



DOLPHIN TIMES

Haddam Elementary School

SEPTEMBER, 2010

Dr. Janice Harris

Principal

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

Dear HES Families,

I hope that your child has enjoyed the first few days of school. I have enjoyed all the smiles and the waves as I have visited classrooms, walked the halls or checked in at lunch. We have had such a great start! Thank you to those of you who took time to respond to the Open House survey. One of our goals in having an open house prior to the start of school was to reduce anxiety about the transition back to school. 78% of survey respondents said that we accomplished this goal, 15% said that school "jitters" was not an issue for their child and 7% remained undecided about whether the Open House had an impact. 100% of respondents noted that their overall experience at the Open House was good or excellent! We also had some helpful comments that we will use to make this event even better next year.

Many of you are already receiving the electronic bulletins that I have been sending out periodically. We will be updating our records based on the emergency contact sheets that you return to school. If you want to receive the emails, please be sure to provide an email address on that form. The bulletins will also be available on the website for your review, if you prefer not to provide an email address. **The bulletins can be found at our website under School Publications (http://www.rsd17.org/hes/school_publications.shtml).**

If you are a new parent/guardian to our school, I would like to extend a special welcome to you and encourage you to attend the **PTO meeting on September 13th at 6:45p.m.** We look forward to your active involvement in your child's school! I will be available at 6:15 prior to the PTO meeting, please stop in early and introduce yourself.

You have already received a number of documents that need to be reviewed and/or completed. Please note that the **Emergency Contact Sheet** is of the utmost importance. We ask that you fill it out completely and legibly and return it as soon as possible.

You will also be receiving the **Elementary Schools Student Handbooks** and we hope that you will take some time to review that information. Please pay special attention to the Inclement Weather Schedule and Scheduled Half Days. We would especially like to emphasize that one of

our major concerns is appropriate footwear. Students should come to school with footwear that allows them to fully participate in recess activities and to walk around the school comfortably. Students are not allowed to wear flip-flops, slipper-type shoes (without a back strap), or high heels. Please read the student dress code/guidelines on pages 12-13 for more information.

Our PTO designed a dismissal form that can be downloaded at: <http://www.rsd17.org/hes/resources.shtml>. We ask that you use that form to communicate your child's transportation changes. Thanks in advance for your cooperation!

We have a "Compliment Board" that we would like use again this year in which any member of our school community can compliment another on a "job well done". You can find the compliment brick template under the resource tab of our website. I encourage you to send one in when you think of it to help us to continue to build a strong community!

The HES grounds were dutifully taken care of by a number of families this summer and we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to:



The Chester Family

The Halfinger Family

The Knapp Family

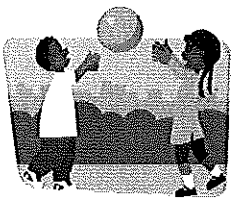
The Minervino Family

The Nelligan Family

The Therrien Family

The Williams Family

Thank you so much!



Kindergarten News

We are having a wonderful time in Kindergarten! We are having fun learning about each other and our school. During September, we introduce sight words "a", "my", "I" and "the", letters "m" and "s" and we are practicing recognizing and writing our names. Calendar time is filled with math activities - we are learning the days of the week and sequencing yesterday, today, and tomorrow. School and class safety rules are always a priority during this first busy month. We learn how to walk in line, play on our playground and take care of

our classroom materials. A reminder to label everything that you send in with your child - with cooler weather coming, please remember to label jackets and sweatshirts so they always go home with the right child. We are looking forward to our Ringing-In Ceremony on Thursday, September 16th at 5:30pm. Hope to see you there!! The Kindergarten Team

Mrs. Formica, Ms. Goodrich and Mrs. Pecoraro



First Grade News

Our new school year is underway! We have been busy learning new routines for our classrooms and have been discovering how great first grade is! We have been doing some review work and will begin to do individual assessments on the students in the next couple weeks. Please encourage your children to read daily (alone or with you). We are looking forward to a great year with your wonderful children!



Second Grade News

Busy learning routines and procedures as well as getting to know each other.



Third Grade News

In reading, we are working on forming general understandings about the texts that are being read. In math, we are exploring place value and number sense. We are also working on estimating and multi-step problem solving. In writing, we are learning how to plan and write a good beginning to a narrative story. Our Third Grade September Homework Heroes will be announced in the October newsletter.



FOURTH GRADE

Mrs. Smith and Mr. Davey have enjoyed getting to know all of the fourth grade students this September through switching for math, writing, science, and social studies. All fourth grade students should be working on their Writing Haiku Project and Connecticut Attractions Project through this month. Finally, both Mr. Davey and Mrs. Smith are looking forward to meeting with all of the fourth grade students' parents and caregivers at Curriculum Night on September 28th!



Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 2010

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope that everyone had a nice summer and are having a great beginning to our 2010-2011 school year.

First we will review the "24 hour rule". If your child has a fever, diarrhea, vomiting, he/she must be free of these symptoms for 24 hours before returning to school. Your child must be fever free **WITHOUT** the aid of medication in order to return. Also, if your child is on an antibiotic, the child cannot return to school until they are on the antibiotic for 24 hours. **There are no exceptions to these rules.** These rules are in place to protect the health and safety of all of our children and staff.

We encourage healthy eating at HES. Please send your child a healthy lunch and snack each day. Kids need protein to give them energy for a long day of school, so please keep that in mind when packing their lunch and snack. Please also send a bottle of water with your child each day to help keep them well hydrated. The staff allows your children to drink water throughout the day, and if they have a water bottle with them, this will limit their trips to the water fountain where they are missing valuable class time, and help them stay healthy. If your class is having a special day/party, healthy snacks are best. Things like veggies, fruits, yogurt parfaits or a fun game/activity are well accepted by all children. If you need ideas for a party day, let me know. And please follow the rules of your child's classroom when it comes to parties.

I encourage you to let your child bring his/her own chapstick to school to keep in their bookbag. Our building is very dry, and children get chapped lips easily, especially through the winter months.

I am not allowed to give Motrin, Benadryl, or Tums (any medication for upset stomach) without a doctor's note. If you want your child to have these medications on an "as needed" basis, I would need a doctor's note and the medication brought in to me. I am, however, allowed to give Tylenol. I can give Tylenol after I speak with the parent/guardian for headaches that did not go away after we tried water, food, or rest. I can also give it if your child has a fever AND they are going to be picked up by you, but it might be awhile before you arrive. You can always contact me to discuss this situation.

To try and stay healthy and well this year, please encourage your children to cough and sneeze into their elbow, and to wash their hands frequently. There are sinks in all classrooms, and hand sanitizer available in every room in our building. We use a "Rule of 3" here at our school when it comes to hand sanitizer. Please remind your child that after they use hand sanitizer 3 times, they MUST find a sink and wash their hands with soap and water. This prevents hand dryness and over use of the sanitizer. I will also be doing handwashing classes in all classrooms to go over the importance of washing our hands often.

Starting in October, I will be doing vision and hearing screenings on each child in the building. It is just a screening, and if any problems are found, you will be notified by letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Please dress your children appropriately for the days weather. The days are getting cooler, so please make sure your child has a jacket for outside time. Please apply sunscreen at home before your child leaves for school.

If you ever have any questions or concerns about anything, please don't hesitate to call me at any time. My door is always open.



Volunteers needed to assist with morning bus duty—Do you have about 15 minutes (8:30-8:45 a.m.) on any week day to help us keep children safe as they cross our busy parking lot/driveways? We would really appreciate an extra set of hands! No experience needed, just a warm, welcome smile to greet our students! If you can help, please let us know in the office or e-mail Mrs. Alicia Sledzik @ sledzik77@rsd17.org

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



HES welcomes **Sheila Johnson**, paraprofessional from Burr Elementary; **Krissy Konesky**, our Psychology Intern; **Erin Heller**, Psychologist, couple of days here as well and to **Gary Forbes**, who will join our custodial team. Also, Miss Smith is now Mrs. Aithal (pronounced.... I-thel) (best wishes)!

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 13	PTO MTG. AT 6:45
SEPT. 16	RINGING IN CEREMONY AT 5:30PM
SEPT. 22	GR. 1 & 2 CURRICULUM NIGHT AT 6:00 PM
SEPT. 24	EARLY DISMISSAL ALL STUDENTS
SEPT. 28	GR. 3 & 4 CURRICULUM NIGHT 6:00 PM

Regional School District No. 17 Calendar 2010-2011

July * 0

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

August * 0

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

September * 20

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

October * 20

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

November * 18

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

December * 17

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

January * 20

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

February * 15

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28				

March * 23

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

April * 16

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

May * 21

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

June * 12

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

No school for students or staff	Professional Day - No school for students	Early dismissal for all students	Professional Development
Opening day of school			

- 4-Jul Independence Day
- Aug.30 & 31 Staff professional development
- Sept. 1st Opening day of school
- Sept.6 Labor Day
- Sept. 9 Rosh Hashanah
- Sept. 24 Early dismissal all students;
Staff professional development
- Oct.11 Columbus Day
- Oct. 12&13 Early dismissal all students;
K-12 Parent/Teacher conferences
- Nov. 2 No school for students;
staff professional development
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
- Nov.24 Early dismissal all students
- Nov.25&26 Thanksgiving Recess
- Dec.23 Early dismissal staff & students
- 12/24-1/1 Holiday recess
- Jan.1 New Years Day
- Jan. 3 Classes resume
- Jan. 17 Martin Luther King Day

- Jan. 18 Early dismissal all students;
portfolio day for K-12 staff
- Jan. 19 Early dismissal all students;
professional development K-8
- Feb. 9 & 10 Early dismissal all students;
K-12 parent/teacher conferences
- Feb. 21 President's Day
- Feb. 21-25 Winter recess
- April 18-22 Spring recess
- 22-Apr Good Friday
- 5/27 Early dismissal all students;
Staff professional development
- 30-May Memorial Day
- 6/15 Early dismissal all students;
portfolio day for K-12 staff
- 6/16 Last day of school if no snow days.
Early dismissal
High School Graduation

182 Student Days
185 Teacher Days