



Heron Pond Happenings

November/December 2017

Principal: Mrs. Chantal Alcox

Assistant Principal: Mr. Chris Saunders

Principal's News – Title One Family Night

Our first Title I Family Night of the 2017-2018 school year was held on Friday, December 1. Over 60 Title I students and their families enjoyed a pizza dinner and a night of fun and games! The phenomenal children's librarians from the Wadleigh Memorial Library, Miss Letty and Miss Trina, brought their Giant Candyland, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants! Other board game favorites, such as Guess Who?, Hedbanz, Yahtzee!, and Sorry! were played throughout the evening. Title I Family Game Night culminated in raffles and a book giveaway for all students. Raffle items included three game baskets - one each for Kindergarten/Grade 1 students, Grade 2/Grade 3 students, and Grade 4/Grade 5 students. Congratulations to Liam C., Paige B., and Sean H. for winning the game baskets! Additionally, game sessions with Mrs. Alcox, Ms. Maguire, Mrs. Peterson, and Mr. Saunders were raffled off to eight Jacques and Heron Pond students. Congratulations to Matthew M. and Gavin B. from Jacques, and to Stephen A., Michael M., Camden C., Kristopher C., Hayden R., and Danika W. from Heron Pond! Fun was had by all and we look forward to our next Title I Family Night after the holidays!



School Counseling News

We are pleased to share information regarding the launch of the Children's Resiliency Retreat which is a new program being offered at the Boys & Girls Club of Souhegan Valley. The Children's Resiliency Retreat is for children in grades one through eight who are affected by a loved one's substance use. **This program has been created in response to the alcohol and other drug addiction crisis we are currently facing and is being offered at no cost to participants.**

The retreats are a supportive education program which will be offered on the second Saturday of each month and will begin on January 13, 2018. To sign up for the Children's Resiliency Retreat, use the following link:

<http://www.svbqc.org/childrens-resiliency-retreat>

STEAM

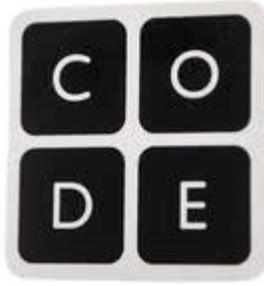


On November 2, Mrs. Ropple's fifth grade class participated in a live interaction with the crew of the E/V Nautilus (nautiluslive.org). This opportunity was offered to students thanks to the Ocean Exploration Trust (OET) Community STEM program at the University of New Hampshire. The OET was founded by Dr. Robert Ballard, discoverer of the shipwrecked Titanic. The Nautilus is operated by OET and conducts research expeditions mapping the ocean floor. The 2017 expedition explored the Eastern Pacific Ocean, documenting unexplored regions from Canada to Mexico.

In preparation for the interaction, students learned about the crew, the expedition, the technology, and the science of exploration. Based on their areas of interest, students developed questions that they were able to ask the crew when the live interaction took place. Some of the questions included: What's the most interesting thing you have seen or discovered? How do you become a crew member on an expedition? What do you do on the ship when you are not working? How do you determine if something is a new species?



The students and staff learned a great deal and were very grateful to have such an amazing opportunity to learn more about science, technology, and ocean exploration.



Hour of Code

Many students participated in “Hour of Code” during Computer Science Week, December 4 - 8. During the week students had a chance to try ‘unplugged’ activities which helped to make the connection to writing computer code. After trying the unplugged activities, students were able to try coding using block coding in the HOC Minecraft Hero Adventure or other tutorials. Students are able to see the Javascript that their block coding writes and then build on these skills.

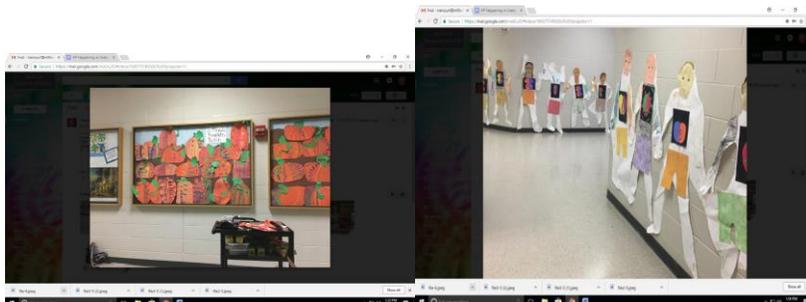
Code.org has several coding activities and full Computer Science courses available for everyone. You can try it at www.code.org.

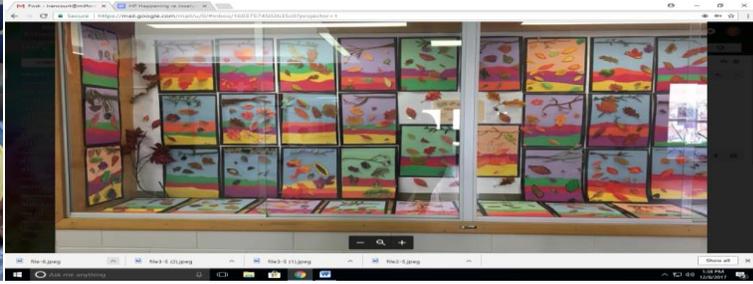
Student Teachers

Ms. Sullivan has been learning and working in the Art room with our students here at Heron Pond since September. Her enthusiasm and love of art making is contagious and our community has been brightened by her presence here as a student teacher with Mrs. Rancourt. Ms. Sullivan is in the Art Education program at The New Hampshire Institute of Art in Manchester. When she leaves us, she will be moving on to her secondary student teaching situation at Keene High School. She will be missed here at Heron Pond and we hope she will

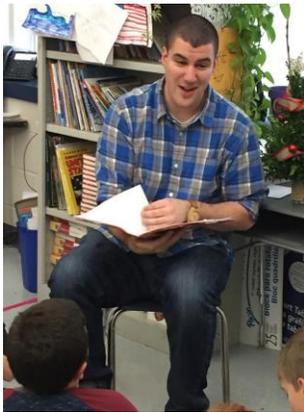


come back and visit often.





The lives of the third graders in Ms. Tierney's class were enriched from the moment they entered third grade with the addition of Mr. Piedra, a student teacher from Rivier University. Mr. P., as the children fondly call him, brought his love of literature, sharing the adventures of Roz in the book *The Wild Robot*. The children will miss his calm daily presence, but are hopeful their paths may cross in the near future when he gets his teaching license in January.



Grade Level News

Grade 2

The second graders have been working very hard on their addition and subtraction math facts. They have even been able to utilize the Chromebooks during class to help them practice. This is very exciting for them! A solid understanding of these basic facts is essential for them as they continue their math education and move on to more difficult concepts. Thank you for your continued practice and support at home.



A winter field trip to Peabody Mills in Amherst, New Hampshire has been scheduled on the following dates January 29, January 31, and February 2. More information will follow after vacation. If you wish to chaperone any field trips, remember you must fill out the volunteer form and have your fingerprints taken at the SAU Office. *This is a six week process, so be sure to get your paperwork in if you wish to chaperone!*

Grade 3



Our third graders continue to work hard at school. In math, the students have learned strategies for multiplying by 2s, 5s, and 10s. Please continue to reinforce and practice these facts with your children. We will continue to build upon this knowledge as we learn other multiplication facts throughout the year.

In November, we finished our geography unit and our students enjoyed traveling the world. They visited each continent and completed a craft or played games as they learned something interesting about the history, culture or geography of the continent.

When we return from vacation, third grade will begin our immigration unit. We will study immigration through Ellis Island during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The students will also have the opportunity to explore their own heritage and create projects that reflect their learning. This unit will culminate in an Ellis Island simulation, in which the students will get to experience what it was like for third-class passengers to come to America. Ellis Island Day will take place

on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21st, with a snow day of FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd. We will need several volunteers to make it a successful experience for our students.



Grade 4

The fourth grade teachers enjoyed meeting many parents at our parent teacher conferences in November. Thank you for coming in to meet with us!

During December, fourth grade students have been working hard to learn about fractions and decimals and are busy writing summaries and how-to explanatory essays. In science, student have been reading about ecosystems and animal adaptations. Some classes even dissected owl pellets. Using bones charts, we were able to identify what type of animal the owl ate for lunch!

Many fourth grade students have been challenged to complete daily Random Acts of Kindness throughout the month of December. Students are being encouraged to think of random acts of kindness to do for others on their own, while their teachers are also choosing a daily act to focus on. Holding a door open for someone behind you, offering to carry groceries for someone, collecting food for a food bank, or creating a thank you card for someone are all wonderful acts of kindness to promote. The fourth grade team wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Save the date! The annual fourth grade music show will be at the end of February. More information will be sent home as the show approaches but please reserve the date in your calendar!

Tuesday February 20, 2018 - Classes of Mrs. Sousa, Mrs. Clauson, Mrs. Bokhan, Mrs. Blake

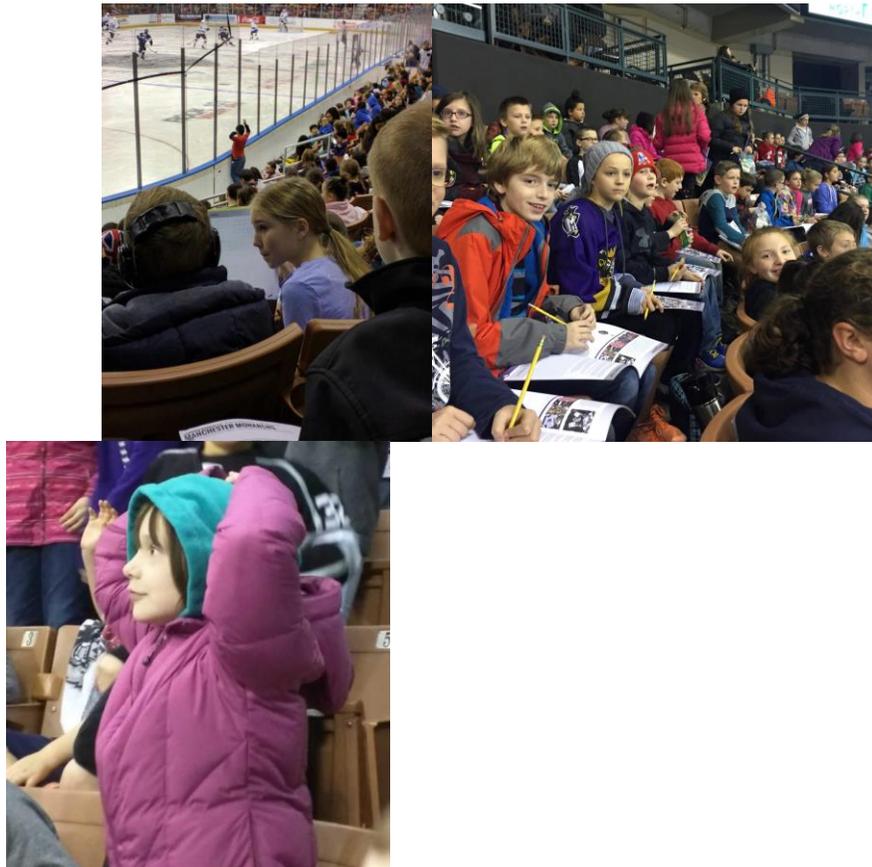
Wednesday February 21, 2018 - Classes of Ms. Wenger, Mrs. Schooley, Mrs. Thibodeau



Grade 5

On Wednesday, November 15, fifth grade students traveled to the SNHU Arena in Manchester, NH to participate in Monarchs Education Day. Prior to the field trip, every student received an educational workbook to prepare for the event. The students explored the history of hockey, used science knowledge to better understand how safety gear is designed to protect the human body, and completed math activities to compare and contrast the area of Olympic and NHL rinks. During the event, students took notes and then wrote a game summary following the field trip. Some students chose to submit their summary to the Monarchs "Best Game Summary" contest. A Heron Pond student won last year and was invited back to watch a game from the Monarchs press box and help write the official game story. We seem to have many potential sports journalists who submitted excellent articles again this year. Wish them luck!

Fifth graders will be participating in the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee beginning in January. A preliminary-level spelling bee will take place in each classroom with classroom winners participating in a grade level competition on Friday, January 19, 2018 to determine the Heron Pond School winner. The winner will go on to compete in the state contest in Concord, NH. All students have received packets from Mrs. Schedin containing a letter with more information and word lists to study. Good luck to all the competitors!



Important Dates:

School Board Meeting 12/18, 1/2, 1/16 7:00 p.m. MHS room 182

Holiday Recess 12/25 - 1/1

MES PTO Meeting Weds. 1/10/18 @ 6:30pm HP Library

No School - MLK Day Mon. 1/15/18

Teacher Workshop Day Tues. 1/16/18

Spelling Bee - Grade 5 Fri. 1/19/18

[School Calendar 2017-2018](#)



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