

SCS News

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Volume 4, Issue 7

March 2018

Principal's Corner

Come on, Spring! We're waiting and ready for you to join us any day now! I think it's safe to say that cabin fever has set in. Snow in the weather forecast is now often met with more grumblings than not, and talk of flip flops, beach visits, and four wheeling seems to be increasing by the day. Pair all of this with the whirlwind of tasks everyone is currently working on, and it's easy to understand why people are seemingly on the cranky side of things. ☺

That being said, it's an important time of year for us all to be cheerleaders for our students. This last stretch of the school year is jam-packed with all sorts of happenings—testing, projects, classwork, sports, field trips, yearbook preparations, graduation, and the list goes on. In addition to the busy-ness that's going on, there is an abundance of changes that many students are anticipating. It's important to help our children take time to stop, breathe, and appreciate the experiences they're going through. Though it can be stressful and overwhelming, our children need guidance to be able to fully appreciate where they are and where they're going. Taking time to stop, talk, and listen can make a world of difference. The sun will be warming us up more and more by the day. Take a few minutes to soak it up, go for a walk, and spend precious time together...the perfect cure for anticipation *and* cabin fever!

Mrs. Mathieu

when little people
are overwhelmed by
big emotions, it's our job
to share our calm,
not to join their chaos.
-L. Knest

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MINDSET MATTERS!

Developing Important Psychosocial Skills

* "A child's innate ability contributes to only about 25% of achievement. The other 75% are psychosocial skills that must be deliberately developed. The important skills we can help our children develop include:

- ✓ perseverance
- ✓ self-confidence
- ✓ resiliency
- ✓ coping skills for disappointment and failure
- ✓ the ability to handle constructive feedback.

* Choose books to read with younger students that highlight characters that demonstrate these skills. Discuss these with your child.

* When watching TV or a movie with your kids, talk about a character's strength or lack of perseverance or resiliency. Ask your children how the situation or story would be different if the person did or did not have this skill.

* Name the psychosocial skills words and use phrases that represent these around the house. For example, you might say, "My supervisor gave me some constructive feedback about how I can do my job better. I am grateful for that because she gave me some new things to try" or "I was watching you (climb that tree, play that video game, figure out the new cell phone, etc.) today, you really showed determination and perseverance!"

Ready-to-Use Resources for Mindsets in the Classroom, Prufrock Press
Inc. (pg. 70)

News from Pre-K / K

We started off the month of March celebrating the works of Dr. Seuss. Kindergarten helped decorate the bulletin board for "Oh, the Places You'll Go." We played lots of rhyming, word building, and imagination games. We wrote about favorite parts of Dr. Seuss's stories, and used his ABCs book as inspiration for making our own books using magazines to help illustrate. In Math we've been learning about shapes. We've focused on these 2-D shapes: circle, triangle, rectangle, square, and rhombus ; and these 3-D shapes: sphere, cube, cone, and cylinder. We did hands-on exploration and learned which 3-D shapes can slide, stack, or roll.

We are ending the month learning about Weather and the Seasons. In Math, Kindergarten is learning about parts of a whole, such as making 9 by having one part with 4 counters and one part with 5 counters.

Mrs. Hemon

News from Grades 1 & 2

March has been a very busy month for first and second graders! In the beginning of the month it was Read Across America week. During this week we had Mrs. Coats come in and read to us.

In Math, first graders have been adding and subtracting tens from two digit numbers. Second graders have continued to practice adding and subtracting 3 digit numbers. We have now started exploring shapes. Second graders will soon find shapes around the room and described different properties of them.

In Science, we have been learning about motion and energy! We have done many different hands on activities to explore this topic. We experimented with ramps. In small groups, we used ramps to race cars and also spent some time building different ramps. Most recently, we learned that the strength of the force applied to an object affects the motion.



Mrs. Ricker



News from Grades 3 & 4

This month we went on our second class field trip of the year. Visiting the New Earth Organic Farm on Piper Hill in Colebrook is always fun, and this trip was no different! We planted some microgreens to bring back to the classroom, harvested some microgreens that had already been sprouted to taste as a snack, and learned a few more French words. Then, we made Muesli and tasted some that had been made the day before. I'm including the recipe here for you to try at home if you would like. This makes a terrific, nutrient-filled breakfast that is quick and customizable to your taste. It was a great hit!

Our classroom pets, AKA, worms are doing a terrific job of creating soil from the scraps we give them. Next year we should be able to make some sunflower microgreens for our own salads using our own soil! These activities deepen our understanding of the current science topic, matter, and what happens to the matter that we use.

Some general reminders:

- **Final Book Reports are due May 11th, 2018. Families, thank you in advance for your support with this project at home!**
- We still have some members of our class who have not mastered their multiplication tables through 12. This is a skill that will follow students through their whole career in school. Research has shown that most students who have these facts in their brains will be able to understand more complex math more easily. Reviewing these facts daily doesn't take much time and is sure to help!

Mrs. Hodge





Muesli

Recipe shared by Grades 3 & 4

*1/2 cup Quick Oat
1/8 cup Dry fruit
1/8 cup Walnut cut in small pieces
Milk to cover dry mix
1/4 cup Fruit juice
1/2 cup Pieces of fresh fruit*

Directions:

*Put all the dry ingredients in an air tight container.
Cover with milk and let it soak overnight in the
refrigerator. In the morning, cut the fresh fruits, add the
juice, and mix with the rest. Enjoy!*

News from Grade 5

Another month has come and gone
We bid March, a fine farewell.....

The Westing Game is still here
But waning, so have no fear.

Division too is slowing down
Making room for fractions to come to town.

If Daniel Boone could travel west
Through the Cumberland Gap--in his "coon skin" cap
Then send us through on our own quest
To learn what we can then give it a rest
Until Lewis and Clark explore even more
To tell the President what we have in store
In this vast new territory we bought from France
It is our chance

To expand our land
And watch our nation grow.
Westward Ho!

Do you think, just maybe, that this exploration led
To the knowledge of Earth's features we've got in our
head?

The continents were once all together you say
What proof do we have to show this today?

Ms. Wonkka

News from JH Science

Grades six and seven have been "rocking"!
Students are learning about minerals and rocks. Topics
that have been covered are properties of minerals and
different types of rocks. Properties of minerals are
color/appearance, luster, streak, hardness, and
cleavage/fracture. The three types of rocks are: igneous,
sedimentary, and metamorphic.

Recently the young scientists analyzed various
minerals that were presented to them and they had to
compare their notes from computer research on each
mineral. They also looked at sugar and salt crystals by
using a magnifying glass.

Grade 8 science students have been working on
writing an argumentative essay. They are learning about
various considerations involved in writing an essay of this
type, including health, ethical, expense, legal, personal,
and environment points of view. Examples of some of
their writing topics include: Should taking physical
education be mandatory? Is television good for you?
Eliminate summer vacation, extend winter vacation?

To follow up, as a team project, the young grade 8
scientists are engaged in a debate using their knowledge
of argumentative essay writing. Should New Hampshire
have the bottle bill? They are working as a small group of
seven to research their side of the argument. They will be
conducting a debate in front of some of student body this
month.

Mr. Kennedy

News from JH ELA & Social Studies

Grades five through eight have been using
interactive editing checklists in writing class, working with
a partner for extra support. The list includes five areas
that we are working towards editing: focus, organization,
elaboration, language and vocabulary, and conventions.

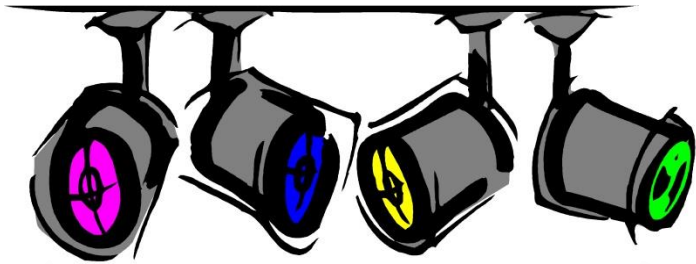
Mrs. Bergman guided us through this learning process initially, but we have also been practicing what we learned as we edit and revise our essays.

The 6/7 Social Studies class have recently started a unit on Ancient Greece, first learning about the Minoan, and the Mycenaean civilizations during the Bronze Age in Ancient Greece. The famous poet Homer, and the Trojan War have been brought up in our discussions. We still have a lot to learn about this time period and its people.

The eighth grade Social Studies class worked on a project choosing a new sport for the Winter Olympics. Researching rules, equipment, specifications was part of this project, as well as creating a visual to share with the class. Their latest research has focused on the American Revolution, and the winter of 1777 spent at Valley Forge.

Happy Spring!

Mrs. Stebbins



Staff Spotlight:

Mrs. Kenny

Reading Specialist

Favorite Food: Chocolate

Hobby: Hiking, Snowshoeing

Favorite Book: Charlotte's Web

Dream Vacation: Tahiti

Favorite Sweet Treat: Chocolate

One Word that Describes Me: Enthusiastic

Messy or Organized? Both, but I try hard to be organized

Pet Peeve: People who do not respect others

Something on my Bucket List: Going to Tahiti

Hometown: Middlebury, VT

Phobia: Snakes

News from the Resource Room

Happy Spring!

During March, the Grades 3-8 students participated in the New Hampshire SAS testing for Math,

Reading, and Writing. The majority of the students worked diligently for over an hour. Great job!

My Grades 1-3 students in ELA are continuing to learn/increase their knowledge of CVC words, Trick words, and Words of the Day, as well as literacy elements such as story characters, setting, and main events. They are also working hard! Keep expanding your minds!

My Grade 5 Math students are being introduced to the concept of dividing decimals; using logical reasoning to the location of the decimal in the quotient. My Grades 5-8 ELA students are still reading their chapter books, *The Westing Game* and *The Golden Goblet*, and discussing new vocabulary and chapter events. What great books! They are also learning how to "respectfully" edit their classmates' informational essays with Sue Bergman and classroom teachers. Lastly, my Grades 6-8 Math students are learning new skills with innovative projects involving the newly-acquired skills. The students and I always enjoy the projects!

The students have worked very busily this month and are probably looking forward to Spring Break in a few weeks (so aren't the teachers). Quarter 3 ends April 6th.

Miss Miller

News from the Media Center

March was a very busy month in the computer lab because of testing. Students worked very, very hard completing math, reading, and writing tests.

Mark your calendars....April 16 – 20 is BOGO book fair week! Buy one, Get one!!! Everyone loves this fair. There will be an extra-special guest attending Family Night on the 19th, so bring the whole family!!

Just a reminder, the last box top raffle will be in June. I already have a "ton" of prizes...mostly donated. Thank you to everyone who saves and donates!

Mrs. Placey

News from JH Math

In our sixth grade class we are continuing our work with coordinate geometry. We've been working a lot with coordinate graphs, to expand our knowledge of this students are creating their own town using a four quadrant coordinate grid. Students are required to have 7 buildings, 4 different points that represent various objects, and a list of all the ordered pairs. The buildings may be combined to make different shapes: squares,

rectangles, and other polygons. By the end of this unit, students will be able to graph given equations.

In our seventh grade class we are finishing up our unit on taxes, interest and commission. Students used these concepts when creating their own store where they selected 5 items and advertised a percentage discount. Everyone then had to calculate savings from their peers' stores. Moving forward we will be working on interpreting different sets of data. Students will be able to represent information on different graphs and plots.

In our eighth grade class we have started to dig deeper into our Geometry lessons. We started the unit off by drawing/tracing photos and performing different translations, dilations, rotations, and reflections to each. Students are now creating pie graphs which involves them calculating the fractions, percentages, and degrees for given information. Currently, students are working on their own surveys. They have all created a poll question where they will collect the data and calculate those results to represent them using a pie chart, both by hand measuring the angles and online using a program.

Miss Saari

Title 1 News from Mrs. Stebbins

March was a busy month for the students that I work with. Upon returning from February break, the 4th graders dove right back into their research papers and informational writing pieces. With each working at their own pace, they have been able to get individualized attention and support from both myself and their peers. They have truly created a trusting and positive environment for writing. I am very proud of their accomplishments, so I wanted to give them a shout out for all of their determination and progress. Awesome job!

The kindergarten students have continued to work with letter identification and sounds, moving forward with sounding out CVC words (both independently and embedded in short stories). Grades 1 and 2 have continued working on sight word recognition, reading fluency, and reading comprehension. They have been using both a scripted reading program and grade-appropriate leveled readers. On top of this, Grade 2 has dug deeper into writing, having practiced paragraph writing multiple times with proper mechanics in response to a prompt. My 5-8 Rtl group has been working on increasing their fluency through timed daily reading

assessments. With this method of practice, coupled with constant communication of progress (with visual graphs), they are focused and aware of their goals. Overall, all of the students I work with have been working hard and making great strides with their learning. Keep up the great work!

Title 1 News from Mr. Kennedy

I continue to see improvement in the students' work. Fluency, comprehension, sight words, and multiplication facts are some areas that I am helping with. Depending on the effort during the week, students are then challenged by playing a board game illustrating their reading ability by showcasing various skills such as finding the main idea, predicting outcomes, reading for details, or sequencing.

February Students of the Month

*Brooke Brochu, Leah Berry, Alexis McKay,
Niccalis Morabito, Hailey Benwell, Peyton
Rancourt, Anthony Dumont, Caleb
Guilmette, Janessa Hodge, Hana Bissonnette*

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2, 2018

School Board Meeting – 4:15 PM

APRIL 4, 2018

Student of the Month – 8 AM

APRIL 6, 2018

Quarter 3 ends

APRIL 10, 2018

SAS Science Testing- Grades 5 & 8

APRIL 13, 2018

Quarter 3 Report Cards

APRIL 18, 2018

Honor Roll Ceremony – 8 AM

APRIL 19, 2018

Science Experiments with Mr. Frizzell
5:30-6:30 PM Family Night

April 23-27, 2018

No School- Spring Break ☺