

Antrim Elementary Eagles

June 1, 2018

Greetings AES Families,

It is June, and I am becoming increasingly aware that I will soon be passing the torch to a new principal at Pierce and giving my full attention to AES.

I want to thank you all for all the support and patience shown this past year. We had successes and some challenges, yet despite it all, we continued the work that has to be done. There are countless people to whom I owe an expression of gratitude and hope that we continue working together in the coming years. Parents and caregivers, you are so lucky to have such a caring and dedicated staff working with your children. Each and every person working here is all about students first. An expression of thanks also goes to all the volunteers who were in classrooms and outside them supporting teachers in everything possible. Your presence and support make a much stronger school. We hope to continue reaching our goals with even more volunteers next year as we embark on increasing family engagement. Stay tuned for details!

Student Class Assignments

We have been working diligently on class assignments for next year. Our teachers have made recommendations on student groupings to create balanced class lists. Our Instructional Support Team will be looking at those recommendations and making additional suggestions with the final approval of the principal. Students will receive class assignments on the last day of school to alleviate worrying over the summer. Thank you all again for respecting the process. We will be sad as we say farewell to our fabulous group of 4th graders.

Assemblies in June

We will have a slightly modified assembly schedule in June.

June 1 - grade 3 presenting

June 8 - grade K presenting

June 15 - no assembly for families

June 22 - Thank you and Goodbyes.

At the last assembly of the year, we will say goodbye to our staff that will not be returning next year. We will also take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have made this year an exceptional one.

I want to wish you a happy June!

All the best,

Stephanie Syre-Hager

KINDERGARTEN

As the year winds down, we are looking, reading, acting, and sounding more like first graders. Assessments were done throughout the month of May. We are pleased with the results and find the progress to be remarkable. It's amazing how much a 5 or 6 year old can learn in one year. We are excited for our upcoming field trip to The Friendly Farm. We have also been celebrating the end of kindergarten with an ABC countdown. So far we have painted with bubbles on "b" day, dropped eggs on "e" day, and painted with fish on "f" day. We have a lot of fun days planned to wind down our year.



FIRST GRADE

Cornucopia is a big part of the 1st grade curriculum at this time of the year. Two "gardeners" from the Cornucopia organization come every Thursday morning to teach the first graders about gardening. In the past four weeks we have learned how to plant seeds, the proper way to water plants, how to keep the soil moist, what five things plants need to grow, what do you find in soil and the parts of a seed. We have also planted peas, radishes, kale, beans, mustard and herbs. Some of these plants have already grown and everyone has tasted them. Some of the greens were very yummy but others got a "nay" vote. The cool part of the program is that in second grade the same students will get to pick and eat all the vegetables that were planted and need the summer to mature!!!



SECOND GRADE

Second graders have been studying our "Then and Now" unit in Social Studies which compares and contrasts life now with life over 100 years ago. One very surprising fact for our classes is that there were 14 original one-room schoolhouses in Antrim! We looked up where each student lives now to figure out what school house they would have attended back then. Some learned that they would be the only student from our class in a particular school! We then had a wonderful field trip to the Peterborough Historical Society to learn more about life then and now. We got to tour a home from the 1800's and learn what cooking, sleeping, cleaning, etc. was like back then. Ask a second grader where the expression, "good night, sleep tight" comes from! Touring the one room school house was very eye-opening, and it made us all thankful that we are alive now! One final stop was the town's attic where the students enjoyed playing games from this time period.



As part of our Geometry unit in math, the second graders worked with Jeannie Connolly and the Arts Integration program. Jeannie never disappoints with her beautiful and very creative projects. Second and Third grades worked together on a Geometry Mural where we used all the shapes and concepts we've been studying to create a "Shape City." This project helped reinforce the learning that has happened in the classroom.

We also hatched 6 chicks in second grade this spring! The students have been so amazed to learn what is going on inside a fertilized egg each day until it hatches on Day 21. We candled the eggs and were able to see if the chick was growing. We even saw one chick moving its wings one time when we candled!



We are looking forward to our Seacoast Science Museum Field trip this month. There are many exciting things going on, so we're encouraging our students to really focus and finish strong!

THIRD GRADE

To get us ready for our trip to the Vermont Institute of Natural Science, the 3rd grade spent some time talking about how a species can change over time. First, we looked at how humans can selectively choose traits in animals they want. Then, we looked at how our earth has changed over millions of years, and how animals have had to adapt or they become extinct. On our field trip to VINS, we learned about the adaptations that emerged to make birds what they are today. We got to see live raptors, explore walking trails and visit a bird rehabilitation center. It was a ton of fun!

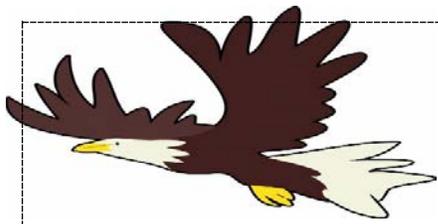


FOURTH GRADE

There are a lot of new, difficult topics to learn in fourth grade math, so in May we were working hard on fractions, as well as continuing our practice with multiplication and division. We learned some geometry (the study of shapes). Did you know a 7 sided shape is called a heptagon?

In literacy, we worked on the comprehension skill of cause and effect. An example of this is Cause: I overslept Effect: I was late for school! We have also been comparing and contrasting, which means saying how two things or texts are alike and different. For example, Alaska and Rhode Island are alike in that they are both coastal states that have seafood as a major industry, but in contrast they are both different sizes (Alaska is the biggest state and Rhode Island is the smallest).

In Social Studies over the next few weeks, we will be learning about colonial jobs in preparation for our Colonial Fair on June 15th. We can't wait to show you our research and costumes! In addition, we will be doing some work on being leaders in our school and community.



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION



FIELD DAY will take place at ConVal High School on Tuesday, June 12th

The buses will pick up your children as usual at their bus stops and bring them to the high school. Parents who typically drive their children, can still bring them to AES and a bus will take them to the high school, however they need to be at school by 8:40 AM. You may also choose to drop them off at the high school between 8:40-9:00 AM. Students will return to their schools by approximately 2:15 and will follow their normal dismissal routine.

Your children will need to bring the following with them:

- A water bottle, full. (There will be a refill station.)
- Sunscreen - please apply the first coat at home, put their name on it, and permission for us to reapply.
- Sneakers, extra clothes, and a hat
- Bag lunch with extra snacks. Include an icepack if you can.
- A beach towel to sit on during lunch (optional).

School nurses will be on hand as well as all school personnel for this event.

DeMar Marathon

If you are planning to participate in the DeMar Kids run in the fall, please return your registration form by June 15th to Ms. Johnson.

MUZ ART

Muzart has been a very busy place during the month of May! We celebrated the 25th Annual Children and the Arts Festival on May 19th! Many Antrim Eagles marched in the parade with our Giant Eagle puppet and parade props that we made in Muzart! The rain did not keep away the spirit of the Arts! Thank you to Mr. Stultz for his Giant puppet vision! She was a beauty!



We also hosted our 4th annual Spring Festival on May 24th. It was a wonderful evening with our author in Residence, Richard Sobol, artwork exhibited in the halls by our students, videos of PE and Music classes, a fabulous book swap and wonderful snacks courtesy of the AES PTO.

An exciting part of the evening was the unveiling of our Eagle Mosaic in our secret garden. We have worked on this collaborative community project all year! Thank you to Stephanie Syre Hager, Lisa Hennessy, Arlene Soule, the AES PTO and all those involved who supported this project. Thanks also to Ryan Storro who is always up for helping Mrs. Storro with any and all projects related to school. We framed, grouted and hung the murals up together on Wednesday night. All who worked on these collaborative projects should be proud of the beautiful texture they add to our secret garden. Mrs. Fletcher's class and Mrs. Tenney also worked so hard on continuing to clean out the garden to revive it into the beautiful place it was meant to be for our school.

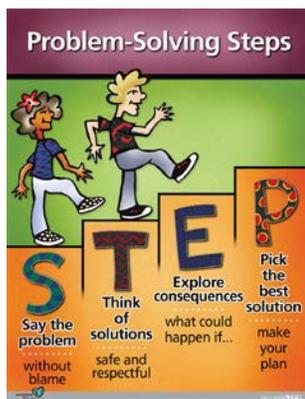


Thank you to all for your continued support of the Arts - we love our school!

Problem-Solving Without Blame

Robin Gregg, School Counselor

In recent classroom lessons at Antrim Elementary School, students practiced the first step of a four-step problem-solving approach: STEP. The first step, represented by the S in STEP, is Say the Problem Without Blame. This is often the most difficult part of the problem solving process, for children and also for adults. When we are frustrated, disappointed, sad or angry, our tendency is to blame other people for problems or conflicts. The students learn that effective problem-solving can only happen after calming down. They also learn to notice blaming words such as “always” and “never”—e.g., “You never let me have a turn” or “You are always the one who gets to choose the game and I never get to choose” or “The teacher says she will solve the problem but she never does anything about the student who is making faces at me.” The students learn that when they use blaming language, it becomes more difficult to solve problems, because blaming others is not respectful and does not involve empathy (putting yourself in the other person’s shoes, or thinking about the other person’s point of view.) When we blame someone with whom we have a disagreement or problem, the other person (or people) are likely to feel judged and may become upset, and they may react in a defensive manner. The children learn to say the problem without blame; e.g. “We both want turns but only one of us can use the swing at a time”; “We both want to choose the game”; “We have different ideas about what happens after I tell a teacher about a classmate who made a face at me.”



After everyone calms down and states the problem without blame, then it is possible to come up with possible solutions (the T in the STEP process: Think of possible solutions that are safe and respectful), to explore the consequences of the possible solutions (the E in the STEP process, to explore what would happen if a particular solution is chosen, how people would feel, if it would work, etc.; and then, finally, the P part of the STEP process: pick the best solution and implement it. Of course, even after following the STEP process, the solution chosen may not work. If this happens, the problem-solvers need to choose and try another solution.

For more information about the STEP problem-solving process and the Second Step curriculum: <http://www.cfchildren.org/>

TITLE I

Summer is fast approaching and just because school is out doesn't mean learning should stop. There's no better time to read than in the summer. In fact, research shows that reading just six books or 20 minutes a day can keep children, especially struggling readers, from regressing what they've learned through the school year. Here are some fun and easy tips to keep your child reading this summer!

1. Read TOGETHER- no matter what age, your child is never too old to be read to! When children hear experienced readers read aloud, they learn from listening. This is very important to developing a child's comprehension in the younger years.
2. Just right books- choosing books that interest your child is just as important as choosing the correct reading level. Ask you child's teacher for their reading level and seek help from the local librarian for suggested book titles. If its challenging to find books at your child's reading level that also meet their interests- then refer back to #1 Read together or considering checking out audio books that may pique their interest.
3. Link technology to reading- there are many great websites that inspire kids to read and be read to such as uniteforliteracy.com which features a large variety of picture ebooks for all ages and funbrain.com which has ebooks as well as games.
4. Connect books and movies- There are many books that have been made into movies. Read the book and then watch the movie together as a family!
5. Join the summer library reading program-many local libraries, including the James A Tuttle library, have super fun summer reading programs. Joining the program will help you set summer reading goals, provide you with endless options for expert advice in checking out books and audio books, and give you somewhere to go on those rainy days or super hot days (Air Conditioning- need I say more?!?!)
6. Make reading an adventure- bring those books along for the trips to the beach, or create a reading oasis under or even in your perfect tree. The beauty of reading is that it can happen anywhere!

Be sure to be on the lookout for the Title I summer brochure (coming home in the last week of school) which will feature a full listing of websites, apps and book recommendations for summer.