

# The Eagle Tribune



## Ellis Middle School

### Report Card Night

A Report Card Night to explain the new Ellis School Report Card and Progress Report was held on October 21, 2009. If you were not able to attend, you can view the Power Point presentation on our school website at [www.sau83.org](http://www.sau83.org) under Middle School Happenings.

### 5 Week Month

October has five Fridays. Great news for people who get paid weekly because you get an extra paycheck! Unfortunately you will not be getting an extra newsletter. The next communication will be going home on November 6.

## **RED RIBBON WEEK—OCTOBER 26-30**

Ellis Middle School will participate in the National Red Ribbon Week the week of October 26<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>. Red Ribbon Week is the oldest and largest drug prevention campaign in the country.

Red Ribbon Week serves as a vehicle for communities and individuals to take a stand for the hopes and dreams of children through commitment to drug prevention and education and a personal commitment to live drug-free lives.

Red Ribbon Week commemorates the ultimate sacrifice made by DEA Special Agent Enrique "Kiki" Camarena, who died at the hands of drug traffickers in Mexico while fighting the

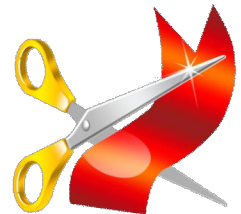
battle against illegal drugs to keep our country and children safe.

Ellis Middle School students will receive a Red Ribbon Week bracelet and pencil and be given individual pledge cards and are invited to sign these cards pledging to live a drug-free lifestyle. Officer Huard, our DARE officer, will be visiting classrooms discussing the legal and physical consequences of using drugs and alcohol, along with discussing peer pressure.

Each day of Red Ribbon Week, students and staff will be encouraged to wear certain types of clothing to show their support for a drug-free lifestyle.

### Red Ribbon Week Events

- Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> - **Wear the color Red.**
- Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> - **Turn Your Backs On Drugs** by wearing your clothing backwards.
- Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup> - **Sock It To Drugs**, wear your craziest socks.
- Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - **Give Drugs The Slip**, wear your slippers.
- Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> - **School Pride Day**, wear school colors.



## FORMER NBA STAR TO VISIT ELLIS MIDDLE SCHOOL

**On Monday, November 16, the Ellis Middle School will welcome former NBA star Dwight Davis.**

Dwight Davis is a retired American professional basketball player. After playing college basketball at the University of Houston from 1969-72, Davis was selected as the 3rd overall pick of 1972 NBA draft by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Nicknamed "**Double D**," Davis played for five seasons in the NBA with two teams: the Cleveland

Cavaliers (1972 to 1975) and the Golden State Warriors (1975 to 1977).

Mr. Davis averaged 8.6 points in 340 career regular season games. Dwight was inducted into the "Hall of Honor" at the University of Houston in November of 2006. He still holds many records for his rebounding, blocked shots and scoring.

Today, Mr. Davis spends much of his free time working with at-risk teens with lessons for on and off the court.

**All middle school students are invited to sign-up to stay after school on November 16th between 2:30 and 3:30 for a free basketball clinic with Mr. Davis. This is a rare opportunity to meet a former NBA star and learn some moves from him on the Ellis School basketball court.**

All middle school students will take home a permission slip next week. Students will only be allowed to participate with written parent permission.

\*Information collected from Wikipedia



## 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCIENCE — MRS. FORSYTHE

Students in both grades are investigating matter and its properties. Science skills are being addressed via an exploration of gravity, mass and weight, using a computer-based interactive lesson module called Gizmos.

The next Gizmo students use addresses the concept of density. Fifth grade studies include a study of atoms, molecules, physical changes, and chemical change.

Concentration on elements and the Periodic Table of Elements is slated for sixth grade.

A meeting for sixth grade parents was held last Thursday at Ellis School. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Ferry Beach Ecology School program to parents. The presentation highlighted samples of the week's schedule, menu, dorms and goals, as well as the costs involved and the payment schedule. Sixth grade students are scheduled to attend Ferry Beach April through April 9, 2010 with a total cost of \$329.00.

## 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MATH — MR. CONNOR

In the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, the third unit will involve the relationships between fractions, decimals, and percents. Finding everyday uses for them will help students to grasp the relationships better. For example, when you go to a store, see if your child can give you an idea of how much money you'd save if that \$40 item is 25% off.

Many parents also ask about what they can do to help their children when they are "stuck". The first thing I ask a child to do is to write down the problem if it is in the math book. Too many students want to try to do the work "in their heads". Have them write out every step, if needed. Should they be unsure of the steps, ask them to refer back to their notes or the book, and try the step that looks like it comes next.

The other strategy anyone can do that is proven by research, is to ask the student to

## LANGUAGE ARTS WITH MRS. PIPITONE

Testing, testing, and more testing is what it feels like in seventh grade. First, it was the NWEA tests, and just recently the NECAP tests. Will it ever end is what many seventh grade students are thinking? I am here to tell you that it has ended, and we are moving on to our *Out of the Dust* unit.

Prior to the NECAP test, we took two days out of class to work on test-taking skills. We worked on the NECAP practice booklets together. Students learned many test-taking strategies such as: reading the comprehension questions prior to reading a passage, writing notes in the margins,

The payment schedule follows:

**November 6, 2009:** \$160.00 (due on or before this due date)

\* Include with this non-refundable payment the back two pages of the Forms Packet:

- Ferry Beach Registration Form
- Video Permission Slip

**March 10, 2009:** \$169.00 (or adjusted balance, dependent on the number of students attending and fundraising efforts)

- \* Include with this non-refundable payment:
  - Student Medical Form
  - Additional applicable Health Forms

Checks should be made payable to **Ellis School**.

explain or try to explain the steps, beginning with what they know. Sometimes just saying, "And then what do you do?" triggers the student to remember. Often when I am working one-on-one with a student, he or she will suddenly say, "Oh, now I get it!". If not, have him or her try to tell you what the book example is doing in his or her own words.

One website that has examples of how to solve math problems is [www.mathtv.com](http://www.mathtv.com), which often has more than one way to try to find the answer. The site's math demonstrations range from middle school math to early college.

Students will also be working with me at the end of the day in Study Lab, and I am available after school with an appointment as well. I want this to be a year of math progress for all!

underlining important information in the passage, finding the evidence that supports our answer, and how to write a response to both short-response and long-response questions. We hope our hard work paid off!

In this edition of the Middle School Newsletter, you will find editorials that were written by our seventh grade students. Students learned that an editorial is a persuasive essay written by the editor of a newspaper or magazine. The content of an editorial deals with issues, ideas, and topics that are important to the audience of the newspaper or magazine. An editorial has the following criteria: a clever

## Peppermint Ponies 4H Club

Does your child love horses? Girls and boys ages 5 to 18 years are welcome to attend Peppermint Ponies 4H Club meetings every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at North Road Farm, 370 North Road, Fremont, as guests to learn more about equines and 4H. Meeting dates: 10/28, 11/11, 11/25. No experience or horse ownership necessary. Should you have questions, please contact Jan Brubacher, at 679-3367, [j.brubacher@comcast.net](mailto:j.brubacher@comcast.net), [www.peppermintponies4h.org](http://www.peppermintponies4h.org), [www.northroadfarm.com](http://www.northroadfarm.com) or stop by the farm. Scholarships available.

## SANBORN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA CLUB

Ready for a night of murder...mystery... intrigue...secret passage ways...spies... some of the most eccentric characters the acting world has seen...upstate New York during the 1940's at ...midnight, of course!

Sanborn Regional High School Drama presents "**The Muscal Comedy Murders of 1940**" by John Bishop.

Please join us Thursday & Friday, November 5th & 6th at 7:00 p.m. and on Saturday, November 7th at 5:00 p.m for this hilarious show at the Sanborn High School Auditorium!

Admission is \$5 for Students/Senior Citizens; \$7 for Adults; Children age 5 and under are free.

beginning, a stance on an issue that is important to the audience, reasons/support for the stance, and a strong conclusion that wraps up key points. I hope you enjoy reading the editorials that were written, and perhaps you will find one that you would like to support.

Students are starting to write down their homework again in their assignment books, and each assignment book will be stamped to show that it has been checked. We are all trying to get back into this habit after the long week of NECAP testing. If for any reason your child forgets to bring home his/her assignment book and does not know the day's assignments, please have them call 895-2511 ext. 177.

MRS. KANE—6TH GRADE MATH

Great athletes are not successful because someone practiced for them. They are successful because someone supported them and encouraged them to practice. Also, practice gives you the skills, but the big game is when it really counts! Even though it's hard to watch your child struggle, please resist the temptation to do their homework for them. Homework is practice for the big event (test, quiz, project, etc.); it is not the event itself. If students do not practice, on their own, they might not be ready for when it really counts. I need to know who is struggling before the test or quiz as well, so that I can help before it's too late. If homework consistently comes in all correct, I assume everything is fine. Please contact me if you need tips on helping your struggling student at home.

FROM THE PTA.....



The book fair is coming! Beginning on Friday, November 6th, students will be participating in the Fall Book Fair sponsored by the Fremont PTA. Students will visit the Book Fair during their Specials. Please contact Mrs. Rowell, Mrs. Bond, or Mrs. Antoine for more information about this event.

STUDENT EDITORIALS

Starting School Later  
Megan Alix

Every morning at 6:30 I have to wake up. I am not a morning person. I find it hard to wake up early. I do not have much time to get ready. I am very tired for my first class and I feel like I'm going to fall asleep. I think that if I could sleep a little bit later, I would not be so tired in the morning.

I think we should start school at 9:00 instead of 7:50. It will give students a chance to wake up later and not be so tired. We will have time to eat breakfast. We would not be so tired in school and doing our work would not be so hard.

Some people might think that since we have to stay later, we won't have time to do homework, but we can do it in Study. We might not finish it, but we can finish it at home. If people are busy after school, we will have time in the morning because we don't have to get up at 6:30.

The benefits are not being so tired in school, and we would be able to have more time to get ready. We will do better in school because we are not so tired. We will have an easier time waking up. We need time to sleep. It is not healthy for us to be waking up so early.

If you look around in the morning, you will see that people are tired. If we come in school later in the day, we will be ready to work. That is why we should change the time that school starts.

Why We Should Have an Auditorium  
Taylor Berry

Picture Ellis School having a beautiful auditorium, a place for us to have our Monday meetings, and a place to put on school performances. We would not need to borrow Sanborn's auditorium for school productions. Seating would be better. And every one could see the performers properly. Our productions would be more spectacular. And the Chorus could do a little more. Picture that.

I think our school should have an auditorium because the gym is flat and the people in the back are unable to see the performance. This is unfair to the people who come last. Having an auditorium is also good for our Monday Meetings and each class will have a row (or two) to sit in. This will avoid classes being mixed up and teachers will be able to take attendance faster.

An auditorium would provide a good place to hold school performances, assemblies, and even PTA meetings.

Some fundraisers could be held here as well. This would also be easier to set up the spot light permanently versus bringing it in and out of the gym.

The only down side to getting an auditorium is how much it will cost. Some fundraisers we could have to raise money for an auditorium would be a Martian auction, a cake walk, a bake sale, an art show, a school yard sale (this would be filled with donated items), a car wash, and a raffle of other items. I would organize any fundraiser necessary to get an auditorium.

Having an auditorium would benefit the school and our town greatly. That is why we should have an auditorium.



IMPORTANT DATES IN NOVEMBER

- October 26-30—Red Ribbon Week
- October 28—Unified Arts Night—6:30 PM
- November 2—Parent Teacher Conferences
- November 3—Parent Forum—5:00
- November 11—Veteran's Day (no school)
- November 13—Dance 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- November 16—Dwight Davis Visit
- November 25—End of First Trimester
- November 26-27—Thanksgiving Break

Share Because We Care—2009

Ellis Student Council will once again be sponsoring a food drive to benefit the Fremont Food Pantry. The drive will run from November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Students and staff are encouraged to participate. Please send items in through your child's homeroom.

- Pre-School & Kindergarten:** Rice and Instant Potatoes
- First Grade:** Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Second Grade:** Soups
- Third Grade:** Spaghetti and Sauce
- Fourth Grade:** Canned Vegetables
- Fifth Grade:** Breakfast Foods
- Sixth Grade:** Canned Tuna/Other Meats
- Seventh Grade:** Stuffing Mix and Gravy
- Eighth Grade:** Cranberry Sauce / Macaroni & Cheese
- Staff:** Toilet Paper and Paper Towels

**Our goal is to collect 1,000 items!**  
Please help us to reach our goal  
and help families in our community!

# Ellis Middle School **Sports News**

Basketball sign ups for our three Middle School teams are currently underway. There will be a Co-Ed Team for Grades 5 and 6, as well as a Girls 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team, and a Boys 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team. All paperwork is due by November 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Students need to turn in the Field Trip Permission Forms to Mrs. Jackson. All students are **required** to have a current physical on file in the Nurse's Office. Both the Field Trip Permission Form and the Physical Form are due by the deadline...no forms will be accepted after the deadline.

Once your student/athlete turns in their Field Trip Form, Mrs. Jackson will check with the Health Office to be sure that there is a current physical on file. Every effort will be made to contact all parents of students who do NOT have a form on file. It is the parent's responsibility to get the form to the Nurse's Office. Our Health Office is not able to contact local pediatricians to request this information due to HIPA laws. Please encourage your student/athlete to turn in their forms ASAP, so that missing Physical Forms can be taken care of before the deadline.

Grades 5/6 Basketball will meet Monday through Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 PM. Mr. Fernandes will be coaching this team. Players will learn the game through skills, drills, scrimmages, and two games against other schools.

The 7/8 Girl's Team will be coached by Mrs. Kenney. Players will practice Monday through Thursday during alternating time slots with the Boy's Team between 3:30 and 6:00 PM.

The 7/8 Boy's Team will be coached by Mrs. Driscoll. Players will alternate Monday through Thursday practice times with the Girl's Team.

All information concerning games and practices is now listed on our new software which can be accessed by going to [WWW.HIGHSCHOOLSPO RTS.NET](http://WWW.HIGHSCHOOLSPO RTS.NET) Go to the site, type in either Ellis School or Fremont NH, and pull up the info for our school. It will give you game times, practice times, and directions to each school where we play.

## ELLIS SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY BY MRS. KENNEY

The beginning of this year has been devoted to Internet Safety. I have utilized the curriculum from Netsmartz.org which is operated by The Center for Missing and Exploited Children. All grade levels have been taught age-appropriate lessons focused on the several facets of responsible use of the Internet. Some of the topics included: the importance of protecting your personal information, not talking or chatting with people you don't know on the Internet, and identifying who their "trusted" adult is so they know who they can talk to if they feel uncomfortable or if someone asks for information.

At the Middle School level, we also discussed protecting your digital reputation, while building your digital identity. The students had lively discussions about their real experiences on the Internet. Facebook and MySpace were often the underlying topic of these discussions. We realized that some students have been very lax in screening the people they were accepting as online friends and others hadn't made their profiles private. Fortunately, the majority of students are careful about who they accept as an online friend and also have private profiles. Netsmartz.org has a portal designed just for parents to learn more about the dangers and also the tools you can use to keep your children safe while online.

In Middle School, the culminating activity for this unit involves creating a brief video on Internet Safety to present to a class of their choosing in Kindergarten through Second Grade. To begin this project, the students have to complete a video planning sheet and a storyboard. Once that is complete, they need to write their narration and then record it using Audacity. After that they begin to take still photos, draw pictures, and/or use characters from Netsmartz.org to demonstrate their message. With all of this complete, they are ready to piece everything together and create a short video using Windows Movie Maker, Animoto, or Sam Animation. Depending upon the day of the week that students have Technology, your child could be at the planning stage of the video (Monday) or fully involved with creating the video clips (Wednesday). Students have enthusiastically embraced this project and are truly excited to proudly present the final video to an elementary class.

### Mrs. Farrar, Middle School Guidance Counselor

By Devon MacLeod, Caitlyn Epstein, and Kierstyn Rust-Belforti

We interviewed the new Middle School Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Farrar. She has been a Guidance Counselor for five years. Ellis Middle School is the smallest school she has worked in so far. When Mrs. Farrar is not at school, she likes to be with her friends and family. She also enjoys jogging and doing Pilates.

Mrs. Farrar can't wait to bring new programs to Ellis and find new ways of dealing with the issues that Fremont Middle School faces. Her favorite part of being a Guidance Counselor is being able to help students. She has worked in four different schools so she has great experience! She is going to start some new programs that Ellis isn't used to. "They have the abilities to make good choices for themselves. Each student has something special about them. You all have something unique," Mrs. Farrar stated when we asked her what she hopes to teach the Middle School students.

She hopes to accomplish a good rapport with students and families by the end of the year. "I am really looking forward to getting to know Ellis Middle School," Mrs. Farrar exclaimed at the end of our interview.

### Mr. Safina, Middle School Principal

By Katie Allen and Paige Demers

This is Mr. Safina's first year as a Middle School Principal. He has worked for nine years as an Assistant Principal. He last worked at William Allen School in Rochester, NH. His favorite things to do are cook, read, go to the gym, travel long distances, and swim. Mr. Safina has one daughter, Angela. He has two dogs, one is a Jack Russell Terrier named Lucy, and the other is an English Cocker Spaniel named Lucca. Also, he enjoys camping and fishing with his family.

Mr. Safina's goal is to make a difference for all kids. He wanted to do more than just help out in a classroom, he wanted to do more for the school. He is very excited for Halloween and Columbus Day weekend. Ellis is much smaller than the other schools he has worked at. One of his other schools, the Middle School had 1,200 children!

Mr. Safina's example of a good student would be someone who likes school, brings a lot to our school, adds to the environment, and gives back. Mr. Safina was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a huge fan of the Red Sox!