



Birch Hill Newsletter

Rooted in Friendship, Growing in Knowledge

February Trustworthiness



"To persevere is to work steadily without giving up." A trustworthy person is one who treats others Honestly, and justly, respects the rules of society and the rights of others.

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
29	<u>TARDINESS/ DISMISSALS</u> It is our hope that parents will do everything possible to get their children to school on time and to allow them to spend the entire day in school. Children who come in late or are dismissed early miss valuable class time. If you must dismiss your child early we ask that it be done before 3:00 each day. <i>All changes to dismissal must be made in writing.</i> Kindergarten/ First Grade Registration 10:00 am – 2:00 pm continues.					1
2	3	4	5 Grade 5 Music Program NHSN	6 Winter Carnival All day in-school	7	8
9	10	11 No School Election Day	12	13 Immigration Program Grade 4	14  Valentine's Day Ski Program 3-9pm	15
16  President's Day <u>No School</u> <u>In Service/teachers</u>	17	18	19	20 Skate Night at Roller Kingdom 6-8 pm	21 Ski Program 3-9pm	22
23 Winter Break No School	24 Winter Break No School	25 Winter Break No School	26 Winter Break No School	27 Winter Break No School	28 Winter Break No School Return on March 2nd	1

EARLY RELEASE DATES THIS YEAR

The Early Release dates for this year are ALL Wednesdays as follows: March 18, April 15, and May 13, 2020.

TRAFFIC/ PARKING REMINDERS

- Please do not block driveways on Birch Hill Drive when waiting to pick up or drop off. Our neighbors need to be able to drive in and out of their driveways at all times.
- Please remain in line while waiting on Birch Hill Drive. Do not drive up the middle of the street passing traffic to take a right into our parking lot or to drop off a student in our main loop.
- Live parking only in the main entrance loop.
- Please do not use cell phones while driving in our drop off or pick-up lines.
- Students may not switch busses and walkers may not ride a bus.
- Please watch for children crossing Birch Hill Drive at dismissal and drop off times.
- ***Never drive on the inside of the traffic circle when dropping off or picking up. This is very dangerous! Please stay in line and pull out when the cars ahead of you do.***

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2020-2021

You are able to pick up a packet or download a packet from the District website to fill out ahead of time.

Kindergarten children **MUST** be five years of age by September 30th.

If you have any questions, please call the Birch Hill office at 966-1820.

FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION 2020-2021

Public First Grade Registration for the school year 2020-2021 has also begun. **First grade** children must be six years of age by September 30th. **Children who are currently attending Nashua Public Kindergarten are automatically registered in first grade at their neighborhood school.** First grade parents may come in anytime from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm to register their children.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Parents will need to bring the following information: Immunization records, birth certificate (with raised seal) and proof of residence (2 utility bills, lease agreement or purchase and sales agreement). Children must have a physical examination prior to entering school. Parents may register only their own child.

WINTER DRESS

Students should come to school each day dressed for outdoor recess. Winter weather conditions change quickly and allow us to get the children outside for some fresh air. Students will not be allowed to stay in for recess because they are improperly dressed.

Please do not call the school during inclement weather to find out if there is school. We need to keep our telephone lines open for emergencies. Please check local news or district website.

KINDERGARTEN 2020-2021

Puede recoger un paquete o descargar un paquete del sitio web del Distrito para completarlo con anticipación.

Los niños de kindergarten **DEBEN** tener cinco años de edad antes del 30 de septiembre.

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame a la oficina de Birch Hill al 966-1820.

REGISTRO DE PRIMER GRADO 2020-2021

El registro público de primer grado para el año escolar 2020-2021 también ha comenzado. Los niños de primer grado deben tener seis años de edad antes del 30 de septiembre. Los niños que actualmente asisten a Kindergarten Público de Nashua se registran automáticamente en primer grado en la escuela de su vecindario. Los padres de primer grado pueden venir en cualquier momento de 10:00 am a 2:00 pm para registrar a sus hijos.

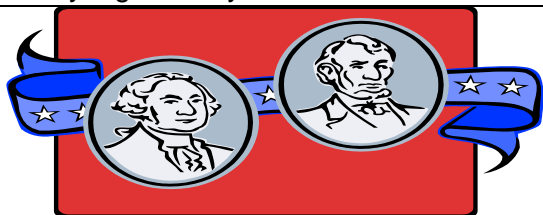
REQUISITOS DE INSCRIPCIÓN

Los padres deberán traer la siguiente información: el record de las vacunas, certificado de nacimiento (con sello en relieve) y verificación de residencia (2 facturas de servicios públicos, contrato de arrendamiento o acuerdo de compra y venta). Los niños deben hacerse un examen físico antes de ingresar a la escuela.

Los padres pueden registrar solo a su propio hijo.

FROM 21ST CENTURY:

We are accepting applications for the 21st Century Extended Day Program, the afterschool program of the Nashua School District, for grades 1-5! We provide homework help from certified teachers, as well as fun and educational programming daily. If you have questions, please contact Yuri Jaynes at (603) 921-0249 for more information.



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Kindergarteners are celebrating this month with poetry, songs, and art projects. During literacy stations, students are reading and writing and playing games to increase their vocabulary, gain deeper comprehension, and gain valuable practice. Trimester two math will give students the opportunity to become flexible with the number bond model in various ways, so that they will be able to understand part-part-whole relationships. Our winter projects are filling our rooms with hearts and winter scenes! We are moving towards our 100's Day celebration (February 12th if we don't have any more full snow days), Valentine's Day on the 14th February's Winter Carnival on Thursday February 6th. All of these activities get the children remarkably involved in learning. What's your prediction? Will the groundhog see his shadow?

FIRST GRADE NEWS

February is a very busy month for first grade. It is packed full of exciting activities and learning. We are looking forward to the Winter Carnival on February 6th. We will spend the day experiencing a wide variety of winter festivities including sledding and a nature hike! We are also looking forward to celebrating the 100th day of school on Feb. 12th. 100 days of first grade fun!

****Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate winter attire (hats, coats, mittens, boots and snow pants).***

***** Remember you are your child's best teacher, please practice reading each night.***

****** Have a wonderful vacation!***

SECOND GRADE NEWS

It's hard to believe we are at the halfway point in our school year. Second graders have been busy studying penguins and working hard to learn lots of new information. The students have enjoyed learning about the different species of penguins, their habitats, and other interesting facts. Ask your child to share some of the "cool" penguin information they learned over the past couple of weeks.

As February progresses, and in observance of President's Day will research various historical figures. We are all very excited for our annual Winter Carnival! Weather permitting, we will be outside much of the day. Please dress your child in warm clothing - snow pants, boots, coat, and a warm hat and mittens.

THIRD GRADE NEWS

It's hard to believe that the children have already finished the first half of third grade! January has been a busy month. Please continue to read with your child and study multiplication facts.

We have begun our Social Studies unit on Economics after having finished the Science unit on weather and how it is different than climate. You know what they say, "Whether it snows, or whether it's hot, we're going to have weather, whether or not!" Please be sure you check and sign your child's homework notebook each night to keep up with the exciting happenings in third grade!

For our Valentine's Day activities, students will have been working on their "Happy Hearts" project. Put together in class on the 14th, each student will come home with a giant poster filled with positivity and encouragement!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

Unbelievable as it may seem, our students are half way through their second trimester. Keeping this in mind, it is important for all the students to continue to work hard to make sure that they are meeting our academic and behavior expectations.

We have begun our unit of Fractions, and are encouraging all of our students to keep practicing their math facts at home on a nightly basis. We have also begun our immigration unit and are excited to learn about our country's and family history! Each class has begun a new Science Unit and is rotating to a new class.

Happy Valentine's Day!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The New Year always brings a sense of excitement to 5th graders. Is your student coming home every day with their Assignment Planner filled out and all the materials, books and papers they need? Are you seeing work coming home regularly? It's an important time of the year to reinforce good organizational habits like these so that your student will be ready to tackle middle school.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

I am just finishing up going into 2nd grade classes teaching about resilience and coping skills! Next I'll be heading into the 3rd grade classes again to discuss perspective as part of learning about conflict resolution.

The Student Council is hard at work devising a new positively focused schoolwide initiative that incorporates aspects of our district's focus on the whole child and social emotional learning. More to come on that soon. Our Mad Cancer Doctors Club who's hugely successful fundraiser for Childhood Brain Cancer research and assistance for Madagascar will now focus in on trying to assist somehow with the devastation caused by the Australian wildfires.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

I would like to congratulate all of the students who auditioned for our spring musical, Treasure Island! Everyone did a great job and I am very excited for our performance! The show will be on Friday, April 10th. There will be a performance during school for staff and students and an evening performance at 6:30 PM for family and friends to attend.

Third grade will be starting recorder karate this month! Recorders are wind instruments that we play in class. Information went home to all third grade parents. We use a program called Recorder Karate here at Birch Hill. Students will earn "karate belts" for each song they are able to play (I tie a colored string around their recorder ☺). Here is a link to the recorder karate page on the Birch Hill music website: <https://sites.google.com/site/birchhillelementarymusic/recorder-karate-dojo>. There is sheet music and information available for students to practice with.

NURSES NOTES

Nashua schools have seen an increase in students with flu-like symptoms. Here's what you can do to help prevent the spread of flu among students and staff:

Follow Cough Etiquette

- Teach and encourage your child to cover his/her mouth and nose with a tissue or use their elbow when he or she coughs or sneezes; throw away the soiled tissue
- Teach your child not to share drinks, food, or unwashed forks and spoons

Clean Hands

- Teach your child to wash his or her hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Set a good example by washing your hands often

Stay Home If Ill

- Keep a sick child at home for at least 24 hours after she or he no longer has fever (100° Fahrenheit or 37.8° Celsius) or signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs; keeping a child with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected; Mrs. Speidel, our school nurse, will contact you if your child is ill with flu-like symptoms and ask you to pick up him or her from school

Keep Informed

- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu: fever; cough, sore throat; runny or stuffy nose; body ache, headache; and fatigue; vomiting or diarrhea is seen less frequently

BIRCH HILL SKI CLUB

Starts February 14th and then we have a second ski date on the 21st before taking a break for our Winter Recess. In March we start back up with the following dates on the 6th, 13th, and 20th.



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The year is flying by. Many Birch Hill readers are participating in the Mayor's Winter Reading Challenge by logging minutes read on the Nashua Public Library's site. If you have any questions about NPL's instructions that we sent home, feel free to contact me (ullriche@nashua.edu) or the public library. Students are excited to report their visits to the library to get their prizes and their very own library cards! Anyone five years old or older can get a free card when an adult accompanies them to sign up. Students can also pick up prizes earned for their reading from me. Parents can participate in the challenge also! The last day to record minutes read is Feb. 28th.

Our spring book fair will start on Thursday, March 26, and end with our Family Night on Tuesday the 31st. We are excited to be sharing that event night with Birch Hill's Ice Cream Social! Read to your child tonight, or ask them to read to you.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

Illustrators help us understand the world in a visual way. Before they can read, children can understand a story or idea because an illustrator found a way to create a visual representation of the concept. Art is a powerful tool that illustrators have harnessed to help us comprehend our world, give personality to inanimate objects, share a bold statement or tell a complex story to a child. This month we have found inspiration at each grade level in the illustrations of many beloved and classic picture books. Kinders retold Lois Ehler's Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and Mo Willem's Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus using colorful and sparkly watercolors. First graders read favorites such as Growing Vegetable Soup and Giraffes Can't Dance and created amazingly creative multi media works. Second graders enjoyed painting No David, and Splat the Cat, as well as weaving Green Eggs and Ham. Grade Three blasted off into outer space by making collages inspired by Alan Bean and the true story of The Astronaut Who Painted the Moon. Grade Four embarked on a cross curricular project tying into immigration with drawings of the New York City skyline and the State of Liberty as seen in Lady Liberty's Holiday. Grade Five learned how Louisiana artist George Rodrigue created Blue Dog in Are You Blue Dog's Friend? So many powerful visual reminders of how art and literature come together to capture hearts and minds. Happy reading and creating!

NEWS FROM PE

Please make sure that your children bring the appropriate footwear on their Physical Education day along with having their hair out of their face (elastic or head band). I suggest putting extra in their back pack in case they forget. We continue to have new warm-ups in class to give students different ideas in warming up. We will be beginning basketball related skills in preparation of modified games.