



## 1st Grade December Events

The first grade is getting in the spirit, with some fun events on our December calendar. On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, our little architects will be building and decorating Gingerbread Houses.

On Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will be traveling from class to class, to visit for a morning of Holidays Around the World. Children will get to experience different holiday customs and learn a little about each holiday represented. If you've ever wanted to travel to Mexico, Israel, Africa or beyond, join us on the 21<sup>st</sup> to help chaperone our little travelers.

We will start Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> with a healthy holiday breakfast. This festive event is a 1<sup>st</sup> grade

tradition. It makes us feel great and reminds us of how important our classroom communities are to us. It will be wonderful to start our school day with our best manners, sharing and joy.

Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to help out at any of our December happenings. We would welcome volunteers! Additionally, donations are being accepted for Gingerbread Houses and our Holiday Breakfast. Please look for more information from your child's teacher.

On Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> each classroom will celebrate giving by opening any classroom gifts that we receive. If you chose not to send a gift, or even

if you do, please consider having your child make one card for the whole class. Cards will be shared with great enthusiasm and every teacher will focus on how kind thoughts and actions are the best gifts of all. While gifts are not expected, the teachers would like any gifts you send in to support the classroom and your child's learning. We will be generating a list of low cost or no cost gift items.

Also, we hope to see you all at the Winter Concert on 12/14 at 6:30pm at Sanborn High School.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your families!!!

The First Grade Teachers

## Music News

This year Ellis Students will be putting on Cinderella. Rehearsals for elementary students will in the library after school. Middle school rehearsals (main

parts only) will be in Ms. Burns' office. The production will take place in February, performance dates to be determined.

Winter concerts will take place in Decem-

ber. The Kindergarten concert will be December 13 in the Ellis Gymnasium. Grades 1-4 will be December 14 at Sanborn Regional High School.

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### Thank you!

- Thank you so much for your generous donations for Thanksgiving baskets. All of the food was given to local families in need.

*Have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

## Third Grade News

Third graders have been working hard in math! Unit 3 focuses on measurement, and we have been practicing a lot. While we are reviewing units of length, we are also introducing new measurements. To help your child practice, why not ask for some help cooking or baking this week?



In writing we have spent some time practicing friendly letters. Ask

your child to show off what he or she has learned with a thank you note for a holiday gift!

As the holidays approach, third graders will be learning the holiday traditions of other countries. Each class will be working on projects to learn about other cultures. Your child may make a craft from Mexico, eat a snack from France, or play a game from Germany! Look for details from your child's teacher!

We're finishing up our first session of RTI groups, and are ready to start something new. Your child may

change groups, or may stay the same. We are continuing to work on reading skills for the next six weeks. Please help by encouraging your child to read at home, especially over long weekends and holiday breaks!

Thank you so much for all of the food pantry donations that were sent in. Third graders were excited to contribute to gift baskets for struggling families. Your generosity was overwhelming!

Happy Thanksgiving!  
The Third Grade Team

## Seventh Grade Math

Seventh graders have just finished a unit on fraction, decimal, and integer operations. This was a review unit designed to make operations more fluent, so they can be used for other applications more easily. All unit work, the unit assessment, and the Unit 2 Progress Check will (hopefully) be sent home before Thanksgiving. Please ask your child to see them (and if you haven't seen the Unit 1 Progress Check, ask for that, too)!!



We are still working on math fact recall – right now the focus is on subtracting

facts. Students are having a particularly hard time on subtracting facts with minuends (top numbers) ten or greater. This goes along with the difficulties students had with adding facts with sums ten or greater. PLEASE continue drill and practice a few minutes every day. Being fluent with math facts frees up brain space to do more complicated tasks!

The holiday season is upon us, which means changes in schedules and stress for everyone.

Homework completion has gone to the bottom of the priority list lately and I'm asking for help from parents. If possi-

ble, help your child manage their busy schedules and set aside time for school work each day. They are getting older, and want more control and independence, but will still benefit from you checking in. Look at their planners for nightly homework (or check the web [sau83.org](http://sau83.org) or call the HW Hotline 892-2511 x177), clean out and organize backpacks and binders, and show your support for what they are doing in school! Thanks! You can contact me at any time at 895-2511 x308 or [kkane@sau83.org](mailto:kkane@sau83.org).

## SHHHH KINDERGARTEN IS ON THE MOVE!!!

Kindergarten is learning about their five senses and using them to get ready for their silent Turkey parade before the

Thanksgiving break. We are getting closer at completing letter



recognition and letter sounds, while in math working hard on the Everyday Math curriculum. So watch out for any gobbling and see if you spot a Kindergartner during our Turkey parade.



Happy Thanksgiving  
Kindergarten Team



# 4-H Club for any Interested Ellis Students!

We will have sign ups on Dec 1 at 6 pm @ the Ellis School lobby. The group is open to any boy or girl 5 years or older. You will need to come and fill out a registration, school consent and health forms. We will also be collecting a start up fee of \$10.00 to cover expenses for crafts, parties, and any other additional costs.

We will likely be meeting one Thursday a month, after school, from 3:15 to 5:00 pm - in a classroom to be determined. 4H is so much more than

learning about animals, we will be focusing on community service, crafts, environmental science and much more! We will be planning trips and making the KIDS responsible for the direction of the group . 4H goal is to help children learn to grow, meet friends, do things and have fun along the way! Check out what 4H is!

<http://extension.unh.edu/Counties/Rockingham/4hYthDev.htm>

Community Service will be our first goal for the month of Decem-

ber with a trip to Colonial Poplin Nursing Home for Christmas Caroling followed by a Christmas party back at Ellis.



## Mrs. Lee- Sixth Grade Language Arts

### my journey to america began with hope

We are continuing reading our Journey to America reading selections, historical fiction and informational text. (appositive) Students are responding to these reading selections, as well as the immigration documentaries. They are reading independently, partner reading, and enjoying teacher read-alouds. (comma listing)



The information that we learn from this unit's (apostrophe-possessive) reading will scaffold into our January Language Art's unit- Heritage Hunt . (alliteration) Details to come.

**Upcoming December Unit:**



Save the Turkey- Persuasive

A turkey less holiday celebration!

Tofurkey anyone? (interrogatory sentence)

## 7th Grade Language Arts

Greetings from 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts. I can't believe that Thanksgiving is here next week! I hope you and your family enjoy a wonderful holiday.

Currently, students are studying short stories. Our focus is on the elements of a short story: setting--time and place; characters/characterization--traits of characters and evidence to back up our thoughts;

plot--exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution; and theme--the author's message to the reader about life. We are reading "Tell Tale Heart" by Edgar Allen Poe. Along with these short stories, we will be writing assignments which include a news article and a persuasive essay. Students will be attending a field trip to Concord's Capitol Theatre on Monday, December 5 to view a se-

ries of plays for the short stories they will be reading in class. Please remember to have your child bring a bagged lunch or money to eat at McDonald's.

Please check your child's assignment book each night or call the homework hotline at 895-2511 ext. 177.

Mrs. Pipitone

# News from the Nurse

**Flu Season:** Remember to get your flu vaccine! Mrs. Milner organized a successful flu clinic for staff which was offered through Health Trust on 10/28/11. We are promoting hand washing and staying home when you have flu like symptoms: Fever 100 or greater, sore throat, cough, and headache. See the Nurse bulletin board regarding RUFUS and Share Fun, Not the FLU. Mrs. Smith created this great message and has entered it in a contest promoted by the NH DHHS ! I think



she has a great chance on winning.

## **Core Mobil Dental Program offered through Lamprey Health Care;**

Mrs. Nancy Snow, RDH came and in October and offered classes to all grades K-6 on dental hygiene. She stressed the importance of good dental health and how it helps promote optimal learning. Mrs. Snow does a wonderful job with the students. Thank you to all who welcomed her into the classrooms for this important health topic.

On October 24 and 25<sup>th</sup> the dental van crew did exams and cleanings for about 160 students. If you have ever had a bad tooth ache just imagine trying to concentrate to learn in school! Often we do not even realize that a student is suffering from dental decay. We are very fortunate to be able



to receive this special dental program.

**Classroom teaching** on the topic of hand washing, head lice and coughing into your sleeve is being offered by Mrs. Milner to the elementary students. So far grades 1 and 2 have had a visit and K and PK will be next. Please check out the handouts the students will be bringing home.

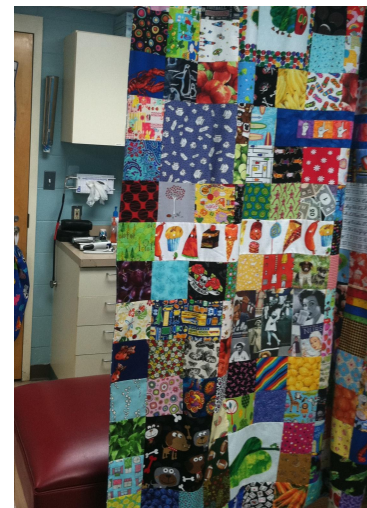
**Calling in Absent :** Please remember to report symptoms of your student's illness when calling them in absent. This is for tracking purposes for illness such as flu, pneumonia, strep throat, etc. Thank you for your cooperation. Remember if a student t is out for 3 days or more they will need a doctor's note to return to school.

**Operation Gratitude:** The Halloween Candy Buyback was a great success! The students donated 271 pounds of candy to the troops! Mrs. Smith collected donations from many sponsors in order to make up healthy goody bags which were given to the students who donated candy. Thank you to all who participated!



Back Row: J.Kelleher, S. McFarlane, A.Melanson, K. O'Brien, M. McClellan, J.Leveque, Front Row: A. Coulombe, A. MacDougall, L. Pitkin, S. Richards

**RTI class with Mrs. Jackson and 7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Mrs. Milner has joined Mrs. Jackson during daily RTI to teach basic AHA First Aid and CPR/AED training. The students are very enthusiastic and will receive a certification card when the course is completed. They ask many great questions and give 100% participation to this important skill.



**New Quilt Curtain** made by Mrs. Smith for the nurse's office. Come see it! It is awesome! This new telescoping curtain rod was purchased through a gift from the class of 2010 and we are very grateful. Mrs. Smith was inspired to create a wonderful patchwork quilt curtain after she kept tripping over the old privacy curtain that was on wheels. It has given us so much more room and the kids have fun looking at all the different pieces of material. (Not to mention it has made the health office safer and less cluttered)

Coming Events: Dr. Chris Turner will be coming in January to offer vision screening for grades K-4 and health screenings will be done by the nurses for height, weight, and hearing.

## Counselors' Corner

### Mix-it-Up Lunch

The mix it up lunch was a success! It was wonderful to see students conquer their fears and go out of their way to introduce themselves to new friends. To celebrate that day, and illustrate that staff also can try new things, more than thirty staff members participated in a surprise flash mob during an all-school assembly after the lunch. Students were surprised and amazed to see their teachers, counselors and support staff step out of their comfort zones by participating in this surprise flash mob.

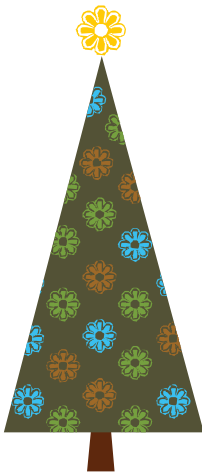


### Middle School Lunch Groups

New Middle School Lunch groups will start the week we return from the holiday break. These lunch groups are voluntary but do require that students miss their recess on the day they have chosen. These groups will run for nine weeks, until we break for February vacation.

### Holiday Stress Busters

Although most children look forward to the holidays with



enthusiasm and excitement, it is important to remember that the season may also bring stress and anxiety to many families. Children may feel stress when they have changes in routine, frequent special events and activities, or unrealistic expectations about gifts and gift-giving. Below are some Holiday Stress Busters from the Duke Children's Hospital Department of Psychology:

- Remember that children are also impacted by stress in the family. Work to manage your own stress by taking time for yourself.
- Accept that traditions change as families change. Holiday events don't have to be the same or perfect to be special.
- Discuss plans in advance so activities are predictable and children know what is expected of them.
- Try not to abandon healthy lifestyle habits, such as regular meals, good nutrition, good sleep habits, limiting time watching TV or playing computer or video games alone. Try to balance periods of rest with activity.
- Attempt to stick to established routines and continue to consistently enforce established rules and consequences even if you are traveling or relatives are vis-

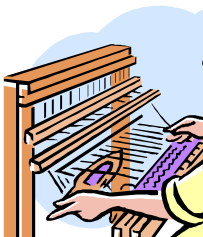
iting.

- Anticipate times when children will be waiting and bring something to entertain them.
- Be prepared with healthy snacks and drinks if you are out of the house longer than expected.
- Plan ahead. Accept that you may not be able to do or participate in everything.
- Acknowledge feelings and help children find ways to appropriately express them.
- Establish a budget and attempt to stick to it. Don't promise children gifts that you cannot realistically give them and don't be afraid to let children know if something is too expensive or if they are asking for too many gifts.
- Consider alternatives to buying or giving gifts. Things such as sharing your time, talents, or resources with others or making homemade gifts can become a wonderful tradition to share as a family.



## Fourth Grade News

The Nov. 8 Field Trip to the Tsongas Center, Lowell Mills was great success! Students learned about Industrial Revolution as the Mill Girls of New England left their farms for work in factories. Each student had the opportunity to weave cloth on a loom that they will be tak-



ing home soon. Some students said that they thought it would be a boring Field Trip, but don't be surprised if you see a loom on their Christmas lists!

Our next unit of study is Physical Science. The focus will be electricity, magnetism, energy, light and sound. Students will build elec-



tric circuits that turn on light bulbs.

Please ensure that your child continues to do nightly homework including reading a "Just Right" book nightly.

Enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends.



## Holiday Shopping

That Helps You and Me!



The 6th Grade students at Ellis School, are offering wonderful gifts & stocking stuffers for you and your family ~ to help reduced the cost of attending Ferry Beach Ecology School.

Hand Lotions, Lip Balms, Kids Bath Time Paints,  
Hand Sanitizer, Shower Gel, Body Spray, Nail Polish & More

Easy shopping for you ... Fundraising for me!  
Simply place your order with any 6th Grade Student  
by December 5th, for December 12th Delivery!

## Christmas Celebration

During these hard economic times, the thought of buying gifts can be overwhelming for families. Bethany Church in Raymond, NH, would like to come along side our friends and neighbors at Ellis School who may need a little extra support for the Christmas Season.

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, Bethany Church would like to extend an invitation to all parents to stop by the Church and select gifts and toys for your children, free of charge to you. There will be a team of elves to assist you in wrapping. Please come and enjoy some cookies and cider while you choose your items.

The Event will be held at:

Bethany Church  
Raymond Campus  
90 Chester Road  
Raymond, NH 03077

Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 pm until 7:30 pm

To keep the gifts a surprise for the kids, we ask that this is a parent's only event. Should you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ficker at 895.2511, extension 105. We look forward to seeing you!

## Second Grade News

The second graders are having a busy November. We are learning out how to dig out information from our non fiction reading, as well as talking about



problems and solutions for the characters in stories. We are also learning about how to write simple stories in paragraph form. Please continue to practice counting money and telling time even as we work through addition strategies for double digit addition.

Enjoy your holiday and don't forget to ask the kids about how the Pilgrims lived!

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Second Grade Team