



Husky Headlines

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

What a crazy winter this has been. Some days it is hard not to catch spring fever. I am wondering what the month of March is going to be like.

Over the past few months I have been monitoring the attendance of our students. The Maine Department of Education states: Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 18 or more days of school. It impacts student achievement and can undermine success for too many students. The problem can start as early as kindergarten and first grade impeding a student's progress in reading and math. Chronic absence can continue in middle and high school when it becomes an early warning sign that students will drop out before earning a high school diploma.

As I review our attendance list I will be sending home letters to the families of children who have had a significant number of absences up until now. These letters are just to let you know how many times your child has been absent, tardy, or dismissed, and it also offers our support. If you are having trouble getting your child to school please contact us. We will work with you to come up with a plan on how to help.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer explaining the importance of attending school regularly. Please take time to review it and if you have any questions or concerns please give me a call or come in and meet with me at school.

As always, thank you for your support.

Denise Kimball



Upcoming Events/Dates

March 9 th	Spring Picture Day
March 10 th	Early Release (12:00 pm)
March 11 th	Teacher's Workshop
April 2 nd	Family Dance 50's Sock Hop
April 6 th	Early Release (12:00 pm)
April 11 th	Kindergarten Registration
April 11 th	NO KINDERGARTEN
April 13 th	Family Literacy/Science Night
April 15 th	Teacher's Workshop
April 18 th - 22 nd	VACATION

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration for Hartland area families will be held on Monday, April 11th, from 8:00a.m.-3:00p.m. at the school. To register your child, he/she must be five (5) years of age on or before October 15, 2016.

In order to complete each child's screening, it is necessary to call and schedule an appointment for your child by Monday, April 4th. Please call the Hartland Consolidated School at 938-4456 during regular school hours and schedule your appointment with Lisa Ballard, the school secretary. Once you have scheduled your appointment, you will need to gather the following information and must bring it to the appointment with you, along with your child:

1. *Certified* Birth Certificate (not the hospital baby book ones)
2. Shot/Immunization Record
3. Dates of Major Illnesses (chicken pox, etc.)
4. Any Medical Problems (asthma, medications, etc)
5. Two forms of proof of residency (utilities bill, tax bill, vehicle reg., driver's license, rental agreement, etc.)

This notice is intended to inform the public. Please pass this information on to any parents you may know of Kindergarten age children.

Kindergarten

In writing we have been working on stories. In whole group we have been talking about topics they could write about. Also, talking about what they do and where they go for topics. Once they have a topic, we talk about a beginning, middle and end to their story. Ask your child what they have written about for a story in Kindergarten!

In math, we have been working on heavier and lighter. Students have been using balance scales to weigh objects. They work with another student and each one picks an object in the room. Next, they have to predict which object they think will be lighter and which one will be heavier. Finally, they put their objects into the balance scale to find out the answer. Students are having a great time using the balance scales!

Ms. Duprey

Kindergarten

I hope you all had a relaxing vacation. We are back and ready to work hard and have some fun.

Kindergarteners have been doing a great job in writing workshop. We are working on building our stamina to focus on writing our best stories. These wonderful writers are becoming authors writing books with a beginning, middle, and end.

In Math, we are learning about measuring and comparing objects by, height, length, and weight. The students are measuring with nonstandard measurements. They have been measuring length with cubes and weight with pennies. They enjoy working with their hands and exploring how to measure.

We continue to learn new sight words each week and are getting closer to knowing all 40 Kindergarten words. We are learning new games and activities to practice these words along with the songs and books! Knowing these words will help these readers and writers soar!

Spring is right around the corner. I can't wait to see what it will bring!

Ms. Pala

First Grade

We have had some exciting changes going on in first grade. With the NWEA data, we have placed students in two groups according to their strengths and need in literacy. In my literacy group, we have been working really hard to solidify those foundational skills that are necessary for second grade. We have been focusing a lot on getting our sight words down, finding syllables in words, breaking words a part, putting words together, looking at words with similar endings, looking at words that mean the same thing, looking at words that mean different things, finding ways to change endings to words, and learning about sounds that are made from two or more letters (digraphs and blends). Students have been practicing things like identifying the author's purpose of the story, as well as sequencing stories. We have begun to incorporate some writing aspects such as how to construct a proper sentence and identifying parts of speech like nouns.

Math has also been very exciting for us as we have moved away from our numbers and operations unit and started focusing on place value. Students have been working on identifying how many tens and ones are in a number, as well as creating numbers based on how many tens and ones they see. They have been working hard with partners to play some games, as well as practicing individualized work at a center with me.

In writing, we have practiced several types of writing from how to do something to writing a letter. Now, we are looking at ways to start and end our stories to make the reader hooked. Currently, students are practicing using a thought, feeling, or words to add some details to their writing.

The students are working really hard and we are seeing some great things in first grade! We want to thank you so much for your support.

Miss Berenyi



First / Second Grade

After Christmas break, we started out reviewing and practicing our Husky Habits, everyone needs reminders after a long vacation! We also started using a new behavior management tool called Class Dojo. The students can earn points for following expectations and earn things along the way both as a class and individually. They seem to really like it and it has been helpful with classroom management.

In reading we've been doing a lot of work on blends and digraphs, and just started learning about contractions last week. Going forward we will be putting a lot of focus on comprehension, vocabulary, and writing in response to our reading. They are coming so far in their reading, it's very exciting! Writing continues to be a favorite for many students in class, and we are working on editing and revising their work. We're also trying to make more time to share our stories with each other, they really enjoy doing that and it makes them excited about writing.

In math we've been learning new strategies to use when adding, such as finding a group of ten and then adding on what's left. We are briefly reviewing place value now and will move on to a measurement and data unit in March.

The school year is flying by, and I'm so proud of how far they have all come both individually and as a class. I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!

Ms. Bowman



Second Grade

Our second grade class is enjoying Dr. Seuss week by selecting a Dr. Seuss book and writing an opinion piece recommending our book. We are learning about the life cycle of the frog and pumpkin in conjunction with our Literacy study.

Math finds us using the strategy RDW, (read, draw, and write) to help us in our thinking when solving application problems. Students are achieving fluency with our math facts to prepare us for regrouping in addition and subtraction. Enjoy what appears to be an early spring?!

Ms. Ames

Second Grade

Over the past month the students have been working on composing and decomposing a ten when adding and subtracting. Composing a ten happens when we add two numbers together and there are more than 10 ones. We decompose a ten when we are subtracting and we have to borrow a ten to complete the problem.

Our question for our last unit in reading was "Where do creative ideas come from?" During this time, students explored this question by reading, writing, and listening to stories where the characters were faced with a situation and had to come up with new and creative ideas to solve a problem. We also worked on determining fact vs. opinion.

Our afternoons have been filled with writing small moment stories. To better help the students understand what a small moment story is we have been calling them "seed" stories. When he have a big story like going to the fair for instance we call that a "watermelon" story. There are many "seed" stories that we could write about the fair. For example: going on the Ferris wheel, riding the bumper cars, or eating a doughboy. The students have really been enjoying writing these types of stories.

Mr. Glynn

Third Grade

In reading, our class has been working hard for the "Bikes for Books" program. Students are very excited about having the opportunity to win a new bike. We have been reading a lot of non-fiction books. We are really enjoying our *National Geographic for Kids* magazines. We love asking and answering questions about the articles.

In math, we have been learning about one way to measure plane figures - area. We have learned how to find area by counting squares, and how to find the area of rectangles by using multiplication. We are doing very well on this third grade standard.

In writing we are learning to write research reports. Each student has chosen a rainforest vertebrate to research and write about. Our reports will contain at least four paragraphs. Students are using books, magazines, and digital resources to find information about these animals. We look forward to sharing what we have learned at our literacy/science night.

Mrs. Downing

Third / Fourth Grade

Last week was an exciting week getting to know the students and setting expectations. Our biggest challenge as a class was transition. We will continue to practice what it should look like and sound like when we are changing classes, subjects, or activities.

This week we are learning:

- To be better mathematicians we are working on division and fractions.
- To be better writers we are conducting research on our own topic and presenting our findings to our class.
- To become better readers we are building our reading skills through practice. (Mrs. G's reading group is improving their reading skills while working with simple machines. Mrs. Leach's group is improving reading skills while studying caves.)

"Bikes for Books" started last week. Students must fill out a summary report for each book. The books must be at the student's independent reading level. Students who read chapter books can fill out a paper for each chapter instead of each book. These books can be read at home or at school.

I look forward to working with you to educate your children and prepare them for success!

Mrs. Leach

Fourth Grade

We just started a new math unit on measurement and data. We are focusing on units of measurement. Students are learning about different units of measurement, as well as how to convert those units and add and subtract them. For example, when given the subtraction problem 2km 303m-556m, students must first convert 2km 303m completely to meters and THEN subtract. If students know that there are 1,000 meters in 1 kilometer, then they know that there are a total of 2,303 meters in 2km 303m. They can then subtract 556 meters from 2,303 meters. The biggest thing that students need to focus on for this type of math is understanding the different types of units and how they relate to everyday life. If students can think of a kilometer as being about the distance from our school to the middle school and a centimeter as being about the width of a fingernail, they are more likely to remember which unit of measurement is bigger/smaller! Also, knowing how to convert the different units of measurement is critical for this unit. In order to help students with converting units, we are creating "measurement books," complete with conversion tables, which they can use as tools while solving their math problems.

Students are still focusing on multiplication and division throughout the year. Please make sure your child is studying his/her math facts each night. This is part of their homework. They know this and are reminded daily. Also, students' math worksheet homework is based on whatever area of multiplication and division that they are currently working on in school. A few students have moved onto *order of operations*, as they have already mastered all areas of multiplication and division.

Title One

In writing, fourth graders are still working on small moment stories; taking one small moment from their lives and stretching it out with powerful vocabulary, strong verbs, and sensory details. Students will also be doing some nonfiction writing throughout the next couple of months. Their focus will be creating a school wide newspaper! After our novel study on The Landry News, students are eager to create their very own classroom newspaper to share with our school.

In reading, my reading group has started an integrated reading/science unit on simple machines. We are working on how to “read and write like scientists.” Fourth graders are not only conducting experiments, while creating hypotheses and drawing conclusions, they are also reading different scientific texts and working on critical thinking/reading skills while doing so. Right now we are focusing on finding evidence from the text to support our answers and creating cohesive, constructed response paragraphs using this evidence. The driving question for our unit is “How can simple machines impact our lives?” Students answered this at the beginning of the unit and will be answering it again at the end of it. Guiding reading groups are also reading scientific nonfiction texts and are working on those critical thinking skills within their smaller groups as well.

Also in reading, we have started something called “Genius Hour.” Each Friday for one hour, students work on “passion projects.” Passion projects are inquiry based projects that give students the chance to research topics that they are interested in and then create projects based on those topics. First, students come up with their passion (the topic). Next, they create a driving question about their topic. This question cannot be something that can quickly be answered. It has to be something that requires research. Students then research their questions and create a project based on their research. For more information on Genius Hour, feel free to check out the following website: <http://corkboardconnections.blogspot.com/2013/12/bring-some-passion-into-your-classroom.html>

Here are some fun ways to help your child with phonological awareness, which is the foundation for reading!

- Read books with rhyme, repeating patterns and rhythm. Mother Goose, Dr. Seuss, Shel Silverstein and Jack Preleutsky are great for this!
- Rhyming games like, “I am thinking of an animal that rhymes with hat?” Answer: cat.
- Point to an object you see, for example a bug. You could say, “A bug. Now change the b sound to h.”
- Sing the alphabet often! Be careful to separate l-m-n-o, kids often think this is all one letter!
- Make letters in fun ways, using paint, clay, or drawing them in the mud!
- Look for letters everywhere you go.
- Make flash cards and play memory or go-fish with them.
- Go on a letter hunt, searching for one special letter and things that begin with that sound.

Yours in reading,
Karen Russell



Library News



In the Library Media Center during the African American History Month we are learning about George Washington Carver, Garrett Morgan, Maya Angelou, and Rosa Parks.

New arrivals in the Library Media Center are:

- Lego Star Wars – Imperial Forces
- Lego Star Wars – Fall of the Jedi
- National Geographic Kids – My Weird but True!

Helpful Hint: Mud season is soon upon us! Please be sure to put your student's books in a bag. If your child doesn't have a bag, I have some in the Library for them to take.

We have a new neighborhood, which is divided by subject and in alphabetical order by author. The younger students are able to find books quickly and put them away. We have subjects like Halloween, Christmas, Things that go, and spring.

Mrs. Duplisea

P.E. News

Thank you so much to the students who collected donations for this year's Jump Rope for Heart event! Together, St. Albans Elementary and Hartland Consolidated School, collected \$4070 to give to the American Heart Association! Thank you gifts from the AHA will be in soon and will be passed out to students to take home. Our school also earned a \$200 gift certificate to US Games for physical education equipment because of our donations. Thanks again to all who helped - you are Heart Heroes!

Ms. McCullough

NEW HIGH SCHOOL ~

MIDDLE SCHOOL

PROJECT

RSU19 has recommended building a new High School/Middle School and performing minor alterations to Seabasticook VMS and Somerset VMS to accommodate PreK-4 students. Etna- Dixmont will become a PreK-4 facility. This decision was made after significant community input at numerous public forums.

The new High

