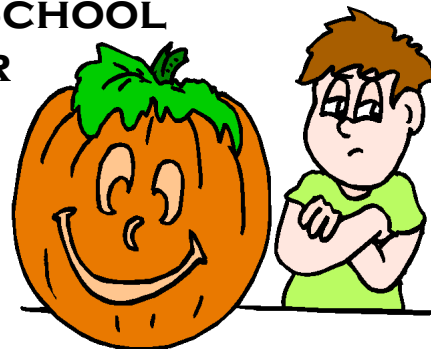


GILBERT H. HOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2009



Principal's message



Dear Parents/Guardians -

Well, it has been a smooth transition from summer to fall, and here we are already in the month of October. By now everyone should know that October is NECAP month. NECAP is the abbreviation for the New England Common Assessment Program, which is our state testing system. It is used to determine if our school makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and identifies whether or not our school is considered a School In Need of Improvement (SINI). It is important that students get their REST and try their BEST throughout the 3-4 day schedule:

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 - Reading Tests 1 & 2
Wednesday, October 7, 2009 - Reading Test 3 & Math Test 1
Thursday, October 8, 2009 - Math Test 2 & 3
Tuesday, October 13, 2009 - Writing Test (8th Grade Only)

If at all possible, please try to make sure your child attends school on these days. We understand that emergencies and illnesses happen, but try not to schedule appointments that would require your child to be absent part or all of these days. We want everyone to take pride in GHHMS by doing his or her best on the NECAP exams. Teachers will be stressing the importance of these tests. Teams will be organizing a breakfast the mornings of the tests to make sure that everyone begins the day with a full stomach. How well we do on the NECAP exams is a reflection of our students, teachers, the school, the district and our town. Whatever you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.

With regard to increasing performance levels on standardized testing, it is a goal this year to optimize instructional time. Schedule changes have been made, and teachers are concentrating on efficiently using their class time. An important way that parents can help is to effectively communicate with their student each morning regarding their after school plans and schedule. Each day, we have an incredible number of calls from parents with messages for their children. Each of these calls involves a call into a classroom, which disrupts the lesson. I would like to encourage you to discuss important plans with your child each morning - perhaps even writing your child a written reminder. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Finally, you've heard my Alert Now reminder, so I thought I should put one into the newsletter as well. If you drop off your child in the morning, please arrive on time. In order to be ready to go when the bell rings for the start of the day, all students should arrive BY 7:20 a.m. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Austin Garofalo, Principal

Kim Hogan, Assistant Principal

Joe Crawford, Assistant Principal

Picture Retake Day is November 6



Student Accident Insurance



The superintendent's office would like us to remind parents that Student Accident Insurance is available for all students. Students must be covered by medical insurance to participate in any physical activity after school (including intramural sports, interscholastic sports, Ski Club, etc.). The policy is very affordable, and forms are available in the office. Any family who does not have family medical insurance is encouraged to look into this program.

fitness is the focus in PE Classes

The Physical Education classes are in full swing as students concentrate on team building activities that focus on cooperation, sportsmanship and team work. Students also participated in their first physical fitness test to establish a baseline for tracking overall fitness, endurance and strength. Tests include a timed mile run and push-ups and sit-ups done to a specific cadence count. Results for fastest runners for each grade are listed below with hopes that all runners show improvement throughout the trimester.

6th grade: Sarah Kane 7:48, Brandon McColligan 7:02
7th grade: Frankie Bryson 7:32, Jake Rowell 6:20
8th grade: Cecile Young 7:40, Gary Clark 6:32

Great job by all students!!!

Students of the Month

Renee Carignan		Eric Daigle		Skyla Gorman
Sean Donohue		Angeliek Devine		Liam Higgins
Joshua Jones		David Duguay		Brian Jones
Sarah Kane		Andrea Galvin		Zachary Kelleher
Avery Littlefield		Alexandra Harasym		Tyler MacGregor
Joseph Lydick		Malyssa Hesse		Jacob Marois
Brandyn McColligan		Ami Kenney		Aiden Masson
Ryan O'Toole		Kristen Sobolewski		Selena Pierce
Maiya Perin		Tyler Vigeant		Martin Schancer
Christina Ridenour		Mason Anderson		Zachary Uribe
Mia Santagati		John Davis		Craig Watt
Kevin Shinault		Devin Deschene		William Wheaton
Kalie Sullivan		Khali Frank		Thomas Williams
Devin Conway			Matthew Galvin	

Husky Top Ten



Keara Doolan
Hayden Pavao
Hannah Lynch
Gracie Craft
Jillian Cassavant

Katie Lydick
Josie Lydick
Rachel Hatch
Alicia Rose
Suzie Choi

Team Updates

6-1 Team 6-1 is off to a fast start of the school year. In Language Arts, students have been learning about roots of words, reading strategies and working on their snapshot writing. Social Studies class is discovering basic world geography and the 5 themes of geography. In Science, the scientific method is being explored, and scientific units of measure are up next. Math has been reviewing for NECAP testing in October. Team 6-1 is ready to "Rock The NECAP!!!!"

6-2 Team 6-2 kids are off to a great start. **Ask your child:** What are the 5 Themes of Geography? Do you know how to write a perfect paragraph? How are your powers of observation? When was the last time you were curious enough to test a theory? How and why do you order and compare fractions? We look forward to a great year!

6-3 First and foremost, all of this year's 6-3 students should give themselves a big pat on the back-- you guys have been phenomenal! Our whole team has been blown away by your enthusiasm and general attitude toward your middle-school transition. We are so lucky to be given this chance to meet you all. Another big thank you goes to our 6-3 parents - nearly 50% of you showed up for our Open House night!

Now on with the academics... This past month, Science students have been learning to act like scientists through their study of chemistry and measurement. In Social Studies, Mr. Hamilton has his class working with archeology and learning about early humans. Math classes have been reviewing for the NECAP tests (which begin on October 6th). Language Arts classes will also begin reviewing for the NECAP shortly now that they have wrapped up their first writing assignment: the Scar Story.

We're looking forward to a great year with this team, and once again, thank you all for the wonderful dedication to our teamwork thus far!

7-1 Team 7-1 is off to a fantastic start. The students have settled in nicely and are beginning to adjust to the seventh grade expectations. One exciting thing happening this year in Science is the Interactive Notebook. The Interactive Notebook is a way to help students stay more organized with science concepts. It offers students the opportunity to be creative and express themselves through their individual learning styles. Please encourage your students to attend the Interactive Notebook lunch jam that happens every Wednesday if they are not caught up.

7-2 Our team is so excited to have such a great start to the year. It has been great to see returning faces from last year, as well as new faces to the team. We have really spent a lot of time getting to know all the students, sharing our team goals and expectations, as well as communicating with everyone how great our team can be. We are off to a great start!

In Science, students are focused on biology this year, classifying living things based on their external and internal characteristics. They will be finding out all about the different dynamics living things have and how they relate to each other. Social Studies classes are studying the Crusades and the Middle Ages. Language Arts classes have just finished reading *Among the Hidden*. Students will be making Life Maps and will begin using informational text for their research. Math classes are happy to be done reviewing for NECAP. They will be comparing and ordering rational numbers soon. Please feel free to contact our team with any questions.

7-3 In Social Studies, we are off to a great beginning! Classes have been very busy. We completed a little review, used our math skills to find out how much waste Americans produce and completed some 'Go Green' activities. We experienced life and taxation in 13th century England, and pretended we were authors of the Magna Carta or jesters and town criers sharing the latest news of King John. Recently, we discovered how big Africa really is by estimating and problem solving and learned about some ancient African kingdoms.

Students have been working hard in Language Arts! We completed a review for NWEA testing. Then we read a short story and learned about plot and conflict and how this information relates to our everyday lives. We will soon be having conferences about our books and doing literature circles.

In Math, we are wrapping up our NECAP review with a self reflection (What I learned...) paper. We will move on to working with different types of numbers, such as fractions, decimals, exponents, and scientific notation. Soon, we will be solving problems and comparing numbers across these formats. In class, we have started warmups and warmup assessments as well as weekly writing assignments.

In Science, we have been reviewing lab safety rules and symbols as well as working on the scientific method. We will soon be starting to learn about microbes (bacteria, germs and viruses).

8-1 Team 8-1 would again like to thank all the parents who came to Open House. We all felt there was a huge turnout and appreciate you taking the time to meet us.

In Science class, we are finishing the metric system and had our first test on September 30. For the month of October we are learning about elements and atoms with our Chemistry unit. It is going to be so much fun! Don't forget to check your SSW's every week to see what we are learning about. Look out for our first mini project where everyone receives their own element.

In Language Arts, we have finished going over roots of words and have started to read memoirs. Students have also chosen a personal reading book and are reading their minimum (and it's only a minimum) of 75 minutes a week. Kids were so enthusiastic about their book choice that they were arguing over who got the few copies of certain titles.

What a year! The Yankees won the American League East, the NY Jets beat the Patriots and Team 8-1 is going to have another great year in Social Studies. We have reviewed material from seventh grade and have moved on to the creation of the Constitution. Our biggest push will be starting the research paper early, giving us more time to read about our topics.

In Math class we've officially chased those pesky summer cobwebs from our brains by doing some review, and now we are hitting the books with Unit 1. In the Pre-Algebra classes that means a unit on Real Numbers and Properties, and in the Algebra class it is a unit introducing the Tools of Algebra. Rock on, 8-1 Math!!

8-2 Team 8-2 would like to thank all of the parents for attending our open house festivities. The team truly enjoyed meeting all of you. Also, we were delighted by the many parents who were able to participate in our version of "The Match Game." Plus, parents on the winning teams were able to score some homework passes for their students! We also wanted to remind both parents and students that NECAP testing will take place on October 6-8, and October 13. Students should be eating a healthy breakfast and getting plenty of rest.

Upcoming Event: Pumpkin Day - a team event that will take place in October. Team 8-2 is looking forward to a great year!

8-3 Team 8-3 is having a successful year so far. The students are showing their potential and really stepping up to the plate. The pod is filled with great life portraits in various forms and everyday we learn a little bit more about each other as learners and as people. As the year progresses we look forward to all of the wonderful experiences we will have as a team.



Community Connection Corner (hosted by Pam Richard, GHHMS Social Worker)

I would like to welcome you to the start of our 2009-2010 school year. The middle school years are amazing and full of so much energy. It is an exciting time when your children will change and grow into independent, hardworking and responsible young adults. These changes sometimes come with challenges, so as you go through this transition into adulthood with your child, please know GHHMS and your Derry Community are here to help. Every month, I will write in this "corner" to make you aware of things that may make your life easier or more fun! I hope you can benefit from some of this information or share it with a friend. If you have questions, please feel free to call me directly.
---- Pam Richard 432-1224 x133

GHHMS HOMEWORK CLUB - FREE!

2:00 - 3:00 Monday - Thursday in GHHMS Library

A GHHMS teacher will be there to help and the Library will stay open until 3:30 in case your child needs extra time on the computer or doing a homework assignment before going home.

Boys & Girls Club

Hampstead Road 434-6695

Parents and students need to attend a one time orientation which is offered Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Annual dues \$50 per calendar year. Open Monday through Friday from 1:00 -9:00 p.m. Recreational activities, arts and crafts, sports, computers, and more. The Club provides transportation from school at 1:50 p.m. and 3:40 p.m. for a fee.

Derry Recreation

31 West Broadway 432-6136

Register for winter basketball from September 8 to November 20. Fee \$40. The season starts in January. "Youth Yoga for All" on Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Offered in October for 10 to 15 year olds. Cost \$40. Open gym for 1st through 8th graders Mondays and Thursdays from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. No cost. Softball registration starts in February and the season starts in May. Fee \$25. Judo offered year round. Derry has many programs for all ages!

Derry Library

48 E Broadway 432-6140

No cost for library cards. Family passes for several museums. Anime Club Teen Advisory Group starts in September. Call for details.

The Upper Room: A Family Resource Center, 36 Tsienneto Road 437-8477 or
www.urteachers.org
Offers information, support and a range of programs including parenting classes throughout the year.

Center for Life Management
10 Tsienneto Road 434-1577 or www.centerforlifemanagement.org
Offers comprehensive behavioral health services for children, adolescents and families.

New Hampshire Healthy Kids Call toll free-1-877-464-2447
A comprehensive health insurance program for children. Please note, if you are calling by cell, you need to call 228-2925. Program offers several plans. It is definitely worth calling to see if you meet eligibility requirements. Applications are on line at www.nhhealthykids.com

Community Health Services
41 Birch Street, Derry 425-2545.
CHS is an OFFICIAL NHHK application site ... Call if you need help with NHHK application. Plus, they provide access to medical, prescription and mental health services for income eligible adults who are unable to afford health insurance. Call to see if you meet income guidelines. Over 100 physicians participate - minimum \$10 co-pay.

Immunization Clinic information for Derry Students
Manchester Department of Public Health 1528 Elm St., Manchester, NH 624-6466
Clinics are held Monday 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 -11:30 a.m. 2nd, 3rd and 4th Thursday of month 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. @ Carol Rines Building. Immunizations are FREE of charge to children ... no appointment necessary....child must be accompanied by adult and have immunization record or history.

Fuel Assistance/ Electric Assistance
Call Community Action Program 898-8435 / 893-9172
Accepting calls as of 9/1/09.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Derry Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.

Any student, parent on behalf of their child, or employee who believes that he or she has a disability and thinks that accommodations are necessary to afford an equal opportunity for success, should contact their school Section 504 coordinator for further information. GHHMS 504 coordinator is Kim Hogan (432-1224).



**GHHMS PTSA thanks
you for your help
with the Yankee
Candle fundraiser.**