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Newsletter - November 2012



Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Principal News

Dear Danville Families,

The month of October passed quickly as our students worked hard to demonstrate their learning. Students in grades 2-5 participated in the Northwest Educational Assessment Tests (NWEA) and students in grades 3-5 took the state mandated NECAP tests. All students have completed Unit 1 assessment for Reading Street. It is our goal for students to demonstrate academic progress and success. In addition to standardized testing, staff at Danville School are becoming familiar with common core standards and learning to construct authentic student assessments that reflect student learning. Students show their knowledge by performing, or showing evidence of meaningful applications to real life tasks or contexts. The balance of standardized and authentic assessments gives us a more accurate picture of student understanding.

Respect, Responsibility, and Pride!

The students and staff continue to practice positive behavioral interventions. Teaching students appropriate behaviors actually gives back more time for academic learning. We are developing a common set of expectations for all to follow. This will enhance the learning community by providing a predictable, consistent, positive, and safe school.

Our students enjoyed the Ghoulish Gathering sponsored by the PTA this past Saturday. We had many creative and fun costumes. Many parents joined in the fun and dressed up! This is always a favorite event for the children. Please consider attending the next PTA meeting November 7 @ 7pm in the school library. Please join us November 10 for our first Pancake Breakfast at the Fire Association Hall. I heard the Danville Hawke might be making an appearance! Please refer to the Danville PTA website for details.

Live From Danville Elementary School!!!

Yes, it's true! The Timberlane School Board will be holding their November 15th meeting at the Danville School. You are invited to attend the meeting! Dr. Metzler will be presenting 4 students with a certificate for competing in an essay contest. The students were asked to tell what they as students do to make their school great. All students in grades 2,5,7 and 10 have been asked to participate.

Parents Right to Know

In response to regulations set by the NH & US Departments of Education, we are required to notify you of our staff's highly qualified status. All teachers and Title One tutors at Danville School meet these requirements and are highly qualified to teach. We are also required to inform you that parents have the right to request information regarding their child's performance level in the classroom or from Title One. Any parent of an English language proficient student has the right to withdraw his/her child from English language instruction. If you have questions about these regulations, please contact me.

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,
Nancy Barcelos
Principal

Assistant Principal News

Thanks to all for their cooperation during the recent NECAP testing sessions for students in grades three through five. Student attendance was very good overall, thus cutting down on makeup sessions and allowing us to complete required testing within the designated window of time for all students. We are very proud of the effort put forth by the wide majority of our students. NECAP testing is not easy and students appeared to try their best by taking as much time as needed, reviewing their work, and remaining focused with good concentration.

Student assessment is a large part of current practice in education. NECAP testing is a state based assessment that meets the requirement of No Child Left Behind legislation. The earlier NWEA testing is an opportunity for the students, school and the district to compare achievement on a standardized national level. Ongoing unit tests in math and reading allow for teachers to determine student success on the most recently taught skills and content. Teachers use this information in their weekly PLC meetings to inform their instruction, adjust instruction to student needs, and to plan instruction for small groups focused on specific skills. Work will also be planned to align our instruction with Common Core Standards as we transition to new expectations for student performance.

Additional assessment sessions will occur throughout the year. Students in grades three through five will take the NWEA Science Test in late January or early February. Students in grade four will take the NECAP Science test in May. All students in Kindergarten through grade five will take the end of year NWEA tests in math, reading and language. It is our intent to use the individual student data generated by these various tests to better instruct students through focused remediation or enrichment as needed.

Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding testing or Common Core Standards.

W. J. Pimley
Assistant Principal

Nurse's Notes

Many parents have concerns about when to keep a child home from school during a minor illness. Here are some guidelines for you to keep in mind:

Fever: If your child's temperature is 100 degrees or higher, your child must stay at home until fever free for 24 hours without medicine (Tylenol, Motrin, Advil, etc).

Mild Cough/Runny Nose: If there is no fever and your child feels well enough, it is fine to send him or her to school.

Severe Cough/Cold Symptoms: Children with severe coughs need to stay home and possibly see a doctor to rule out bronchitis, pneumonia or the flu. When the cough improves and the child is feeling better, it is fine to return to school. It is not necessary for the cough to disappear entirely, as that could take a week or longer.

Diarrhea and/or Vomiting: Your child should stay home until the illness is over and for 24 hours after the last episode.

Sore Throat: A minor sore throat is usually not a problem but a severe sore throat could be strep throat even if there is no fever. Other symptoms of strep throat can include a headache and upset stomach. With these symptoms, you should keep your child home and contact the doctor. If diagnosed with a strep throat, your child can return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment starts.

Pink Eye/Conjunctivitis: Please keep your child at home until the doctor has said he or she may return to school.

Conjunctivitis is highly contagious and in most cases, caused by a virus which will not respond to an antibiotic.

Bacterial conjunctivitis requires an antibiotic; your doctor will be able to determine if this is the case.

Please feel free to call the Health Office (382-5554 x322) to speak to Mrs. Parady with any concerns you may have regarding your child's health.



READ ALOUD with Mrs. Dube

The first and second graders are excellent story listeners! They sit so still and attentively while a story is read to them! In the past month, we have been learning about why we talk, and the importance of listening to each other. We have practiced these skills as the children tell their own stories while their peers listen attentively without interrupting.

Third graders have been presenting their thoughts and ideas to the class without even realizing it! We accomplished this by informally discussing what we noticed about money (a favorite subject!) and comparing and contrasting two stories about animals (one fantasy, one realistic fiction).

Fourth grade students have jumped right in and have begun to present skits, retells and persuasive speeches! I was amazed to hear all of the interesting traits family pets have when your students presented them for nomination into the Dube All American Animal Hall of Fame!

Fifth graders have delved deeper into *Wonder*, the story of August Pullman. Born with a physical deformity, August tries to find his way in the world of middle school. Your students have shown great empathy and compassion for this character and his family. I have no doubt this story will validate their ideals, and someday, when they meet an "August", they will treat him/her with respect, sensitivity, and admiration.

From the Library

He is wise who knows the sources of knowledge - where it is written and where it is to be found.

~ A.A. Hodge

Library Media and Research

Fifth grade students have been coming to the library media center to research Colonial America. They have done a tremendous job! Using informational text only, they have been investigating the culture of colonial America, their founders and the reasons for settling in the new world. They have been using the two column note-taking process as required by the middle school and writing citations for each of the sources they have used to gather their facts. To show what they have learned, they will create a 21st century technology project using Glogster, with Mr. Doughty our technology teacher. I cannot wait to see their results. Congratulations fifth grade for all your hard work!

Fourth graders have begun their pre-research skills lessons with me in the library. We will explore informational texts, important book parts and writing citations. We will also be using TrueFlix, an online resource that helps students build knowledge of a subject-content area and cultivate 21st Century information literacy skills. This database is used during a lesson in note taking with me in the library.

Second Grade students are completing a research project in the library on our school mascot, the hawk. They were very excited to begin their very first research project! They are such good investigators. They will be making a habitat with Mrs. Rice in the art room. I cannot wait to see the results.

First and Second grade students have completed their first lesson in the library, finding a "Just Right Book." Selecting just right books help students become better readers. We have discussed how to find a just right book and discovered the early reader bookcase in the library. Ask your child about selecting a "Just Right Book" and the five finger rule.

Scholastic Book Fair

Please look out for information on our annual Scholastic Book Fair that will be held during the week of December 3rd. Join us on December 7th from 5 - 8 during the Holiday Shopping event sponsored by our PTA.

Mrs. Kisiel, LMS

Reading aloud to children is an important activity for building knowledge and skills needed for reading success.

Physical Education News

Hello Everyone!

Wow, time flies when you are having fun! I really can not believe that it is already November. During the month of October we have been focusing on a throwing and catching unit as well as a continuation of tag games. We are in the process of finishing our two week Halloween unit and will be looking ahead to a cooperative games unit. The fall is one of my favorite times of year to teach kids about being healthy. They have a variety of opportunities to use what they have learned in class at their own houses and I encourage students to get outside and enjoy the fall weather as much as possible. Also, our Halloween unit is a

highlight of the year for many students, which makes it a very exciting unit to teach. Our year has gotten off to a great start and I look forward to the coming months! As always, if you have any comments or questions, feel free to email me and I will get back to you as soon as I can! I hope this note finds you happy and active!

-Patrick Ard

Danville P.E.

Patrick.Ard@timberlane.net

Technology Today

Happy November. We have been doing quite a bit in the last month in Technology. The First Graders are becoming experts at logging in with their usernames and passwords. With the help of our new program, EasyTech, they are developing a beginning understanding of computer basics and functionality.

Utilizing the EasyTech curriculum items, designed to address the second grade portion of the K-2 technology standards, the Second Graders also have been focused on learning the computer basics and functionality.

The Third Graders are finishing up an EasyTech-inspired Project that produces a PowerPoint document. This project has many different skills that the classes are working through quite well. The students are incorporating partially illustrated images and writing a story to explain what is happening in the finished image. They are asked to insert the artwork onto slides in PowerPoint and write a "Halloween-themed" story involving Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

The Fourth Graders are completing another EasyTech-inspired project. In their project, they will be creating a 60-second speech regarding the best or worst treat to receive for Halloween. They watched an EasyTech lesson regarding Audience and Organization while setting up a presentation. Our objectives for this project are for students to learn that presentation software is used to make slide shows on a computer. As well as, learn to consider the audience and the purpose when creating a slide show.

The Fifth Graders have started their own EasyTech Project focused on indentifying and preventing Cyber Bullying. In addition to watching the EasyTech lessons regarding cyber bullying, the students are creating their own original tales utilizing another website, StoryJumper. On StoryJumper the students are creating their own digital books related to one of the cyber bullying themes using the "Props" and "Scenes" provided on the site. I am very excited by the potential of sites like StoryJumper to assist our students to express themselves as digital storytellers. It is a fun and engaging way for them to relay understandings as well as be creative with their storytelling.

Also the Fifth Graders are working on their Thirteen Colonies Projects. We, the classroom teachers, Media Specialist and I, have collaborated to develop an interesting and engaging unit. With Mrs. Kisiel, the Media Specialist, the student researched information about their colony. I demonstrated an emerging technology, entitle Glogster. A Glog or an online multimedia poster manipulates text, photos, videos, graphics, sounds, and more to empower students to creatively express their knowledge and skills in the classroom and beyond.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please email me at William.doughty@timberlane.net. Thank you.

Music Note

Mrs. Cook

Band: Mark your calendars!

- ★ January 8th Danville Winter Concert
- ★ March 26th and 27th Rehearsal and Concert for all 5th grade band students
- ★ April 17th Concert for all 4th grade AND 1st year 5th grade band students

A Message from the Counselor

Simple Ways to Support “R+R=P” (Part 2) Respect

Try this definition of respect for kids, written in terms and with examples of respect for others and respect for self that children can understand... ..

A definition of respect includes 1) how you feel about someone and 2) how you treat him/her.

Respect is how you feel about someone -Having respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how he/she acts. You can have respect for others, and you can have respect for yourself.

Respect is how you treat someone - Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being. Showing respect for others include things like not calling people mean names, treating people with courtesy. Caring enough about yourself that you don't do things you know can hurt you.

Examples of what respect is:

- You admire (respect) a historical figure who stood up for what she believed in, even when it was hard.
- You are quiet in a library to show that you care about (respect) others' need to read without interruption.
- You follow your parents' rules to show them you care (respect) how they feel about the situation.
- You don't call people names because you care about (respect) their feelings.
- You don't hit or otherwise hurt people because you care about (respect) their well-being.
- You dress, speak, and act in a way that shows you care about what you know is right and safe, because you care about (respect) yourself and your well-being.
- You don't interfere with other people's right to look, think, or act differently than you because you care about (respect) their feelings and well-being.

Respect is thinking and acting in a positive way about yourself or others.

Respect is thinking and acting in a way that shows others you care about their feelings and their well-being.

Louise Janelle