



# DOLPHIN TIMES

## HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



OCTOBER, 2011

*Dr. Janice Harris*  
*Principal*

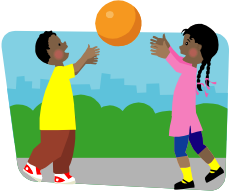
### *Principal Notes:*

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. During the week of Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, you will have an opportunity to participate in parent/teacher conferences to get a chance 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. (We will have early dismissal on October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> to accommodate conferences.) As has been the tradition on conference weeks, our PTO is running our annual Scholastic Book Fair in our portable classroom. Thanks to **Sue Twachtman** and all the volunteers, this is again shaping up to be a huge success! Be sure to stop by before or after your parent conference.

October 14<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day at HES, we will have a visit in the morning from the Haddam Volunteer Fire Department. Students will have an opportunity to take a look at a fire truck and learn more about fire safety. Later that evening, we will have the annual HES Hoe Down. This event requires an incredible amount of coordination. My thanks go to chairperson, **Dawn Macleod**, and to all those who will volunteer for the event. It is sure to be another successful evening!

Other fun events this month include two PTO-sponsored Halloween costume parades. The first will take place on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm at the Saybrook of Haddam. Students will be interacting with the residents of this retirement community and bringing smiles to many faces! Thanks to **Paula Bucko** for initiating the idea and to **Theresa Malone** for coordinating the event. Additionally, on Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm, students can don their costumes again for a parade at the school. We appreciate **Dawn Macleod** for volunteering to run the evening again this year.

October 31<sup>st</sup> will be a school-wide "Pajama Day". Students may wear their favorite PJs to school (with safe footwear, of course). PTO is working on booking a cultural arts program for that afternoon. Enjoy the rest of your month!



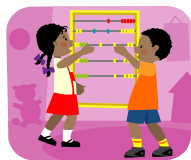
### **Kindergarten News**

October in Kindergarten will be busy. We have begun a new math chapter on patterning. We have learned the letters m, r, and s. We keep looking for words in our surroundings that begin with those letters! We have also been working on rhyming words and playing some rhyming games together. ~ Mrs. Raczka, Mrs. Pommer, Mrs. Aithal



### **First Grade News**

We have been very busy learning about different short vowel word families, sorting words, reading books, and writing stories. We are studying the life cycle of an ant and we are learning a great deal about these little insects...just ask us! In math, we have examined different kinds of patterns and we compared and ordered numbers using words like "greater" and "fewer." We are working with number bonds from 5-10. 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. ~ Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. French, Ms. Fagan



### **Second Grade News**

Second graders have been very busy learning about the holidays. During the month of October we will learn about Christopher Columbus and begin our science unit on seeds. We will be collecting seeds and identifying how they travel. In writing we will be working on using the five senses to describe the setting of the story. In math we are practicing our math facts and learning how to solve story problems. We are teaching the children how to identify the type of story problem and how to "show their thinking" through the use of pictures and graphic organizers. In reading we are continuing to work on word identification and comprehension strategies. We look forward

to meeting with you next week at parent conferences to learn more about your child from you and to share the progress he/she has made these first few weeks of school.

~Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Foisie, Mrs. Jones



### Third Grade News

In third grade we are working on our reading endurance. Third graders should be reading to themselves or a family member every night for at least 15 minutes. In math, we are exploring place value and working on solving complex word problems. Students should recall addition and subtraction facts to 20 immediately in order to support math success. In Science, we are finishing our recycling unit and starting our geography and five community needs unit. ~ Mrs. Leavitt, Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Masci



### FOURTH GRADE

Autumn is here, and the fourth grade is busy! In math, students are learning about place value and rounding. All students in math have also improved their fact fluencies and should continue to practice their addition, subtraction, and multiplication facts. Students are learning about geography in Social Studies and erosion and soil in Science. The fourth grade teachers would like to thank all of the parents and care givers of our students for attending our Curriculum Night, and we are looking forward to seeing you all again at conferences on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. ~Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Pecoraro, Mr. Davey



### BUCKET FILLERS

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!!!



When dropping off students please remember to use the crosswalk. Thank you!

## **LOOK WHAT WE GOT!!**

.....*an introduction from our new staff and newly filled positions*

**Ms. Fagan**: Before I became a first grade teacher, I worked as a kindergarten paraprofessional here at Haddam Elementary school for three years. I have studied Elementary Education and Special Education at Central Connecticut State University.

**Mrs. Pinone**: Prior to joining the HES team, I was an English Language Learner tutor in the Glastonbury Public School system for 6 years; and for 3 years as an early intervention reading tutor. I live in Glastonbury with my husband John and my 4 children; Elizabeth, John, Catherine and Luke. I love to spend time with my family and I enjoy reading and going to the beach.

**Mrs. Pecoraro**: is thrilled to be re-joining the HES family as a member of the Fourth Grade Team. She brings with her superlative recommendations from her work in Guilford and Middletown, as well as the overwhelming support of staff and parents here at HES. Mrs. P. is committed to facilitating each student's learning and to EMPOWER them to succeed.

**Miss MacDonald**: I am excited to be a part of the HES Staff and am working with third and fourth grade. I am a University of Connecticut graduate and earned my Master's Degree from Southern Connecticut State University.

**Mr. Dalton**: Jon comes to HES with over 35 years of experience in the custodial field as well as holding several educational degrees . We are glad Jon has joined our team!

**Mrs. Goodison**: I enjoy being a Math Specialist Teacher at Regional School District 17. I have had the pleasure of also being a Classroom, and Reading Teacher in the District for several years now. My husband and I have 3 children ages 6, 5, and 3, and a dog named Winston. I look forward to continue working with the students at HES.

**Mrs. Papallo**: I have 14 years of nursing experience and I am very happy in my new role as school nurse at HES. I live in Haddam with my husband and our 10 year-old daughter. My favorite hobbies are spending time with my family, boating, traveling and cooking!

**Mrs. Granucci:** I am thrilled to be working at Haddam Elementary after teaching for 16 years at KES, 23 at BES! I live in Killingworth with the famous Art Teacher, Mr. Granucci, and our 3 children, Drew, Jill and Liam.

**Math Support Update**

Haddam Elementary has purchased Symphony Math again this year. Symphony Math is a research-based computer program designed to provide practice in foundational math concepts and skills. It is a valuable tool in our intervention process and gives your child additional support in number and computation concepts.

Symphony Math can be used at home. You need to have internet access and download the program. Directions for how to download and begin will be distributed at Parent-Teacher conferences. Feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns regarding Symphony or math in general. Thank you!! Heather Rigatti, HES Math Support Teacher [rigatti66@rsd17.org](mailto:rigatti66@rsd17.org)



HES SCHOOL SPIRIT  
SUPPORT HK YOUTH & FAMILY  
SERVICES

FRIDAY, OCT. 7	<b>HAT DAY</b> - WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HAT! AS IN YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM OR DESTINATION.
FRIDAY, OCT. 14	<b>TEAM PRIDE</b> – WEAR YOUR FAVORITE SPORT/COLLEGE TEAM SHIRT.
FRIDAY, OCT. 21	<b>SCHOOL PRIDE</b> – WEAR BLUE & WHITE OR YOUR FAVORITE HES SHIRT OR ONE WITH A DOLPHIN ON IT!
FRIDAY, OCT. 28	<b>BLACK &amp; ORANGE DAY</b> – PREPARE FOR THE PUMPKIN RUN AND HALLOWEEN.

