

ATKINSON ACADEMY - January, 2009

17 Academy Avenue, Atkinson, NH 03811

(603) 362-5521

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPALS:

Happy New Year! Those words still ring true after such a rocky December. We seem to have settled into a more "normal" routine now that school has resumed. One notable silver lining is that amongst all the difficulty the ice storm brought, the Atkinson community proved itself to be close knit. It was nice to see so many of our students come to the high school during the outages.

With many winter days still to come, we face the very real possibility of additional snow days. Anytime a change has been made to the school day, you will be notified by the AlertNow system. To increase the efficiency, your most current contact information should be provided to the school. A revised school calendar was recently sent home (also available on the school website - www.timberlane.net) Please be advised of the changes.

We are pleased to welcome Lt. William Baldwin to Atkinson Academy from the Atkinson Police Department. Over the next 10 weeks, Lt. Baldwin will be teaching the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program to all our fifth grade students. He has already established a great rapport with our students and brings a new face to our building.

Ski Club has begun and we are excited that over 80 of our students are participating. Parents are reminded that ski equipment can be dropped off on the stage in the Dyke Auditorium from 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Thursday's or 7:30-8:00 a.m. Friday mornings. All equipment should be clearly labeled.



News from Everyday Mathematics

Kathy Fowler, Everyday Math Coach

The publisher of Everyday Mathematics, Wright Group, has a new webpage full of information for parents called the Everyday Mathematics Parent Connection:

https://www.wrightgroup.com/parent_connection/index.html.

There are eight links on the page: About EM, Tips and Activities, Success Stories, Wright Group/McGraw-Hill, University of Chicago School Mathematics project (UCSMP), NCTM (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics), Everyday Mathematics Success, and Contact Us.

In the interest of going green, we are offering parents the Family Letters online. At the website for your child's grade, you can view and print out the letters for each unit. If you prefer to receive a hardcopy,

please let your child's teacher know.

Here are the links for each grade:

Kindergarten

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=256

First grade

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=258

Second grade

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=260

Third grade

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=262

Fourth grade

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=264

Fifth grade

https://www.wrightgroup.com/support_info.html?sid=266

We are in the process of conserving paper and trying to be technologically savvy. From now on go to our website www.atkinsonacademy.com to view the newsletter each month.

Kathie Dayotis, Principal

Chris Snyder, Assistant Principal

FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables every day is healthy for you. The following are tips taking from the Healthy NH 5210 Program to help increase fruit and vegetable consumption:

- ✓ Be prepared. Keep washed, ready-to-eat produce on hand so it's available.
- ✓ Be creative. Add diced tomatoes, carrots, broccoli, onions, and mushrooms to sauces, pizza, soups, and casseroles.
- ✓ Fill half your plate with fruits and vegetables at every meal.
- ✓ Be a role model. Other family members are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables if they see you eating them.
- ✓ Don't give up. You may need to see or taste a food 7 to 10 times before you like it!

Eating 5 servings or more of fruits and vegetables every day is one of the most important choices you can make to help maintain your health.

Attached to this Newsletter is the Winter Kid Power Newsletter. Enjoy!

Paula Amante
Nurse



FROM THE GYM

It is nice to be back to "normal" after a month of ice, snow, and vacation disruptions! Obviously, for the next several months we will be inside for PE. Please help your child remember to bring sneakers and wear appropriate clothing on gym days. I don't like to have kids sit out when it is avoidable. Thanks for your help.

During our first week of the New Year all students finished their gymnastics unit. This final lesson involves all of the available equipment (mats, vaulting box, cargo net, floor balance beam, and ropes) plus a few extra things like a tunnel, balance boards, stilts, jump ropes, and pogo sticks. The children have a great time trying all of the different choices. As always, we stress safety and cooperation at all pieces of equipment.

For the past two weeks we have been doing a Winter Olympics unit. Lesson number one consists of cross country skiing (strips of newspaper for skis) and the very popular bobsled. This second event is one of my (and the kids') favorite activities all year. It requires teamwork and cooperation to push a folded gymnastics mat on top of scooters around the gym without bumping into walls or pylons. In addition, the kids get quite a workout while laughing and having a good time. Lesson number two in the unit involves the two-person luge (double scooter) and hockey. We play scooter hockey with the younger grades and floor hockey with grades 3-5.

After school on Wednesdays we are currently having our annual jump rope club. I have the largest group (almost 100) that I have ever had. We jump short and long ropes, as well as dancing and a little hoola hooping too. Any parents wishing to help out are always greatly appreciated. The club will be held on the three Wednesdays in

February. On March 18th we will be having our annual Jump Rope For Heart event. This is a fund raiser for the American Heart Association. More information will be coming before February vacation.

Thanks for your support. If you ever have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact me.

Jeff Goddard
PE Teacher

LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW

Madam President

Written and illustrated by Lane Smith

A self confident, bossy girl imagines herself the president of her own small world. Like a commander in chief, she enjoys all the "special privileges" afforded such a position. She chooses a capable cabinet (Mr. Potato Head becomes Secretary of Agriculture and a sock monkey is assigned Secretary of Naps). She negotiates a treaty between a dog and cat, attends a state funeral for a pet frog, and uses her executive power to veto the school's tuna casserole. Actually, she exercises her veto power quite freely throughout the book. With all the "busyness" that defines the job, Katy retires to the Oval Office (her messy bedroom) at eight o'clock, but not before assigning her clown- faced vice president the task of dealing with the ambassador of Freedonia. There is lots of fun in this book, not the least of which is the fact that this president is a girl.

Bird Lake Moon

Written by Kevin Henkes

When Mitch's parents separate, he and his mother go to Bird Lake to spend the summer with his grandparents. Spencer and his family also

arrive and move in next door. However, they have not been back for several years since an older brother drowned at Bird Lake. Mitch has already counted on Spencer's house being empty and resents that another family has moved back. He decides to play tricks by haunting the house with mysterious ghostly signs. Spencer sees these signs and thinks it is his dead brother coming back to haunt the family. However, the two boys become fast friends. Told in alternating chapters, Mitch learns how to deal with his hurt, while Spencer tries to overcome the "fear of missing something" that overwhelms his family. Both boys learn how their short friendship actually helps both of them deal with life's challenges. Henkes is a master at using spare language while getting his message across (in this case, loss, friendship and heart-wrenching circumstances). He previously won the Newbery Honor for Olive's Ocean.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our annual school book fair will be February 2-6, 2009. Volunteers are needed to help the children with book selection and taking payments. This is a great opportunity for the busy parent who might be interested in a one time commitment. Please call the library at ext. 308 if you are available for a morning, afternoon, or early evening (Tuesday, 2/3 or Wednesday 2/4 from 4-7 PM) anytime that week. A volunteer is also needed to help set up on Friday, January 30th from 1-3 PM.

Ellen Beckwith,
Librarian

Music News

The winter concert was exciting for all who participated. It was a privilege to perform at the PAC. We have now begun work on music for our spring concerts.

Fifth graders watched a video about Rossini composing the opera "The Barber of Seville." All the background music was Rossini's. The fourth grade watched a similar video about Handel as he was composing "The Messiah."

Third graders have learned a new note on the recorder. They should be practicing at least once a week at home. Please help them to remember to bring their recorders to school on music day.

First and second graders have been playing African American ring games and chants.

The entire school is singing "We Shall Overcome" this month.

Joyce Peavey
Music Teacher



Computer/Health

Here are some great winter sites for you to enjoy with your children during the cold winter months. Hope you enjoy them.

Billy Bear 4 Kids: <http://billybear4kids.com/> This is a great site for kids to play games and activities. Right now this site has some wonderful wintry activities. Do an online winter puzzle, get some wintry themed wall paper for your computer or make an online snowman. Check the New Year link out for lots of fun things to do.

PBS KIDS: <http://www.pbskids.org>
This is another wonderful site. It is full of entertaining and educational games focusing on learning.

Snowman Construction Kit
<http://snowmanconstructionkit.com/> This is a very clever site brought to you by Clever Media. Several tabbed areas to choose your snowman's elements. You can email to a friend, send to their gallery and more. Very impressive site! Watch out for ads!

42eXplore <http://www.42explore.com/snow.htm>
We live in NH with lots of snow each winter. This site provides all sorts of interesting information about snow. This site will link young student as well as older students to some wonderful pictures, movies and facts about snow and ice.

Environmental Education for Kids.
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/ee/> I came across this site when researching animal habitats. Have your child click on the Nature Notes and then find the link to animal hibernation.

Idea Box: <http://www.theideabox.com/> Looking for arts and crafts ideas or recipes for the winter months? This is a great site for you!

Stay warm!

Anna Lizier
Computer/Health Teacher

Counselor's Corner

The theme for January is Peace. Pam Alexander and I are co-facilitating Art and Guidance lessons in the Art room this month. We start our class with a discussion touching on conflict, intolerance as the main cause of conflict, respecting diversity and peaceful ways to solve conflict. In Grade 1, we talked about peaceful ways to use our hands and then we made finger drawings. In Grade 2 we discussed saying I'm sorry and meaning it as a good start to solving a conflict and then we made I'm sorry heart pouches. In Grade 3 we talked about Point of View and listening to each other and then we made symmetrical snowflakes. In grade 4 we talked about tolerance and respecting differences and made a collage 3-D house which will be part of a village. In Grade 5 we discussed being proud of being an individual and the students then made "Freak" flags celebrating their uniqueness.

You can reinforce your child's appreciation and understanding of Peace and Cultural Diversity by:

- Referring to religious and ethnic groups by their correct names, and show respect for their celebrations and customs;
- Bring your child to cultural festivals, concerts or other events;
- Help your child learn about other cultures by using a character on television or an event in the news as a starting point for an exploration

into the beliefs and practices of an ethnic group;

- d. Discuss your own ethnic and cultural heritage. Work on a family tree together. Learn traditional crafts, songs, dances and recipes your ancestors used to do. (Thanks to Positive Promotions for the above ideas.)
- e. Visit the Internet or your local library to do some research on different cultures;
- f. Have a violence free TV/movie time;
- g. Purchase violence free video/computer games and music CD's;
- h. Be a peace loving and respectful role model for your child.

We live in a multicultural world that is becoming more local and hands on as technology brings us closer and closer together. In order for us to co-exist in this local world we have to show respect and understanding to all people regardless of race, religion or political beliefs. Our children are the movers, shakers and leader of tomorrow. Let's leave them a world that is safe and bias free.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call me or email me. I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Mary Beth Ditoro
School Counselor

Reading Specialist's News

As readers, we are actively thinking. We make predictions based on prior knowledge and we visualize characters and action. Readers also make connections. When you read, model for your children how you make the following connections:

- Text-to-Self: Explain to your children how something in your book or magazine reminds you of something in your own life.
- Text-to-Text: Show your child how books can be alike. Maybe the main character of the book reminds you of a main character in another book. Perhaps the author's style is similar to another author.
- Text-to-World: Show children how books connect to the broader world. A book you're reading might express a theme of volunteerism reminding you of such organizations as Habitat for Humanity.

Active readers make many different types of connections in order to expand and extend their comprehension. As readers grow in understanding and experience, a previously read book could take on deeper and richer meaning. When you share your thinking with your children, they gain an inside understanding of what successful readers do.

Arlene Amendolara
Reading Specialist

ART

We are starting the New Year off with some very exciting projects.

Our fourth graders are finishing a village of 3-D houses which we made as an integrated lesson on peace and tolerance with Mrs. Ditoro. Their houses are made with handmade textured papers applied to recycled food boxes. They are bright, colorful and detailed. Each house is unique to the artist, all different, and students celebrate and appreciate the originality of their peers. Regardless of the differences, we all come together to create a community and a beautiful one at that.

Our first and second grade students are currently working with clay. First grade is making a textured pouch. It is their first experience with clay and they are learning to apply textured impressions and bond pieces of clay with a technique of scoring. Second grade students are making a plaque. They have learned to roll a slab of clay and hand roll coils to create a design.

Third grade students are finishing beautiful radial symmetrical snowflake designs; another integrated lesson with Mrs. Ditoro on peace and accepting differences. Perfect for our recent cold weather.

Fifth grade students are creating a "freak flag" which is a symbolic representation of what makes them unique and different. Students are learning to express themselves in a non-threatening, accepting environment where their interests and opinions are valued.

Pam Alexander
Art Teacher

ENRICHMENT

Despite wind, snow, and ice the 5th graders finished the stock market challenge. In October the students purchased \$100,000 worth of stock and tracked it for two months to see how well they had chosen. As most of us know, this fall has not been good to the stock market and there were some pretty big losses. In a preliminary sheet sent to me by the Union Leader all teams in the elementary division ended in the red except for one team, "The Moneyman" from Atkinson Academy. This team from Brian Shawley's class finished with a profit of \$2,553.28. Although they lost money from Google they made money from Apple, AT&T, and Kohl's. Lauren Geary, Conor Osborn, Jonathan LaFrance, and Joshua Battistelli will be traveling to Merrimac sometime this winter where they will be honored by Fidelity Investments.

The top team in Mrs. Rath's class was "The Dollar Savers". Liana Lessard, Robby Cordova, Nina King, and Jarret Vezina were able to finish with only a \$2,692.10 loss. Their main winner was Walmart. The top team from Mrs. Targonski's class was team "LNDM". Laurie Martin, Nicole Marquis, Daniel Rapisarda, and Michael Adams were able to finish with just a \$4,919.33 loss. Their biggest winner was the 3M Company. The top team from Mrs. Lozowski's class was the "Business Birdys". Katie Salvagno, Molly Wilmot, Melissa Page, and Jarret Spang were able to finish with only a \$5,587.74 loss. Their top winner was Kohl's.

Despite the losses it was a good lesson for the students to learn. They heard speakers from Fidelity Investments, participated in a mock stock exchange, and made decisions on stock purchases. They know how to read the stock market pages in the newspaper and understand some of the factors behind gains and losses. All

of the students had fun and we are very proud of their accomplishments.

Sandra Bauer
Enrichment

Office News

There are several new and old procedures we would like to bring to your attention as follows:

- Please send a note when your student is taking a bus other than his or her assigned bus or will go in the car pickup line (change in going home forms can be found online at www.atkinsonacademy.com; we have also recently sent home blank forms in the shuttle). Please include the student's full name, teacher name and date. **New Procedure:** Due to safety reasons, we are no longer accepting phone calls or emails with changes to going home. You may either bring a note to the office or come in early and have the student dismissed. This procedure is noted in the Student Handbook. Thank you for your cooperation.
- The bus company has asked that we accept no additional riders for BUS #106. It is full to capacity with regular riders.
- If your child has been designated as a car pickup, please do not park your car and come to the front of the building to wait for your child. You should get in the line of cars formed out front. This is a safety concern. Also, please use your directional lights when leaving the parking lot.
- Notices that are school related will be sent home in the student's shuttle every Friday. All other flyers will be sent home on Monday's or Tuesday's.

- The building closes everyday at 3:45. No one will be permitted into the building for forgotten homework or other items.
- School hours are from 8:40-3:10. Please do not drop off your child before 8:20 AM. The child may be unattended if dropped off earlier.
- Call the school absence line, 362-5521 (x303) when your child will be absent or tardy (this saves us a phone call to you).
- Update phone numbers and emergency contacts promptly.
- Drop items off at the office and we will deliver them to your child. We prefer that you not go to the classroom directly as this disrupts the education process.
- Sign in and wear a visitor pass if you are going beyond the office.
- Put names in your child's jackets, sweatshirts and other belongings.
- Please write your child's name on the memo line of checks that you send to the school. This would be helpful to the cafeteria when recording payments to the student's lunch account.
- Please note the Monday Morning Meeting start time of **9:00 am.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2/2-2/6 - Book Fair Week
- 2/3 - Book Fair, All Welcome, 3-7 pm
- 2/4 - Book Fair, All Welcome, 3-7 pm
- Jump Rope Club, 3:15-4:30 pm
- 2/5 - School Deliberative Session, 7 pm, PAC
- 2/6 - Newsletter Posted to Website
- Ski Club, 3-7 pm
- 2/9 - Monday Morning Meeting, 9:00 am
- 2/10 - EARLY RELEASE, 1:10
NO AM & PM Kindergarten
- 2/11 - Jump Rope Club, 3:15-4:30 pm
- 2/13 - Ski Club, 3-7 pm
- 2/18 - Jump Rope Club, 3:15-4:30 pm
- 2/20 - Ski Club Makeup, 3-7 pm
- 2/23 - 2/27 NO SCHOOL-WINTER BREAK

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LUNCH SCHEDULE

The following schedule should help you with plans for lunch with your students:

- 1st Grade
 - RECESS 11:45 - 12:05
 - LUNCH 12:10 - 12:30
 - 2nd Grade
 - LUNCH 11:45 - 12:05
 - RECESS 12:10 - 12:30
 - 3rd Grade
 - RECESS 12:15 - 12:35
 - LUNCH 12:40 - 1:00
 - 4th Grade
 - LUNCH 11:25 - 11:45
 - RECESS 11:00 - 11:20
 - 5th Grade
 - RECESS 11:25 - 11:45
 - LUNCH 11:00 - 11:20
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Early Release Dates

- Below is the schedule for Early Release days, including the AM and PM Kindergarten schedule:
 - * 10/2/08 - AM Kindergarten only, NO PM
 - * 11/20/08 - NO AM or PM Kindergarten
 - * 12/16/08 - NO AM or PM Kindergarten
 - * 1/28/08 - AM Kindergarten only, NO PM
 - * 2/10/08 - NO AM or PM Kindergarten
 - * 3/25/08 - NO AM or PM Kindergarten
 - * 4/21/08 - NO AM or PM Kindergarten
 - * 5/14/08 - AM Kindergarten only, NO PM
- Dismissal is at 1:10 pm**
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PTA NEWS

Happy New Year to all! Your PTA board is already hard at work trying to come up with some new and different things to ring in the new year. We are working on building an indoor mini golf course for a fun family day in March. We are planning a great day in April for our Walk-a-thon, postponed from October. And we are trying to line up some presenters for a couple of general PTA meetings for the New Year.

The Scrip fundraiser was successful bringing in about \$600 in the 4-6 weeks that it was run in November/December. Just a reminder, this is an ongoing fundraiser, if you plan ahead, you can order gift cards for your weekly trips to Wal-mart, birthday gift purchases or just everyday shopping needs and help the children too. Thank you to all for helping us out.

The PTA is working on another sweatshirt deal, though this one is not limited in time. These sweatshirts will be available for order throughout the year and will be priced around \$25. The details are being worked out and the announcement should be out shortly.

Thank you all for your support of the PTA and remember that membership has privileges!

Carolyn Longchamp
PTA President

MISCELLANEOUS

Kindergarten September 2009

Incoming Kindergarten

2009-2010

Registration for incoming kindergarten students has begun! If you have a child or know of a child that will be 5 years old by September 30, 2009, please call the office at 362-5521 X300 or come in to fill out a kindergarten registration form.

New Students

Parents of new students planning on enrolling at Atkinson Academy in September 2009, including those who will be new to the first grade, should call the school office to register their children.