

NHE News

New Hampton Elementary School May, 2012 Publication
Linda Kennedy, Elementary Principal



Mission Statement: The mission of the New Hampton Elementary School is to empower all students to succeed emotionally, socially, intellectually, and behaviorally in a changing world.

Guidelines For Success at New Hampton Elementary: The Six Pillars of Character Counts! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship

Pillar for May: Review of All Six Pillars

Our Big Bucket Motto:

Bucket filling is an everyday thing at NHE!

Dear NHE Families:

We will celebrate Character Counts Week the first week in May and are so grateful to have several quality activities planned. The agenda has been printed in this newsletter so you can keep up with all of our activities. We are especially excited about the Gallagher Bluedorn Production on Friday, May 4th, entitled Jack and the Beanstalk. We will try to make this an authentic theatrical experience for our students and are encouraging each to dress up for that occasion. Students will be escorted to the auditorium by the fourth grade Kids In Charge. This production is being funded by Carnival funds. We are grateful that Gallagher Bluedorn is coming to our auditorium for this performance. Mrs. K

Thank you!! Thank you!!

A huge thank you to all of the parents, grandparents, and friends of New Hampton Elementary who donated raffle items, money, candy, food, cakes, cookies, bars, and hours to make Carnival 2012 a huge success. It was truly a community event.

This year's Carnival funding paid for two quality field trips per grade level, the Reading Rocks initiative, the Gallagher Bluedorn Production, a Science field trip to Twin Ponds for each grade level, and incentive funding for each grade level and preschool.

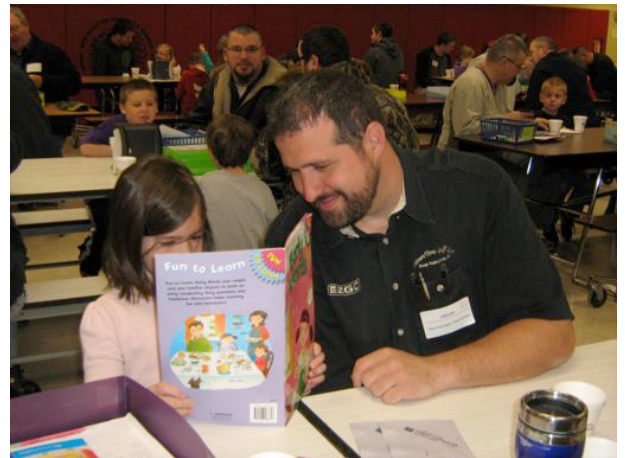
Mom And Muffins/Dads and Donuts Celebrations

This year the kindergarten celebrated the reading and writing prowess of each of their students by inviting the Moms and Dads to come to school on separate occasions. Moms enjoyed muffins and Dads enjoyed donuts with their kindergarten student. While they were here, they enjoyed hearing their child read a book or two in the school setting.

Both events were huge successes. We thank the parents for coming out and participating in these events. We also want to thank Kwik Trip for providing the food and beverages.



The students above are pictured reading a version of *If You Give a Mom a Muffin*



Kindergarten Readers: Most of our Dads didn't remember being able to read like our young students when they were in kindergarten.



Donuts with Dad: The donut/milk line was a busy one!

Jolly Phonics

The Jolly Phonics Program is responsible for the literacy progress NHE's kindergarten students have made this year. This program systematically teaches students their 42 letter sounds. As Jolly Phonics progresses, other key literacy skills are taught. After students have learned the letter sounds and some tricky words, they begin to read the Jolly Phonics decodable readers. In addition, students learn the alternative ways that vowels are written.

I love going to the Kindergarten classrooms these days and watching the students read to self and partner read. They can tackle any and all words. Their writing skills are amazing. These pictures show their literacy maturity.



Kindergarten students engaged in a writing activity.



Two kindergarten students partner read



Mrs. Thronson leads a guided reading session.

Second Grade Activities



Greenhouse Visit: The second graders enjoyed a walk out to the greenhouse at the high school on a recent sunny day. Mr. James Russ, agricultural education instructor, and his students gave them a tour and helped them do some planting.



Cool, Crazy Crickets! The second graders in the classroom of Mrs. Geerts entertained parents, peers, and other guests with their production of the play, Cool, Crazy Crickets. It was impressive.



Economic Extravaganza: Second graders created, marketed, and sold items to their NHE peers to raise funds for SNAP, the area's organization for caring for stray dogs. They presented a SNAP volunteer \$95.

Measures of Academic Progress



Concentration: This third grader is taking the reading test of the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). He is so engaged, he didn't even look up when his picture was taken. The second, third, and fourth grade students took the spring MAP tests during the month of April.

Collaborative Learning Teams

During the month of April the Collaborative Learning Teams (CLT's) at each grade level, met with Donna Hejhal and Tim Fisher for training on the Child Find process. If teachers suspect a child has a learning or behavioral disability, there are certain steps they need to take in order to prove the child's performance/behavior is considerably discrepant from that of his/her peers. The process is time-consuming and involves intensive intervention and progress monitoring.



CLT Training: Pictured are Donna and Tim with the kindergarten and first grade CLT's on a recent afternoon after school.

Battle of the Books



Collaborating for an Answer: Some third and fourth grade students participated in the Battle of the Books facilitated by Mrs. Burgart. Over the past few weeks, these students engaged in a wide reading assignment and came prepared to answer questions on the books assigned by Mrs. Burgart.

Student Bankers for 2012 - 13

Every year about this time, the third graders have the chance to apply to be student bankers at the Giant Piggy Bank. Recently, Mrs. Kennedy talked to the third graders about the opportunity for them

to apply for what might be their very first job. Student bankers work at the Giant Piggy Bank every Tuesday morning, greeting customers, and helping them with their deposits. Third grade student applications were due on April 18th and interviews took place soon after that. Student bankers for the 2012 - 13 school year will be:

First Quarter: Cael Leistikow, Addilyne Snyder, Brylie Boji, Elliot Thronson, Lola Lelmke, Chya Maklenburg, Josette Knutson, and Erik Heeren.

Second Quarter: MacKenzie Bouillon, Riley Willitts, Claire Quirk, Kara Crooks, Connor Rochford, Julie Liddle, Grace Burrett, and Avery Thronson.

Third Quarter: Kelsey Kane, Alisha Pete, Jacob Durnan, Ethan Orthaus, Anderea Sobolik, Madison Usher, and Emma Ewert.

Fourth Quarter: Kaira Erdman, Joslyn Plagman, Britney Stover, Emma Rosonke, Brynn Drewelow, Madison Rosauer, and Kylie Brummond.

Giant Piggy Bank Deposits

As of the first of May the Giant Piggy Bank has 199 regular depositors. The current value of the bank is \$115,070.60.

The Giant Piggy Bank is open every Tuesday morning at 8:05 in the preschool/ kindergarten/first grade hallway of the south wing.

Walking School Bus



The Walking School buses are back in operation this spring. Walkers Jill Brincks and Mindy Ellsworth are each walking several NHE students safely to school.

We would like to get a few more walking school buses going in the fall. If you are interested in

walking students in your neighborhood safely to school, please contact Linda Kennedy @ 394-5858.

A Walking School Bus is a healthy, environmentally conscious, safe and fun way to travel to and from school. It is a scheme that involves parent volunteers walking children to school along a set route.

Benefits of a Walking School Bus

- ▶ Increases physical activity for parents and children.
- ▶ Reduces traffic around the school and neighborhood.
- ▶ Children learn valuable road safety skills and gain independence.
- ▶ Improves community link between parents, children, neighbors, and school.

Tornado and Fire Drills

Sometime during these last weeks of school, the PK – 8 building will have both a fire drill and a tornado drill. We practice each of these drills once a quarter so by the last one, we all know exactly what to do and can do it quickly.

Got to' Keep Reading

Summer Slide: We want each student to keep reading over the summer so they don't take the summer slide. The summer slide happens when students slide backwards in their reading and writing skills because they haven't engaged in either activity all summer.

Starting in May: The Summer Reading Initiative will be presented to the students in May. We will start them in May so that by the time those hot summer days have arrived, students will be in the habit of reading daily.

Parent Responsibility: Once again this year, each student will be asked to bring back a signed parent permission slip in early May so that he/she can participate in this summer reading program. Parents will also have the responsibility of making sure their child is reading on a daily basis and initialing it after students mark it on their charts.

The hardest part of raising a child is teaching them to ride bicycles. A shaky child on a bicycle for the first time needs both support

and freedom. The realization that this is what the child will always need can hit hard.
~Sloan Wilson

Parents: I have created a blog to keep students, staff, and parents informed of the happenings at New Hampton Elementary. Check it out!

<http://nhetimes.blogspot.co>

A mom forgives us all our faults, not to mention one or two we don't even have.
~Robert Brault,

Character Counts Week ***April 27th – May 8th***

Friday, April 27th: KickOff Day
*Walk the track for your 20-minute wellness walk in honor of Cancer Prevention. Fourth grade **Kids in Charge** will line the track with luminaries brought back by the students by April 26th. Students will get beads or a CC prize when they complete their walk.
*Canned Food Drive Begins

Monday, April 30th: Tie into Trustworthiness, wear a tie or the color blue
*Team building and trust building activities in classrooms

Tuesday, May 1st: Turn your back on disrespect – wear your shirt backwards or the color yellow
*Mix-It Up at Lunch Day. Be respectful to everyone. Sit wherever you want to sit at lunch within your grade level tables.

Wednesday, May 2nd: My future is bright: I am responsible – wear sunglasses or the color green
* Go Green Day – Protect your bright future by protecting the earth and the environment. Do a Go Green project for the school, community, or your PIE partner (pick up trash, recycle, sweep wood chips, etc.)

Thursday, May 3rd: It's No Sweat To Be Fair – wear sweats or the color orange
*Fairness: Choose an Activity from the Fairness Pillar Quickie template

Friday, May 4th: Count on Caring – Dress up to attend this theatrical production!
*Write a letter to a *person of character* telling them why you chose them to be your *person of character*. Students will hand deliver the letter to their chosen person. This can be a class or an individual project.

K – 4 Special Presentation: Jack and the Beanstalk @ 1:00 in the Auditorium

Monday, May 7th: Hats off to citizenship – wear a hat or the color purple
*Canned Food Drive ends

Tuesday, May 8th: NHE Spirit Day – wear the color of your favorite pillar. Students will be asked to explain to their class why the pillar chosen is their favorite in a short presentation.

Here are a few reminders as we move to the end of the school year:

*The school doors are locked throughout the day for the safety and security of your child. We do not want to meet an adult in the hallway that is not wearing a visitor's badge. If you are entering the building during the daytime, expect to come through the front door entry, come into the principal's office, register with the school secretary, and get a visitor's badge before going into the hallways. Our students are precious to us and we will do whatever it takes to keep each child safe and secure.

* School attendance is essential for success in school. Please schedule medical appointments outside of school time, whenever possible.

*If your child is ill, please call the office (394-5858) before 9:00 on that morning to inform us. Make arrangements to pick up his/her homework later that day, if possible.

* Please check your child's contact information with the office and update, as necessary.

* If you wish to talk with your child's teacher or have a conference with him/her, please call the school and make an appointment at the convenience of each of you.

* The NHE Handbook states that no invitations to a child's birthday party will be handled through the classroom. Please comply with this policy. Also, be advised that due to the privacy laws of both the federal and state government, we are not allowed to pass out



Guess who is all decked out with prizes from the Carnival?



Hey, Mom! I won a dollar bill! Is it real?



There were lines of children waiting for the face painting experience.



Guess who? You are right! It is Mrs. Nobsch trying on all of this year's prizes.



Dad stepped in to help putt this ball.



Everyone wins at the Carnival!