Dear Harriet Beecher Stowe School Families,

It is hard to believe that the end of the second trimester is fast approaching and it is time for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Now that we are in a trimester format, conferences are being scheduled differently than they have been in the past. Instead of having a designated school wide day and time for conferences, each teacher will schedule conferences individually. Please contact your child’s teacher to schedule an appointment.

Perhaps you have heard the old saying, “If you don’t like the weather in Maine, just wait a minute!” This has certainly been the case during the last few weeks. Please be sure your child comes to school ready to enjoy the outside, whatever the weather may be. In addition, encourage your child to bring sneakers or shoes to wear inside, since the playground is very sloppy. It is hard to learn when your feet are cold and wet.

March is shaping up to be another busy month here at HBS! We continue to address our goal of strengthening our school community with a school assembly on March 13 presented by none other than the Harlem Superstars! This event has been made possible in collaboration with Brunswick High School parents who are hosting a fundraising event for the swimming, diving and tennis teams that evening.

On March 14 we invite students to help us celebrate Math Day (3.14) by wearing clothing with numbers. On March 22 our Fifth Graders will demonstrate what they have learned about manners at the Fifth Grade Manner’s Banquet. At the end of the month we look forward to seeing some budding stars at the first annual HBS Variety Show. A special thank you goes out in advance to Teresa Gillis and her team of volunteers who are making this event possible.

Finally, please be sure to look at the extensive list of upcoming March events and participate in as many you can. You are an important part of the HBS School Community!

Yours Truly,

Jean Skorapa,
Principal
also drawn and painted a classic portrait of this remarkable woman. The second graders are adding final details to their self-portraits. Please ask your child what they may have remembered about this author whom Abraham Lincoln is quoted as saying “So you are the woman who wrote the book that started this great war...” 1862

Lastly, It has been my pleasure and honor to mentor and share student teacher Ms. Jenny Kowtko, Maine College of Art with the students these last 8 weeks. I wish her the best as she continues with her practicum.

Emily Moll
Art Educator
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Mrs. McCormack’s art classes have celebrated the “art of giving” by sending art supplies and their art to children in a Kenyan Community. Brunswick resident, Lynn Ouellette, has been our contact with this African community. She sojourns to this welcoming community just about every year. Mrs. McCormack’s classes have traveled with her through their art and Ms. Ouellette’s blog about her Kenyan experience. She has communicated with our students through pictures and texts in her blog. You can visit the blog at http://plopsymd.com/2013/01/13/young-artists-send-greetings-from-brunswick-maine-to-kenya/. Ms.

Second Grade News
Second graders have been learning about mammals in science and how to multiply and divide in math. We are very fortunate to have Squidge Davis visit us with Arts are Elementary next week. Squidge will use clay and the imagery of nature as she guides the students in their clay creating. She will visit each class two different days for an hour and a half each visit. At the end of each lesson she will have the children write about what they have made and what it expresses. This Friday, March 1st is Community Read Day where members of our community come to school and read to the children. It is always fun to see a new face reading a good book.

Our winter continues to be a snowy one so please continue to send snow pants and other winter clothing. It would really be helpful if the students could bring an extra pair of socks as many of them are coming in from the first recess with wet feet and they still have another recess in the afternoon.

Thanks to everyone for helping with our Valentine Celebrations!! It was much appreciated!!

Third Grade News
Our third graders are departing outer space for a journey back to Planet Earth. Our next big science unit will involve a study of ponds and pond life. We will partner with our neighbors at CREA for some classroom experiences as well as a culminating field trip to the pond in Topsham. Our math focus continues to be on building multiplication fact fluency through the 9’s (keep those flash cards flashing!) and knowing when to apply multiplication and division in word problems. The third grade teachers are looking forward to conferences in March when we can show you all of your child's hard work.

Fourth Grade News
March will bring poetry, paintings and birds to fourth grade through the Arts are Elementary artist in residence, Judy Segal. She will be working in classrooms during March 11th – 21st. It will be exciting to see where this artistic endeavor will take our thinking and creativity. Many classrooms are merging the geography and geology learning into some type of ecology experience. We’re packing our virtual suitcases to venture into a learning expedition about how animals, plants and land features work together in a natural community called a biome or ecosystem. In math, we are taking our chances by entering into the realm of probability. We’re reviewing and strengthening our describing and predicting skills for potential outcomes; along with calculating mean, mode and median of data. Conferences this month will give us the chance to share progress in all learning areas and set-
Ouellette’s writing and pictures reveal the appreciation for the much needed art supplies and joy to have received the endearing art efforts of our students to visually communicate a joyful hello from America. Perusing through Ms. Ouellette’s blogs beyond the site page noted above offers the reader wonderful insight into this community’s needs, enriched lives, and the effervescent human spirit found among its people.

Sharon McCormack
Art Educator
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Connections

Students in Connections wrote about the Blizzard Nemo!
How I survived the blizzard. I woke up and got breakfast. After that I got bored and I shoveled the driveway. Then I went to my friend’s house. I survived the blizzard by staying inside. I played on an IPAD.

During Nemo, I buried myself under a pile of snow. It kept me warm. I didn’t want to go inside. I read it on a Survivor Channel.

I survived the blizzard by keeping cool. I got a new jacket to keep my body warm. My eyebrows froze and it was cold! My dad was cold too. I went inside the house too but it was fun. Then I went in the house to get warm.

I survived the blizzard by

Fifth Grade News

Math: Classes are progressing into Algebra. The Algebra chapter aims to develop students’ algebraic fluency by providing them with skills needed to solve equations. Students are learning to write both numerical and algebraic expressions and equations that correspond to given situations. We hope that parents will continue to communicate with their child’s math teacher as we all become more comfortable with our new math program.

Social Studies: We have begun the study of the key events leading up to the beginning of the Revolutionary War. Many of the classes will be assigning either a Loyalist or a Patriot to each student. Students will study the views of that person and write a speech either for or against the tax on tea. Several classes will participate in the great tea debate.

Science: We are finishing up the study of Astronomy. Our next Science unit will be the Human Body. Students may have the opportunity to learn about the various body systems in different classrooms.

Literature: Several historical fiction as well as non-fiction novels continue to be integrated into our curriculum. We enjoyed participating in Longfellow Days with Mrs. Sairio and two guest speakers who were poets. It was a great opportunity for the students to participate in writing some poetry.

Conferences: Our second trimester will end March 8, with parent/teacher conferences being held on March 15. You should be hearing from your child’s teacher soon to schedule a time for your conference. We are looking forward to touching base with you.

Manners Banquet: We will be participating in our Manners Banquet on March 22nd. We have a great group of parents who are volunteering their time to help make this event happen for our fifth graders. Students have officially RSVP’d for the event and indicated on their RSVP card their choice of meals. This should be fun for all of us!

Physical Education

Happy March! February has been an exciting, busy time in the physical education Department. All HBS students were involved in a tumbling, gymnastics unit, while using creative movement, music and fun! 4-5th graders used their LinC skills to create and preform a routine with a small group of peers. The end product was exciting to watch although the process along the way was equally thrilling.

Cooperative games, bowling and a new climbing wall were also a part of our February! Did you have the chance to bowl with your family over vacation? When was the last time you went blowing? Try it and allow your child to share what they have learned!

The HBS climbing wall is a challenging addition to the PE curriculum. Thank you Eric Welzel for installing this new apparatus for HBS students to have personal success with! Ask your child to identify what kind of wall this is called when you use a climbing wall from side to side.

February, being heart health month was also HBS 5-2-1-0 Colors Week. Both
sitting doing nothing. I was inside playing PS3 Black Ops 2 in my room. I play online with other kids. I won and lost.

I survived the blizzard by finding shelter. Also, by staying warm. I’m looking for food. I’m looking for something to drink. I looked at the weather forecast.

Brunswick School and SAD 75 celebrated different foods during lunch times to promote healthy nutritional habits. Food service Director Scott Smith. What food did your child enjoy the most? Special thanks to parent 5-2-1-0 Colors Week coordinator, Kathy Thorson. Kathy was an integral part of scheduling guest speakers and getting the week rolling. Thanks to parent group leader, Jill Ellis for volunteering and coordinating other parent volunteers during lunch taste testing times. A lot of capable, energetic volunteers (dressed in fruit or veggie outfit or not), are needed to make colors week such a success! Thank you parents and HBS community. Special thanks to the following presenters during the dining hour:

Adam Williams, Foodcycle, Devin from Bowdoin Outing club, Seth Kroeck, Crystal Farms and local pediatrician Andrea Loeffler.

You may have noticed your child using different colored jelly bracelets. Thanks to Jessica Loney, our 5-2-1-0 representative from Mid-Coast hospital, EVERY student received bracelets. Every time your child eats a fruit or veggie, they move one bracelet to their other wrist. This is an easy, fun way to keep track of your 5 fruits and veggies a day!

Thanks to my colleagues and parent group volunteers who walked in our monthly bike/walk; EVERY third Thurs. is bike/walk day. However, March 15th is a parent conference day. Stay tuned. The next scheduled bike/walk will be announced. Volunteers are needed. Won’t you join us?

Our culminating activity for an eventful February Colors Week was a presentation by Riverview’s Joe Sir and Abby Ma’am. Joe Sir and Abby Ma’am worked with HBS Riverview students in an assembly the Fri. before vacation. Joe Sir and his Riverview students led all 600+HBS kids in martial arts movement. Movement can take shape or form in traditional sports or non-traditional with similar health benefits. Joe Sir led us through some martial art moves and breathing to help us wrap up our 5-2-1-0 Colors Week. Heart rates were up, we benefited from a work out that focused on our qi or chi; our personal energy. It was amazing!

Parents/Guardians, YOU are the ones! You and your family support your children and their personal choices whether it be Colors Week, or your daily/family routine. March is National Nutrition month! Stay away from the processed foods, even when eating grains. Frozen is better than canned and make those personal goals. Kudos to Jacob Benoit and Juliana Gamage for taking the 5-2-1-0 Challenge. Can you and your family decide on a family challenge?

Happy March, National Nutrition Month. The HBS community continues to excel with these healthy life skills. GOOD for you, ENJOY!

Please have students bring a pair of sneakers on phys ed day.

Lynn D’Agostino
Shane Hutchings
HBS PE Dept.

www.letsgo.org; 5-2-1-0
www.eatright.org; March is National Nutrition month
From the Counselors Office

CAMP FAIR
Sunday, March 17, 2013  1-4 PM
East End School Gym
195 North St.  Portland, Maine

Free Admission
It seems a little odd to be thinking about summer camps in the midst of winter snows, yet with a little luck, warmth and light will soon be headed our way. While we try to facilitate a few local scholarships, the number and variety of Maine summer camps is truly extensive. The free camp fair in Portland offers an opportunity for parents to learn about specific camps as well as meeting some of their staff. More information can be found at mainecamps.org or 207-518-9557.

Nancy Farrand
Jeanie Rubio
School Counselors

The Reading Corner
Welcome back to school!
The final reading category from the CAFÉ model is E- Expand Vocabulary, which states “I know, find, and use interesting words.” For this strategy, we teach students to add new words to both their reading and speaking vocabulary. One of the best ways to increase vocabulary is by reading voraciously- read, read, and read! Author and teacher Patricia Cunningham states, “The number of words in your meaning vocabulary store is directly related to how much you read. Children who read the most have the biggest vocabularies. Children who read only when they are assigned something to read have smaller vocabularies."

The second strategy is to tune into interesting words and learn what these words mean. Students who do this will notice and recall more new words, thereby expanding their vocabularies. When reading with your child, stop when he comes to a new word, and make a big deal over it, explaining its meaning in the context. This ties in to the third strategy, which is to have your child ask someone to explain an unknown word. When you notice the same word in another text, remind your child that you’ve discussed this word before and ask him of its meaning. If needed, give the meaning again. The National Reading Panel notes that when students are exposed to a word six times, in a variety of contexts, they develop significantly higher levels of comprehension.

The fourth strategy students should be familiar with is using tools such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries. If you choose not to immediately give the meaning of an unknown word, ask him to look it up in the dictionary, which also allows for a discussion of the variety of meanings and parts of speech for each word. By looking in a thesaurus, children find numerous words to substitute for a given word in their writing. This adds to his/her vocabulary repertoire.

Enjoy reading together, and this month, focus on building vocabulary. Perhaps you’d like to start a poster or chart of words your family is learning. Post this somewhere that you will see and review these words on a daily basis, which will help to increase vocabulary for each of you. This is another fun way to build literacy skills in your home.