

November
2008

Henry Barnard Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE *Mrs. Hayes*



Dear Families,

Henry Barnard is your school. I want you to feel that you are an integral part of this learning community. Everyone who is a member of this community: teachers, parents, secretaries, administrators, instructional assistants, the custodian, and of course the students, is actively engaged in learning and growing as an individual. We encourage and learn from each other while solving meaningful problems, whether it's in reading, mathematics or social skills. We know that learning together and from one another is one of the most powerful ways to learn, and it also builds relationships and community.

We are partners in your child's education. We will provide outstanding teachers, a caring and supportive staff, and a safe and fun learning environment for your children. As our partners, we need you to instill in your children the value of education. Some of the best ways to do this are making sure your child arrives each day on time and ready to learn, helping them with homework, and talking with them about ideas and topics that they're studying in school. I also strongly encourage you to read to and with your children, regardless of their age, as this is one of the best ways to foster their love of reading while building their skills.

We have an excellent (BLC) Barnard Learning Center After School Program. The educational consultant works with the team to assist students in homework club! Students enjoy choosing from a variety of "clubs" Monday-Friday from 3:00-6:00 right here at the school. JOIN US! Call

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held in the evening on November 18 and 19. Afternoon conferences will be held November 20 and 21. Please contact Rhonda Guhne in the office at 253-6541 to make an appointment.

Get involved! The more you get involved, the more you and your child will benefit from school. I strongly encourage you to join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and to volunteer in the library, classroom, or chaperone on field trips. Please contact your classroom teacher or call the school for more information on ways to participate.

The fundamental nature of a school changes from year to year, depending on the children and families that choose to become a part of this community. You and your children will change who we are, just as Henry Barnard School will change who you are. I look forward to undertaking this exciting adventure with you.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



HENRY BARNARD TURKEY & FOOD DRIVE

We know you would like to help some needy families from our Enfield Community have a happy holiday season. Here's how you can!

Staff and students from Henry Barnard School are asked to bring in loose

change for our school's **Turkey Fund**. The money will be pooled to buy turkeys to donate to the Enfield Food Shelf. We will have a friendly challenge between our hallways (K-2, 3/4, & 5/6) and we will track who helps buy the most turkeys. Our school has also been asked to collect donations of tins of holiday cookies, bags of candy, & non-perishable desserts. Change and food items can be brought to school beginning **NOW** and continuing **until December 17th**! You can make your holiday a better one by helping to brighten someone else's holiday season! Please send what you can!





FIRST GRADE

*Miss Hutton, Miss Carpenter,
Miss James, Miss Santos*

We have had a busy and exciting start to first grade! In reading students have been working hard on using their reading strategies. They have also learned to pick out “just right” books for independent reading. We are working on new sight words each week. Please practice these at home as well. Also, students have been working on making their reading sound fluent, like a storyteller. Continue reading at home each night! In writing, we have been using descriptive language to tell about an object or illustration. We will be using our disguised turkeys to tell a story with details. In math, we have just started addition. Practice at home by using household objects as counters. Thank you for your at home support. We look forward to meeting with you at conferences!

SECOND GRADE:

Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Warnock, Mr. Higgins

NEWSFLASH: Second Graders Need to Move Mountains!!!



What mountains are we moving you ask? Well, the mountain is different for each child. Simply put, the mountain is that which your child needs to improve so that he/she can work to the best of his/her ability. It’s not easy to move mountains but it is no secret that hard work increases self-esteem and the desire to do well. We, the second grade teachers at Henry Barnard, are committed to motivating your child to be the best student he/she can be. We cannot do it alone, however. We need your child to be aware of his/her own mountain and we need you to help as well.

As a learning community at Henry Barnard School, our curriculum focus has us really committed to improving our reading and math scores on the CMT. The CMT is one of our mountains. We have been attending workshops in literacy and numeracy to improve instruction. We also hold monthly meetings to analyze and record student data. We hate to be out of the classroom, but we are getting smarter about this stuff and our teaching is getting smarter too. As a result of all our work, second graders are becoming increasingly more aware of what they know and what they need to get better at (that’s the mountain...see?). We use the word “data” all the time! We have noticed students are rising to the challenge and are working hard to reach second grade standards. We are very focused on data but even more focused on the effort of each and every child to improve his/her learning.

PARENT HELP NEEDED TO MOVE MOUNTAINS:

- **Check your child’s homework every night.** It will give you an idea of how your child is progressing and will also let you in on what curriculum objectives are being taught.
- **Have your child read every day.** Suggestions include: his/her library books, second grade sight word lists, vocabulary words from School-Home Connection pages, Take-Home books, poems, magazine articles, and even cereal boxes.
- **Help your child memorize weekly math facts.** We wish we had a trick for this but we don’t. The old fashioned way works best--make flashcards and just plain study hard every day.

If you have any questions about helping to move the mountain for your child or anything at all, please be sure to contact us. We look forward to seeing you at conference time,

THIRD GRADE

Mrs. Amburn, Mrs. Gleeson, Mr. Snyder



The first two months of school have flown by and the students are now in the swing of things for third grade. We have just begun the second theme in our Harcourt Reading Series. "What a Team" explores ways that people and animals can work together to accomplish goals. Students discover that cooperation can make the difference in relationships and are encouraged to apply the concept to their own lives.

Your child is studying place value and number sense during Mathematics. Students will continue to work on recognizing the value of a digit in a given place, construct, read, write and compare numbers to the thousands, write in expanded notation and recognize the change in value when a given digit is altered. We have begun to focus on ordering whole numbers in a number line, rounding numbers to the nearest 10 or 100 and making estimations. Remember too continue practicing basic facts and regrouping at home! Coming up next, counting money and making change. Practice counting coins at home. A trip to the store can be fun and educational!



Your children have just finished an introduction to our Science curriculum on animals. We will further expand on animal habitats in the upcoming months. We truly enjoyed listening to the Animal Ad book reports presentations. What a great job everyone did!

We are working on Maps and Globes in our Social Studies unit. We are discovering the difference between a

map and a globe, the cardinal and intermediate directions, how to read maps and symbols, and how to use a map scale. Your child is also learning about the seven continents and the five oceans. Yes, we said five oceans. Who knew? By the end of the unit, your child should know the difference between a city, state, country, and continent.

As the curriculum becomes more difficult, it is important that your child demonstrates good work habits throughout the day. Please discuss with your child how they can have a meaningful and productive day at school.

Just a reminder, with the cold weather approaching, students will be required to wear their jackets outside. Please make sure they bring their jackets everyday.

FOURTH GRADE

Mrs. Flanagan, Mrs. Shuman, Ms. Mayo



Students are 'falling' into fourth grade.

We are looking forward to conferences to discuss your child's progress and opportunities for improvements. We hope to see all parents at the time scheduled, as time is limited.

In reading we have been working on responding appropriately to open-ended questions, using text support as evidence, determining cause and effect, and developing a brief summary. Remind your child that all open-ended responses are scored using an 'ice cream' rubric.

In math we are jumping into multiplication and division facts practice and application. It is imperative that students practice their basic facts daily, as we will be compounding this knowledge by developing 2 and 3 digit applications. It is especially important for your child to read all word problems carefully and apply their A/B strategy for solving.

Students have recently completed a social studies unit on voting. They are very interested in the process, as well as, predicting the outcomes based on discussed information. We will continue developing our map skills as we venture into studying Connecticut.



Classification of animals and the study of animal habitats and adaptations remains our primary focus. Students will build upon their basic knowledge as learned in third grade as they investigate vertebrates and invertebrates. Vocabulary in this unit may be challenging, but manageable, with daily application and good work-study habits.

Remind your child to read nightly, a minimum requirement of 20 minutes in addition to nightly homework. We wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season.

FIFTH GRADE

Mrs. Ratcliffe, Mrs. Reith, Mrs. Linehan



The fifth grade students have studied about Native Americans and the Solar System as part of the Social Studies and Science curricula. As a culminating activity, we took a wonder filled trip to the Springfield Science Museum. The knowledgeable docent gave us more information about Native Americans living in our area of the country during an interactive lesson, and we made corn husk dolls. To enrich our study of the Solar System, we completed a hands-on lesson on planets. Finally, we went to the planetarium to find out about the solar system's beginning and what lies in the future. Our thanks goes to the parents who generously gave up their time to help chaperone the children. Our next topics to study are explorers of the New World in Social Studies and electricity and magnetism in Science.

The students made awesome 3-D projects on Native American homes which they presented to their classes. We now proudly display them in our library. Please stop in to view them.



In Math, students should continue to study their multiplication and division facts in order to build speed and accuracy. This will help as we apply the facts to more difficult problems. We are completing our study of fractions which will be followed by multiplication and division of larger numbers.

In Language Arts, our students are learning the expository format for composing stories. Part of this includes learning to describe and elaborate as well as revise and edit. Our students are encouraged to revise and edit all work before passing it in. Grammar is the basis for writing so we are studying about correct sentence structure which includes such things as compound and complex sentences. We are working to include these in our writing. Our students should be reading daily at home as well as in school. We even read in the halls before classes begin and as we wait for our buses to be called. All of our students should have a book with them.



SIXTH GRADE

Mrs. Maloney, Mrs. Sikorowicz, Mrs. Foley

The sixth grade classes have had an awesome start to the new school year! As sixth graders, they have the opportunity to be the leaders of the school by being members of the Safety Patrol. They are rising to the challenge. The students have been working hard on organization and time management in addition to their academic subjects.



In Language Arts, we have wrapped up Theme #1 where the students learned about doing their personal best and have moved on to learning about friends to the rescue in Theme #2.

In Math, they have been reviewing place value, fractions and working with numbers in multiplication, division, exponents, and estimation. While in Science, they have been learning about the constructive and destructive forces of the earth (earthquakes, volcanoes, and erosion) and cells. Social Studies has included the study of the 5 Themes of Geography, maps, and globes. The students have produced awesome results with the various projects and assignments they have been given.



Be on the look-out for notices coming home on future events. There was a parent meeting on Oct. 21st to discuss committees to help with the yearbook, fundraising, and graduation assembly for this year. Fundraisers will include a Math-a-Thon (November) and Recycling cans and bottles (December-March). If you were unable to attend the Oct meeting and wish to help with our activities, please send a note to your child's teacher, we can always use the help!!



As the cold weather is rapidly approaching, please remind your child to dress appropriately. In order to participate in outdoor recess, students will be required to wear their jackets outside.



ART

Mrs. Martin

It's a new year at Henry Barnard, and the art room is filled with activity. Kindergarten and first grade classes are completing works that focus on line and shape. First grade classes created wire sculptures of lines inspired by the book *The Straight Line Wonder*, by Mem Fox. Second grade classes are focusing on the author and illustrator Eric Carle, by creating collages of animals. Students made painted papers in a way similar to the author, and they will also write a descriptive sentence telling about their animal. Third grade classes are taking their painting skills a step further by mixing colors and concentrating on line quality. The finished paintings are as exciting to look at as they were to produce. Both fourth and fifth grade classes are currently working as young graphic designers by producing posters for the Fire

Prevention Poster Contest. We are discussing what makes a successful poster and ways to make a poster convey a message clearly.

Sixth graders produced artworks in the style of ancient Greek amphora to commemorate the Summer Olympic Games. Students chose a favorite sport or athlete and made it the subject of their drawings. Look for these as you enter the gymnasium.

Remember to continue to ask your child about what they are doing in art, share in the work they bring home, and make more art together! Also, the art room welcomes odd discards, like out-of-date calendars, boxes, cloth scraps and wood pieces.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Mrs. Carne

Instrumental Music is in full swing! We have 53 student musicians from grades 5 & 6 in the lesson program! Our first performance for family and friends will be in January. The date is to be determined. Concert attire for the performance will be white tops, dark bottoms (no jeans), and dark shoes.



Instrumental Progress reports are issued in December and June. Please watch for your child's report and sign and return it to school.

Remember that students that succeed on their instrument... practice most days of the week, fill out their practice charts, and play for their parent at least once a week.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Mr. Seitelman, Mr. Gates



I would like to congratulate all those in grades 4 and 6 who participated in the Connecticut Physical Fitness Test. Our scores have improved tremendously over the past few years and I hope to see this trend continue. I would like to recognize the students who met the standards on all four sections of the test.

6th Grade

Mary Guhne
Gillian Power
Savannah Deskis
Elizabeth Donovan
Amber Kovacic
Andrea Troya
Lauryn Willie
Shannon Connery
Olivia Echelson
Lauren Pierce
Ben Cote
Daniel Izabel
William Comette
Danny Hurlbert
Jaleel Vazquez

4th Grade

Damion Carrasquillo
Brandon Fetridge
Brandon Moxley
Kevin Brenton
CJ Drayton
Gene Bouthiette
Chad Fenoff
Samantha Bertrand
Danielle Leblance
Monique Marcano
Melicia Mendez
Haley Munson
Jahlyssa Blackwine
Abrianna Dyprey



READING

**Mrs. Hathaway, Mrs. Jennings.
Mrs. Marsh, Mrs. Patria**

We are excited that Henry Barnard School is in collaboration with the Enfield Public Library. A gift bag has been prepared for each new baby born in Enfield. The bag contains a new book, information about the library, and tips to encourage early literacy skills starting at birth. If parents are from Enfield and have a newborn baby, they can either contact the school that siblings attend, visit the Enfield Public library and fill out the information form, or email Ellen Phillips, Head of Children and Teen Services, at ephillips@enfield.org to request a gift bag. What a wonderful way to instill that every child is "Born to Read" and that learning begins at birth.

On Wednesday, October 29th TLC held an Open House during which parents were given the opportunity to sit with their child during the lesson. This gave the parents a better understanding of the program. We would like to thank the many parents who attended the TLC Open House.



Students have been participating in DEAR time, "**Drop Everything and Read**" each morning and afternoon. We ask that you check your child's backpack to make sure that they have a book to read. Also, please continue to encourage your child to **Read Every Day**, as this is our district theme. They can read independently or read to a sibling or parent.

Thank you for all of your support! CMT's are in March; we are busy preparing our students. We will be in touch soon about a CMT Parent Information Night. Please consider coming to this, very important information regarding the test is discussed. You will also be given a chance to ask any questions that you might have. Lastly, the holidays are just around the corner; don't forget books make wonderful gifts!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Mrs. Egan



EVERY GIFT DESERVES A THANK-YOU.

It's never too early for children to learn good manners, and writing thank-you notes after receiving a gift is a good place to start.

Kids love to get presents and hate to write thank-you notes. Convincing them to write often becomes a little easier when you remind them that someone took the time to find a gift, wrap, or package it, and ship or deliver it. In return, all your child has to do is write a thoughtful note. Here is how you can help:

BE PREPARED ~ have stationary/paper and postage ready for your child.

BE TIMELY ~ The sooner the better! Give your child notice of when the notes will be sent.

BE HELPFUL ~ Help your child write creatively and put thought into their message.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FOLLOWING THROUGH

It is important to make a habit of telling your children to do something only once. Telling them two and three times followed by action on your part teaches children they have to mind you on the third time.

Actions speak louder than words. By following through on your words with action, you teach your children that you are not to be ignored and they must pay attention to you as soon as you open your mouth.

Think before you speak. Offer choices or warn of consequences that you are able and willing to do.

TEACHING CHILDREN MANNERS

Polite behavior and etiquette are a sign of respect for others. Manners and respect are inseparable. Developing good manners is necessary, so think about manners that matter most in your family and teach them to your children.

Tips to reinforce good manners:

1. Set a good example. Your children learn from you, so model good manners for them.
2. Be consistent~ require your child to practice good manners everywhere – at home. School, when he/she is a guest, and at the store.
3. Compliment your children ~ take notice when your child practices good manners.

BUILDING CHARACTER THROUGH LITERATURE

Together as a family, discuss why manners are important. Relate it to one of the stories below!

What Do You Know About Manners?

by Cynthia Mac Gregor

The Berenstain Bears Forget Their Manners

By Stan Berenstain

Leo and Lester by Becky Bloom

Excuse Me! By Lisa Kopelke

IMPORTANT DATES



November 18th -21st
Parent teacher conferences

November 26th
Early release

November 27th -28th
No School



December 5th
No School (In-service Day)

December 24th – January 2nd
No School

