

HILL-ROBERTS NEWS NOVEMBER 2007



From the Principal's Desk

November is upon us and we have a busy month. November 2nd concludes term 1 and report cards will be going home November 20th. The first teacher conferences are scheduled for Nov. 28th and 29th. Conference information will be going home November 19th. Attleboro Elementary report cards are standards based reporting and do not give students traditional grades (i.e. A, B or C). Information about report cards will be going home this month. I will also have an informational report card family meeting on November 13th at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. I want to ensure you that our entire faculty is working very hard and is dedicated to making this a successful year for your children.

Newsletter submission for the 4th grade

We have just finished up our first unit in the Core Literacy Program. Students read stories about a little girl moving and befriending an older woman at the local library, a grandfather's journey, Lewis and Clark, a fairy tale, and an informative piece about Yosemite National Park.

Each student has also read several additional selections about similar topics. We also read five non-fiction pieces about black bears, people who traveled with Lewis and Clark, using online resources, Horned lizards and Harvest Ants, and the song "This Land is Your Land".

We have also worked on finding main ideas and details, author's purpose, fact and opinion, sequencing, and used several graphic organizers.

In our grammar lessons, we have been studying types of sentences, subjects and predicates, compound sentences, and clauses and complex sentences.

As you can see, your student has been very busy. We expect that some concepts have not been fully mastered yet, but they will come up again in future units. We encourage all students to continue practicing spelling and reading every day!

<i>Upcoming November Events:</i>	
<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
2 nd	Marks close
12 th	No School - Veterans' Day
13 th 10:00am & 6:00pm	Informational report card family meeting with Mr. Joseph
13 th 7:00pm	PTO meeting in the cafeteria
16 th	Picture Retake
20 th	Reports cards go home
21 st - 23 rd	Thanksgiving Break
26 th 3:30pm	School Council meeting
28 th 12:25pm	Early Dismissal - Parent Conferences 1:00 - 5:00pm No half day kindergarten
29 th 6:00 - 8:00pm	Parent Conferences

A special thanks to the PTO and all the volunteers for painting a map of the United States on the new blacktop in the playground!!

Picture Retake

Our picture retake will be **Friday, November 16th**. This will also be our staff photo day. Since it is a Friday, I thought wearing our Blue Husky shirts would make a great photo. Mr. Joseph is open to feedback.



Air and Weather Mrs. Morris's Class

We have been studying and observing air and weather during September and October. It has been the ideal time to go outside and do some experiments. By using balloons, straws, styrofoam balls and large plastic syringes we have been able to see how air pushes things. We have a great big book and matching student editions of a book on air and weather. We read several pages of the big book and then perform our experiments. This has generated a lot of great discussion and the children can really see for themselves that air takes up space and has force. We are beginning to tie our experiments into observations we are making about the weather. On Friday we took a short walk and did clipboard observations about the change of seasons. When the children see the word



Integrated Arts

*Mrs. McCaughey-Art, Mrs. Giannetti-Music,
Mrs. Cardillo- Physical Education*

All Art, Music and PE classes have begun the 2007-2008 school year learning and reviewing what respectful, responsible and ready to learn students behave like in the art room, music room and gym.

As students demonstrate their understanding of the expectations within each discipline, they have also been very busy in their Integrated Arts classes creating, performing and practicing their skills with materials, instruments and equipment necessary to learn about the content and concepts in Art, Music and PE.

Beginning with the human body, students will be exploring "How the Human Body Works"

In Art, all classes are first exploring the skeletal and muscular systems. Our self-portraits show the shapes and forms that make up the human face. Symmetry of shape and proportions of our facial features differentiate the human face from other mammals. The structure of our skeleton gives us our shape and the many parts (bones, joints, ligaments and tendons) connect perfectly to make us a whole person allowing our bodies to move and be in perfect balance as we work hard throughout our day!

In Music class, the 3rd and 4th grades have also begun to learn how the body can be used as our very first instrument. Reading rhythm patterns and then performing those patterns with body percussion: clapping, patting, finger snapping and stomping is the first step into transferring the sound of the body percussion to an instrument of the same timbre. Just as the skeleton and muscles give the body form, 3rd and 4th grades have been composing their own musical form based on rhythm patterns.

In Physical Education, all students continue to use their bodies daily as they demonstrate and practice health and skill fitness.

Though the skeletal and muscular systems are the foundation of the human body they must "work together" with four more systems (circulatory, respiratory, nervous and digestive) in order to create, perform, practice and achieve excellence throughout the day!