



Heron Pond Happenings

Mar/April 2017

Principal: Mrs. Chantal Alcox

Assistant Principal: Mr. Chris Saunders

Principal's News – "Bikes for Books"

The Bikes for Books program is very simple. Students are asked to read as many books as they can from now until June 16, 2017. Students fill out entry forms for each book that they read. The entry form includes the name of the book and the author as well as the student's name, grade, and teacher's name. The student also fills out a short description of the book on the back of the entry form. After completing the entry form, the student places his/her entry slip into the manila envelope provided to each classroom. The more books your child reads, the better opportunity he/she will have to be chosen to receive a new bike! A special thanks to the Mason Benevolent Lodge #7 of Milford for sponsoring this program. One girl bike and one boy bike will be won at each grade level.

Please remind your children to participate in the Bikes for Books program!



Fun Run



Join us for our third annual **Fun Run on May 20 at 9:00 a.m. at Heron Pond Elementary School**. The course is about one mile long, and you can run, walk, or a little bit of both. Feel free to come to cheer on others and be part of an annual tradition. It is a great way to join in on a fun community event while being active. Stick around after the run as we will raffle off over 30 prizes donated by local businesses and individuals. All money raised will be used to purchase recess equipment for students at Jacques and Heron Pond Elementary Schools. Please note that **you may still register right up until the event kicks off**...however we are beyond the deadline for t-shirt orders. Hope to see you there!

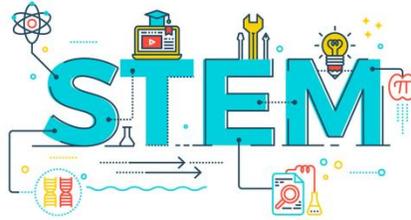
Dismissal Change of Plans



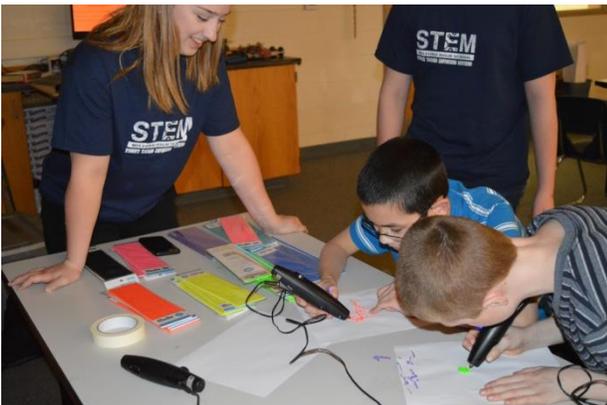
Please also help us by writing notes when making changes for your children's afternoon plans. Changes made by a phone call to the office result in interruptions to the classrooms and these interruptions ultimately affect instructional time. It becomes very difficult to make changes to dismissal plans after 2:00 p.m. We respectfully request that you make every effort to inform us of any changes before 2:00 p.m. daily.

If it is absolutely necessary to make a change, please call the office before 2:00 p.m. and speak with a staff member directly. Please refrain from leaving phone messages or writing emails, as we are unable to guarantee that those messages will be received and processed before dismissal.

STEM Night



We were fortunate to be able to enjoy another STEM night hosted by the Milford High School and Applied Technology Center. Fourth and fifth grade students and their parents attended an information session to learn about STEM career pathways offered at the high school level. Students were then invited to participate in two of the four sessions including Design to 3D printing, Tag Us (designing and building their own name plates), Cooking with Molecular Gastronomy, and Arcade Games with a Sphero robot. Students had a wonderful time being led by Milford High School staff and students. What a wonderful night!



Music News

We started our “Recorder Karate” unit in March. This is an excellent program in which the fourth grade students get to practice recorder songs at home and earn “belts.” As a culminating activity to our “Recorder Karate” unit, we invited David Coffin to visit us in May. He specializes in early wind instruments and presents three assemblies to the entire fourth grade class. The students who have worked really hard at home and have earned their black belts take part in a “master recorder class” with David Coffin during the school day.

We are grateful that the PTO supports this program and sponsors him each year for our fourth graders. David performs with the Revels Education School Enrichment Program and has performed extensively in the New England area since 1980. His collection of early wind instruments include recorders, concertinas, penny-whistles, bombards, gemshorns, cornamuse and shawms.



Grade Level News

Grade 2

Second graders have been busy working on science units. All students did research on different species of penguins. Research sources included books, magazines, and educational websites. The unit culminated in creating outlines of life-sized penguins.



Second graders made bird bags for the children to hang in a tree, at their home. The children will be doing weekly observations of the changes that occur during spring and recording their findings in a weekly journal. Materials have been sent home with an explanation.

Second grade field trips to Beaver Brook will take place in May. More information and a permission slip will be sent home once dates are confirmed.

Grade 3

In February, the third graders immigrated to America. They boarded their ships (cars and buses) and traveled to America via Ellis Island (at Heron Pond). They all successfully passed their inspections, experiencing challenges along the way. They all felt a huge sense of relief upon being welcomed to America at the end of the Ellis Island simulation. They especially enjoyed sharing their cultures in the melting pot of America by feasting upon ethnic cuisines from around the world. It was a very exciting and memorable day for these students!



As we look ahead, the third graders will continue to work on their gardens with the scientists-in-residence. Each class was able to choose the seeds to plant, and planting took place on April 19. The students are eager to plant and care for their gardens, and to observe their plants growing.

The students have also begun to study rocks and minerals. At the culmination of the unit, the third graders will be visiting Beaver Brook to perform a hands-on investigation of the physical properties of rocks, as well as hike to examine stone walls in the woods and bedrock outcrop that is 100 million years old, as well as see a talus slope. A permission slip with more detailed information, including information for chaperones, will be coming home after April vacation.

The classes are going to Beaver Brook on the following dates:

5/30 - Hollander/Dilley

6/1 - Brett/Sareault

6/2 - Dodge/Lyon/Tierney

Grade 4



The fourth graders visited the State House and Historical Society Museum in Concord on April 12 and April 13. At the museum, students were able to explore artifacts from New Hampshire's early settlers. At the state house, fourth graders were given a tour in the Hall of Flags and visited both the Senate and House of Representatives floors. They even got a special look inside Governor Sununu's office! It was an educational and fun experience!

Upcoming fourth grade dates... Friday June 2nd (9-10:45) The New Hampshire Expo!

Grade 5



In preparation for our integrated language arts unit on William Shakespeare in May, fifth graders attended *The Tempest* play at St. Anselm College. We will also enjoy a performance by Shakespeare & Company at the end of April. Shakespeare & Company is a professional theater group from Lenox, MA whose actors will perform scenes from various plays as well as visit our classrooms to provide further insight and education about planning a performance.

Fifth grade students will study the life and works of William Shakespeare as well as learn about the history of Elizabethan England. Each classroom will complete an in-depth study of one of Shakespeare's plays to perform. All students will be involved in various aspects of the play from acting to costume and set design. The culmination of this unit will be performances during the end of May and the beginning of June. Further information about dates and times will be communicated as soon as they are available. This unit has always been a memorable experience for fifth grade students and we look forward to learning and sharing our experiences again this year. More information about Shakespeare & Company can be found at <http://www.shakespeare.org/>.

Important Dates:

Spring Recess 4/24 - 4/28

School Board Meeting Mon. 5/1, 5/15 - 7pm MHS room 182

District Band Night Tues. 5/16

Early Release Wed. 5/17

MES Fun Run Sat. 5/20

Last Day of School Wed. 6/21

[School Calendar 2017-2018](#)

We're on the web! [Heron Pond School](#)

