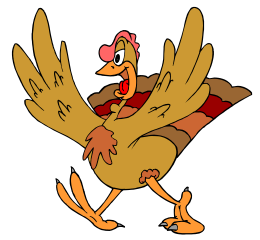


Birch Hill Newsletter

November



Rooted in Friendship, Growing in Knowledge

Caring and Compassion

"Caring is seeking the good of others and properly responding. Compassion is a quality of sympathy or concern for others; and to yourself first and by using your own abilities for the good of others." understand their difficulties and demonstrate compassion for their hurts."

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
PARENTS – IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE LATE OR ABSENT? IF SO, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE <i>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 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 reporting. Thank you very much for your continued cooperation.</i> Our phone number is 603-966-1820.					1	2
3 Turn your clocks back 1 hour 	4 Gr. 4 to Currier Museum	5 Election Day No School Teacher's Inservice Day	6 Conferences 4 – 7:30 PM	7 	8 Veteran's Day Assembly 9:05 AM 	9
10 	11  Veteran's Day No school	12  Picture Retake Day	13 	14 Conferences 4 – 7:30 PM	15 	16 PTO Holiday Gift Fair
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 Gr. 5 to NHSN play	22 	23
24 	25 	26 	27 No school	28 No School Thanksgiving Break 	29  No school	30



Veteran's Day Assembly Nov. 8, 2019

Our Veteran's Day Assembly will be held in the gym at 9:05 am. The assembly is a brief but meaningful one. All veterans are welcome. Please come a little early to gather in the library to proceed in together. You will be impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and your children's behavior.

EARLY RELEASE DATES THIS YEAR:

The Early Release dates for this year are ALL Wednesdays as follows: December 11, 2019, and January 15, March 18, April 15, and May 13, 2019.

FROM THE PRINCIPALS

- We encourage all parents to sign up for a November conference. Please contact your child's teacher.
- Mr. Lucas and Mrs. Michaud would like to wish all of our Birch Hill families a Happy Thanksgiving.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Don't forget that November 6th and 14th are the dates for our parent teacher conferences. This is a great opportunity for you to listen and share news regarding your child. If you do not have a scheduled time to meet with your child's teacher please email your child's teacher to set one up. Conferences run from 4 pm to 7:30 pm on both nights.

REMINDERS

- When dropping off, please do not get out of your car as it holds up the other cars behind you.
- Please try and avoid calling the office between 8:50 – 9:10am.
- All dismissal changes need to be made in writing. You may use our form that was sent home at the beginning of the year or a personal note. Please call the office if you need more forms.
- Please remember to continually discuss proper bus behavior with your children.
- STUDENTS in grades 1 – 5 SHOULD NOT BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE 8:40. We do not have staff on duty until then.

CLOSE OF THE MARKING PERIOD

Marks close November 22nd and Report Cards will go home December 5th.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



Once again we celebrated Red Ribbon Week with a number of fun theme days and discussed many ways of leading a healthy life. Please continue to support these efforts by continuing these conversations at home throughout the year and by purchasing healthy foods and having reasonable limits and monitoring TV, videogame and computer time.

I have been busy going into classrooms this year as I continue to implement the guidance curriculum. This has had me in most of the classrooms already talking about safety, friendship and teamwork and conflict resolution. In addition to continuing lessons on these topics I will continue to go into the classrooms throughout the year teaching lessons on coping strategies, empathy, bullying and even some early career readiness skills.

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

Happy November everyone! The holiday season is fast approaching and so is our Winter Concert! The Winter Concert is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30 PM. There will also be a concert during the day for students and faculty. Second Year Band, The Birch Hill String Ensemble, SCORE, and Chorus will be performing on the concert. First year band will NOT be performing on this concert. More information will coming home about this soon.

Our Composer of the Month for November will be Amy Beach! Students will learn about the life and music of this famous composer who was born and raised here in New Hampshire!

I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving!



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

As November brings us shorter and cooler days, we will surely have cozy fires burning as we learn about the lives of people today, and from long ago. We'll learn about why we thank veterans, about Pilgrim children helping to do chores in their small villages, and about the Wampanoag home sites and their children. We'll also make decisions about what we need and what we may want in Social Studies.

We're reading our sight words and using them as we write and practice our storytelling.

Look for our Friendship Feast coming the last week in November. In Math, we will begin our shapes and measurement units.

Please note that Kindergarten Conferences are being scheduled for Nov. 6th or Nov. 14th, and we look forward to sharing information about your child with you. Happy Autumn!

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Why is there Thanksgiving Day
In chilly gray November?
So we can stop and give our thanks
For good things we remember.

Welcome to the exciting month of November! The leaves have fallen off the trees, the pumpkins are harvested, and more changes are taking place!

Our reading program continues with word wall words, word patterns, and fabulous stories. In math we continue to work on addition problems and number stories. We are excited to begin our study of animal habitats this month! **Parents:** be on the lookout for your reminder note for parent conferences. We are looking forward to meeting with you later this month!

SECOND GRADE NEWS

The pumpkin projects were great. Thank you for all your help. They will be on display in the library for the month of November. The weather is getting colder, please make sure children are coming to school dressed appropriately to go outside for recess. If you have not yet signed up for a November parent-teacher conference, please contact your child's teacher as soon as possible to schedule one.



Happy Thanksgiving

THIRD GRADE NEWS

The 3rd Graders have been very busy this month! We have completed our first module in math and working in our second module by practicing telling time down to the exact minute. Did you know that time is continuous? Also, try to point out grams, kilograms, liters and milliliters on normal products in your kitchen. Remember: 1 kilogram is equal to 1,000 grams and 1 Liter is equal to 1,000 milliliters. Keep practicing those multiplication facts!

The children are enjoying learning about vertebrates and invertebrates. We will be making posters of various animals and their life cycles to be displayed in our classrooms. How exciting! In Readers' Workshop we will be focusing on the wonderful author, Patricia Polacco. What's your favorite book written by her? We can't wait to begin this author study! Remember, Parent/Teacher conferences are this month. Please contact your child's teacher if you still need a date and time. We will be sending home reminders. Have a wonderful month of November and keep reading nightly 3rd Graders!

FOURTH GRADE NEWS

An overarching goal in 4th grade is to increase automaticity with multiplication and division as applied to higher level thinking skills in math. As with anything, these skills require practice, practice, practice! Please be sure your child is studying their math facts at home on a nightly basis. We're looking forward to seeing you at conferences and discussing your child's progress so far this year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have not already scheduled a November Conference. Happy Fall!

FIFTH GRADE NEWS

The first couple months have come to a close and we hope the students are becoming more organized. It is our goal to prepare your child for middle school and we do this in a variety of ways throughout the year. Organization is a key component to success and utilizing the assignment notebook will help your child be successful.

As work continues, we prepare for the November conferences. A note will go home reminding you of the time and date you reserved. For those who did not schedule one yet, please email or send a note in. We'll get back to you with a time. Enjoy the crisp fall days!

NURSES NOTES

Our 2019 Flu Clinic was a success with over 100 students vaccinated at the school based clinic this year. Cold and flu season is here! You can help protect yourself from illness by these steps:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid kissing, hugging and sharing cups or eating utensils with people who are sick
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.

Any medication should be delivered to the school by the parent or guardian and must be in its original package from the pharmacy or manufacturer. No prescription medication may be administered to your child without a written doctor's note, and a release form signed by the parent or guardian. For safety reasons:

**** Do not send any medicine in to school with your child.**** Please deliver directly to the nurse or secretary.

The health office is always looking for donations of outgrown elastic waist pants, size 6, or size small. Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE GYM

Running is a great lifetime activity as we encourage children to strive for at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. Swimming, dancing, skiing, skating, hiking, tennis, cycling, walking, and golf are some other great activities you can do together as a family. Raking and bagging leaves can also be a good workout for the whole family while enjoying the fresh air! Please help your children to notice the physiological changes that their bodies undergo when exercising, and how good that feels. We have discussed how it is normal for a person to breathe faster and have a faster pulse when exercising. Your children should be able to explain to you how they can take their own pulse. Encourage your children to stretch while at home when they have down time. They can stretch while reading and watching television. If your children forget the stretches, they can check the walls inside the gym.

We finished Frisbee activities and are now going into soccer activities. We took time to also discuss fire safety during fire prevention month. Please make sure that your children have the correct sneakers and clothes on their PE days along with their hair pulled back out of their face. I would suggest putting extra elastics, headbands, and hair clips in your child's backpack.

NEWS FROM THE ART ROOM

Autumn is the theme for art on display in the halls at Birch Hill. Colorful self-portraits came to life with our kindergarten students, as well as a favorite color mixing lesson with "Monsters Love Colors!" Red, yellow and green apples were drawn and painted by Grade 1 artists; learning how to observe, sketch and use a paintbrush like a ballerina! Mixing to make orange pumpkin faces was so much fun!

Grade 2 mixed beautiful shades of orange and created "Starry Night Pumpkins" with foreground, middle ground, and background. So many beautiful swirling colors! Pop Art inspired our 3D folk art pumpkin sculptures in Grade 3 and our Romero Britto Pumpkins. We even hid our initials in our art!

Grade 4 created beautiful Georgia O'Keeffe fall Landscapes and abstract Matisse leaf designs as they learned about the different genres of art and prepared for their field trip to the Currier Museum. We practiced how to "read" a work of art using our art vocabulary. The museum offers free Saturday visits once a month.

Pre-historic Art and social studies connections are being created by Grade 5. Our focus will be on the Elements of Art as we tie into the rich Native American cultural connection. WANTED FOR THE ART ROOM: Baby wipes and tissues PLEASE!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY:

Grades K, 1, 2 and 3 have now enjoyed more than half of the 10 Lady Bug Picture Book nominees and will be able to vote for their favorite book in December. Grades 3 and 4 continue to read and share the 2019/20 Gate City Books, while 5th grade works on the Great Stone Face nominees. A huge "thank you" to all the volunteers who helped with our Arctic Adventure book fair! We would never be able to have such a robust library program without our Birch Hill community. In addition to fair co-chairs Beckie Brannen and Erica Proto and artistic director Nicole Farrington, many parents helped with setup, takedown, manning cash registers and aiding with book selection - so many in fact that for the first time there are too many names for me to fit in this column! You know who you are, and your children are proud. Yes, Dog Man really came to Family Night! Keep reading with your child. It makes such a difference.

