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Newsletter - December 2012



Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Principal News

Dear Families,

Many exciting things happened in November at Danville School! I am grateful to all of you for sharing your wonderful children with us each day.

Our second and fifth grade students participated in an essay contest during American Education Week. The students wrote about their role in making Danville School great. Students throughout the district in various grades participated. The winners in each of the 4 participating grade levels shared their pieces at the school board meeting held at Danville School November 15. In an effort to have the Timberlane communities learn more about the schools, Dr. Metzler has asked each of the schools to host a school board meeting. Danville was chosen first! Guests were greeted at the front entrance by a string quartet and musical ensemble of brass and woodwind instruments. Mrs. Cook was on hand to help tune instruments but the children were truly the stars of the performance. The Danville Hawke made a guest appearance! Student council members reported on the many things they work on at Danville School. Each year they work to increase their involvement with the greater community. They schedule school spirit days throughout the year for everyone to participate in. I am very proud of the way our students represented themselves and their school.

The PTA sponsored a pancake breakfast open to the community Veteran's Day weekend. Our PTA does a wonderful job of organizing family and community events year round. This was extra special for the school because some of our students were the servers! Some of the Veterans wore uniforms, which was impressive to see. Veterans were served their meal free of charge. Our children were very attentive and polite to their guests. I heard many positive comments from those in attendance. This was an example of how our children can make connections to the world around them.

Also this month, we had a school wide enrichment day. Mrs. Wood and the school enrichment team organized a fabulous day for learning about the science of body and mind. Staff offered a variety of workshops on varying topics. We had experts from the community come in and share their expertise with our children. The learning and excitement that was prevalent almost made the walls swell!

I am filled with pride as I think about the wonderful opportunities our children have experienced this month. The learning that has taken place has been offered through different dimensions. We know that learning is not a one size fits all formula. Schools cannot offer a holistic, quality education without the support of all of the stakeholders. Thank you for all you do to support our children as they become informed students.

Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season.

Respectfully,
Nancy Barcelos

Assistant Principal News

Happy holidays to all! The students and staff will be busy completing many activities before the holiday break. It is a great time of year, but a busy time of year.

One activity keeping the staff busy is an ongoing activity comparing our current instructional activities and state standards with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As mentioned before, we are in transition to the usage of the Common Core Standards that the majority of states have chosen to adopt. We are examining the standards and making notations when our practices and the CCSS appear to differ. The CCSS generally maintain higher standards and are stated in a manner that helps to direct how the standard could be assessed. It is good work that will continue throughout the school year. Some of the information developed will guide our usage of certain materials and determine if our chosen programs meet the CCSS expectations. Emphasis is being given to the reading, writing and math pilot programs currently in use. Much of the professional development being planned for this school year will focus on CCSS and the student expectations teachers should establish in their practices.

Enjoy family and friends during this festive season.

W. J. Pimley

Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator

Nurse's Notes

We all benefit from a few minutes of daily exercise in the fresh air. Our students are not sent out in the rain or severe weather conditions but should otherwise expect to be outdoors for recess every day. Snow pants, boots, hats, gloves or mittens should be packed in addition to wearing a warm coat. Those students who do not have snow pants or boots are still expected to go outside but may not play in the snow. It is a good idea to keep an extra pair of dry socks in your child's backpack for those "slushy" days.



READ ALOUD with Mrs. Dube

The focus of the month for all grades has been on speaking, listening, and being a good audience. The children have practiced raising their hands to have a turn to answer a question, politely listening to a classmate's presentation, listened to a story and answered (or asked!) questions about what they heard, and listened to directions.

The students have also practiced speaking and presenting in front of a group of their peers. Many children struggle with this; I understand completely. I struggle with that as well. In my class, the children learn to encourage their classmates, critique without criticizing, and appreciate other's struggles. By practicing in this non-judgmental environment, the children will begin to feel more comfortable speaking in front of a group. This is a skill that will be beneficial in their middle school, high school, and college careers, not to mention in the years they will spend in the work force.

Ask your child what they did in Read Aloud...you may be surprised to hear about it!

All About Art!

Hello Danville Families,

I want to start by saying that the Original Works of Art Fundraiser was a great success! Thank you to all that participated! We will use the profits towards some very important projects this year as well as future endeavors. We have been as busy as ever in the art room of course!!

The first graders created pumpkin patches while learning about how to mix primary colors to make secondary colors. They've also been working on making three dimensional art. They've had a blast creating coil pots out of model magic and men and women figures out of clay slabs.

The second graders kicked off their fall season by making pumpkin patches out of model magic. They also learned about the Mexican holiday "Day of the Dead", and decorated skulls that displayed symmetry and pattern. Now they are working on a three dimensional clay project. Some classes have started learning about the artist Laurel Burch. They will be creating cats that follow her abstract style.

The third graders got into the fall theme by creating pumpkins and/or leaves using the Cubist style of Pablo Picasso. They used oil pastels in a progression using Analogous Colors. Presently they are working on their unit on Egypt. They are learning about the pharaoh King Tutankhamen as well as how to write in Hieroglyphics.

The fourth graders worked on creating birch trees using a very unique method. After creating the tree on white paper using masking tape, students painted over the masking tape with watercolor. Once the watercolor was dry students peeled off the tape revealing a white birch tree where they added texture on the bark using crayons. They are now working on creating percussion pods using clay. Students will be using these sound making instruments during a short lesson in Mrs. Cook's music class.

The fifth graders worked on a very complicated still life that contained a basket, gourd, pumpkin, corn husks and leaves. They used oil pastels to show the colors that they see. They rose to this challenge brilliantly and their projects are just stunning! They also designed a flag that told information about themselves. That project connects to the fifth grade power standards. Soon they will begin a three dimensional project using clay.

Just a reminder to parents that most of the artwork we do here is stored at school during the year until the student makes a choice on the project that they wish to have in the Art Show that takes place around April.

I am so proud of all of our Danville students! If you ever need to contact me my e-mail is Jennifer.rice@timberlane.net or 603-382-5554 X307

Sincerely,

Mrs. Rice



From the Library



Lady Bug Book Award

Each year, the **Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library** runs a state wide campaign to promote literacy and honor the best in recent children's picture books in grades K-3. Selections of 10 books are read to our students by staff and community members. Students then cast their vote for the favorite picture book. The state votes are tallied and one book has the honor of being the LadyBug Picture Book of the Year. Our students have begun to enjoy these selected titles. Ask them to retell their favorite story!

Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair has begun. It is an exciting week for all of our students and staff. It will run from Monday, December 3rd until Friday December 7th and will be open during holiday shopping. All money earned from the Book Fair goes directly back to our school to benefit our students. Through this endeavor author visits and other educational workshops. Last year we were able to purchase new furniture items for our "reading corner." This area is enjoyed by all our students as they visit the library and curl up with a good book. Thank you for your support of our Scholastic Book Fair.

Have a wonderful safe holiday season. Take the time to find a warm cozy place to sit and read!

Mrs. Kisiel, LMS

"T.V., if kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book." - Author Unknown

A Message from the Counselor

Simple Ways to Support "R+R=P" (Part 3) PRIDE

Pride is the last element of our school's behavioral "equation". It is the rewarding feeling students get for showing respect and responsibility, which are the standards we have set here at Danville Elementary. Our mascot, the Danville Hawke, soars with pride as well when students achieve those standards.

Pride can be a unifying force in a group of people, such as when a team achieves a difficult challenge or lives up to its high standards. At Danville, it works to bring us together to achieve school success.

On a more individual level, when we achieve a goal, we feel good about ourselves. Our self-respect and feelings of worth are boosted. These feelings are key to any student's academic and personal success – now and later in their lives.

One way parents can support this feeling is modeling times when they themselves feel pride, For example, you might say to your child: "I am proud of (name some abilities) and will work hard to maintain them." You can also make a special note of it when your child is feeling positive about achieving a personal goal.

Teach your child that pride is greater when we have had to work hard for something, as this makes the achievement more worthwhile. If your child works hard to achieve a goal, take the time to point out how proud you are, and celebrate the moment.

Ask your child about the ways our school is celebrating their behavioral achievements with the help of the Danville Hawke!

Louise Janelle