

The Newton School Newsletter

Place your own text here.

Friday, January 5, 2018

School Notes and Athletics

Mr. Bagnato, Principal

What a week of weather! Thanks to all parents and guardians for being patient and flexible as we do our best to keep the school safely open. The decision to delay, close, or close early is my responsibility. While I follow a procedure (talking with road crew, discussing with other administrators, communicating with the bus company, etc.), it is always a difficult call to make. If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me.

While the weather made it a little difficult to get back into the school routine, it was fantastic seeing everyone. We have had several new students join Newton in the last few weeks, so if you see someone you do not know, please introduce yourself.

This coming week there will be an important Strafford School Board meeting ([Agenda](#)). During this meeting draft #2 of the school budget for 2018-19 will be presented and acted upon. All are welcome.



Building Bridges in 1/2 Science

School Events and Athletics:

- Monday January 8th:
 - 5:00 pm - 6-8 Girls Basketball Game at Lyme
- Tuesday, January 9th:
 - 3:30 pm SNAP/MS Ski team at Strafford Nordic Center
 - 5:30 pm - Strafford School Board Meeting at Newton,
- Thursday, January 11th:
 - 3:30 pm MS Ski team at Strafford Nordic Center
 - 5:00 pm - 3-5 Girls Basketball Game at Thetford Elementary
- Friday, January 12th:
 - 12:30 pm - Ski and Snowboard Program at Skiway

For school and athletic events, please visit the calendar on our [website](#).

K News

Ms. Kicza

Kindergarten got right back in the swing of school in the new year! They learned a new good morning song and dance. They heard a poem about the year, "The Sun

Comes Up." They began a new calendar and weather graph for the new month and year. It's great to have them all back and learning so much!

1-2 News

Mrs. Longcore & Mrs. Robinson

The first and second graders listened to the book, *Twenty-One Elephants and Still Standing*, by April Jones Prince. This book is about the building of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, and the people who questioned if it was strong enough. P.T. Barnum took that opportunity to parade 21 of his circus elephants over it to prove how strong it was. Our children then used that idea as a STEM challenge, using just tape and straws to build a bridge that went over a "river" (plate), that would hold as many plastic bears as possible. As usual, they had some great ideas, and most of them held quite a few bears!

3/4 News

Ms. Catalano & Ms. Cote

This week students have slowly settled back into routines. One activity has been to review our Hopes and Dreams that students created at the beginning of the year. Students created their Hopes and Dreams to name goals that they could accomplish during the school day through-out the year. These goals could be academic or social. After reading Ashley Spires' *The Most Magnificent Thing*, a story about persevering and changing one's perspective, students re-read their Hope and Dreams. Students then honestly decided if they had met their goal or if it was a goal that they were still working on. Students who had met their goals were celebrated. Ms. Catalano interviewed each student with a microphone and asked them about how they were successful. It was a wonderful and exciting way to hear about students' hard work that they have done to meet their goals. Those that are still working towards their Hope and Dream had a chance to brainstorm new strategies. In the spirit of the new year, all students created or amended a Hope and Dream to accomplish by the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Ask your student about his or her Hope and Dream and how you can help them with their goal at home!

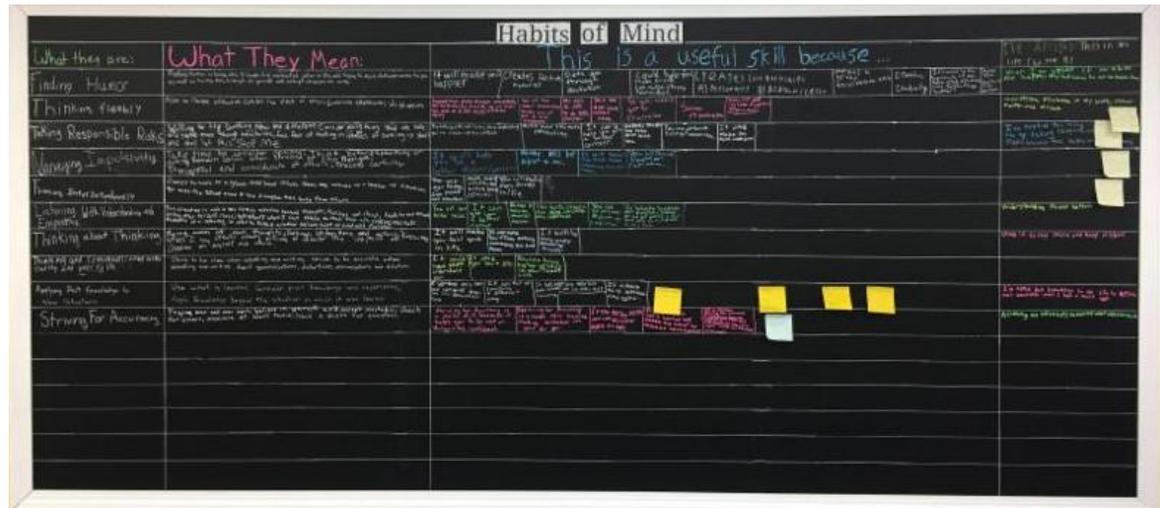
With the cold weather upon us, please continue to make sure that your child has the appropriate clothing to come to school. We have noticed many students borrowing sneakers from the nurse for indoor shoes. Please help your student remember to pack a spare set of sneakers for inside use. If it is more convenient, students can leave extra sneaker above their coat-hooks, although this is not a requirement.

Thank you for your continued communication about after school plans at dismissal. Next Friday, we head to the Hood Museum to learn about archaeology.

5th Grade News

Mr. Eric Walker

It's been a couple of busy days back from the holiday break. Along with finishing up math and social studies units, we have been diving deeper into the Habits of Mind. The students learned the importance of "Striving for Accuracy." After doing a few activities around this, the kids came up with their own definition of this Habit. They said that "Striving for Accuracy is trying over and over again; believe in yourself and don't accept mistakes; check for errors; measure at least twice; and have a desire for exactness."



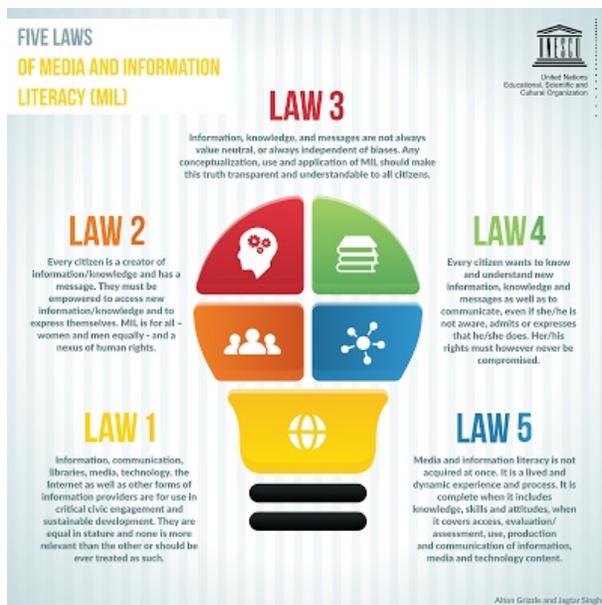
Library & Technology News

Ms. Simone Pyle

On Tuesday, the *Valley News* ran an article by school librarian and blogger Maureen Paschal titled "[How to Arm Your Kids Against Fake News](#)". (Not available in the *Valley News*' digital edition, it is linked here to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*; same article, different headline.)

Media and information literacy have always been an integral part of every library's mission, and they are more important now than ever. In our library, we begin in 1st grade with a look at the difference between fact and opinion; in the 3-5 cluster, we discuss point of view, bias and purpose in media messages, and how to effectively search the internet and evaluate websites for quality; and in our technology electives, we discuss how our social media activity and online behavioral tracking can put us in a media bubble.

However, there is still more work to do! My hope is that every student leaves Newton with the tools they need to be savvy and compassionate consumers and



UNESCO's Five Laws of Media & Information Literacy

creators of information and digital content, and I will continue to work to improve our library program to meet that goal.

Art News

Ms. Emily Girdwood

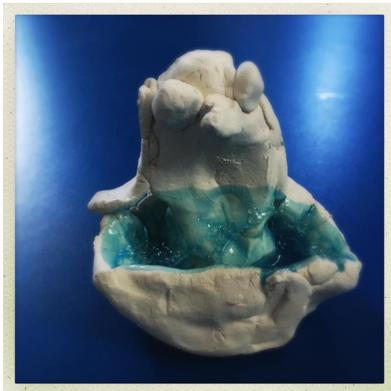
Art News

12/21

Note: Some of you might have noticed the wonky timing of the Art News...The news that you are seeing on a Friday is the news from Tuesday (current week) and Thursday of the previous week. This is due to timing issues...I need to write the news on Thursday mornings before I teach Thursday classes. So, here is the news from the previous Thursday (all the way before break), and no Tuesday news because we were not yet back from break. Happy New Year!

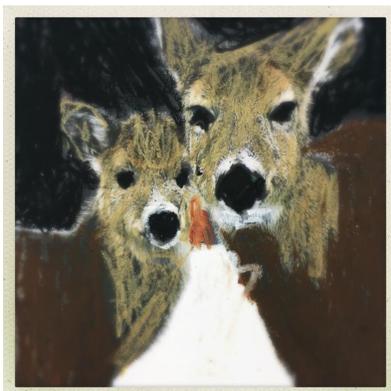
1/2: Painting Clay

Finally! The awesome class saw the return of their clay pieces. The penguins were fired with a little glass marble, so the students could see that a kiln gets REALLY HOT. The marble melted into a little ice patch for the clay penguin.

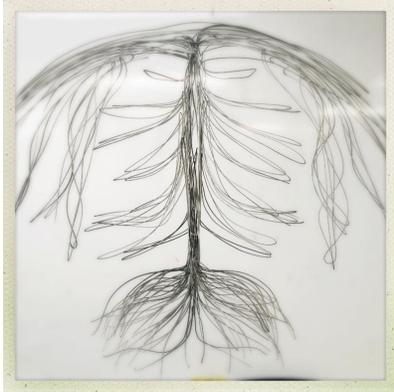


3/4: Drawing Textures:

This week we talked about animal camouflage (briefly...this is a topic in the 3/4 class). The "meat" of the lesson was around looking closely and trying to match colors and textures. I provided a series of color copies of animals in their environments and the students took oil pastels and drew directly on the photos, trying to cover up as much as possible in the original photograph. This presents many opportunities for discovery (a white rabbit's fur has blue in it). This is both harder and easier than it sounds. (Deer by Jesse)



Drawing Elective: Today, we took a moment to reflect in the context of the studio habits of mind (develop craft, engage & persist, envision, express, observe, stretch & explore, understand Art world, and reflect). Students used a rubric to identify strengths and areas to improve. We reviewed our progress thus far and talked about developing projects in the new year. (Maeve's whiteboard "drawing dance", where the movement of her arms is tracked by the markers..."it looks like a tree" she says. This happened in response to my question, can you choreograph a drawing?)



Health News

Ms. Kerri Juergens

Dear Parents of Newton School:

I am planning to do hearing and vision screenings next week for the following grades:

Hearing: Grades K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th.

Vision: Grades K, 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th.

I will send home notices to those parents whose child does not pass- otherwise assume s/he passed.

Hope everyone had a happy holiday! Happy New Year!

[Local Resource Information Sheet](#)

Hot Lunch News

Gret Hewes

News from the Lunch Room

Welcome Back!!

While getting back into the swing of things here in the cafeteria this week we want to remind everyone of the importance of hydration.

In the warm and hot weather we are reminded by the heat and our sweating that we need to refuel our bodies with fluids. During the winter months when temperatures drop it is incredibly important to continue to drink water to ward off dehydration. Often we forget this most vital topic when out having fun in the snow.

"Water is life" as they say, so keep filling those water bottles and keeping your bodies happy and healthy!

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas of fruits and/or veggies you would like to see the kids trying. My email address is ghewes@newtonschool.org



PTA News

Christine Bailey-Kellogg & Shannon Varley

Winter Carnival - Friday February 9th and Saturday, February 10th
Mark your calendars and join in the fun! More details to come after the PTA meeting this month.

Next PTA meeting - Tuesday, January 16th at 6 - Please join us!
The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00 pm at the Newton School library. Please note this is a change from our normal schedule. Our biggest agenda item will be planning Winter Carnival. We need many volunteers to help with this event, so please come to the meeting to see where you'd like to contribute.

PE News

Mr. Casey Grimes

During the week of February 22nd we will be jumping rope for "**Jump Rope for Heart**". Each class will be jumping rope and we will be timing who can jump rope the longest.

Jump Rope for Heart forms are due back to me by, Thursday, February 22nd.

The Newton students have been working really hard this year at dancing, pickleball, football, basketball, soccer, team building skills, throwing and catching, floor hockey and general spacing and the 8 locomotor skills.

Upcoming PE classes will include an ice rink out back (once it is finished), snowshoeing if it ever warms up and skiing for the 7/8 elective.

Enjoy your weekend.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

[Free Community Holiday Events @ Seven Stars](#)

[Classes at Seven Starts Art Center](#)

Greg Bagnato, Principal
243 Vermont Route 132
South Strafford, VT 05070
Phone: 802-765-4351/Fax: 802-765-4785

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Stay Connected



"The strength of the team
is each individual member.
The strength of each
member is the team."

- Phil Jackson