

NOVEMBER 2011 in a NUTSHELL

NOTTINGHAM WEST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HOME OF THE WILDCATS

Happy Thanksgiving from Nottingham West Elementary School!



EYE ON CURRICULUM

Supporting Language Arts and Literacy in Early Readers: A free workshop for parents of children in preschool through grade 2

*Hosted by Robin Cruz-Nichols (Reading Specialist) & Tina DeMember (Special Education Teacher)
Wednesday, November 9th, 2011*

Mrs. Cruz-Nichols and Mrs. DeMember discussed strategies for encouraging language arts and literacy in the early childhood years during an early literacy reading workshop. The workshop encompassed preschool parents through second grade. Topics included important milestones in early literacy skills, how to engage with your child during reading time, and the workshop provided a forum for parent to ask questions about early literacy skills. In addition Nichols and DeMember collaborated with the Parent Information Reading Center, in Concord, NH to obtain free books to share with families.

The evening was exciting and rewarding to all who attended. Thank you for supporting early literacy skills!

Book Buddies: Preschool & Grade 2

Mrs. Stratton's second grade students and afternoon preschool students from Mrs. DeMember's class are sharing reading as Book Buddies. Students in Mrs. Stratton's class have been paired with afternoon preschool students and every other week, the classes join together for reading enjoyment. The preschool program has weekly themes and the "big kids" bring along books related to the themes that they read to the preschool children. Often times the preschool students are seen going to their class book case to retrieve their own favorite books to "read" back to their Book buddies! The older students take great pride in reading to the younger children and the younger children really look up to these reading role models. Book Buddies takes place every other week from now until the end of the school year.

Exploring Energy with Puff Mobiles with Mrs. Troup

While studying different types of energy, students in Mrs. Troup's fifth grade class constructed Puff Mobiles. With minimal materials (6 straws, straight pins, four wooden beads, one piece of construction paper) students built a moving vehicle. These contraptions were then placed in front of a fan and blown along the floor until it stopped. The girls pictured above had the winning vehicle with a distance of over nine meters. Other teams were inspired by their design and on the second design attempt most Puff Mobile teams improved their wind driven vehicles and achieved a great distance traveled.



Community Projects: Guidance activities for November have included Operation American Heroes, the clothing drive for Colebrook and the Leadership Team Bake Sale.

OPERATION AMERICAN HEROES

In celebration of Veterans Day, Nottingham West students, in partnership with Moore Mart, wrote letters and cards to be included in Christmas Stockings which will be sent to the troops during the holidays. A few encouraging words go a long way, especially when the troops are away from home during the holidays! This was a simple way for students to say “Thank you” to the men and women who protect our country.

CLOTHING FOR COLEBROOK

Working with the Hudson Fire Department, families at NWES collected clean, gently used articles of clothing for all ages/sizes as well as clean blankets. Items were delivered by the Hudson Fire Department to families in the Colebrook, NH area, hit hard by the Hurricane Irene and the economic downturn.

LEADERSHIP TEAM BAKE SALE

During Parent Conferences on Monday, November 21st, the NWS Leadership Team sold home baked goods to support the Make A Wish Foundation. After meeting and discussing various organization in our community which need support, students voted to donate the proceeds from their bake sale to Make A Wish, an organization which provides life-affirming, hope-giving experiences to children with serious medical conditions. Students did everything from baking to making posters to handling the funds donated at the Bake Sale.

Published Authors

The students in **Mrs. Stratton’s** class are becoming published authors and illustrators. They wrote a book about what they are thankful for. Students went through the writing process for their stories. They brainstormed a list of things for which they were thankful and chose four that they wanted to use. Then they created a storyboard to organize their writing. First and second drafts were written, revised and edited into a perfect form. During revision and editing, students drew the first draft of their illustrations and then worked on parts they wanted to change. All work was copied over onto the ‘special’ book paper. Finally, off to the publisher it went. It was a lot of work to become an author. Everyone is REALLY excited about seeing the final edition the book!!

2nd Grade Native American Unit

During the month of November, Nottingham West students in the second grade had the opportunity to learn about Native Americans by switching classes and visiting each second grade teacher. Every second grader made a Native American folder to store all reading materials, a map of tribe locations, and any projects made. Throughout the month, students learned about the Inuit of the Arctic from Mrs. Ouellette, the Nez Perce of the Plateau from Mrs. Lorden, the Tlingit of the Northwest from Mrs. Demers, the Navajo of the Southwest from Mrs. Searles-Allen, the Seminole of the Southeast from Ms. Thomas, and the Iroquois of the Northeast from Mrs. Gobin-Adams. Some of the projects they created included a Navajo rug, a Totem Pole, and an Appaloosa Ornament. Each classroom was also able to examine Native American artifacts, such as a canoe, a tipi, and a totem pole obtained from a resource box. At the end of the unit, many students demonstrated their knowledge of the tribes by completing a Tree Map to organize information about each tribe’s location, shelter, food, and clothing. The second graders were also asked to write about their experience and learning. Every student was able to bring home the collection of materials obtained throughout the unit to share with his or her family. It was a great learning experience for all!

The Great Bedtime Pajama Drive—by Mrs. Searles-Allen

Ten years ago, one New York woman noticed that children in shelters and group homes were sleeping in their clothes. It was discovered that they didn’t own even one pair of pajamas. Pajama Program founder, Genevieve Piturro, filled a shopping bag with new sleepwear and books and began to hand them out to the youngsters of these “homes”. Starting October 1 each year, Pajama Program works hard to heighten the public’s awareness of the need to keep these at-risk children in warm, clean nighttime clothing and a bedtime book to allay their fears.

With this in mind, the second graders in Mrs. Searles-Allen’s class took on the challenge during the month of November and collected pajamas for the non-profit Pajama Program. Last, year, they successfully collected 22 pairs

of new pajamas. As a looping class they are trying to break this record. The deadline of December 9th is fast approaching. Will they break their record over last year?

The wonderful news is not only will the pajamas go to children in need, but with the help of Scholastic books, each pajama set they donate, Scholastic will match it with a new book. So, these children will get both a warm set of pajamas and a book for bedtime reading!

We are very proud of the true community of givers we have here in our fabulous classroom. The children have all expressed how lucky and happy they feel to be giving these pajamas.

First Grade Thanksgiving Projects

The first graders celebrated Thanksgiving this week by participating in five different turkey/Thanksgiving related activities in five of the first grade classrooms. The students made turkey hats, weaved a Thanksgiving placemat, sequence counted by twos, read some stories about turkeys and Thanksgiving, and made different crafts. The students had a great time while they incorporated many educational skills!!

Angela Spietz-Grade 5

Students in Ms. Spietz's class have read several stories that are centered on the Concept Question of, "***What Makes People Want to Do the Right Thing?***" from their Scott Foresman Readers. Students bring home a newsletter on Mondays each week entitled, *Family Times*, for parents to read together with their child to gain a better understanding of the stories. The weekly story focuses on the skill and activities that parents can do at home or to talk about throughout the week. A recent story read by the class was written by Jane Goodall. She explains **10 Ways to Help Save Wildlife**. Students read about Endangered Species and things that they can be doing to help them. In addition to reading this story, students wrote an Acrostic Poem about an Endangered Animal that they choose. The class visited the Computer Lab and checked out books about the animal that they choose to research; the description of their animal; their habitat; why it is endangered, and what others can do to save them. A wonderful website students used was: WWF- World Wildlife Fund at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/home-full.html>

Trick or Treat for UNICEF

Students at Nottingham West have supported Trick or Treat for UNICEF for several years. After learning about the work of UNICEF in supporting children throughout the world, many students volunteered to make Halloween count this year by helping others. Even with Trick or Treat postponed due to the "Snowtober" snowstorm and power outages, students collected over \$500.00! Members of the Nottingham West Leadership team organized and counted the donations. The amount of money raised is enough to provide a water pump for an entire village, or two "schools in a box" so that kids can learn anywhere!

Congratulations to the fifth grade Nottingham West Wildcats for thinking about others!

Parent-Teacher Conferences--PTO Thank You So Much

Parent Teacher Conferences were held on Nov. 17th and November 21, 2011. The volunteers, PTO members and families generously provided a fabulous dinner for teachers and staff on both evenings before the conferences begun. We cannot say "thank you" enough for to the families for all they do for our school and staff. ***Thank you, PTO and volunteers.***

November Students of the Month



Each month teachers nominate one student from their class that has shown exemplary behavior. One Student from each first through fifth grade class is nominated. The criterion includes a student that exhibits a Positive Attitude, Acts Responsibly, Works and Plays Safely and Shows Respect at all times. In addition to our PAWS behavior, the following factors are also considered: Responsibility, Kindness, Friendship, Encouragement, Tolerance, Honesty, Integrity, Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy. Students receive a certificate medal, a parent letter and their picture on the Student of the Month Bulletin Board.

Students for November include:

Lisette Beauchen, Alexander Haney, Gavin Ball, Amber Gagnon, Brandon Ignatowicz, Jacob Jean, Lindsay Gasdia, Gavin LeClair, Emily Moniz, Thomas Peaslee, Jacob Pinard, Alvin Zheng, Jack Gasdia, Alex Giuffrida, Emily Ehlers, Shawn Kelliher, Lauren LoVerdi, Bret McKinley, Ryan Monahan, Devein Rosier, Jacob Morales, Owen Skrekas, Cameron Bickford, Cameron Hill, Bridget Lalmond, Nia Lessard, and Abigal Tarrant.