

March 9, 2007



Ellis School Newsletter

Issue 20

All articles for this weekly newsletter must be submitted no later than the Wednesday before the Friday issue. Please submit all articles to Kathie Richard at krichard@sau83.org

Dates to Remember:

- Mar. 10-School District Meeting 5pm
- Mar. 12-Sanborn Info Night
- Mar. 13-Eighth Grade Dinner Dance Meeting 7:00
- Mar. 16-No School
- Mar. 17-Town Meeting 5pm
- Mar. 23-Guest Writer for Elementary School

Ellis Middle School Creates a Chain of Kindness

Ellis Middle School students have started their own chain reaction after the Eighth graders attended Rachel's Challenge, a national program designed to encourage students to create a safer, kinder world. The program was offered at Sanborn Regional High School on Thursday February 8, 2006, and is based on an essay, "My Ethics, My Codes of Life," written by Rachel Joy Scott, the first student to die during the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, in 1999. Rachel's challenge to her generation is to show compassion and create a chain reaction of kindness by eliminating prejudice, daring to dream, choosing positive influences, using kind words, and starting a chain reaction with family and friends.

Ellis Student Council started their own challenge and the middle school students are creating a paper chain; each link is filled with an act of kindness. The goal is for the chain to loop around the school. Student Council Members, Ashley Barker, Haley Lundgren, and Brandie Rice created a slide show media presentation which they have shown to all middle school students and teachers at a community meeting, and to the Fremont School Board on Thursday, February 22, 2007. They have been asked to present their challenge to the community at Saturday's town meeting on March 10, 2007, and to invite the elementary school to create a similar chain. Any community members who want to contribute paper links may drop them off in the front office. For more information on Rachel's Challenge please visit www.rachelschallenge.com.

"...create a chain reaction of kindness by eliminating prejudice, daring to dream, choosing positive influences, using kind words, and starting a chain reaction with family and friends."

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Don't forget to "Spring Ahead" this Saturday night!

Turn your clocks ahead one hour when you go to bed on Saturday.

Spring is here!



Karate International at Ellis School

On Friday, February 16th, Sensei John English of Exeter's Karate International volunteered to teach Ellis students and staff through out the school day. Hundreds of students learned the art of listening using eyes, ears, and body; respect and responsibility, while they practiced fitness exercises. Sensei English focused on the importance of using words to communicate and "peace over power." Students in both middle school and elementary school have a greater appreciation and understanding of martial arts and how it can promote fitness, learning, and communication skills.



Fractions, Percents and Factoring Polynomials in 7th and 8th Grade Math

Seventh graders are reviewing fraction operations. We started with multiplying and dividing and will next do adding and subtracting, first without borrowing, then with. Fractions are often avoided, but are a part of our everyday lives. Look for places where you see or use fractions and point them out to your child (cooking, measuring, stocks, etc.). Make up math problems involving fractions for your child to solve – I'd be happy to check them and add them to my collection!

The Pre-algebra classes are using percents to solve problems. We are first learning the basic problems and will then apply them to real world situations involving money, credit cards, discounts, taxes, nutrition, and more! Again, if you encounter any situations where you use percents in your life, share them with your child (and with me so I can add it to my collection)!

Algebra is wrapping up Chapter 5 on different factoring patterns for polynomials. Each pattern by itself isn't so bad; the hard part is identifying which pattern to use when they're all mixed together. Encourage constant review of Chapter 5 topics to build confidence and better understanding. Practice does help!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at x 308 or kkane@sau83.org.

The Civil War for the Eighth Grade

Our Eighth grade class will be venturing into the growth of America from "sea to shining sea" and its cause and effect on our new unit called "A Divided America".

In the coming weeks, we will be studying the Civil War, one the most profound and saddest events in our nations history.

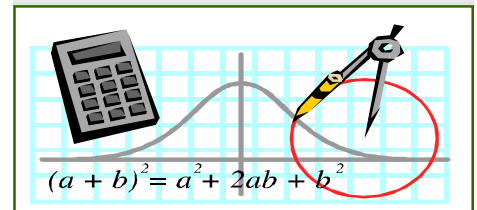
Students will:

- Discuss major differences between the North and South and how the differences led to the Civil War.
- Examine conflicting opinions about Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War.
- Explore and analyze a famous speech or writing by Abraham Lincoln.

Some Essential Questions posed:

- Did the Civil War end when the fighting stopped?
- What were the conflicting perspectives on slavery?
- Was the Civil War only about slavery?
- If you were president? What actions could you employ to avoid armed conflict?
- Has Lincoln's promise of a new birth of freedom come true for everybody?
- As Americans, can we still feel the impacts of the Civil War

As they continue their unit studies, the students will work to reinforce and improve their study skills. Including, note taking, and concept mapping,



Go Girls, Go!

Ellis 5-8th grade girls, who have routinely attended GoGirlGo workshops presented by guidance counselor, Kate Segal, participated in an Adventurelore program on Wednesday, February 7, 2007. On February 21st, 7-8 grade boys, who participated in a different guidance group, also attended a similar program. The programs at Adventurelore are designed to enhance self-esteem, communication skills, decision making, health and fitness, along with leadership and teamwork skills. Participants obtain a greater appreciation for the power of group cooperation and see the positive impact of their individual contributions. Money for both were grant funded.

Yankee Candle Fundraiser for PTA

Spring Fundraiser - Yankee Candle!!!!

The fundraiser will run from March 9th - 23rd.

Check your child's backpack for the order forms.

They were distributed this week on Thursday and Friday.

Odds Bodkin Comes to Ellis!

March 23rd, 2007

Award-Winning Storyteller & Children's Author

"A consummate story-teller" New York Times

All elementary students will attend an assembly put on by Odds Bodkin. In addition, the fourth grade students will have a unique opportunity to work in a writer's workshop with Odds Bodkin in their classroom.

Thank you to Kara Maslowski and the Ellis School PTA for coordinating & planning this exciting event for all elementary school students!

For more information on Odds Bodkin, visit www.oddsbodkin.com



Sanborn's Next Generation Parent Information Night

An evening for parents of Eighth Grade Students who are entering Sanborn Regional High School in the Fall of 2007. Come learn about Sanborn's Curriculum, meet with the administrators, hear about the unique programs, get scheduling questions answered, and tour the High School.

The event will be held at the Sanborn Regional High School Auditorium on March 12, 2007 from 6:30-8:00pm.

Eighth Grade Dinner Dance

All Eighth Grade parents are invited to come join in on the planning of the Eighth Grade Dinner Dance. This is the last big Ellis School event for our Eighth Grade students. Let's all join in to make this a memorable event for them. We need help with the planning. We will be forming committees in order that no one person has to do everything.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13th at 7:00 pm in Mrs. Polizzo's room.

If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Blades at 895-2511 ext. 100, or Mrs. Zukas at 895-3099.

Easter Egg Hunt

Fremont Parks and Recreation Department
invites the children of Fremont to the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday **March 31, 2007** at 10:00AM

on the Fremont Recreation Fields

Come gather eggs and other goodies.

Please bring your own basket.

Children of all ages welcome!

Annual School District Meeting

Annual School District meeting is March 10th at 5pm. This is a very important meeting. The school budget in its entirety will be voted on as well as the warrants. The warrants are listed on the town website; www.fremont.nh.gov. Please read them they are very important to the education of our children.

PTA is providing free babysitting services for the meeting. Children five and under will be in our preschool room while those six and over will be in the library. Donations would be accepted and appreciated. All donations will be given to the Field Day Fund.

Elementary Guidance News



Can you believe it is almost spring? Even though the weather at the beginning of this week would have had us believe otherwise. I wanted to share some of the things that I have been doing with the elementary students since the fall. I was able to run groups during November and December focusing on social skills, divorce and being a good friend. I then moved into presenting the “Be Cool” series in all the classrooms during January and February. This is a series that helps children realize that all their behavior, when confronted with a difficult situation, is always a choice. They can choose to use a cold response by giving up, they can choose a hot response by losing control or they can choose to be cool. When they choose the cool response, they remember to take a breath, get calmed down, look cool, think before they act and then respond in control to whatever situation has presented itself. We had a lot of fun role playing with this as well. The students were hams about being up in front of the classroom acting out a variety of difficult situations and using all three ways of responding to them.

I started something called lunch lottery in January and it is still running. Students signed up with me if they were interested in coming to my office to have lunch with me. I draw these names out of a hat and each Monday I announce who has lunch with me on Tuesday or Thursday of that week. The students seem quite enthusiastic about this – so I plan to continue this throughout the spring semester. I began the lottery as a way to meet more students in an informal setting and so that we could get to know each other better as the school year went on. Overall, that goal is being accomplished as I notice when I do bus duty, more and more students know my name and I know more of them as well.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns that you feel I can assist you with, please do not hesitate to call me at

Can One Teenager Make a Difference in our World? Yes!

The drive to do the right thing and journal her thoughts led Rachel Joy Scott to change schools across the nation – including ours. Rachel challenged herself and others to pass on acts of kindness and justice. After her death at Columbine High School, her writings were made public and Rachel’s Challenge was founded; her family continues to challenge others to follow in Rachel’s footsteps.

Before Rachel, however, was another teenager who also kept a journal that has had a lasting impact on our world. The story of Anne Frank brings the subject of the Holocaust to a more personal level. Anne questioned the good and evil in the world and demanded much of herself. She too lives on because her father published her journal.

The 8th graders at Ellis School will be taking a look at this period of history called the Holocaust. They will see it through Anne’s eyes, but also through the eyes of those that survived. They will be reading the play, The Diary of Anne Frank, viewing a variety of films on the subject, and doing some online research. In the end, my hope is that a few more of our youth question what is kind and what is just – and make a difference!

Fractions, Astronomy, & NH Government the Focus for Ellis School Fourth Graders

In March, we begin Unit 7 of Everyday Math. This unit focuses on fractions and their uses as well as chance and probability. Students should continue to study math facts at home, especially division and multiplication. In Science, we will use videos to help us study astronomy. We will concentrate on the Earth, sun, and moon, and the relationships between them. We will also learn about other objects, like the different planets. March is Town Meeting Month, and there’s no better time to study local and state government in New Hampshire! We will compare the different powers and responsibilities of local, county, and state levels of government. We also begin studying our state constitution. We continue to do reading workshops in class, with different themes in different classes, as we share resources.

We really appreciate the support we get from parents and children in the community. The help we received during February for special events was outstanding! Thank you all!