

## BOW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL &amp; THE ARTS

ART APPRECIATION *Kim Bryant & Mary Straub*

The Bow Elementary School art program introduces students to a wide variety of art materials and techniques so that children can explore and find their own artistic interests and strengths, which will promote a lifelong appreciation of the arts. By allowing students to explore all of these media and techniques they will have more opportunities to find their own interests and outlets for expression.

Our art curriculum is based on the State Frameworks for the arts. We also integrate Art History and Grade Level Units of Study. Some of the integrated lessons that we have done this year are; Clay Pueblo Story Teller dolls, Symmetry Monarch Butterflies, Woods Walk Paintings, Woven Headbands, and Community Clay Bead Necklaces. Our art department also incorporates technology into the curriculum. This year fourth grade students are learning how to use a digital camera and edit the photos in IPhoto. We often have students share artwork that they have created at home or made by family members. This encourages an appreciation for the artist and that everyone can be an artist. We also have a visiting artist work with our arts program. Music, PE, and art rotate having a visiting artist work with students in our classroom. The art department also works with other specialists creating artwork for music performances, literacy bulletin boards, visiting authors and artists. We are also planning on displaying some artwork at the Baker Free Library in the spring. We also participate in Artsonia, the largest kids art museum on the internet. It's a great way for students to share what they create and to see what other kids are creating all over the world.

PHYSICAL FITNESS *Regan Dowe & Joan Tinker*

The focus of the physical education curriculum at Bow Elementary School is on motor skills, movement concepts, and health related fitness. Intertwined throughout the curriculum is the development of desirable social skills, experiences that help children have positive self concepts, and physical skills that allow students to participate in and enjoy physical activity throughout their lifetime.

Students in the 1st and 2nd grades are introduced and begin to develop fundamental motor skills. These include locomotor skills like walking and running, non-locomotor skills such as bending and twisting and manipulative skills such as striking and rolling. Students in grades 3 and 4 further their development and application of fundamental motor skills in practicing specialized motor skills that are used in sports such as basketball and soccer.

Movement concepts are introduced to bring out the movement potential of children and develop their movement vocabulary. Health related fitness concepts are incorporated into each lesson for all grade levels. The physical education classroom also offers an environment of effective social learning.

Lifetime participation is the ultimate goal of our program. Our programs offer activities in the lessons that engage the child's interest and enjoyment, so that they will seek further participation. Preparation in, and orientation to, many different activities provides a background to help students make choices for a lifetime of recreational enjoyment.

This year we have the pleasure of hosting The First Tee of NH Golf and Life Skills Program. The program seeks to foster character education practices through the life-long activity of golf. Students in grades 1-4 will be participating in the weeklong program.

## UPCOMING DATES:

- FEB. 10TH-GR. 3 CAPITAL CENTER FOR THE ARTS FIELD TRIP
- FEB. 10TH & 11TH-GR. 2 COUNTRY DANCING
- FEB. 20TH-SENIOR LUNCHEON DAY
- FEB. 20TH-SHOWCASE
- MARCH 5- GR 1 CONCERT
- MARCH 9-13- FIRST TEE GOLF & LIFE SKILLS ARTIST IN RESIDENCE
- MARCH 13- TRIMESTER 2 CLOSES
- MARCH 16TH & 17TH- GR 4 NH STATE HOUSE FIELD TRIP
- MARCH 26- REPORT CARDS GOING HOME

## MEDIA CENTER *Kim Brewster*

### Ladybug Books have landed!

The "Ladybug Picture Book Award" promotes early literacy and honors the best in recent children's picture books. Each year, a committee of New Hampshire librarians choose 10 books which are recommended to be shared with students across New Hampshire. This special award is a project of the New Hampshire State Library. During election week students vote for their favorite book and the winner is announced in early December.

Bow Elementary School Librarians collaborated with Sue Kurtz (REACH program), classroom teachers and many wonderful guest readers from around the school and district to share these books aloud with our students. With many of these books we were able to do fun follow up activities with the students. Our favorite, *When Dinosaur's Came with Everything* by Elise Broach, won the Ladybug Book Award at the state level.

### The Great Stone Face!

The "Great Stone Face Books" consist of 25 contemporary books chosen by New Hampshire Children's Librarians (CHILIS) to promote reading enjoyment, contemporary literature and to honor a favorite author. During library visits, Fourth Graders have listened to Book Talks for these books and have visited Nancy Keane's Book Talk website. Students have been encouraged to leave comments on a graffiti board in the library after listening to

or reading a "Great Stone Face Book".

Here at BES, in a collaborative effort with the Library, Sue Kurtz (REACH) and guest readers, we are able to provide Literary Lunch, which is an opportunity for Fourth Graders to sign up to hear a "Great Stone Face" book read aloud during their lunch and recess time. Students will be voting on their favorite book during National Library Week in April.

### Be Safe on the Internet!

Kindergartners, First Graders and Second Graders have recently completed a unit on internet safety (i-SAFE). They have focused on comparing our community to the world wide cyber community, the importance of having a trusted adult with them when they are on the internet, and following safety rules (i.e. not talking to strangers and not to give out personal information). The Third and Fourth Graders have focused on these same skills at a more in depth level. Third and Fourth Grade Students will continue to learn about intellectual property, copyright and citing sources on the internet. Grade Four Students have also discussed cyber bullying and strategies they can use to help prevent being bullied. <http://isafe.org>



### Library Lessons!

Lessons continue to be an integral part of library visits during "fixed" library visits as well as "flexible" library visits. During "fixed" library visits classes come in each week for a lesson and/or book browsing and reading time.

During "flexible" times teachers can bring in their classes and we collaborate on research lessons and projects.

Students at various grade levels might learn about any of the following during the year (most of which are connected to grade level curriculums and themes): book care rules, parts of a book (glossary, index...), choosing a just right book, the Dewey Decimal System, how fiction books are organized and how to find them, using the Library Catalog to access materials (older grades), nonfiction vs. fiction, genres, internet safety, website evaluation (older grade levels), how to use reference print materials, using online reference materials, (accessing, selecting, analyzing, evaluating, synthesizing, applying, and communicating information), plagiarism, citing sources, taking dash facts, identifying story elements, Readers' Theatre, participating in story time through stories, music, finger rhymes, songs, puppets and felt boards (younger grades).....

## MUSIC APPRECIATION *Joanne Willemsen & Allison Campbell*

December Holiday Showcase –This year we introduced a faculty tone chime ensemble as well as a 4<sup>th</sup> grade tone chime ensemble at the holiday showcase. 4<sup>th</sup> grade African drummers accompanied a kwanzaa song, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade xylophone players accompanied a winter solstice song, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade sign language leaders lead the school in signing and singing a Christmas song.

2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Country Dance – February 10 and 11- Students are in the process of learning 4-5 country dances that they will perform for their parents. After the students dance they will go ask one of their parents to dance with them. This is when the fun really begins! Dudley and Jacqueline Laufman from

Canterbury provide the music and the calls and the snacks are donated by the parents.

1<sup>st</sup> Grade Bedtime in Bow – March 5 – The first graders are busy learning bedtime songs and stories to share with their families. We will all gather at the Bow High School where students and their teachers will be onstage in their pajamas! We all look forward to the performance which includes a special surprise by the 1<sup>st</sup> grade teachers!

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Spring Concert – April 15 and 16 – All 3<sup>rd</sup> grade music students are introduced to the recorder in January. We all work hard to prepare several songs to play at our spring concert after which we present a short musical. Last year the musical was TALES

OF TEMPLES AND TOMBS, a kids-eye view of ancient Egypt.

4<sup>th</sup> Grade Spring Concert – May 5 and 6 – The 4<sup>th</sup> grade students continue their study of the recorder. They expand on the notes they learned in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and work on more difficult pieces for their concert.

They also present a longer musical that involves the use of costumes and props. This year the 4<sup>th</sup> graders will present the musical THE ADVENTURES OF LEWIS AND CLARK – a musical journey along the Oregon Trail.

## REACH HIGHLIGHTS *Sue Kurtz*

REACH is a program that Recognizes and Honors individual strengths through offering a variety of programs that Encourage students to Achieve great heights in their learning, to stretch their thinking and exercise their minds, and to develop a sense of persevering through a Challenge. The REACH program at BES focuses on three areas: work with teachers on curriculum and instruction, coordinating programs offered to students in classrooms, and coordinating programs offered outside the classroom.

### Highlights:

The weekly **BES Challenge** (grades 3 & 4) and **Partners in Problem Solving** (grades 1 & 2) continue to excite students (and parents) who enjoy a challenge. This is a choice challenge that encourages students to “stretch their brains”. This year the extra challenge of finding \$100 words has been added, and at this time the BES students with the help of their families, have found 102 one hundred dollar words! Each week there are about 100 challenges turned and for those students who are able to keep their focus and turn in all or close to all of the challenges in a school year will be crowned by Queen Cerebral and welcomed into the Royal Brain Society at the end of the year! Oh, it is a sight to see!

Plans and programming are already underway for the 2009 **Invention Convention** school wide extravaganza coming March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>. Students look forward to this annual event and many already have plans underway to model their invention. All second, third and fourth grade classrooms are engaged in looking at past inventions along with the various ways of thinking about inventing during the month of January, “Invention Woman” makes an appearance during each grade level lunch early in February, all Intent to Invent forms are due by the end of February, and an amazing number of kid inventors show up on March 13 ready to pitch their invention idea to the judges. Those students awarded “Best in Grade” by the judges will go on to the state Young Inventors Celebration on April 4.

This is a wonderful creative and innovative outlet for our students, and they are very proud to be able to invent something new that could fill a need or a problem that they or someone they know may have.

**New! Origami Math Club** ~ this year 2 four-week unit origami classes was offered to fourth graders and it was a huge success! The class covered the understanding of geometric terminology and took a look at the difference between polygons and polyhedrons. Students created geometric units by folding paper and then put those units together to create a hexahedron (cube). These soma cubes that were made were then connected to create the pieces of a sonobe puzzle that the students then put together. Their other creation was a skeletal octahedron with a cube placed in the center. The students were very proud of work and are looking forward to another unit origami class this spring where we will persevere through the making of a stellated octahedron.



The **Destination Imagination** program just keeps on growing! A family DI night was held Wednesday October 22 at 6:00 in the BES Cafeteria. Many families came to join in the fun and excitement of creative problem solving. Nine teams were created this year between the Elementary and Middle School to accommodate all those students eager to participate. All teams had coaches and were ready to begin working together the first week in December. The “stuff” has begun to accumulate in corners of rooms, and practice times have advanced to twice a week. Students are excited about their progress in solving their challenge, and are looking to add that WOW factor as they move along in the process. We will have a dress rehearsal with pizza party at the Elementary school on Friday, March 6 as a send off of all the teams to the regional competition held March 7 in Tilton. Bow has always had a strong showing at the Regional level capturing many of the top accolades in creativity and teamwork, and we look forward to another rewarding season!