

DOLPHIN TIMES
HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MAY, 2011



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Dr. Janice Harris
Principal

Principal Notes:

Please remember that today, May 3rd, the referendum for the school budget will be held. Your vote is important! If you are interested in reviewing a copy of the proposed budget, please visit www.rsd17.org and click on "Budget Information" (2011-2012).

Happy May! Last week I was fortunate to have attended the HK Hall of Fame Dinner to honor three deserving inductees: Marge DeBold, Bob Duval and Tommy Thompson. It was a wonderful evening in which each inductee shared personal reflections, filled with humor and underscored by grace and humility. I was truly inspired! We congratulate each inductee!

We also had a couple of opportunities last week to give our new superintendent a welcome to the district and to our school. Our students welcomed Mr. Thiery with an assembly led by 4th graders Abigail Larkin and Connor Chute. Each grade level offered a poem or reflection about what is special about our school. The "Royal Wedding/Hat Day" earned enough money to purchase two walkway bricks to celebrate Mr. Thiery's arrival to our district. He was also presented with a dolphin statuette and an HES sweatshirt. Mr. Thiery was extremely appreciative of all the sentiments and promised the students that he would be back to visit our school as often as he can. Thanks to the teachers and students for putting together a great program that reflects the best of HES! I would like to also thank Lily Bucko, Amanda Minervino and Quincy Platt who participated in the district-wide reception for Mr. Thiery. The HES PTO provided some of the refreshments for that event—thank you!

So, now for May flowers...This month we look forward to our Art Show & Ice Cream Social (featuring a PTO Basket Raffle) and our musical concerts. Our art teachers Mr. Granucci and Mrs. Kohary are working hard to showcase the beautiful artwork that your children have produced over the year. We hope you can join us! In this newsletter, you will also find dates and times for the highly anticipated musical performances of our 4th grade chorus and band, under the skillful direction of Mrs. Mortensen. The students are really looking forward to showcasing their talents! We have an upcoming grounds beautification day on May 14th that will be led by co-chairs Yvette Minervino and Michele Wytas. If you have time that morning, please come out and volunteer!

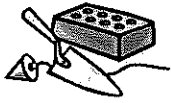
This month we celebrate our teachers, staff and our school nurse. I am honored to lead such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people! It truly is a pleasure to work with each of them! I am thankful to all the parents who are planning or contributing to the appreciation luncheon for all staff to enjoy. Enjoy the rest of the month!



All Children Exercising Simultaneously

On Wednesday, May 5th, we will celebrate "All Children Exercising Simultaneously" day. The activities will be led by Mr. Rob Davey and 4th graders.

Mr. Davey and students will talk the school through the exercises over the P.A. system. It is a great opportunity for leadership and fun! And, speaking of exercising, our Kids' Marathon continues—we have some children running or walking a mile or more each day to meet their goal! Keep up the good effort!



HES KULMANN MEMORIAL WALKWAY (update)

As of Friday, April 29, 2011, we have sold 123 bricks out of our 330 brick goal. Have you bought your BRICKS today?



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Warm weather is here and Kindergartners have been enjoying Spring activities. In May, we will be celebrating Mother's Day, learning about our community, and identifying living and nonliving things. In Math, we will begin learning about addition and subtraction and finishing our work with shapes and solid figures. In Language Arts, students are writing super sentences and making connections to character feelings. Throughout the month of May, we will be reviewing how much we've learned this year.



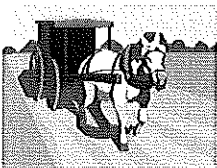
FIRST GRADE NEWS

We have been working hard on money in math. Please continue to have your children practice counting mixed coins along with practicing their math facts. We will be starting our unit on measurement next. In science, we are awaiting the arrival of our butterfly larvae. It is such an exciting learning experience for the children! Enjoy the warm weather!

GRADE 2 NEWS



For the month of May, the second grade classes are diligently creating their own class books. The books will be sent to a publisher and bound into hard cover books! The students are extremely excited to be published authors. A copy of each class book will be given to both the school and town libraries. In science, the study of soil and plant life continue to be our focus. We made our own compost bags (with worms) and are observing the changes in the bags over time.



GRADE 3 NEWS

Third grade continues to learn all about the history of Haddam. We are working hard to complete our Haddam history projects. We will be travelling through the town of Haddam to learn some onsite history lessons with a special stop at the Thankful Arnold Home. We are looking forward to animal studies at the end of the month.



GRADE 4 NEWS

Fourth grade is ready to "spring" into May! In math we are learning about coordinates, line plots, surveys, data (Median, Mode, and Range). Students should be fluent with their multiplication and division facts (able to complete at least 37 out of 40 facts in 2 minutes!) In Social Studies we continue to learn about our wonderful state, Connecticut. Students will be taking advantage of our very own "outdoor classroom" when they visit the brook to learn more about ecosystems in Science.

We have so many exciting things to look forward to so mark your calendars!

May 3rd State Fair

May 6th HKMS Visit

May 12th Spring Chorus Concert

May 25th Spanish Fiesta

May 26th Spring Band Concert at HKMS

Keep an eye out for information about our Readers' Theater Performances coming up this month too. Special Thanks to all of the 4th grade students who

are helping out with ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously) this week!
Happy Mothers' Day from the Fourth Grade Team!



MUSIC NEWS

Grade 4 Parents: Mark your calendars! The HES Spring Concert will take place on Thursday, May 12th at 6:30 PM. This concert will feature the 4th grade chorus. The concert dress code for the Spring Concert is "Sunday

Best."

Also, the District 4th Grade Band Concert will be held on Thursday, May 26th at 6:30 PM at HKMS. Please remember this is a date change from the original calendar. The dress code for this concert is "black and white."

Third graders will showcase their music learning on June 2nd during school hours. You can always check my web page for updates and other information.

Also.....

If 4th grade band students are NOT planning on keeping their instruments over the summer, they are to return the instruments to the music room by the end of school on Wednesday June 8th. This will ensure the instrument is ready for the company to pick up on June 9th. If you have any questions on instrumental returns, please email me. If your child IS planning to continue playing the same instrument in 5th grade band, it is always best to keep playing during the summer to retain skills learned this year.



DATE CHANGE:

The Community Clean-up, originally scheduled for May 7th has been changed to May 14th with a 9a.m.start. Thank you.



CHANGES IN TRANSPORTATION

We really appreciate your morning notes when there are changes in your child's transportation. If there is actual urgency, we ask that you call the office by 11:00 a.m. so we may adequately update our student list. Thank you!

PROJECT GRADUATION GOES GREEN

Project Graduation will continue to collect donations of used cell phones, ink jet cartridges, iPods, digital cameras, laptops and handheld games. They are working in conjunction with Ecophones, an environmentally friendly company, which will pay for items shipped to them. Items need not be in working order, and accessories will not be accepted (i.e. chargers, cases, etc.). A box is located in the office.



HK PROJECT GRADUATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are seeking Decorators for our Decorations committee. No creative experience required. Come join our committee for Project Graduation for the class of 2011. Please contact Kaycee Blancaflor at KCCallahan@uks.com if you're interested in joining this committee. Watch for dates, time and location very soon to help on the Decorations Committee. Please check HK Project Graduation website dates/times and location at High school.

Chaperones needed: Please contact Sue Craffey at jcraffey@snet.net or 860-345-3908 or Marianna LaRosa at malarosa@comcast.net if you are able to help out with chaperoning for a few hours on the evening of Monday, June 20, 2011 (depending on more snow days). We need lots of volunteers to help make this event a success.

Food volunteers: Please contact Stacey Grimaldi at ssgrimaldi@comcast.net or Joan Cizek at joancizek@comcast.net if you are able to help making phone calls and/or picking up food at local businesses.

Clean up Volunteers: Please contact Laura Roman at Landdroman@aol.com or 860-345-3583 if you are able to help out with clean up. All volunteers will be greatly appreciated.

HK Project Graduation is continuing with the **recycling fundraiser** so please look for the green bins in all of RSD 17 schools, Haddam Town Hall Brainerd Library, Killingworth Town Hall, Killingworth transfer station & Killingworth Library. Please consider donating used cell phones, ink jet cartridges, digital cameras, laptops, etc. Any questions, feel free to contact Kathy Strom, 860-345-3398 or KSSTROM@aol.com. Updates will be added to the Project Graduation link on the district website.

Our meetings are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Lower Media Center. The dates are as follows: 4/12/11, 5/10/11 and 6/14/11. Come and join the fun on the Project Graduation Committee!!!

PTO Basket Raffle

A special THANK YOU to all who have contributed to the PTO Basket Raffle! Because of your generosity, we were able to put together a total of 16 baskets to raffle off on May 10th during the Art Show. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1.00 per ticket. Please visit our table located in the gym while admiring our young artists' creations!



May Is National Physical Fitness Month

Why dedicate an entire month to teaching and motivating people about the benefits of exercise? In short, exercise increases your quality of life. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College of Sports Medicine, "Every U.S. adult should accumulate 30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days of the week."

Some interesting statistics on the Benefits of Exercise include:

- Burning 1,000 calories a week can lower your stroke risk by 24%
- Coronary heart disease caused 476,124 deaths in 1996. Exercising for 14 minutes, 5 days per week can decrease your death risk from CHD by 46 percent.
- Regular exercise decreases breast cancer risk by 20 percent.
- Unfit men are 80 percent more likely to die of cancer than fit men.

By exercising regularly you're apt to work better, sleep better and be more alert and energetic than inactive individuals. Benefits of exercise include: higher metabolism and weight loss, lower blood pressure, lower risk of heart attack and stress relief.

Tips to add activity to your day: Walk as much as possible. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. When walking somewhere, take the "long way." Skip the *drive-through* and *walk in*. Join local clubs/sports teams. The secrets to gaining health benefits from exercise are exercise regularly, exercise at a brisk pace, and try to exercise for at least 30 minutes at a time. *VT*

We will kick off the month of May at Haddam Elementary by participating in Jump Rope for Heart from May 4th & 5th during your child's P.E. class. Please come in and get a great workout for a great cause. Please visit their website for details: <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2360>.

We will also be participating in Project ACES on Wednesday, May 4, 2011. Millions of school children all over the globe will be exercising simultaneously in a symbolic gesture of fitness and unity to show the world that they do not fit into that negative stereotype of being "physically unfit".

During recess students will again have the opportunity to participate in the KiDSMARATHON. This is a great way for them to get active, learn about themselves and have fun.

We will also be celebrating Physical Fitness Month with a host of other activities as well. Please remember to ask your child what they did during P.E. that week so they can share their experiences with you as well.

Field Day will take place this year on Friday, June 10th. If you would like to volunteer to help out on that day please contact me at bergantino77@rsd17.org. We are going with a Using Your Noodle theme this year and it promises to be a blast for all involved. Thanks again.

-Tony Bergantino



HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Warm Weather Student Dress Code/Guidelines

We expect students to dress appropriately and attend to matters of personal hygiene to avoid distracting themselves (or others) from the business of school. All clothing and accessories must be free of offensive signs, slogans or language and not promote or refer to alcohol or illegal substances.



Shirts/Blouses

No strapless, swimming apparel, bare midriff or excessively low-cut tops are allowed. Tank tops are discouraged, but if worn must have straps at least 2 inches wide. No spaghetti straps. Basketball-type jerseys or "muscle" shirts should be worn with a t-shirt.

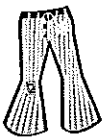


Shorts/Skirts

No short-shorts or micro-mini skirts are allowed.

All shorts and skirts must be at least mid-thigh length (*roughly a student's own hand length above the knee when seated*). Longer skirts/dresses should not have splits that go above mid-thigh.

No spandex biking shorts allowed. Basketball shorts are discouraged, but not prohibited. (It is helpful when students are neatly dressed for school, rather than for sports, unless it is a P.E. day).



Pants

No low-rider pants or unbelted baggy pants that expose underwear.



Footwear

Absolutely no flip-flops, loose-fitting sandals, or high heels are allowed. (This creates a real hazard when students have to walk up and down stairs) Students should wear comfortable, safe footwear at all times. (Students should be able to play at recess or make a quick exit in the event of an emergency).



Accessories

The following should not be worn indoors: sunglasses, hats/caps or head scarves/bandanas. Dangling chain-like belts, heavy necklaces/chains or large hoop earrings should not be worn. (These items can easily get caught on or in something and cause the child serious injury).



MAY BUCKET FILLERS

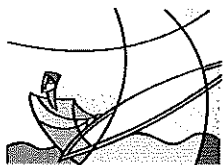
The theme we are focusing on for the month of May is **HAVING A POSITIVE ATTITUDE**. Having a positive attitude means being optimistic, looking for solutions, constructive thinking and being friendly. When someone has a positive attitude it is usually contagious!!



EMAILS

Teachers really appreciate receiving your emails, however, if there is a sub in the classroom, the sub does not have access to that email. In order to be sure all messages are received, please include the office as well so that the message(s) can be passed on under these circumstances.. Thank you.
Chapman77@rsd17.org or [Halls 77@rsd17.org](mailto:Halls77@rsd17.org).

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY !



Upcoming Events

MAY 5 TH	PTO - STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON
MAY 10 TH	ART SHOW - 6:30 PM
MAY 12 TH	4 TH GRADE CHORUS CONCERT - ALL PURPOSE ROOM - 6:30PM
MAY 18 TH	INCOMING KINDERGARTEN PARENT ORIENTATION - ALL PURPOSE ROOM - 6:30PM
MAY 23	PTO MEETING - ALL PURPOSE ROOM - 6:45 PM
MAY 25	KINDERGARTEN - EARLY DISMISSAL AT 12PM
MAY 25	INCOMING KINDERGARTEN - SCAVENGER HUNT - 2PM
MAY 26	4 TH GRADE COMBINED BAND CONCERT - HKMS - 6:30PM
MAY 27	EARLY DISMISSAL - ALL STUDENTS - 1:05 PM
MAY 30	NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 31	INCOMING KINDERGARTEN SCREENING

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.