On November 10, 2014 we were proud to continue the wonderful tradition of honoring our Veterans. The students and teachers took the opportunity to salute all currently active and veteran members of the Armed Forces. A large group of veterans were able to join us for this celebration of thanks, and they were treated to several outstanding performances by our students. Several veterans also joined our fourth grade students in their classrooms after the program for a more detailed conversation. I would like to thank the staff members at KES who spent many hours in preparation for this important event.

I would also like to extend a thank you to the many parent volunteers, led by the work of Joe Lenart, who helped with our fall Beautification Day. Our property is completely prepared for what we hope is a mild winter, however I suspect that may not be the case this year. The opportunity for the students to work on their own school grounds adds to the pride they have in this special school community.

Throughout the month of November, our students and staff continued to grow as readers and writers. In workshop, the beginning portion of the year was spent building good habits as readers and the flexible use of strategies while reading in both fiction and non-fiction. Our more experienced students spent time studying characters and following the characters into the reading by envisioning, predicting, synthesizing, and interpreting. Please continue to encourage good reading and writing habits at home, especially through the holiday season.

As December approaches, I want to wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season. Take time to be with your family and friends and enjoy the many traditions that this time of the year brings. Most importantly, thank you for your continued support and trust as you send us your children each day. Have a great month.

Dennis J. Reed
Principal
From the Health Office
Happy Thanksgiving to all!!

There is little “illness news” to share from the KES health office which is a GREAT thing! No major viruses “going around,” no outbreaks of any kind, absentee rate due to sickness is still low….ALL IS WELL!!!

As we approach December with its colder weather and chance of snow, be sure your kids are prepared for outdoor recess. Throw the boots in too so they can have some fun in the snow!! Those 20 minutes outside is so good for the children!

One quick reminder - PLEASE notify me if you discover head lice on your kids. Our prevention and management procedures for lice have changed over the years. As your school nurse I know that head lice DO NOT carry disease nor is a case of head lice a public health threat. RSD#17 school nurses act in accordance with evidence-based guidelines from the CDC and the Academy of Pediatrics. Children should not have to miss school days due to lice. In the elementary schools we still send home the district pediculosis letter to families of classmates of a child with head lice while maintaining confidentiality. I also monitor cases and provide education to students, parents and staff regarding myths and facts of head lice infestation and transmission.

Stay well!!

Nancy Chase, RN

Students and staff brought in over 1,200 non-perishable food items last month during our Fall Food Drive. Helping Hands of Killingworth was thrilled with our donation and would like to thank everyone who donated. We had a “competition” among the grade levels, and the students waited every morning to hear the new totals. Kindergarten and third grade went back and forth between first and second place, but kindergarten ended up bringing in the most items with 417 items. Thank you to everyone who sent something in. (On a side note, 121 items had to be disposed of because of expired dates. Otherwise, we would have had close to 1,500 items to donate!)
On Monday, November 10th, thirty-five Veterans were honored at Killingworth Elementary School during our annual Veterans Day Program. Each grade level from K-4 took part in the program. Two of our visiting veterans, along with their grandchildren, led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. 

Letters from Home was read by fourth grade students, and third grade students read from and performed America’s White Table. The history of Veterans Day was explained by students in second grade, while first grade students read the poem KES Heroes. The kindergarten students sang Yankee Doodle. Fourth grade students and select chorus also sang special patriotic songs to the veterans. Veterans from Mystic to Torrington, and as far away as West Virginia, were in attendance. At the conclusion of the program, several of the veterans participated in a question and answer session in each of the fourth grade classrooms.
Grade K-4 students are finishing up their autumn and Thanksgiving projects, and we are now transitioning into the holiday and winter season. As always, there is excitement in the air, educational discussion and art projects being created in the art room. The fourth grade students will be starting their holiday nutcrackers, third grade students will be working on their holiday snow globes, second grade students will be creating a clay snowman, first grade students will start a felt holiday collage project and kindergarten students will be creating a clay holiday ornament. I hope all families at KES have a wonderful holiday.

Band members are making great progress, especially those who practice AT LEAST three to five days each week. Parents, please remember to take a look at your son’s or daughter’s practice log and initial it. All third grade students should be playing three-note recorder songs by now. Please encourage at least five minutes of practice at home. Once again, our KES Winter Concert will take place on December 9th at 6:30. The concert dress code is black bottom/white top. Mark your calendars now so there will be no disappointments.

Greetings from the Physical Education department!!!!! I hope everyone has an enjoyable Thanksgiving with their friends and family!!

Our third and fourth grade students are learning the basic fundamentals of volleyball at this writing. They are learning hits such as serving, bumping and setting the ball to teammates. Instead of a normal size volleyball, we are using an oversized beach ball. I have found that the beach ball stays in the air longer and is easier to hit which promotes success for all students. We will gradually move onto the different court positions, rotations, scoring and game play. I would like to thank Tristan Schemmerling for donating his badminton net which we will be using in class.

Second grade students are working on game fundamentals and strategies that apply, always promoting teamwork and sportsmanship. We are trying to get outside for part of the class to get some fresh air while we still can!

First grade students are fully engaged in the Finklehopper program! We are getting some excellent journal adventures each week and look forward to each report!

Kindergarten students are learning how to jump rope; we have some pretty good jumpers, and they all are working hard at this challenging skill!

You might have noticed that we have new sports decals on our newly painted gym walls - I would like to thank the PTO for purchasing them for the school. They really brighten up the gym and the students seem to enjoy them.

That’s all for now…..stay warm!!!!!
Registration for students who will be entering kindergarten in RSD#17 schools in 2015 will be held on Thursday, January 15th from 9:00-7:00 and Friday, January 16th from 9:00-3:00. Children do not need to be present at the time of registration.

Pupils eligible to enter kindergarten in 2015 must reach their fifth birthday by January 1, 2016. Original birth certificates must be presented before students start school. Proof of residence is also required. Please bring them at the time of registration if possible. Acceptable forms of proof of residence include deed or current mortgage bill, homeowners policy, rental agreement, bank statement, current paystub - we have a complete list in the office. Parent orientation and school visitation dates will be provided at registration.

Kindergarten students enjoy apples from Blue Hill Orchard in Wallingford during Farm to School week last month. Every student in the school received an apple in celebration of this week.
The library continues to be a busy place! Third and fourth grade students have been continuing to learn about internet safety. They are creating digital posters, podcasts and videos to share internet safety tips they’ve learned with the greater school community. First and second grade students have been continuing to learn research skills. They will continue learning how to take notes and share what they’ve learned in a variety of ways. Students in kindergarten have been learning about holidays, and we’ve been sharing good fiction and non-fiction books. Don’t forget to check out the library website for links to resources such as PebbleGo, World Book Online and We Give Books.org. The library website address is http://bhklibraries.weebly.com.

Happy Reading,
Mrs. Kohs
Mrs. Hosking

PebbleGo access from home: Go to pebblego.com and log-in
PebbleGo Animals: Username = burrdes, Password = read
PebbleGo Social Studies: Username = hesread, Password = read
Wegivebooks.org: (Free ebooks to read online. Great choices!)
Username = keskids, Password = keskids

Happy Holiday Season! November brought the beginning of developmental guidance lessons for Kindergarten and second grade students. These lessons will continue in December as the holidays and surrounding activities shift our schedules a bit. Kindergarten students learned about my role in the building and how I help students. We read a silly book, “How to Lose All Your Friends,” by Nancy Carlson and discussed what good friends do, are and say. In December, students will hear a story by one of my favorite authors, Todd Parr, called “It’s Okay to Be Different” and write and draw pictures of what makes them special. Second grade students can tell you all about their growth mindset and how they can do hard things and challenge their brain to make it grow! We discussed setting goals that will help grow our brains without being too hard and practiced by setting a goal to improve a behavior in the classroom. Students also learned about distractors both inside and outside our brains and how we can use distractor blasters to stay focused and work hard. Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday - Ms. Nash

Español

We have been studying holidays and cultural celebrations from Día de los Muertos to Thanksgiging. We are discussing holiday products and practices, such as the foods we eat and the way we decorate our houses. Grade one and two continue to work on mastering entry level vocabulary such as colors and numbers, while grade three and four are studying family members and rooms in the house. Third graders are beginning to respond in full sentences, and fourth graders are beginning to write sentences!
Kindergarten students had a wonderful time at our kindergarten feast. Thanks to all the parents who helped make this event so special! This month during reading workshop we will continue to work on using our “super powers” to figure out tricky words. During writing workshop we will return to writing true stories, doing our best to make them easier to read by adding more letters to words and leaving spaces between each word. Our next math unit focuses on counting, matching and comparing numbers 1-20. Kindergarten students are also very excited about some special holiday activities we will be doing in December!

Students will enjoy the narrated version of the book, “The Polar Express,” in December. They will be able to bring in their pajamas and enjoy hot cocoa while watching the film. Due to limited space, this activity is for students only. First graders will also enjoy learning about holidays around the world during the holiday rotation week beginning December 16th. As a culminating activity, students and families will create a holiday decoration on December 19th at 2:00 in the AP Room.

Second graders have enjoyed the start of our first Science unit on solids and liquids. Students will continue learning different properties of both solids and liquids over the coming weeks. Also, second grade has been working on the important skill of note taking. They have been doing this while taking a virtual field trip back in time to the first Thanksgiving. Students have been using a Scholastic interactive website to learn, gather and compare notes about the Wampanoag Tribe and the Pilgrims. During our reading and writing time, we have started new units that have returned us to fiction. Our unit in reading will focus on getting to know characters and their stories. Our writing unit entails creating gripping stories.
Students have furthered their learning about ecosystems through the study of how environmental pollutants can affect a land environment. The students are extending their knowledge of nonfiction texts and learning many new facts and exciting information about a variety of informational topics. They will soon be starting their next science unit *Changes in Matter* where they will investigate properties of solids, liquids and gases.

Mrs. Brustman's Class will be participating in the Senior Pen Pal program again this year. Her students have been writing letters to senior citizens in town. They will have their first meeting on December 3rd.

Students have furthered their learning about ecosystems through the study of how environmental pollutants can affect a land environment. The students are extending their knowledge of nonfiction texts and learning many new facts and exciting information about a variety of informational topics. The students are beginning a new unit of study in math involving customary and metric measures as well as working hard on the planning and creation of multi-paragraph opinion essays.

Hear what our kids have to say about our new Buddy Bench...
SNOW CANCELLATION PROCEDURES

The decision to cancel/delay school is made between 5-5:30 a.m.

1. Transportation gets the report from the State Police and Public Works.
2. RSD #17 Superintendent consults with Transportation, Director of Fiscal Operations, area town superintendents and Director of Facilities.
3. Weather conditions are reviewed using local and area media services.
4. A decision is made by the Superintendent using all available information.
5. School Messenger alert system is initiated.

If school is delayed, the start time will be at 10:40.

If school is dismissed early, the dismissal time will be at 1:05.

A decision to dismiss early will only be used when the threat of weather is predictable and probable. The logic here is as follows:

In some cases, we would be dismissing students during the height of road crews completing the treatment of the roads. It is always best to wait until treatments are completed to a certain level.

In some cases, we would be sending students home without anyone home and without advance notice. We respect the fact that many people work away from their homes.

H-KTV 2014 Holiday Show
Amanda Lisitano

Amanda Lisitano graduated from Haddam-Killingworth High School in 1997 and became a Preschool teacher for Environmental Sciences Magnet School in Hartford. She earned her masters degree while teaching and taking care of her three children, ages 2 - 8.

Amanda still resides in Higganum and is a long-time active member and former president of the Juniors Women’s Club. She has helped raise money for needy families in Haddam, helped her local food bank, obtained scholarships for H-K graduating seniors wanting to go on to college, and many more town projects.

In August of this year Amanda was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. The doctors told her she needed to take the year off from teaching to focus on her health.

This year, the H-K Holiday Show’s mission is to help Amanda’s family with medical expenses not covered by insurance, and also ease the burden of mortgage payments and other staple necessities.

Please consider supporting this year’s 26th annual Holiday Show which will broadcast live on December 23rd from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
School policy states if your child is absent due to illness and there is an evening event, the student is not permitted to attend the event.

If your child is going to the after-school program (or any rec. dept. program) you MUST send in a note to the teacher.

We currently have 85 Stop & Shop cards registered with KES as their designation. Have you registered your card? If not, please log into www.stopandshop.com/aplus and select Customer Registration. Our ID number is 07499.

Coffee Talk

Tuesday, December 9th
11:00-12:00
KES Library

Are you a new parent still feeling a little confused about some things at KES?

The PTO will be sponsoring an informal coffee break to join new parents and some parents from our Welcome Wagon Committee to get some of those questions answered.

**ALL** parents are welcome! If you don’t have any nagging questions but want to meet some people, come out and have a cup of coffee with us!

If your child’s regular dismissal plan changes, you MUST send in a note to the teacher.
New to KES? Have questions about our school? Please join us on December 9th from 11am-12pm for coffee and a chance to ask any questions you may have. It’s also a great time to meet some other KES parents.

Our Square One Art Fundraiser items have been shipped and will arrive shortly. Thank you for participating and celebrating our little artists!

Please keep clipping those BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION and LABELS FOR EDUCATION! We have the ability to earn a lot of money, one 'top' at a time. Get your children involved too! Cutting and gluing the box tops is great for those fine motor skills.

Want to be more involved in your child's education? Are you unsure of what the PTO does? We would love to have you join us at our monthly meetings. They are the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm and are held in the KES music room. Please note: Due to the winter recess, our next PTO meeting will be January 27, 2015. We wish you and yours a safe, happy and healthy holiday season.

Visit the PTO website at http://www.rsd17.org/kes/index.shtml

Last month our Student Nutrition Ambassadors had the pleasure of tasting poached pears, chicken & wheat pasta with collard greens in a parmesan sauce and baked acorn squash.

Thank you Ian Gibson from Wellstone Farm in Higganum for donating the squash.

Keep an eye out for the pears and chicken on this month’s lunch menu. Yummy!
This time of year poses many challenges when it comes to keeping kids busy and active. Research (and common sense) tells us that young people who spend their time engaged in positive, healthy activities do better in school and develop a more positive sense of self-worth that can help them to avoid engaging in risky behaviors. In addition, we know that a connection to school is an important component for teens to develop a sense of belonging. Our schools offer many opportunities for kids to connect and engage, from sports and clubs to drama productions and community service opportunities.

Winter is a great time of year to encourage your child to find new hobbies and activities to get involved in. While the cold weather may discourage some from going outside for the typical winter activities such as skiing, snowball fights, skating and sledding, there are still plenty of fun activities to get involved in that don’t require a love of cold weather! The following is a small list of activities that can be fun any time of the year. Invite a friend or two to join you and spread the “health”!

- Join a school sponsored sport team or club
- Head out to an indoor rock climbing gym
- Go roller-skating - Go bowling - Go ice skating at an indoor rink
- Have an air hockey table in your home? Invite some of your kid’s friends over and hold a tournament!
- Have Wii or Xbox? Borrow Just Dance or other exercise or active video from the library and have a Dance party!
- Visit a museum or attend a concert - Pick a book and do a family read - Start a book club with friends
- Take an art, dance or martial arts class or learn how to play an instrument
- Look for service project opportunities that get teenagers excited, but that also teach them positive values

What else can you think of? Be creative!

Interest in sports, music or performing arts are important nutrients that fuel a strong sense of accomplishment, belonging and social interaction. These experiences develop personal values and promote respect for self and others. This includes participation in youth programs, in faith-based institutions, at home and at school. Keep inviting your older teenagers to do things with you. While a part-time job is a great way to explore career opportunities and to develop a sense of competency and independence, try to limit the number of work hours per week to 15 hours or less during the school year so that academic performance does not suffer and to help create a sense of balance in your child’s life.

Whatever your family decides to do, make it fun and include the kids in the planning!

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**Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**

Bring your family and friends and come have breakfast with us and take a picture with Santa!

Sunday, December 7, 2014 from 8:00am-12:00pm at the Haddam Firehouse

Suggested pancake breakfast donation $5 child/student & $10 adults

Pancakes, Bacon, Sausage, Danish, Fruit, Coffee and Juice will be served

Donations benefit the Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition

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**Y&FS of H-K’s Annual Holiday Giving Program**

**November 3 - December 10**

This program is available for families in need that live in Haddam or Killingworth. New gifts and toys will be collected for children and youth from birth through age 18. **Deadline for registration is December 5, 2014.** For more information on this confidential program please call Deborah or Kate at Youth & Family Services at 345-7498.

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**Stuff-A-Cruiser Event** with the H-K Resident State Troopers will be two days this year:

**December 6th** from 2:00-5:00 at Parmeelee Farm, Route 81

**December 7th** from 10:00-1:00 at the Higganum Green and from 8:00-12:00 at the Haddam Firehouse

Please remember our teens during this holiday season as well as young children.

Deadline for donations is December 15, 2014.

If you need ideas, please call the Y&FS office at 860-345-7498
**Book Picks**

- **A Splash of Red: The Life and Art of Horace Pippin** (Jen Bryant)
  As a little boy, Horace made art with anything he could find, like leftover house paint and scraps of charcoal. This picture-book biography shows how he grew up to become a famous painter without ever taking art lessons. A true story about perseverance.

- **Pinduli** (Janell Cannon)
  A little hyena named Pinduli is teased about her looks by the other animals in the African savanna. Pinduli tries to hide her flaws and ends up accidentally teaching the zebra, the lion, the wild dogs—and herself—an important lesson about bullying.

- **We the Kids** (David Catrow)
  This book illustrates the preamble to the U.S. Constitution with pictures of three kids and a dog camping in the backyard. Using the ideas in the preamble, the campers follow rules and stay safe. An introduction to the Constitution that young readers can understand.

- **I Wish I Had Glasses Like Rosa** (Deborah Hembrook and Kathryn Helling)
  Glasses are cool! That's the message in this story about friends Abby and Rosa. Abby thinks Rosa looks beautiful in her glasses, so she finds ways to wear glasses, too—from safety glasses for building a birdhouse to goggles at the pool and even “glasses” she makes out of clay. (Also available in Spanish.)

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**Design and write**

Playing “print shop” is a great way for your child to practice writing. Try these ideas to encourage her to write for different purposes.

**Greeting cards**

Suggest that your youngster make a supply of birthday and holiday cards to give friends and relatives throughout the year. On the front of each, she can write a greeting (“Happy Birthday,” “Happy New Year”) and draw a picture. Then, help her write a sentence or verse inside (“I hope your birthday is fun!”). A more experienced writer might include a rhyming verse: “Roses are red, violets are blue. I’m excited to spend the New Year with you.”

**Award certificates**

Let your child make certificates in honor of family members’ accomplishments. Getting a promotion, completing a 5K race, performing a violin solo…all of these are cause for celebration. Write “Certificate of Achievement” at the top of a piece of paper. Your youngster can fill in the person’s name, the date, and the accomplishment. She could illustrate the award and hand it out at dinner.

**Signs**

Ask your child to create signs to hang around the house. She can start with her bedroom door (“Emma’s Room”) and your door (“Mom and Dad’s room”). Next, she might post “Cool stuff” on the refrigerator, “Knock, please” on the bathroom door, and “Children playing” in the family room.

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**Share reading**

Has your youngster ever read aloud to a baby? How about to a goldfish? Consider these suggestions to help him gain confidence—and have fun—reading out loud.

- **Younger kids.** If you attend a family gathering, encourage your child to take along favorite books. Younger cousins and siblings will love story time led by your youngster.

- **Animals.** Your child will get a kick out of reading to his pet, whether it’s a dog, cat, guinea pig, or goldfish. If he doesn’t have a pet, he might be able to read to one at a relative’s or neighbor’s home. Also, some animal shelters and libraries have programs where kids can read to dogs or cats.
Supporting a new reader

It's exciting when your child first begins to read. In addition to reading with him, here are three things you can do to help him make progress.

1. Talk about reading. Tell your youngster what you read today, whether it was a memo for work, instructions for a sewing project, or a magazine for pleasure. This shows him that reading is something grown-ups do, too.

2. Team up with teachers. Kids succeed with reading when parents and teachers work together. Find out whether your child is reading at the level his teacher expects this time of year. If he's below where he should be, ask what you could do at home to help.

3. Read, then write. Writing will help your youngster with reading, and vice versa. After he reads a book that he likes, suggest that he write and draw about his favorite part. You might help by giving him a fill-in-the-blank sentence to complete: "My favorite part was _______ because _______.

Q&A Gifts that teach

A few relatives have asked for suggestions of gifts to give my daughter. Can you recommend gifts that would help her with reading and writing?

Books always make great gifts. You could mention an author or a series that your daughter enjoys.

Other ideas include a picture dictionary for looking up spellings and definitions, journals and colorful pens to inspire writing, and board or card games that teach her about words. Small, portable family games are a good bet, too. They might try Spot It! Alphabet, Pairs in Pears, or Scrabble Slam. There are also board games based on favorite books, such as Goodnight Moon Game and The Very Hungry Caterpillar Game.

Finally, toys that encourage creativity and language can help her read and write. Consider asking relatives for items like finger puppets, flannel board sets, and storytelling dice.

All about alliteration

"Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers." This familiar tongue twister is an example of alliteration—all of the words begin with the same sound. Encourage your youngster to make up her own tongue twisters. She'll practice hearing beginning sounds in words and pronouncing words carefully.

First, have her pick a name—she'll probably want to start with her own. So Beth could use B. Then, ask her to think of a verb, or an action word (bouncing), and related words (basketball, basket). Together, arrange the words to make a tongue twister: "Beth bounces basketballs beneath the basket."

Who can say it the most times without messing up?

After she finishes laughing, let your child choose another name and make up another silly tongue twister.

Parent to Parent

My son, Lionel, loves to take pictures with my phone. One day, he saw me type a caption for a picture I posted on my blog, and he said he wanted to write captions for his photos, too.

I was glad he was interested in writing, so I had a few of his pictures printed at a local store. I let Lionel glue each photo on a sheet of paper, and then he wrote a caption beneath it. For the one showing our yard after a big snowstorm, he wrote, "We got four feet of snow!"

Now we print Lionel's favorite pictures, and he writes captions for them in a photo album. We keep it under our coffee table along with our other albums—Lionel is proud to show his pictures and his writing to friends who visit.