

# ATKINSON ACADEMY - May, 2007

17 Academy Avenue, Atkinson, NH 03811

(603) 362-5521

## NEWSLETTER

**Please note:**

The last day of school is Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>.  
Dismissal is at 12:00 noon.

*FROM THE PRINCIPAL:*

Dear Atkinson families,

It has been another terrific year, and I thank you again for your support of the school, and for all the work each of you does to ensure that your child is successful at school.

Our new kindergarten classrooms are rapidly becoming a reality. The elementary administrators district-wide have been working hard to put together a program that will ensure a quality kindergarten from day one. We are very excited to be welcoming a whole new grade level. Our student numbers next year will be up over 500!

Last month I mentioned a possible emergency dismissal drill. This is the procedure we will use to dismiss students by car in case of emergency, either here at school or at an offsite location. On Friday June 8<sup>th</sup> we are asking for your

voluntary cooperation for this drill. If you can come to pick up your student at the main entrance at **2:15** or shortly after, we are going to have a trial run. Your student will not be cited for an early dismissal. We do not need to know if you are coming, as we want to make this situation as authentic as possible. Simply drive in, or get in line, and follow directions. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in helping us develop procedures to keep your students safe at all times.

We will be starting the process of making class lists next week. Please call with input soon if you have not already.

Best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Heidi Webster  
Principal



## FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

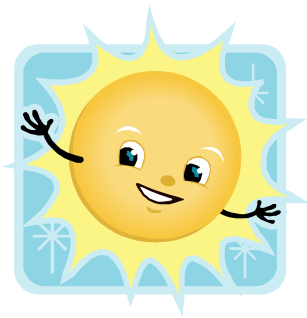
Toward the end of every school year, parents often ask what they can do during summer vacation to continue their child's learning.

In the last shuttle I will be sending home EveryDay Math games and activities for each grade level. The activities that have been chosen will continue to reinforce grade level skills.

I also encourage you to have your children continue to read during the vacation. The Kimball Library is once again hosting a summer program, "Read Across America". This is a free program with weekly activities that foster reading.

Have a great summer!

Kathie Dayotis  
Assistant Principal/Curriculum Coordinator



## FROM THE GYM

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me this year with Jump Rope Club and Jump Rope For Heart. In advance I would also like to thank everyone who will be helping with field days and the fifth grade hike. I know that the kids appreciate your help and participation as much as I do.

I hope everyone has a safe and very active summer. Thanks again.

Jeff Goddard  
PE Teacher

## LIBRARIAN'S REVIEW

### Oink?

Written by Margie Palatini

Illustrated by Henry Cole

Thomas and Joseph are typical pigs - sloppy, lazy, dirty, accompanied by a certain ripeness, but perfectly content. However several other barnyard friends feel the need to rehabilitate the porkers. Thereupon lies the gist of the story -barnyard animals teaching Thomas and Joseph the basics of barnyard etiquette, while the two porkers just "don't get it". It isn't until the end of the story, when the other animals realize they have been duped, that the humor reaches a surprising conclusion. This is somewhat of a Little Red Hen in reverse. Readers will enjoy the comic illustrations while reading the spare text.

### Weedflower

Written by Cynthia Kadohata

Twelve year old Sumiko lives with her aunt and uncle on a flower farm in California. Her world is turned upside down on December 7, 1941, when she realizes that as a Japanese American, she will

now be suspect concerning her loyalty to America. Anything that symbolizes Japan must be burned, including a framed picture of her dead parents because there is a Japanese flag in the background. Then the ultimate indignity occurs. She is shipped to an internment camp on an Indian reservation in Arizona. There she befriends a Mojave Indian boy, who is just as angry that Japanese are living on their reservation. Sumiko discovers that the plight of Native Americans can be even more challenging than that of Japanese Americans. Hope wins out in the end of this story, but the book itself provides a realistic insight about this sad era in our country's history.

Ellen Beckwith  
Library Media Specialist

## FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

Mrs. Tobin's Top Ten List For Daily Healthy Living:

1. Sleep - get at least 8-10 hours a night.
2. Eat breakfast-avoid high sugar foods.
3. Bring a healthy snack to school.
4. Do something physical every day.
5. Read or have someone read to you.
6. Brush teeth at least twice a day, floss and change your toothbrush every few months.
7. Wash hands often, always before eating and after using the bathroom.
8. Drink water (at least 6 glasses a day).
9. Use kind words and do kind acts.
10. Take a mini relaxation break - close eyes, breathe in slowly and deeply through the nose, slowly let breath out through the nose.

It was my pleasure meeting all of you this year. I wish you all a happy, fun and safe summer vacation!

Linda Tobin  
Nurse

## Music News

First graders are playing some fun singing games.

Second graders learned about the musical form Rondo, and experienced it with movement and speech. They also danced and sang Mexican music.

Third graders have learned to play and read seven notes on the recorder. They have been discovering how reading music helps them to learn new music faster.

Fourth graders have experienced variation in music from a Mozart piano piece, a welcome dance from Liberia, to an orchestral theme and variation on the tune "Pop Goes the Weasel."

Fifth graders are having a quick tour of twentieth century music and will be sharing their favorite music with me.

Joyce Peavey  
Music Teacher

## Band

**Attention: Parents of current 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> grade students.**

If your child wants to play a band or string instrument next year...he or she must sign up NOW!

Come to the Timberlane Performing Arts Center either Mon. June 18 or Tues. June 19 (your choice - times to be announced) to sign your child up for band or strings. There will be NO fall sign ups.

Band & String instruments are open to current 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> graders. String Instruments (violin, viola & cello) are open to current 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.

Because a lot of elementary school children have never been exposed to band or string instruments before, we have developed the "Start Up Band & String Program", which helps young students decide which instrument best fits their body structure and personality.

Experienced instrumentalists and instructors will be available to help you and your child with their decision. Instruments offered are: Violin, Viola, Cello, Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone and Percussion. (Sorry no piano or guitar.)

Once the children choose their instrument, they are given the opportunity to rent an instrument (if they do not have their own). Then we give them 3 beginning lessons on June 20, 21 and 22. The lessons are offered at a reduced rate and are held in the morning and/or evening to accommodate working parents.

Look for more information to follow in your weekly shuttle.

Questions: contact Debbie Lincoln via her school email [dlincoln@atkinsonacademy.com](mailto:dlincoln@atkinsonacademy.com) or 642-6623 (Home)

Debbie Lincoln  
Band Teacher

## Computer/Health

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of the school year. The first graders have been very busy learning about computers. They have learned how to change font style, size and color. We have used TuxPaint and KidPix to make classroom books. For the next few weeks we will be exploring a new program that we just got in the computer lab called Kidspiration.

In second grade and in multi age the students have written wonderful acrostic poems about Canada and the seasons of the year. They have learned how to insert clipart and borders. Right now the students are using information that they learned about nutrition to make their own PowerPoint presentation about eating a well balanced diet.

Third and fourth graders have finished the unit on nutrition and are now discussing making good choices and the dangers of using drugs. In fifth grade technology the students are creating surveys and putting their data into Excel to make charts. They have also used the programs Inspiration and Printshop. They are sharing brochures about their schools with other schools in the district. This is a great opportunity for them to "meet" each other before they start middle school together next fall.

I have had a wonderful year with your children.  
Have a great summer.

Anna Lizier  
Computer/Health Teacher

# ART

Our year in art is ending with some big projects.

Our fifth graders are finishing their unit on one-point perspective with the completion of a clay box or cube. They were built and assembled with slab construction and glazed.

Fourth graders finished up their 3-D people and are now learning to draw the side view of a person's face.

Third graders are now glazing their Navajo pots and will finish the year studying color mixing.

Second graders have taken home their Mexican clay suns. They all did an outstanding job this year. There were so many clever expressions.

First graders have been busy mixing colors and learning about different color groups. Some first graders and our multi-age classes are working with image making collages; inspired by their visit to the Eric Carle Museum. They are using different painting techniques to decorate paper that will then be made into a collage picture.

Parents, please remember that your fifth graders will be bringing home their art journals at the end of the year. Our art journals are unique to our school. They are a collection of art lessons that reflect the NH frameworks of art standards and our district art curriculum. Please look through your child's journal and show them that you appreciate three years of hard work and effort.

I would also like to thank Yvonne Tsai for volunteering in her daughter Natalie's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class. One of Yvonne's many talents is making beads out of glass. She shared her art and also talked about glass blowing and Zulu beads made by the Maasai of Kenya.

Pam Alexander  
Art Teacher

## Counselor's Corner

Next to being President of the USA, parenting is the most difficult job a person can undertake.

We are educated and trained to become part of the work force, be it professional, para-professional or laborer. We are given a test to qualify to drive a car. We need a license to hunt, fish or even get married. Yet, there are no qualifications needed to be a parent. We inherit our parenting skills from our parents. We generally model their behaviors or do the opposite of what our parents did.

Here are a few tips to make you a happier parent.

1. Make 2 positive statements about yourself in the presence of your child every day. Give it a two-week try or better yet, make it a life-time habit!
2. Do something nice for yourself. Show your children that you consider yourself a person of worth.
3. Don't take yourself too seriously. Ask yourself what the long-range implications of a given act are. If there are none, why are you upset?
4. Learn to laugh. Look for delightful, amusing, and funny situations in your everyday life. The subtleties are sometimes the best.
5. When you evaluate your day, evaluate what you did right and take pleasure in them. If you need to correct an error, do so but don't dwell on it.
6. Like yourself!!
7. Schedule time for yourself everyday
8. Set up an exercise program and stick to it.
9. Eat healthy foods and drink lots of water.

Your children learn from you. By modeling these positive tips your children will learn to like themselves, respect the way you take care of

yourself and grow up with positive parenting skills of their own.

Happy Memorial Day! Take time to plant your garden, go for a walk or have a family barbeque. Don't forget to wear bug spray to ward off those nasty little black flies.

Mary Beth Ditoro  
School Counselor

## Reading Specialist's News

Summer is a season of sun and fun, but it can also be a time when children lose ground in reading. In order to ensure that doesn't happen, make books part of the summer routine. The following tips will help you keep your children reading:

- Find books about summer activities or places such as baseball or the seacoast.
- Keep a bag of books in the car to take to the beach, pool, or park.
- Subscribe to magazines that focus on your child's special interests. You can also check them out of the library.
- Make regular trips to the library. Check out their summer program.
- Read before taking a trip—travel brochures or stories about the place that you're visiting.
- Set TV, video game, and computer limits. Balance those activities with reading for pleasure.
- Be a model. Let your children see you reading and discuss what you read with them. Talk about newspaper articles, movie reviews, or comic strips.

Make summer a refreshing time, a time for children to relax and enjoy the world, and extend their pleasure with a book. Have a great summer!

Arlene Amendolara  
Reading Specialist

### **NOTE FROM THE CAFETERIA**

We would like to wish you all a fun and safe summer vacation!

Mrs. Nickerson, Food Service Manager  
Mrs. Smith  
Mrs. Tisbert  
Mrs. Gauron

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

- The Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast will be on Monday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Refreshments will be served in the Computer Lab at 8:30, followed by a presentation at Monday Morning Meeting. We hope to see all our wonderful volunteers to show our appreciation for your hard work throughout the year!!
- If you are moving out of Atkinson over the summer, please call or notify the office in writing as soon as possible. Also, if you have new neighbors or know of anyone else who needs to register a student for next year, please have them call the office as soon as possible.
- All Timberlane district schools will be closed on Fridays through the summer. During July, the Atkinson Academy office will be open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and on other days by chance.

**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.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- 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
- 6/4 - Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, 8:30 am
- 6/6 - Kindergarten Parent Info. Night, 7:00 pm
- 6/8 - Emergency Dismissal DRILL, 2:15 pm
- 6/11 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Celebration, 7:00 pm  
- **NO Monday Morning Meeting**
- 6/12 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mt. Major Hike
- 6/13 - Rocket Launch, 8:30 am
- 6/15 - Last Day of School; Early Dismissal, 12:00

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