



Atkinson Academy

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

Where has the time gone! February and March were filled with snow, snow and more snow along with no school days, delayed openings and blizzard bags. April will hopefully see weather improvements. As the first day of spring approached, our hope was that we will start to see grass sneaking through the snow.

D.A.R.E. Drugs Abuse Resistance Education, a twelve week course, began after a slow start for our fifth graders. Sgt. Nate Lyons, from the Atkinson Police Department, works with the fifth grade classes on Mondays. Extra time after lunch he is available to read or visit other classrooms. Having him in our school is great as the children begin to feel the trust of our local police officers and feel free to talk about anything that is bothering them. Graduation at the PAC to celebrate the end of the program will be held April 23rd.

Enrichment Day was held on Feb. 19th. Thank you to all the volunteers that either taught a class or helped a teacher give a workshop. It was a huge success with the children learning about many different careers. Another fun enrichment day will be held on May 21st. Be on the lookout for more information.

Report cards were sent home in the shuttles on March 20th along with your child's individual STAR reports in both reading and math. I hope you found the reports quite informative.

Thank you to Stacey Marcotte for heading the boxtop campaign this year. What a huge success! Volunteers are so very important to any school. We appreciate all the efforts of our parents to help whenever we ask. Please remind your child to check out the lost and found container to see if any of the clothes belong to them.

Be sure to check the shuttles on Fridays for important notices.

Kathie

Mr. Shawley's Corner



Dear Atkinson Families,

Our Smarter Balance testing has been going well. Grades 3-5 will continue testing through April 17th. I would like to thank all the students for their hard work and cooperation through this test. There is a New Hampshire of Education Smarter Balanced assessment portal <http://nh.portal.airast.org>. This portal provides several links and helpful information for teachers, staff and families! 😊



Reminder about morning car drop off:

- School starts promptly at 8:30 a.m.
- The safety of all students is our number one concern.
- Please beware of the teachers and staff giving directions while in the car drop off/pick up line.
- Law requires kids under the age of 18 to wear safety belts.
- Thank you for your support!

NURSE'S OFFICE

Spring has finally arrived! Time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air and sunshine! The following are sun safety tips taken from the American Cancer Society to help you and your family stay safe in the sun..

REMEMBER TO:

❖ **Seek shade**

- Limit exposure to UV light (sunlight). This is particularly important between the hours of 10 am and 4 pm, when UV light is strongest. UV rays become more intense in the spring, even before temperatures get warmer.

❖ **Protect your skin with clothing**

- Wear clothing to protect as much skin as possible. Be aware that covering up doesn't block out all UV rays. If you can see through a fabric, UV rays can get through, too.
- Wear a hat. A hat with at least a 2 to 3 inch brim all around is ideal because it protects areas that are often exposed to the intense sun, such as ears, eyes, forehead, nose, and scalp.

❖ **Use sunscreen**

- Sunscreen is a product that you put on your skin to protect it from the sun's UV rays. It is important to know that sunscreen is just a filter-it does not block all UV rays.
- When choosing a sunscreen product, be sure to read the label. Sunscreens with broad spectrum protection (against both UVA and UVB rays) and with sun protection factor (SPF) values of 30 or higher are recommended.
- Be sure to apply the sunscreen properly. Always follow label directions.

❖ **Avoid tanning beds and sunlamps**

- Tanning lamps give out UVA and usually UVB rays as well. Both UVA and UVB rays can cause long term skin damage, and can contribute to skin cancer.
- Most skin doctors and health organizations recommend not using tanning beds and sun lamps.

❖ **Protect children from the sun**

- Babies younger than six months should be kept out of direct sunlight and protected from the sun using hats and protective clothing.
- Protect children from excess sun exposure by using the above tips.

- Educate children about the dangers of too much sun exposure as they become more independent.

Mrs. Amante, Nurse



ART



We are already thinking spring here in the art room! Our preschoolers and kindergarten classes are learning about the color wheel. They are learning about and mixing primary colors into secondary colors and creating very bright and beautiful works of art.

First graders are learning about weaving and have just begun their own woven mini blanket using bright colors of yarn in all kinds of patterns. Student may have come home chanting the weaving pattern Under, Over, Under, Over, Under, Over..... yup! That was art class!

Second graders are learning to create an original quilt block patterns using a 16 block square. They began by learning to divide a square diagonally into two triangles. They then create a pattern of squares and triangles to create their paper quilt block. Our second graders have created some incredible and inspiring designs!

Third graders just finished building a Pueblo inspired pinch pot. Their pots will be fired in our kiln next week and they will be learning to glaze their pottery for the first time. Their pots will be both decorative and functional because glazing allows the pot to hold fluid and one can drink or eat from it.

Fourth graders just started a pottery project of their own. They are building a cylinder using slab construction. Each student will have additional construction techniques to choose from so they can transform their cylinder into a mug, a canister, a basket, or candle holder. Their cylinders will also be glazed using a variety of colors.

Fifth graders are in the middle of a pen and ink illustration. They learned 6 different texture techniques and have drawn an illustration demonstrating a repeated motif design. They are using a pen nib and liquid ink, going old school for this art project. They have to keep dipping their pen in the ink as they draw. Students have the option to add color to their illustration with watercolors.

Pam Alexander, Art Teacher



GYM

What a crazy January and February we had! With all of the 2 hour delays and full snow days many classes were missed. Not everyone was able to participate in full units of dance, basketball, or winter Olympics. Since then, we have been getting back on track.

Upcoming units will be volleying and cooperative games. We will also be doing a Climbing Week - April 13-17.

Please watch for information in an upcoming shuttle.

Other dates to put on your calendar are:

- Climbing Club (open to students in 4th and 5th grade) Tuesdays in April (4/7, 4/14, 4/21) 3:10-4:30.
- Fifth Grade Hike Mt. Major, (leaving at 7:30am) Thursday, June 11th.
- All School Field Day, Friday, June 12th

We would love to have you join us for any or all of these events.

If you have any questions about these activities or any other PE issue please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Spring! Jeff Goddard



MUSIC

During the second trimester the students have worked on many different music concepts. The younger students have learned some great songs and movement where we worked on the Sol-Mi interval. We have learned about African drumming, and about the keeping of a steady beat. We have also learned about basic rhythmic reading and notation, creative movement, and about the difference between beat and rhythm.

In addition to covering the topics listed above, the third graders have begun playing recorder. They are working on reading and playing the notes B, A, and G. We have

learned about woodwind instruments, rhythmic reading and notation, how music and literature can work together to tell a story, and how to identify different styles of music.

Jumping off of notation, beat, and rhythm, the fourth and fifth graders took a good look at the evolution of different styles of music in America. As an extension they have been looking at the evolution of America's Music and their relation to specific events in American history in the 1950's and 1960's.

The 5th Grade Band Members performed in a District-Wide Band Concert on Tuesday March 31st at the PAC. We hope you enjoyed the show!

Gail Pellegrino, Music Teacher



SCHOOL COUNSELING

My experience here at Atkinson over the past seven months has been excellent. I have had the chance to meet so many great students and staff. I've worked with many students in a group setting during lunch and Tier II. I have enjoyed building positive relationships with such a diverse and unique group of students. It is really impressive how many students embrace the idea of treating each other politely and respectfully.

Each day, I get the opportunity to go into different classrooms to teach mini lessons on social skills. I have been encouraged by how much growth our students are making week to week applying the social skills we work on in class. In the younger grades, we have focused on becoming respectful whole body listeners and treating others the way we want to be treated. In the upper grades, we have focused on the skills of working in groups, the importance of teamwork, and social problem solving. If you have any question please feel free to contact me here at the school.

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Mr. Champion

ENRICHMENT

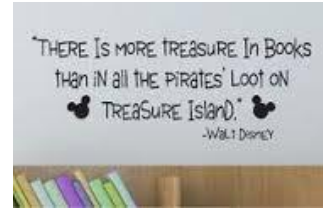
Atkinson Academy's year-long theme for the 2014-2015 school year is 'Careers.' Throughout the year, students have been learning about how people's personal interests, skills, and abilities guide them to their career choices, as well as how the academic subjects students learn in school are applicable and relevant to the day-to-day working world.

Thursday, February 19, 2015, was a school-wide Enrichment Day focused on this theme. 14 presenters, many of them parents of Atkinson Academy students, spent the day at the school presenting workshops that allowed students to learn about various careers. Many of the highlighted occupations were STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) careers. Presenters included mechanical engineers, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, a game warden, a weatherization consultant, a lawyer/prosecutor, and an arborist/plant health care specialist. Other students had a chance to listen to professionals who work in sales and electronics, information technology, and marketing and technology. Many thanks to the parents who volunteered their time and expertise on this day!

Additionally, all students attended an assembly presented by The Children's Museum of New Hampshire. At this assembly, not only did they learn about various career opportunities within a museum setting, but they enjoyed a presentation about being environmentally conscious, which included a hands-on construction activity.

In other Enrichment news, SPARKS teams began meeting this week. SPARKS is an after-school activity open to all 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students. This extracurricular research and presentation program promotes critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills through investigative group challenges. These challenges require reading, discussion, planning, and production. A few spots are still available. If interested, please contact Mrs. DuLong for more information at pamela.dulong@timberlane.net

READING

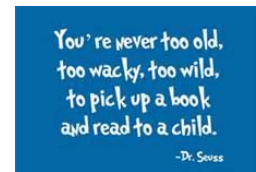


THERE IS MORE TREASURE IN BOOKS THAN IN ALL THE PIRATES' LOOT ON TREASURE ISLAND.

-Walt Disney

Parents often ask what they can do to support their child's reading development at home. My answer is not complicated. It doesn't cost a lot of money, and it doesn't take a lot of time. It's quite simple. **Read.** Read silently and read aloud.

There is nothing more powerful than watching a child sit in a quiet room curled up with a good book. Stop and think for a moment of a time when you were so totally engrossed in a book that the book was more important than your cell phone ringing, your stomach grumbling, or your favorite television show. Yes, it is that simple. It isn't flashy, and it isn't a marketable teaching method; however, it is that frequent, voluminous reading which creates life-long readers.



Children love it when we use strange and funny voices when we read aloud, but what else can we be doing as we read with our children? Have you tried any of these simple suggestions?

1. *Read the title, author's name, and illustrator's name.* It is important for children to be familiar with the meaning of these three things. It also shows them that the book is written by real people!
2. *Make predictions.* What do you think will happen in the book? There is no wrong answer; it is okay to make an incorrect prediction!
3. *Refer to the pictures.* Ask your child what is happening in the pictures. By examining and talking about what they observe, inference skills are developed.

4. Once-in-a-while with younger children, *move your finger as you read*. By moving your finger underneath the words, your child develops an understanding that you read left to right and top to bottom. It also demonstrates that letters and symbols on the page are written words and have meaning.
5. Periodically *ask a few questions*. The goal is to engage your child in the story without breaking the flow of the story.
6. *Reread the same books again*. It's okay. This is what real readers do.
7. *Really enjoy the book with your child!* Your enthusiasm for reading will be contagious!

Reading at home is a very important part of a child's development. It creates a connection between the home and school and allows students the opportunity to practice new reading skills. Childhood comes to an end much too soon! **Enjoy this time with your child!**

And as always.... HAPPY READING!

Jill Feneberg, Literacy Specialist



Computer Technology

Signs of Cyber Spring in Technology Class:

The kindergarteners have made incredible strides as they apply their technology skills while learning about letters, numbers, shapes and healthy eating. It is very impressive how skilled they have become creating pictures using the computer. If they haven't told you about it already, you can download TuxPaint at home for free. This is a fun drawing program for young students.

1st graders have just begun a very exciting project. They are typing stories that they wrote in the classroom. Once they have finished typing the stories they will draw pictures on the computer and record their voices reading them. Should be fun!

In second grade, the students are creating wonderful books about the four seasons. They have made acrostic poems about fall, created webs about winter and when the snow finally melts we will be scouring the school grounds to take wonderful digital pictures of spring.

Third graders have taken a break from keyboarding and will be making digital presentations about New Hampshire. I'm sure they will enjoy the change of pace as they apply their keyboarding skills to something real.

In fourth grade, the students have been creating all sorts of graphs using spreadsheets. They will continue with this in their classroom. We will shortly be creating digital posters about the different states. When they are completed, I am sure they will enjoy sharing them with you.

Fifth graders are creating surveys that we are sharing with fifth grade students in Sandown. Once they have shared their surveys between the two schools, we will be doing a collaborative project together.

Winter may have dragged on, but we have not slowed down for a moment at the Academy.

Happy Spring! Anna Lizier

Important Dates:

- 4/6 - Monday Morning Meeting, 9am, Gym
- 4/7 - Climbing Club, 3:10-4:30pm, Gym
- 4/14 - Climbing Club, 3:10-4:30pm, Gym
- 4/15 - 1st Year Strings Concert at PAC, 7:00pm
- 4/16 - Author Visit @ PAC, 5-7pm
- 4/17 - Progress Reports go Home
- 4/21 - Grades 1 & 2 Field Trip to Theatre
- Climbing Club, 3:10-4:30pm, Gym
- 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
- 5/8 - Grade 5 Field Trip to Freedom Trail
- Puppet Lady Visit, Pre-K & K
- 5/11-5/15 - Staff Appreciation Week
- 5/11 - Monday Morning Meeting, 9am, Gym
- Kindergarten Screening, 9-3
- 5/13 - Strings Concert @ PAC, 7:00pm
- 5/15 - Kindergarten Program at PAC, 6:00PM (Atkinson & Pollard)
- 5/21 - Enrichment Day
- 5/22 - Early Release, 1:00pm
- 5/25 - NO School, Memorial Day
- 5/26 - Grade 3 visits TRHS for Big Buddy Little Buddy
- 6/1 - Monday Morning Meeting, 9am, Gym
- 6/8 - Monday Morning Meeting, 9am, Gym
- 6/11 - Grade 5, Mt. Major Hike
- 6/12 - Field Day
- 6/15 - 5th Grade Celebration, 9:00-10:00am, Gym
- 3rd Grade Play @ PAC, 6:00pm
- 6/17 - Tentative Last Day of School
