

DOLPHIN TIMES



HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER, 2010



Dr. Janice Harris
Principal

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Happy Holidays to all! Thanks to **Paula Bucko** and **Colleen Totman**, co-chairs of the HES Holiday Marketplace, many of us were able to get a good start on holiday shopping! The picturesque setting and the wonderful food made it an even better shopping experience. We appreciate all of you who supported this event and extend thanks to the **Bucko family** and **the staff at the Riverhouse**.

On Friday, December 10th, you will be receiving your child's first term report card for this academic year. Below is some information to help you understand the report card.

About the report card (adapted from "A Parent Guide to the K-8 Report Card", RSD17, Fall 2006)

Our report card was last revised in 2006 to reflect a national and state focus on having students meet grade level standards. The report card standards reflect the most important aspects of the curriculum that students need to know by the end of the grade in order to be successful in the next grade, in life and to enhance student performance on the CMTs and other assessments.

Why did my child get some NAs? Some skills/concepts are not taught until later in the year or may be emphasized and assessed at a particular time during the year. This is particularly true for some specific concepts in math, science and social studies.

Is a "2" OK in the first or second marking period? Most students will receive a 2 or N/A for each curriculum standard in the first and/or second marking period. A "2" indicates that your child is progressing toward the end of year expectation. A "1" does mean your child is having difficulty with a specific standard. The teacher will contact you if there is a concern regarding your child's progress. A "3" is the goal for the end of the year. A "4" indicates that the child has mastered the grade level skill/knowledge and has gone beyond in some way.

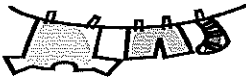
Please remember that the report is one of progress toward END OF YEAR expectations. We do not expect students to meet these expectations in the first or second marking period. A "3" means the student can do the skill independently. *The report card also includes a section on social responsibility and academic responsibility (work habits) that are assessed using a "-", "✓", "+".*

As always, if you have any questions about your child's progress, contact his/her child's teacher.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

RSD 17 Registration for incoming kindergartners will be held on Thursday, January 20 from 9a.m. to 7p.m.; and on Friday, January 21st from 9a.m. to 3p.m. Incoming students must reach their 5th birthday by December 31, 2011. Please provide the office with Proof of Residency and original Birth Certificate. Parent Orientation and Visitation dates will be provided at registration; children do not need to be present at the time of registration.



LOST AND FOUND

We have numerous items in our Lost and Found area. Please remind your child to ask their teacher when they can check the table behind the Stage. Unclaimed items will be donated to a local charity over the Winter Recess.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



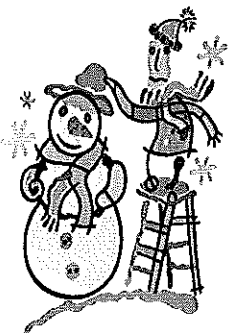
We are very thankful for all of the families who were able to join us at our Thanksgiving Feast, and all of the families who supported us in helping the children prepare. We have been using our sight words and listening for initial and ending sounds of words so that we can become terrific writers. We continue to practice recognizing and writing our numerals from 0 -10 and are getting stronger every day! In December, we will continue exploring holiday traditions in social studies. In science and health we are having wonderful discussions on ways to be healthy. A special welcome back to **Mrs. Pommer!!** Thank you **Mrs. Pecoraro** for your hard work as part of our Kindergarten team!

FIRST GRADE NEWS



November was a busy month and we hope you enjoyed our "Mug & Muffin" gathering. This month, we will be learning about how different December holidays are observed. In math, we will start working on subtraction facts. Please continue to work with your children on learning their addition facts with automaticity. In science, we will begin to discuss how animals prepare for the winter months. December is a busy month in first grade!

SECOND GRADE NEWS



Recently, the second grade classes planted bulbs with the help of the **Haddam Garden Club**. This activity is linked to our study of the stages of plant growth and also will add beauty to our school surroundings. We would like to thank the Garden

Club for including us in this activity. The Second Grade is also embarking on the study of the human body and the importance of each of the systems.



Third Grade News

Third grade will be making another switch this month. The three classes will be mixed together and switch for Social Studies, Science, and an extra Writing block. The groups will rotate every 3 weeks. Keep reading and practicing math facts each and every night!



Fourth Grade

As the second marking begins in fourth grade, we are all looking forward to the Winter Chorus Concert on December 9th. Students should report to the Music Room at 6:15, and the concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the APR. Just a reminder-report cards go home on Friday, December 10th. Envelopes should be signed and returned after the contents are emptied. Students should be working on their revision and American Robin projects this month, and both projects are due December 23rd. Mr. Davey and Mrs. Smith wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season!



THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR

As the weather turns colder (temps below 50°) we ask that your child be dressed appropriately for school by wearing winter coats, mittens, hats, etc. Students not wearing coats will not be allowed outside. When snow is present on the playground, the children who bring in snow pants, boots and gloves will be allowed to play in the snowy areas of the playground. Those children who do not come dressed for the snow will have to stay on the blacktop area of the playground. Also, please remember to label all articles of clothing sent in with your child. We would like your child to fully participate in recess and enjoy their time outside.



STUDENT DROP OFF

Our cafeteria doors open at 8:30 a.m. daily when adult supervision begins. We remind you not leave your child outside and unattended before that time. Doors will be locked after the final bus arrives. If your child arrives after 8:40 he/she should report to the main office to sign-in. Thank you.



MUSIC NEWS

Concert Date for Grade 4:

The 4th grade chorus at HES has been rehearsing for our annual December concert. This year it will be held on Thursday, Dec. 9th at 6:30 PM in the All Purpose Room here at HES. Concert attire is "Sunday Best." Every 4th grader is involved.

Instrumental Students:

Please take an active role in your band students' instrumental education. Help out by making sure he/she has a quiet place to practice for 15-30 minutes each day. Sign the practice log on the morning of his/her lesson. Parental support will increase success. Also, be sure the instrument case has a label with name and school clearly marked. Many of the cases look exactly the same.

Recorder Students:

Third graders should be practicing about 5 minutes each night. Assessments have begun for "karate belts" and with practice, every student will gain success.



A BIG THANK YOU!

We love the thoughtful and beautiful urn which adorns our entrance way! A great BIG THANK YOU to the Haddam Garden Club and to Michele Wytas, and also to Erin Chester and Yvette Minervino for the interior decorations!



INDOOR RECESS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you don't mind getting a little physical, exercising both body and mind, we need you! With the upcoming winter season, and potential of indoor recesses, we would love to organize some movement activities for our students with your help. If you dance, teach yoga, martial arts, etc. or if you know of anyone who could volunteer, please consider us at HES during our Winter Recess times. Attached is a form with information, don't be shy!

As a volunteer, you would lead one grade level in an activity in our Gym, with an assigned Recess Duty Staff to assist.

Monday - 11:50 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

All grade levels could benefit

Tuesday - 12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

1st -2nd Grade

Kindergarten

Wednesday - 12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

1st -2nd Grade

Kindergarten

Thursday - 11:25 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

3rd -4th Grade

1st -2nd Grade



NOTES FROM THE HEALTH CLINIC

I cannot believe it is already December! Now that winter is starting, please make sure your children are dressed according to the weather each day. Provide hats, gloves, and coats for those really cold days. And please remind your children that there is to be no sharing of personal property for any reason.

If your child is running a fever, having diarrhea, or vomiting, we ask that you keep them home until they are free of these problems for **24 hours**. The district wide policy is that any fever 100 or greater, the child **MUST** be out of school until he/she has been fever free. We ask that you respect the other children and staff at this school if your child is not well, and keep your child at home to rest. We want your child to be at his or her best while they are at school so that they can learn at their full potential. If you ever have a question about your child's return to school after an illness, you may call me at any time in the health office and we can discuss it further. Each situation is unique and worth discussing at any time.

Please send your child with a water bottle to school each day. The water bottles are allowed to be used in class and this will help keep your child well. Our building is very dry, so the water will help keep your kids hydrated and help decrease headaches and stomachaches. Please make sure your child also eats a healthy breakfast before coming to school. I have many children who come to my office midway through the morning with stomach aches who tell me they have not had breakfast. It is hard to learn on an empty stomach.

I just finished conducting handwashing and healthy habits classes at each grade level. It is important for you to reinforce these habits at home with your children. Please enforce good handwashing and coughing/sneezing into their elbow. Handwashing should last for a minimum of 20 seconds with soap and water. When you cough/sneeze into your elbow, please make sure that your nose and mouth are buried in your elbow. A lot of children cough/sneeze **OVER** their elbow. They have the right idea, but are actually spreading more germs that way.

And, as always, please remember that we encourage healthy eating here at HES. Please send healthy choices for lunch and snack every day. This, in combination of 10-12 hours of sleep at night, and not watching TV or playing video games before bed, will

help ensure that kids are not losing "steam" in the afternoon. My door is always open and I welcome your comments and suggestions!

Jennifer Pletcher, RN HES Nurse



IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 9	4 TH GRADE CONCERT, 6:30 IN THE ALL PURPOSE ROOM
☺ DECEMBER 10	COINS FOR A CAUSE – Wear a Hat or Crazy Hair Day REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED
☺ DECEMBER 17	COINS FOR A CAUSE – Wear Comfy Clothes
DECEMBER 23	EARLY DISMISSAL – ALL STUDENTS
DECEMBER 24	NO SCHOOL
JANUARY 3	CLASSES RESUME



Recess Activity- Volunteer Slip

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Please print

Email: _____

Activity:

1. _____

2. _____

Recess Times: 3rd-4th Grade: 11:50 AM - 12:10 PM
 1st-2nd Grade: 12:20 PM - 12:40
 Kindergarten: 1:05 PM-1:25 PM

Please place a check next to the day and times you would be available to conduct a class at recess in the Gym.

___ Monday - All Recesses

___ 3rd -4th

___ 1st -2nd

___ Kindergarten

___ Tuesday - 12:20 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

___ 1st -2nd Grade

___ Kindergarten

___ Wednesday - 12:20 P.M. till end of day

___ 1st -2nd Grade

___ Kindergarten

___ Thursday - 11:50 A.M. - 12:45 P.M.

___ 3rd -4th Grade

___ 1st -2nd Grade

We have opportunities to write grants to assist with this initiative. If you are a grant writer (amateur or professional) we would love to hear from you.

Grantwriters: Yes No

Please use other side for additional comments/suggestions.