

Antrim Elementary Eagles

March 1, 2018

Happy March,

I've recently been asked about ways in which parents can support teachers at school. Considering the fact that children spend half of their waking hours in school during the academic year, it is an important topic. We can work together to ensure academic, social, and emotional success. Below is a brief list of suggestions to foster the connection between home and school that I hope you will find helpful.

- * Establish a consistent morning routine to prepare your child for the day ahead.
- * Include calm, peaceful times in your children's afternoons and evenings. Maintain a schedule that allows them to go to school rested, and if they are sick, have a system in place so they are able to stay home.
- * Create a specific homework space that's clutter-free and quiet. Encourage editing and double-checking work, but allow your kids to make mistakes, as it's the only way teachers can gauge if they understand the material. It's also how children learn responsibility for the quality of their work.
- * Fill your child's life with a love for learning by showing him your own curiosity, respecting his/her questions, and encouraging his/her efforts.
- * Be a partner with your child's teacher. When you need to speak to him or her in reference to a specific issue with your child, do it privately, not in front of your child. Make a point never to criticize your child's teacher in front of your child.
- * Set up a system where routine items are easily located—such as backpacks, shoes, signed notices. Create a central calendar for upcoming events to avoid the unexpected.
- * Remember that home - school communication is really important. We are in this together!

Stephanie Syre-Hager ☺

3rd ANNUAL KINDNESS WEEK

One of the things that makes Antrim Elementary School special is that we have four core values that are at the heart of everything we do. If you've ever been to one of our weekly assemblies, you've seen students recognized and celebrated for demonstrating one of our values of Kindness, Respect,

Cooperation and Honesty, and you've heard the school singing songs to remind ourselves that these are the values we're all strive to embody. In the week of March 9th – 16th, our school will be highlighting one of these values and will be participating in Kindness Week (our own version of the nationwide Great Kindness Challenge). This will be our third year celebrating Kindness Week, and students and staff will participate in activities ranging from reading stories about kindness and creating bookmarks with kind messages, decorating classroom doors with a kindness theme and performing kind acts both in the school community and beyond. This will be an engaging and exciting week where we all take time to remember that no act of kindness is too small.



Kindergarten

In kindergarten, many switches are starting to be switched. Everyday, a kindergarten student becomes a more fluent reader, gains a better understanding in math with numbers, and learns new strategies for dealing with kindergarten-sized problems. In reading, we continue to focus on segmenting sounds within words, also known as sounding out words we don't readily know. We are learning how to utilize new strategies. Did you know, all good readers ask questions? In math, our emphasis has been on understanding the "teen" numbers. When you really think of our number system, there's a reason numbers eleven through twenty are so challenging. Like our sight words, they tend not to obey our rules. In Social Studies, Miss Lescarbeau's class is winding down their Flat Stanley unit while Mr. Stultz's class is just getting ready to begin theirs. In guidance, we have introduced our zones of regulation strategies and will be learning strategies to defeat Worry-Wall, Mean Jean, and Spaced Invader!



FIRST GRADE

On February 14th, First Grade celebrated Valentine's day AND the 100th day of the 2018 school year!!! We started the celebration with a great story, Mr. George Barker. The story is about a 100 year old man who goes to school to learn how to read. Then we broke into groups do to many diverse and fun activities:

- 1.) Teams of 4 students used 100 cups to make tower structures as tall as possible!
- 2.) Teams of 2 students used 100 linking cubes to make a variety of structures.
- 3.) Every student saw and touched a \$100, \$50, \$20, \$10, \$5 & \$1 bill, compared how many of each bill was needed to make a hundred dollars, and then wrote what everyone would do with a hundred dollars.
- 4.) Every student compared the weight of many items to see which one was heavy. Some of the items were 100 paper clips, 100 beans, 100 plastic bread ties, 100 pennies, 100 dimes, etc.
- 5.) Every student drew a picture of what they thought they would look like at the age of 100. Those pictures are hanging in the hall! Come and see how great they look!!
- 6.) And finally the favorite activity of the day: finding 100 linking cubes with the numbers 1 to 100 on them that were hidden in Mrs. Donovan's classroom. Each child could find four. There are 8 cubes still missing. Maybe they will be found by the 180th day of school!!!!

The 100th day of school was both educational and fun!!



SECOND GRADE

In second grade, we're lucky enough to benefit from the wonderful collaborative relationships that our school and district has with the Arts Integration program and the Harris Center. Jeannie Connolly, the Arts Integration coordinator, came in the week before February break and helped us wrap up our study of rainforest and desert habitats by having each student create a shadow box depicting a rainforest or desert animal. Students used clay to sculpt their animal and collaged a background to match their animal's habitat. Jeannie helps us integrate art into our science learning and we're so lucky to get to work with her.



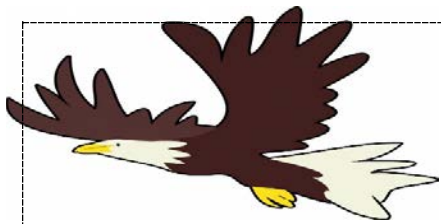
In March, we're looking forward to working with teacher naturalist Michael Hightower from the Harris Center. Michael will be extending our understanding of how plants grow by leading us in some exciting pollination activities. Michael's lessons will be hands-on and will allow students to deepen their understanding in an engaging way. We're really fortunate in our district to have such wonderful, enriching, collaborators come in and help our students learn.



THIRD GRADE

The third graders have been up to all kinds of exciting things this month. In literacy, students learned about homophones and created their own comic strips using some of the homophones they learned! The students have also begun to learn about informative writing and the important parts to informative writing such as a topic sentence, important details with facts, and explanations. During science, the students had a STEM challenge where they created mini bobsleds using popsicle sticks, straws, tape, toilet paper rolls, paper buttons, string and miniature weights. We tested our sleds outside and discussed why some went faster than others. The students had a ton of fun strategizing to create the fastest bobsled.





FOURTH GRADE



The focus in math for fourth grade this past month has been multiplication and division. We learned the area and partial products method for multiplication, which breaks down each number you are multiplying into thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones. In literacy, we finished our unit on teamwork, and moved onto our next unit- patterns in nature. We have been learning about how different clouds got their names, and how instruments like anemometer (wind), thermometers (temperature), and barometers (air pressure) help scientists predict and keep track of the weather. The focus in Social Emotional Learning has been taking responsibility for yourself and active listening.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The beginning of this month was spent wrapping up our gymnastics unit. After that we turned our attention to fitness. We learned the difference between Health related fitness (activities that improve our cardiovascular endurance, flexibility and our muscular strength) and skill related fitness (activities that improve balance, coordination, power, agility, speed and reaction time) and then used those components of fitness in a variety of games and centers. Students were able to see how we use all of these together in many sports as well as day to day activities.



Muz Art

The month of March is National Art and Music in our School's Month! Music and Art play essential roles in the education of our students. In Music we are singing, listening, composing and moving! Students across grade levels are exploring note value and composing rhythms. We are also learning about pitch and melody as we sing our songs together.

Weaving and Color were our units in February during Art Class. Every grade level created a painting and/or weaving incorporating what they know about the color wheel. Most are on display in our school art gallery. Check them out next time you visit our school!

We have some important events coming up so please mark your calendars for:

Children and the Arts on Saturday, May 19th in Peterborough. We will have handmade puppets to walk in the parade and student artwork on display in downtown Peterborough.

The Annual Spring AES Festival on Thursday, May 24th. Our Festival will feature an Author in Residence, Richard Sobol.



On a final note, all students brought their art portfolio home on Art Day before vacation. Please take the time to look at the artwork with your student. Listen to their stories and their creative thinking that helped them to make their works of art (note that some projects are still hanging in our school hallway art gallery). All students need to send back the empty art portfolio to the Muzart room so we can fill it again to take home in June.

Thank you for your support of Art and Music in our schools!

Library Learning Commons

All students have been focusing on learning about the concepts of fact and fiction. They have enjoyed hearing about the various truths as well as myths about our February Presidents Lincoln and Washington.

Many were surprised to learn that George Washington did NOT cut down the cherry tree!!!!!!

Some thirds graders have been working hard on research of their favorite animal with the final product being an informational poster for hallway display. Please look for them after winter break and please continue to read and enjoy stories!

Recent Classroom Counseling Lessons

Some Suggestions for Vacation Week Activities in Our Area

Robin Gregg, School Counselor

Vacation week is a great time to spend time playing board games, to read and make-up stories with children, to check out some books at the town library, and to spend time walking and hiking around our beautiful region. In addition, there are a number of interesting places to visit in our area. Some of these are free, and you can also borrow family passes to a number of New Hampshire museums (for free admission) from our local public libraries.

The Harris Center for Conservation Education, in Hancock, has a series of hiking trails.

The trails are **free and open to the public year-round**. A kiosk is located at the trailhead just outside the office. Hard copies of our trail maps are available in the Harris Center entryway, and electronic versions can be downloaded via the links below. **Dogs are welcome on Harris Center trails, but they must be on-leash at all times.** Safe trekking and enjoy!

To learn more about the trails or to download trail maps:

<http://www.harriscenter.org/trails>

Another local hiking resource (and local gem) is the McCabe Forest, in Antrim:

About the Hike:

The [Forest Society's](#) McCabe Forest contains about two miles of trails around the Contoocook River. The main trail runs the length of the property to make a pleasant river walk. There are many possibilities to make a loop hike, but all the trails are unnamed and blazed in the same color. The trail network is very confusing. You can take a photo of the kiosk trail map or just do an out-and-back hike along the river.

Here are a couple of worth-while destinations, from an article in ParentingNH

[Mariposa Museum](#)

26 Main Street in Peterborough, NH
603-924-4555

Expand your family's worldly knowledge at this world culture center and check out some hands-on artifacts from around the globe. There are three interactive floors to explore and right now, Wedding Costumes from Around the World is on exhibit until March 4, 2018. Visitors will get a look at beautiful Japanese, Indian and South Korean gowns.

[Currier Museum of Art](#)

150 Ash Street in Manchester, NH
603-669-6144

NOTE: You can often borrow a **free** family pass to the Currier from your local public library.

In addition to their wonderful art collection, the museum hosts [Creative Studio Saturday](#), an opportunity for families to take part in hands-on learning about a certain artist or type of art. These programs are included for free with regular museum admission.

The Currier Museum offers free general admission before noon every second Saturday of the month.

For more ideas:

<http://www.parentingnh.com/January-2015/Which-NH-museums-to-explore-this-winter/>

Title I

Antrim Elementary school was singing, jiving, and full of giggles last Thursday night when Steve Blunt and Marty Kelley performed an interactive fun show for both young and old. Steve sang some crowd pleasers involving the students and families with sign language, instruments, and silly vocals. Marty read aloud four of his books [Winter Woes](#), [The Rules](#), [The Cape](#), and [Almost Everybody Farts](#) while the audience barely contained their laughter. It was a fun night had by all. A big thank you to our Title I teachers and school PTO for bringing these two talented people to share a night of family fun at AES! And an even bigger thank you to all the families who came out on a cold night to join us.

