

# Ellis School Newsletter

432 Main St. Fremont, NH 03044

www.sau83.org

## Music in January



Grades k-2 are focusing on songs about our country and its history.

Grade 3 is working on a unit about classical composers. They are exploring the works of Mozart and Beethoven.

Grade 4 is working on piano skills and peace time songs.

Grade 5/6 is learning about the history of rock and roll, starting with World War I and going through the 60's British Invasion. They are also working on individual projects for an oral presentation.

The 7/8 Music Appreciation class is also doing individual projects and learning to play two classical pieces on the piano, Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" and Haydn's "Surprise Symphony".

January 9, 2009

## Upcoming Events:

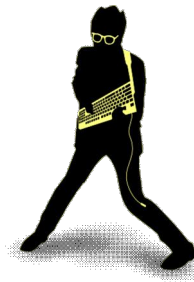
- January 13– School Board Meeting



## Technology Fun Night Friday, January 16, 2009 6:00 PM – 8:30PM

Place: Seacoast School of Technology

Who: Grade 5 – 9 boys and girls



Cost: Voluntary donation of 3 cans of food for local food bank per person. If you would like to bring more cans, all donations will gladly be accepted.

Why: This school year, the Seacoast School of Technology is offering a series of events for students to show just how much fun learning about technology can be.

How to sign up: Call SST (775.8461) to register (during business hours). Registration deadline is January 15, 2009. Limited to 40 students on a first come first served basis.

In this session we will be learning about free and open source games and simulators. This is your opportunity to have fun as well as improve your problem solving skills. There will be door prizes.

Any questions, contact Mr. Messa at [nmessa@sau16.org](mailto:nmessa@sau16.org) or 775.8623

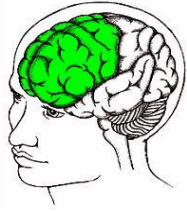
**Come join in the fun!!!!**

## What's Happening in 4<sup>th</sup> Grade this January?

The Fourth Grade will be visiting the SEE Museum on Thursday, January 15. We will learn about the history of the Amoskeag Mills and see an actual LEGO model of the site, depicting it as it was 100 years ago. Students will be making LEGO models of some of the equipment and houses themselves. Science activities and a scavenger hunt will round out the day. Children will need to bring a bag lunch. This was a big hit with the students last year!

Homework for 4<sup>th</sup> Grade students: Please check and have your child correct his/her work. This way they learn on the spot! Remember to keep reading for 15 minutes a night, and study those multiplication/division facts!

Also: Please remember to have children bring in shoes for the classroom if they wear boots and to otherwise dress for the weather.



## FIFTH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS Wow! LOOK at their LOBES get LARGE! Onomatopoeia Alliteration Exclamatory Sentence UPDATE OF WHAT STUDENTS HAVE LEARNED SO FAR!!!!

### READING:

Writing and books come in a variety of **GENRES**.

Poetry, realistic fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, fairy tales....

**Stories** have specific parts that **create a storyline** and make reading interesting. Descriptive characters, specific settings, creative language, and purposeful plots.

A **plot** follows a mostly predictable flow with specific parts. Introduction, rising action- what starts going on, a problem-something that makes the story interesting and needs to be resolved, climax- a big change that happens in the story, and resolution- the problem is resolved and the story concludes.

A Radical **Reader** uses certain **strategies** to understand what they are reading. Connect, summarize, predict, use context clues for unfamiliar words, create pictures..

**Reading aloud** like Reader's Theater, Poetry Partners, and Reading Buddies helps to build **fluency**.

### WORD STUDY/VOCABULARY:

**Homophones** are words that sound alike but are spelled differently and have different meanings. They are sometimes tricky to remember when using.

ex: there, they're, their

**Challenging words** need to be broken down into sounds and chunks in order to remember correct spelling. ex: to mor row

Boring words can be changed by looking up a synonym in the **thesaurus, dictionary, or word list**.

**Unfamiliar words** can be figured out by looking at the **context** it is in-

words around it or the paragraph it is in to determine the most likely use.

### MECHANICS and CONVENTIONS:

Sentences begin with **capitals** and **end with punctuation**.

**Proper nouns** are capitalized.

There are **four types of sentences** and their endings are different. Exclamatory, declarative, imperative, and interrogative.

All writing should be checked for **C.O.P.S** ex: capitalization, omissions, punctuation, and spelling.

### WRITING:

Writing is a **process** and has specific steps:

\*Pre-write (braindump), Rough draft, Revision, Edit, Final, Evaluation

\*Writing uses specific **organizational steps**. ex: index cards, graphic organizers...

\*Super writers self-edit and peer-edit using **editing marks**.

\*Successful writers read their work **ALoud** to help **edit**.

Wonderful writing uses creative, **figurative writing elements**. Descriptive language, sensory language, alliteration, onomatopoeia, metaphors, similes, vivid verbs, amazing adjectives, and synonyms for boring words.

Writing a **persuasive essay** has specific ORGANIZED elements. Introduction, 3 main persuasive points-opinion, alternative, counter to a counter, and a conclusion.

Writing a **compare contrast** uses a Venn diagram to organize similarities and differences into CATEGORIES.

### WRITING ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE READING:

You have **summarized** (a brief overview) your reading in your October Paper Bag Report.

You have **analyzed and compared characters** your were reading about in your November Book Report.

You have **explained the plot** in your December Book Report.

Through your **reading logs**, you have connected to, predicted, summarized, created pictures, picked out interesting text, and determined the meaning of unfamiliar words.

### GENRE:

**Poetry** comes in many forms.

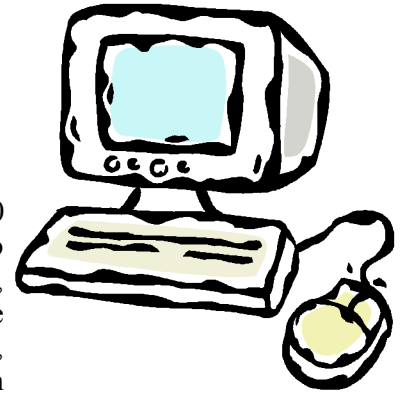
Acrostic, haiku, limerick, free verse.....

Poetry uses **figurative writing elements**.

**Fifth Grade will be investigating more reading, writing and learning opportunities in their "I Spy a Mystery Unit" this January and February.**



## NEWS FROM THE COMPUTER LAB



### Hello from the Computer Lab!

This year has been filled with so many discoveries and educationally rich experiences.

Our seventh and eighth grade student groups completed an online course in Web 2.0 tools Using Moodle. These are tools on the Internet that do not require downloading to use. Google is overflowing with these tools, including and not at all limited to: gmail, google documents, google reader, google blogs, google mashup, google wikis, google checkout, google maps, youtube... and so much more. They also experienced apture, jing, jottit, splashup, voki, etc. As a culminating activity, students created their own websites incorporating these tools. Please ask your students to show you some of the amazing web 2.0 tools that are available on the Internet and designed to enrich your everyday experiences.

At this time, seventh and eighth grades students enrolled in Tech are using Google Sketchup to create 3D models. These models will have four stories, a roof with various geometric designs, offset windows/doors, shadows, terrain, and landscaping among other features. Upon completion the students will create a virtual tour of their models using the camera tool in Google Sketchup.

Our fifth and sixth grade students have learned new elements of using spreadsheets. Some of these features include using basic formatting, auto formatting, auto calculate, auto complete, sorting records, merging cells, adding and deleting columns/rows... Throughout this course the students used Moodle; our online classroom, Atomic Learning; video tutorials, and Microsoft Excel. (In their classrooms they would use open office spreadsheets and online they would use Google spreadsheets). Once students complete the requirements for spreadsheets and pass their quiz, they then begin work on assembling their e-portfolio artifacts and writing reflections for these artifacts. These portfolios are in compliance with ED 306.42 - information, communication technology literacy. Students receive credit towards high school graduation by completing a portfolio demonstrating their use, growth, and knowledge of technology in all areas of the curriculum.

Elementary students have been working on many projects this school year. We began with Internet safety. Students interacted with Netsmartz.org and then they all made posters to warn others about the dangers of the Internet and what to do to stay safe. These posters were then hung all around the school.

Students have conducted web quests, used everyday math online, learned about Inspiration through an activity on trees and then they used their Inspiration skills to create a concept map about how they would help a needy family this holiday season. Kindergarten and first grade used our paint program to create some very creative pictures.

Currently kindergarten students are writing a story using our word processing program. This short story is titled: My Vacation. I encourage inventive spelling for k-3. By having students spell the words themselves they are learning to listen for and write the sounds that they hear. This not only helps them to learn to read it is a wonderful way to document their growth in reading and writing.

Students in first through fourth grade are learning about Black History Month. They have been using BrainPop Jr. to watch a video on Harriet Tubman and complete activities about that video. Next week grades one and two will be using Reading A-Z in the lab and Everyday Math the following week.

Third grade is writing stories and studying winter and habitats and fourth grade is also writing stories and journals. These students will be practicing their keyboarding skills by typing their stories in the computer lab.

Thank You for your continued support!

Lauren Kenney, BS ELEM ED, MA TECH ED  
Instructional Technology Specialist

## **BoxTop\$ Collection News**

Middle School Families: A huge 'thank you ' goes out to the students and staff that participated in the Middle School BoxTop\$ Collection Soccer Challenge. In this first middle school collection challenge, we had over \$175 was earned by collecting BoxTop\$ towards Field Day in June. Also, the highest collection homerooms per grade level ( 5L, 6K and 7M ) received a reward for their outstanding efforts - plus each homeroom's collection progress was tracked on charts displayed on the wall outside the gym. Which homerooms will win a reward in March for the next BoxTop\$ collection challenge ? The Middle School BoxTop\$ "BASKETBALL" Collection Challenge is ON !!! Check out the progress of each homeroom trying to earn a 'basketball hoop' and the 'most basketballs' for bringing in BoxTop\$ to their homeroom collection box. The 'basketball' challenge will run through Friday 02/20.

Elementary Families: A well-deserved 'thank you' goes out to all the students, staff and families that participated in the Elementary Classroom BoxTop\$ Challenge that concluded in early November. Over 4823 BoxTop\$ were collected which equals \$482.30 towards Field Day in June. The totals across the grades were 1st grade with 1,919 (wow - great work !!), 2nd grade with 956, 3rd grade with 988 and 4th grade with 960 BoxTop\$ collected respectively. A reminder that the next Elementary Classroom BoxTop\$ Collection Challenge is off and running RIGHT NOW and will end on Friday, 01/30. Which classroom will be the top earners for BoxTop\$ collections to earn a classroom reward - and who will be the runner-up classroom to earn a visit from the BoxTop\$ Traveling Bear ? Hurry and bring in - by Friday 01/30 - those BoxTop\$ to your classroom collection box !!

Kindergarten Families: Twenty-one (21) kindergarten students are bringing home this week -- a 'Winter Fun' baggie (containing tokens of appreciation) in recognition of their efforts for completing the BoxTop\$ "ABCs" Collection sheet in December. These students and their families collected a total of over 600 BoxTop\$, or over \$60 towards Field Day in June - Thank You. The next Kindergarten BoxTop\$ collection sheet will be based on a "SPRING" theme and sent home with all K students in early February for a return due date at end of March.

### **LabelsForEducation UPCs Collection**

During these winter months when many families are heating up soup for their meals, we encourage all families and staff to bring in the following UPCs to be put in collection boxes at school. We are collecting UPCs from Campbell's, Swanson, V-8, Spaghettio's, Prego and Pepperidge Farms products. These UPCs earn 'free' educational equipment for our school community. For more information, go to [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) or contact Breeda Royer @ [895-3006](tel:895-3006).

### **Coming Soon to Ellis: The NED Show**

NED stands for Never give up. Encourage others. Do your best.

It is a fabulous Yo-Yo trick show combined with fun and music! The goal of the show is to promote academic achievement through character development. Check it out on the web at [www.thenedshow.com](http://www.thenedshow.com)

### *Middle School Homework Helpline*

Parents or students call the school number of [895-2511](tel:895-2511) after school hours and dial one of the following extensions:

175 - 5th grade      176 - 6th grade  
177 - 7th grade      178 - 8th grade.

### **Telephone Extensions**

**Nurse—dial—8**

**Kitchen— dial—427**

**Absent & Tardy Line—dial 7**

**Middle School Hours—7:50—2:20**

**Elementary Hours—8:35—3:05**