

DECEMBER, 2008

NEWSLETTER



Dr. JANICE HARRIS
Principal



PRINCIPAL'S NOTES

In last month's message I talked about our focus on providing a strong academic foundation that meets the need of all learners in the context of educating "the whole child". A recent article that I read talks about defining excellence in terms of the traditional "3Rs" (reading, writing & arithmetic) and the "other 3Rs": reasoning, resilience and responsibility ("*Excellence for All*", Sternberg, *Educational Leadership*, October 2008 Vol. 66, No. 2). The "other 3Rs" are important to nurturing the lifelong learners that we hope our children will become. Here is a quick explanation of the other 3Rs as described in that article:

Reasoning includes helping students to: think powerfully to generate new and powerful ideas; think critically to analyze their ideas and those of their classmates; think practically to implement the ideas and persuade others of their value; think wisely to ensure that the ideas help build a common good.

Resilience refers to persistence in achieving goals despite the obstacles life places in our way. Resilience involves the willingness to defy the crowd in thinking and actions—to take the road less traveled. Resilient children take the opportunity to mediate their own learning and problem-solving by taking the initiative to question, suggest, observe, and imitate. Resilience is an important component of academic excellence because it helps students to cope when things don't go their way. They realize that doing well is a function of effort, not just intelligence.

Responsibility covers the ethical and moral dimension of development. Four components are particularly important for our children: Ethics—distinguishing right from wrong; Wisdom—forging or following a path that represents a common good and balances your own interests with those of others; Care—genuine understanding of and empathy for others' well-being that goes beyond an intellectual sense that you should care; Right action—not only knowing the right thing to do, but doing it.

As a school community we can work to help our children with all the "Rs". Our next book for the Afternoon Tea & Book Talk is, "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids" by Sean Covey. Through the use of adventures by the story characters in Seven Oaks, students learn lessons from how they can take charge of their own lives to how important balance is in their lives. This book is a "read together" book for you and your child. When we get together on **January 27th at 4:00pm**, I would love to hear how your child reacted to this book.

Also, at the last PTO meeting, parents requested that we bring back our workshops on such things as "Fostering Respect & Independence", "Helping with Homework" & "Early Reading Skills". Teachers are excited to begin working on some of these ideas in the New Year. We should have more information about this in next month's newsletter. This newsletter we have brought back the "Read & Respond Together parent-student challenge. Please read a book with your child and then answer this month's reading response questions. We will select 5 responses to be published in next month's newsletter.

December offers a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the year's accomplishment and make plans for the start of a new year. In a couple of weeks you will be receiving your child's 1st term report card for this academic year. Please use this opportunity to first recognize your child's accomplishments

and then help him/her set realistic goals for the next marking period. Support your child's plan for improvement by helping him/her to maintain good study and homework habits.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy holiday season!

NEW ADDITION TO OUR HES FAMILY

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Michelle Wright, to our Speech/Language staff. Ms. Wright will be at Haddam Elementary on Thursdays.



CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION

If a bus change is needed for your child, the parent must call the bus garage to insure that there is sufficient seating on that particular bus. (Please see Student Handbook p.2) A note must also be written by the parent with all the pertinent information which will go to the teacher first, then the office for documentation, and finally back to your child to hand to the bus driver at dismissal. Your cooperation is appreciated.



HADDAM FOOD BANK

Haddam Elementary Teachers and Staff invite you to consider food donations after the holidays when stocks are depleted. Contact the HES Office for details.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

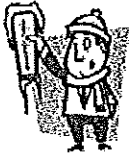
The holidays are fast approaching and despite the fact that this is a celebratory time for many, we also realize that it can present a hardship for others. In our effort to be a true Haddam School Family, we wanted to let you know that there are numerous services/resources available to those who struggle this time of year. Those services and resources can be accessed through our school social worker Stacey Rossignol, our school nurse Jennifer Pletcher, and our school psychologist Lois Schoenberg. These services and resources may include non perishable food items, hygiene supplies, clothing and holiday gifts for children. There are no eligibility criteria. All requests are kept completely confidential.

Please feel free to call Jennifer Pletcher, Stacey Rossignol, or Lois Schoenberg at 860-345-4551.



GEOGRAPHY IN FIRST GRADE

Mrs. Reynold's 1st Graders are involved in a postcard exchange with classes from many of the states across America. The children are having a great time learning about the different states and trying to find where they are located on the United States map.



THERE'S A CHILL IN THE AIR

As the weather turns colder (temps below 50°) we ask that your child be dressed appropriately for school by wearing winter coats, mittens, hats, etc. Students not wearing coats will not be allowed outside. When snow is present on the playground, the children who bring in snow pants, boots and gloves will be allowed to play in the snowy areas of the playground. Those children who do not come dressed for the snow will have to stay on the blacktop area of the playground. Also, please remember to label all articles of clothing sent in with your child. We would like your child to fully participate in recess and enjoy their time outside!



NOTES FROM THE NURSE

This month I wanted to talk about cold and flu season and ways to decrease the risk for infection. Here is a little acronym:

NO GERMS

Never share cups, food, eating utensils or combs
Only eat healthy snacks

Get a good night's sleep

Eat Breakfast—the most important meal of the day

Remember to wash your hands often. This includes after using a tissue, after the bathroom and before meals and snacks

Minimize stress. Try to plan some down time in your day for your family

Sneeze and cough into your elbow or a tissue to avoid spreading germs.

Show this to your children. It is a fun way to learn how to prevent the spread of germs. Remember my door is always open for questions, comments, and concerns. Also, the annual vision and hearing screenings are complete on each student. I have been contacting parents if a problem is identified. If I have sent paperwork home to you and have not heard back from you, please contact me to let me know if your child has seen a specialist. The cold weather is fast approaching. Please keep this in mind when sending your child to school. Remember coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. Students will go outside daily for recess and generally spend at least 15-20 minutes on the playground. Let's make sure they are appropriately dressed.

MUSIC NEWS ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

The Haddam Elementary School Fourth Grade Chorus has been practicing enthusiastically for their concert which will take place on MONDAY, December 15th at 6:30 PM in the All Purpose Room. The "dress rehearsal" will be held during school that day at 2:15. It is a special occasion. Students, please dress in "Sunday Best" for the evening 6:30 performance and arrive in the music room by 6:15. All 4th grade students have a part in this concert. Attendance is expected.

****A volunteer is needed for videotaping. Please email Mrs. Mortensen at mortensen77@rsd17.org if you can help in this capacity.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: MENTORING PROGRAM

Our **Haddam-Killingworth Mentor** program coordinator Ernest Nagler has informed me that there have been many unfilled requests for new mentors for students in our schools this semester. As we begin the holiday season please consider bringing some joy & excitement to a youngster next semester. Contact Central Office or Ernest directly to volunteer, to learn more about the program or to sign up for our mentor workshops.

EXPAND YOUR UNIVERSE
MENTOR A CHILD

NATIONALMENTORINGMONTH.ORG

START the holiday season by
'giving back' to our youth! Volunteer to be a
mentor today & contact Ernest Nagler @
HK Mentor Naglere55@RSD17.org or call
HK Central office @345-4534 ext 418



Read & Respond Together
(Due December 18th, 2008)

Read a book with your child and respond to the question below.

Name of Book: _____

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

How are you the same or different from a character in the story? (Give an example from the story to support your thinking.)



IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER 15 TH	4 TH GR. CHORUS, 6:30 PM IN ALL PURPOSE ROOM
DECEMBER 23 ^d	HOLIDAY SING-A-LONG @ 10:30 a.m./APR EARLY DISMISSAL STUDENTS (1:05) & STAFF
DECEMBER 24 - JAN. 2	HOLIDAY RECESS
JANUARY 5, 2009	CLASSES RESUME

REMINDER

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.

Helping
Help Us Grow Strong
Kids

What do you do when "time-out" doesn't work?

How do I make it through the "terrible 2's and 3's"?

What to do when your positive
reinforcements/incentives stop working

Come learn some positive ways to deal with these situations and more!

The HK Early Childhood Council, invites you to their first Helping Kids
parent workshop...

Positive Parenting

December 8, 2008

7:00-8:00 PM

Central Office (The old HK Middle School building) 57 Little City Road
Higganum, CT

A panel of local professionals will discuss their expertise in the area of positive discipline. Presenters will focus their advice on children ages birth to five. There will be a question and answer time for parents, allowing a discussion of your specific needs.

There is no cost for the workshop and valuable resources will be available.

Mom and Dad come together and take advantage of the
free childcare available in the HK Cubs room down the hall from the workshop!

Please RSVP to Heather Conti at hkhhelpingkids@yahoo.com or (203) 314-9925
Helping Kids is a Middlesex United Way Grant for the town of Haddam and Killingworth

December 2008

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1 Choice of: Meatball Grinder w/ cheese or Chicken nuggets Baby carrots with dip Pears	2 Choice of: Shells w/ marinara or meat sauce or Mini Corn Dogs Green Peas Pineapple	3 Choice of: French Toast Sticks w/ Turkey bacon or Hamburg on Bun Hash Browns Orange wedges	4 Choice of: Chicken Fryz or Grilled Cheese Chicken Noodle Soup Green Beans Peaches	5 Choice of: Pepperoni Pizza Or Baked Fish Sandwich Curley Fries Cole Slaw
8 Choice of: Chicken Teriyaki or Hot Dog White Rice Oriental Vegetables Fruit	9 Choice of: Cheese Ravioli Or Chicken Party Sandwich Broccoli Mixed Fruit	10 Choice of: Pancakes or Scrambled Eggs Bacon ½ Orange	11 Choice of: Cheese Calzone w/ marinara Sauce or Chicken Tenders Mashed Potatoes Peas, Fruit	12 Choice of: Pizza or BLT Wrap Tomato soup Choice of Fruit
15 Choice of: Cheeseburger on Bun Or BBQ Chicken French Fries Corn	16 Choice of: Turkey OR Chicken Strips w/ side macaroni and Cheese, Fresh Veggies with Dip, Frozen Treat	17 Choice of: Scrambled Eggs or Waffles Sausage Muffin peaches	18 Choice of: Chicken Parmesan w/ spaghetti or Cheese Quesadilla Mixed Vegetable Pears	19 Choice of: Pizza Or Hot Ham and Cheese Grinder Side Salad Pineapple
22 Choice of: Baked Macaroni and Cheese or Steak and Cheese Grinder Potato Wedges Carrots	23. Taco Boat or Popcorn Chicken Green Beans, Tater Tots Chilled Peaches	24 HOLIDAY RECESS STARTS	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26

These items are available daily: Fresh fruit, canned fruit & 100% fruit juice; One choice of milk: skim, 2%, whole or chocolate;
 Chef salad. This menu is in full compliance with and meets all USDA regulations on school menu initiatives for healthy children.
 If you have any questions, please call Sharon at 345-4534, ext. 421. Alternate choices are available daily.
 Menu is subject to change without notice.



Sandwich Selections

- 1 Tuna w/ I&T on Roll
- 2 Salamoni and Cheese on wheat
- 3 Pepperoni and cheese on Bun
- 4 Turkey and Cheese on White
- 5 Ham and Cheese on wheat
- 8 Roast Beef on a bun
- 9 Bologna & cheese w/ L&T on white
- 10 Ham and cheese on rye
- 11 Egg salad w/ L&T on a bun
- 12 Turkey & cheese on 100% wheat
- 15 Bologna w/ L&T on Italian bread 16
- 16 Pepperoni and cheese on Bun
- 17 Ham and Cheese on white
- 18 Egg salad on 100% whole wheat
- 19 Cold cut combo grinder
- 22 Bologna on white
23. Tuna wrap w I&T

