


# Birch Hill Newsletter

## January



M	T	W	Th	F
<b>PARENTS: IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE LATE OR ABSENT? IF SO, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE</b> Your child's safety is a primary concern. If you do not contact the school we have no way of knowing if your child's absence is routine, or if a safety issue is involved. The answering machine is on (966-1820) during evening and early morning hours for your convenience. Even though our school has Email capability, for security reasons, we are not accepting Email as a valid option for attendance.			2 Holiday Break	3 Holiday Break
6 Return to School	7	8	9	10
13	14	15 Early Release 1:25 pm Kindergarten Released at 12:50.	16	17
20  Martin L. King, Jr. Day No School	21	22	23 Kindergarten Registration 4:00 – 6:00 PM	24
27	28	29	30	31

**Kindergarten/ First grade Registration for 2020-2021**

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

**See the article on next page for more details**

### **TRAFFIC/ PARKING REMINDERS**

- Please remain in line while waiting on Birch Hill Drive. Do not drive up the middle of the street and take a right into our parking lot.
- 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 remain in line when dropping off or picking up. Never pass cars or drive on the inside of the circle.

### **KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION 2020-2021**

#### **PICK UP REGISTRATION PACKETS OR DOWNLOAD PACKETS**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2020:** Kindergarten and First Grade Registration packets will be available for parents to pick up or download. Registration packets can be picked up at the Birch Hill office **or** parents may choose to download a registration packet to complete from home using the Nashua School District website.

#### **KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE REGISTRATION BEGINS**

**Thursday, January 23, 2020:** Parents may register their child for the 2020-2021 Kindergarten and First Grade at 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at your assigned zoned neighborhood school office according to your current residence. Beginning on Monday, January 24, 2020, Parents may register their child for the 2020-2021 school year at the neighborhood school office from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. This registration will be an ongoing registration for the duration of the school year.

#### **IMPORTANT:**

- **Kindergarten** children **MUST** be five years of age by September 30<sup>th</sup> and **First grade** children **MUST** be six years of age by September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Children who are currently attending Nashua Public Kindergarten are automatically registered in first grade at their neighborhood school.

**Please be sure to have the following documentation with you to complete your child's registration:**

- Birth certificate with raised seal
- Immunization record
- Copy of your child's kindergarten physical. (Children must have a physical examination prior to entering school.)
- Proof of residency. Please bring copies of two (2) utility bills or you can bring a copy of a lease or mortgage agreement.

Please feel free to contact the school office at Birch Hill, if you have any further questions.

***School closes each day at 3:45. No students are allowed to be in the building after 3:45 unless they are in an approved after school program/activity.***

### **EARLY RELEASE DATES THIS YEAR:**

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

### **ATTENDANCE REMINDERS**

- Students who are absent because of family vacations will be marked absent-unexcused. You will receive attendance calls from Blackboard, our automated system.
- Students will be allowed to make up work when they return. Per district policy, work will not be provided beforehand.

### **KINDERGARTEN 2020-2021**

La inscripción pública en Kindergarten para el año escolar 2020-2021 es diferente ahora. Usted será capaz de recoger un paquete o descargar un paquete de la página web del Distrito para llenar de antemano a partir del 2 de enero. El 23 de enero la oficina de la escuela estará abierta para que usted traiga de vuelta los paquetes de inscripción y complete la inscripción de 4:00 - 6:00 pm.

A los padres no se les permitirá inscribirse antes de las 4:00 pm esa noche. Las horas de inscripción diurnas desde el 23 de enero serán de 10 a.m. a 2 p.m. hasta final de escuela en junio.

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

### **REGISTRO DE PRIMER GRADO 2020-2021**

El registro público de primer grado para el año escolar 2020-2021 también comenzará el 24 de enero. Los niños de primer grado deben tener seis años de edad antes del 30 de septiembre. Los niños que actualmente asisten al Jardín de Infancia Pública de Nashua se registran automáticamente en el 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 comenzando el 27 de enero para registrar a sus hijos.

### **REQUISITOS DE REGISTRO**

Los padres tendrán que traer la siguiente información: Registros de inmunización, certificado de nacimiento (con sello elevado) y prueba de residencia (2 facturas de servicios públicos, contrato de arrendamiento o acuerdo de compra y venta). Los niños deben tener un examen físico antes de entrar a la escuela. Los padres pueden inscribir solamente a su propio hijo.



## **WINTER CLOTHING AND RECESS**

Rain, snow, sleet, ice and cold all provide for very challenging lunch and recess play periods. Some students come to school dressed for a weekend on top of Mt. Washington while others look like they are ready for Aruba. The ensuing dilemma is “what about outdoor recess?” Outdoor recess will be determined on a day-to-day basis with weather conditions and how well the play areas have been plowed being the deciding factors. Playground rules are as follows:

### **OUTDOOR RECESS RULES**

- **No kicking/throwing of snow or ice**
- Respect play area boundaries.
- Decisions on use of playground equipment will be made on a day to day basis.
- When there is outdoor recess, **all** students will be going out. Please dress children accordingly.
- To **play** in the snow: boots, snow pants, coat, hats and gloves/ mittens are required.
- Keep off the snow hills created by the plows.
- Keep running to a minimum while on the black top area.

### **INDOOR RECESS RULES**

- Speak softly
- Play quiet games
- Be on best behavior (other classes are still in session).

## **KINDERGARTEN NEWS**

Kindergarten welcomes winter with a realistic fiction read about snow. We'll find out how the story comes to life, and ask ourselves if we could do the same things as the character. Have you ever thought that you've walked on snow that nobody else has walked on? In addition, we'll find out about living and non-living things. Our days will continue with comparisons using weight and numbers, and then we'll move on to representing numbers with part/whole thinking. We will spend important time learning about the leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Happy New Years to you! Be Safe, Happy, and Stay Warm!

## **FIRST GRADE NEWS**

We hope everyone had a wonderful winter vacation! In the next month, we will continue working on our math and reading skills. Please make sure your child is dressed for the cold January weather! Work on those math facts so that fact power can be achieved!

## **SECOND GRADE NEWS**

Happy New Year to all our second grade families!

In January, during science classes we will be learning about penguins and other fascinating animals that live in the polar regions of the earth. Do you know what a narwhal is? Aren't you glad you don't have a tooth like that to brush and floss daily?

During social studies time, we will be studying economics with a focus on wants/needs, goods/services, consumers/producers, and of course budget management. There is a lot to learn in second grade.

Please remember to read with your children at home as this is very valuable.

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## **THIRD GRADE NEWS**

We would like to thank all the parents and children who have contributed to the school Winter fundraisers with money, books to donate, or toys to the Toys for Tots collections. Every bit makes a difference for those in need. Also, our annual hot cocoa book swap was a success! Thank you for your help, Birch Hill families are so generous. It's a wonderful place to be.

In Math we will continue to move forward within multiplication and its relation to division. This is a big focus for third grade curriculum. Please continue to study multiplication and division tables with your children. Remember, families can access the Eureka website from home in order to help with homework questions. This is available at [greatminds.net](http://greatminds.net). Also, [Xtramath.org](http://Xtramath.org) is a terrific resource and all third graders have accounts this year.

We are finishing up the Earth Science unit focusing on weather and climate. The students very much enjoyed our visit with Kevin Skarupa from WMUR news! Our next Social Studies Unit in Economics regarding the concepts of barter and trade is such fun and very engaging. The third graders will turn into young entrepreneurs!

We are very happy with the rate of growth being demonstrated in the ability of our students as they read aloud, more and more fluently! To maintain and progress even further with their comprehension and inferencing skills, please have the children read for 10 to 20 minutes every night. This really does make a remarkable difference in their abilities, as it adds up to **more than an extra hour** every week!

## **FOURTH GRADE NEWS**

We can't believe that 2020 has already come to a close! When we return students will be participating in the Fit Kids program sponsored by Dr. Cappetta. Information about this program will go home in January. As the cold weather approaches, please make sure that your child comes dressed to go outside for recess: boots, hats, gloves. We want them warm and healthy! Please make sure your child has the necessary school supplies as we begin our new year in 2020.

Our warmest holiday wishes to all of you. Happy New Year to you and your families!

## **FIFTH GRADE NEWS**

Fifth grade is in full swing! It's a good time to revisit the importance of developing good work habits. The following are some of the expectations that we find ourselves repeating in class. 5th graders should have these skills mastered at this point.

- Complete all work with thorough answers including relevant details
- Labeling math word problems
- Read over work for clarity, punctuation, and spelling
- Words that are right on the page should be copied correctly

We have noticed that so many 5th grade students have been taking responsibility for their work and becoming more independent learners. We are so proud of them and we continue to encourage all of our students to keep up the good work!

## **NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM**

Happy New Year! We have been busy creating a winter wonderland we are eager to share with our Birch Hill community! We collaged snowy owls with kindergarten, printed striking cardinals with first grade, painted Lawren Harris inspired winter landscapes with third grade, created realistic oil pastel evergreens with fourth grade, and jaw dropping Monet birch trees in grade five. Many of these beautiful art pieces can be viewed in our school as well as on Artsonia. I have been working hard uploading art work into our gallery. Please check it out! It is a great way to see our beautiful art, order special keepsakes for yourself or a family member, and support the Birch Hill art room!

## **NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM**

Happy New Year everyone! Our focus this trimester will be on learning about melody and the notes on the staff. Students will be doing a lot of singing and playing instruments like the xylophone. Students in third grade will be learning to play the recorder! Information about recorders will be going home to parents this month. We will also be starting auditions for our spring musical as soon as we get back from the holiday break. Our musical this year will be Treasure Island!. I wish all of the Birch Hill families a happy and healthy 2020!

Thank you!

-Mr. Milner

## **NEWS FROM THE NURSE**

Cold weather = chapped lips. Please be sure your child has lip balm they can keep in their backpack for the winter season. You would be amazed at how many students come to the nurse every day for dry lips ☺

Any medication should be delivered to the school by the parent or guardian. For safety reasons, please DO NOT send any medicine in with your child. A doctor's note must accompany any prescription medication. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

## **NEWS FROM THE GYM**

I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable holiday break. I would like to encourage you to have your children exercise during their free time. This can include stretching, working on their strength (push-ups and sit-ups), and cardiovascular exercise (walking and / or jogging). We have made great strides so far this year! Let's keep it going over vacation. If you like to explore cooperative challenges with your children, you can go to the following website: [www.nbc.com/minute-to-win-it/](http://www.nbc.com/minute-to-win-it/). It is the website for the NBC program Minute- to- Win -It. We will be beginning soccer related skills in January then going into basketball skills in February.

Please make sure your children bring sneakers to school for their PE classes. I also require that hair is pulled back with a hair elastic or hair band. Thank you for your cooperation.

## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY**

Last month students in grades K, 1, 2, and 3 voted for their favorite of the ten books nominated for the Ladybug state picture book award. The books were all loved and although the votes were widely spread, **Can I Be Your Dog?** by Troy Cummings got the most votes at our school. I submitted all votes to Concord and it turned out that Cummings' book also was most popular throughout the state and was named Ladybug Book of 2019 by the New Hampshire State Library! More than 23,000 NH students participated in this literary exercise with civics connections.

This month we're excited about the Mayor's Reading Challenge. The older grades are exploring nonfiction, as well as continuing to read their chapter book award nominees of various genres. The younger grades are discovering new series, parts of a book, and enjoying their increased prowess in reading. They love to share a favorite new book with the family. Read with your child tonight!

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER**

I've been hard at work delivering the guidance curriculum to all grades. I've finished up my lessons in 5th grade on goal-setting (both short and long-term goals) and how to achieve our life's dreams. The students were introduced to [IamCollegeBound.org](http://IamCollegeBound.org) and [CareerOneStop.org](http://CareerOneStop.org). In kindergarten we watched Sesame Street video's about being a "Whole Body Listener" and learning self-control. I am now heading into 1st grade again this time to discuss personal space.

As usual, we all came together to take care of any Birch Hill families who needed a little assistance through the holidays and gave generously to the Telegraph's Santa Fund. I'd like to send out a special thank you to all of those who made special efforts this year. As always thank you to the Fire Department for the holiday baskets and to St. Joseph's Hospital for taking care of a couple of our families.