

DOLPHIN TIMES

Haddam Elementary School

OCTOBER, 2010

Dr. Janice Harris

Principal

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Thank you for coming out to our parent information evenings last month. Our goal was to communicate what the children will be learning and doing this year. We hope that these presentations provided you with a better understanding of your child's day to day experience at school. If you were unable to attend these presentations, we will be posting the grade level PowerPoint presentations on our website under school publications. This week began our parent/teacher conferences where you had a chance to get to learn more about your child's progress so far this school year. Each teacher offers a variety of conference options to ensure they make contact with all the families within their classroom. Please be sure to schedule a conference with your child's teacher. (Thank you to all the families who contributed to the wonderful refreshments for teachers to enjoy over these conference days—we all greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness!) As has been the tradition on conference weeks, our PTO is running our annual Scholastic Book Fair in our portable classroom. Thanks to all the volunteers, this is again shaping up to be a huge success! Be sure to stop by before or after your parent conference.

On Friday morning, the Peaceful School Bus Committee (comprised of HES parents and staff) will host an appreciation breakfast for our HES bus drivers. Our goal is to show them how important their role is in the day of our children and to get their input into how we, as a school community, can support them in keeping our school buses "peaceful". The committee will be working on ways that we can build community on the buses and will be sharing those ideas in the near future. Please thank your bus driver whenever you get an opportunity to do so.

The HES Hoe Down was postponed to next Friday, October 22nd. If the weather is inclement it will be postponed to October 22nd. Either way, we look forward to a great time! Other fun events this month include our Fall Fun Friday (Craft/Activity Afternoon) on October 29th. Families can come back that evening (October 29th at 5:15p.m.) for the Halloween Parade supported by the PTO and the HES Culture & Climate Committee.

I would like to thank 4th grade students and Mr. Granucci for putting a smile on my face as I walked down the lower level hallway. Each student has done a portrait of me and written some guesses about my likes, dislikes, age (ranging from 21-49), etc. One thing, however, that really "filled my bucket" was that most students were able to accurately identify my favorite thing about being a principal—being with the children. We have great children at HES and watching them learn and grow is what I love most about my job!

Enjoy the rest of your month!



HEALTH OFFICE NEWS

Now that winter is upon us, kids are coming more and more to the office with complaints of cough and dry lips. I wanted to let you know that I have cough drops here in the office, and can give them to your child with your permission **only**. You need to send in a note with cough drops to say your child may have them. If your child requests a cough drop during the school day, and I don't have a note from you, I will call you for permission for them to take it. You may bring your own supply of cough drops to my office and I will be happy to keep them here for your child. I want you to know that your child **cannot** keep a package of cough drops with them in class. Your child must come to my office to get a cough drop so I can monitor how many they are taking, and assess if something more serious might be going on. Also, every Monday – no matter how many days your child had been taking cough drops the week before – I will need a permission note from you to let your child continue taking cough drops that week. I appreciate your attention to this matter.

As for the concern for dry lips, children should bring their own chap stick to school to keep with them in class. I am happy to give them chap stick here in the office when necessary, but having their own means they are not out of class as often.

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.

My door is always open for comments, suggestions, and questions. Feel free to call or come by any time!

Thank you,
Jennifer Pletcher, RN, HES nurse



The school counselor, Stacey Mahoney, will be starting Divorce/Separation groups for grades 3 and 4 starting in October. The group will last for approximately 8 weeks. It will take place during the school day for about half an hour a week. The teacher and counselor will designate a time where the least amount of academic work will be missed. If you would like your child to participate, please contact your child's teacher or Stacey Mahoney, 345-4551. Thank you.



BUCKET FILLING MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The theme we are focusing on for October is **RESPECT**. Respect means showing consideration for another person or belongings. Being thoughtful, kind and courteous are all parts of respect. Treating people with respect will make others treat you with respect!!

November: The theme we are focusing on for November is **COOPERATION**. Cooperation means a willingness to help or work together. It is so important for everyone to help each other and work together to continue making HES a wonderful school!

December: The theme we are focusing on for the month of December is **COMPASSION**. Compassion means showing tenderness and kindness for others. Being a compassionate person is a wonderful character trait to have!!

January: The theme we are focusing on for the month of January is **FAIRNESS**. Fairness means treating others equally, following rules, sharing and taking turns. When we treat others fairly, it is so much easier to get along!!

February: The theme we are focusing on for the month of February is **HONESTY**. Honesty means you are truthful and sincere. It is so important to be honest with others so they can trust you and be friends with you!

March: The theme we are focusing on for the month of March is **PATIENCE**. Patience is being able to tolerate difficulty without anger/frustration. Patience is a wonderful character trait to have throughout your whole lives!!

April: The theme we are focusing on for the month of April is **FORGIVENESS**. Forgiveness means to stop blaming or feelings angry toward another. When we forgive others we usually feel so much better!!

May: The theme we are focusing on for the month of May is **HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE**. Having a positive attitude means being optimistic, looking for solutions, constructive thinking and being friendly. When someone has a positive attitude it is usually contagious!!!

KINDERGARTEN NEWS



What a great start to the year we have had in Kindergarten! Classroom routines are established and new friends are being made every day! In Language Arts we have been

reading and writing sentences that contain our sight words. We are identifying main characters and the Big Idea during shared reading. In math we are identifying and creating AB patterns with shapes, colors and ourselves! In Social Studies we have been practicing our manners, school rules and being a good "Bucket Filler". We are looking forward to our first Hoe Down and Picture Day! Happy Fall! The Kindergarten Team --- *Mrs. Formica, Ms. Goodrich and Mrs. Pecoraro*



FIRST GRADE NEWS

We have been very busy learning about different short vowel word families, sorting words, reading books, and writing stories. We have been studying the life cycle of an ant and we know a great deal about these little insects...just ask us! In math, we have examined different kinds of patterns and we compared numbers using words like "greater" and "fewer." We will soon be working on addition and subtraction stories. Having a couple dice and a deck of cards handy will allow the children to play some of our math games at home.



SECOND GRADE NEWS

Second grade is off to a great start. We did many activities to get to know one another and are making new friends. In October we will be going on a field trip to the Thankful Arnold House. We will also interview the senior citizens at the senior center. Your child's teacher will be sending home information soon about this field trip. The children are already talking about Fun Fall Friday and are looking forward to the activities.



THIRD GRADE NEWS

In reading, we are working on writing summaries and open ended answers to communicate our comprehension. We are starting to focus on strand B- Developing Interpretations.

In math, third graders are moving forward with their knowledge of place value including rounding, estimating, and solving more complex word problems. Addition and subtraction of two and three-digit numbers will also be areas of instruction in coming weeks.

In writing, we will be learning to write description of setting, characters, and critical story objects.

Our Third Grade September Homework Heroes : Belle Carini, Cat Gyorog, Robert Thomas, Sarah Parkhurst, Natalie Pontbriand, Julia Saglio, Alyssa Barbagallo, Drew Donlan, Schuyler Dragoo, Jayden Durinick, Hanna Leavitt, and Alyssa Rivera.



FOURTH GRADE NEWS

The fourth grade will be learning about their first U.S. region this month as well writing attention-getting story beginnings! Also, fourth graders should begin to practice their multiplication tables- 5 minutes a night is all it takes. You can do it!:) Both Mr. Davey and Mrs. Smith are looking forward to parent-teacher conferences, and both teachers wish to express their sincere thanks to all of the parents and care givers who attended Fourth Grade Information Night! Happy Halloween!



ART ROOM NEWS

Mr. Granucci and Mrs. Kohary need volunteers to come to the art room on Mondays or Fridays to start mounting art work for the next art show. If interested, volunteers should contact us via e-mail or voicemail (available at the district's web-site) for more information. Thanks in advance!

BRAINERD LIBRARY NEWS

School Holiday Program at Brainerd

Captain Papillion from Louisiana will be at the library on Tuesday, November 2 from 2:00-3:00 PM. He will be presenting his "KidsPirates!" program with lots of songs and stories of "Pirating and of the Sea!" There will be adventure and rollicking fun for the whole family. And along the way there will be a celebration of our tiny ship – the Good Earth and a special emphasis on the "unplundering of the Earth and Sea". Call the library to register for some Piratery fun on this school holiday.

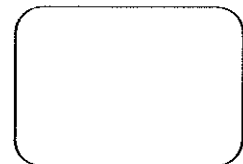
Halloween Stories and Crafts

On Saturday, October 30 the Community Room at the library will be all abuzz with Halloween activities. Children aged 3- 8 can join the Halloween fun by hearing some not so scary stories and choose a craft suitable for their age group. The Halloween fun will be held from 11:00 AM to Noon. All materials will be provided and there is no charge for this program.



HOE DOWN

POSTPONED TO OCTOBER 22ND 5PM TO 9PM



The Kulmann Memorial Walkway

The H.E.S. Staff invites you to participate in the Purchase-A-Brick Fundraiser for "The Kulmann Memorial Walkway." The Kulmann Memorial Walkway will be located on the left side of the H.E.S. All-Purpose Room walkway leading to our primary playground. This pathway will be used daily by the first and second graders as they go outside for their recess. It will also be used for many years to come by all who use our H.E.S. primary playground.

This past spring Jaret Kulmann, a former H.E.S. teacher, died at the age of 42. Those of you who may have known him remember that he was wheelchair-bound and when he was working at H.E.S. a make-shift ramp was built to allow him to access the primary playground to perform his recess duty. That ramp was removed as it deteriorated over time.

The staff is planning a permanent "memorial walkway" in Jaret's memory. Our first step is to sell 330 engraved bricks at a cost of \$35 each. Thirty dollars will go towards the bricks and walkway construction and five dollars will go directly to the Kulmann Children Scholarship Fund. We will be selling bricks at school events and through monthly newsletter order forms until December 31, 2010. Then bricks will be ordered and tentatively installed over April vacation 2011. We are excited to come together as a school community to celebrate the life of Jaret Kulmann and improve our H.E.S. school community.

The inscribed bricks are a wonderful, permanent way to honor families, students, staff, alumni, a class, remembered loved ones, show support for an athlete, team or serviceman, and/or promote a local business. All bricks are 4"x8" and include a maximum of three lines of type with 13 characters and spaces per line.

Please Print (one letter on each space)

First line: _____

Second line: _____

Third Line: _____

Personal Information

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Payment information \$35: Check # _____

Make Checks payable to: **Haddam Elementary School**
The Kulmann Memorial Walkway
PO Box 439
Higganum, CT 06441

Questions: e-mail-Jenn Leavitt at leavitt77@rsd17.org

*Order forms will be photocopied and sent to CT Valley Monument engravers as is. Please print carefully.