

# Nantucket Elementary School

## February 2016 Newsletter

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NES

February 2016

Dear Families,

Happy February! Fingers crossed that this lovely weather sticks with us!

Thank you all so much for your patience and cooperation with the new parking situations and the beginning construction! We could not do this without your support. We are very excited at the pace with which the work has begun. You may have noticed the trees have come down (more trees will go back up – I promise) and the digging of the foundation has started. I want to offer a few reminders about the current parking/driving situation:

- The new parking lot off of First Way is for staff only – there are no visitors' spots available.
- The circle in the front of NES and the circle in the back of NES (this is not only for kindergarten students) are available for drop off only – parking is prohibited there. Students need to be on the left side of the car to get out on the curb. Parents need to stay in their seats in the car.
- Otherwise, if you need to get out of the car or are accompanying the child into the building, you must park in the lot off Backus Lane. There is no dropping of students in this parking lot. This is a significant safety issue.
- Students can be picked up at dismissal in the front – we call this drive through pick up. No parking is required.
- Please also help us out by driving slowly in the parking lot and roadways. Please encourage all to walk carefully and slowly.

It is important that all children come to school dressed for the weather. As long as the temperature is over 15 degrees (factoring in the wind chill), the children may be going outside. With the snow, they need to wear boots or some other waterproof shoes. Children should have hats or hoods, gloves or mittens, and a warm coat. In addition, as two weeks ago reflected, there will be mud and wet areas on the field. Part of the preparedness especially for younger students should also include: a change of clothes, pants, socks, and change of shoes, in particular. Please send these items in for your child. They can stay in the cubbies if they are not used. We are also taking up a collection of no longer needed but in good condition coats, gloves, snow pants, or boots. If you have these items and no longer have need for them, we would be grateful for your donations.

We have some exciting events going on this month. Please check the dates and mark your calendars. We look forward to your participation in our school and district events. Some of these events this month include:

- 5th Grade Band Concert on Wednesday 2/3/16 at 7:00 pm in the MPW Auditorium.
- Principal's Coffee is at 8:00 am on Friday 2/5/16 in the NES Café – ST Math, Lip Sync, and open conversation.
- Nightwatch at the Whaling Museum for fourth grade students 2/5 and 2/12. Meet at school.
- The FONPS Spelling Bee on FRIDAY 2/5/16 at 6:30 pm in the MPW auditorium.
- School is closed on Monday, 2/15/16 for President's Day.

## Important February Dates:

### February 2

Ground Hog Day

### February 3

NES Band Concert

7PM MPW Auditorium

### February 4

NES School Council MTG.

3:00P.M NES Library

### February 5

NES Principal Coffee



8:00 A.M

FONPS Spelling Bee

### February 12

Grade 1 Sing A Long

8:00 A.M NES Gym

### February 14

Valentine's Day



### February 15

No School President's Day

### February 22-26

No School Winter Break

### February 29

## Sing a long fun in Kindergarten



## Grade 1

January and February are exciting months in First Grade. We are especially enjoying our First Grade Sing-Along, focusing on songs which represent American civil rights and freedoms. Parents will be invited to join us in February. Be on the lookout for your invitation!

Another few highlights this winter include:

- Working with the Nantucket Historical Association to learn about and create Sailor's Valentines, reflecting our unique Nantucket History. Each class will be working with the NHA in February to focus on these special projects.
- The first grade has begun a new study in Writing Workshop: Writing Reviews & Opinion Writing! This is an exciting writing unit, where we bring opinion writing to first-graders. Opinion writing is the genre of reflection, where children's voice is the essence of their writing.
- In math, processes are more complex and require multiple problem solving steps. Students should have their math facts (+ and -) to 10 well mastered, and are working on automaticity with facts to 20. In our math time each day, students are working on curriculum skills and practice, as well as working in centers, exploring higher level thinking skills and practice with the first grade curriculum.

## Grade 2

We are working away in second grade. In January, we were able to visit the Police Station and Officer Mansfield came to see us with special guest Moby! We were able to compare and contrast a real working police dog with one we read about in a fictional story. We have just finished our double digit addition unit and are moving towards graphing and telling time. Additionally, our continents unit will be ending soon and we will be starting science. Our next science unit is balance and motion and simple machines. As the weather continues to be unpredictable, please be sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Children should have a warm coat, hats, and mittens. When there is snow on the ground, snow pants and boots will be necessary for outside recess. Thank you for your continued support and help!



## Grade 3

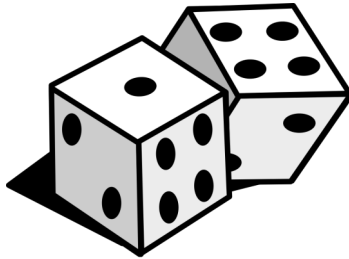
Third graders continue to work on fact fluency in the area of math. We have finished our units on multiplication and division and continue to work on memorizing these facts with the use of math games at math work stations. Students should continue to work on memorizing all basic facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) at home. There are many games and websites that the students are familiar with that can assist with this. The new unit of study in math is fractions and the third graders are excited about this.



We have learned about narrative, opinion, and informational writing. We continue to work on bettering our writing skills throughout these genres. We are currently all writing narratives. Ask your third grader what they are writing about.

We have been learning about weather in the area of science and will soon be learning about the water cycle.

We continue to work on bettering our reading skills when reading both informational text and literature. It is important that students read at home as we are working on building stamina. It would be beneficial to discuss what your child is reading at home. Students should be able to identify text and graphic features when reading informational text as well as determining the main idea. When reading literature, you could ask your child to explain what various words and phrases mean, identify various character traits (with evidence in the text to support their response), and explain the story structure.



### Math Game of the Month!!

#### Blockout

**Players:** 2

**Materials:** 2 dice, graph paper, a colored pencil for each player, scratch paper for totaling scores.

**Object:** Cover the largest area by placing rectangles on graph paper.

**How to Play:** Take turns rolling 2 dice and drawing a rectangle using the numbers on the dice as length and width of a rectangle and draw on the graph paper. For example, if the numbers are rolled are 2 and 3, the player draws a 2 by 3 array. Play continues until a player can't draw a rectangle because there is no more open space on the graph paper. Both players add the areas of all their rectangles and

## Grade Four

Fourth graders have been working very hard! In reading, we have been focusing on how to determine the setting of a book. We have also been reading poems and learning poetic terms and figurative language! After poetry we will revisit main idea and details and inferencing. Please make sure you are reading 15-30 minutes each night!



In writing, we are also focusing on poetry. We are learning how to write Acrostic poems, Bio-poems, Cinquains, Haikus and three stanza poems using similes or metaphors. After poetry we will begin informational writing.

In math, we are learning to solve multi-step word problems, and learning about how to write equations and find patterns. In our next unit of study we will learn about fractions! Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts through 12x12 at home!

In science we learned about the phases of the moon and we are now learning about how Earth rotates and revolves around the sun. We will also learn about the solar system during



this term!

Nantucket Night Watch will take place February 5<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>! Fourth grade students will be spending a full evening at the Whaling Museum learning about the whaling era, latitude and longitude, and the history of Nantucket.

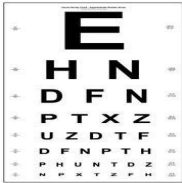
## Grade 5:

The fifth graders returned from winter break eager to share their holiday experiences. With the arrival of the New Year it gives teachers and students the opportunity to revisit Hopes and Dreams and also a time to refresh classroom/school expectations. In math, the fifth has been completing the unit on multiplication and division of fractions and are working on Multiplication with Whole Numbers and Decimals. The fifth graders have also been learning about the American Revolution in Social Studies. They are demonstrating their knowledge through writing, where they are learning and composing informational essays about the American Revolution. With the anticipation of PARCC in March, fifth grade teachers are incorporating "PARCC Like" questions into their weekly lessons. For more information on PARCC visit [www.parcconline.org](http://www.parcconline.org) to further inform yourself on this assessment. They have practice test that are now available. In closing January is also the start of the annual fifth grade fundraiser. Students have received their sales packets and hopefully are well on their way to raising funds for the Nature's Classroom field trip in June. Be on the lookout for delivery information In February. In closing, if you have any further questions about your child's education please contact the classroom teacher.



## From the Nurse:

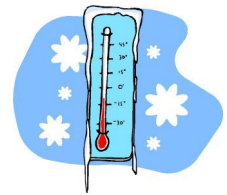
### Annual Screenings



Vision and hearing screenings have been completed for children in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. If you have not heard from me, your child passed both screenings without difficulty. I am in the process of notifying parents of those children I believe need further care. Next up – preschoolers get screened for vision and hearing and then scoliosis in the spring for all 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### *A word about cold weather*

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Early Education and Care, has established specific guidelines concerning children playing out-of-doors during extreme cold weather.



### NES COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES:

Children will not be allowed to play outdoors in cold weather whenever they are not wearing proper clothing in the judgment of the homeroom teacher.

**Children will be kept indoors when any combination of cold and wind results in a wind chill at or below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. This temperature poses a significant health risk.**

Dressing in layers offers the best protections against the cold. This traps air warmed by body heat and insulates against cold temperatures. Wear loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing in several layers. Coats/parkas should be tightly woven, water repellant and have a hood. Mittens offer better finger protection than gloves and should fit snugly at the wrist.

## From The Computer Lab



January has been a productive month in the computer lab! First graders have begun using Microsoft Word, while second graders have more skills with the writing program, have been creating informational texts about Fun Spider Facts. This week, they learn to edit their documents and insert spider images. Third graders have been practicing multiplication facts while traveling throughout the solar system in Multiflyer, a game that puts budding mathematicians in the pilot's seat of a spaceship. Practice at home with this link:

[http://www.brainormous.com/online/loader\\_multiflyer.html](http://www.brainormous.com/online/loader_multiflyer.html)

Fourth graders have been searching for citation elements by visiting <http://www.worldbook.com/> and <http://www.scholastic.com/kids/stacks/>

while fifth graders try their hand at predicting the weather in major U.S. cities, given factors such as air pressure, wind speed, location of warm and cold fronts, among others. If you have ever wondered how meteorologists make predictions, give it a try at:



### 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

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.

## From the Gym Closet Ms. Gardner 3-5

Happy New Year! We are indoors now, and I am doing my best to remind students to bring water bottles and sneakers to PE class in these winter months. If your child doesn't wear their sneakers they must wear a pair of "loaner" sneakers for class. As it is boot weather, I have been encouraging the students to remember to pack sneakers, and to put them on upon their arrival to school. This way, students come to class ready to participate. Thanks to all for sending water bottles with students! This is a great habit to get into, and our students are learning responsibility and to properly hydrate for sport activity. We have finished our basketball unit, and now are working on volleyball overhead pass, and forearm pass- more commonly known as the set and bump. The students are doing very high quality work, and I am very proud of their accomplishments in the exciting, yet truly challenging skills that volleyball presents.

We now have a girls volleyball "club" team at Nantucket High School. I spoke with coach Andrew Viselli who told me that their record this year was 5/6, with a good group of eighth graders and high school students on the team. Their competition season is in the fall, with 4pm game times. Currently there are 5 girls and 3 coaches from Nantucket who participate in "Cape Cod Juniors" which is an Junior Olympic Volleyball Program. Coach Viselli was very enthusiastic about what NES PE students are doing, and very optimistic about the teams future.

I am very excited for the students that they can now access this sport on Nantucket. You might want to check out some volleyball videos on YouTube-there are so many choices from elementary, middle high school and college! This way, you and your child can see all the different volleyball skills and strategies in action!

In winter months, it is very challenging to get enough exercise, as cold temperatures and high winds blow. However, it's so important to establish winter exercise habits for the family and pets. Our conservation areas remain a great choice, and I might suggest Squam Farm as a great alternative on windy cold days. It's very protected and the vistas are gorgeous even on a gray winter day. Another suggestion would be to check out the family swim times at Nantucket Community Pool, or free skates at the rink.



### ***K-2 Physical Education with Mrs. Beaudette***

*The month of January was devoted to our unit, "Jumping." From hopscotch to long jumping and hurdling to jumping rope, my students "jumped" their way through the month of January. See the students below practicing their hopscotch!*



See the students below getting ready to long jump the distance of their height!



I am so proud of all of my students' hard work and exercise in the gym. I am asking all of my K-2 students' to bring in a picture of them enjoying their favorite physical activity for my bulletin board, "NES Kids Love to Exercise!" I am already looking forward to the month of February when we begin our new unit, Games! Please be on the lookout for the K-2 Spark Newsletter, "Staying Healthy is a Balancing Act." Thank you for your continued support in assisting your child to come prepared for PE in comfortable clothing and sneak-



### **NES Music Notes:**

Kindergarteners are singing songs and playing rhythm games involving letters and words that begin with certain letters. A favorite is their rhythm game, "Alphabet Soup" which uses speaking, body percussion and letters. First graders studied woodwind and brass instruments in January; learning how sound is produced and seeing and hearing many of the instruments. We will read and listen to **Peter and the Wolf** which uses instruments to represent the characters in the story in February. Fifth graders have studied the canon/round and rondo forms while working on rhythmic and melodic notation and playing percussion instruments. In February, they will study American composer George Gershwin.

In February, fourth graders will begin a study of Beatles music, and an exploration of how their melodies, and songwriting, evolved. This is a fun, and educational unit, that incorporates the beginnings of rock and roll, twelve bar blues, and folk music. Fourth graders will also learn about the science of sound and its importance to music.

Students in second, third, and fourth grades are exploring lyrics and their relation to poetry. In third grade, we will begin our recorder unit shortly.

### **Chorus News:**

In February, fourth and fifth grade chorus will extend to 3:10 p.m. Please note this time change. Chorus meets every Thursday afternoon right after school in Mr. Sheppard's room. We are already well underway towards our scheduled performance on Thursday, May 5.

### **Band News:**

Fifth Grade Band will perform on **Wednesday, February 3 at 7**

## From the Reading Corner:

Save the Date: Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>!

Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2<sup>nd</sup>! In celebration of this event, schools and libraries around the country celebrate by bringing literacy into the lives of children. To celebrate, we will be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Family Literacy Night next month! This night will be his actual birthday, Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-6:30pm. This year's event will include games and activities for children of all ages and a special visit from The Cat in the Hat and other surprise guests! This year we will be adding a special Math cluster. The games and activities in this cluster will be dedicated to the magic of mathematics! We are looking forward to this school-wide event and hope that you will come and join us. There will be a surprise treat for each child who attends this event.



**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Family Literacy Night**  
**Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**5:30-6:30 p.m.**



### Recommended Reading:

The Cat in the Hat  
One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish  
The Lorax  
The Sneetches  
Horton Hatches the Egg  
Fox in Sox  
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone  
A Treasury of Curious George