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Danville Hawkes Soar for Success !

Newsletter - December 2016



Principal's Pen

Dear Danville Families,

Education is always changing as we acquire more knowledge about how children learn. Gone are the days when memorization without understanding was commonplace. We are excited about the meaningful opportunities we can offer students. Schools are using project based learning where students must collaborate and communicate to demonstrate what they know. Students are applying new learning to problem solve and think critically. We believe this emulates real life experiences and is preparing students to be competitive as they enter the workforce.

Teachers have designed an Innovation Lab at Danville School. Students visit the lab with their teachers to work on a variety of problem solving activities. Students must integrate their learning to face the challenges presented to them. This kind of environment is often referred to as STEAM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Staff are participating in professional learning opportunities to build their capacity with this exciting and challenging learning. You will

enjoy some student work at our annual academic fair in April.

Students in grade 3-5 participated in a STEAM enrichment day recently. Staff from McAuliffe/Shepard Museum worked with third grade students to launch mini-rockets. Their focus was the design process and the most fun was launching the rockets! Students in grades 4 & 5 met with TRHS and UNH engineering students. "Stembassadors" designed hands on lessons in oil spill clean-up, wind turbine, and gravity for Danville students to problem solve. An additional activity to design a theme park with UNH students was extremely engaging. It was a great day for all! We have some successful problem solvers in our midst. We plan to have more opportunities for all students to participate in STEAM activities throughout the year.

Wishing you a happy and peaceful holiday season. Enjoy the sights and sounds of loved ones!

Warmly,
Nancy Barcelos



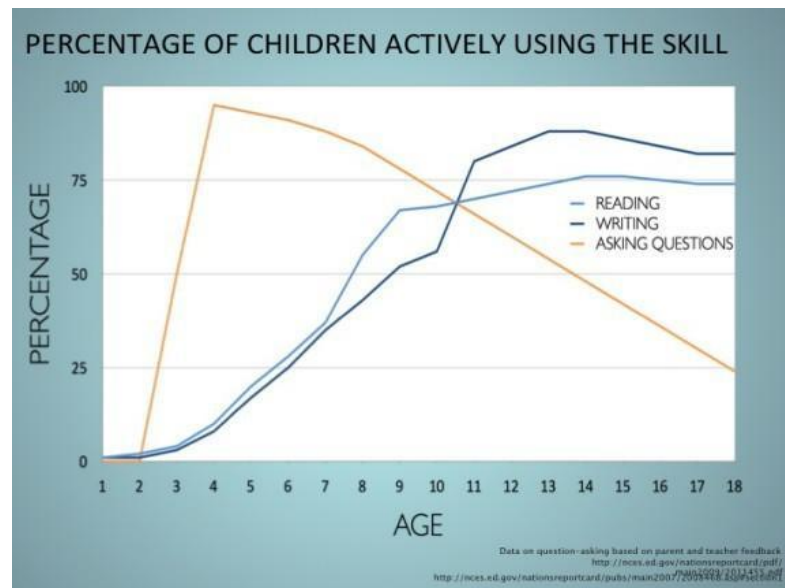
Assistant Principal News

Report Cards

The district is in the process of creating a new report card to better meet the needs of our students and staff. This is a deliberate and thoughtful process as we want to ensure parents are receiving the most accurate information about what their children are learning and how they are progressing in that learning. As we pace and implement our adopted curriculum units, you may see minor changes to the current reporting document. Please forward any questions you have about teaching and learning to the classroom teacher. If you have questions about the reporting template or where the district is in the process, please email or call me. This trimester you will notice a tilde (~) in some areas of the ELA and Math reporting documents. This is an indication that the skill or topic area has not yet been assessed, as the main instruction comes later in the pacing of the units.

Questioning

Many parents celebrate once their children are past the "why?" stage, but research shows that children decrease their use of questioning as they age. In 21st Century learning teachers work to broaden student's skills in working together, communicating, creating, critical thinking and problem solving.



In addition, many businesses and higher institutions of learning have come forward to advise the education field. They feel students need global awareness and financial literacy in world economies as well. Whether you agree with this shift in thinking or not, we probably agree that we want our children to be knowledgeable and engaged in learning. Student interest is key to this because when kids are interested, it is easy to get

them engaged in conversation and asking questions. As children age through elementary school, and transition into middle school however, adolescence kicks in and limits our chances for deep conversation. It is important to build upon the natural acquisition of questioning in kids to sustain this foundation to learning. Try meeting your child's question with another in response: "Why do you think...?"

Other question stems to use to stretch another's thinking are:

What evidence do you have to prove...?
What if...?
Why?
What caused...?
How does _____ compare to...?
How did _____ occur?
How do you know that?

Who knows, by engaging in this way of asking more deep thinking questions of your child, maybe you will hear more than "Nothing happened in school today".

Lucy Canotas
382-5554 x5302



A Message from Nurse Sue:

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in Danville Elementary School. As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person.

We are working closely with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Control Section to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with the new information when it becomes available.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** such as drinks, food, or utensils.
- **Teach your children to cover up their sneezes or cough** using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of flu.** Symptoms of flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may experience vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours AFTER they no longer have a fever (without use of fever reducing medications).** Keeping children at home

with a fever will reduce the number of people who may get infected. Any child determined to be sick at school will be sent home.

For more information visit www.flu.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. If you have specific influenza related questions you can call the Communicable Disease Control Section at the Division of Public Health Services @ (603)-271-4496.

Think about scheduling your flu vaccine if you have not already done so!

L. Sue Goodman, RN/ Health Office



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. Your children have been fabulous and I am really enjoying my time with them.

Part of my goal of being a school counselor, is to help your children be as successful as possible at school. Part of being a successful student, is to be able to focus attention to their teachers and friends. Distractions happen throughout our school day and it can be difficult to keep attention!

Since the beginning of the school year, students have been learning that you need your eyes, ears and brain to focus on something. Your child is also learning that saying things to yourself (*self-talk*) can help you pay attention.

Ask your child about their Second Step: Skills for Learning Skills:

- Grade K - 1st Grade: ask them to show you their "attent-o-scope!"
- Grade 2 - 5th Grade: - ask them what "self-talk" means!

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:

1. Have your child pick an object in the room without telling you what it is
2. Have your child give you one hint at a time about the object. Try to guess what it is.
3. Between guesses, give your child time to focus attention on the object so he or she can think of another hint.
4. After you guess what it is, have your child write the word or draw a picture of the object.

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All About Art!

Dear Danville Families,

Thank you so much to all of you that participated in the Original Works of Art Fundraiser. Your orders will be delivered sometime in the beginning of December!

What's going on in the art room?....

Kindergarten and First grade have been creating Collage Landscapes. They learned about using a horizon line and the foreground, middleground and background of a picture.

Second Grade is learning about drawing cylinders and ellipses. They are creating a tower of tea cups that shows overlapping and centered around the Element of Design of Space.

Third Grade learned about printmaking and did some prints of real leaves. They are also beginning a project on drawing a variety of vases. They are learning a process to create their vases so they look symmetrical.

Fourth Graders are learning about the art of Henna. They learned about its history, the process and the artistic beauty of Henna. They are creating Henna hands out of clay.

Fifth Graders are creating slab pots out of clay. They are also learning about radial design and creating artwork out of old CD's!

I wish all of our Danville Families a happy holiday season! If you have any questions or comments please feel to call me or e-mail me any time. 603-382-5554X5307 or jennifer.rice@timberlane.net

Artfully Yours,
Mrs. Rice



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.



Music Note Miss Soha

We have been making some great music this year and we are excited to share with you at our upcoming concerts.

Mark your calendars!

January 17th 7pm Winter Concert
(Band, Strings, and Chorus)

March 22nd 7pm Chorus Concert
(rehearsal at 6:15)

March 27th and 28th Rehearsal & Concert
for all 5th grade Band students.
April 12th 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.



Enrichment Program

November 18 was an exciting
day at Danville Elementary
for grades 3-5. Our special
STEM Day (Science,



Technology,
Engineering
and

Mathematics)
for our older
students was
filled with
learning with
a different

twist.

Grade 3 explored mini-paper
rockets with guests from the

McAuliffe-Shepard Museum.
This STEM activity ended with
every grade 3 student shooting
off their very
own hand
made rocket.
It was quite a
site to see how
high the
rockets flew.



The grade 3 teachers also used
the rest of the day to have
students explore how many
Pilgrims they could fit into a



Mayflower
type ship
they
created.
Students
designed
ships, tested
them and
then

improved their designs.

Engineering students from
UNH Chase Ocean
Engineering Laboratory
visited grades 4 and 5. This
was a follow up for grade 5
from our September field trips
to the Chase Ocean Labs. The
engineering students worked

in each grade four and 5 classroom for an hour or two on Nov. 18. The engineering



students posed STEM problems such as designing a theme park ride, how to clean up an oil spill, building a structure on



different types of soil, and creating a windmill that would spin the fastest in a steady wind. Each of these problems challenged students to think of ways to design solutions to their specific problem. Students worked in collaborative teams to consider the challenge and then design solutions to the problems. The grade 4 and 5 classroom teachers used the remainder of

the day for other STEM challenges like designing a bridge out of a single sheet of paper.



We have many upcoming events:

- December 15 **grade 2** will be visited by the **Boston Museum of Science** and they will receive their own STEM challenge.
- **Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grade 1** teachers have decided they want to save their special day for March 20. They will use their science learning about animals to tie into research and writing. **Wildlife Encounters** will come and visit our youngest students with some amazing live animals.
- Career Day in March
Arts/Cultural day in May.