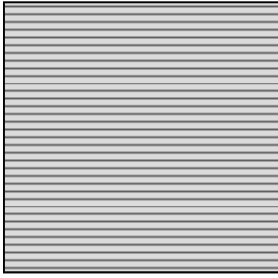


Should Our Children Have Heroes?



PRINCIPAL'S



CORNER

They say you never meet your heroes, but that would be to deny yourself of the opportunity to learn a valuable lesson in life. Life is neither black nor white, and larger than life figures are nothing more than flesh and blood. Jeff McLane in a recent essay in the Philadelphia Inquirer comments that Paterno "wasn't perfect, but his inaction was tragic."

How do we explain to our children that their heroes are no more than flesh or blood? Do our children know who are really heroes? How disillusioning it must be when their idols, (heroes) are not worthy of looking up to. Look at Paterno, Fine, Cain, Spitzer, Loban, politicians, athletes, TV stars. What can we say to our young people? Is there a disconnect when our school talks about pillars of character: trustworthiness, caring, respect, responsibility, fairness and citizenship, and then our children watch the news and learn about their "heroes."

Our young people must be confused; maybe we are too. We can be easily wooed by the opulent and reckless lifestyle of many athletes, entertainers and politicians. After all, glamour is enticing and contagious. There is hardly a TV program where violent and suggestive themes are not promoted. Kids may view our schools as "out of touch," espousing corny core values. Who can our children view as real heroes? Are there any left?

Perhaps the lesson is that the real heroes in the lives of our children are those who desire the least amount of self-promotion and fanfare; those who each day consistently and faithfully live by the values and attitudes of the six pillars. The real heroes are those that truly care.

How great would it be if our prominent coaches, athletes, politicians, entertainers who are thought of as "heroes" realized the influence they have. Our children need to view them for their talents and abilities, but also recognize that they are not worthy of "hero" status.

It seems to me that parents, teachers and families can be the real heroes. The larger than life figures in children's lives can and should be us and our children can and should be our heroes and larger than life as well.

Kenneth M. Silver,
Principal
NHS Lower Elementary School



Keeping Up With Kindergarten

Things are humming along in kindergarten. The children are busy learning and growing with each passing day! It's incredible how the year is flying by!

We began our guided reading groups to the delight of teachers and students! It is so exciting to sit down in small groups and tackle reading material on each student's level. The children love having their own reading books and sharing them at home with their families. It is very exciting to see the children progress through reading levels. Teachers are also working to improve each student's written communication. It is important to raise the quality of writing so it will commensurate with the progress made in reading. Parents will see marked improvement in their children's reading and writing as the year progresses.



During the holiday months, we learned about the Pilgrims and discussed the hardships they encountered when settling the new land and the challenges presented to them. The children enjoyed learning about the impact the Wampanoag tribe had on Pilgrim families and their survival.

We discussed the holidays and celebrations that occur in December, enriching each child's understanding of what is celebrated, why it is celebrated and how family traditions differ.

After the winter break, we will delve into science and begin our study of polar bears and penguins. Children LOVE learning about the natural world and the wonders of nature! This study will be cross curricular in that we will incorporate science, math, reading, literature, art and writing as we progress through these science units.



Kindergarten continues to be a center for learning and developing new understandings of the world around us! It really is a special place to "learn and grow!"

Miss Kim Condello Mrs. Carol Gerenser
Mrs. Jackie Kalidonis Mrs. Sue Zerby

First Grade Happenings

Happy Winter !

First grade is looking forward to 2012! Here are just a few of our upcoming activities: We will anticipate learning about Australia, continue to learn about tree homes (begun with our trip to Solebury Orchards) participating with the A.I.R. programs (Artist In Residence) and becoming part of the LES Martin Luther King Service Project . While we have many exciting happenings, we maintain our focus on the fundamentals of first grade learning — encouraging and enriching each child, everyday.

Reading: Please read with to your first grader every day. They are learning to read and are improving their reading skills by leaps and bounds.

Writing: Reading and writing are parallel skills. Please support your child's writing at home by providing them with paper, crayons, markers, pencils. They love to make books that reflect their thinking. Be ready to listen to your young author's stories!

Mathematics: Our Everyday Math program is truly a practice of math in daily life. Use trips to the store or the morning weather to exercise "mental math."

We thank you for your continued support and for your understanding of the importance of your child's education.



Mrs. Jan Barringer Mrs. Beth Roger
Mr. Tom Marrone Mr. Bill Snyder



Reading Club

Outstanding Support for Students

The New Hope-Solebury School District Title I Reading Program, known as “Reading Club”, provides additional instructional support in developmental reading for the kindergarten through fourth grade students in our learning community. The Title I Reading Club thirty minute per day intervention is well coordinated with classroom lessons and schedules and has become a vital supplemental component to insure success in reading acquisition for all of our students.



This year our Title I Reading Program included a new group of kindergarteners affectionately called, “The Lion Cubs”. The Lion Cub program, which began in October of 2011, provided explicit instruction in alphabet letter recognition and letter sound recognition for an additional thirty minutes per day for six weeks. Our kindergarten early intervention model has proven to be a successful strategy for motivating and supporting a student’s initial reading experience. Early Emergent readers are just beginning to learn sound/symbol relationships and our program supports this developmental process by using authentic literature, poetry, games, and other manipulatives within a small group. Building confidence and providing successful interventions with our earliest readers will guide our students toward rapid acquisition of decoding

and provide the foundation and understanding of phonics that will support their developmental reading progress throughout their elementary school years.

The goal of our K-4 Reading Club is to instill the desire to become a proficient reader for both knowledge and pleasure. Understanding text and text structure, building background knowledge and vocabulary, teaching explicit reading strategies as part of the tools for learning, and talking about the nuance of the English language, is critical to early reading instruction and intervention. Ultimately, students must acquire strong comprehension skills that are fundamental for students to acquire content learning in all areas of learning. Through the Reading Club we work hard to prepare students, at the earliest of age, for the rigorous academic curriculum which begins in earnest in third grade. The Title I Reading Program has earned accolades from students, teachers, parents and our administrators, and will continue to be an outstanding reading support for all students in our District who need this well respected intervention.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Nancy Rachlin
Lower Elementary School Reading Specialist
NHSD Title I Coordinator
nrachlin@ndsd.org

A Teacher Never Leaves Home Without Their Bag of Tricks



Every teacher has a “bag of tricks.” This bag allows the teacher to provide differentiated instruction so each student can learn to their potential. All students have learning challenges. The bag of tricks contains ways to teach different skills, methods to unlock the code in reading, manipulatives to solve math problems, graphic organizers to assist students in the writing process and so on. Not every trick works for every child; however discovering which trick works for your child is a piece of the academic puzzle.

The contents of the bag empower students to become independent problem solvers when they reach a learning crossroads. When teachers use various strategies to help a struggling learner, the learner themselves then learns that different strategies are used for different challenges. For example, some children have learned to

“finger tap” words when attempting to decode. Using the finger tap when stuck on an unknown word is in their bag of tricks. If that student comes upon a tricky word and begins to tap, they have become empowered by the bag.

In the learning support room the bag of tricks is used frequently for each learner. While a small group of students is working together, they may all be using different methods to problem solve, decode a word or write a sentence. It is paramount to determine which strategy works best at a given time and teach the student to independently use it.

Mrs. Karen Silberman
Learning Support Teacher
ksilberman@nhsd.org

The Library & Technology

The Library program supports beginning reading and research, listening, communication, and technology skills. Students learn basic library skills while developing independence in exploring books of their choice. Students learn how a library is organized and how to access and use resources for different information needs. The main goals of the K-2 Library Program are for students to master the skills and attitudes that make students lifelong readers.

In the Technology students use computer programs such as Kid Pix, Kidspiration, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Power Point in ways that support the curriculum. Primary technology projects focuses on a specific technology skill such as word processing, presentation, research, and graphics.

Skills introduced include:

- open, close, save & print a file
- locate keys on the keyboard
- understand the function of keyboard keys
- gain fine motor skills to use the mouse

- type, select, and format text
- insert pictures and clip art
- draw and format shapes
- create slides and apply simple animations
- create a slide show about an animal
- research using various resources
- organize text, images, and clip art on slides
- proofread and edit using Spell Check

Mrs. Sharon Rader
Library and Technology Teacher
srader@nhsd.org

Our Character Counts at the Lower Elementary School

Great news from the Counseling department! Our Character Counts! initiative is off to a great start at the LES this school year. Beautiful art work from the students is beginning to decorate our hallways as the children celebrate caring and respect. During Character Counts/Red Ribbon week, our students created classroom door displays reflecting on how to be a responsible person who makes good decisions and works hard in school. Also this fall, students learned more about diversity, acceptance and caring when they helped raise money for the Down Syndrome at the annual LES Turkey Trot. As a tie-in to the Turkey Trot, during



morning meetings and Character Counts lessons, the students discussed how understanding others who are different, including everyone, and giving to others makes us feel. We have also been learning about empathy — understanding and caring about the feelings of others!

Right before winter break, the students reflected on doing more good deeds to demonstrate caring. Second graders performed random acts of kindness with their teachers and classmates and handed out caring coupons to friends and loved ones. Kindergarten and First grade students began their Character Counts lessons too. Be sure to ask your K or 1st grade child about Karina, the Kangaroo,

and what she is teaching them about caring. Kindergarten and first grade students will continue to meet additional Character Counts buddies throughout the year on their way to becoming more respectful and responsible citizens of our school.



Please continue to encourage your children to be **T.R.R.F.C.C.** by modeling and using those teachable moments to help them learn the six pillars – **Trustworthiness; Respect; Responsibility; Fairness; Caring; & Citizenship.** Here are some fun ideas-when reading together chat with your child about what character traits the characters in the story do or don't demonstrate; when playing a game together with your child, ask them to think up a fair way to decide who goes first; encourage them to cheer up a sick friend by making a card or sharing a favorite toy; ask them to help make a checklist for them to use if bedtime or morning routines are difficult and check off tasks as they finish them.



Best Wishes for a healthy and terrific 2012!

Pamela Lang, M.S., School Counselor
plang@nhsd.org



Thank you New Hope Solebury Education Fund for ebooks!

We would like to thank the NHS Education Fund for their generosity in funding a Grant that will enable the library to acquire ebooks that will be available to parents, teachers, and students on the library web page. The availability of ebooks to K-2 students, teachers, and parents will keep our library collection relevant and current for today's readers. Parents can share ebooks with their child on their desktop, laptop, or any device that has web access. This new option allows parents to share ebooks with their children at home on their computer.

We invite parents to the library to share with them how their children can login to the catalog from home and navigate to the ebooks. During Friday Parent /Child Library Checkout, parents can learn how to access their child's library catalog from home and partner with their child in their personal reading journey. Younger elementary students need the guidance of a parent at home to login to our site. Consequently, seven family evenings will be planned from February to June to provide parents with information and guidance on how to access ebooks at home. During these family evenings, parent will also have the opportunity to checkout twenty library book thus integrating innovative resources with traditional library books

LES Library Parent/Child 20 Book Checkout!

3:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m.

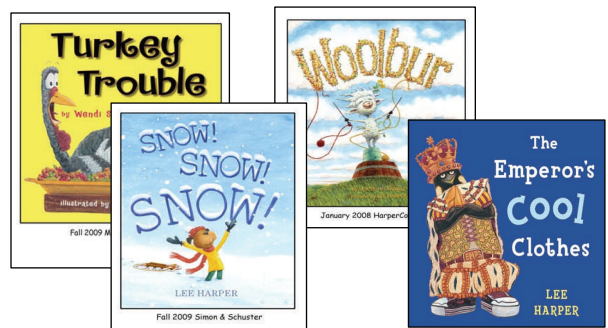
February 3, March 2, April 20, May 4,
June 1, 4, 5

Learn how to log on to the library
catalog to access ebooks at home!

If you would like to make special arrangements to visit the library at a time more convenient, please email me at srader@nhsd.org

Author Visit

On **March 1** students will have a visit from award-winning author of many children's books, Lee Harper. Children's book author and illustrator Lee Harper lives with his family in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Lee's latest book is **The Emperor's Cool Clothes**, which he both wrote and illustrated. Mr. Harper's other books include **Woolbur**, by Leslie Helakoski; **Turkey Trouble**, by Wendi Silvano; **Snow! Snow! Snow!**, and **Looking For The Easy Life**, by Walter Dean Myers.



Book Fair

Thank you for your generous support of the Book Fair. The school received \$600.00 worth of free books from the Book Fair and we will also receive over \$2,000.00 worth of books and educational materials from the Scholastic Catalog. Thank you to all the very special volunteers and parents who helped students find that just right book.

Mrs. Sharon Rader

Librarian and Technology Teacher



Save the Dates!

Kindergarten Showcase



This Old
Gingerbread
House

Monday, April 16, 2012

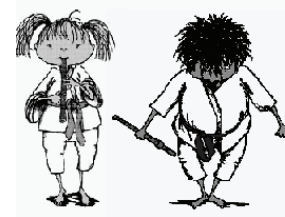
First Grade Showcase



Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Second Grade Showcase

I Need
a Vacation!



Featuring . . .
Performances By Our
Recorder Players
Wed., April 18, 2012

Second Grade Scientists

Second grade is finishing up our Science unit on Changes. This unit was especially fun because we got to be true scientists and conduct many experiments. Then, as real scientists do, we made predictions and observed our experiments. Recently, we finished learning a little about the winter holidays: Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas. It is enjoyable to share our own traditions and learn about what our friends celebrate! In the New Year, Second Grade will start



their two AIR (Artists in Residence) programs. This is very thrilling because artists from our community visit our L.E.S. and work with us. This year, second grade will participate in "Yoga in the Classroom" and a "Metamorphosis" project. We can't wait to see all that 2012 has in store for us!

Mrs. Jennifer Brown
Mrs. Tammi McGlynn
Mrs. Kelly Schollin
Mrs. Cathy Sutton

Mrs. Maryann Goodwin
Miss Melissa Riggs



Students Explore

Ceramics



Students have finished their clay mugs in art class using the slab technique. In January, they will be applying glaze to finish the piece. The finished pieces should arrive home by February.

The students handled this assignment well making high quality work. Great job by all!

Be sure to mark your calendar for the LES Spring Art Show:

April 26, 2012 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Mark Mannion
Art Teacher
mmannion@nhsd.org



From ESL Resource Room

Dear Parents,

In the months of January and February all of our English Language Learners (ELLs) will be administered the annual WIDA Access. This test is used to determine the language proficiency of our ELL students, and to monitor their annual progress with acquiring English in the four domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

Please take this opportunity to registrar yourself at VITA for **FREE** Adult ESL classes! Registration is for 2012 classes. All information can be found at the VITA website or by calling the number listed at the right.

Mrs. Marisol Owtsharuk,
ESLTeacher
mowtsharuk@nhsd.org



Vita Education Services

215-345-8322

8 East Court St., Doylestown, PA
Wed. Jan. 11 & Thurs. Jan. 12 at
10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m.

www.vitaeducation.org



**NEW HOPE-SOLEBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT
HAZARDOUS WEATHER & EMERGENCY CLOSINGS
2011-2012**

This information is to help parents prepare for emergency school closings or delays because of hazardous weather. Although our overall goal is to guard against disrupting educational programs, the safety of students is our primary concern when weather conditions are hazardous.

When is the decision made to close schools?

A decision is made early in the morning based on radio and television broadcasts, road conditions, and recommendations of transportation personnel, police, and the superintendent.

How is the public notified?

Conditions permitting, notification of emergency closings will occur as follows:

- * Connect-ED telephone message (to registered households)
- * Listserv email message (to registered households)
- * Website posting (www.nhsd.org)

In addition, the following television and radio stations will announce our school closing information:

FOXTV29 – www.fox29.com

CBS3 TV – www.kyw1060.com

Radio KYW 1060 AM—**School Code 767**

WPVI-TV6 – www.6abc.com

NBC10 – www.NBC10.com

Unless announcements of school closings or delays are broadcast, schools will be open and our school buses and vans will run. However, pickup times may be somewhat affected by weather conditions. When schools are closed, they will re-open the next school day, unless we broadcast otherwise.

What happens if the weather becomes severe during the school day?

Sometimes it is necessary to dismiss students early because of hazardous conditions that develop during the day. When that happens, parents need to know:

- * Families will be informed through announcements on Connect-ED, listserv, TV stations, and website.
- * Dismissal times will be broadcast through the methods listed above.
- * K-8 students will be dropped off at their regularly designated locations as per the emergency dismissal plan. Requests for transportation changes will not be honored during emergency weather conditions.
- * Usually secondary students will be dismissed first to allow them, and parents, to arrive home before younger children.
- * When emergency dismissals occur, all activity buses, after school, and evening activities are canceled.
- * Parents may elect to go directly to their children's school location to sign out their children.

What about delayed openings?

One or two hour delayed openings may be broadcast when it appears that students and staff can get to school safely if extra travel time is provided.

When one or two hour delays occur, buses and vans will arrive at their stops one or two hours later than usual and school will begin in accordance with the following:

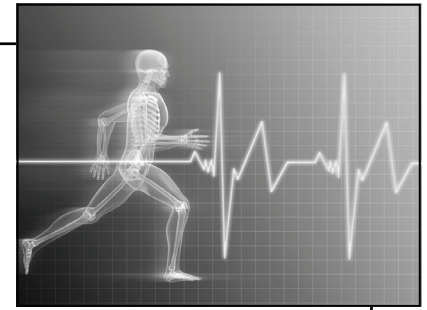
	1 hr. delay	2 hr. delay
High School	8:50 AM	9:50 AM
Middle School	8:50 AM	9:50 AM
Elementary Schools	9:45 AM	10:45 AM

**WHEN SCHOOLS ARE CLOSED,
ALL AFTER-SCHOOL, COMMUNITY, AND K-5 AFTER CARE
ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED.**

www.nhsd.org

Middle Bucks Institute of Technology follows the decisions of the sending districts.

You'll Never Guess What We Did in Health Class Today . . .



Health is a huge issue today. Many adults are unaware of how to stay healthy or the importance of looking after oneself when it comes to diet and exercise. If adults don't know, how are children supposed to learn?



School is a critical time for children; they learn everything from mathematics to languages and science. Unfortunately, health often gets put on the back

burner. It's not always considered an important subject. It is in New Hope-Solebury!

Health classes are important for grade school children (K-5) because this is the age where they are able to soak up a lot of information. It's also a time when they want to consume a lot of not so healthy foods. By having health classes in grade schools (K-5) we can ensure that our children will retain some of this knowledge and grow up to be healthier adults. People don't realize without good health nothing else really matters. It's the right age to start learning about the importance of health and consequences if our health is ignored. Starting young, we can help create a future with a healthier population.

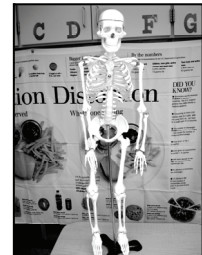


Topics covered so far in health class this school year:

- Hygiene
- Bully Prevention
- Fire Prevention (tied in w/ Fire Prevention Week Oct. 9-15, 2011)
- Say "NO" to Drugs (tied in w/ Red Ribbon Week)
- Body Systems (Muscular & Cardiovascular System)

Topics coming soon:

- Body systems (Digestive & Nervous System)
- Nutrition
- Jump Rope for Heart



Cool Websites for Kids:

- www.kidshealth.org
- www.choosemyplate.gov
- www.bam.gov
- www.scholastic.com-firesafety
- www.mypyramid.gov
- www.pcentral.org/websites/kidsites.html

Yours in Good Health,
Mr. Jim DiTulio
Health/PE Teacher
jditulio@nhsd.org