

# Northeast News

## The News and Notes of the Northeast Primary School

### Principal's Message



#### “Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences”

It seems hard to believe but within a matter of weeks our second set of Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held. We have scheduled Wednesday and Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> for these conferences. These one-on-one conferences continue to be a great way to not only find out how your child is doing but to strengthen the communication and educational continuity between school and home.

#### **Here are some tips you can take to maximize your time with the teacher at these conferences:**

**Communicate beforehand.** If you haven't seen the teacher since Open School Night and/or October Conferences, send a brief e-mail or note to give her an update on how you think school is going for your child.

**Talk to your child before the conference.** Ask him how he thinks he's doing. What does HE “think” the teacher will tell you? Does he have any questions he's like answered?

**Write things down.** Jot down notes on what your child says so you can bring them up during the conference. Write down any questions you have. Your notes will help you remember important points.

**Make a plan.** If the teacher raises concerns, don't leave without having developed a plan of action. What steps should you take to address the issue(s)?

**Stay in touch.** If you are working on a particular issue, meet again in a few weeks. That way, you can both see how your plan is working.

#### **Some basic questions you may consider asking include:**

**What are my child's strengths? Concerns?**

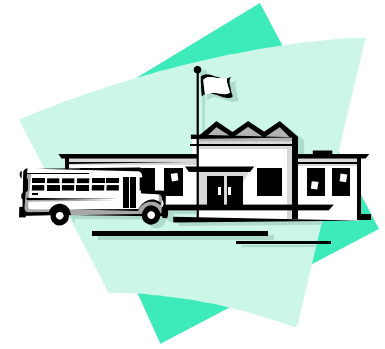
**What skills and tasks should my child master?**

**Does my child follow instructions/directions?**

**Does my child finish their work? Are there tasks that are more difficult than others?**

**How does my child interact with other children?**

These are basic questions but may form the basis for reflective discussion and a plan for the remainder of the school year. Regardless, at the conclusion of the conference we should not only have an analysis of your child's academic efforts to date but also set a focus, goals and plans for the rest of this year.



#### Inside this issue:

Principal's Message	1
PTC News	2
Curriculum Updates	3
Reminders	4
Exercise	5
Calendar of Events	8

#### Other Highlights

- ⇒ Read in March!
- ⇒ Jump Rope For Heart
- ⇒ Super Saver Card

## PTC News

The second ~FREE~ school-wide **Movie Night** is scheduled for **Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM in the gym**. Wear your PJs, bring the sleeping bag and pillow and have a snack (provided by the Northeast PTC). *Horton Hears a Who* will be shown in honor of Dr. Seuss' March birthday.

**Science Night** is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**PTC Officers:** The PTC is looking for officers to fill the positions of **Secretary and Treasurer** for academic year 2011/2012. **Secretary**--The secretary shall keep all records of the organization, take and record minutes, prepare the agenda, handle correspondence/thank you letters, and send notices of meetings to the membership. The secretary also keeps a copy of the minutes, bylaws, rules, membership list and any other necessary supplies and brings them to meetings.

**Next PTC meeting** – Monday, Mar. 7, 5:30pm **PTC Meetings for 2011:** Apr. 4, (6pm), May 2, (6pm), June 6 (6pm)

Reminder that there is FREE childcare during the meetings at Northeast!

Please contact any of the PTC board members if you'd like to assist with any activities, or if you'd like to discuss open PTC positions.

--**Northeast PTC President:** Marie Marallo, 786.1730, mmarallo@rutlandhs.k12.vt.us **Vice President:** Erron Hubbell, revhubbabubba@hotmail.com **Treasurer:** Melissa Knipes, 775-3838, dmjknipes@myfairpoint.net

**Secretary:** Ann Dages, 345.2811, bsr809@yahoo.com

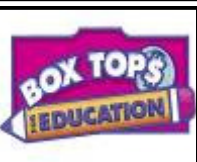
### January Movie Night Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who helped with movie night and made it a successful evening. I appreciate all of the help with the set up and the clean up. The cafeteria was spotless. I would also like to thank Deanna Hall for helping me organize the snack for our movie goers.

### PTC Treasurer Needed

Since my son is in second grade, this will be my last year as the PTC treasurer. The position entails, as stated in the By-laws: "The treasurer shall receive all funds of the organization, keep accurate record of receipts and expenditures and pay out funds in accordance with the approval of the executive committee. He or she will present a financial statement at every meeting and at other times of the year when requested by the executive committee, make a full report at the end of the year and have all financial records available for an audit at the discretion of the president."

I have all of the reports in a format that is easy to use. I am hoping someone will be interested so I can work with you before the end of the year. ~ Melissa Knipes



The PTC Box Tops collection project continues to hum. My HUGE thanks to Ethan Hall's grandma in tallying this month! I could not have done this without you, Grandma Donna!

Also, thank you to our teachers for your help in collecting Box Tops from homework folders.

We collected 3386 box tops (that's \$338 dollars) this round. This really adds up to some good cash to support Northeast activities – special events, field trips, extra classroom items, playground equipment and more that the PTC helps to fund.

And now, the numbers you've been waiting for... We have a 3-way tie for the high collectors, submitting a whopping **150 box tops** each! Congrats to **Diego Anderson (Mrs. Joyce's class)** **Angela Densmore (Mrs. Churchill's class)**, and **Ethan Hall (Mrs. Stoutes' class)**! *Phenomenal job!*

Other students worthy of mention, who collected 99 or more are:

**Cameron Bartlett** (Mrs. Stoutes) – 147 / **Karsyn Bellomo** (Mrs. Webster) – 107 / **Wyatt Frazier** (Mrs. Cassineri) – 100  
**McKenna Greene** (Mrs. Webster) – 138 / **Amanda Pockett** (Mrs. Marallo) – 99 / **Wyatt Rappaport** (Mrs. Churchill) – 110

***A special thank you everyone who neatly clips the Box Tops coupons and makes sure that the expiration date is current. With the number of Box Tops that have to be handled, it is so helpful to be able to easily count them.***

Reminders about the program:

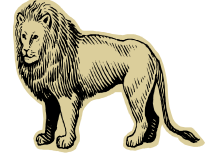
- ⇒ expired Box Top coupons are NOT accepted
- ⇒ use baggies (easiest way), envelopes, or collection sheets – include ONLY Box Tops (Campbells (we do not collect at NE) and other coupons do not get submitted with Box Tops)
- ⇒ no staples – use tape or glue only on sheets
- ⇒ for additional collection sheets, use any piece of 8.5 x 11 paper, or see Mrs. Coleman in the school office, or email me
- ⇒ Visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for coupons, recipes and the marketplace where your purchases help our school.

**Happy clipping, and thank you everyone! –Ann Dages, Box Tops Coordinator and PTC Secretary, bsr809@yahoo.com**

# Grade Level Curriculum Updates for March 2011



## Kindergarten



.The Kindergarten students will be welcoming and exploring March by taking a look at its ever-changing weather. Is it Winter or Spring? Will we have "lamb" or "lion" days? Early March also brings the celebration of the birthday of Dr. Seuss. We will be enjoying all the great literature he wrote and illustrated. We will also learn about St. Patrick's Day, and explore the world of tools when we introduce our fun and informative Tool Unit.

During Reading, the children will be busy learning to sound out words. They will be "tapping" out the sounds of the letters and blending them together to read words. It is so exciting for them, and the teachers, too! They will continue to use sight words and sound out words in their independent journal writing, as well.

During Math, they will be exploring addition, subtraction, coins and measurement. These skills will be addressed through various games and hands on activities and literature.

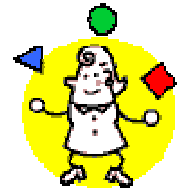
As Kindergarten teachers, we are looking forward to sharing your child's progress with you during Parent Teacher Conferences on March 16th and 17th.

## Grade One

First graders will continue to learn about the solar system and/or the human body. The other themes that may be covered are Vermont and Saint Patrick's Day.



In math, we will be finishing Unit 6 and will move onto Unit 7. In Unit 6, the children have been working on recognizing the relationship between addition and subtraction through "fact families". They have also been or will be introduced to the centimeter as a unit of measure, recognizing and knowing the value of quarters, incorporating counting coins with quarters, digital notation for time, and telling time to 5-minutes. Unit 7 covers geometry and attributes. The children will work on recognizing and naming shapes such as circle, square, triangle, rectangle, rhombus, trapezoid, and hexagon. They will learn how to separate shapes by attributes (i.e. color, size, width, shape). They will also be introduced to three-dimensional shapes and how to recognize three-dimensional shapes in their environment. In Problem Solving, we will continue to solve problems using a diagram (with a key) and a table.



In Language arts, the students will continue to learn strategies to help them become even better readers. We are working hard on reading fluently. At this point in first grade, your child should be able to read books that are just right for him/her to you. Re-read the book several times for fluency and proper expression. Then ask questions that pertain to the book. In writing, we will continue to work on capital letters, proper punctuation, adding details to enhance writing and adding transition words. We will also work on writing narratives. The children will understand how to put a story together that has a beginning, middle (with a problem or situation), and end (with a resolution). While your child is reading stories for the Books and Beyond program, continue to talk to him/her about the beginning, middle, and end of the stories they have read.

We look forward to meeting with you during parent/teacher conferences to discuss your child's progress. However, if you have concerns prior to the conferences please contact your child's teacher. Open communication between the home and school is essential to student progress!

Encourage your child to practice spelling word skills by tapping, blending, and writing! This will help with reading fluency and transferring taught skills in a written setting. Have fun!!

## Grade Two

Second graders have been hard at work learning about double digit subtraction in math. They have also been introduced to multiplication and division in our most recent math unit.

Do you know what an array is? Ask a second grader how an array can be used to multiply and divide.

The second grade teachers have recently finished their instruction on Pioneers and the westward movement. It was a unit of study that was enjoyed by all. Ask any second grader about the Oregon Trail, buffalo chips, Conestoga wagons, and many more interesting facts about pioneers and you will be amazed by their depth and wealth of knowledge on the subject.

Our celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school was, as always, lots of fun, very festive, and extremely educational. The second grade teachers thought of many fun and interesting ways to show the children how much 100 really is.



## Just a friendly, safety reminder...



## Red Ribbon Week Essay



The following is the last in the series of Red Ribbon Week essays written by NE second graders. The following is by **Tucker Rappaport** from **Mrs. Campbell's** second grade class.

### Good Choices

Everyday I learn about making good choices. Everything depends on good behavior. Be kind and others will be kind to you. Respect others and others will respect you. Learn by yourself and don't cheat. Take care of yourself by exercising, drinking water and don't smoke. Bottom line—follow the rules.

### SCHOOL REMINDERS

- ⇒ **School hours are 9:00-3:15.**
- ⇒ **Children may enter the building at 8:45a.m. for breakfast**
- ⇒ **Breakfast program runs from 8:45-9:05 a.m.**
- ⇒ **There is no supervision for students before 8:45 a.m.** in the office, classrooms or on the playground. Please do not drop off your child before this time.
- ⇒ **The school day ends at 3:15 p.m.** If you need to pick up your child early, go to the office and sign your child out. He/she will be called to the office.

*Thank you.*

### StarLab Visits Northeast



**On Friday, February 4th, Chris Grubb and the StarLab visited the Northeast and all of the first graders enjoyed a fun planetarium adventure...without traveling into space!** The First graders got an out of this world experience inside the StarLab Planetarium. As we climbed through the dark tunnel of the planetarium it felt like we were leaving Earth, going into space, to explore the universe. We were able view the sun, stars, planets, moons, comets and asteroids from inside the planetarium as the instructor explained each element of the universe to the children. The children were able to expand on knowledge gained in their classrooms during our Solar System unit and better understand how vast our universe is. Shown in the images is Mrs. Kamyk's class learning more about Jupiter and then crawling into the entrance of the StarLab. **Thank you, Mr. Chris for teaching us and the PTC for funding this unique learning experience.**



After the presentation, **Sydney Wood**, in **Ms. Davine's** class, offered some written thoughts to Mr. Johnson on what she learned: "Jupiter is the biggest planet. There are more than 1000 stars. Pluto is far away from the sun. It is cold. Saturn has more than 100 rings. A spaceship is on its way to Pluto. It will take 10 years. It will land in 2015."

## **“Channel Your Child’s Extra Energy with Regular, Healthy Exercise”**



As you may know, one of the extra activities we have this year is our Thursday Outdoor Recreation “Walking Club/Mileage Club.” Coordinated by PTC Parent Volunteer, Erin Shimp and overseen by our Playground Monitor Penny Zaloudek with the assistance of many great weekly parent volunteers, plus staff volunteers. The purpose of the activity is to provide some structured and purposeful release to the energized vitality of our young children.



As the winter months wane, Daylight Saving Times begins (Sunday, March 13th) and spring approaches (Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>), it’s a great month to start including some outdoor activities in your child’s daily routine. And according to experts, increased physical activity in children results in both better school performance and reduced disruptive behavior.

To keep our child active:

***Give your child chores that get him moving.*** He could rake, pick up tree limbs or sweep outside (OR if this never ending winter ceases to recognize the advent of spring, snow shoveling too).

***Do something physically active with your child every week.*** Throw a ball back and forth. Go biking. Take a walk. Fly a kite. Play tag with your child.

***Show your child that you enjoy exercise.*** Let him see you walking, exercising or playing a sport.

## **Jumping for the American Heart Association**

To celebrate the **100th Day of School**, the students and staff at Northeast jumped 100 times and contributed 1 cent for each jump to the **American Heart Association**. Over \$100 was raised. A special thanks to Marie Marallo for leading everyone and to the parents and staff who also lent a hand. Below are some of the great action shots from that day.

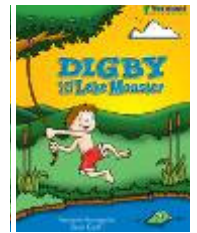




## BAKE SALE at Northeast

The Second Grade classes will be hosting a **Bake Sale on March 16th & 17th** during the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Individual treats as well as whole pies, cakes, etc. will be available. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Mrs. Marallo, second grade teacher. The proceeds will be used to host local author Mr. Dom Cioffi (*Digby and the Lake Monster*), who will instruct the students in the writing process.

Mr. Cioffi visited the second grade classrooms last year and NE is looking forward to his return. **Thank you in advance for your support!**



## About NEA's Read Across America



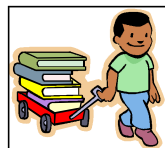
The National Education Association is building a nation of readers through its signature program, NEA's Read Across America. Now in its thirteenth year, this year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources. NEA's Read Across America Day, NEA's national reading celebration takes place each year on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers participate by bringing together kids, teens, and books, and you can too!

## From PBS 'Between the Lions' Show

How do you raise a child to be an enthusiastic and consistent reader? TV, videogames, computers, and other modern distractions sometimes make it difficult for children to focus on reading. Here are some strategies that the diligent parent can use to help motivate a child to read. Try them all -- what doesn't work one day may work well the next.



- Visit your local library often. Get your children their own library cards. Try a story hour or other free event at the library.
- Check out the local bookstore. A book or gift certificate always makes a terrific gift.
- At the library, let your child choose some of the books.
- Let your child see you reading, whether it's the newspaper, a magazine, or the latest bestseller.
- Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Or have the whole family set aside some time to read together!
- Show your child how people use reading all the time. Read aloud street and store signs, maps, billboards, menus, and labels on packages.
- Create a library for your child of new or used books. Look for affordable books at yard sales, secondhand book stores, and library book sales.
- Set up an area in your home where a variety of reading materials are within easy reach. Encourage writing by including paper, crayons, pens and pencils.
- Subscribe to a children's magazine. Read it with your child every month.
- Carry books to read to your child wherever you go - at the doctor's office, in line at the store, or on a long car ride. (You can also listen to stories on tape.)
- Encourage a love of words by playing rhyming and word games, singing silly songs, or writing poems and stories together.
- Talk about daily activities or tell stories about your family or culture to help children develop their language skills.
- Visit the *Between the Lions* web site ([pbskids.org/lions](http://pbskids.org/lions)) for more on children and reading.





**The 2011 NE Super Saver Card is on the way!**

Back by popular demand, the card returns for 2011 (with some new offerings from local businesses too). **The card is still only \$10.00 with \$9.00 of it going to the Northeast PTC.** To reserve yours, please fill-out the order form below and return to school with \$10 cash or check made out to NE PTC. Cards will go home in homework folders. Super Saver Cards will be available for sale at Movie Night, Friday, March 4th.

<b>Cobra Gymnastic and Dance</b>	\$10 off any birthday party
<b>Costantino's Deli</b>	Buy one sub get one for \$2 – one per visit
<b>Laura's Hair Frenzy</b>	\$5 off any color service
<b>Ladabouche Furniture</b>	10% off storewide, not valid on special sales events
<b>McDonalds</b> (Rutland, VT only)	Free sandwich with purchase of same sandwich extra value meal
<b>mySpaShop.com</b>	10% off first purchase with registration
<b>Pinewoods Driving Range</b>	Buy one large bucket and get one small bucket free
<b>Olivia's Market/VT Bagel</b>	Buy three bagels get three bagels free
<b>Olympic Pizza</b>	One free 2 liter soda with any family size specialty pizza – pick-up only
<b>Pyramid Fitness &amp; Oxygen Bar</b>	Oxygen Bar Two for one Tuesday (nose cannules required, \$1/each)
<b>Pyramid Holistic Wellness Ctr</b>	Salt Cave Two for One Tuesday Both offers are two sessions for the price of one. <a href="http://www.pyramidvt.com">www.pyramidvt.com</a>
<b>Replay Sports</b>	10% off one item over \$50
<b>Sensible Shoe Inc</b>	<u>20% off one item on Tuesdays</u> or 10% off one item anytime. Not valid on special orders or layaway
<b>Spartan Arena</b>	Free public skate admission, one per visit
<b>Table 24</b>	10% off food - 1 per person, not valid for Tuesday burger special
<b>Terrill Street Discount Beverage</b>	One free small bag of ice with purchase of \$25 or more, 1 per customer

**SUPER SAVER CARD ORDER FORM—2011**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of cards ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed (checks made payable to NE PTC)

Cards will go home in your child's homework folder.

# March 2011



## Special points of interest:

- **March 1: Town Meeting Day** — please remember to vote!
- **March 4: Celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday**— Special Guest Readers in each classroom during the day & Movie Night 'Horton Hears a Who'—5:30 pm in the NE gym
- **March 9:** Mrs. Abatiell's Class performs 'Spaced Out.'
- **March 13: Spring Forward!** Remember to move your clocks an hour ahead.
- **March 14: PTC Meeting** 5:30pm, NE Library
- **March 16 & 17—** PTC Book Fair & Parent/Teacher Conferences & 2nd Grade Bake Sale
- **March 18—Professional Development** No School
- **March 3, 10, 24, 31—Walking Club**— walk during recess
- **March 28—Birthday Lunch**
- **March 31—Family Literacy Night,** 6:00—7:30pm. Meet in gym.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 	2	3 	4 	5
6	7	8	9 	10 	11	12
13 	14 	15	16 	17 	18 No School	19
20 	21	22	23	24 	25	26
27	28 	29	30	31 		



Mrs. Abatiell's first graders will be performing a solar system play, **"Spaced Out"**. On Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> they will perform at 2:20 for the school and then hold an evening performance at 6:00 for family and friends. Not only have they worked hard to memorize their lines, they've learned a lot about the solar system and gained confidence in themselves.

**Northeast PTC's**  
**Buy-One-Get-One-Free**  
**Book Fair**  
**March 16 & 17th**



**Location: NE Library**  
**During Parent/Teacher Conferences**  
**Wednesday, March 16th: noon—7:00pm**  
**Thursday, March 17th: 9:00am—noon**  
**Bring the whole family!**

## MOVIE NIGHT

**Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30 pm – NE Gym**

\*\* If you'd like to help, email Melissa Knipes \*\*

[dmjknipes@myfairpoint.net](mailto:dmjknipes@myfairpoint.net)

**Bring your pillow and blanket!**

Refreshments will be served.



## "Horton Hears a Who!"

*Horton the Elephant struggles to protect a microscopic community from his neighbors who refuse to believe it exists.*

**ALL** students **must** be accompanied by an adult.

~ No drop-offs ~ No exceptions ~

Thank you!

(Sponsored by the NE PTC)

**Food donations will be collected for the Community Cupboard**