

# ATKINSON ACADEMY - April, 2007

17 Academy Avenue, Atkinson, NH 03811

(603) 362-5521

## NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Atkinson families,

I'm sure everyone is looking forward to a warm sunny spring break after the recent miserable spell of cold and rain. I want to commend our students and staff for staying focused on school despite weather disruptions and many indoor recesses.

As the end of the school year is nearing, I am writing again this year about class placement for next fall. If you have input about your student, you may write or e-mail me by the end of May. We are interested in "friends" issues and academic or social input. We prefer not to receive requests for specific teachers. We consider these requests but do not promise specific placements.

Early in the year we wrote and asked you to consider healthy snacks or non-food treats for student birthday celebrations. I'd like to remind you that we are still promoting healthy food choices, and we discourage cupcakes and other less nutritious treats. I will start recognizing summer birthdays during lunches after vacation.

In light of recent events in Virginia, I want to remind all of you that crisis planning at Atkinson Academy is an ongoing

process. Keeping your children safe at all times continues to be our primary concern. We have recently developed a plan for student dismissal in the event of an off-site evacuation. In order to practice and test our plan, we will be having a short dismissal "practice" in May. Please watch for a notice about this. We will be asking for parent volunteers to arrive to pick up your student about 45 minutes early so that we can practice our student release procedures.

As always, I welcome your comments or questions at extension 301 or at [hwebster@atkinsonacademy.com](mailto:hwebster@atkinsonacademy.com). Enjoy your vacation!

Heidi Webster  
Principal



## FROM THE GYM

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on some important upcoming dates on to you.

Field days will be the week of Memorial Day:

Tuesday, 5/29 : 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Wednesday, 5/30 : 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Thursday, 5/31 : 2nd and 3rd Grades

Friday, 6/1 : 1<sup>st</sup> and Multi-age

Weather permitting, the children will be traveling through a series of activity stations from 9-11 AM on each of these days. I will be sending home a reminder notice and request for volunteers shortly after we return from April vacation. We would appreciate any and all assistance that you can give.

For fifth grade parents (and students), we will be doing our annual hike of Mt. Major on Tuesday, June 12. This is an all day event. We will be leaving the school at 7:45 AM and returning before 3. If you (or even older siblings or relatives) can join us, you will not be disappointed. It is always a great time for all. I will be sending home a permission slip for the hike in mid-May.

I hope everyone has an active, eventful, and DRY vacation week.

Jeff Goddard  
PE Teacher

## LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW

Wag a Tail

Written and illustrated by Lois Ehlert

Colored buttons, fabric scraps, and handmade paper make up a distinctive collage of pictures accompanied by a simple text. A group of doggies, all graduates of the Bow Wow School, make their way to a farmers market, where they enjoy the simple pleasures of roaming around the market, eventually ending up at a dog park. The last pages provide the reader with information on each dog, including its name and characteristics (Bebe: Loyal, but difficult to train".) An author's note provides additional information on the materials used in the illustrations. Ehlert is famous for her collage illustrations. Other books include Leaf Man and Pie in the Sky.

Ryan and Jimmy and the Well in Africa that Brought Them Together

Written by Herb Shoveller

When six year old Ryan Hreljac's first grade teacher mentions to his class that there are countries in the world that do not have access to clean drinking water, he decides to do something about it. Offering to do household chores to raise money to purchase a well for an entire community, Ryan's efforts eventually receive international attention and the simple project becomes far more successful than Ryan's initial dream of one well. A friendship also develops over the years with Akana Jimmy, a young orphan from Agweo Village, Uganda. They eventually meet in Uganda in 2000 where Ryan's family manages to save Jimmy from becoming a child soldier in a resistance army. Because his life is in great danger, Jimmy travels back with the Hreljacs to Canada and is granted asylum. The Hreljac's eventually adopt Jimmy into their family. This is a wonderful account of how one young child can make a difference in the world. Photographs are plentiful in this book, but the best one of all is the front cover showing a smiling Ryan and Jimmy.

Ellen Beckwith, Library Media Specialist

## FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

There have been a minimum of 28 identified cases of strep throat in school since January. Strep throat tends to be manifested by a sore throat with or without fever, tender swollen neck glands, headache and stomach ache. Children are most likely to pass strep on to others when they have symptoms and until they have been on antibiotics for 24 hours. Diagnosis is made by a throat culture.

Please help us prevent this disease and the spread of colds in general by keeping your children home if they are ill. Treatment of a communicable disease i.e.: strep throat, conjunctivitis and impetigo all require that the child be on medication for 24 hours prior to returning to school.

We encourage staff and students to do proper hand washing with soap and water, careful handling of secretions and proper cough etiquette. The school is diligent about disinfecting common areas. Individual water bottles are recommended, food sharing is discouraged and frequent change of toothbrushes are helpful.

We hope with a week off and anticipated warmer weather that we will return in May healthy and eager to learn.

Linda Tobin  
Nurse



## ART

The Atkinson Academy website now has photos of the student's artwork for 2007. Just click on 'Photo Album' and '2007 Student Artwork' and you will be able to view them. Enjoy!

Pam Alexander  
Art Teacher

## Counselor's Corner

The following is an excerpt on crisis and school violence that I received from the President of the NY State School Counselors Association in response to the horrific tragedy this week at Virginia Tech.

1. Reassure children that they are safe. Emphasize that schools are very safe. Validate their feelings. Explain that all feelings are okay when a tragedy occurs. Let children talk about their feelings, help put them into perspective and assist them in expressing these feelings appropriately.
2. Make time to talk. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide.
3. Keep your explanation developmentally appropriate. **Early elementary school** children need brief, simple information that should be balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them. **Upper elementary children** will be more vocal in asking questions about whether

they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance in separating reality from fantasy.

4. Review safety procedures both at home and at school.
5. Observe children's emotional state. Some children may not express their concerns verbally. Changes in behavior, appetite, and sleep patterns can also indicate a child's level of anxiety.
6. LIMIT TELEVISION VIEWING of these events.
7. Maintain a normal routine.

Our children will do as well as the adults around them. Please take care of yourself. Remember not to voice your fears to your children; voice your concerns to other adults who can give you support. Voice confidence in your child's safety at school.

I wish you a wonderful, relaxing spring break.

Mary Beth Ditoro  
School Counselor

Other News

Timberlane Regional Middle School incoming sixth grade parent night is May 14th, 6:30 - 8:00, at the PAC.

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### Don't forget to:

- Call the school absence line, 362-5521 (x303) when your child will be absent (this saves us a phone call to you!). **PLEASE NOTE:** The nurse's new extension for other calls is **314**.
- School hours are 8:30-3:00. Please do not drop off students before 8:15.
- Send in a note when your student will be dismissed early (please, no later than 2:30).
- Send a note when your student is taking a bus other than his or her assigned bus (change in going home forms can be found online at [www.atkinsonacademy.com](http://www.atkinsonacademy.com)). Please include the student's full name, teacher name and date.
- Update phone numbers and emergency contacts promptly.
- Drop items off at the office and we will deliver them to your child. Please do not go to the classroom directly.
- Sign in and wear a visitor pass if you are going beyond the office.
- Put names in your child's coats and other belongings.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 4/23 - 4/27 - **SCHOOL VACATION**
- 5/3 - Early Release, 1:00 pm
- 5/4 - Picture Retake & 5th Grade Class Picture
- 5/8 - Field Trip to Eric Carle Museum,  
Camire, Wilson, MacDougall
- 5/9 - PAC Musical, Grades 2 & 3  
- Field Trip to Eric Carle Museum,  
Bell, Perron
- 5/10 - Field Trip to Eric Carle Museum,  
Dulong, Toth  
- Starlab Visit, Gymnasium
- 5/11 - Incoming First Grade Visit,  
8:45-10:45 AM
- 5/14 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Info. Night at the  
PAC, 6:30 pm  
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Freedom Trail
- 5/14-5/24 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade NECAP Pilot Testing
- 5/15 - Field Trip to Eric Carle Museum,  
Swirbalus, Wayss
- 5/22 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip, Odiorne Point
- 5/23 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Field Trip, Boston Aquarium
- 5/28 - **NO SCHOOL - MEMORIAL DAY**
- 5/29 - Field Day - Grade 5  
- Band Demo, Grades 3 and 4
- 5/30 - Field Day - Grade 4
- 5/31 - Field Day - Grades 2 & 3
- 6/1 - Field Day - Grade 1  
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Move Up Day
- 6/6 - Kindergarten Parent Information Night  
7:00 pm

**LUNCH SCHEDULE**

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

1 <sup>st</sup> Grade		
	RECESS	11:45 - 12:05
	LUNCH	12:10 - 12:30
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade		
	LUNCH	11:45 - 12:05
	RECESS	12:10 - 12:30
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade		
	RECESS	12:15 - 12:35
	LUNCH	12:40 - 1:00
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
	LUNCH	11:00 - 11:20
	RECESS	11:25 - 11:45
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade		
	RECESS	11:00 - 11:20
	LUNCH	11:25 - 11:45