

Ellis School Newsletter

432 Main St. Fremont, NH 03044

www.sau83.org



March in music

Music In Our Schools Month

2009 MIOSM Theme: "Music! Just Imagine..."



March 13, 2009

Upcoming Events:

April 17, 2009-"A Night with the Stars"- Join us for a night of talent in the Ellis Gymnasium!

April 23, 2009-"SNOOPY!"-7:00 PM in the Ellis Gymnasium

May 4, 2009- Grades 1-4 and 5/6 Chorus-"Spring Concert"-Sanborn Regional High School

• **March 13- Middle School Dance**

Grades 6-8 only

• **March 20- 8th Grade Spaghetti Dinner**

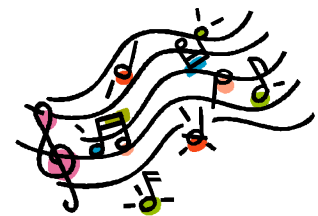
5-7 pm

• **April 17- A Night with the Stars**

• **April 23- Snoopy**

• **May 4- Spring Concert**

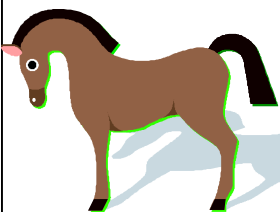
At Sanborn Regional High School



6th Grade Chili/Chowder Cook-Off & Raffles = Great Success

The 6th grade "Chili /Chowder Cook-Off" held last Saturday, March 7th was a successful fundraiser for this year's Sargent Camp trip in May. In addition to the cook-off, the 6th grade also sold raffle tickets for several items/services donated from local businesses in our community (winners are being drawn on Friday 3/13 and will be listed in next week's newsletter). The 6th grade thanks all the families (and Mrs. Forsyth) that planned, donated and supported the cook-off event and raffles. A special thanks goes to the 150+ people who came to enjoy a delicious hot lunch and vote for their favorite chili and chowder. Fourteen 6th grade families proudly served taste cups & full bowls of their 'special recipe' homemade chili or chowder from crock pots, along with homemade cornbread and hot dogs, in the hopes that theirs would be voted the best by the public attending the event. Paper ballot votes were given to the attendees as they arrived. Everyone could taste cups from a variety of chili & chowder and eat a warm, hearty lunch. After lunch, they cast their vote for their favorite chili and chowder and put their completed ballot in a ballot box. The votes were tallied -- and --- the winner of a \$20 Hannaford gift card for Favorite Chili is the Allen family (entry # 9) and winner of a Curves one month membership for Favorite Chowder is the Allen family (entry # 3). Congratulations to a family with great homemade recipes for chili and chowder!

Peppermint Ponies 4H Club and Summer Camp



Does your child love horses and ponies? Girls and boys ages 5 to 18 years are welcome to attend Peppermint Ponies 4H club meetings every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at North Road Farm, 370 North Road, Fremont as guests to learn more about equines, 4H, and Summer Camp. Meeting dates are 3/25, 4/8, 4/22, 5/13, 5/27. No experience or horse ownership is necessary. Questions? Contact Jan Brubacher, Leader at 679-3367, j.brubacher@comcast.net, www.peppermintponies4h.org, www.northroadfarm.com or stop by to visit. Scholarships available.

Ellis Middle School Friends of Rachel Program
Kate Segal, Middle School Counselor

The Ellis Middle School Friends of Rachel program meets every Tuesday at lunch. Currently there are 25 students in grades 5-8 that attend. All middle school students are welcome to join. Kate Segal is the adult advisor; however, the program is also led by student leaders and a Rachel's Challenge Student Ambassador. The goal for the group is to start and continue chain reactions of kindness and compassion.

Members of Friends of Rachel (FOR) have planned and implemented both school and community activities. They are committed to creating a positive school and community environment, encouraging others to be respectful and kind. In October, following the Rachel's Challenge Assembly, FOR raised money and organized a collection of supplies for a middle school student with health concerns. This winter, FOR recently donated money and cans of food to the Fremont Food Pantry.

Each month, FOR members "target" areas of kindness to show their appreciation. Letters and cards of support along with small gifts of appreciation have been given to our new students, custodians, secretaries, a first grade class and to military men and women. On several different occasions, FOR middle school students have presented to elementary school classrooms, "rolling out" positive behaviors with activities and picture books.

Most recently FOR has taken Ellis Middle School Peer Mediators newly revised Peace and Justice Pledge and created a two month, school wide goal of promoting peace and respect. All students in grades 1-8 have been challenged to sign the pledge. Peace and Justice Pledges as well as "Making a Difference in Fremont, NH," window clings can be seen through out the school. To create "evidence" for the acts, elementary school classrooms will be adding classroom feathers to the Ellis Eagle in the front lobby and middle school students will add feathers to the Ellis Eagle in the gym. Our goal is to cover both eagles before April vacation. Ellis School PBIS Universal Teams at both the elementary and middle school levels will be planning a school wide celebration.

5th and 6th Grade Language Arts

*Behavioral Skills and Work Ethics we are reinforcing and stressing for **SUCCESS**.*

***Focus**

***Stay on Task**

***Impulse Control**

***EFFORT + Practice = SUCCESS**

***Showing EVIDENCE**

Mystery Radio Show

focused Investigative students are culminating their mystery unit with a Mystery Radio Show.

Class detectives will work in groups of four to compose a mini-mystery and record it, complete with sound effects. Concepts on will be using the elements of mystery, crafting a complete plot, utilizing vivid word choice, creating characters through description, and implementing glowing grammar. Students will also be assessed on the diverse skills and concepts they practiced during this unit. For example, sentence types and endings, homonyms and homophones, context clues, parts of speech, and more. A unit study guide will go home prior to the final assessment.

Trimester Three

It is hard to believe that we are entering our final trimester of the school year. The last trimester will begin with the following genre and concepts.

Historical fiction, Biographies, Autobiographies, OH MY!

Biographies:

First, students will be reading biographies this month. As they read, they are learning how to Mind Map important events and facts. Upon completion of their book, using a writing template, students will compose a formal report on their selection. Students may supplement their reading by doing internet research if they need to acquire additional information. Specific writing form, staying on topic, and impeccable writing conventions will be stressed.

Historical Fiction:

Next, students will read various selections and excerpts from books and diaries focusing on slavery and the Underground Railroad. From these selections, students will respond, reflect, summarize, and predict. Additionally, they will research data on slavery from various points of view; slaves, slave owners, slave traders, and abolitionists. With the myriad perspectives they will craft and support a position on slavery. This portion of the unit will culminate with a student debate; for or against slavery.

Autobiographies:

Lastly, students will be creating an autobiography. Students will have three differentiated project choices; they may choose the one that fits their learning style. This assignment will be a fantastic way for students to reflect on their life and compare it with those of the slave times and their biography choice. Again, writing focus will be on specific form, staying on topic, and impeccable writing conventions. NO inventive spelling!!! :)

HOMEWORK for this unit will consist of WORD STUDY, prefixes and suffixes, as well as CONTINUED WORK on their CURRENT WRITING ASSIGNMENT.

WELCOME TO HOLLAND

By Emily Perl Kingsley.
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I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability – to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip – to Italy. You buy a bunch of guide books and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo (by) David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland."

"Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place.

So you must go out and buy new guidebooks. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met.

It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around ... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills ... and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy ... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away ... because the loss of that dream is a very, very significant loss.

But ... if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things ... about Holland.

Submitted by the Special Education Department, Ellis School

*** Remember, we have families in our community who
will never get to Italy ...*



Mrs. Lee's Magic Movie [alliteration]

In Language Arts class we are going to watch a wonderful movie. The movie is called The House of Dies Drear. It is starring a boy named Thomas who moves into a house that is supposedly haunted by two ghost slaves and Dies Drear himself. Dies Drear is the owner of the house that helped slaves escape to Canada. They say Drear was murdered at a train station in Ohio. Thomas sees something lurking in the house at night. Is it in his mind, or is it real? Which one could it be? Thomas has to learn to overcome his fears and find his true self. Will he survive, or will his fears get the best of him? Ask your child detective about The House of Dies Drear, by Virginia Hamilton.

By Jeff Evans

8th Grade Spaghetti Dinner Time

We worked hard to reach the top of the pile.
Come support us with a spaghetti smile.

When: March 20

Where: Ellis School

Time: 5-7 pm

Cost: \$10.00 per family, \$7.00 per couple,
\$5.00 for single person.

If you have any question please contact
Mashelle Pike at 895-6755 or by e-mail
mashelle@comcast.net

Come join us for a fun time and well worthy
cause.

New Lab Schedule in 5th and 6th Grades

Since Monday, 3/3/09, we have started a new schedule. Instead of Study Hall we have lab. We are learning about the continents. In the morning we go to our assigned classes for lab. Mrs. Forsyth has South America, Mrs. Lee has Africa, Mrs. Wentworth has Australia, and Mrs. Marggraf has Antarctica. Those are the continents we're studying this week. In each class we have to look up a town in the continent that we are studying and then write the information in our World Quest Passport. For example, we need to look up latitude- longitude, climate, landforms, and bodies of water. After that is finished, we're asked to write a journal entry on our continent and we have to add most of the information that we found in books and on the internet that is in our passport. Kids are still getting accustomed to the new schedule but we will eventually get use to it! It has been a couple of confusing weeks but we are starting to love it.

By Jolene Levesque



Middle School Homework Helpline

Parents or students call the school number of
[895-2511](tel:895-2511) after school hours and dial one of the
following extensions:

175 - 5th grade 176 - 6th grade
177 - 7th grade 178 - 8th grade.

Middle School Hours—7:50—2:20

Elementary Hours—8:35—3:05

Telephone Extensions

Nurse—dial—8

Absent & Tardy Line—dial 7