

# Heron Pond Happenings

Sept/Oct 2015

Principal : Mrs. Chantal Alcox  
Assistant Principal : Mr. Chris Saunders



## Principal's News - Opening Ceremony

We held our schoolwide Opening Ceremony on Thursday, September 3, 2015. At this ceremony new staff members were introduced to the students. Classes shared their "Hopes and Dreams" with the entire school community. It is by working together that all our hopes and dreams will come true!



### Contents

Principal's News	1
Upcoming Events	1
Parent/Teacher Conferences	1
Helping Hands	2
PTO News	2
Halloween Parties	2
Second Grade News	2
Third Grade News	3
Fourth Grade News	3
Fifth Grade News	3
New Faces/Places	4



### Upcoming Events

- ◆ 10/23 PTO Spooktacular
- ◆ 10/30 Autumn Adventure Day
- ◆ 11/2, 11/16 School Board Meetings
- ◆ 11/6 TIGER "I've Got Your Back"
- ◆ 11/11 Veteran's Day - No School
- ◆ 11/13 Picture Retake Day
- ◆ 11/25-11/27 Thanksgiving Break

### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will begin on November 16, 2015 and run through November 23, 2015. If you do not have a conference time scheduled, please contact your child's teacher to set up a time to meet.

Conferences can be held before or after school, during the day, or on November 23, 2015 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.



Weekly and monthly Helping Hand drawing winners



Each month the hands collected are put onto a poster so students can see how many were given out each month

*“The PTO is looking for a volunteer to serve as Treasurer.”*

## Helping Hands

We are in our second year of the Helping Hands program here at Heron Pond. Students can be given a “Helping Hand” for showing respectful, responsible, and caring behaviors. Students who demonstrate these behaviors are recognized by being awarded a sticker and a small blue hand. They write their names on the hands and drop them off in the office where they place them into a grade level bucket. Each week on Friday one hand is drawn from each grade’s bucket. Those lucky winning students’

names are announced over the intercom. They are called to the office where they receive a Helping Hands pencil and have their picture taken with school administration and guidance counselors. The pictures are posted to our website each week at <http://hp.milfordk12.org>. In addition, at the end of each month a monthly winner from each grade is drawn and they are given a “Helping Hands at Heron Pond” T shirt. They are included in our photo for the website.



## PTO News

The MES PTO will be having their Annual Spooktacular Event on October, 23 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Pizza, water and juice will be available for purchase on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last. Come in your costume, play games, walk down the haunted hallway, decorate cookies, and more! Admission is free with a canned good donation to SHARE!

### Square 1 Art -

Our main fundraiser this year is Square 1 Art. Coming home soon will be your children’s custom catalog featuring their artwork. You will be able to purchase your child’s artwork for yourself or for Christmas gifts for family members. The school will earn profits from every order and Square 1 will send each child home with a free sheet of stickers imprinted with their artwork. Watch for more details and order deadlines. Together, we can help support the school!

## Halloween Parties

Halloween parties will be held on Friday afternoon, October 30, 2015. Students should not wear costumes to school. If they wish, students can bring costumes to wear during their class parties. No makeup or masks are allowed. Makeup takes too long to apply. Masks might scare some of the younger students and are not always easy to see through,

making some unsafe to wear at school. Also, weapons or fake blood are not allowed.

If you have arranged to bring in party food, please leave it in the main office and it will be delivered to the classroom in time for the party. We hope to offer our students a variety of healthy treat choices.

## Second Grade News

Second graders have done a nice job in transitioning to Heron Pond. They are adjusting to grade level routines and expectations.

On Friday, October 30, Heron Pond will celebrate Autumn Adventure Day in the morning.

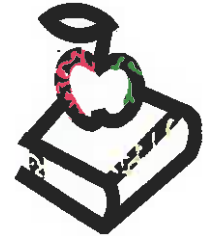
The children will participate in outdoor relay races. Please remind them to dress in comfortable clothing and to wear sneakers. In the afternoon we will celebrate Halloween. They will change into their costumes before lunch and have their party after recess. It is always a fun day for all!



## Third Grade News

Third grade is off to a wonderful start this year! We were very fortunate to have caterpillars in our classrooms to directly observe the life cycle of a butterfly. We will be learning about other cycles in nature this year, including the rock cycle and the plant life cycle. We have also begun learning multiplication strategies in math. Math fact fluency is very important for these third graders.

So far the students have learned strategies for multiplying 2s, 5s, and 10s, so please practice those tables at home. As we learn more multiplication tables in class, begin to include those in your practice time as well. Finally, Autumn Adventure Day will be a fun day to enjoy the season. We will be going on a nature walk to collect items for delicious trail mix. It'll be a great day!



## Fourth Grade News

The fourth graders have had a great start to the school year! In math, we have begun the new Everyday Math edition and throughout unit one, have had the opportunity to review and explore place value in numbers, addition & subtraction strategies, and some geometry key points.

In reading, our first theme with the Reading Wonders program encourages students to "Think It Through" with problem solving and thinking about consequences. Many fourth grade classrooms are encouraging their children to participate in a book challenge. Inspired by The Book Whisperer, teachers have challenged their students to read a given number of books from various genres by the end of this school year!

At your parent/teacher conference in November, please look for the *Every Kid in a Park* National Parks Foundation pass for each fourth grader. Thanks to the *Every Kid in a Park* initiative, every fourth grade student and their families are invited to visit national parks free of charge throughout this school year! Please see the website for more information in planning your trip:

[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov)

As winter approaches, another fourth and fifth grade incentive you may be interested in looking into is through Ski NH! Visit [www.skinh.com](http://www.skinh.com) for more information on how to purchase the Snowsports Passport for this year. This passport allows fourth and fifth grade students a free lift ticket at various New Hampshire ski resorts, along with an additional offer for the family depending on where you are skiing.



## Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade will celebrate Autumn Adventure Day on Friday, Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. The students will rotate through four, 30 minute autumn related activity centers such as poetry, cranberry math, leaf art, and pumpkin races. The day will culminate with a party in the

afternoon. Students may bring in costumes to wear during our celebration. We will change into costumes before our 2:00 party. Please note that makeup and fake weapons are not allowed. We look forward to an educational and entertaining day.

## Fifth Grade Recess Enrichment

Play football. Create beautiful sun catchers. Learn guitar. Make messy, icky science experiments. These are just a few of the offerings available to fifth grade students. Enrichment is held once a week during fifth grade recess. Students may sign up for one activity each session.

There are usually five sessions each school year, allowing students to explore many different interests. Enrichment is run by the art, library, music, and physical education teachers.

We really enjoy working with the students in this setting and the students look forward to their enrichment time each week. We're all looking forward to a great year filled with unique and exciting programs.



## New Faces/ New Places



**Beth Dunham, Elementary Curriculum Coordinator:** I have taught in special education and regular education at every level k-12 over the past 15 years. I am a certified administrator, elementary teacher, reading and writing specialist and special educator. I love to kayak and garden in my free time and the beach is my favorite place to be in every season. I have lived in Milford for the past 12 years and I am so excited to be part of the Heron Pond Community!



**Erin Carter, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Instructional Assistant:** I grew up in the Amherst/Milford area and graduated from Milford, back in the days of MASH. I live with my husband, Michael also a MASH grad, and our children. I've been volunteering in the Milford school system for several years and enjoy now working at Heron Pond.



**Jennifer Crawford, Special Education Teacher:** I graduated from Chester College of New England and have been teaching for 9 years in the special education setting as well as the regular education setting. I taught for 5 years at an international school on the shores of the Red Sea, in Saudi Arabia. My husband and I have a 14 month old daughter and a large farm dog. We are moving to Milford in November. I love to read and hike mountains.



**Courtney Palladino, Special Education Associate:** I'm a graduate of UNH and have a bachelor's degree in History. Currently I'm working on my Masters of Education at Rivier University. I enjoy reading, spending time with my family and friends, four wheeling, and playing with my 4 dogs.



**Holly Burke, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher:** This is my sixth year teaching in Milford and my first year as a fifth grade teacher. I am looking forward to experiencing Shakespeare with my class! I love the New England Patriots, exercising, and reading. I am currently reading The Luck Uglies by Paul Durham. I am trying to reach my goal of 85 books in 2015!



**Renae Lord, Special Education Associate:** I transitioned up from the Jacques School this school year as a 1:1 Aide. I enjoy outdoor activities that New Hampshire's four seasons have to offer such as hiking and snowmobiling. I live in Mason N.H. and graduated from the Milford High School. I love coming to school each day and being a part of such a great community of teachers and learners!



**Ashley Demers, Special Education Associate:** I graduated from University of New Hampshire with a bachelor's degree in Anthropology, and I am working on my master's degree in special education at Southern New Hampshire University. I grew up and live in Milford. I enjoy reading, baking, drinking tea, and cuddling with my cat named Lucky.



**Steve Francoeur, Special Education Associate:** I have been at Heron Pond for 1.5 years and enjoy every day. I enjoy coaching football and soccer. My family is wonderful and I enjoy spending time with them all.



**Liz Mosher, Art Teacher:** This is my first year teaching art. I graduated from Plymouth State University with a bachelor's in art education. I make my own artwork at my studio in Wilton, NH. I play mainly with clay and oil paint, but I enjoy a variety of art forms. I also love reading, writing, and hiking 4,000 ft mountains. I listen to many, many books on tape on my way home to Lowell, MA.



**Lynne Cheever, Special Education Associate:** I love spending time at the lake. I enjoy swimming and boating. I am enjoying working in the STRIVE program here in Milford.



**Emily Eisenhouer, Special Education Associate:** I received my degree from Rivier University. I love living in Milford with my 6 year old son. We enjoy cooking together, being outdoors and spending time with family.

**Newsletter Committee Members:**  
Chantal Alcox, Allison Anneser, Debra Covell, Jenifer Hollander, Maureen Jepson, Suzanne Schedin, and Caroline Sousa.



**We're on the Web!**  
<http://hp.milfordk12.org>