



# Haddam Elementary School

## Dolphin Times

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Dr. Janice Harris  
Principal

### Notes from the Principal

Over the past several weeks, the international community has been stunned by the devastation experienced by the Haitian people. The outpouring of support from individuals and organizations around the world has been a bright horizon on an otherwise bleak landscape. Many of you have probably already reached out to those in need through text-message or charity donations. Some of you have asked if we were responding as a school community. I am happy to say that we have had a few students come up with ideas of how to help. One of those ideas is being developed and, within the next week, you will have information about how to participate in our "Haddam Helps Haiti" initiative.

Speaking of initiative, the students from Mrs. Leavitt's and Mrs. Foisie's class will be presenting a school-wide assembly this week on how our school will "B+" (Be positive). Based on a foundation in memory of a young man who maintained a positive attitude during his battle with cancer, the "B+" message includes "do good, try your best, show affection, and be comfortable with yourself". You may have already seen "B+" signs around the school and we will be sending more information home after the assembly. Over the weekend, you might ask your child about our new saying, "B+: It's not just a grade, it's an attitude"

February is a short, but busy, month. Parent conferences are next week and we will have early dismissal at 1:05 pm on Wednesday, February 10<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. Before or after your conference, don't forget to stop by the PTO-sponsored Book Fair located in Portable A. Volunteers for the book fair are still needed; please contact Sue Twachtman at [suetwachtman@snet.net](mailto:suetwachtman@snet.net).

This month, School Advisory Team office hours will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:15. Enjoy the rest of the month and have a great Winter Recess!

### MUSIC & ARTS



Each year the Connecticut Association of Schools hosts a state-wide "Elementary Celebration of the Arts" banquet to honor elementary students with outstanding citizenship, cooperative skills and artistic talent in the performing or visual arts. Mr. Granucci and Mrs. Mortensen are pleased to announce that this year's recipients are 4th graders Autumn Leavitt and Eric Giuliani who were honored for art and music respectively on February 1, at the Aqua Turf in Southington. Congratulations to you both!



## ART ITEMS

Mrs. Kohary and Mr. Granucci are also gearing up for our annual art show. This year's art show theme will be "The Farm!" For the next several weeks only, we will be collecting recyclables for our paper mache farm animals. Please help us by sending in the following supplies:

- Cool Whip containers or similar
- Yogurt cups small or large (not Yoplait brand)
- Nestle Coffee -Mate Bottles
- Oatmeal or Cornmeal containers small or large,
- Sherbet (or similar) plastic containers
- Cottage cheese 16oz (or similar)
- Margarine, Cream cheese (or similar)
- Frosting containers
- Newspaper

Please be sure all containers are washed out really well before sending into school.

On another note... I really need some parents to begin helping out with mounting art work for the art show. As we get closer to the art show, I will also need a huge crew of parents to help hang and display the art work for the art show. More information on this request will be forthcoming in the near future. Please send me an e-mail @ [jgranucci66@rsd17.org](mailto:jgranucci66@rsd17.org) and let me know if you are available to help out. ☺

Please visit my web site for the art room. There you will find the latest information about the art room and some interesting art links! Thank-you, Mr. Granucci



## AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES at Brainerd Library

Looking for a Winter Break activity for the kids? On Tuesday, February 16 the movie, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, will be shown from 3:00-4:30 PM in the Community Room. Children 6 years old and younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children over 6 can view the movie while an adult caregiver stays in the library. Popcorn will be served. Call the library for more info and to register. This is a free event.



## PROJECT GRADUATION

We have a recycling electronic equipment box in the office. We accept cell phones, computers, MP3 Players, etc.



## NOTES FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Happy February everyone! This is a short month for us and I am sure everyone is looking forward to winter break.

I know that sometimes it is difficult, as parents, to make a decision early in the morning about whether or not your child is sick enough to stay home from school. With minor symptoms you often cannot tell whether he is going to get better or worse during the course of the school day. As a rule of thumb, a child should stay home if there is:

- A fever over 100° F
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- A very frequent cough
- A persistent pain (ear, stomach, etc)
- A widespread rash

Children who don't have a fever and only have a mild cough, runny nose or other cold symptoms can be sent to school without any harm to themselves or others. On this note, if you are on the fence about your child but do choose to send them to school please let me or your child's classroom teacher know and we will monitor for changes and call you if necessary. Children are very literal so please don't tell them to go see the nurse as many will get off the bus and march right to the health office without even trying to attend for the day. You can send me or your child's teacher an email, give us a phone call, or send a note (preferably in an envelope if your child is able to read). We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Please remember to dress your child for the day's weather. I am still seeing a lot of short sleeve shirts and light jackets. Our building is not exceptionally warm, especially first thing in the morning, so the children sometimes tell me they are cold. The best would be to dress your child in layers, so if they become warmer in the afternoon, they can remove their sweater.

One last thing – we are deep into the winter months now and cough season is upon us. Children can bring cough drops to school but they must bring them to the nurse's office. They cannot keep them in their pocket or on their person during the day. And a note must accompany the cough drops. I need to hear from a parent/guardian that your child has permission to take the cough drops. You will be required to send me a note each week if your child still needs to take them. This prevents over use of cough drops. If your child brings in cough drops and no note, they will not be permitted to take them. Unfortunately, I do not have enough time in my day to call all parents about cough drop use. Thank you for your understanding.

Have a wonderful February and thank you for your continued support toward keeping our kids healthy during the school day.

Jennifer Pletcher, RN  
School Nurse



### Attention members of the HES PTO

There are many ways to be involved in your child's school through the PTO:

- Attend and provide input at the PTO general meetings
- Participate with fundraisers
- Volunteer on a committee
- Chair a committee
- Volunteer in PTO related school activities
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### Open Committee Chair Positions for the '09-'10 school year

\*Adult Dinner Dance \*Winter Book Fair \*Basket Raffle \*Fourth Grade Ringing Out \*Spring Vendor Night \*Guest Speakers for PTO General Meetings \*Board of Education Liaison

### Open PTO Board Positions for the '09-'10 school year

- Vice-president
- Treasurer
- Secretary

### Open PTO Board Positions for the '10-'11 school year

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

\* These items currently have one person chairing the list. Please note that any of the above positions can be co-chaired



### DATES TO REMEMBER

FEBRUARY 5	MOVIE NIGHT 5:30 IN ALL PURPOSE ROOM
FEBRUARY 8 -12	BOOK FAIR, MON>_THURS 8AM-6PM; FRI 8AM-2PM
FEBRUARY 10 & 11	EARLY DISMISSAL - ALL STUDENTS
FEBRUARY 10	SCHOOL ADVISORY TEAM OFFICE HOURS 1:30-2:15
FEBRUARY 15 - 19	WINTER RECESS