



HANNAH NEWS

Hannah School

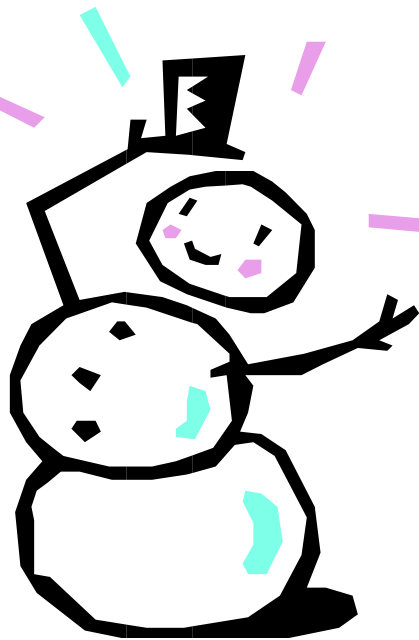
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A Word from the Principal...

Happy 2010! It's a new year and the beginning of the 10's. Teachers and students have returned from vacation refreshed and ready to go!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students that each student in grades K-5 has access to a web-based program called Study Island. We talked about Study Island in September and provided students with user-names and passwords. If you have misplaced yours, please contact Mrs. Babb in the media center for your child's information. Study Island is a program that is aligned with Massachusetts State learning standards for English Language Arts and Math. In grades 3-5, the format is similar to MCAS testing format in that students can read a lesson and practice a skill by answering multiple choice questions. Study Island keeps track of student results and enables parents to print a record. Some teachers in grades 4 and 5 assign Study Island homework.



There is game feature as well. Students who score 70% or better on the lessons can play games that also reinforce skills. We encourage you to take advantage of this program. We have found the program to be strong in grades 2-5, but have found the K-1 version to be somewhat less engaging. In any case, it is available to all Hannah students. You can access the site at www.studyisland.com

As a reminder, whenever children are using the internet, parents will want to monitor that use. Parental controls available through your internet provider can be useful, but there is no substitute for direct supervision for young children. It is easy to click on the wrong ad and find material that is not suitable. We recommend keeping track of screen time and checking the history for older students. Social networking sites can be fun, but should be monitored by parents to ensure safety and appropriate communication. It is also important to teach your child not to share passwords.

David Coffin Visits 3rd Graders

On January 5, musician David Coffin, came to Hannah to give a presentation about the history of some wind instruments, specifically, the recorder. Since all third grade students learn to play the recorder in music class, this presentation came at a great time.

Students learned about different shaped and sized wind instruments and how and why they

were played throughout history.

David was both entertaining and informative as he performed for them.

Each student receives his/her own recorder in school. Students learn the recorder as it provides essential skills to move on to play other instruments if they so choose in 4th or 5th grade.

Dates to remember:

- *January 12: All City Band Concert*
- *January 13: PTO meeting @ 6:30 p.m. (Note date change)*
- *January 18: No school: Martin Luther King Day*
- *January 20: Accelerated Reader Assembly*
- *January 25: Mother Goose visits kindergarten classes*
- *January 28: Citywide PTO Evening of Accomplishments @ Briscoe, 7:30 pm (6:30 coffee reception)*
- *February 1: Hero Art presentation for students*

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MCAS Testing Dates

MCAS testing takes place each Spring. The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education administers the MCAS each year to elementary students in grades 3-5. Each school receives a 'report card' based on MCAS test results, percentage of student participation, and attendance.

The Hannah report card is posted on the school website. ELA and reading comprehension tests are administered in March/April and Math and Science tests are administered in May.

Following are the testing dates for Hannah.

Grade 3 ELA/Reading: April 5, 6

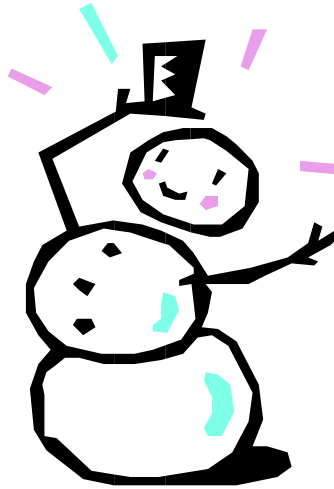
Grade 4 composition: March 23

Grade 4 ELA/Reading: March 29, 30

Grade 5: ELA/Reading: March 25, 26

Grade 3 Math: May 17, 18

Grade 4 Math: May 10, 11



Grade 5 Math: May 13, 14

Grade 5 Science/Technology: May 20, 25

As you can see, 3rd graders take the reading and math tests. 4th graders take reading, math, and a writing composition. 5th graders take the reading, math, and science tests. There are 2 sessions for each test. Generally, there is one test session per day, with the exception of the 4th grade writing composition (both sessions same day).

Student attendance on these dates is very important. Of course, if you child is sick, we will accommodate with a make up day.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for incoming kindergartners for the 2010-2011 school year begins this week.

Parents may pick up registration packets in our school office or download the forms from the district website. Click on the 'enrolling your child' tab.

Completed registration packets should be returned to the Memo-

"Everything I needed to know I learned in kindergarten."

rial Building at 502 Cabot St. between January 25-29, 2010. Completed packets should include proof of residency, an original birth certificate, a recent physical, and proof of immunization.

Beverly offers half day kindergarten free of charge and full day kindergarten on a tuition basis. Scholarship application forms are also available on the district website.

If you know of a friend or neighbor who has a child who is eligible, please let them know. Eligible students must be 5 years of age by September 1, 2010.

Book A Trip: Read Around the World

This year's reading challenge theme is : Book a Trip. Read Around the World. I'm sure you've received notices about the challenge for students. We are asking that students keep track of the number of minutes they read at home each night. With just 20 minutes per day, each child can help us reach our school goal of 200,000 minutes. Each year, we read more and more and increase our goal. Of course our ultimate goal is to nurture reading habits and create lifelong readers who enjoy good books.

Each week, we will 'visit' a different continent. So far, we have been to South America and North America. We will have weekly trivia contests as well, with 2 winners drawn each week.

Students should keep track of their minutes and return the reading sheet each Monday. The challenge will last for 6 weeks, culminating in a school-wide assembly in which each grade level will make a presentation about one of the continents. Students have reading passports at school and receive a bookmark each time they turn in their reading log on Monday. Check our the bulletin board in the lobby!



Reading is fun!



What is DIBELS?

Have you heard your child say their teacher is doing DIBELS or that they are 'DIBEL-ing' in school? Maybe or maybe not. In any case, the DIBELS is a short reading assessment that is given to all students at Hannah three times per year. The acronym DIBELS stands for Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills. In kindergarten and first grade, there are 3 or 4 one minute tests of letter naming, initial sound fluency, and segmenting and blending the sounds in words. In grades 2-5, it is a series of 3 one minute timed reading passages. These assessments are designed to be quick, yet research has proven that when students can demonstrate these skills with automaticity, they are more likely to achieve reading success in school. We use the results of these assessments to determine which students may need some extra support in the classroom in the form of a reading intervention.

Our reading interventions are provided for students who need to further develop skills in any of the five components of reading: phonics, phonemic awareness or sound manipulation, comprehension, fluency, and vocabulary. You may have heard

of "Read Naturally." This is a fluency intervention in which students practice reading passages and are timed before and after practicing. We have some new reading interventions that we will begin using later this month with some students. You will receive a notice from our reading coach if your child will be receiving this additional support.



Teachers keep track of student progress using the DIBELS, reading assessments from our core programs, and student work samples.

Teachers meet to review the data and plan for instruction. We feel this kind of monitoring and planning is improving our reading instruction and hope you see the benefits as well.

Cell Phone Reminders

Our school policy does not permit cell phone use by students during school. We recommend that students not bring cell phones to school at all. However, if a parent feels their child needs access to a cell phone for safety reasons after school, the student must be responsible for keeping the phone turned off and in their backpack during

school hours. Students are not allowed to have electronic games or ipods at school. Again, if they are allowed at an after school program, they must be kept in a backpack and not brought out during school hours. Valuable items are best kept at home.

We also ask that parents refrain from cell phone use while driving in our parking lot at drop off and pick up times. For safety reasons, we prefer that drivers' attention be focused while children are walking, entering or exiting vehicles. Thank you for your help.

Winter Woes

With the winter weather and snow outside, our driveway and parking lot are even more congested. Please help us by continuing to follow our procedures.

There was some confusion about the parking spaces on the left side of the driveway entering the lot. When there is snow, the space is much reduced. Some folks parked on the right instead. We are asking that you continue to utilize the marked spaces on the LEFT side entering the lot. Even if you need to park away from the snow bank to allow entry/exit from your vehicle, there is still enough room for cars to pass to the right. Please do not park on both sides and do not block the service driveway!

Please also remember to **STAY IN YOUR CAR** at all times. Pulling as far forward as you can assists the traffic flow. Please be sure to pull over to the curb to pick up students as well.



Please be careful of our students !

Using the service driveway to exit or enter is **NEVER** permitted! This is for the exclusive use of delivery vehicles and buses. If you drive on Wayland Ave, please be extra careful of walkers this time of year.

Hannah School

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**Be kind. Be responsible. Be the best you
can be. The choice is yours.**

Hannah School Mission Statement

The Hannah Elementary School strives to meet the individual needs of its students by encouraging them to become life-long learners. The students, staff, and families work collaboratively to promote academic excellence by using programs and curricula that are current and research-based. By fostering emotional, social, physical, and intellectual growth, we will create an atmosphere of respect for each member of our school.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

All educational and non-academic programs, activities and employment opportunities at Beverly Public Schools are offered without regard to race, color, sex, religion, ancestry, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, and any other class or characteristic protected by law.

National Guard Unit Deploys

Hannah parent, Spc. Scott Thompson is a supply Specialist out of the 101st field artillery unit of the National Guard based in Danvers. Scott is the parent of kindergarten student, Alexandria. Sister, Victoria is in 6th grade at Briscoe Middle School. The unit will arrive in Afghanistan in March, but is currently training in Indiana and then Louisiana.

There are some ways in which we, as a school community, can support troops and in particular, Scott Thompson's unit and family. One initiative is the Cell Phone for Soldiers program. It is a program that provides soldiers overseas with minutes to call home free of charge. If you would like to help, you can donate your old cell phone (working condition or not). Terryann Thompson will coordinate this effort through the Family Readiness Group.



Old phones can be dropped off in the school office. Once we know what kinds of things the unit may need, we can also collect items to ship, along with letters or cards from students. Another way to help is to purchase yellow ribbons to indicate your support. Terryann tells me they cost \$3 each or 2 for \$5. More information about how to purchase will be sent in email form. Any letters, drawings or cards for soldiers will be gladly accepted in the school office.

Accelerated Reader assembly for students in grades 3-5 will take place on Wednesday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend.