



BES



BUZZ

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe we are into our third month of school and will soon be sharing the holidays with friends and families. Our days at school are very full and we are proud of the work we are doing each day to advance our practice to better meet student needs.

We welcomed many parents to our Parent Conference days on the 7th and the 10th. We always look forward to opportunities to share news about children's learning and we value this time to partner with you to help achieve common goals. Please remember to contact your child's teacher if you have not yet scheduled a conference. We strive to meet with 100% of BES parents at conference time!

As many of you know, the organization of the report card schedule has changed in the elementary school this year. We have moved to a trimester schedule, meaning report cards will come home three times per year instead of the traditional four. (Parent conferences in November provide a fourth reporting time.) Our new report card, however, will provide much more information than what was provided in the past. This standards-based report card provides information about how your child is progressing to meet the end-of-grade level stan-

dards in each area of the curriculum.

Efforts to develop our standards-based report card have been ongoing for over 14 months. Now teachers are working vigorously to build consistency in the ways we assess learning and report progress. It is exciting work that will benefit our instruction and our students' learning. The first trimester report card will come home on December 11th. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about the new report card and/or your child's progress.

On October 27th, Bow Elementary School was awarded a NH Blue Ribbon Award for our wonderful volunteer program in the 2007-2008 school year, coordinated once again by Deb Alfano. This is the twenty-second consecutive year that our volunteer program has been honored by NH Partners in Education. "The Blue Ribbon Award recognizes the extraordinary efforts of school volunteer coordinators and their volunteer teams for the achievements realized during the previous school year," (www.nhpie.org). The BES faculty and staff deeply appreciate the hours and hours of volunteer time dedicated to supporting our work with students. The

efforts of many volunteers help us provide the excellent programs that benefit our students, our families and our community. If you would like to volunteer, please contact your child's teacher or Deb Alfano at daalfano@comcast.net. When volunteering, please remember to sign in at the office when you arrive. We ask that alternate arrangements be made for younger siblings when you volunteer in classrooms.

At this time of year and throughout the year at BES we count our many blessings. We recognize how fortunate we are to work in such a great community with wonderful children and supportive parents. Education is an investment in our global future and our strong partnerships with families are important to our students' success.

We welcome your questions, concerns and ideas as we move forward in our year. Happy Thanksgiving!

Dr. Deb Gibbens,
Principal

Jane Morrill-Winter,
Assistant Principal

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Mark Your Calendars

- Nov. 22- PTO Craft Fair
- Nov. 24- First and Fourth Grade Feast
- Nov. 26- Teacher Workshop (No School for Students)
- Nov. 27 & 28- Thanksgiving Recess (No school for students)
- Dec. 3- PTO Meeting 7:00p
- Dec. 4- School Board Meeting 7:00-9:30p
- Dec. 11- Report Cards
- Dec 24-Jan 5- Holiday Recess (No school for students)

Preschool

Lee Ann Michelin

Now that we have settled into the preschool routine, the children have decided that school can be a lot of fun! We have enjoyed learning about trees and forests. The weather cooperated so that we could take a hike to the woods behind the school. We gathered leaves, acorns, pine cones, moss, bark and sticks, saw parts of trees up close, and even tripped over a few roots. We saw that some trees have leaves and some have needles. We learned that bark covers the wood, and that each type of tree has different shaped leaves. We read many great books about trees and forests: From Tree to Paper by Wendy Davis, Owl Babies by



Martin Waddell, Chipmunk at Hollow Tree Lane by Victoria Sherrow, and We're Going on a Leaf Hunt by Steve Metzger.

We have also finished up our apple theme and explored pumpkins. We discussed how apples and pumpkins are both round, but come in different sizes. We made some comparisons between small, medium and large sized pumpkins and apples. We read I Am An Apple by Jean Marzollo, The Apple Pie Tree and It's Pumpkin Time, both by Zoe Hall. These books helped us to learn about the life cycles of fruit, from seed to plant to fruit and back to seed again.



We also explored color blending and finger painted some beautiful pumpkins using only red and yellow. Can you guess what color our pumpkins turned out to be?

We also celebrated autumn with some fun songs and fingerplays. Two of our favorite songs follow the books of the same titles: The Little Old Lady Who Was Not Afraid of Anything by Linda Williams and There Was An Old Lady Who Swallowed a Bat by Lucille

Colandro.

For November, we will be sharing and feasting with our families! We will tell you all about it in the next newsletter.

Kindergarten

Patti Bechard, Meredith Bell, Monica Swenson, Kelly Wood



What a beautiful October it has been!

We have been settling into the kindergarten routines that we introduced in September and the kiddos already seem more grown up!

Each week we work in reading groups, math groups, writing workshop and literacy groups (word study). The students are working hard at all the different activities. You may hear that they are working with the classroom teacher, Mrs. Perry, Mrs. McCully or Mrs. Bell. We work as a team to meet the needs of all the children and working in small groups is a great way to do this.

Thank you so much to all of our volun-

teers. Some of you are able to come into the classroom but many more of you help out with work at home or by supplying things for the classroom. We appreciate it all!



Over the next few weeks we are celebrating the season of pumpkins, scarecrows and giving thanks for our families. Each classroom has a party planned on November 21st to celebrate the season. More information about your child's celebration will be coming from the classroom teacher.

We enjoyed the time spent with each of you during Parent Conferences! It was a great opportunity to sit down for 15 uninterrupted minutes to answer your questions and discuss the first couple of months of kindergarten. We all consider it time well spent, thank you for making



the time to come in.

Have a wonderful November!

Patti, Kelly and Monica

Online Magazine Drive Raffle Winners



Paige Grondin- kindergarten
Evelyn Hatem- 1st grade
Nathan Demers- 2nd grade
Abbey Coe- 3rd grade
Andrew Nicholls- 4th grade

Grade 1

**Megan Charpentier, Pat Manning, Tracy Mingarelli, Kim Normandin
Katie Queenan, Robin Rader, Amy Turley**

Students, teachers, and volunteers recently enjoyed an exploration of the NH woodlands to observe seasonal changes and build "Fairy Houses", as a component of an integrated literacy activity. It was a wonderful experience for all. Our study of the forest will be further explored in the spring when we study NH animals and their habitats.

During the month of November students are studying the first Thanksgiving. They are learning about the Pilgrims' journey to America on the Mayflower and the many challenges the Pilgrims faced as they settled in a new land. First graders are especially interested in comparing the life style of Pilgrim children to that of today's children. They



are very surprised by the differences, but are discovering the commonalities too!

Learning about the first Thanksgiving helps the children understand the importance of caring and sharing in their daily lives. Our upcoming Thanksgiving feast with fourth grade book pals will be a wonderful example of this cooperative spirit. The feast will be on Monday, November 24th in the BES cafeteria from 8:45-9:45. We invite first graders to dress in white shirts, and dark pants or skirts, for the celebration. Our book pals will be representing NH Native American tribes. The children will enjoy each other's company and share poems, songs, gifts, and food. The feast is truly a celebration of friendship and we thank all of the

wonderful volunteers who are helping make it possible. A sign-up sheet will be available at Parent Teacher Conferences.



Parent teacher conferences took place on November 7th and 10th. The partnerships between parents and teachers is an important one, and we thank you for taking the time to allow us to share your child's academic and social progress and to give you an opportunity to share your thoughts, observations, and questions that are vital to your child's education.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Amy, Colleen, Robin, Katie, Kim, and Tracy

Grade 2

Lois Ambra, Diane Gerhardt, Patti Lally, Pat Manning, Kristin Menard, Ann West, Lisa White, Kristin Woodman

Dear Families:

Our Tide Pool unit came to an enjoyable and successful conclusion in October. We were fortunate to have gorgeous weather on the day of our field trip. Students were able to spend time outdoors in the tide pools at the Seacoast Science Center at Odiorne State Park, finding and identifying the diverse plants and animals that live in there. If you had walked around the tide pools, you would have seen students carefully moving rocks and examining specimens, and walking carefully so as not to disturb their habitats. You would have heard excited exclamations as they found a unique tide pool inhabitant, and you might have heard quiet humming as students tried to coax a periwinkle out of its shell. We were proud of the background knowledge and enthusiasm that the students brought to their lessons with the naturalists, and were equally proud of their excellent behavior on the trip. Later in the month, students brought in their tide pool projects, and we

all marveled at the creative problem solving that went into constructing the models of their tide pool plants and animals. Students took the role of "teacher" and shared their expertise about the tide pool creature they researched, and we all got to learn from each other. Thank you for supporting your children in this educational activity.

We learned about mask making this past month. This activity was part of a literacy unit on following directions. Students learned about the process of making carnival masks from Venice, stage masks from Japan, and "seasons" masks from the Iroquois in New York. We enjoyed learning, creating, and following directions during these lessons. At the same time, students worked on developing reading skills and learning about this form of writing.

Our second grade classes are in the midst of Harvest Party time. Thank you to all the parents who have planned, supported, and helped out

at these events, which are so enjoyed by the students. We are very appreciative of all that our parents do to support their children's education, from helping with homework to volunteering in class or with projects.

We enjoyed meeting with you early this month to discuss your child's work in second grade. We consider these conferences to be a very important communication venue. Remember, too, that the red homework folder, an email, or a phone call are more ways that you can contact us. Your feedback and concerns are very important to us.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your wonderful families!

Very truly yours,

Lois, Diane, Patty, Kristin, Ann, Lisa, and Kristin



The BES staff wishes you and your family a happy and safe Thanksgiving holiday.



Grade 3

Amy Blau, Martha Hickey, Kelly Lewis, Elaine Mielcarz,
Beth Udelson, Jeanette Whaland

Third grade students are engaged in learning about the past. Using Rigby's big book-Tell Me a Story, students are learning about immigration and their own heritage. Classes are using this book to make the links to ancestors, foreign countries and geography. Some classes are writing



free-verse poetry, too, and applying new vocabulary to their writing. Daily connections are made through our Everyday Math program.

Students enjoyed collecting data, calculating numbers and creating

graphs to display information on the World Series and our recent elections. Teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents and discussing student progress.



Harvest parties are being held, or planned, in our third grade classes celebrating the time of year. And, as the average temperature of our days drop, please help your children remember all

their outdoor gear. November recesses can be quite cool and hats, gloves and warm jackets make time outdoors more enjoyable.



We wish all our families a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

The Third Grade Team



Grade 4

Sandy Bennert, Kathy Gage, Cheryl Hamer, Marti Lawton, Dannie Monahan, Suzie Percy

Our Fourth Graders are completing Unit 3 in Everyday Mathematics! We are so impressed with the skills, problem solving and higher level thinking the students have been tackling! As a reminder, fourth graders should be practicing math facts nightly, with a focus on multiplication and division. Familiarity with these facts will make the procedural steps involving multiplication and division easier.

Reading:

Fourth graders are reading chapter books related to themes and content across fourth grade's social studies curriculum. Some books being read are: Trouble River, Pathki Nana, One For All and a variety of independent novels. Nonfiction books from our Rigby Reading Program are also being used to teach the comprehension strategies of: "Using and Extending What You Know", "Creating and Using Images" and "Monitoring for Meaning". Children have used Non-

Fiction titles such as: Scraping the Sky, Facts About the Fifty States, Therapy Dogs and What Happened to Bodie? Some children have created brochures, designed and written post cards, conducted independent research and presented their findings on a variety of non-fiction texts.

Language Arts:

We have been using the process writing steps to create original, creative writing stories. Authors are focusing on sentence structure, description, awareness of audience and application of skills. Others have written poetry based on American Indian themes.

All fourth graders are exploring concepts related to paragraph writing. Fourth graders are developing topic supporting and summary sentences to convey details and descriptions in a concise paragraph.

Social Studies:

Fourth graders have researched and taken notes from a variety of multimedia resources on the following aspects of NH Native American culture: tribes, homes, foods, tools/weapons, roles and contributions. These notes were then transformed into paragraphs detailing each cultural aspect and published into a NH Native American Paragraph Booklet. Students have been involved in learning Native American songs, reading Native American folklore and legends, creating "skin stories" with symbols and completing various craft activities.

We would like to extend a big "Thank You" to all of the parents who chaperoned our recent field trip to the Warner Indian Museum! We all learned so much about Native American Culture, both tribes native to New Hampshire, as well as tribes from across America!



Library Notes

Kim Brewster, Media Generalist

Please visit our BES Library website at <http://www.bownet.org/library/Default.htm>

The "Ladybug" books are here! Kindergarten- grade 3 students have been listening to our nominated "Ladybug" books. Specialist, classroom teachers, guest readers, and the librarians have been sharing these books aloud with classes. Voting for our favorite book will take place in November. For a complete listing of this year's books please go to our library website and access Literary Events-Ladybug Books.



teers to read either in December, January, or February.

Grades 1 and 2 have been learning about the nonfiction section of the library and it's organization. Grades 3 and 4 have been using the library catalog

on the computer to complete a scavenger hunt. This has helped them to learn how to use the catalog more efficiently. Students can access our library catalog at home through our library website. Preschool has

been listening to pumpkin stories and pumpkin rhymes.

Thank you to Cheryl Young for donating the following book to our library: *Diary of a Wimpy Kid-Greg Heffley's Journal* by Jeff Kinney.

Resources on our Library Website (Find under Reference Resources):

World Book:

Username: bowes

Password:

Enchanted Learning:

Username: bownh

Password:



EBSCO

(Database of magazine/journal articles, newspaper articles, etc-Includes Searchasaurus, and Novelist)

Username: bowe

Password:

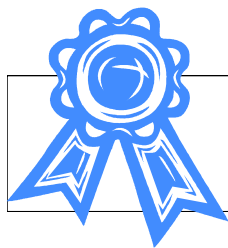
Biography Resource Center

Password:

NewsBank-America's Newspapers

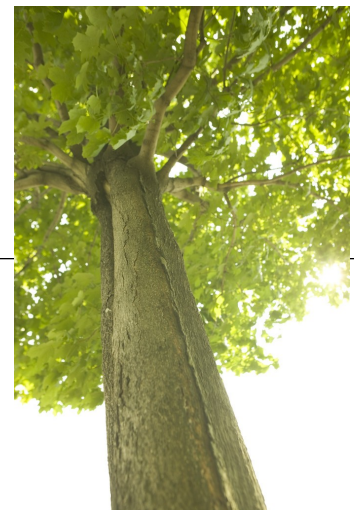
Username: bow

Password:



Congratulations to the PTO and all our volunteers for another Blue Ribbon year last year. We thank you for your dedication.

In an effort to conserve resources, Thursday Notices are being distributed to only one member of each family. The notices will go home with a sibling (usually the older). This conservation approach will save over 100 sets of duplicate copies.



Guidance News

Glenn Berger, School Counselor

How quickly the month flew by! There was a notice this morning letting the staff know that our Buzz News was due today. That being said, I seemed a bit perplexed at how easily time and space seemed compressed during the period of this past month. I suspect it has been an active month full of parental discussions, assisting students over obstacles, sharing value laden stories in class during my instructive lessons, and in general studying about counseling.

During the past six months I have been studying 'Holographic Memory Resolution' as a means of understanding the nature of trauma; how frozen feelings can be held, and how a counselor can be a facilitator in helping others to discover their own resolutions.

The study has been illuminating and I invite your thoughts if you are interested in learning more about my musings.

My Classroom Lessons this month have included:

- K Respect
- 1 Friendship
- 2 Selflessness
- 3 Leadership
- 4 Goal Setting



I appreciate all your inquiries and look forward to sharing with you and participating in the growth of your children. Please call to say hello, to inquire about the complexities and joys of raising children, and to share any questions that arise.

Physical Education

Regan Dowe and Joan Tinker

Third and Fourth grade classes are participating in a Soccer Unit. The unit includes a dribbling skills day followed by a dribbling game day. Next we had a passing skills day followed by a passing game day. Students are encouraged to practice hard to build their skills so that they can earn a game day. The game days are an opportunity to practice the previously learned skill in a game-like situation. The unit concludes with the students participating in a high intensity modified indoor soccer game called Endball. This game is extra exciting because the large goal area is defended by many goalies. It is fun to watch the students build their fundamentals from skill building to games and finally use them in Endball.

First and Second grade classes have been working on manipulative tasks with bean bags, yarn balls, and gator skin balls. Students have challenged themselves with tossing and catching activities. Children also worked very hard learning and practicing underhand and overhand throwing techniques. We practiced throwing at a variety of targets at a variety of distances and levels. Students then had the opportunity to practice their skills in games such as Pizza Party, Spider Web, and Captain Ball.



Artist Gallery

Kim Bryant & Mary Straub

First grade students have been learning about primary and secondary colors. We read the story Mouse Paint and mixed the primary colors to create secondary colors. Student used their prior knowledge of symmetry to cut paper turtles and cut shapes from their color mixing paintings to create designs on the turtle shell.

Second grade students have been talking about the art element texture. We created night owl pictures showing texture in the owl's feathers and on the tree. We also learned about paper construction techniques by making the tree and owl pop-up.

Third grade students have been exploring a variety of art materials and techniques. We looked at some children's books with the theme fall and examined the art materials used in illustrations. Students went to different centers using each of the art materials. We used our explorations to create fall leaves that framed our fall landscape paintings.

Fourth grade students have been reviewing the color wheel. We created radial designs that were turned into color wheels showing primary, secondary and intermediate colors. We also practiced color pencil techniques like blending and changing pencil pressure.

The Reading Corner

Naomi Margolis, Holly Kimball- Rhines,
Melissa Young

Poetry Idea Engine

Recommended for Grades 1-4

Get your poetry juices flowing with the **Poetry Idea Engine** found on the Scholastic website.

Created with GoCyberCamp, this activity will allow you to write and publish your poems online.



Listen to U.S. Children's Poet Laureate Jack Prelutsky read one of his poems, then follow his tips and techniques to have some fun with poetry writing!

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/index.htm>



"Louder Than a Clap of Thunder"

Louder than a clap of thunder,
louder than an eagle screams,
louder than a dragon blunders,
or a dozen football teams,
louder than a four alarmer,
or a rushing waterfall,
louder than a knight in armor
jumping from a ten-foot wall.
Louder than an earthquake rumbles,
louder than a tidal wave,
louder than an ogre grumbles
as he stumbles through his cave,
louder than stampeding cattle,
louder than a cannon roars,
louder than a giant's rattle,
that's how loud my father SNORES!
by Jack Prelutsky

Use audio books to bring life and depth to your child's reading experience.

Books on tape enrich your child's multi-sensory experiences with books.

Audio books give children an important introduction to listening.

Narrators model fluent reading and emphasize reading as a source of pleasure.

The more kids listen, the more likely they are to learn new vocabulary words.

Audio books are perfect for long car rides. We don't leave home without one!

My children's favorite books on tape (ages 5, 8 & 14) include *Harry Potter*, *Dragon Rider*, *Artemis Fowl*, *The Magic Tree House series*, and *the Chronicles of Narnia*.



Musical Notes



JoAnn Willemssen & Allison Campbell

The first grades have been studying loud and soft (dynamics) and high and low, using different songs and activities. They have had the opportunity to play various classroom instruments including the autoharp. They have also been learning how to read rhythms with ta, ti ti and rests.

In second grade we have been learning about meter (beats grouped in twos and threes). Students have listened, moved, and created hand jives to music that moves in a meter of two or a meter of three. They worked on reading rhythms and dynamics. They created sound effects with instruments for a story, OLD DEVIL WIND.

Third and fourth grade classes also studied about meter and moved on to discuss musical motive (a short musical idea). Musical motives were assigned to each character in the book One Dark Night which was then presented to the class as a shadow play.

Health Office

Cindy Prescott, School Nurse

Are you prepared? Making an emergency kit for your home or car is easier than you think. You can start with a few basic items and add to it over time. Preparing for emergencies is nothing new. Ice storms, floods and power outages are all things that we deal with here in Bow. In this complex world we live in it is important that we are ready to deal with any emergency that comes our way.

To create an "in-home" emergency kit you should include:

Water: at least 1 gallon per person per day, non-electric can opener, battery powered radio, ABC type fire extinguisher, prescription medications, wired telephone (not cordless), first aid kit, flashlights, battery powered lantern, 3 day supply of canned food, 3 day supply of baby food, formula and diapers

If you lose power, eat the food in your refrigerator first. Without power, a refrigerator should keep food at a safe temperature for about four hours. If the power is off longer than that use your emergency food supply. Store supplies in a cool dry place. Use supplies before they expire and replace what you use.

There have been a few cases of head lice here at BES since the beginning of school. I understand that the subject of head lice is not a pleasant one; however, it is something that school age children contract. I thought I would share some lice information in this newsletter.

Head lice are tiny, wingless, bloodsucking insects that feed on the human scalp. They do not fly or jump, but crawl at a high speed. They are **not** an indication of poor hygiene or parental neglect. Head lice crawl from one head to another. The most common method of transfer is by direct contact between two heads. Transfer may also occur through shared combs, brushes, hats and other headgear, (Note: explain to your children that they should never exchange any of these articles).

Examine your child's head for "nits" or lice. (Nits are lice eggs and may be tan or whitish colored. Live lice are hard to find as they crawl very fast).

Be especially diligent in checking your children's heads if they are scratching! Not all itchy heads turn out to be head lice, but, it can be a sign of possible infestation.

Now that you are all scratching your heads I would like to remind you to please contact me with your questions or concerns. I am here for your children.

Cindy Prescott, RN
School Nurse



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