

Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School News

35 Federal St. Blackstone, MA 01504(508) 876-0190

Issue 5

Ms. Gabrielle T. Abrams, Principal

February 2010

Mr. Justin A. Cameron, Assistant Principal

Recapturing Our Kids' Childhoods... "Paying it Forward" with the principal

Among other trinkets and good wishes of the holiday season, I received two new books from staff members that I wanted to share (available for borrowing if anyone is interested☺.)

Notes Left Behind by Brooke and Keith Desserich is an account of two parent's struggle with their daughter, Elena's, cancer diagnosis. It is a book filled with diary excerpts, pictures of hearts and flowers - a passion of Elena's, words of advice for younger sister, Gracie from Elena, and, most notably, a reminder of the "triumph of the childhood spirit"; a notation that was written in ink by the giver to me. It truly is an inspirational read with lots of emotion, certainly, but much celebration as well.

In addition, our office secretary, Mrs. Levitre, shared with me the writings of Randy Pausch's, The Last Lecture. Carnegie Mellon Professor Pausch was asked to write a lecture for his students that highlighted pieces of his life that he would share should he be told that this were to be his "last lecture". Pausch had little difficulty reflecting on this having recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Instead of reflecting on death, however, Pausch chose to reflect on life, entitling his last lecture, "Really Achieving your Childhood Dreams."

Both of these publications highlight the power of childhood, the value of living each day to its fullest and the

importance of sharing, out loud, our appreciation of others. Both books helped reignite my energy into the new year.

I hope that you can enjoy them as much as I have; I plan to share further reflections and pieces in some upcoming celebrations with students.

As we enter into the 2nd half of our school year together – time truly does fly! – I look forward to our continued collaboration as we aim to create the most successful and respectful learning environment possible. We hope to see you at our upcoming **Parent Teacher Conferences on March 11, 2010 from 2:45-4:45** – details coming soon! And we thank you for continuing to support our kids, our efforts, our school.

Should you desire further information that is not listed or if you have a suggestion for future publications, I welcome your feedback and input. Please e-mail me at gabrams@bmrtd.net any time.

During this upcoming break I hope that you are able to enjoy some extra special time with family and friends. Take care of yourselves and each other!

With much hope!

Ms. Gabrielle Abrams
Principal

Please call the main office at the school if you would like this document translated into a language other than English.

Por favor, contate a secretaria central da escola caso deseje que este documento seja traduzido para o português.

Por favor, llame a la oficina central de la escuela si usted desea que este documento sea traducido al español.

الرجاء الإتصال بالمكتب الرئيسي في المدرسة إذا أردتم ترجمة هذه الوثيقة إلى اللغة العربية.

ჭიკთადავთან დაკავშირების შემთხვევაში თქვენს ენაზე თარგმანის მოთხოვნა, გთხოვთ გაუზიაროთ შიკთადავთა ოფისს.

NO SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

As we enter the winter season it is time to be prepared for "No School," "Delayed Opening" and "Early Dismissal" announcements. It is important that you and your child discuss your family plans for these days. In particular, **it is critical that the children know what to do in the event of an "Early Dismissal."** The BMRSD will make announcements on the following radio and television stations. We appreciate your tuning in to one of these options rather than calling the school. Our telephone lines must be kept open for emergency situations. **Please note that anytime there is a delayed opening, morning preschool will be canceled. Obviously, when there is an early dismissal there will be no afternoon preschool.**

Radio Stations:

WTAG 580AM
WPRO 630AM
WRKO 680AM
WBZ 1030AM
WOON 1240AM
WNRI 1380AM Woonsocket
WSRS 96.1FM Worcester

TV Stations:

Worcester WBZ-TV News 4
E. Providence WCVB-TV News Center 5
Boston WFXT Channel 6
Boston WHDH-TV News 7
Woonsocket Charter Cable Channel 12 or 13 - Millville

On the Web: <http://www.thebostonchannel.com/closings/index.html>

School Committee Update – February, 2009

It's the beginning of budget time once again. While the Governor has promised to hold Chapter 70 money at the FY10 level, a real tightening of the belts must occur since many costs have increased. The Superintendent and her administration are developing 3 budgets for FY11: a level service budget, a budget with a 5% cut (over \$1million), and a one with a 10% cut (over \$2million). The School Committee has met with all principals and administrators to see how these budgets would impact the services we provide. We are looking at ways to both save and raise money.

To keep the lines of communication open, the School Committee will meet with the Boards of Selectmen and Finance from Blackstone and Millville on Thursday, Feb. 11th.

A subcommittee of the School Committee has begun meeting with the Teachers Union Negotiation Team to come to agreement for another contract. The current contract expires on August 31, 2010.

A Principal Search Committee was formed to find Mr. Campbell's successor. As you know, Mr. Campbell will be retiring on June 30th as the principal of the John F. Kennedy and A. F. Maloney complex. The Search Committee conducted interviews the last week of January and will decide on which candidates to move forward to the final selection process.

In addition, a Search Committee is being formed to fill the position of Director of Special Services. Patricia Connolly, a retiree, has filled in part-time for the past 18 months, as a viable full time person could not be found at the time.

School Committee Meetings: Feb. 4th and 25th at 7PM in the F. W. Hartnett Media Center

BMR Special Education Parent Advisory Council Upcoming Meetings

*All meetings will be held at the Hartnett Middle School
in the Library Conference Room at 7:00 PM*

Wednesday, February 3, 2010:

Meeting Topic: Understanding Learning Disabilities: How Difficult Can This Be?

Wednesday, March 3, 2010:

Meeting Topic: Reading!!!

Wednesday, April 7, 2010:

Meeting Topic: Tests: What do they measure? What do the scores mean?

Wednesday, May 5, 2010:

Meeting Topic: What's happening during the summer?

BLACKSTONE-MILLVILLE EDUCATION FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANTS

The Blackstone-Millville Education Foundation (BMEF) is a non-profit organization, which supports educational programs in the Blackstone-Millville Regional School District. Founded in 1996, BMEF has awarded approximately \$85,000 in grants to fund projects from all schools in the District. Each project is chosen because it adds to the quality of education for the children the BMR School District. Projects must be in-line with the school curriculum and school improvement plan.

For the 2009-10 school year, over \$6,500.00 was awarded to fully or partially fund 17 individual district-wide projects. At the F. W .Hartnett Middle School, 3 grants were given: "The Inside Scoop", "Using Guided Math Centers", and "Connecting Children's Literature".

You can help BMEF earn money anytime you shop or book a vacation online by using Charity Blast. Some of the stores include: Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Dell, Dick's, Kohl's, Old Navy, Orbitz, Staples and Target to name a few! **Go to www.CharityBlast.com**. Click on go shopping and enter Blackstone-Millville Education Foundation as your charity. (The name should appear after typing in the first few characters.) Then select either a specific store or vendor or a general category, and shop. BMEF will receive a percentage of every sale.

The main source of revenue has been through an annual golf tournament held in the summer. This year's event is scheduled for Friday, August 6th at Crystal Lake Golf Course. It includes 18 holes of golf, followed by dinner and a raffle. Check the District's website, www.thebmef.com, for information which will be posted this spring or email Keith Ducharme at kducharme@bmrdsd.net with any questions.

Submitted by Ann Lesperance, Secretary
Blackstone-Millville Education Foundation

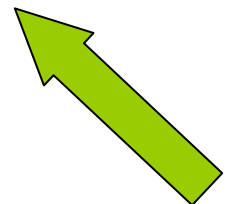
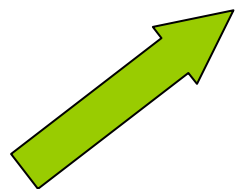
Planning ahead...March 10th Parent Workshop...

Please consider joining us for our next workshop in our series :

Cyberbullying and Internet Safety

March 10, 2010 at 6:00 PM

Presenter: Joanne Powell, Worcester DA's Office
FWHMS Media Center



Families are asked to RSVP by Wednesday March 3, 2010 by calling (508) 876-0190 or by e-mailing Sue Levitre at slevitre@bmrdsd.net

...Important Dates to Note...

Date	Event and Time
February 5, 2010	7 th Grade Field Trip to Museum of Fine Art, Boston 6-9 PM - 7 th /8 th Grade Dance
February 8, 2010	11:00-1:30 8 th Grade Chorus trip to Millville Senior Center
February 9, 2010	Staff Meeting - No after school extra help 3:45 – Girl’s Basketball at BMR; Boy’s Basketball at Whitinsville Christian 7:00 PM – PTO meeting 7:00 PM – Middle and High School Jazz Band Concert at BMR
February 10, 2010	9:30-12:30 - Chorus trip to the Blackstone Senior Center
February 11, 2010	8:15 AM – 6 th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast
February 12, 2010	8:15 AM – 7 th / 8 th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast
February 15-19, 2010	NO SCHOOL – February vacation
February 24, 2010	3:00-4:00 PM – School Council meeting
March 1, 2010	8 th Grade Chorus trip to the State House 6:00 PM - Spring Sports Informational Meeting at BMR

Communication is key...

If your child is out absent, please

- 1) call and let us know he/she will be out
- 2) send your child back to school with an absent note from you or from a Dr.

If you’re concerned about your child’s progress

- 1) call or e-mail any teacher with whom you would like to collaborate further
- 2) set up a meeting with your child’s Team of teachers

We’re here for you...We’re in this together!



Substitutes Needed!

We are looking for community members who would be willing to serve as substitutes in our classrooms or in other areas. Please stop by the Central Office located at Blackstone-Millville Regional High School to fill out an application!

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

What can I do to keep my child from getting sick?

It is important to teach your children how to reduce their risk of getting the flu and how to protect others from becoming infected. *If we all practice good hygiene, we can limit the spread of flu in our schools.*

- **Get your child both the H1N1 and seasonal flu shots.** Vaccination is the best way to keep your child from getting the flu.
- **Teach your children to wash their hands often.** Washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds is ideal (about as long as it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice).
- **Teach your children to use hand sanitizer.** Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Watch small children using gels so they don’t swallow it.
- **Teach your children to cough or sneeze into their elbow—not their hands!** Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of their elbow. They should wash their hands after blowing their nose or coughing into a tissue.
- **Teach your children to avoid touching their nose, mouth or eyes.** They should keep their hands away from their face.

**** Flu spreads easily from person to person. If you think your child is getting the flu please keep them home. When you call to report your child absent due to illness, please leave a detailed message as to which of the following symptoms your child has: fever, sore throat, cough, runny nose, headache, vomiting, diarrhea, or feeling very tired. All students with a fever or vomiting should stay home for at least 24 hours without fever or vomiting. If you have any questions please call me at 508-876-0193, option 3.

Guidance Counselor’s Corner

BVT applications have been submitted by the 8th grade students who wish to apply. Mrs. Mignanelli and Mrs. Rielly, along with our awesome substitute teachers, are completing the school portion of the applications. After grades are posted for the second quarter, student grades will be added to the application and they will be turned into BVT prior to February 5, 2010. The specific dates for when BVT will be here to interview our students have not been announced; however, the interviews will be held sometime between February 8th and March 12th. Students will be notified and given some helpful interview advice well ahead of time so that they may prepare. BVT will send out notification letters March 26, 2010.

If you have any questions, please call 508-876-0190 and ask for your child’s counselor. Mrs. Rielly is the B side counselor, and Mrs. Mignanelli is the A side counselor.

Chorus News

The Hartnett Middle School Chorus will be performing at the Millville Senior Center on Monday, February 8th. We will be singing at a Valentine’s Day luncheon hosted by Rep. Jennifer Callahan. The seniors have been very kind including us in their day and we look forward to spending some time with them.

Our next stop will be the State House in Boston for a performance on the Grand Staircase. The trip is planned for Monday, March 1st and will be hosted by Sen. Richard Moore. It includes a tour of the State House and lunch. A special thank you goes out to Senator Moore and his staff for inviting us.

Notes from the Teams...

...6th Grade...

Remember to check out the Schoolnotes sites for teacher's homework assignments. Simply type in the zip code and the list of teachers will come up. It's a simple process. Go to <http://new.schoolnotes.com>.

Social Studies

During the month of January students made connections between what they were reading in ELA and what they were studying in social studies. While students were reading Homeless Bird, a story about a thirteen year old girl in India, students were learning about India in social studies. Students learned how climate, physical features, and religion affected the culture of the people. A *Three Seasons poster* and a *Postcard from India* project assessed what students had learned.

ELA

Third quarter has started and the students in ELA will be focusing on preparing for the MCAS Language and Literature test occurring in March. Students will be analyzing elements of poetry and folktales. Weekly spelling and vocabulary studies focusing on Greek and Latin roots will be resuming now that the novel, Homeless Bird, is finished. Review of parts of speech, sentence structure, and writing skills will continue.

Math

During the month of January, students wrapped up their focus on fraction, decimal, and percent operations and conversions. The fact that we have been exploring these concepts for months points out how important and comprehensive these topics really are. Students will find fractions, decimals, and percents *everywhere* around them and we have all been working hard to gain proficiency in understanding and

using them. In addition, students are concluding their month long unit on patterns and algebra. Looking ahead, students will begin Geometry in February and will be working with polygons and polyhedrons right through to the end of the month.

Science

Mid year exams are done, but our study of the Earth continues. As we move on from the theories of Continental Drift and Plate Tectonics, we will be focusing on the 3 main types of plate boundaries; convergent, divergent, and transform fault, the different ways that tectonic plates move, and the physical features formed by plate movement. Mountains being one of the main plate movement formations, students will study the 3 main types: dome, fault-block and folded.

Our sixth grade students will be taking final exams in June and our science exam at that time will cover all material from plate boundaries on. We have cleaned out student binders together in class, so each student should know exactly what to bring home and what to keep in the binder. Please make sure your child has brought home those papers from his/her binder that we are no longer using in class.

As a reminder, highlighters, colored pencils, and loose leaf (3-hole binder) paper are some of the supplies that we use on a fairly regular basis. It would be helpful for your child to have his/her own supplies replenished. Also, regularly check our schoolnotes sites (<http://new.schoolnotes.com>) as well as your child's agenda notebook for assignment updates.

...WELLNESS NEWS...

6th Grade Wellness This current rotation ends on February 24th, and though it may seem to be a long ways away it is really only 13 more times that the class will meet. We will be spending the remaining time studying the following topics: Time Management, Tobacco, and Communication.

Grade 7 Wellness This current rotation is nearly half over and there is so little time to do so much learning.

The focus will be on the factors affecting healthy lifestyle: nutrition, physical activity, sleep requirements, and relaxation.

Grade 8 Wellness The 3rd quarter began on January 27th, and that means a new group of students has the opportunity to become health literate individuals- meaning that they will gain knowledge and skills that will be used to improve their health. During this month the topics of study will focus on The Impact of our Choices and Binge Drinking and Alcohol Poisoning.

...7th Grade...

Ancient Civilizations with Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Finnegan, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Turgeon, Mrs. Abisla and Mrs. Kozlowski

In History, the students are studying Egypt and will soon be visiting the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, Massachusetts. At the museum, students will have an opportunity to explore one of the newest exhibits “The Secrets of Tomb 10A – Egypt 2000 BC” as well as many other exhibits in the museum. It promises to be an exciting and interesting day! We would like to thank the many family members who offered to accompany us on the trip, and if we were unable to accommodate you this time, we look forward to having you join us in the future. Following Egypt, we will be traveling to Ancient Greece.

Pre-Algebra with Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Finnegan and Mrs. Swanson

In January, students extended their number sense into the world of negative numbers, including absolute value, opposites, and the effects of using negative numbers when adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing. Students “walked the line” to find out what happens when positive and negatives combine! We pulled all of our number sense work together into our second math benchmark assessment, which doubled as our mid-year exam.

Moving on, students explored particular number properties including the “Distributive Property of Multiplication over Addition” (whew, what a long name!) that will help us solve problems in algebra and beyond. Heading into the month of February, we’ll put our sense of negative numbers to work in the Coordinate Plane and continue on with geometric figures.

English/Language Arts with Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Turgeon and Ms. Kozlowski

In February we’ll discuss narrative poetry after reading classic poems like “The Highwayman” by Alfred Noyes and contemporary works such as “Oranges” by Gary Soto. We’ll look at how narrative poetry combines literary terms (plot, conflict, setting) and poetic features such as rhythm and rhyme. Our third quarter novel will be assigned, we’ll discuss new literary terms (foreshadowing and symbolism), and we’ll learn how to eliminate empty expressions and repetition from writing.

Life Science with Mrs. Hardy and Mrs. Abisla

Continuing in our exploration of the cell, we learned about the process of mitosis. With the help from the mnemonics of “Insane Pet Monkeys” and the melody from “Mitosis in a Winter Wonderland”, we mastered the 6-step process by which the cell reproduces itself – replacing old cells, or growing the organism.

Once we knew how cells reproduced, we learned how the information is passed from one cell to the new cell. This process is known as Heredity. Beginning with the works of Gregor Mendel (Father of Genetics), we discovered the “codes” for various traits, or characteristics, and then explored through coloring charts and the Punnett square, how the traits separate and regroup to form the new offspring with characteristics similar to the parents.

We started with traits, discovered the chromosomes, and will be looking at the code of all life (aka DNA). We will continue working with Genetics as we do experiments and activities to see actual DNA strands (from “Mendel’s peas”) and will learn about structure of the DNA strand.

Check out your child’s homework on www.new.schoolnotes.com. It’s a great way to be sure you know what your child needs to do on any given night!

...8th Grade...

MS. ROUSSELLE AND MR. MCNAMARA **ALGEBRA CLASSES**

As we begin a new year and a new decade, the algebra classes are also beginning to experience new concepts in Algebra. Recently we have concluded the first semester and are looking forward to a great second half of the year.

Extended Algebra classes have recently completed a unit on linear equations and slope-intercept format for linear graphing. They are taking both of these units and combining the concepts studied to further explore linear inequalities: solving, graphing, and applications. Next they will be working with scientific numbers and operations with scientific numbers. Finally we will wrap up the month with the Pythagorean Theorem and its many applications.

Algebra 1 classes have recently completed a unit on the Laws of exponents, simplifying monomials using the properties of exponents. They have applied this knowledge to the present unit on polynomials—operations, applications, and will wrap up this unit with factoring polynomials and solving quadratic equations using factoring techniques. These all will include applications, focusing on measurement.

Graphing calculators continue to be used as well as MCAS packets for extra practice. Students should continue to seek extra help when needed and do all their homework for better understanding.

ELA – Mr. Nau and Mrs. Ferrara

With the start of the second half of the year underway, the ELA students are starting a closer look at expository writing. We will be using exercises from our text and specific patterns of observation and explanation on weekly tests. This will be the start of our introduction to the term paper that serves as the show piece in the fourth quarter.

World History- Mr. Cronan's and Mr. Kiely's classes finished the semester with their special World War II unit. They are finishing a study of the Holocaust this week. On Wednesday, January 17, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the two 8th grade teams participated in a Team Day about the Holocaust. After the present unit, the World History classes will study the Tang and Song Dynasties of China.

Physical Science – Mrs. McLean and Ms. Solari's science classes completed the semester with a chemistry unit which allowed the students to experiment with matter changing both physically and chemically. We also studied the four phases of matter: solid, liquid, gas and plasma, and compared the energy and particle arrangement of each. We will further our study of chemistry by exploring the elements and discovering how compounds and mixtures are formed. We will model chemical reactions and the atomic structure of compounds using Legos which should be fun for all!

Yearbook "Dreams" Orders Being Taken Now!

Order Some HMS Memories

Yearbooks can still be ordered, special messages can be submitted, and ads are being accepted! The yearbook staff is busy taking and gathering photos, planning page layouts, and practicing their new layout skills all in preparation for the HMS 2010 Dream Yearbook. Don't forget to make sure that you will have one.

The memories are priceless.

For any of the forms, please contact Yearbook Adviser, Ms. Joan DuRocher at school by phone or by email at jdurocher@bmrsl.net.

PTO NEWS and INFO

Please visit our Schoolnotes.com web page for more complete information at
<http://new.schoolnotes.com/pto4hartnett/95494>

*Look for more detailed information soon on upcoming events
Magazine Drive, Spring Book Fair, 8th Grade Field Day & Farewell, etc. etc.*

Also... when thinking about PTO sponsored events have you ever had thoughts that started with "Why don't they....." or "That would have been so much better if" or "I'd love to see...." Although we continue to strive to make a difference in some way for every child each year, it is increasingly harder to do without the participation of people who have different thoughts and ideas... like you! We find ourselves in desperate need of parents and/or teachers who'd like to help make a difference now and in the future. Please consider coming to our next meeting Wednesday, February 10th at 7pm. We'd love to see you there!

MRS. LAPORTE'S EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY Classes

6th and 7th Grade - Keyboarding

In 6th and 7th Grade, students are currently in their third week of instruction continuing to develop their keyboarding skills. They are learning the alphabetic keyboard through instruction based on the South-Western Microtype4 software program and taking daily timed quizzes as well as a weekly timed test. Students are continuing to develop the basics of touch typing with proper finger placement while improving their speed and accuracy.

8th Grade – Computer Applications

In 8th Grade, students recently began their third rotational class and were "tested" on their word processing knowledge. Based upon these results, they are beginning to enhance their awareness of technology by becoming familiar with Microsoft Office software. Student will become proficient in word processing (Word) and spreadsheets (Excel), using a step-by-step instructional approach followed by immediate reinforcement activities. The internet

is frequently used as a resource tool for research and the development of assignments.

7th & 8th Grade Computers & Creativity

Students in the Computers & Creativity course which is nine (9) weeks in length will utilize the computer as a tool for creativity and learning. As a class, we will address how to assess creativity in computers, how computers can model creative thought, how computers can be used to enhance projects, and how we can implement these projects in the classroom and for personal use. Our main project focuses on their choice of either a "Dream Vacation" or "Restaurant Entrepreneurs" and utilizing technology to identify skills needed to be active, lifelong 21st Century learners.

*Student arrival is after 7:30 AM.
Families are asked to please not drop
off your child prior to 7:30 AM on
any given school day (unless the
student is coming in for a previously
scheduled meeting).
Thank you for your help with this!*

Frederick W. Hartnett Middle School

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