



Atkinson Academy

Kathleen Dayotis, Principal
Brian Shawley, Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

The weather certainly cooperated giving us a great start to the school year. The children arrived rested with smiles on their faces excited to be back. Friendships were renewed as they scurried to their classrooms to meet their new teachers and classmates. It was a quite a summer for me. Brian Shawley, former fifth grade teacher, was hired to replace Christopher Snyder as our new Assistant Principal /Curriculum Coordinator. I'm excited to have him join me as my Assistant. He is a welcome face in the front office. We had quite a hiring domino effect this year with Kelly Lennon replacing Erin Camire who moved to grade two replacing Pam DuLong. Pam is now the Enrichment Teacher. Karen Bresnahan has joined the third grade team working with Lynne Ouellette and Nicole Shawley. Heather Terrile is back as a fifth grade teacher replacing Brian. Rachel Proulx returned as a classroom teacher replacing Melissa Guy who decided to stay home with her girls this year. Shelley Michaud joined us as the new pre-k teacher as Susan Donnelly took on the two half day kindergarten sessions. Deb Bell is the full day FLES kindergarten teacher along with Taylor Jones the Spanish teacher for kindergarten classes. Gail Pellegrino took over the music program teaching both general music classes and band instruments. Zachary Champion replaced Elissa Salemi, the guidance counselor, who transferred to Danville. Margaret Quinn, a certified teacher, is working with our special educators and classroom teachers taking small groups for literacy help during tier 2 times. We also welcomed three new paraeducators, Janet DeVits, Eileen Hebert and Maureen McArdle. We also added a new name to our staff; Ms. Barter became Mrs. James Pelletier in a beautiful ceremony this July. Congratulations to both of them and to think that they met at the Academy. After this summer, I was one happy person to start school with finally a full staff.

The Fall Festival was a huge success this past weekend with lots of fun activities. The school was just alive with great silent auction items, delicious baked goods, pizza, popcorn, cider donuts and lots of candy. The haunted house was designed and built by Bill and Kathleen Friel,

was soo -- scary but long lines prevailed. The bouncy house was the highlight of the day for the little kids even though it was inside this year due to weather constraints. Games, crafts face painting, a photo booth, cake walk, radar pitching and scavenger hunts filled the day. A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers, especially Carol O'Leary who once again coordinated the event and Susan Genest who started working on silent auction items this summer, and what great items she was able to gather. The list of volunteers is just too long to name but on behalf of the staff and students we can't begin to thank you for a great day of entertainment. Without you, this wouldn't be possible. As one parent commented, it takes a village and each of you deserves a big thank you for being part of the village.

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS:

Please note that we have a new phone system, so please use our staff directory for classroom extensions.

As the cold weather approaches, please label your child's clothing so if it is left we can readily identify it and get it back to the rightful owner.

Make sure if you change phone numbers that you notify the office.

Reminder: Please don't park at the Town Hall, bypassing the car rider line. The police will be monitoring it as we feel that an accident may occur. Our staff has staggered hours so they are pulling out and might not see a child crossing, causing an accident. Keeping our students safe is very important.

School starts at 8:30 am. Children are considered late if they are not in their classrooms by that time. Constant tardies must be reported to the district attendance officer who will pursue the reasons.

Once again, I must remind you that lunch money should be paid in a timely manner. Feel free to write a check weekly or monthly and send it in so you stay current. Large amounts owed require a letter home along with a phone call from me and then if still not paid, the district will follow-up with small claims court. If you are having a hard time, let me know and we can arrange a payment plan.

Please don't hesitate to call me if you have concerns. I can be reached at 362-5521 ext 6301.

Kathie



Curriculum News Update

It has been an exciting start of the school year. I am very fortunate to be working at the Academy with the staff and Mrs. Dayotis this year in my new role. Throughout the school year I will be working with the other Curriculum Coordinators in the district reviewing and aligning the UbD components of the curriculum. We are also working collaboratively with the Deans at Timberlane Regional Middle School and High School in aligning the curriculum K-12.

What is Understanding by Design?

Understanding by Design (UbD) is a framework for improving student achievement. Emphasizing the teacher's critical role as a designer of student learning, UbD works within the standards-driven curriculum to help teachers clarify learning goals, devise revealing assessments of student understanding, and craft effective and engaging learning activities.



NURSE

It is hard to believe that flu season is already upon us. The following information is from the New Hampshire Department of Health and 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 flu vaccine each fall. In the absence of a flu shot, 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.
- Use a tissue to cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, throw away the tissue, and then wash your hands.
- Stay home from work or school if you have flu-like symptoms until 48 hours after the symptoms stop.
- As much as possible, stay away from people who have flu-like symptoms.
- Eat right, exercise, and get plenty of sleep.

- Wash frequently touched objects, such as door handles, kitchen and bathroom surfaces,
- drinking fountains, and phone receivers, with a household disinfectant.
- Avoid sharing utensils.

Wishing you good health☺. Mrs. Amante



KINDERGARTEN

The Kindergarten classes have spent the last two weeks learning about the five senses during our apple unit. They began by examining apples by looking at them and describing what they see. Then they touched the apples and described how they feel, smell and lastly listened to the sounds they make as we all tasted them. The boys and girls also made a class graph of their favorite apples and were proud to add their own apple choice to the graph. We look forward to spending the fall season observing the changes around us and how they will affect our senses as well.



FIRST GRADE

We are very excited to be going on our first field trip to Charmingfare Farm next week! We will be celebrating fall by enjoying our time at the farm with the animals and doing many fall related activities. We are looking forward to seeing several of the animals that we have been reading about in our weekly Reading Street stories!



SECOND GRADE

Second Graders are off to a great start this year! We have been working with Mrs. DuLong to get our Tree Journals started. We will be making observations, sketching, and writing about the Sugar Maple in our Quiet Area throughout the year. Also, we will share observations of a special tree at home. Second graders have been practicing determining what the main idea of a story is and what are the details that give us more information about the topic. They are doing a great job with this tricky skill. The three classes have embarked on a rotation of studies in science to learn about states of matter, social studies to learn about the United States and regions, and information writing about animals. And at the time of this writing, we are so excited to be heading to Charmingfare Farms for our first field trip of the year with the first graders.



THIRD GRADE

Third graders are always excited to learn how to write in cursive. Students work in their cursive handwriting book for 10 minutes following lunch. It is a great way for students to debrief after an active lunch and recess period. They are not only learning to write letters and words, they practice the important skill of reading in cursive. We use *Handwriting Without Tears* writing program.



FOURTH GRADE

What a wonderful year we've been having so far in 4th grade! The students have been adapting to their new 4th grade routines and expectations. In addition, we've recently wrapped up our exciting science unit on Rocks and Minerals. Our culminating event to our unit will include a visit from the well-known Mad Scientists who will provide the students with a hands-on exploration of rocks and minerals. Our next unit in Social Studies will focus on our local, state, and federal government. Furthermore, we will learn about the 3 branches of government. Thank you for encouraging your children to continue reading at least 20 minutes a day, as well as practicing their math facts. We are looking forward to a year full of wonder and learning!



FIFTH GRADE

We have had a great start to the fifth grade school year! We are learning about the constitution, ecosystems, and focusing on estimating in math. The fifth grade will be participating in two Distance Learning activities this month. These webinars will enrich our chemistry and solar system units. We will also be participating in American Education Week by completing essays about how make our school great.



ART

Fourth and fifth grade art students have been busy drawing animals native to the New Hampshire's woodland habitat in honor of our school mascot the American Black Bear. Their animal drawings are going to be used to create new sign posts around our school to guide our visitors through our web of hallways. Students made life size animals, including several moose's, using colored paper and pastel chalk. Mrs. Toth, our Librarian, has volunteered to cut the lettering for our signs so we sent her a great big thank you. Our animals are complete and they will be on displayed in the next coming weeks. Mrs. Alexander



GYM

Welcome to all new students and families, and welcome back to everyone else. I have enjoyed meeting all of those new to our school and look forward to another great year at Atkinson Academy.

We will be having PE classes outside (weather permitting) until November.

Please help your child remember to come dressed appropriately on Gym days. This means comfortable clothes, sneakers. A re-usable water bottle is a good idea as well.

So far this year we have completed a soccer unit and individual classes mixed with cooperative activities.

Next up will be our football unit which ends with the popular "Capture the Pumpkin" game during the week of Halloween.

If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding anything to do with your child and/or my class, please do not hesitate to call (ext.6305) or E-mail me.

There will be many opportunities for you to help me and our students during and after school. Watch for information in the shuttle.

Thanks for your support. Sincerely, Jeff Goddard, PE



SCHOOL COUNSELING

My name is Mr. Champion and I am the new School Counselor here at Atkinson Academy. I have had an exciting first month getting to know all the students and staff here at Atkinson. In the beginning of the school year I went to each classroom to introduce myself to the students and to do an activity with them to explain my role in the school. All month I have been going out to lunch and recess to start building relationships with all the students. Each day I also get the opportunity to go into different classrooms to teach mini lessons on social skills. I am looking forward to a great first year here at Atkinson Academy and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

5 de septiembre 2014



Hola Mamis y Papis,

It's hard to believe that the summer is over and done with already, but I am very excited to be back in school! FLES (Foreign Language in Elementary Schools) is a new program this year and it is an amazing opportunity for you and your children to learn Spanish! The first week or so we have been focusing on greetings, farewells, and expressing how they are feeling (Hola, adiós, estoy bien, estoy mal etc...) we will be adding the days of the week, the calendar, and weather to our daily routine! In the classroom, a lot of my teaching is done using TPR (total physical response), songs, and games to get the kids speaking and most importantly excited about the language. I will also be introducing our class "mascota" to the kids this week. Rosita our class frog puppet, is going to be a great asset to our classroom this year. I have added a FLES website to the school's website. There you will see Spanish projects we are doing in class, a little more about me and my contact information, fun apps and links the children can use at home, all of my newsletters, and what we are focusing on for the month. Please visit the website and feel free to contact me anytime!

¡Hasta Luego!
Señorita Jones



We are off to a great start to the year in technology. The big news right now is that the kindergarten students are coming to the computer lab every week. We have been playing games such as Simon says to learn the parts of the computer. They are also using a drawing program to draw shapes and change colors. There were some wonderful houses made using this program!

It will be exciting to see how much they learn this year.

Important Dates:

- 10/10 – Grade 1 & 2 Field Trip, Charmingfare Farm
- 10/13 – NO School
- 10/17 – Box Tops Due
- 11/10 – Early Release, 1pm
 - PTA Fundraiser Pickup, Gym
- 11/11 – NO School, Veteran's Day
- 11/12 – Lip Sync Rehearsal, Grades 4 & 5, Gym
- 11/13 – Picture Retake
- 11/14 – Lip Sync, Grades 4 & 5, PAC @ 6:30
- 11/26-11/28 – NO School, Thanksgiving Break
- 12/2 – Lip Sync Rehearsal, Grades 2 & 3, Gym
- 12/5 – Lip Sync, Grades 2 & 3, @ PAC @ 6:30
 - Report Cards Sent Home
- 12/11 – NO School, Professional Development Day
- 12/12 – PTA Movie Night @ 6:30-8:00, Café
- 12/24-1/2/15 – NO School, Winter Break
- 1/6/15 – Jump Rope Club Begins, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 1/12 – Strings Concert, PAC @ 7:00pm
- 1/13 – Jump Rope Club, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 1/16 – Progress Reports
- 1/19 – NO School, Civil Rights
- 1/20 – NO School, Professional Development Day
- 1/27 – Jump Rope Club, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 2/3 – Jump Rope Club, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 2/10 – Jump Rope Club, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 2/17 – Jump Rope Club, 3:00-4:15pm, Gym
- 2/20 – Early Release, 1:00pm
- 2/23-2/27 – NO School, February Vacation
- 3/10 – Lip Sync Rehearsal, Grades 2 & 3, Gym
- 3/13 – Lip Sync, Grades 2 & 3, PAC @ 6:30pm
- 3/17 – Jump Rope for HEART, 3:00-4:30pm, Gym
- 3/20 – Report Cards
- 3/24 – Lip Sync Rehearsal, Grades 4 & 5, Gym
- 3/25 – NO School, Professional Development Day
- 3/27 – Lip Sync, Grades 4 & 5, PAC @ 6:30pm
- 3/31 – 5th Grade Concert at PAC, 7:00pm
- 4/15 – 1st Year Strings Concert at PAC, 7:00pm
- 4/23 – D.A.R.E. Graduation at PAC, 7:00pm
- 4/24 – Early Release, 1:00pm
- 4/27-5/1 – NO School, April Vacation
- 5/11-5/15 – Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/13 – Strings Concert @ PAC, 7:00pm
- 5/15 – Kindergarten Program at PAC, 6:00PM (Atkinson & Pollard)
- 5/22 – Early Release, 1:00pm
- 5/25 – NO School, Memorial Day
- 6/15 – 5th Grade Celebration, 1:00pm, Gym
 - 3rd Grade Play @ PAC, 6:00pm
- 6/16 – Tentative Last Day of School