

Nantucket Elementary School Newsletter

NES

May 2016

Dear Families,

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.

We are very excited to have our first (hopefully annual) Lip Sync performance this week! Students have been preparing completely outside of school for this event. We will have a dress rehearsal on Wednesday evening and the show is Friday night at 6:30 pm in the MPW auditorium at the High School. We have had presale tickets on sale for a few weeks and tickets will be sold at the door on Friday night. They are \$10.00 per ticket. Even if your child did not participate, please come out and support all of our kids who are doing this this year. Maybe this will help students decide to do this next year! There will also be a very special surprise performance at the end of the show – no one should miss this!

It is scary to think about how fast this year is flying by! It's going almost as fast as the construction of the new school! You will start seeing steel go up in the next couple of weeks. 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: Half Day 5/4 12:00 pm – staff development, Lip Sync rehearsal 5/4 5:00 pm MPW auditorium, the NES Chorus Performance 5/5 6:00 pm NES cafe, the First Annual Lip Sync performance 5/6 6:30 pm MPW auditorium, Parent Meeting for the Boston Museum Trip for 4th graders 5/10 6:00 pm NES Café, and our standardized testing begins 5/12.

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

This is the only PARCC testing for the school year and will be from **8:15 am – 11:00 am** each scheduled day.

GRADE 5

Thursday, May 12 - ELA
Friday, May 13 - ELA
Monday, May 16 - Math
Tuesday, May 17 - Math
Thursday, May 19 - Science
Friday, May 20 - Science

GRADE 4

Monday, May 23 - ELA
Tuesday, May 24 - ELA
Wednesday, May 25 - Math
Thursday, May 26 - Math

GRADE 3

Friday, May 27 - ELA
Tuesday, May 31 - ELA
Wednesday, June 1 - Math
Thursday, June 2 - Math

We will do make up testing all around these dates.

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

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! 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 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.

Warmly (let's hope),

Mrs. Kubisch

Important May Dates at NES

May 3:

Teacher Appreciation Day
School Committee Meeting 6PM

May 4:

Noon Dismissal
Lip Sync Rehearsal 5:00PM MPW

May 5:

NES School Council Meeting 3:00 PM
NES Chorus Concert 6:00 PM

May 6th:

Principal Coffee 8:00 AM
Lip Sync Concert 6:30 PM

May 10th:

4th Grade Parent Meeting 6:00PM
Boston Museum of Science Trip

May 12—June 3

PARCC Testing

May 14

DanceWorks Recital 2:00PM

May 16:

Polished Dental Group

May 20:

Bike to School Day

May 30:

No School Memorial Day



Kindergarten News:

The Nantucket Historical Association came to visit the kindergarten classes this month. We had a two day lesson about maps of Nantucket. It was so much fun to see older maps of Nantucket and compare how they are the same and different. Then each kindergarten student had the opportunity to make their own map. They each included their five favorite places on Nantucket.



Grade 2 News:

It seems impossible that it is already May! We hope everyone had an enjoyable and restful April vacation! In 2nd grade, we have finished up simple machines in science and will begin to research our family's heritage by learning about the country our ancestors have come from. In math, we continue to explore multi digit addition and subtraction by learning many different strategies and ways to solve a problem. All of this exposure to place value helps us to become better mathematicians, problem solvers, and persevere in our work! April was national poetry month and we wrote several poems and read many poems by different authors. In writing, we are now moving into research and informational writing.

Please remember that our themes for the NES dance raffle baskets are science and road trip. You can check with your child's teacher to determine which theme his or her class is participating in. Teachers are accepting donations of items for the theme and will be put into the raffle baskets to raise money for Friends of Nantucket Public Schools.

As a group, we are really enjoying the warmer weather at recess. However, it can be very windy on our playground and a sweatshirt or fleece is still appropriate for this time of year!

Grade 3

Third Grade Enrichment Clusters were a hit! They finished up with a "Share Fair" on the Friday before April vacation. The students were able to travel around the cafeteria with a 'passport' to learn about what other students did when they were not telling other third graders about their own learning experience.

We are wrapping up our units on the water cycle. We are currently learning about the events that led up to the American Revolution. Students will soon begin researching and writing about an influential person from Massachusetts.

In the area of math, we have finished up our unit on time, liquid volume, and measurement. You can help your child by asking them to work on telling time on an analog clock or asking a question involving elapsed time (how long it took/will take to do a particular activity or task). We are currently working on bettering our problem solving skills and will begin working on learning more about geometry.



"Historical Hysteria" in
Mrs. Latter's 3rd Grade class

Grade 5

May will be another busy month for fifth graders. We will be doing a lot of "getting ready". We will be getting ready for our PARCC and MCAS testing which will take place on May 12 and 13 and the week of May 16. We will be preparing for our trip to Nature's Classroom. We leave Nantucket on June 6 and return June 8. Kamber Jilek, the director of the program, will visit NES and speak to students and parents about what to expect on Monday, May 9. Soon after that we will send home registration forms and permission slips. Finally, we will be getting ready for sixth grade. Dr. Cohen will visit each fifth grade class to introduce himself and answer questions. In June we will be invited to take a tour of C.P.S. and meet the sixth grade teachers. There is excitement in the air in anticipation of new experiences on the horizon!

K-2 Physical Education

My K-2 students have done a fabulous job learning and perfecting the skills of underhand and overhand throwing along with the skill of catching in our April unit, Throwing and Catching. Please see my students below working with a partner on their underhand throwing and catching skills.

It's really exciting to teach a skill like throwing and see my students' great progress because of their ability make corrections and work hard. I take pride in their hard work not only in the gym, but outside of the gym as well. And, that brings me to the pride and love I felt when my second grade student, Lillian Wullsleger, came to the gym the other day to share a poem that she had written for me. I would like to share it with you:

I live for gym

I watch the clock and race to the gym

I'm free in gym to run and play

To try new games and shout hooray

It's in the gym I feel so good

I'd live there if I only could have gym the whole day through

Why then I'd always dash to school.

Thank you to Lill and all of my wonderful K-2 students for your hard work in and outside of the gym. You are all my motivation and inspiration in my job as a PE teacher! And, for that, I feel extremely fortunate! Mrs. Beaudette



Musical Notes:

Chorus Concert!

This year's fourth and fifth grade chorus concert is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, at 6 p.m. in the NES cafeteria. The students have been working diligently towards this evening, and we are all very excited! Songs from the Sound of Music are featured. Please come and hear our talented students!

Band Rehearsals and Concert

Fifth Grade Band is getting ready for their concert on Wednesday, June 1. It is very important for students to attend rehearsals! We rehearse Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays after school until 3:15. Students need to attend at least one rehearsal each week but are welcome to come more often. I am available before school and some afternoons for practice. Tuesday rehearsals are primarily for percussion and trombone practice but as we get close to the concert, everyone is welcome to attend.

General Music

Fifth grade general music classes performed a sound story, *Grandfather Twilight* for kindergarten classes in April. Kindergarteners are enjoying learning songs in other languages and playing many new instruments. First graders are learning about the music staff with *Freddie the Frog*.



Grade 4

Students are "a rockin and a rollin" in fourth grade while they begin their journey through the rock cycle. We are starting their last science unit of the year, Rocks and Minerals. They will be learning about the three different types of rocks, the rock cycle, and the properties of minerals. Be sure to take your children for a nature walk so that they can find examples of each of the rocks they will be learning about.

This month we have also finished up the tour of the United States. Students have traveled through five different regions and learned the capitals of all fifty states. Along the way you have helped your child study for the region's map test, now help your child memorize all fifty states and capitals and label them on a blank map of the United States.

We are looking for the child's imagination to come out this month while they write creative stories. These story ideas may stem from a small moment in one's own life or someone they know, that could blossom into an inventive fictional story. To help them come up with some great ideas, keep them reading at home! Some of the greatest story ideas come from other stories we have read.



From The Computer Lab



Technology tools! All students in grades 3-5 have been working with the TestNav 8 computer program utilized in the computer based PARCC test. This program touts some common technology tools that students will use across technology platforms in the years ahead. These tools allow users to view text in colors that might be easier to read. Some of the available tools help to visually eliminate unwanted answers, magnify the text, underline passages or words, access a glossary, or follow text line by line with a virtual index card. While students are learning to use these tools in the PARCC testing environment, they are expanding their “technology toolbox” at the same time. I invite parents to view and experience first-hand what their learners have been working on during lab time. Have a tour! Go to the website at: <http://parcc.pearson.com/> and choose “Test Preparation” from the menu bar.

Math Game of the Month

THAT’S ONE WHOLE NUMBER!

Adding fractions to form a whole number

2- 4 players

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{A} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{6} \\ \hline \end{array} = \mathbf{1}$$

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{3} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{9} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Materials:

Deck of cards Ace—10 (remove Jokers, J, Q, K)

To play:

- ☐ Shuffle the cards. Deal six cards to each player.
- ☐ Stack the remaining cards face down in a pile.
- ☐ The goal of the game is for players to use four of their cards to form two fractions whose sum is 1. A fraction is formed by positioning one card above another.
- ☐ Player 1 takes the first turn. If successful, he/she earns a point and places the four cards in a discard pile. The player draws four new cards and the turn ends.
- ☐ If player 1 is unable to create two fractions whose sum is 1, he/she draws a card from the pile. The player can either keep the card or discard it. If the player keeps the card, the player must discard a different card. If the player can now create two fractions whose sum is 1, the player does so, and earns a point. If not, the turn ends.
- ☐ Play passes to the next player. Players continue to take turns. When the draw pile runs out, shuffle the discard pile and reuse it as the draw pile.
- ☐ The first player to earn 5 points wins.

Information from the N.E.S. Nurse Bonnie Ray

April through September is the season when ticks are most active. 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 Reading Corner

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 10th at 8:00am at the Principal Coffee where there will be a summer reading and math 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
Clementine and the Spring Trip by Sara Pennypacker

Nantucket Community School Happenings

Children's Enrichment

Another season of DanceWorks is coming to a close. Artistic Director, Kelly Corbett, and the newest member of the DanceWorks team, Karen Lee, have prepared 16 classes of younger dancers to showcase the best of jazz, hip hop, ballet, modern and lyrical dance. Please come to support our dancers on May 14th for the big show. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased at the Nantucket Community School office at 128 Old South Road.

Sustainable Nantucket continues their wonderful *Garden Explorers* after school program starting a new session mid-May. Kathleen Minihan teaches children to connect with where their food comes from, starting with seeds and soil to cooking and consuming the final product. Also starting in the spring will be a series of one day *culinary experiences at the Nantucket Culinary Center*. In a few hours children will learn how to make a meal from finger foods to pasta. Each day will have a different exciting theme and recipes to take away and show off what they have learned to their parents at home. Spaces are still available for both these programs!

Teen Enrichment

Teen Enrichment will be offering two fun classes this Spring to keep you moving!

Tennis at the Jetties (Grades 6-12) for Beginner– Advanced players will take place on Tuesdays, from 3:00 – 4:00 PM, at the Jetties Beach Tennis Courts on the following dates: May 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31. Enrollment will be \$150, get out in the sun this Spring and improve your game with USPTA certified instructor Michael Harter.

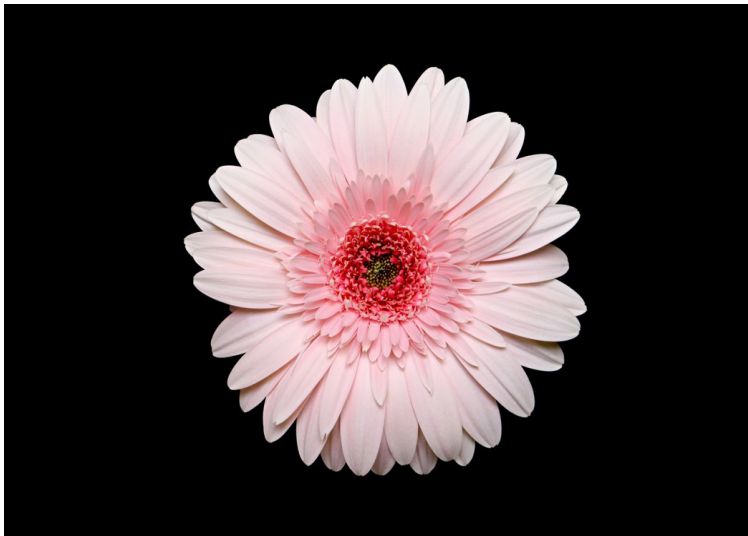
Tumbling – Introduction to Gymnastics (Grades 6-12) will take place on Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30 PM, in the Nantucket Elementary School Gymnasium on the following dates: May 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7 & 14. Enrollment will be \$130, sign up today online to reserve a spot!

Family Fun

Play a round of *ACKPutt* on May 21st from 10:00AM – 2:00PM at the Cyrus Peirce Middle School cafeteria. Families are invited to play 9 Nantucket themed holes of putt putt golf. Only \$10 per scorecard! A special teen night will run Friday, May 20th from 6:00PM – 8:00PM. The obstacles on the ACKventure Putt course were created by teen woodworkers and teen artists with the NHS Woodshop Department and the Artists Association of Nantucket. Thank you to all for their hard work and creativity!

ACKventure Sports Camp

ACKventure Sports Camp is back this year with more options than ever. Get to know our fun and friendly staff at one of the Island's premiere sports camps, ACKventure Sports camp runs from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM with an afternoon option for 6-12 year olds on site at the Nantucket Public School main campus. Our team of coaches are highly trained athletes who look to bring new and unique ways to teach each specific sport. We offer a diverse multitude of camps including baseball, basketball, football, soccer, dance, gymnastics, multi-sport, field hockey and much more. We also offer advanced camps for teenagers which are instructed by top tier coaches!



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, career exploration, 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 moving forward. Children deserve our ongoing support and constant reminders that we believe in them.

Student objectives include:

- Realizing that having hopes and dreams helps us plan for the future, including what we might choose for work as adults.
- 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!