

New Hampton Community School

Weekly Newsletter

January 4, 2019

nhcs.sau4.org

Volume 12 Issue 18

Ann Holloran, Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had some time over break to rest and recharge. I spent most of my time in Nashua with my parents. I did take a few days to visit friends in Vermont and Keene. One thing I enjoy about vacation is additional time to read more blogs, articles, and books. For pleasure I read Becoming by Michelle Obama. My professional reading included articles from Education Week, NAESP and ASCD.

Here are some interesting points from Daniel Willingham, professor of psychology at the University of Virginia:

- “Reading tests are knowledge tests in disguise.”
- (paraphrasing)—Reading is like a suitcase that needs two keys to open it. The first key is word-level decoding skills that become automatic and fluent. The second key includes language, vocabulary, domain-specific knowledge, and the micro comprehension skills to build a good mental model.
- (paraphrasing)—It is not just the number of words a child recognizes that drives reading comprehension. Making good connections and inferences depends on the richness of the word network he/she has built.

So what does this mean to parents and educators?

We need to provide students/children with a variety of things (i.e., books, games, and videos) and experiences (i.e., museums, libraries, conversations, skiing). We need to teach them specific skills. We need to increase their vocabulary and use of language. Invest time in exploring new places and have different experiences.

Over vacation, I watched one of my godchildren play a virtual reality PS4 game. It was fun and kept him entertained but there was very limited language and vocabulary in the game. Another day I watched a different godchild watch Sesame Street. During this 30-minute video, she was dancing, singing the songs and asking me questions about numbers and the characters in the show.

Can you guess which one of my godchildren is finding more academic success? Which one enjoys school? Which single parent doesn't have to fight about their 20-minutes of required reading each night?

Just some pondering thoughts as we start 2019!



P.S. Our first week of Winter Activities went off smoothly and the students loved the different opportunities. Thank you to all that make this event happen! Remember our Kindergarten students don't participate.

Our students enjoying winter activities!



NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

Now that winter weather is upon us, we remind parents that children are expected to dress for the cold when they come to school. Because all students are expected to go outside at recess time (except on days when the temperature dips below 10° F), they should be wearing warm winter jackets, snow pants, hats, boots, and mittens

Our school is registered with Box Tops for Education. You can collect Box Tops from General Mills products and turn them in to the school. Box Tops are an easy way for our school to receive funding for materials, equipment and programs.

Calendar of Events:

January 8	PaTH, 2-3:15
January 10	Ski/Skate/Winter Activity, Week #2
January 11	Newfound Budget Hearing, 6:30 @NRHS
January 15	PTO Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
January 15	Whole School Spelling Bee, 9:00 am
January 16	Lego Club 2:15-3:30 @ Gordon Nash Library
January 17	Ski/Skate/Winter Activity, Week #3
January 21	Civil Rights Day, NO SCHOOL
January 24	Ski/Skate/Winter Activity, Week #4
January 31	Ski/Skate/Winter Activity, Week #5