



January 2010

Inter-Lakes Middle Tier Parent Newsletter

Everett Bennett Jr., Middle Tier Principal
William Athanas, Assistant Principal Grades 7-12
Kathleen Mulcahy, Assistant Principal Grades K-6
Sandra Ramsay, School Counselor Grades 5 & 6
Barbara Pope, School Counselor Grades 7 & 8



Dates to Remember

- ⇒ January 18, 2010
No School - Civil Rights/Martin Luther King Day
- ⇒ January 20, 2010
PTO Meeting
I-LES Library
7:00 p.m.
- ⇒ January 22, 2010
No School - Teacher Workshop Day
- ⇒ January 29, 2010
Report Cards Issued
Grades 7-8

8th Grade Parent Information Night January 13, 2010

On January 13, 2010, Ms. Gribben, Guidance Director, and Mrs. Reid, health special instructor, will be sharing information in relation to credits, course selection, and the transition to high school. The format of the evening will review the same information that all eighth grade students cover in the "Getting Ready for High School" segment of their health special. The get together will be in the Inter-Lakes Jr./Sr. High School Library and will begin at 7:00 p.m.



2009-2010 National Geography Bee

Students in grades four through eight participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee during the month of December. The Geography Bee is a nationwide contest designed to encourage the teaching and study of geography.

Congratulations to the ten finalists who distinguished themselves with their knowledge of geography. The finalists were Thomas Ainsworth, Anthony Connor, Benjamin Crosby, Jordan Durand, Makenzie Giroux, Makena Kimball, Justin Klingler, Nicholas Manville, Sarah Michel, and Brandon Smith. They competed in the Final Competition on December 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Inter-Lakes Elementary School Library.



Benjamin Crosby placed third and Anthony Connor placed second. The winner of the Final Competition was fifth grader, Makenzie Giroux. She will take a Qualifying Test that will be submitted at the state level. In early March, letters will be sent to the top 100 scoring students in New Hampshire notifying them that they qualified to compete in the state Geography Bee. Good luck Makenzie!



Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

Teachers in grades K-8 will be holding conferences on February 12, 15, and 16, 2010. February 15th and 16th are early release days with students in K-6 being dismissed at 12:00. Students in grades seven and eight will be dismissed at 11:55. On February 12, 2010, students in grades K-12 will have no school to allow for conferences.

In K-6, the goal is to hold parent/student/teacher conferences with every family as part of the K-6 reporting process. The conferences in K-6 allow student, parents and teachers to discuss progress and set goals for the second half of the year. If for some reason parents cannot attend a conference, the teacher and student will hold the conference.

At the seventh and eighth grade level the process is somewhat different. Students are encouraged to participate, but it is not required. Due to the large number of students each teacher works with in seventh and eighth grade, it is impossible to conference with every parent on these days. We believe strongly in the power of home/school communication and every parent who would like to conference will be accommodated. Please call Mrs. Doten to schedule a conference for students in grades five through eight. She can be reached any morning before 10:45 at 279-7968 or from 11:00-3:00 she can be reached at 279-5312.

From the Guidance Corner:

WHAT? Back Pack Brigade

WHY? To help students stay organized for learning.

Is your child missing assignments?

Does your child struggle with not being as organized as you know they are capable?

Do things get lost in the 'black hole' of the back pack, never to be seen again?

Then the Back Pack Brigade may be just what your student needs. This idea came from my own frustration as a parent of a (then) 5th grader (in another district) and how to help her stay more organized.

HOW?

How we will know what your child has learned is when they show us the contents of the back pack on the table and it is nicely organized.

WHEN?

We meet once per week per grade in the conference room or other available space:

Grade 5 - Fridays 11:05-11:25

Grade 6 - Fridays 12:20-12:40

Students can attend as often as they find helpful: every week, or once in a while. No sign up is needed.

WHO?

Ms. Ramsay, Part-time School Counselor for grades 5 and 6, will facilitate the emptying of the back packs (or desks - some kids really get into it!). I do not go through student's things, as there may be personal items that the student does not wish to be seen by others. The students empty out their backpacks and we make decisions on what can be thrown away. We have found everything from moldy sandwiches and old orange peels to assignments that 'I wondered where that went'.

Each week we have a guest judge (a teacher or other adult in the building) decide who seems the most organized that week and the student gets a special prize.



SEVENTH GRADE SPECIALS

Before the winter break, the seventh graders participated in an inter-disciplinary activity (Family and Consumer Sciences and Spanish) in order to explore the traditional celebration of Christmas in Spanish-speaking countries, particularly Mexico. The experience was wonderful, and the students truly learned a lot from it. On day one, each student made an *ojo*

de Dios, or God's Eye. Today, God's eyes are a traditional handcraft made in Mexico throughout the Christmas season. Traditionally, fathers would construct one every time a child is born; adding one color strand on each birthday through age five in order to represent faith and a symbol of prayer (some indigenous cultures still do this). On day two, the students partook in a traditional *fiesta*, filled with various celebratory foods. They prepared well-balanced dishes such as nachos, churros, fresh fruit and vegetables, smoothies, ranch pastries, and more. We then had a very important discussion on the connection between food and culture as well.

It was such a valuable teaching and learning opportunity. Please ask your child about this cultural experience.



I-LES Welcomes Foster Grandmother

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Barbara Mandell will be joining our school as a Foster Grandmother beginning in January, 2010. Mrs. Mandell (a.k.a. "Granny B") will be working in Ms. Burke's 3rd grade classroom for 15 hours a week. Mrs. Mandell is part of the Federal Foster Grandparent Program, which recruits volunteers who have a desire to work with school-age children. Foster Grandparents provide tutoring, academic assistance, friendship, and emotional support to students. The Foster Grandparent Program pays a small hourly stipend to its volunteers and is responsible for recruiting, interviewing, conducting background checks, and for providing ongoing monthly training to foster grandparents. I-LES feels fortunate to be part of this very special program and we welcome Mrs. Mandell to our school!

New "Welcome to I-LES Sign" Graces our Grounds

In an ongoing effort to enhance communication between families and our school, I-LES has installed a new sign and message board at the foot of our driveway. The new sign, welcoming people to I-LES, will feature 3 lines of changeable message text. The sign will be used to communicate upcoming events, activities, and special announcements. Paquette Signs, of Meredith, worked with Dr. Kelley and a few staff members to create the new sign. Funding from the sign came from the Inter-Lakes PTO (which generously donated \$1700) and from the money that I-LES won upon receiving the *2009 NH Elementary School of Excellence Award* last spring. We hope our new sign helps keep everyone informed about all of the great things happening at I-LES!

January 2010

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR School Vacation | 2 JH Nordic Skiing @ Sandwich 10:30 a.m. |
| 3 | 4 | 5 JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Newfound Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. JH Boys B Basketball @ Home v. Newfound Boys 5:15 p.m. | 6 | 7 JH Alpine Skiing @ Sunapee 9:30 a.m. | 8 JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Home v. Plymouth Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Ashland Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. | 9 JH Nordic Skiing @ Whitaker Woods 10:00 a.m. |
| 10 | 11 | 12 JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Home v. Moultonboro Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Moultonboro Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. JH Nordic Skiing @ Hopkinton 3:00 p.m. | 13 Parents of 8th Grade Students - Getting Ready for High School ILHS - Library 7:00 p.m. | 14 JH Alpine Skiing @ Gunstock 9:30 a.m. 6th Grade Math Meet 3:30 p.m. | 15 6th Grade Field Trip 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Belmont Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Home v. Belmont Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. | 16 |
| 17 | 18 NO SCHOOL Civil Rights/ MLK Day | 19 JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Plymouth Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. | 20 Jr. High Math Team Meet @ Newfound 3:00-5:00 p.m. PTO Meeting I-LES Library 7:00 p.m. | 21 JH Alpine Skiing @ King Pine 9:30 a.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Home v. Laconia Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Laconia Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. JH Student Leadership Dance 7:00-9:00 p.m. | 22 NO SCHOOL Teacher Workshop Day | 23 |
| 24 | 25 JH Nordic Skiing @ Whitaker Woods 2:00 p.m. | 26 JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Home v. Gilford Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Gilford Girls 4:00 p.m. Boys 5:15 p.m. | 27 | 28 JH Alpine Skiing @ Cranmore 9:30 a.m. | 29 7/8 Report Cards Issued JH Boys & Girls A Basketball @ Home v. Alton Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. JH Boys & Girls B Basketball @ Alton Boys 4:00 p.m. Girls 5:15 p.m. | 30 JH Nordic Skiing @ White Mtn. 10:00 a.m. |