

17 Academy Ave.
Atkinson, NH 03811
Phone: 603-362-5521
Fax: 603-362-5842

UPCOMING MAJOR EVENTS:

10/18/12

Ocasio Martial Arts,
3:15-3:45

10/25/12

Early Release, 1:00pm -
Parent Teacher Conference

10/30/12

Picture Retake

10/31/12

Halloween Parties

11/1/12

Ocasio Martial Arts.,
3:15-3:45

11/6/12

No School-Prof. Develop.

11/8/12

Fundraiser Delivered

11/12/12

NO School-Veteran's Day

11/16/12

Lip Sync, Grades 4 & 5
6:30pm at PAC

11/20/12

Lip Sync, Grades 2 & 3
6:30pm at PAC

11/21/12-11/23/12

NO School -
Thanksgiving Break

11/27/12

Barnes & Noble Book Fair



Atkinson Academy

Sept./Oct. 2012

Principal's Corner:

Welcome Back! This has been a very busy summer with Atkinson hosting the Extended School Year program. We also hosted several workshops for both Timberlane and Hampstead staffs. In between, our custodians, Warren, Doug, Jimmy and Gail managed to paint the gym and stage area, the downstairs computer lab and get all the classrooms ready for the new school year. I'm amazed at how shiny the floors are!

I was busy hiring some new staff members. Maria Vanderhoof transferred to Sandown North to teach second grade while Karen Lovering, our special educator, was transferred to work between Danville and Sandown North. We are pleased to add Nicole Habib to our staff as a fifth grade teacher. Nicole spent a year in Africa working as a Peace Corp volunteer. She then returned home to Atkinson substituting for various staff members in the district. She filled in for Erin Lozowski when she had her daughter, Sarah. Nicole is married, living in Atkinson, with a new baby, Braden. We are happy to have her back with us. Two certified teachers have also joined the staff; Caitlyn Estee and Melody Somers will work as paraprofessionals. They will be great additions as they are able to take on small groups for remediation or Tier 2 small group work. Gail Budzyna, also known as Mrs. B., rounded off our staff by accepting a position in the Intensive Needs program as a one/one paraprofessional.

A special thank you to Maureen White for filling in for Meredith Bastien. Meredith and Kevin welcomed baby Lilly a little earlier than expected but she is thriving and Meredith is now back at work. Maureen came out of retirement to help out in the Intensive Needs program so the children would have a smooth transition for the start of the New Year.

The biggest news was the appointment of the new Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Earl F. Metzler, of Quincy, Mass. was nominated at the August board meeting. He received his Doctorate of Education from Walden University and has served more than 25 years in public education in Mass., serving as a high school principal, teacher and consultant. Dr. Metzler stopped by to visit with the students and get a feel for Atkinson Academy.

The children are busy beginning to take the NECAP tests that are required for grades 3, 4 and 5 each fall. These tests will not be given after 2014, but will give way to another Common Core Standardized test after that time. You will begin to hear more information on Common Core in a separate article each month.

The Night Owls' again hosted a great ice cream social get together. We had lines out the door and children everywhere trying to introduce their parents to their new friends. It was lots of fun with plenty of ice cream.

The PTA hosted a Common Core Standards night last Wednesday to help parents begin to understand the terms and what it will mean to their children. This is the first of many nights that Kelli Killen, Director of Elementary Education will facilitate on the Core Standards.

A special thanks to Susan Genest and her mother. They spent an entire day weeding out front to make the Academy look just beautiful. The students noticed that the weeds were gone and how fallish it looks.

Chris Snyder and I are looking forward to another great school year. Once again don't hesitate to call either of us if you have any needs or concerns.

Kathleen Dayotis,
Principal

Inside this issue:

* Principal's Corner	1
* Curriculum Corner	2
* Physical Ed. Tech Ed.	3
* Counselor's Corner	4 & 5
* Nurse Other Highlights	6
* Music	7
* Media Matters	8
* Literacy	9
* Enrichment	10
* Art	11

CURRICULUM CORNER

Have you heard about Common Core Standards?

If you have not heard, Common Core Standards (CCSS) are the next big initiative coming to public schools. You can access them at www.corestandards.org. Listed below are some of the key points you should know about them:

- They were developed in 2009 by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association and officially released June of 2010. New Hampshire's State Board of Education formally adopted them July 8, 2010.
- They will be fully implemented in the fall of 2015.
- They are designed to prepare all students to be College and/or Career ready upon graduating from high school.
- They were informed by other top-performing countries and will provide our students the opportunity to compete in a global economy.
- They are clear, understandable, and consistent.

The entire Timberlane Regional School District is in the process of preparing for this transition at all levels. More specific information will be included in each additional newsletter this year.

Chris Snyder,
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Physical Education

Our first month of school was filled with beautiful weather. All but one day of PE classes were held outside. Please remember that we will be outside through the entire month of October. Students should dress accordingly (sneakers & comfortable clothes) and bring a re-usable water bottle.

After an opening week of cooperative games, all grades enjoyed 3 lessons of soccer. The first and second classes focused on dribbling, passing, trapping, and receiving. We used skill-specific games to practice these skills.

In lesson #3 students in grades 2-5 got to play a game called 4-way soccer. This involves 4 teams (each with their own ball) and 4 goals. Everyone gets to take turns playing different positions. As in all of my classes, we stress teamwork, cooperation, sportsmanship, and effort.

I look forward to another exciting year teaching all of your children. If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child and/or my class, please do not hesitate to call (ext #305) or Email me.

Thank you for helping your child come prepared on PE days.

~~~~~  
**Jeff Goddard**  
**PE Teacher**  
**X305**



## Tech Ed

Welcome back to school! We are having a very exciting new year in the computer lab. This year, we are using the online program, EasyTech for our lessons. EasyTech helps students to learn technology skills, digital literacy, and higher-order thinking as they study and learn core curriculum. In the beginning of the year all of the students have been learning not only how to use a computer, but how to be safe on the Internet.

I would like to share with you the rules and expectations that we created for Atkinson Academy:

- Parents and teachers must approve of any person you write to online.
- Only click links that are approved by your parents and teachers.
- Ask an adult before sharing any information online.

- Passwords must stay private.
- Never copy anything online without getting permission and giving credit.
- Always be kind to others online.
- Ask an adult to supervise any downloads.
- Talk to your parents and teachers about concerns.

The lessons and projects ahead look very exciting and engaging for the students. Student will learn not only correct terminology but how to use spreadsheets, presentations programs and good keyboarding skills, just to mention a few. There will be assessments to make sure that students understand concepts before they move on and projects where they will be applying the knowledge that they have gained.

I can't wait to share more with you as we progress through the year

Anna Lizier  
 Tech. Ed. Teacher



## Counselor's Corner ~~

### Welcome Back Atkinson Academy Families and Friends!

Welcome to the first 2012 - 2013 Counselor Corner! This section of the newsletter will focus on ways that children, their caretakers, and the school can work together to promote social and academic success in the lives of Atkinson Academy students. It is here where I will post suggestions, articles, tips, information and Guidance updates. I hope you have a great start to the school year. Enjoy!



### Inside the Classroom

During the month of September I have been busy visiting classrooms, teaching students about friendships, feelings and other guidance related topics. Here's what we've been working on:

**Grade 1:** A full day of school can be difficult for some of our younger students. During the first month of school I read our 1<sup>st</sup> graders a story about a little dog named Mustang who didn't want to go to school. Together students learned how to help Mustang overcome his nervousness and to enjoy school. They even learned to help themselves by saying "it's going to be O.K.!"

**Grade 2:** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students learned about differences and similarities. Together we read two stories and completed a rainbow that showed off their favorite color, eye color, hair color, etc. Students loved comparing their rainbows with each other and even learned a new thing or two about other students in their class.

**Grade 3:** Parents of students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade! Ask your kids if they have filled anyone's bucket lately. They will know what you mean and maybe they'll even teach how to become A Bucket Filler!

**Grade 4:** Our 4<sup>th</sup> graders were definitely challenged this month. They learned how to use creative problem solving to help them solve some tricky brain teasers. They also used what they learned and related it to "real life 4<sup>th</sup> grade problems!" I think their brains hurt after this one!

**Grade 5:** Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders wrote letters to themselves! In these letters, the students were asked to write down one or more short and/or long term goals they would like to achieve. Students then sealed up the letters and gave them to me to hold onto until the end of the year. Students won't be able to read these letters until the last week of school!

### Let's Talk About It!

We know that most children have fights. It's still up to us to discourage violence by teaching our children how to solve problems by talking with others. Explain that not everyone will want to be our friend. However, we can still use words to try to solve our differences. We should also explain how important it is to admit that we have made a mistake. Learning to apologize is the most important lesson in repairing relationships. *Mind Your Manners in School*  
by: Arianna Candell / Rose M. Curto

Elissa Salemi  
School Counselor

## Counselor's Corner (cont'd.) ~~

### The 6 Pillars of Character

This year Atkinson Academy will be focusing on the 6 Pillars of Character. Each month we will focus on a different trait by celebrating it at Monday Morning Meeting, teaching and reinforcing that trait in and out of the classroom, and recognizing students who demonstrate that trait throughout the school day.

### For the month of October we will focus on **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

Be Honest · Have the courage to do the right thing · Be reliable

When someone is trustworthy you can have confidence in him or her. Trustworthiness shows itself in at least three different ways. First, there is honesty. That's when you tell the truth, sometimes volunteering information because it is essential or important for another person to know. Second, you have the courage to do the right thing, even when no one is looking and when it might be hard to do. And third, you show trustworthiness by keeping your promises and do what you say you will do.

One area we show **TRUSTWORTHINESS** at Atkinson Academy is in the **Hallway**

*We keep our hands by our side*



*We walk on the right side of the hallway*



*We walk*



*We use quiet voices*



### Monthly Themes:

- \* **November** - Respect
- \* **December/January** - Responsibility
- \* **February** - Fairness
- \* **March** - Caring
- \* **April** - Citizenship

## *Nurse*

It is hard for children to concentrate when they are not feeling well. Here are some guidelines to help you determine when you should keep your child home:

If your child has had a fever of 99.5 or more within the last 24 hours.

If your child has had diarrhea or vomiting within the last 24 hours.

If your child has a contagious illness, for example, strep throat or conjunctivitis and has not been on an antibiotic for 24 hours.

Remember, if you keep your child home, you must call the school at 362-5521, Extension 347. Please be specific with illness details when calling your child out sick, i.e. fever, sore throat, coughs, etc.

The following information is from the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services:

### **What can I do to protect myself against the flu?**

By far, the single best way to prevent the flu is for individuals, especially persons at high risk for serious complications from the flu, to get the influenza (flu) vaccine each fall. In the absence of a flu vaccine, there are still many things people can and should be doing to avoid catching the flu:

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, especially before touching food, after using the bathroom, and after changing diapers.

Use an antibacterial hand gel for the times you cannot wash your hands with soap and water.

Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze-use your sleeve.

Stay at home from work or school if you have flu-like symptoms until you have no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine.

As much as possible, stay away from people who have flu-like symptoms.

Wash frequently touched objects, such as door handles, kitchen and bathroom surfaces, and phone receivers, with a household disinfectant.

Avoid sharing utensils, such as cups and spoons.

Get plenty of sleep, exercise, and eat a healthy diet.

Feel free to call me with any questions. Wishing everyone good health.

Mrs. Amante

## **Other Highlights:**

\* If your child has been designated as a car pickup, please do not park your car and come to the front of the building to wait for your child. You should get in the line of cars formed out front. This is a safety concern. Also, please use your directional lights when leaving the parking lot. Reminder: for safety reasons, buckle up your child before they leave the car pickup line.

\* Notices that are school related will be sent home in the student's shuttle every Friday. All other notices (community related) need to be submitted and approved by the school district office. They will then be posted on the bulletin board in the main office foyer.

\* The building closes everyday at 3:45. No one will be permitted into the building for forgotten homework or other items.

\* School hours are from 8:40-3:10. Please do not drop off your child before 8:20 AM. The child may be unattended if dropped off earlier.

\* Call the school absence line, 362-5521 (x347) when your child will be absent or tardy. Please indicate the specific reason for the absence (i.e. cold, sore throat, doctor visit, vacation, etc.) This saves us a phone call to you.

\* Change in Going Home forms are available on the school website. Notes must have the date, student's full name, teacher name and the address where the student will be dropped off clearly written out. Notes written by students are not acceptable. Please remember to send change in going home procedures in with your student. The office and/or classroom teachers will no longer accept changes via telephone, e-mail, or fax.

\* Update phone numbers and emergency contacts promptly.

\* Drop items off at the office and we will deliver them to your child. We prefer that you not go to the classroom directly as this disrupts the education process.

\* Put names in your child's jackets, sweatshirts and other belongings.

\* Please write your child's name on the memo line of checks that you send to the school. This would be helpful to the cafeteria when recording payments to the student's lunch account.

Check us out on Twitter!!



#### **RECYCLING NOTES:**

With the help of Funding Factory, we recycle cartridges and cell phones to earn new technology equipment, educational software, or other updated equipment for our school. At a time where school districts and nonprofit organizations across the country have been dealing with huge budget cuts, we've found recycling to be a great opportunity to supplement our finances.

This fundraiser is FREE and simple. The program runs year-round, accumulating constant income for our efforts. We need your support. Please donate your empty printer cartridges and used cell phones to the Academy and we'll take it from there!

Last year alone, more than 300 million cartridges were thrown away, while 30,000,000 cell phones were tossed or replaced. We're alleviating the volume of waste that goes into landfills, while collecting needed products and equipment to keep our school running smoothly. Your help is vital to our fundraising success. Cell phones and cartridges can be dropped off at the school's main office.

Thank you for your support!

SEPT./OCT. 2012

## MUSIC NEWS

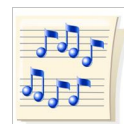


The Atkinson Academy music program is off to a booming start again this year! The program is growing rapidly and the students are sounding great. In band we have been learning about rhythms, note fingerings, scales and how to play in an ensemble. Many students have already started to earn band prizes for their practicing efforts and commitment to learning their instrument. Advanced 4th and 5th grade string players are already registering for our annual All-State Stringfest in Goffstown every March. They will join several hundred strings from across New Hampshire to perform in four orchestras. Please remind your orchestra or band student that she/he should be practicing 4-5 times a week in 15 minute increments. This will help your child to develop healthy practice habits, a superb embouchure and good technique.

General music classes have been learning a wide range of musical skills and concepts. First grade students have been studying beat, pitch recognition and creative movement. The second graders are learning about tempos and how to describe music by relating it to art. The third, fourth and fifth graders have been learning about rhythm, melodic themes, advanced vocabulary and how to sing rounds and partner songs.

Please join us to celebrate the music student's accomplishments at the Atkinson Academy Winter Concert on Monday, January 7, 2013. The concert will showcase the Atkinson Academy orchestra, band and chorus at the Performing Arts Center at 7:00 PM.

Musically,  
Kate DePalo  
General Music and Band Teacher



## CHORUS

Welcome back to another fantastic musical year! The grade 4/5 chorus is diligently working on songs for our Winter Concert on Monday, January 7th at 7pm at the PAC. Please join us, the Band and Strings players for a magical evening of music.

It is not too late for 4th and 5th grade students to join chorus. We meet every Monday morning before school from 7:45am-8:30am in the Band/Orchestra/Chorus room. For students who **really** love to sing, we also offer an advanced chorus that meets on Thursday mornings before school. It is a wonderful way to start off the day! Please contact Mrs. Farrell at [MRaiti@aol.com](mailto:MRaiti@aol.com) for further information.

We hope to see you at our upcoming concert!

Matty Farrell  
Chorus



### *From the Library*

Happy fall! As students and teachers alike transition back to school, we have spent part of the month of September re-orienting students to the routine and expectations of the library as well as book care. In particular, we have talked about those leaking water bottles and wet snow pants in backpacks that can be so damaging to books! First graders receive a book bag from the library and second through fifth graders may have asked for a bag from home to keep their library books clean and dry. Please encourage and remind your students to use these bags every time they check out a book.

In recognition of the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution on September 17<sup>th</sup>, students in all grades learned about this important historical document. All students learned that the Constitution established the rules for running our country and its government and that those rules are still followed today. Students in the upper grades have learned more about the parts of the Constitution and about the division of power between the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government.

Third, fourth and fifth graders have begun a review of the online catalog, Destiny, and the online resources that are available for research through the library website. Please remember that these resources and the online catalog can be accessed from home through the school website and are great places to begin when researching for a school project or searching for a book or just for fun! In this newsletter, please find the usernames and passwords that are necessary for accessing these resources.

Happy reading!

*Jennifer Toth*

**\*\*Mark Your Calendars\*\***

for Atkinson Academy's

***Barnes & Noble Bookfair***

***November 27<sup>th</sup>***

Look for more information to come home soon.

### **ATKINSON ACADEMY**

On-line Usernames and Passwords

Access **Destiny** and **Web-Path Express** through the school home page.

[www.atkinsonacademy.com](http://www.atkinsonacademy.com)

Click on Library/Destiny

Click on Atkinson Academy

and then the green HOME tab.

**EBSCO Host/Novelist K-8**

(online database)

Username: Atkinson

Password: 03811

**World Book**

(online Encyclopedia)

Username: timbernh

Password: facts

**CultureGrams**

(information about 200 countries & cultures)

Username: Atkinson

Password: welcome

**BookFlix**

(interactive reading resource)

Username: trsd

Password: bookflix

**TrueFlix**

(online information texts)

Username: aaes

Password: trueflix

**PebbleGo**

(database featuring hundreds of animals)

Username: Atkinson

Password: atkinson



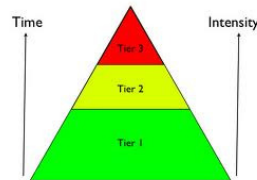
## READING SPECIALIST



We don't need to be prominent researchers to know that reading, in all of its glorious forms, is good for kids! As one of my favorite authors, Dr. Seuss, says, *"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* As our school year begins, it is important to keep our eye on the prize. We want our students to love to read!



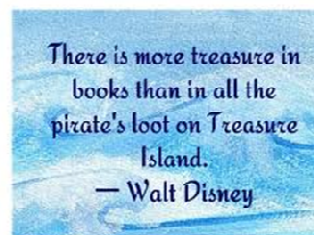
Our Response to Intervention approach to literacy is purposefully closing the gap for our struggling readers and providing enriching experiences for our on-level readers. Tier-two time creates a shared 30 minute period for every child in the day to receive instruction targeted to his/her needs. Directing immediate and powerful interventions and applying those best practices systematically, we can effectively monitor progress, ensuring that each child is receiving what they need at that time. When combined with a ninety minute core reading and writing program, we are making certain that our students are receiving the best possible literacy instruction. Our mission is not simply to ensure that all students are taught, but also that they learn.



As we continue this journey together, one thing remains certain. We must never lose sight that our highest priority is to raise students who become lifelong readers. What our students read in school is important; what they read the rest of their lives is more important. If we are serious about building strong readers, we need to be serious about providing as many opportunities as possible for our children to read.

So, visit the library, choose a book, and capture the joy that comes from being immersed in the magic of a book! **Happy Reading!**

*Jill Feneberg*, Literacy Specialist



*"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."* - Dr. Seuss



## ENRICHMENT



We are collecting box tops again this year; Molly Casey, PTA, will be in charge of this. She will be running a contest to see which class can bring in the most box tops. The first place class will get extra time on the rock wall. 2nd place will get extra recess time and 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be able to have extra gym time.

Please cut out the box tops, put them in a Ziploc baggie with the teacher's name on the baggie or you may attach them to one of the box top worksheets your child has brought home and send them down to the office. A box has been setup in the office for collecting the box tops.

Last year we earned 2,067 dollars which the PTA used for field trips, playground equipment and enrichment programs. Our goal this year is \$2,500! So start Caring, Collecting and Cutting box tops for your school!

Thank you for your support!

"Bloom's Taxonomy" is one of those teacher terms that a parent may not necessarily be familiar with, however, it is very important. In Enrichment my lessons are guided by Bloom's Taxonomy so as to help students build critical thinking skills. Critical thinking skills allow a child to think independently, find and fix mistakes, solve problems, evaluate alternatives, and reflect on their own beliefs. It's not something that can be learned from reading a book or completing a worksheet, however the skills are built through hands-on lessons that go far beyond rote memorization. Bloom's Taxonomy provides learning levels to increase higher order thinking skills for children of all ages. The levels include remember, understand, apply, analyze, evaluate, and create. The way parents and teachers engage students in learning is always tied in some way to Bloom's Taxonomy. If we want children to use critical thinking skills we should go beyond the "Remember & Understand" levels and get children to apply, analyze, evaluate and ultimately to create! Below are some ideas to help encourage higher order thinking.

### Remember & Understand

The Remember and Understand levels are where most teachers and parents typically ask questions of their children. This includes questions that involve who, what, where, when, and why. Basically, the child just needs to memorize the information and then spit it back out on a test.

### Apply & Analyze

At the Apply and Analyze levels, as a parent, you can take a basic activity that would require a child to learn basic facts and then add a twist. For example, you can ask your child to do things like predict what will happen next in a story or to predict what would happen if you made a change to the story. They could also share if they had to write a sequel to a story, how would it begin? You can ask them to illustrate a math word problem or draw a scene from their favorite part of a story they are reading.

### Evaluate & Create

At the Evaluate and Create levels a child would be asked to debate, work in groups, write reflective summaries about literature, make decisions and challenge situations. Activities at home that would integrate these activities would be teaching your child how to build a model car or a robot from a kit, have them write and perform a skit based on a topic they are learning in school, come up with their own creative project based on a science topic.

If we work together to help children to evaluate and create we will create thinkers that are ready to take on major challenges.

Happy Thinking!

Mr. Blay  
Enrichment Specialist



## ART



Autumn is a perfect time of year for our art students to go outside and learn to draw landscapes. Our fifth graders are currently drawing landscapes and their focus is on value, the difference between light and dark. They began by reviewing what they had learned about depth last year. They were reminded to include a horizon line and subject matter in the foreground, middle ground, and background. Applying value to their landscape will create another dimension of depth and make the illusion of distance more recognizable in their drawings. Fourth graders are just beginning to learn about these concepts so you will also see them outside sketching.

Third graders are learning about contour line drawing, which is an outline of a form. They have been learning to draw objects from observation using contour lines for the outer form and for inner detail. Understanding space around a three dimensional form is challenging but they are doing a great job. Their final drawing will be a study of a bicycle.

First and second graders are learning about the descriptive quality of line in art. Both grades have made line painting focusing on different line qualities. First graders not only learned to draw many different types of line but learned to use a dominate line within their painting. The dominate line helps to guide and organize their artwork as well as lead the viewer into their painting. Second graders had to include many dominate lines in their painting but they all had to lead to a focal point, one spot on their painting they wanted to guide their viewer to. A focal point is an effective way to teacher emphasis in art. When they reach fourth and fifth grade they will understand a focal point to be a vanishing point applied to drawing three dimensional shapes.

Parent conferences will be October 25<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in stopping by the art room are welcome.

*Pam Alexander*  
*Art Teacher*

