing in 100 collections, and dressing up like we were 100 years old.



Grade 1 Students getting ready for the Sing A Long



## Grade 2

What's the news in grade two? Second graders have had a busy and productive month! We started off the month by completing our unit on biographies. We learned about Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, Alexander Graham Bell, Abraham Lincoln, and other influential figures. In math, we are learning about time and graphing. We've discovered several methods of graphing and created graphs using simple data. In social studies, we are continuing our unit on maps, globes, and touring the seven continents. We have learned interesting facts and are able to identify land boundaries, mountain ranges, and rivers. This is an exciting unit because we will locate the countries our ancestors came from and complete a research project on one of the countries.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our healthy hearts party! We had a wonderful time and loved all the delicious healthy treats. We also would like to thank Officer Mansfield and Moby for visiting second grade! We had the best time learning about the role of a police dog.



## Grade 3

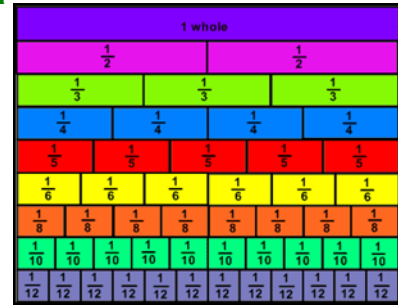
What's happening in third grade? Enrichment clusters are underway and the kids are super excited! We are wrapping up our math units on multiplication, area, and problem solving, and will be soon learning more about fractions! Memorizing basic math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) are an important skill in third grade. If your child does not yet know their facts, they should spend extra time at home practicing. The kids have learned many games at school that can help make this process exciting and fun! We have been learning about hazardous weather and how it affects our environment. In social studies, we have been (or will soon be) learning about the Puritans. Third graders have been working on informational writing and continue to work on bettering our reading skills every day!

## Grade 4 News:

**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 comparing and contrasting author's point of view. Please remember to read 15-30 minutes every night!**

**In writing, we're beginning creative stories! Students will develop stories with a setting, characters, problem/solution, dialogue and a beginning/middle/end.**

**In math, we're wrapping up writing equations, word problems and patterns. Our next unit of study will be fractions.**



**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.**

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## Grade 5

The annual 5th grade citrus sale was a resounding success! Thank you for your support throughout this entire process. We will send out a notice when the citrus is due to arrive.

Students have been studiously tackling a course of study that deals with weather and climate. Please engage your child in a discussion about recent weather patterns and ask them about what they have been learning in class. In ELA students have been working diligently on identifying theme in content area literature.

In writing, students have been staunchly defending their personal opinions. There will be a final on-demand writing piece mid-March, before this trimester's report card are due. Some students have selected hot-button topics to still in the process of identifying want to check-in with your student over their stances,



write their opinions on. Others are ing an issue to defend. You may dent and engage in a debate with



### School Counselor News...

In February, our classroom-based instruction and small group work has continued to focus on treating each other with respect and accepting differences, with an emphasis on what bullying behaviors are and when these behaviors become bullying. We have also begun discussions about the different roles that are present in a bullying situation...the bully, the victim, and the bystander.

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

In Grade 5 lessons will focus on all of these things within the context of transitioning to Middle School .

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.

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.

## Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette K-2

The month of February was devoted to our unit, Games. From Noodle Tag to Frog Crossing and Cookie Monster Tag to Catch and Chase, my students loved the challenge of learning and playing new games.



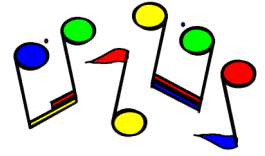
See my kindergarten students enjoying the game called Frog Crossing

Before beginning our unit, we spent time discussing the importance of being a good sport and what that looks and sounds like in the gym. My main goal in this unit is for my students to learn about the skill of sportsmanship and to have many opportunities practicing being a good sport. Thank you for all that you do at home to help instill the skill of sportsmanship in your child! Thank you for your continued support in helping your child come prepared to PE in comfortable clothing and sneakers.



My second grade students' playing a tag game

## Music Notes



February was a month full of fun music learning in grades K-2! Kindergartners practiced differentiating between high and low sounds through listening and playing instruments. They also learned to play the classic circle game, "Circle Round the Zero," and a new partner dance as well.

First graders completed a unit on Sergei Prokofiev's famous "Peter and the Wolf." The students heard the story read aloud, watched the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra perform the piece, and acted out the story with the music themselves. At the end of the unit, the students were able to successfully identify which instrument sounds/motifs belonged to each character in the story. Feel free to follow this link to play the matching game with your child: <http://www.peterandthewolffilm.co.uk/Peter%20and%20the%20Wolf%20Game.html>.

Second graders learned several new circle songs and games this month, and they also continued to practice their percussion-playing techniques. Their hard work and focus led to great improvements in their playing; they will soon be masters of the mallets! Upon returning from vacation, second graders will begin studying Camille Saint-Saen's "Carnival of the Animals."

The NES Band made its debut on February 8 with a successful first concert! The ensemble performed fourteen selections for a house full of family, friends, teachers, and community members. Conductor Ms. Lafreniere was extremely proud of the students' performance; they sounded fantastic! Ms. Lafreniere and the NES Band members want to extend a sincere thank you to all who attended for your continued support of music education.

A wonderful vacation wish to you and your family! See you in March! ☺

## Chorus News

Chorus continues to meet at its regularly scheduled day and time, Thursday right after school until 3:10 p.m. in the NES cafeteria.

The student ensemble is coming together nicely and sounding wonderful! They are working hard and quite excited about the concert scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, at 6 p.m. As it gets closer to the concert, rehearsal time may extend a bit later, but a note will be sent home beforehand.

Please note that rehearsals end at 3:10 for student pickup.

Thanks to our elementary school families for their participation and support of the NES music programs!

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## A note from Nurse Bonnie Ray

**Scoliosis screening for students in grade 5 is scheduled to begin on March 13<sup>th</sup>.**

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 during physical education classes. Students are examined individually and privately in the locker rooms. 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 doesn't become larger.



## From the Gym Closet: Grades 3-5



We have been really enjoying both Basketball and Volleyball units of study in the gym with upper elementary students. In Basketball we have been working on pass, dribble, shoot-sometimes as individuals, with partners, and in small groups. We worked on a one-handed shot, and also on the layup shot. We played lead-up games and then moved on to a game of half-court basketball.

The students were very excited to test out their new and improving skills and we could always count on our boys and girls club basketball players to help other students who are new to the game.

Volleyball has been very challenging-we don't have a youth league feeder program for this sport, which puts most of our students on an equal footing when it comes to volleyball. That being said, we started our unit by watching just a couple of minutes of a youth league championship game of intermediate aged students from Tokyo Japan, on Youtube. I have encouraged our students with this sport as we currently have a fairly new girls volleyball team at NHS-so this sport is a reality for the girls at this point, and hopefully will be for the boys as well, in the future. The students have been doing a wonderful job with volleyball, learning to bump, set, and serve-again working individually, in pairs and in small groups to gain or improve skill. They understand ready position, rotation, scoring, and also when to call for a ball. Their serving is remarkable, and their bumps and sets are coming along nicely. I am impressed by the effort they have put in-they have risen to challenge of tough work and learned they can do it! I am also very happy to see emerging sportsmanship qualities when they encourage one another, and don't get too bogged down in mistakes etc. This is proof that the SPARK "umbrella" is really working. It's so important to me that they learn how to build a team using the skills of cooperation, trust, resilience, and language skills **in addition to** their athletic skills.

In third grade we have had a special unit of Dalcroze Method/ Eurythmics and with it, a special guest teacher Kaeyllane DeLima, from the Nantucket Music Center who is also an NPS mom! The idea behind Eurythmics is for students to gain a solid rhythmic foundation through movement. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our third graders to combine movement, with numeracy skills. Students learn how to find the beat and move rhythmically at slow and fast tempo, while practicing ball skills as individuals/pairs and small groups. This unit is interdisciplinary meaning that we are combining movement and academic skills.

Spring is just around the corner, and with come new opportunities to grow your children! Please take a look at the myriad children's activities available-any time your child is signed up in an interest-based activity whether it be art, music, PE, library or technology based, they are building skill, having fun, and learning to be resilient, which is a quality high on the list of life skills that can take our kids far if they have it! Nantucket is truly rich in opportunity for families and children.

You will soon be getting information about health units for grade five. I welcome the opportunities for you to come in and see how these units are taught, and to ask questions. If you cannot attend, please feel free to email me or call. I count myself as very fortunate to be working with your wonderful, hardworking, fun children! If there is any way I can help, please let me know.

Ms. Gardner

**[gardnerg@nps.k12.ma.us](mailto:gardnerg@nps.k12.ma.us)**

# From the Computer Lab

## KEYBOARD CRAZY!!!

For the month of February, all grade levels have been focused on typing. In K-2, we concentrate on pre-keyboarding skills, from letter recognition to understanding the function of special keys such as the shift key, backspace, and caps lock. Grades 3-5 have been learning to touch type, and we divide our time between speed drills, typing games, and authentic story writing. Students have enjoyed learning about the old-fashioned typewriter, and many have tried their hand at it. Habits that are well formed now, will pay off for a lifetime!

For practice at home, go to <http://www.kidztype.com/>

There, you will find games and lessons to build typing skills.

