

Antrim Elementary Eagles November 1, 2017

Greetings AES Families,

I can't believe how quickly the school year is progressing. We are peeking into November, and with that will come cooler weather and shorter days, but our school days will continue to be full. In school, we are working hard to help your children grow academically, socially, and emotionally. For this to happen it is important that we have a safe and respectful environment that is supportive and conducive for growth. By setting forth clear social and behavioral expectations and directly teaching students about those expectations, it is our goal to continue to have a positive atmosphere for optimal learning.

During our Friday assemblies, grades take turns presenting in front of a large crowd, and it is our time to publicly recognize students who have earned Eagles for displaying positive behavioral attributes. This is a very exciting time for our students. The students presenting are proud to show off their hard work, and I wanted to thank all of you who have modeled appropriate audience behavior. At the school, we have expectations for each common area, and I would like to take this opportunity to share our assembly expectations for students and guests. We use the signal "Give me 5" to remind everyone in the room to:

1. Place your eyes on the speaker
2. Sit quietly
3. Be still
4. Hands Free (put things down)
5. Listen with your whole body

As adults, it is important that we all model the most respectful ways to be an audience member. With that said, sometimes our younger visitors may have difficulty following these expectations, so I wanted to let you know that the library across the hall is available if your child needs a break. Thank you all for coming to the assemblies as this is an important part of our culture and who we are. We are striving to make it the most enjoyable experience for the students and guests, and I sincerely appreciate your help in making that happen.

Stephanie Syre-Hager

Notes from the office

The office would like to thank all the parents who have signed up for and are using Pickup Patrol! If you haven't done so yet please watch for the email invitation and sign up. It is a very quick, efficient way to ensure your child is dismissed in the manner you would like. Please remember to make daily changes by 2:30 as once the reports print it takes many steps to make the change!

It has come to our attention that when students are being dropped off in the morning to go to the playground or to breakfast they are not using the crosswalk but crossing from the parking lot to the school land between the buses, which is very unsafe! Please make sure that your children are using the crosswalk and not going between the buses. We greatly appreciate your attention to this very important safety concern.



Also, please make sure to update the office with any changes to student or parent contact information as soon as it becomes available. It is important to have the most up to date information.

Awards and Recognition - Ms. Jay Hale First Friends Teacher

The 2017 Laurie Bryan Partnership Award — honoring former Harris Center Executive Director Laurie Bryan's achievements in working with community partners — was awarded to the Jay Hale of First Friends Preschool for her efforts to bring the Harris Center's nature-based education programs to all the First Friends Preschools in the ConVal School District. Because of Jay, Harris Center naturalists now visit all four First Friends classrooms five times throughout the school year. In Jay's words: "I like the way the partnership [with the Harris Center] has given the preschool staff a framework for sharing ideas with each other. We often share ways in which we have expanded on a particular Harris Center theme (with math activities, dramatic play ideas, etc.), which enriches all the programs. I have also liked the way the theme approach has been successful for a diverse group of learners. While one child is expanding vocabulary and labeling an "acorn," another is focused on the life cycle of an oak tree."

FIRST GRADE

On Thursday October 19th the first grade classes went to see a play at the Capital Center for the Arts. We got there just in the nick of time and shortly after we sat down the lights went dim. The first play was I Love My Storybook. There were only two people on stage and they used many hand held puppets and props to tell the story. It was fascinating to see how the rabbit could hop, how the giant was represented and how "water" appeared on stage. The play followed the book very closely. The second play was based on the book Guess How Much I Love You. Again there were only two people on stage and only two puppets that were hares--one quite a bit larger than the other. The Hares "hopped" around stage and told their story.

Everyone agreed that the plays were well performed and when we took a vote back at school the small white rabbit from the I Love My Storybook was declared to be the most favorite character. Going to see the plays was a fun and interesting morning outing.

SECOND GRADE

In second grade, we have been finishing up our seed dispersal unit with an assembly and a seed mural. Jeannie Connolly came for a visit and did an awesome mural with us where we showed all the ways seeds travel. We have thoroughly enjoyed our time in Cornucopia this year! It has been great fun harvesting the wonderful vegetables from the garden. One of our favorite things was digging for potatoes and making pesto from Nasturtium flowers and other veggies. We hope our first grade friends enjoy Cornucopia in the spring as much as we have. Our last Cornucopia was pretty wet, but we managed to get the garlic planted!



Third Grade

Over the past few weeks, the 3rd graders have been up to lots of exciting things. In science, the 3rd graders observed many types of bird nests and identified the different materials birds used to create these nests. The students worked together to create their own bird's nest using only materials gathered from outside.

On October 24th, a music outreach program called "Lend an Ear," visited the 3rd graders to discuss key musical concepts such as rhythm and harmony. This interactive lesson on music helped students understand the importance of team work, critical thinking, and problem solving, all while having lots of fun!



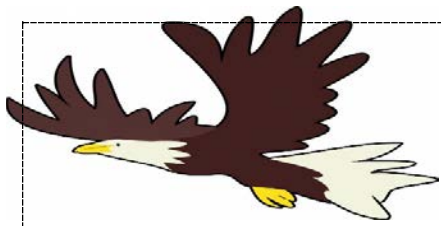
FOURTH GRADE

In the fourth grade, we continued our work with large numbers and place value, adding and subtracting with regrouping in math. We are also working on making our math facts instantaneous and accurate! In Literacy, we have been reading about travel, exploration, and moving to new places. We have read various genres including realistic fiction, historical fiction, and trickster tales (stories where an animal outsmarts bigger and stronger creatures). For science, we have been learning about the importance of light in our lives, and how light works. During morning meetings, we have been enjoying doing team-building activities such as the Block Tower Challenge.

In math, we will continue our work with place value and expand into multi digit addition with whole numbers. We will learn about light energy in science. The social studies topic that will be covered in October is early New Hampshire geography. It's going to be a busy and exciting month.



Mr. MacLeod's class doing a team building exercise



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students started the month of October in the Health classroom. We discussed the concept of Wellness and how it connects to both Health and Physical Education. Third and fourth grade students continued to learn more about the parts of fitness and the contribution that physical activity makes to our overall wellness. Students in kindergarten, first and second grades identified 5 healthy habits. Throughout the school year we will be exploring in depth how to develop those healthy habits.

After our Health unit, we went back into the gym where we focused on the basic manipulative skills. Third and Fourth graders started with a review of throwing and catching skills and played some games to help reinforce those skills in a dynamic setting. They practiced the skills of hand dribbling, push passing, and basketball shooting, and then learned about how to use open spaces in combination with these skills.

While our kindergartners had their first introduction to manipulatives skills, our first and second graders got the opportunity to review and practice through station work and games.

In other news... Congratulations to Leah Ducharme, Logan Montano, Vincent Simmons, Shane Wade, and Chase and Mea Platt on completing the Clarence deMar Kids Run on September 24th. The kids tracked a total of 25 miles each between the spring and Sept. 1st, finishing the remaining 1.2 miles in Keene together. Good job to all who participated!



Learning Commons

All students have been actively engaged with learning about library commons organization including basic book care and shelf arrangement. The Third and Fourth Graders, have been investigating the importance of knowing fact versus opinion and its application to good research. Throughout all classes, there is tremendous enjoyment of storytelling, particularly seasonal stories such as Witch's Broom by Chris Van Allsburg. Holiday literature enjoyment is just beginning!



MuzArt



What will you see when you walk through the hallway art gallery at AES? Portraits, portraits and more portraits! Kindergarten artists created self-portraits after hearing the story, Harold and the Purple Crayon. Royal portraits were designed by first grade artists! Our second grade artists viewed many family portraits in history and drew a family portrait showing who was in the picture, where they are and what they are doing. Lego portraits were made by third grade artists paying close attention to shapes in art. Fourth grade artists had three days of skill building using portrait mapping, Picasso inspiration and pipe cleaner sculpture before they decided how they wanted to create a self-portrait.

If you hear a first grader or kindergarten student tell you, "I think you're wonderful" – let them know "I think you're wonderful too!" We are singing this song together by Red Grammer. Second grade singers are showing their thankfulness for all they've got by singing "Thanks A Lot" by Raffi. Third and fourth graders are singing our school song, "What Can One Little Person Do."

We continue to study beat and rhythm in Music. We are also introducing percussion instruments as we play familiar tunes and chants. Finally, third and fourth graders are learning to play the recorder!

Cornucopia



Last Cornucopia meeting of the year

Cornucopia teachers Lauren Judd and Cathy Joly returned for the last garden class on a chilly, wet day. We've had such beautiful weather this fall, we really cannot complain! We spent most of the class indoors as the students recollected their experiences in the garden since last spring, remembering planting, and weeding, and watering, and lots of snacking! They fondly remembered collecting seeds, digging for potatoes, finding lots of bugs, tearing apart the garden at the end of the season, and getting dirty. Each student will share their favorite experiences in a letter to the first graders, who will be the new gardeners next spring. Then the students snacked on a delicious "garden harvest" bread and had fun guessing what 3 vegetables it contained — kale, carrots, and beets from the garden!

Lastly, with the rain pouring down, the students quickly planted their cloves of garlic in the wet earth. The garlic will be the first to peep through the snow next spring, heralding a new season of growth. Wishing everyone a great fall and winter!

FIRE SAFETY WEEK

On Wednesday October 11th, the Antrim Fire Department came to Antrim Elementary School to celebrate Fire Safety week. Students were able to tour and sit in the town's fire truck, as well as hold the fire house and see all the gear a fire fighter uses to fight a fire. After the tour, students got to meet a couple of Antrim's own firefighters. The firefighters adorned their suits, and went over proper fire safety protocols with all students, from "Stop, Drop and Roll" to having an evacuation plan in case of a fire and the importance of working smoke detectors. The students enjoyed touring the fire trucks and seeing the firefighters in their full suits. A big thank you to Antrim's Fire Department for coming in and teaching our students about fire safety.



Fire Safety Week – Thank you Antrim Fire Dept.

What does the school counselor do?

Robin Gregg, School Counselor, Antrim Elementary School and Pierce School

Adapted from longer article in ASCA (American School Counselor Association) newsletter, *ASCA Aspects* October 2017

School counselors provide services to students, families, school staff members and the community in the following areas:

Direct Services with Students—these are in-person interactions between school counselors and students, including:

1. **School Counseling Core Curriculum**—Using curricula such as Second Step, MindUp, The Zones of Regulation, Social Thinking and Skillstreaming, school counselors provide all students in the school with regular, developmentally appropriate classroom counseling lessons. School counselors also provide targeted small group lessons focused on particular skills and issues.
2. **Individual Student Planning**—School counselors meet with students individually and in small groups to help students develop goals, plan strategies, and promote positive academic and social/emotional growth and learning.
3. **Responsive Services**—School counselors work with other school staff members to meet students' immediate needs and concerns, using individual counseling, small groups, and crisis response.

Indirect Services for Students —These activities include referrals to other school staff members and community resources, consultation and collaboration with parents, teachers, and other educators, among other responsibilities.

For more information about school counselors and the American School Counselor Association (ASCA):

www.schoolcounselor.org