



# DANBURY ELEMENTARY

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Now that the school year is in full swing, I will start to again spy in our students' backpacks at the end of the day. I will be looking to see that our students are taking "Just Right Books" home to read each night. (A "Just Right Book" is reading material that students can read independently and it helps to build confidence and fluency.) If the selected students I spy on have these types of books in their bags, they will receive coupons to come down to my office at a later date. These coupons entitle the students to select a free book that they can bring home to add to their family libraries. I will try to spy in two students' backpacks per classroom per week.

As a parent, you might be wondering why I will be spying in students' backpacks. First of all, it is fun and the students get excited when they see me dressed up in my spying outfit. Second there are some educational benefits for reading outside of school.

"The amount of free reading done outside of school has consistently been found to relate to achievement in vocabulary, reading comprehension, verbal fluency, and general information. Students' reading achievement correlates with success in school." (Anderson, Wilson, and Fielding 1988; Guthrie and Greaney 1991; Krashen 1993; Cunningham and Stanovich 1991; Stanovich and Cunningham 1993). Children who read the most at home surpass the educational success of their peers who do not read at home--*even those who are hard-working, capable students*. The children who read the most, both inside and outside of school, have more confidence and experience with various academic assignments. They are the better readers, of course, but they are also the better writers, spellers, possess a richer vocabulary, and perform better in content-heavy areas like science and social studies. Clearly, reading is important.

Another research study states that, if families:

- Read to and with their children,
- Read themselves, and encourage their children to read,
- Keep a variety of reading materials in the home,
- Have high expectations for their children's reading achievement, and
- Help teach their children to read and respond to their children's interest in books,

without a doubt, their children will be better readers than children from families who do not participate in these activities (NAS, 1998).

Orville Prescott states, "Few children learn to love books by themselves. Someone has to lure them into the wonderful world of the written word: someone has to show them the way."

So, as a collective team (teachers, support staff, principal, parents and family), it is my hope and dream that each student leaves DES as a fabulous reader, who loves spending quiet time with a book.

Have a great weekend!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

9/22 BOOK FAIR & OPEN HOUSE  
Book Fair opens at 6:00 p.m.  
Parents in classrooms for 6:30 p.m. presentation.

9/23 EARLY RELEASE  
Student dismissal at noon. NO Project Promise but the TTCC is open.

9/28 PICTURE DAY  
Smile :) Picture packets will be sent home very soon.

## DES Open House: Tuesday September 22

6:00-6:30 p.m.	Book Fair open until 7:45 p.m.
6:30-6:40 p.m.	Move to your first child's classroom If children do not want to attend the presentation in the classroom, they may stay in the MPR to watch a few educational videos.
6:40-7:05 p.m.	Presentation by teacher What will we be learning this year? What are my classroom procedures? Communication Homework Student Led-Conferences
7:05-7:10 p.m.	Switch to your second child's classroom (if you have one) PTO will provide a simple snack and lemonade in the MPR
7:10-7:35 p.m.	Presentation by teacher

**Please join us for this important educational evening!**

### Fun in First

Our friends in first grade are currently exploring animals, wild and tame. We are mathematically graphing the types and number of pets we own. Happy to say there are a lot of animal lovers in the first grade classroom; which makes for an interesting graph.

Together we are brainstorming ways to keep pets safe and healthy. We have even started writing about something that makes our pet special.

In other news, our class has all participated in creating a classroom agreement. We spent time brainstorming, drafting and revising before we settled on the final copy. Happily, the first graders all signed the final copy and chose a location to display their work proudly.

Be sure to check out all of their hard work at the Open House on Tuesday!

Hugs,  
Mrs. Paquette

Favorite Pets		
Pet	Tally Marks	Number
		10
		4
		6

1<sup>st</sup> grade  
ROCKS

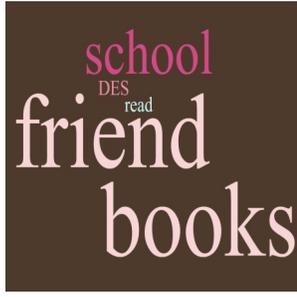
## Newfound Nutrition September 21-25

21 Mozzarella Sticks Marinara Sauce Spinach Garden Salad Assorted Fruit	22 BBQ Chicken Brown Rice & Veggies Garden Salad Assorted Fruit	23 Macaroni & Cheese Broccoli Garden Salad Assorted Fruit	24 Turkey & Gravy Mashed Potato Peas and Carrots Garden Salad Assorted Fruit	25 Pizza Spinach Garden Salad Assorted Fruit
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## ICT @ DES with Mrs Plankey

The computers are up and running at DES! It is wonderful to see the computers being used outside of ICT class. I encourage students to think about how they might use what they are learning in ICT class in their classroom work. It is amazing to see the skills students in grades 1-3 are learning presently, not too long ago these were the things 4th and 5th graders were working on doing! We are continuously adapting the ICT curriculum to keep up with them!



Grades 4 and 5 have recently created a graphic for the homepage of their electronic portfolio. Using a word cloud generator in abcya.com, they made a personalized "ME" Cloud. Other word cloud generators were discussed, such as wordle.net and tagxedo.com. These would be fun to try at home.

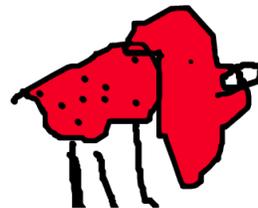
Grades 2 and 3 also created something for the homepage of their electronic portfolio with a draw and paint program. Drawing with a mouse is not easy and can be a bit frustrating, but they were determined and had great results! They demonstrated the ability to use a wide variety of the available tools. I would love to show off more. I will work on getting them on the DES website in the near future!



Grade 1 is learning about New Hampshire's Ladybug Book Award. I love this award because NH students decide which book will be the winner. Over the course of the next several months we will read the 10 nominees. After hearing a book they "Rate that Book" to show their opinion of how well they liked it.



- 5= WOW!
- 4= Really Good
- 3= Ok
- 2= Did not like
- 1= No Way!



After looking at some ladybug pictures in Google images, they were challenged to draw a ladybug on the computer. Thank you to Curtis for sharing his creation! Please notice the excellent use of the fill tool!

And in Kindergarten... Mrs. Seavey has been using the computers with the kids in class! YAY Mrs. Seavey! Sometime mid fall I will work with them to log in with a username and password. We attempted this the first week of school, but weren't quite ready. For now we will focus on books, book care, and being a good library citizen! We will be doing plenty on the computer together as a class in the winter months!

## Friday Newsletter Goes Electronic!

Check your email! Parents who turned in an email address should now be receiving the Friday newsletter electronically. If you have not received a digital version and would like to, please just submit your email address to the DES office. If we have your email, you will no longer receive a paper copy on Fridays.

## Kids Health Homework Tips

Kids are more successful in school when parents take an active interest in their work — it shows kids that what they do is important.

Know the teachers — and know what they're looking for. Attend school events, such as parent-teacher conferences, to meet your child's teachers. Ask about their homework and parent involvement.

Set up a homework-friendly area. Work together on making the space fit their needs.

Schedule a regular study time. Some kids work best in the afternoon, following a snack and play period; others may prefer to wait until after dinner. Find the time that works for your family and remember it may change.

Help them make a plan. On bigger homework nights encourage your child to break up the work into manageable chunks. Create a plan — and take time for breaks.

Keep distractions to a minimum. This means no TV, loud music, or phone calls.

Make sure kids do their own work. They won't learn if they don't think for themselves and make their own mistakes. Parents can make suggestions and help with directions.

Be a motivator and monitor. Ask specific questions about assignments and classroom work, be available for questions and concerns.

Set a good example. Do your kids ever see you diligently balancing your budget or reading a book? Kids are more likely to follow their parents' examples than their advice.

Praise their work and efforts. Be specific: "I like how you stayed with that tough math problem", "You have shown progress in your reading skills, your efforts are paying off!", "Remember learning skills can be hard, and I see you working hard"

If there are continuing problems with homework, ask for help. Kids, other parents, school personnel are a great resource.



## Student Pick Up

Parents, if you park in the circle after school, please let the buses exit the parking lot *first*. We want all of our students to remain safe and sound. Thank you!