



APRIL  
Haddam Elementary School  
DOLPHIN TIMES



*Dr. Janice Harris*  
*Principal*

Dear HES Families,

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday weekend. The time just seems to be flying by! It was great seeing so many of you last week at the Scoop Up a Good Book ice cream social to culminate a very successful HES Loves to Read (& Write) month. Thanks to all of our students and to the HES Loves to Read Committee chaired by Tania Shaw! Our students have read enough to donate over 250 books to children in need!

Our School Advisory Team has been hard at work reviewing feedback and planning for the upcoming school year. We have gotten feedback that parents want to know more specific information about the curriculum than could be shared at our traditional open house. With the support of HES teachers, we are proposing a change in the timing of our traditional open house and will add grade level curriculum evenings at every grade. We would like to have our Open House prior to the start of the school year (August 31<sup>st</sup>). In September, we would conduct several curriculum evenings by grade level that would be exclusively for parents and caregivers to learn about the curriculum at that grade level. We are trying to assess how many parents would be able to participate. Please complete the tear-off sheet below and send it to the main office at your earliest convenience. We are also conducting our annual parent survey. This time it is online! Please follow directions as noted under the heading below "Parent Survey on Website."

This month we will be introducing the "Kids Marathon" for K-4 students. Interested students in grades 3 and 4 will run/walk during their recess periods this Spring for a total of (hopefully) 26 miles! The younger students will run/walk a half-marathon. Students can sign up for this activity with their classroom teachers by April 9<sup>th</sup>. Prizes will be awarded for persistence!

Finally, I would like to direct you to the district website to find information regarding the remaining budget meetings/activities for the 2010-2011 RSD 17 budget development. Please remember that the referendum vote is on May 4<sup>th</sup> - (your vote counts!) Happy Spring Vacation to you all!



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Please return this brief questionnaire to the main office—Attention: School Advisory Team

Child's Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

I would be available to attend an Open House at the end of August during afternoon hours (2:30-3:30pm) as long as I had advanced notice.

Even with advanced notice, I would not be able to attend an afternoon Open House.

I would like to learn more about supporting my child at his/her grade level through a curriculum information evening.

The start time that would work best for me is: \_\_\_\_\_



## CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION

Please help us by calling the office with transportation changes before 11:30a.m. unless it is a true emergency. Thank you!



## GOOD CITIZENS

The following students volunteered their time to work the "Haiti" can drive collection on March 6th, they are: Cat Gyrog, Sarah Parkhurst, Owen Totman, Tina Rubino and Chloe Totman.

## PARENT SURVEY ON WEBSITE

If you have not filled out a parent survey, but would like to, please go to [www.rsd17.org](http://www.rsd17.org) and click on Haddam Elementary School → Resources → Haddam Elementary School Parent Survey. We had some intermittent trouble with it wanting a password, so if you tried it in the past and couldn't fill it out, please try again.



## MUSIC NEWS

The HES Beginning Band Festival will take place on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at HKMS at 6:30 PM. PLEASE save the date. Remember: dress for this concert is white shirts or blouses, black skirts or trousers. Updates can always be found on Mrs. Mortensen's online classroom. Please encourage your band student to practice consistently. Also, be sure that instrument cases are labeled with your child's name and HES. This is very important as we combine with the other two schools since many of the instrument cases are exactly the same.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Chorus concert will take place on Thursday May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM here at HES. Dress code: "Sunday Best."

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Music Program will take place here at HES on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.

## REPORT CARD COMPUTER GLITCH

You may have noticed that student days "present" may not have read 63 days for this marking term, be assured that this is being addressed and will be adjusted. Thank you.



## NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Happy Spring Everyone! Now that the weather is getting warmer, and children are starting to play outdoors more, please remember these important safety tips.

- 1) When riding a bike, skateboard, roller skates, scooter, etc. plus any type of motorized vehicle, children need to wear a helmet. No exceptions. A helmet will save their life if they fall and hit their head. Over 300,000 children a year are in the emergency room for accidents related to the above. Some of these injuries are so serious that children die mainly because they weren't wearing a helmet and sustained a serious head injury. So even if it is a short trip, a helmet needs to be worn at all times.
- 2) When going to the playground after school hours: Parents can help prevent playground accidents by taking some precautions, ensuring that there's adult supervision at the playground, and making sure that the equipment is appropriate to a child's age and maturity level. Adult supervision can help prevent injuries by making sure kids properly use playground equipment and don't engage in unsafe behavior around it. If an injury does occur, an adult can assist the child and administer any needed first aid right away. Kids should always have adult supervision on the playground. Young children (and sometimes older ones) can't always gauge distances properly and aren't capable of foreseeing dangerous situations by themselves. Older kids like to test their limits on the playground, so it's important for an adult to be there to keep them in check.

Spring is also a time for the start of outdoor sports. Sharing of helmets in sports can lead to lice exposure. If possible, your child should have his or her own helmet. If not, talk to your child's coach about the possibility of only one or two children sharing a helmet and ensure proper cleaning of those helmets. Please encourage children to also not share hats, combs, or hair accessories with their friends and team mates.

Just a reminder of our illness policy here at school: If your child has a fever, vomiting, diarrhea, or is on an antibiotic for something contagious, he or she must

be free of symptoms – or on the medication – for 24 hours (at the very least) before returning to school. If I send your child home from school, I will give you a return date. I ask that you respect that date. Please note that I am doing it for the safety of your child and all children in the school. Usually, if I send your child home around lunch time, no matter what the symptoms, I will ask them not to return the next day.

Lastly, if your child is going to be out from school – please call us as soon as you can in the morning and let us know the reason for your child’s absence. If your child is sick for more than one day in a row, you need to call us every day and report his or her absence. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you ever have a question, please don’t hesitate to ask.



### PTO Basket Raffle

A reminder to all families that once again our Basket Raffle will be held at the HES Art Show on May 13<sup>th</sup>. We are asking that all contributions be in by Wednesday April 21<sup>st</sup>. Your donations are greatly appreciated. Raffle tickets will be sold that evening for \$1.00 per ticket. Please visit our table while looking for your child’s artwork! Thank you.



### HES LOVES TO READ

I want to thank the staff, students, and families for all their help and support! We had a very successful month with:

Book A Trip - Ticket To Read

We collected over 100 books for the WIC Program in Middletown. The students who met the reading challenge will be donating over 250 books to an elementary school and local children's hospitals. Thank you – Thank you – to the “HES Loves To Read” committee members: Mrs. Adametz, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. D’Aquila, Mrs. Hay, Mrs. Foisie, Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Mahoney, Mrs. Meanwell, Mrs. Pecoraro, Mrs. Pommer, Mrs. Reynolds, Ms. Smith, Mrs. Stankowicz and Mrs. Williams. Special thanks to Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Hall who also helped with the success of this month. Our appreciation is extended to Dunkin' Donuts, Stop and Shop, Dino's Pizza Restaurant, Destinta movie theater, Funky Monkey toy store, A New World Laser Tag, Village Court Florist, Higganum Feed, Mizza's Pizza, and the Copper Skillet restaurant for their donations.

*Tania Shaw*  
*Committee Chairperson*

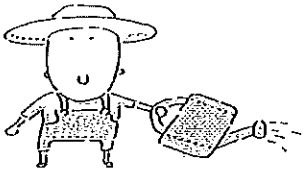
## Brainerd Memorial Library Articles

### Looking for Childrens' Collections to Showcase at Brainerd!

The Children's Showcase is located downstairs near the elevator. Children can display their personal collections in the showcase for one month. Please call Ms Diane if your child is interested in showcasing his or her special collection. Children and parents can bring in the collection and arrange the display during the first week of the month. The current display of Hot Wheels by Cole Mencl has been enjoyed by many patrons and can be seen on the library's website- [www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org](http://www.brainerdlibrary.lioninc.org).

### School Vacation Program

Brainerd Library is having a great show for the kids during the Spring Recess! *Danny Magic* will be performing on Tuesday, April 13 at 11:00 AM in the Children's Room. Danny is a professional comic magician from Shelton, CT. His "comedy magic show is a fast paced hilarious encounter with mind-boggling magic." This show is appropriate for children aged four and older. Please call the library to register. Don't miss this entertaining family show!



### *DATES TO REMEMBER*

APRIL 12 - 16	SPRING RECESS - NO SCHOOL
APRIL 28	12PM - EARLY DISMISSAL ~ KINDERGARTEN ONLY

In the event of an evacuation in which students and staff must leave the school premises, we have two locations that we are authorized to use. One is the United Methodist Church next door and the other is the Town Garage. The EMERGENCY LINE TELEPHONE NUMBER is 345-8526.

We had a great turn-out by our students who submitted their seasonal stories/poems in March during our HES LOVES TO READ:

SPRING STORIES

Kindergarten    Preston Nelson  
                         Matthew Stevens  
                         Gwendolyn Connor  
                         Ben Williams  
                         Jessica Timothy  
                         Arriana Carroll  
                         Scarlett Strom  
                         Eve Ceplenski  
                         Caitlin Lamy

Grade One:        Joseph Pepitone  
                         Mia Rubino  
                         Ethan Chester  
                         Matthew Pray  
                         Meara Bodak  
                         JD DeLaurentis  
                         Alexis Lloyd

Grade Two:        Sarah Parkhurst  
                         Schuyler Dragoo  
                         Natalie Pontbriand  
                         Evan Ceplenski  
                         Makena Papallo  
                         Dalton Modehn

Grade Three:     Connor Chute  
                         Sadie Strom  
                         Leah Nenninger  
                         Brooke LaTouche

Grade Four:       Taylor Esposito

WINTER WONDERLAND

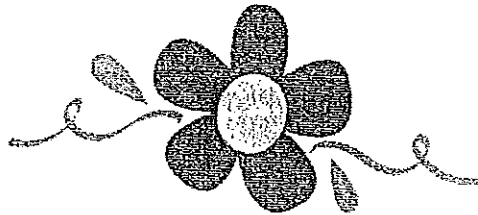
Kindergarten:    Gwendolyn Connor  
                         Matthew Stevens  
                         Eve Ceplenski  
                         Lillianne Nelligan  
                         Kevin Cavrell  
                         Ali Twachtman  
                         Arianna Carroll  
                         Shelby Welsch

Grade One:        JD DeLaurentis  
                         Kelsey Lonergan  
                         Luke Malone  
                         Matthew Pray  
                         Ethan Chester  
                         Joseph Pepitone  
                         Meara Bodak  
                         Sidney Dragoo

Grade Two:        Makena Papallo  
                         Natalie Pontbriand  
                         Evan Ceplenski  
                         Bliss Weston  
                         Belle Carini

Grade Three:     Connor Chute  
                         Leah Nenninger  
                         Tyler Knapp

Grade Four:       Cameron Francesca DeFusco  
                         Evan O'Brien



SUMMER TRAVEL

Kindergarten: SYNDEY THOMAS  
MATTHEW STEVENS  
EVE CEPLENSKI  
CAITLIN LAMY  
KEVIN CAVRELL  
PHILIP KNOWLTON

Grade One: JD DELAURENTIS  
JOSEPH PEPITONE  
MATTHEW PRAY  
ETHAN CHESTER

Grade Two: NATALIE PONTBRIAND  
BEN CARINI  
EVAN CEPLENSKI  
MAKENA PAPALLO

Grade Three: SADIE STROM  
CONNOR CHUTE  
QUINCY PLATT

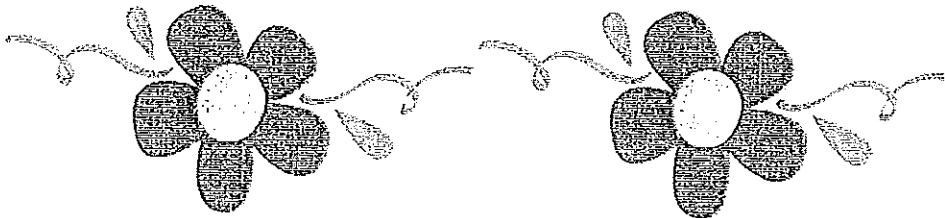
FALL FUN

Kindergarten: ARRIANA CARROLL  
YUMIKA IMAI  
BRIANNA MINERVINO  
JULIA THELEN  
CAITLIN LAMY  
EVE CEPLENSKI  
KEVIN CAVRELL  
MATTHEW STEVENS

Grade One: JD DELAURENTIS  
ETHAN CHESTER  
KELSEY LONERGAN  
JOSEPH PEPITONE

Grade Two: NATALIE PONTBRIAND  
EVAN CEPLENSKI  
MAKENA PAPALLO  
BEN CARINI

Grade Three: BROOKE LATOUCHE  
AMANDA MINERVINO  
CONNOR CHUTE



# Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

Haddam Elementary School

## Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *The Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System*  
Ms. Frizzle blasts her class into the solar system for some out-of-this-world science lessons. One of the Magic School Bus series by Joanna Cole. (Also available in Spanish.)



■ *Doctor De Soto Goes to Africa*  
In this tale by William Steig, the famous mouse dentist travels to



Africa. But before he can repair the tooth of Mudambo the elephant, an unhappy monkey kidnaps him!

■ *The Whingdingdilly*  
Scamp is bored with his life as a dog. Then Zildy the witch changes him into a Whingdingdilly. Life is anything but boring now—but is Scamp happy? Read this story by Bill Peet to find out.

■ *Babushka's Doll*  
"It wasn't that Natasha was a truly naughty child." So begins the story of a little girl who needs some practice learning patience. The lesson begins when Natasha picks up her grandmother's doll. A magical story by Patricia Polacco.

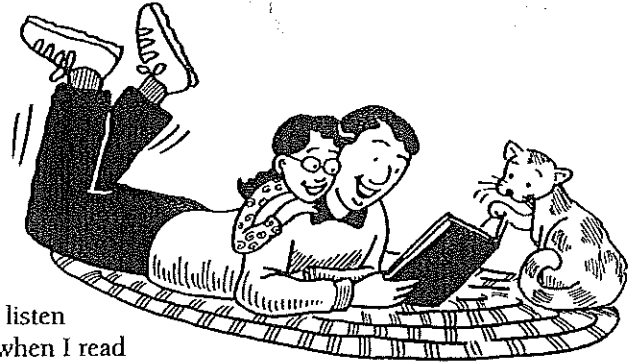


## Reading aloud

"I always stumble because I read too fast."  
"I'm afraid my child won't listen to me."  
"I was laughed at when I read aloud at school."

Do you have worries like these when you read aloud? You're not alone. Many parents avoid reading aloud to their kids. However, reading aloud is one of the best ways to help your youngster succeed in school. Keep these tips in mind:

- Everybody makes mistakes. If you make mistakes when reading aloud, your child will learn that it's okay for her to do so, too.
- Practice makes perfect. Find a book that you like and read it aloud by yourself until you feel comfortable.
- Involve your youngster in the story. Have her turn the pages. Or read one line and let her read the next.
- Take your time and don't rush the story. Your child can tell if you're in a hurry. Reading slowly will help you read clearly.
- As you feel more comfortable, try changing your voice to show the characters' feelings—joy, sadness, fear. These variations can make the story more exciting for both of you!
- Remember that you are helping your youngster learn to enjoy reading. Try different types of reading materials, such as comic strips and poetry.
- Above all, try to relax and enjoy the time you're spending with your child. ♥



## Understanding stories

Does your child listen actively when you read aloud? It's a key to understanding what's happening in the story. Try these simple tips to build listening skills:

1. Ask your youngster to retell small parts of the story to you. Or ask him questions while you read. *Examples:* "What will happen next?" "Why do you think she did that?" Find the answers to the questions together.
2. After you've read a story together two or three times, skip a word or two. Ask your child to fill in the missing word or words. *Hint:* This works especially well with rhyming stories. ♥

