

Danbury Elementary Newsletter



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Ann Holloran, Principal

Dad's 80th Birthday

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My dad turned eighty this week! My earliest memories of my dad are playing catch in the front yard, having him and mom sit under the tree at Saco River being our lifeguards as we went swimming, and him correcting papers at the kitchen table as we also did our homework. However, over the years, he has become more than just dad; he has become my hero and inspiration. My dad was raised in a family with one older brother and a younger brother and sister. He lived in the suburbs of Boston. His father served in World War II, came home, worked various jobs, but passed away when my dad was in college. His mom and four special aunts raised him. In the very few stories that he shares about growing up, he speaks about walking to his father's cab to give him dinner, spending time at his aunts' house, and sneaking into Boston Brave baseball games.

My dad graduated from high school and went to Keene State College. He was the first member of his family to attend college. Dad shares many stories of his time at KSC. He talks about living off campus as a freshman in a community member's house. He talks about hitchhiking home on holiday breaks. He shares funny stories about his time as president of his fraternity, Kappa Delta Pi, as well as his time as president of the class of 1958. He talks about the day he was summonsed into the college president's office and was asked to transfer to Plymouth. My dad held his ground and talked the president into letting him stay at KSC. He talks about almost not graduating from college, because he owed \$5 at graduation. Luckily, he had some extra cash that week to pay off that bill!

My dad got his first teaching job in Hopkinton. The next year he got a job in Nashua and taught in the Nashua School District for 37 years. As a rookie teacher, he taught English and then went back to school and received a master's degree in guidance. For over 20 years, he was a guidance counselor at Nashua High. Then, he finished off his career by teaching 8th grade US history. I went into teaching because of him. I watched how every day he would come home, loving his job and loving his family. Over time, he became my role model. His work ethic, compassion, humor, and love of teaching have guided me as an adult. He was a quiet leader by taking on different leadership roles at school and home. He was union president and chair of the guidance department. He would help my mother with the laundry and housecleaning. I saw how he and my mother would purchase an extra winter coat or pair of sneakers and just leave it in one of his 8th grade student's locker.

My father continues to be an inspiration to me as he copes with an aging body and mind. Unfortunately, his eyesight and Parkinson's disease are taking a toll, but his love of family and sense of humor remain strong. His smile brightens and body becomes energized as he plays with his great grandsons and watches his grandchildren play high school sports. In our conversations, he still has those one-liners that just make you laugh and smile for the rest of the day. I am the person I am today because of my father. As each year passes, I know how fortunate I am to still have the opportunity to call my dad for advice or to share a funny school story. I cherish the time and have tried to both tell him and show him, through my actions, that he has earned an A+ in being a dad! Happy Birthday, Dad--I love you!

Seavey's Superheroes: Winter Wonderland

The playground is blanketed with snow and we are soooooo excited to play out there! Please remember to send your child to school with hats, gloves/mittens, snow pants, and boots every day. We go outside in order to let out our energy and to exercise. Our bodies need a break! Children get the most out of recess when they are prepared and ready for all types of weather. Please feel free (if you have duplicates) to have your child leave their extra boots or snow pants here so they do not have to bring them back and forth. Or you may choose to send in a bag (in addition) to their backpack with all of their snow gear. Sometimes 2 pairs of gloves are helpful in case 1 set gets wet during the first recess. None of this is required, these are just helpful suggestions from over the years.

There is a magical ELF in our classroom named TWINKLE! She is rather clever these days. She appeared on Friday and flies back to the North Pole to report good behavior. Every morning she flies back to our classroom and finds a new spot. K/1 friends are eager to spot her location as soon as they enter the classroom! Here she is in a nice warm winter vest. She brought us some snow from the North Pole!



Liam and Finn are enjoying snack at the tables. They are showing nice manners and quiet talking voices with their peers. They are also modeling independence in taking care of their snack wrappers, pushing in chairs, and getting prepared for recess after. You rock, Liam and Finn!

The Rest of the Story...

What ever happened to Ms. Holloran in her story last week from when she got in trouble at school? Find out...

P.S. To finish the story, of course at the dinner table that night Maryann shared our experience in biology class. Since my dad was a teacher in the Nashua School District, he had a telephone book with the names of teachers in the system. After discussing the events with my parents, shortly after dinner, I had to call my biology teacher's home and apologize for my rude and disrespectful behavior in class. In addition, I was grounded for a week!

Lunch Menu Dec 12-16, 2016



Monday

Burger on Wheat Roll
Tater Tots
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Tuesday

Chinese Pie
Broccoli
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Wednesday

Fish Nuggets
Bread Stick
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Thursday

Hot Open Face Turkey Sub
Brown Rice
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Friday

Homemade Pizza
Carrot Sticks
Garden Salad
Fresh Fruit

Breakfast \$1.25 (reduced \$.30)
Lunch \$2.75 (reduced \$.40)
Milk \$.35

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P.E. with Mrs. Frost

We have had the good fortune of having PSU student, Mr. Lydon, assist with our PE classes during the fall semester. Students have enjoyed having him help with the PE skills and activities. This experience with me has helped prepare him for his student teaching next year. We are in the final week with Mr. Lydon and we thank him and wish him well as he moves on at Plymouth State University.

PE classes have been working on spacial awareness, moving safely in and around others, and working in general space and personal space. We work on a lot of locomotor movements that include skipping, jumping, sliding, running, hopping, and galloping. These movements connect with many activities and sports that we do in everyday play and activity. The movements also connect to many of the skills that are learned in PE.

Students work every week on the components of fitness: muscular strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance, and flexibility. Many fitness activities are included as part of our warm-up procedures. Grade 5 has been gearing up for the strength testing for the Fitnessgram Assessment. Children exercise in many ways in group and partner activities. Music is added to help make exercise more fun. Exercise with a buddy is always more fun too!

Throughout the month of November, the students worked on a "Throwing and Catching" unit. Elements of the underhand throw, overhand throw, and catching skills are included in this unit. Students learn and practice with all types of balls and objects and play lead-up games to further work on their skills. One favorite activity was playing "Beano" or "Corn Hole" as some people might call it. This is a fun game using the underhand toss with a beanbag into a hole on a board. Students were also assessed on these skills using the SHAPE America PE Standards.

As we move into winter, we will focus on a "Striking" unit, starting with hockey and pilo polo (Striking with a Long-Handled Implement). We will continue to work on and improve our skills and have fun doing it! Please make sure your child has sneakers and comfortable clothing for PE inside on Wednesdays during the winter. Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season.



PTO News

The Danbury PTO would like to take this opportunity to thank Christina Peterson for all she has done for the school and the PTO over the years. She has stepped down as our Secretary, so we are looking for a replacement. If you are interested, please let us know.

On Thursday, December 22nd at 1:30pm, following the Sing-Along, the PTO will be sponsoring an Adult Cookie Swap. We ask for adults to bring a dozen plated cookies with them to the Sing-Along and join in the swap afterwards. Bring a dozen, leave with a dozen!

We welcome everyone at our meetings and appreciate any help. Thank you.
Danbury PTO

