



# Hannah News

Hannah School

Volume 4, Issue 7

## A Word from the Principal...

Each month I try to write about topics that I think could be of interest to you of necessity. This month, I'd like to share about some work that the teaching staff has been doing to help your children become proficient writers. As you know, writing is part of everyday life, but

it can also be an outlet for



creative expression and effective communication. Writing exists in different forms and for different purposes. Students are assessed each year in writing. When they reach 4th grade, the state of Massachusetts gives a writing test on the MCAS. We analyze all of our MCAS results so that we can improve instruction and help students be successful in mastering grade level skills. Our School Improvement Plan contains goals that we set to help us improve and we have laid out goals to improve our writing instruction. In order for students to do well on a 4th grade writing test, they must receive high quality instruction in writing

each year leading up to 4th grade. It would not be enough for the 4th grade teacher to be the only one teaching writing. Therefore, teachers at all elementary levels have reviewed the state standards for writing and worked collaboratively to design a progression of skills taught at each grade level. Teachers in each grade have agreed on which skills are taught at what time of year. Teachers will share their work with each other so there is a common understanding of what comes before their grade and what comes after. For ideas about how you can help your child with writing, turn to page 4.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Hannah Rama</i>	1
<i>EEC</i>	2
<i>MCAS</i>	2
<i>Chain of Kindness</i>	3
<i>Cyber Tips</i>	3
<i>Safety Drill</i>	3
<i>Second Step</i>	4

### Dates to remember:

- March 5: Roller Palace Night 5-7 p.m. @ The Roller Palace
- March 9: Early Release Day
- March 10: Spring Picture Day
- March 10: Grade 2 Select Choral Concert
- March 24: Accelerated Reader Assembly at 8:30
- April 1: Early Release Day
- April 2: No School, Good Friday

## Hannah Rama

On April 7, the Hannah School PTO will sponsor a dance/fundraiser for parents and adult friends of the Hannah School. The event will feature live music by the band, "Horizon," as well as appetizers, and a silent auction. Room parents will be

contacting parents to request donations for grade level baskets that will be raffled off that evening.

Beverly's own instrumental music teacher, Ray Novack, is the leader of the band "Horizon."

Tickets should be purchased in advance.

Come join us for fun evening at Hannah Rama at the Hastings House in Beverly Farms.

## EEC Information

The Beverly Public Schools has an education enrichment program that is located in the Memorial Building this year. The acronym EEC stands for Education Enrichment Center. Students in grades 2,3, and 4 complete writing prompts and creative problem solving prompts, which are sent to be screened by a team with representatives from each elementary school. Students will complete the prompts in class during the month of April. This process is done anonymously and work samples are numbered. Student names and school names are not included and work samples are reviewed

blindly by the selection team. There are a very limited number of spaces available for this program and it is a fee based program. Participating students go to the EEC program at Memorial one day per week in grades 4 and 5, and one day every other week in grade 3. The parents of students who are recommended for EEC are notified by mid May. EEC offers enriching



activities and is run by teachers, Pam Fall and Dale Boutin. Please understand that we believe our teachers can challenge all of our learners in the classroom and that there are many talented students beyond those that are offered spaces. If your child does attend this program, I hope that you will talk with them about their responsibility to complete some of the work they may miss in class and also about being sensitive to

## EEC (continued)

the fact that other students who may not attend possess their own talents. It is also important for participating students to understand that, although we do our best to schedule school events on days when all students are present, there may be times when this is not possible and they may need to make a choice between a school activity and EEC. EEC students are expected to be in their home school on MCAS testing days, but may be released after the testing times to

go to EEC. If your child does not participate in EEC and wonders why, please reassure him/her that it is not because they are not "smart." Remind your child that there are different ways to demonstrate strengths and that others do see their gifts and talents. We want all students to feel confident in their abilities and appreciated for who they are.

*Updated information about the EEC program is available on the district website. Click on EEC under the parent tab.*

## MCAS Testing Dates for Grades 3, 4, and 5

This is the MCAS testing schedule. It is important that all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 be tested. Please make every effort to have your child here on time on those days. If your child is sick, we will have them make up the test on a different day within the testing window. Thank you.

Grade 3 ELA/Reading: April 5, 6,  
Grade 4 Writing: 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: May 20, 21



*Congratulations to Mrs. McKenna!*

Our very own first grade teacher, **LOUISE MCKENNA** has been awarded **OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD 2010** from Salem State College.

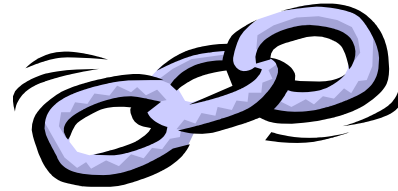
## Chain of Kindness

Last week, a group of students from BHS visited our fifth graders. They were from a group called, "World of Difference." Their goal is to spread good deeds and reduce instances of bullying. They talked with our students about kind words and deeds. They challenged them to create a paper chain documenting acts of kindness they witness or create themselves.

At our School Wide Morning Meeting this week, we talked about this challenge with all students. The BHS students asked our fifth graders to spread the word and share the challenge. We

will see how long a 'chain of kindness' we can create at Hannah. Students were reminded that when they treat others with kindness and respect, others are more likely to treat them the same way.....the old Golden Rule again!

A group of fifth graders demonstrated the 'chain' by making a circle while holding hands and passing a hula hoop around the chain without letting go of each other's hands. While



*Kindness links us together.*

they passed the hula hoop, they also passed along compliments. Other students shared ways to be kind as well:

"Smile at someone."

"Invite someone to play."

"Help a classmate with school work."

Next week, the fifth graders will present each class with a 'starter chain.' They will attach all the chains together later.

## Cyber Tips for Kids and Parents

Carrie Kimball Monahan presented a program aimed at reinforcing safe, responsible, and polite use of the internet and texting technology. Here are some tips she shared:

- The internet is public. There is nothing private about it. A person posting information on the internet should have no expectation of privacy.
- Once you send/post/submit something, there is no getting it back and you lose control of it. Only post or send things you wouldn't mind

showing to your grandmother.

- Passwords are private. There is no reason to share a password with anyone but your parent.
- Only send a message to another person if it is something you would say to their face. Don't forward inappropriate messages or images.
- A 'friend' online is not the same as a friend in real life.
- If a message, e-mail, or website upsets you or makes you uncomfortable, tell an adult or trusted friend.

- If you are angry or receive an angry message, don't text, IM, or post back.
- Just because its on the Internet doesn't make it true.
- Not everyone is who they say they are online.
- If you use a social networking site, make sure the privacy settings are set to "friends only". No setting should be considered completely private.

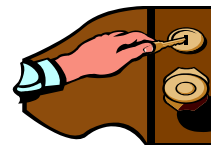
## Safety Drill

As you know, all schools are required to conduct fire drills to ensure that students know how to exit the building safely in the event of an emergency. We practice numerous times each year and have systems in place to account for students who may be out of the classroom at the time of the drill.

This year, we have been consulting with the Beverly Police Department to

implement safety drills for occasions when a building lockdown could become necessary.

We use two terms: "lockdown drill" and "secure room drill." In the first scenario, students are required to stay in the classroom in a secure location away from windows and doors. In the second scenario, students only stay in the room, but can continue with school-



work, while we restrict any entry or exit to or from the building. We will be practicing the drills soon. Students will simply be told it is a drill

to practice in case of an emergency, much like a fire drill.

## Hannah School

41 R Brimbal Ave.  
Beverly, MA 01915

Phone: 978-921-6126  
Fax: 978-921-6084  
Email: [ssnyder@beverlyschools.org](mailto:ssnyder@beverlyschools.org)

We're on the web ;  
[www.beverlyschools.org](http://www.beverlyschools.org)

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.

## Second Step

Many parents know that we use a program called Second Step at Hannah. Second Step is a program that proactively teaches important social and emotional skills to children. The curriculum goals are focused on reducing aggressive and disruptive behaviors while promoting social-emotional competence. The ability to transfer learning to real-life situations is a major goal of the program.

Teachers use this program each week and explicitly teach social skills in the classroom. The kindergarten units include: empathy training, emotion management, and problem solving. The units in grades 1-5 include: empathy training, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management. Ask your child what they've learned in Second Step lessons.

## Writing at Home

New programs and tests, like the revised SAT, stress that children need to know how to express themselves clearly and creatively. While your children will learn how to write well at school, the best place for them to practice their skills and develop a love of writing is at home. Here are some ways you can help make writing part of their home lives:

Make time for writing.

Have the tools on hand. Having a fun pen and a special notebook or giving them access to word processing programs with clip art makes it more engaging.

Write in front of them. Be role model for writing. Let them see you write a letter, a thank you note, or a journal entry.

Praise their work. Make a big deal of their writing successes. If they have written something creative, fun, or thought provoking, send copies to a relative or put it on the refrig-

erator.

E-mails are OK; IM'S aren't really writing.

Although tech savvy kids may seem to write more on the computer with e-mails or IM's, some of the accepted abbreviations and symbols are not indicative of proper grammar or word choice. IM's may be quick and fun, but an e-mail gives a child more opportunity to put together coherent sentences and thoughts. Encourage e-mailing or writing



letters to relatives over IM's and social networking sites.

Writing will always be an important life skill and a creative outlet. The world always needs more good writers!