



**John Safina**  
Principal

**Douglas Totten**  
Assistant Principal

**Sarah Krebs**  
Special Education  
Coordinator

**October 6, 2011**

**NO SCHOOL FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2011**

**Ellis in the Electronic Age!**

This is our first newsletter that we are sending out electronically. Please make sure you have the correct email address on file. If you need paper copies they will be available in the lobby or contact the main office and we'll send it home.

**NECAP Testing**

The Fall NECAP tests in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing for Grades 3 through 8 were designed to measure your child's progress in meeting New Hampshire's Grade Level Expectations, or GLEs. The GLEs define the knowledge and skills a student should have mastered by the end of each school year. The Reading test includes short and long reading passages with related multiple choice and constructed response questions. The Mathematics test includes multiple choice, short answer, and constructed response questions. The Writing test includes multiple choice and constructed response questions, and a single extended writing prompt. A constructed response question requires students to show their work and/or explain their reasoning. Test results in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing will be available at the end of January 2012. Students in Grades 5 and 8 will be taking the Writing portion of the NECAP the week of October 17.

**Parent Forum**

The Parent Forum will meet monthly with the Ellis School Principal. The purpose of the Forum is for parents to be able to dialogue with the Principal on issues and concerns that will lead to improved student learning. This is an opportunity to provide input on decisions, feedback on programs, and make recommendations for improvements to the Principal. This year we will be alternating day and evening meetings monthly. **Our first meeting will be held on Friday, October 21, from 9:30 am until 10:30 am in the Library.**

**Upcoming Forums**

November 16	6:00 pm until 7:00 pm
December 16	9:30 am until 10:30 am
January 18	6:00 pm until 7:00 pm

*Future dates to be announced.*

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## Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week (RRW) takes place October 24 through October 28, and this year is coming to all grade levels at Ellis. This is a National program that began in 1988 to highlight our Nation's commitment to a safe, healthy, and drug-free lifestyle.

At the Elementary level, we focus on topics such as making good choices, being involved in positive activities, working as a community, and becoming good role models. Students in Kindergarten through Grade 2 will read the book The Red Ribbon - A Story of Hope by John Lasne. Students in Grades 3 and 4 will discuss the basic effects of drugs and alcohol, as well as making good choices even when faced with peer pressure. We will also demonstrate our commitment to making healthy choices across the curriculum by using the color red in Art, Math, Science and Literature projects. Even Café Services will participate by serving us an all-red lunch on the Friday of RRW!

Students in Grades 5 through 8 will view the movie, *All You Need to Know About Drugs and The Teen Brain in 17 Minutes* during their Gym / Wellness class. Based on the latest research, this scientific video explains why the teen years are a critical time for brain development. It also shows how drug use of any kind can derail the brain's full potential when it comes to critical thinking skills, memory, learning, and decision making. The history of Red Ribbon Week and why Ellis School participates in this event yearly will also be discussed.

All students who are caught participating in the RRW Spirit Days will earn a raffle ticket to be placed in a drawing to win exciting prizes. Classroom teachers will be encouraged to work with their homeroom students on a door decorating contest. The homeroom winner for the best door decoration celebrating the values of Red Ribbon Week will receive a pizza lunch party.

Each student will also plant a red tulip bulb around the school grounds to signify our commitment to a healthy lifestyle. In the Spring, these tulips will bloom and serve as a beautiful reminder to make good choices.

### Red Ribbon Week Spirit Days October 24 - 28

Monday - Wear as much RED as possible

Tuesday - "Sock It To Drugs" - wear your craziest socks

Wednesday - "Turn Your Back On Drugs" - wear your clothing backwards

Thursday - "Give Drugs The Boot" - wear your favorite boots

Friday - "Use Your Head, Not Drugs!" - wear a hat

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## OPERATION GRATITUDE

The Ellis School Student Council and Operation Gratitude, an organization committed to sending care packages to the men and women serving in the United States Military, presents **HALLOWEEN CANDY BUY BACK**. Have your child bring in their excess UNOPENED Halloween candy, and they will receive a spook-tacular gift bag in exchange from Mrs. Milner and Mrs. Smith, our School Nurses, filled with non-sugar treats and fun prizes!

Candy will be collected in the front lobby on Monday, October 31<sup>ST</sup>, and Tuesday, November 1<sup>ST</sup>. All candy will be sent to Operation Gratitude to be distributed to our honorable soldiers serving overseas.



## Important Dates

- October 4 - 6      **NECAP Testing**
- October 7        **No School-Teacher Workshop Day**
- October 10       **No School - Columbus Day**
- October 11       **Joint School Board Meeting 6:00 pm**
- October 14       **Progress Reports**
- October 19 - 21   **AMC Trip Grade 7**
- October 19 - 21   **NECAP Writing test - Grades 5 & 8**
- October 21       **Parent Forum 9:30 am**
- October 24 - 28   **Red Ribbon Week**

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