

NOTTINGHAM WEST
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HOME OF THE WILDCATS



"We're a stripe above the rest"

October 2011 in a Nutshell



BOO FEST, October 27, 2011 from 6:00pm-7:00pm

The BOOFEST was celebrated as a RSVP event on October 27th. The PTO planned, coordinated and provided goodie bags for the children who participated. The families were asked to bring a canned good to be donated to a local Food Pantry They were dressed in Halloween Costumes and paraded through the school. Most of the NWES teachers came in to greet the students and manage the crowd for this fun-filled event. The BOOFEST took the place of the Parade of Horribles.

Office Stys with an additional policeman provided the traffic flow coverage outside the school. A big thank you to the Police Department to make this a safe adventure

Eye on Curriculum

During the week of October 17th, Mrs. Catabia's first grade class participated in a Halloween activity of making their very own "Witches Brew"! This project combined 13 common food ingredients, such as Cheerios and Chex Mix cereals (cat eyes and cobwebs), Marshmallows (skeleton teeth), Bugles (witches fingers) and many more spooky ingredients. Students read THE SPELL which listed all of the ingredients, and later added it to their classroom poetry folders which they will continue to read throughout the year. The students worked together to highlight each ingredient in the rhyming based poem, and also used it as a way to discuss different punctuation marks within the writing. During this activity, the students created a classroom graph that listed the class's favorite ingredients and least favorite ingredients. The students were able to see first-hand the importance of collecting data on a graph, and learn how to pull information from the graph to answer meaningful questions. They later worked with a bubble map and listed words that described the Witches Brew. The use of this organizational map allowed the students to write descriptive writing pieces about their favorite ingredient and the ingredient that they wished they could remove.

The students had a BLAST making the Witches Brew, which not only served as a fun way to get into the Halloween spirit, but also gave students a hands-on approach to academic skills they are learning across the first grade curriculum. An added highlight was a visit from Mr. Durso bringing in our MISSING Witches Brew Pot filled with Halloween treats for each student.

Ethnic Party

Ms. Spietz's fifth h grade class has been studying Immigration to the United States in their Social Studies Unit concerning Americans today and a story from their Scott Foresman Reading Series. The story is about a young

boy that traveled from Romania at the age of 16 by himself to New York City. As they were learning about the different ethnic groups in the United States and why immigrants were choosing to come to America; they had a home assignment to interview some of their own family members to learn more about their ancestry. On Friday, October 14, 2011, the students held an Ethnic Party where they were able to bring in a dish to share that was from their ethnic background. In addition, one of the families in Ms. Spietz's class is hosting a foreign exchange student from China who is currently attending Alvirne High School for the 2011-2012 school year. She was able to come into the classroom to share many interesting stories about how school is similar and very different from school here in the United States. The students were the most surprised to hear that her school day is from 7:20-5:30pm every day.

The other fifth grade classes also used the theme of Immigration from their reading class and celebrated Ethnic Day as well. Some of the many dishes shared included Italian pasta, sweet bread and cookies from Portugal. French pastries, and Arabic rice flavored with saffron. Students from room 408 even shared their experience with their book buddies. Students also used some of the books from the school library to enhance their understanding regarding immigration. Students enthusiastically tried the unique foods and were able to comprehend from this experience a deeper sense of how, out of many, we are one!

First Grade Students Sing to their Fifth Grade Buddies for NECAP

Mrs. Semales' First Grade Students sang a good luck song to their Reading Book Buddies in Ms. Spietz's fifth grade class as the fifth grade students were preparing for their second week of NECAP testing. They also wrote a friendly letter to the students with many helpful hints to remember when taking the test.

Electricity Lesson- Mr. Serian

On Friday, October 22, the students in Mrs. Serian's class demonstrated their knowledge of electricity with the completion of a series and parallel circuit lab. Prior to forming their circuits, the students listened to a guest speaker, Mr. Serian, who is an electrical engineer with Constellation Energy. He discussed the connection between what they studied in their unit on electricity and his current job. They also were able to learn of other career opportunities connected with electricity. This provided an excellent opportunity for the students to ask Mr. Serian questions about what he does at his job, how he got interested in science and what the students can do to prepare for a career in the science field.

Battle of the Books:

Battle of the Books is currently in its eighth year offered to the fourth and fifth grade students at Nottingham West. Battle of the Books is a reading incentive program designed to encourage students to read quality literature. The program is designed for motivated readers who would like to improve their fluency and comprehension. Battle of the Books is a program where students can share their love of reading with their friends. Students must read a total of six books that have been selected by the nationally known Battle of the Books Program. They attend practice meetings every other week in order to prepare for the culminating "Battle Experience" in March. During this battle the students will answer a variety of questions about the six required reading books, and identify the title of the book where the event occurred and the author of the book.

The Battle of the Books meeting date schedule is as follows:

- **Grade 4 – Tuesdays, 8:10 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. in the Library**
October 19; November 2, 16, 30; December 14; January 4, 18; February 1, 15
- **Grade 5 –Wednesday, 8:10 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. in the Library**
October 20; November 3; November 17, December 1, 15; January 5, 19; February 2, 16
- **The final battle will be held during Dr. Seuss Week in March.**

Ms. Landry's Third Grade Class Collects 229 cans of food for Food Drive!

I am happy to report that Ms. Landry's class really went above and beyond in the food drive. Ms. Landry received the notification of the upcoming school-wide food drive and made a little game of it. She challenged the class with a competition of bringing in the most nonperishable items for the food drive in which she would win a prize from her class prize box. They really became excited about the challenge. One of the students brought in 65 food items and another brought in 62 items. Ms. Landry was thoroughly moved by the response from the children. The class total was 229 cans/boxes of food!



Thank you to all who participated.

Blue and Gold Circle Business-Partnership Award

The 23rd Annual Gold Circle Achievement Awards sponsored by New Hampshire Partners in Education was held on October 25, 2011, at the Radisson Hotel, in Manchester, NH. Leaders from the educational community as well as state government leaders attended the award ceremony. Business Partnerships included: St. Mary's Bank, Hudson Post Office and Foster Grandparent program. Congratulations to those businesses and the staff who partner with our community agencies. Staff includes: Kara Nadeau-Post Office Advisor; and Kelli Searles-Allen-St. Mary's Bank and Mrs. Blackwell, Mrs. Whorton, and Mrs. DeMember who all have foster grandparents helping in their classrooms.

The Blue Ribbon Awards recognizes the extraordinary efforts of school volunteer coordinators and their volunteer teams for the achievements realized during the previous school year. We nominated one of our co-presidents for the Volunteer of the Year, Christine Sinclair. Although she was not selected by the NH Partners of Education, we appreciate all she does for Nottingham West Elementary.

For the academic year 2011--2012, **184** schools and their volunteer programs were selected to receive the 2010 Blue Ribbon award. A total of 172,164 volunteer hours were calculated along with 8,496 volunteers across the State serving 26,955 students.

NECAP and NWEA TESTING: What's in Your Toolbox?



Grades 3 through 5 took part in the New England Comprehensive Assessment Program (NECAP) during the first three weeks in October. The Assessment required the students to do three reading sessions and three math sessions. A letter was mailed to all third through fifth grade parents explaining the NECAP and outlining the testing schedule.

Additionally, students took part in the District's NWEA testing. Specifically, NWEA, known as MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) are state aligned computerized adaptive tests that accurately reflect the instructional level of each student and

measure growth over time. **MAP tests provide highly accurate results that can be used to:**

- Identify the skills and concepts individual students have learned.
- Diagnose instructional needs.
- Monitor academic growth over time.
- Make data-driven decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels.
- Place new students into appropriate instructional programs.

With the results of NWEA, faculty can have diagnostic information in which to support the learning of all of their students.



To build on the theme, “What’s In Your Toolbox” to prepare student for the NWEA testing, the PTO provided an assembly by Jeff Nathan, an award-winning children’s author. His CURRICU-LAUGH presentation was received by all.

NWES Roller Kingdom Night

The PTO hosted a roller skating night at Roller Kingdom in Tyngsboro, MA, on Thursday, October 29, from 6 to 8 PM. This provides Nottingham West students and families to participate in a night of fun as well as bonding of community. This is a very popular family event that helps to support PTO initiatives.



Student of the Month for October

The following students were nominated for Student of the month. They include: *Casey Levesque, Madeline Dlubac, Anna Hennessy, Hima Patel, Lyndsey McNulty, Rachel Haydar, Marilyn Abbott, Adrienne McKoy-Sophos, Lily Ripaldi, Sidney Colburn, Cassia Bennett, Evan Olson, Samuel Gallant, Samantha Hosking, Ryann Dionne, Jeremy Bertolaccini, Joshua Dolan, Nicole Vigfusson, Sophia Garas, Olivia Cakounes, Jillian Desmond, Alexandra Downey, Emily Kleiner, Elizabeth Tran, Haley Peaslee, Tyler Lizotte, Ryan Santos.*

To qualify for student of the month, students have to consistently demonstrate “**PAWS**” behavior each day.

BLANKET AND CLOTHING DRIVE

During this economic downturn, many families are struggling to make ends meet. In our own state, the town of Colebrook and the surrounding area was hard hit by the flooding from Hurricane Irene, in addition to economic difficulties. Many families need help to stay warm as we approach winter.

Over the last two years, clothing drives in the Hudson school have provided truckloads of donated items to help our neighbors in the North Country. The Hudson Firefighters Relief Association has once again asked the Nottingham West to help by holding a blanket and clothing drive for the people of Colebrook and the surrounding towns.



Catie’s Closet. The Nottingham West Leadership Team has become partners with the Catie’s Closet organization to collect slightly used articles of clothing from baby items through adults. There is a special need for blankets. This is a great opportunity to teach your child about helping others, and to get your closets cleaned out at the same time!

Thank you for your help! Please bring your donations to the school lobby by November 21, 2011.



PAWS Parenting Presentation

Mrs. Eno, Guidance Department, provided a parenting program for Nottingham West parents/guardians on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. This informative event was well attended with 14 families. Mrs. Maucieri's Girl Scout troop provided babysitting care during this presentation. When offering free daycare, this helps to boost attendance for this type of event.

OPERATION AMERICAN HEROES

Nottingham West Elementary partnered with **Moore Mart** to provide letters and cards to American Soldiers overseas which will be included in Christmas Stockings being 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 provided a great opportunity for the classrooms to work on their writing practice. Letters were signed with first name only, room number, and Nottingham West School.

Nottingham West is proud to support our families who serve. This community service project also helps our students understand the importance of expressing gratitude and support to the men and women who risk their lives for our freedom.

BOX TOP CONTEST

The PTO organizes a contest for each classroom to collect the largest amount of General Mills Box Tops. This contest is held a few times during the school year. The last contest winners were: Preschool 208, Kim Whorton; Kindergarten 602, Mrs. Blackwell; 1st Grade 111, Ms. Shinkwin; 2nd Grade 203, Mrs. Stratton; 3rd Grade 302, Mrs. Robinson; 4th Grade 308, Mrs. Fischer; 5th Grade 410, Mrs. Dillon. These classrooms will receive a prize for their accomplishment. The top collecting room was Room 602, Mrs. Blackwell with **1079 Box Tops!**

NWES is currently ranked 5 of 750 schools in NH, and we are the top collecting school in Hudson. Over 13,000 Box Tops were collected during this contest. The next contest time period will be in February; keep sending your box tops to your child's classroom.