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Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Newsletter - December 2015



District Information

Dr. Metzler would like to announce that in addition to the current process for school delay and cancellation notification, he will use Twitter to tweet out notification messages. Please note that the Twitter notification will be the **first** line of communication for such announcements. The traditional means of notification will follow; but tweeting will provide the earliest notice.

Dr. Metzler's Twitter handle is:

[Supt. Metzler@SuptSAU55](mailto:Supt.Metzler@SuptSAU55)



Principal's Pen

Dear Danville Families,

During this season of giving thanks and thinking of others, we want you to know just how much we appreciate your support year round. The adage "It takes a village..." is a tired saying but

is so very true. Together we can accomplish great things. We all have an effect on our most prized resources, our children. Thank you for entrusting your children to our care.

Danville Staff are proud to give back to our community. Since the start of this school year we have held jeans days and made monetary donations to the following organizations and fundraisers:

- ♥ American Cancer Society
- ♥ Dollars for Scholars at Salem High School
- ♥ MSPCA
- ♥ St Anne's Food Pantry
- ♥ Jimmy Fund
- ♥ Local Benefits & Fundraisers

Report Cards will be going home in Danville Delivery December 2. Please take time to talk with your child about his/her learning. Mention the child's strengths you notice and were shared with you at Parent Teacher Conferences, and choose an area you would like to see him/her improve in. Feedback should be user friendly (age appropriate), personalized, specific, and ongoing. Our students work hard at school. We want their efforts recognized and supported.

Education has become data driven over the past few years. Technology has made it easier to

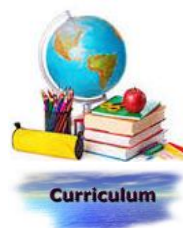
gather data to use when informing instruction. An important thing to know is data is only useful in education when you have a variety of data types and several data points. Students at Danville School are assessed using STAR Assessments at least three times a year. For those students whom teachers are concerned with their progress, progress-monitoring sessions are scheduled in between benchmark assessments. In addition, teachers gather data through formative assessments in class, and through observations and student participation. Each student's ability to navigate the test and use good testing practices is important to attaining accurate results. Kindly remind your children to try their best when being formally assessed, as the results do matter. The next benchmark assessments will be taken in January.

Teacher discussions at weekly PLC (Professional Learning Community) and Target meetings serve as an additional checkpoint along the way to be sure we are serving our children in the best possible way. Staff reviews all data looking for trends, successes, and areas of growth for our school. It is always our goal to support and maximize student learning.

As we prepare for the holiday season we will be keeping routines and schedules the same as much as possible. Routines are important to keep helping children feel secure in their environment. We do like to have fun but try to leave most of that up to you!

Wishing you a happy holiday season. Enjoy your time with family and friends,

Nancy T. Barcelos, M.Ed.



Assistant Principal News

A Family Guide To Your Child's Smarter Balanced Assessment Results

This past spring, your child took new statewide assessments in math and English language arts called Smarter Balanced. They were designed to match the new, more rigorous state standards that focus on the critical thinking, problem solving and reasoning skills students need in today's world.



As teachers and students work on mastering these more complex skills, educators expect that in this first year, scores may appear different than on the previous state test for many students. Although these new assessments cannot be compared to the old state tests, this year's score provides an accurate picture of a student's academic achievement level. These assessments are only one of several measures including classroom assignments, grades, and conversations with teachers that should be used to better understand if your child is on track to succeed in the next grade.

What should I take away from the assessment results?

- The Smarter Balanced Assessment helps you understand your child's academic progress and achievement. In addition to giving you an overall score in math and English, it also breaks down each subject into categories to provide you with a better understanding of how your child performed in different areas of math and English.

What does my child's assessment score mean?

- The Smarter Balanced assessment measures how well your child is performing against the new learning standards that guide instruction in English and math. Your child received an overall score, which is reported in one of four levels, with one being the lowest. Students who score in Level 3 or above have met the standard of the grade level in that subject. If your child scored at Level 2, he or she may need additional support or practice. Students scoring at Level 1 will need substantial support to fully comprehend the skills and concepts in that subject this school year.

Why does my child's score look different than scores on previous assessments?

- This first year's assessment scores set a new baseline from which progress will be measured. Your child's score, as well as the school and district results, may look lower this year because the assessment measured more complex skills including critical thinking, problem solving and analyzing. A low score does not mean your child did not improve or learned less. It simply means that the expectations have been raised for students. These scores cannot be compared to previous test scores since they are focusing on different skills.

What resources are available to help my child?

- **Skill Builder:** Contains helpful resources for you to support your child in Math and English at home.
<http://bealearninghero.org/skill-builder>
- **PTA:** See an overview of the learning goals and suggested activities for your child in every grade and state by state assessment guides.

<http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3816>

How will my child's score be used?

- Scores will be used, with other measures, to better tailor instruction to individual student needs and to determine how well a school, district and the state is doing against the higher standards and helping students learn.

What if my child did well on his or her report card last year, but not as well on the assessment?

- Smarter Balanced is only one of several measures that are used to determine your child's academic performance. Report card grades include multiple sources of information, including participation, work habits, group projects and homework, all of which are important in determining a child's academic achievement. These sources are not reflected on the assessment, so there may be some differences. To further explore your child's academic achievement, talk with his or her teacher.

What types of questions were asked?

- To see a walk-through of a practice test, visit <http://nh.portal.airast.org/training-tests/>.
- The Smarter Balanced Assessment includes performance tasks, which are multi-step assignments that ask students to apply their knowledge and skills to address real-world problems. In English, students have to apply their research and writing skills, and in math, they will solve a complex problem and then describe and defend their reasoning. The assessment also included traditional multiple choice questions, as well as interactive questions that required students to drag and drop their answers into a box, create equations, and fill in the answer.

How can I use these assessment results to help my child improve?

- Your child's performance is broken down into categories in each subject. You can use this information to locate activities online that were designed specifically for each category at every grade level. You can also use the results to guide a discussion with your child's teacher(s) about additional supports or challenges that may be needed in class, as well as other ways to support your child at home.

Remembering Playground Safety:

Winter weather is right around the corner. The children continue to play outside at recess during the winter months. It is important to all staff that Danville students continue to have fun during the winter months. Here are a few reminders to talk with your child about at home. The safety of your children on the playground is most important. Ice buildup causes slippery conditions on some of the playground structures, and throwing and pushing snow can result in unintentional injuries. We will be reminding the children of ways to stay safe and still have fun in the snow.



Dressing for Winter Fun: We do take the children out for recess unless there is a dangerously low wind-chill. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately with coat, hat, gloves or mittens, snow pants and boots. Unfortunately, if children come unprepared, we are unable to let them go outside.

Have a safe and healthy holiday season!

Arrival Reminders:



Attendance-It is important to realize that consistent attendance will greatly improve the chances your child has of being successful in an academic environment. However, we are aware that from time to time it will be necessary to keep your child home from school. Should the need occur, please take time to call the school to let us know that your student will be late or absent.

Morning Arrivals- Please remember that students can be dropped off at the school at 8:20 am. Students that arrive past 8:30 am are considered tardy.



Counselor's Corner

Hello Danville School!

Can you believe it's already December! Wow! For the past few months, I have been very busy visiting your child's classroom as well as getting to know them through individual, group and activities. Once again, your children have been fabulous and I am really enjoying my time with them.

Part of my goal of being a school counselor, is help your children be as successful as possible at school. Success in school is not just about reading and math. Part of being a successful student is to be able to manage strong emotions. I continue to use the *Second Step* program to

help teach this skill and your children really seem to enjoy it!

My goal for your children, is to develop their ability to manage their own strong feelings before feelings escalate and result in negative consequences. To achieve this goal, student will learn how to:

- *Recognize how strong feelings affect their brains and bodies*
- *Calm down, using Calming Down Steps*
- *Manage strong feelings*

Teaching students to recognize strong feelings and use Calm-Down Steps to stay in control increases coping skills and reduces aggression and other problem behaviors.

If you have any questions about the Second Step program, please don't hesitate to contact me for more information. Thank you for supporting your child in learning the skills that lead to success in school and in life.

Mrs. Salemi
School Counselor

Practice Second Step Skills at Home: *How to Calm Down*

Stop – use your signal

Name your Feeling

Calm Down – Breathe, Count, Use Positive Self-Talk

The first thing you need to do when you feel yourself losing control of your feelings, is to tell your mind and body to stop. ***What's a signal you can say to yourself to stop yourself from reacting without thinking?***



Music Note

Mrs. Cook

Mark your calendars!

January 19th 7pm Winter Concert (Band, Strings, and Chorus)

March 16th 7pm Chorus Concert

March 28th and 29th Rehearsal & Concert for all 5th grade Band students.

April 13th 7pm Concert for all 4th grade Band students

All events take place at the PAC (Timberlane Performing Arts Center). More information will be sent home as the dates approach.



READ ALOUD

with Mrs. Dube

November seemed to fly by! We spent the entire month focusing on being thankful. We began the month in every class learning about the veterans who keep our country safe and why we should be grateful for their service. Later in the month we began to focus on our families, our homes, our friends, our education and the lives we are thankful for each and every day. Our children and our families have a lot to be thankful for. If we focus on what we have, we will feel rich. If we focus on what we don't have, we will forever feel ungrateful.



Physical Education

Hello Everyone!

December showed up quickly this year! Time flies when you are having fun! We have just finished up with our Cooperative Games Unit and will be starting Volleyball this week! Most classes will be earning an "Open Gym" session right before our holiday break as well. With the weather changing and snow soon to fly, please make sure that your son or daughter brings sneakers to change into for P.E. class. This will keep our nice wooden floor in good shape as the winter moves along. 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



A Note from the Nurse:

Dear families,

It is important to keep our families and homes safe during the holiday season. Please take a moment to read over this information, visit the links, and discuss age appropriate information with your family. Included you will find valuable information on:

- ❖ *Kitchen safety during the holidays*
- ❖ *Turkey fryer safety*
- ❖ *Candle safety tips*
- ❖ *Fire and life safety reminders for the holiday season*
- ❖ *Christmas trees: festive, fun, and FLAMMABLE*

May this information assist everyone in having a safer holiday season!

Be safe,

Sue Goodman, RN

Health Office



SAFETY EDUCATOR



2015 HOLIDAY EDITION

'Tis the season to count our blessings, create lists and check things off. As we go about the busy and occasionally hectic holiday season, take a moment to ensure that your family, friends and visitors are kept fire and life safe by checking off these safety tips! "May you and yours have the safest and most memorable Holiday Season this year!"



KITCHEN SAFETY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Kitchen Safety: Check!

The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holiday season. Did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and injuries? Follow a few safety tips to prevent these fires.

- ♥ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- ♥ Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, boiling or broiling dinner.
- ♥ If you are simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly. Stay in the kitchen while food is cooking.
- ♥ Keep anything that can catch fire~ oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, curtains, and/or clothing~ away from the stovetop.

IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE:

- Keep a lid nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT ABOUT RIGHTING A SMALL FIRE.....

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 from outside the home.



CLICK for a quick video on cooking safety

TURKEY FRYER SAFETY



Click graphic above for
STATE FARM VIDEO

The NH State Fire Marshal's Office strongly discourages the use of outdoor gas-fueled turkey fryers that cook the turkey in hot oil. The use of turkey fryers can lead to devastating burns as well as property damage. Take a moment to visit the links below to learn about the dangers, cooking alternatives and safety tips.

WWW.NFPA.ORG

WWW.CPSC.GOV

[Carlsbad FD VIDEO Demonstration on Proper Safety with Turkey Fryer](#)

Inside this issue:

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Candle Safety: Check!



- Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything.
- Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.



- Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles!

FACTS

- ① On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every 30 minutes.
- ② Roughly *two-fifths* of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ③ More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.

www.firesafety.org

**FIRE and LIFE SAFETY REMINDERS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON**

Staying home and hosting friends and family this holiday season? Be sure to take a moment to double check, or create, your home emergency preparedness plan and **SHARE** with visitors. Be sure to click on the green links to learn more!

- ☐ **TEST SMOKE DETECTORS.** If you didn't change the batteries on Nov 1st, take a moment to do so now.
- ☐ **CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS** are properly placed and working according to manufacturer's directions.
- ☐ **ESCAPE PLAN** with **TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM** is made, hanging in a central location and practiced with family members and visitors, especially those spending the night.
- ☐ Outdoor **MEETING PLACE** is established and understood by all.
- ☐ Should an alarm sound, **GET OUT** and **STAY OUT**. Close all doors behind you. Do not return for any reason.
- ☐ **REVIEW** use of 9-1-1 should an emergency arise and help be needed.
- ☐ **Traveling for the holidays?** No matter where you are staying be sure to take a moment and review escape plans and safety measures for that type of home/occupancy. Keep your Family **SAFE** this holiday season.

**NOVEMBER: CARBON MONOXIDE AWARENESS and SAFETY**

by: Katelyn Cempe, Highbridge Hill Elementary School



Carbon monoxide is known as an "Invisible Killer" because it is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas. It is caused from faulty furnaces/heating appliances, cars left running in garages or misplaced portable generators. Katelyn reminds us this month that we can't smell or see carbon monoxide, that it can kill us and that the symptoms can send us to the emergency room. BE SAFE this holiday season with Katelyn's important messages!



HOLIDAY Safety: Check!

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Winter Holidays



Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to get together, but that also means a greater risk for fire. Following a few simple tips will ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season.

HOLIDAY DECORATING

- ▶ Be careful with holiday decorations. Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- ▶ Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- ▶ Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- ▶ Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands that can be connected together.
- ▶ Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.

- ▶ Keep decorations away from windows and doors.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

- ▶ Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- ▶ Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- ▶ Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.
- ▶ Ask smokers to smoke outside. Remind smokers to keep their smoking materials with them so young children do not touch them.
- ▶ Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Wet cigarette butts with water before discarding.



VIDEO



CHRISTMAS TREES: Festive, Fun... and FLAMMABLE

TREE Safety: Check!

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly. Follow these recommended safety tips.

Picking the Tree

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.

Placing the Tree

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 2" from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Add water to the tree stand daily.

Lighting the Tree

- Use lights that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.



TREE Safety Tips:



VIDEO

Prevent Holiday Tree Fires:



VIDEO

DECEMBER: CANDLE and HOLIDAY SAFETY

by: Sophia Moore, Elm Street School

- * Blow out candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- * Water your Christmas Tree. Dry trees pose a fire risk.
- * Don't burn wrapping paper recycle it.
- * Don't use too much Christmas lights. It could start a fire.

Thank you Sophia for your important messages. May citizens throughout the state be kept safer this holiday season with your reminders!





The New Hampshire State
Fire Marshal's Office

J. William Degnan

NH State Fire Marshal

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Safety Educator



A message from Fire Marshal Degnan:

'Tis the season for gatherings, gratitude and get-togethers. As the holiday season approaches, I want to take this opportunity to remind citizens throughout the State of New Hampshire to take a moment to create a safer community and home environment. During the 2015 year we have experienced an increase in preventable carbon monoxide deaths as well as fire incidents. By taking a moment to ensure that your safety list is properly checked, and double checked, many of these situations can be avoided. This interactive newsletter contains not only valuable information on how to do this, but excellent video links to enhance your understanding on the topics provided. Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the State Fire Marshal's Office. We wish you and yours a safe and memorable holiday season!



J. William Degnan
NH State Fire Marshal



Child Friendly & Parent Approved Websites

While we encourage students to disconnect and enjoy safe outdoor play, when it comes to computer time try one of these family fun fire and life safety websites. Just click the picture to open the links and play!



Find Us on the Web:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/trafficsafety/



Any questions or comments regarding this newsletter please feel free to contact:

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