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Newsletter - January 2013



Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Principal News

Dear Danville Families,

Danville School was recently awarded four Gold Circle Awards from NH Partners in Education (NHPIE) for partnerships with Danville Fire Department, Danville Heritage Commission, Colby Memorial Library, and Fidelity Investments. We value the support we receive from local businesses, as it allows us to offer educational experiences and resources that enhance students' experiences in school. We also received the Blue Ribbon Award from NHPIE for the 26th consecutive year for the extraordinary volunteer efforts organized by PTA board members. Every day we have parents volunteering valuable time to help in many ways at school. This award really belongs to you, our parents! Thank you from all of us at Danville School.

Our students continue to work toward our school goals of respect, responsibility, and pride. Our latest school rollout involved recess behavior and rules. This roll out lasted for a short time because our students were very familiar with recess expectations. Students have equipment to use during recess. They also have space to play wall ball, kickball, hopscotch, four square, and number line jump. There is space to participate in the walking/jogging route for those who wish. Our students are well supervised at all times by our staff. Staff is in communication with the health office and front office when they are outside.

Our students in grades K-3 participated in Ladybug Picture Book Award. Mrs. Kissel, media generalist, organized guest readers to read a selection of books chosen by the NH State Library in Concord. The Ladybug Picture Book Award is designed to promote early literacy and honor the best in recent children's books. Our students voted for their favorite picture book. Results were sent to the state library. The winner will be announced in January! Last year Danville students selected the winning selection, Memoirs of a Goldfish, by Devin Scillian.

Life flows smoothly when everything is in balance. That is the tricky part! We want to provide our children opportunities to experience and excel and since they are only young for a short period of time we often try to add too much to their schedules. We want them to experience things we may not have had the chance to do. In 1981, Tufts professor David Elkind wrote the classic *The Hurried Child: Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon* in which he said "We hurry our children because we hurry ourselves." Now in its 25th edition, Elkind has updated the book given the rise in technology which has become a complicating factor.

Find time to play a board game, read a book, bake cookies, or take a walk. You will find this time well spent and a nice way to connect with your child. Watching your child participate in organized sports does not necessarily lead to

calm conversations in which you can connect, or be considered quality time with your child. Take time to appreciate your child for who he/she is. Relax. Life happens too quickly, and children grow even faster.

I hope 2013 brings peace and goodwill to our community. We have so much to be grateful for. Our school and town community continue to support our children in so many ways. We can't go wrong with such a wise investment!

Happy New Year,
Nancy Barcelos

Assistant Principal News

Happy New Year!

As mentioned in all of our newsletters to date, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are being implemented over time in New Hampshire school districts. You will continue to hear more and more about the CCSS as the school year continues. District teachers and administrators are exploring and learning more about the standards this year and we will move into more usage of the standards next year. We are looking at the standards and comparing them to current practices and analyzing the materials we use to determine if they support the higher standards the CCSS requires.

In way of explaining how the standards came to be, and some of the differences to our current NH Grade Level Expectations, a brief summary follows:

The CCSS was launched in 2009 through a partnership of the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The joint effort included teachers, parents, school administrators, and experts from across the country. International and national standards, current research, and effective practices from high performing countries were used to develop the CCSS. Public input was garnered prior to publication. The final version was released in June 2010. Since then states have examined the standards, leading to adoption by the wide majority of states. Each adoption state is in the process of implementation over time.

In general, the standards are aligned with college and work expectations, are stated in clear and understandable language, include rigorous content and skill application, incorporate aspects of current state standards, and are constructed to provide students with appropriate background to compete in a global economy and society.

Expect to hear more information about the CCSS as the school district transitions to higher standards, increased evidence of each student's ability to apply their new knowledge, and ongoing analysis of best teaching practices. Please contact your school's administration with any questions you may have regarding the Core Curriculum State Standards.

W. J. Pimley
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Enrichment News:

Invention Celebration News Guidelines & Requirements

During the month of January many of our classrooms will begin studying inventions and inventors. Most teachers also encourage their students to become involved in the inventing process. We know

that learning to problem solve and create solutions will be a skill needed in the future as our students and your children become adults. Our school-wide Invention Celebration will be held on Friday, February, 22, 2013. A schedule will be sent home in Danville Delivery by the week of Feb. 11.

If your child wishes to participate in the Danville Invention Celebration, he/she will need to know the guidelines for doing so. Your child's teacher may choose to have their class participate in this way and the guidelines will be shared or taught in the classroom. If your child's teacher does not choose to include creating inventions in their invention unit, you may contact me via email for information your child will need if he/she wishes to participate and to have their invention judged on Feb. 22. *

There are many possible awards (cash and gifts) offered to students that are chosen to participate at the state level. If you wish to learn more about these awards or categories, please contact me via email and I will send you a list. I would encourage you to share these categories and possible awards with your Danville student. Danville has won many of the awards in the past. Some special award categories include: Special Challenge: Beat the Heat, Medical, Electrical, Technology and Innovation, and Solar. Some general awards may include: Best in Grade, Environmental, Special Needs, Fun and Leisure, Practical and Useful, Original and Unique, and Most Marketable.

An important reminder about the inventive process: This is a process that is very important for a child to learn. The process helps them problem solve, think critically, record data/results (journal), and realize they have a voice. Please do not assist your child with their creative thinking by inserting your ideas; allow the inventive process and the creation of the invention to be theirs alone. Parents may (and should) encourage their child to come up with ideas and solutions. Parents may share problems they have that they wish to be solved (but may not offer solutions); the child should have the choice as to what problem they wish to work on for their invention. A parent or adult may teach a student how to use a tool that they may need to create their model, **but a parent may NOT do the work for the child**. The invention creating process and Invention Celebration is about a child learning to solve their own real world problems and being given a chance to share their creative solutions. If a power tool is required for the creation of an invention, the child should be encouraged to find another way to create their model. If this is not possible, the parent should contact me.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about the inventive process or Invention Celebration. **If you are able to help judge inventions on Feb. 22 or know of someone who might judge, please let me know by January 23.**

***Invention requirements to be judged on Feb. 22:**

1. **NEW: Application to be judged (this form is due to Mrs. Wood no later than Feb. 15 if your child wishes to be judged.) This is to be filled out by a parent/guardian.**
2. Student application (pages 1 and 2). There are 2 applications: a general application and one for the BEAT THE HEAT challenge. Your child chooses one to complete.
3. Journal that is up to date (used throughout the invention process). The journal can take on any format that is appropriate for the student. The classroom teacher may have a format the child needs to use. If

not, the parent may contact Mrs. Wood for a journal idea if needed. There should be a minimum of 5 entries from 5 different days

4. A 3-D model of the invention (this does **not** need to be a working model). This **must be completely** child created.
5. A 1-3 minute long explanation (may not exceed 3 minutes) of what problem their invention solves, how they came up with the idea, how they made their model, and anything else they feel they want to share about their invention, inventing process/successes and things that did not work, journal, etc. The judges will be expecting to hear this mini-speech. Students and guest viewing the Invention Celebration also enjoy hearing the inventor's explanation! The child may have note cards to help them remember. The child is encouraged to practice their explanation at home with an audience (parents, siblings, friends, grandparents....). Encourage your child to speak clearly, slowly, smile, and be ready for questions, etc.
6. Optional, but encouraged: a display that shares other information not included in the above 4 items. The display should also highlight the child's invention and/or encourage others to come view what they invented. The display must also be completely child created.

Note: if your child does not wish to be judged, do not fill out the application to be judged (#1 above). Your child does not need to be judged to share their invention on Feb. 22.

January 25 is our Grade 4 and 5 School Spelling Bee

On Friday, January 25, 2013, our 12 best spellers in grades four and five will compete for the honor of top Danville speller. Parents, relatives and friends of the spellers are invited to attend our Spelling Bee, which will be held at 1:30 in the gymnasium. Please RSVP with Mrs. Wood by January 17 if you plan to attend.

Our school bee participants from grade 4 are Elizabeth Amorelli, Bridget Ceplo, Chloe Landry, Jake Rollins, Robbie Olson, and Hannah Collins. Our fifth grade school bee participants are Hayden Bean, Samantha Blais, Lucas Harmon, Brayden Schoen, Frank Cornelius, and Sarah Marston.



Pictures are from past Spelling Bees



Congratulations to each of these fabulous spellers for winning their class bee. The winner of the Danville School Bee will be our Danville School Champion!

School Store News!

Our January School Store will be open on Wednesday, January 9 **and** 23 during grade 2-5 recess time. **On January 9, grade 2 will begin to attend school store.** All school stores are on Wednesday this year.

Students are invited to come to see what is available to purchase. Items range from \$.05 to \$3.50. **Students may not borrow money from others or ask for money from others.** Students are encouraged to purchase wisely and only buy if they find something they need. Generally students will not be allowed to spend over \$5.00 at the school store.

Some items for sale include:

New: Clip on Bears for \$1.50 (so cute)
Mechanical Pencils for \$1.25
Jump ropes for \$1.00
Pencil "beads" for only \$.05 each
Animal (Pencil) Pouches for \$3.00
Locking Diaries from \$2.50-\$3.75
New: fragrant pencils \$.30

New: Magnetic buddies for \$1.75
(koalas, bunnies, cows, rabbits, and much more)
New: Finger Rings for \$.50
New: Mini notes for \$1.00
Mini highlighters \$.30
Plus much more!

School store profits go toward things like school enrichment materials for special enrichment day workshops, assemblies, and whole school events. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Wood if you have any questions or wish to volunteer to help at our school store.

Cindy Wood, Enrichment Specialist
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