



Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined.

Henry David Thoreau



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Members of Ms. Chartrand's fifth grade class pose with some of the trash they removed from the vernal pool behind the school.

Good Deeds In Action

The vernal pool located in the small patch of forest just behind the playing fields has been a source of wonder and hands-on science for all of the students at the Norris School for many years.

Younger grades visit the pool and with the help of their teachers note the various forms of life within. Third graders study the life cycle of the wood frog and other vernal pool creatures. The vernal pool acts as a kind of living classroom for the students and their teachers.

Older students delight in visiting the pool for any reason, whether it be for water quality testing, to gather materials to make Quidditch brooms, or to study the pink lady slipper orchid, a rare plant that thrives nearby.

This year, Ms. Chartrand's fifth graders visited the pool in early spring, as part of a classroom project. Over the winter, trash had blown into the pool and the area surrounding this precious resource was littered with bicycle tires, plastic bags and soda cans. Ms. Chartrand's class decided to take it upon themselves to clean up the habitat, making it much nicer for everyone else to visit.

Thank you, Ms. Chartrand's class, for being such good citizens of the world.

Contributed by Mrs. Mari

Poetry Winner!

Thunder Clouds
by Rebecca Buehler

*Clouds slowly spread over the sun;
stopping the rays from lighting our earth.
Thunder sounds, echoing throughout
those great mountains of air.*

*I look up at the sea of silver, gray and black.
They look so angry, so threatening,
searching the land below.*

*It seems they are gathering all of our anger,
leaving us only with fear
to make themselves look more frightening.*

*Every hour they spend lashing out with rain
their hearts become icy.
Finally, their anger overcomes them.*

*They use the strength they have left
and make the loudest sound ever heard.
That is the sign they give to show the storm is coming
to an end.*

*The clouds calmly move away,
revealing that magnificent ball of warmth and light;
the king of the stars.*

*Then, for the grand finale
an arch of color spreads across the sky.*



Rebecca Buehler, a student in Mrs. Diemand's second grade class, recently won first place in the Massachusetts Science Poetry Contest. Her poem entitled, "Thunder Clouds" won first place in the category "most expressive" for her grade level.

This poetry contest is sponsored by Boston College and is for students in grades K-8. It encourages students to integrate writing and art with science. Her piece will be published in a book of winners and she will receive a certificate and place ribbon.

Congratulations Rebecca!

Art News



Once again, we are thrilled to welcome our woodcarver artist-in-residence, Elton Braithwaite, back to the Norris School! The sixth grade is working together with Elton to create two relief sculptures that will hang above the stage in the cafetorium.

The theme of the carving is music, which will connect to last year's sculpture of the drama masks, Comedy and Tragedy, which are a well-known theater symbol. The three panels will come together to form a mural that will be on permanent display. This project was made possible by generous funding from the Southampton Cultural Council and the Southampton PTO. We are grateful for their continued support!

Lindsay Abel (4M) has placed in the finalist category for a 'Savings Makes Cents' Poster Contest sponsored by State Treasurer Timothy Cahill. She has been invited to the State Capital on June 30th, where the first place winner will be announced. Way to go, Lindsay!

Mathew Babyak, Emilie Coopee, Jackson Silverman and Alivia Strolis were also recognized for their posters, which were recently displayed at the Easthampton Savings Bank in Southampton.

Both third and fourth grade students were able to discuss ways to save money and set future goals when Ernie DiGregorio, a former member of the Boston Celtics, joined our school for the recognition assembly on Monday, June 1st.

School Committee

Budget Update

The Town of Southampton passed the FY10 budget at Annual Town Meeting in May and the school's budget was cut approximately 2%. We were able to absorb the cut into the budget without cutting personnel, but some supply lines were reduced. We were fortunate to have been able to absorb the cuts and were only able to do so efficiently due to forecasted reductions next year in transportation costs (one fewer bus and a new bus contract) and a reduction in out-of-district placement special education costs.

Although a Southampton budget is in place, the budget process is not over yet. The State has yet to finalize the Massachusetts budget so the revenues to Town are not yet firm. The Governor and Legislature are still working out their compromises and we should know the status of our projected Chapter 70 (education) funds before the end of the month. If the numbers are similar to the budget that the State Senate passed, then Southampton will likely need to reopen the budget for further cuts before school opens in the fall.

Please stay tuned during the summer and watch for any Special Town Meeting announcements, if one is necessary.

Bus Contract

As mentioned above, a new contract was awarded for bus service. Congratulations and thanks should be extended to the Regional office and the business manager for securing a reduction in costs for next year. The new contract was negotiated in a joint effort with the Hampshire district and with Easthampton, helping us benefit



Report

from the economies that a larger overall package provides.

The contract is in place for 3 years, but the school has options to renew for 2 additional years (in one year increments) if we desire. New routes are being evaluated now and, as promised in an earlier School Committee update, we will place a review of the "draft" routes on a School Committee meeting agenda this summer and discuss impacts, if any, and take your questions. Again, and as noted in an earlier update, we do expect that there will be fewer stops but will attempt to minimize the impact.

Superintendent Search

Two Norris teachers and representatives from the School Committee are involved in the Superintendent search and will be meeting with the three finalists at the Regional School on June 9th.

Thank You John Cowley

The Southampton School Committee would like to publicly thank John Cowley for his 10 years of service on the Norris School Committee. John decided not to seek reelection this year and we thank him for his commitment to the school and look forward to working with him in his new capacity on the Town's newly formed Energy Committee.

We will also take this opportunity to welcome our newest member, Julie Babyak. Julie is an active member of the Norris community and serves on the Norris School Council; we look forward to working with her in the coming years.



Dates to Remember

- June 10: Spring Concert - 1:30
- June 11: Band Concert - 2:00 & 7:00
- June 16: PTO Meeting - 6:30
- June 19: Field Day (Rain date: June 22)
- June 23: School Committee Meeting - 6:00
- June 24: 6th Grade Recognition Night - 6:30
- June 25: Last Day of School - 1/2 Day

We Have Liftoff!

The 2009 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year is unavailable to participate in International Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama, this summer, so... Our own Ms Teece will be attending in his stead. She will be joined by teachers of the year from all fifty states, the U.S. territories, and several other countries. Please join us in congratulating Ms Teece on being selected for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.



Norris Therapist Participates in Research Project



Since November 2008, Mrs. Leslie Mish, an occupational therapist at Norris School, has been participating in a research project to develop a standardized clinical assessment of Sensory Processing Disorder (SPD). This assessment, The Sensory Over-Responsivity Inventory, will measure one's sensitivity to one's sensory experiences. All five senses are examined- sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell, as well as one other sense: one's sense of body in space or coordinated and balanced movement or proprioception. Mrs. Mish has been selected by Dr. Lucy Jane Miller, director of Sensory Processing Disorder Foundation, (SPD) of Colorado to participate in this research. Dr. Lucy Jane Miller is the founder and executive director of SPD Foundation and author of *Sensational Kids: Hope and Help for Children with Sensory Processing Disorder*.

Mrs. Mish's involvement in the research has included a daylong training at Tufts University by SPD experts Dr. Lucy Jane Miller and Dr. Sarah Schoen; assessment of ten children; collaborating with professionals across the country; and her thirty years experience in the field. She continues to be certified to administer the Sensory Integration Praxis Test, SIPT, designed by Dr. A. Jean Ayres, the leading theorist on Sensory Integration, now referred to as Sensory Processing Disorder.

At Norris School occupational therapists evaluate and provide services to students. Occupational therapy addresses the foundation skills for functional academic learning and activities of daily living, which include: sensory motor, fine motor, and visual perceptual skills.

For further information about Sensory Processing Disorder, see the recent New York Times article at http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/18/health/18psych.html?_r=1&ei=5070&emc=eta1 and Dr. Lucy Jane Miller's website <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/154587/de32b736c1/115000721/ce600c46a2/> www.spdfoundation.net.



Get Ready for Field Day 2009

Field Day 2009 will be held on Friday, June 19th, with a rain date of Monday, June 22nd. Volunteers are needed to run events and games throughout the day. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out the form below and return it to the office by Monday, June 15th. If you are a morning or all-day volunteer, please plan to arrive at Norris between 9:15-9:30 so we can assign you to an event.

Lunch times for Field Day will be as follows:

Kindergarten and Grade 1: 11:00-11:30

Grades 2 & 3: 11:30-12:00

Grades 4 & 5: 12:00-12:30

Grade 6: 12:30-1:00

If you would like to stay and have lunch with your child, please pre-order by Wednesday, June 17th by calling 527-1643. Barbecue lunch for visitors will be \$3.00. If you are volunteering all day, you will be scheduled to eat with your child.

Field Day Volunteers

Name _____

Student's Name _____

Grade _____

Check one:

All Day
10:00-2:00

Morning only
10:00-12:00

Afternoon only
12:00-2:00

Summer Fun in Southampton



CLARK CHAPMAN HOUSE

Open every Sunday 2 P.M.-4 PM from Memorial day to Labor Day. Children welcome!

JULY 4th ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Ice cream sundaes with homemade chocolate, butterscotch and strawberry sauces.

\$1.00 donation. Children free.

SOUTHAMPTON FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

June 24th - Union Jack will recreate the famous Ed Sullivan Show in the 60's, showcasing the music of the Beatles

July 29th - Deb D'Amico and Friends will perform songs of the American Swing Era

Sept. 2nd - Sara the Fiddler and her band will perform Celtic, bluegrass and American music

All concerts will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm at the Conant Park Pavilion.

CELEBRATE SOUTHAMPTON

OLD HOME DAYS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

Our "Made in Southampton" Fair is looking for local artisans and craftspeople interested in exhibiting/selling your wares.

"Southampton Views - 2" Photo Contest

Families are invited to join the "Heritage Fair." Your family tree and history can be on display.

Pie Baking Contest

Kids Bike Parade - decorate your bike and win prizes!

Contact Deb at 413-687-5282 for more info.

Not school-sponsored events.

Hampshire United Soccer Club Tryout Schedule



U9 Boys	June 20, 2009	9:00-10:30
U10 Girls	June 25, 2009	6:00-7:30
U10 Boys	June 25, 2009	6:00-7:30
U11 Boys	June 11, 2008	6:00-7:30
U11 Girls	June 22, 2009	5:00-6:30
U12 Boys	June 13, 2009	2:00-4:00
U12 Girls	June 22, 2009	6:00-7:30
U13 Girls	June 22, 2009	6:30 - 8:00
U14 Boys	June 23, 2009	5:00-7:00

All tryouts are held at the Westhampton Elementary School. Any questions, please contact Dennis Bishop denbish@comcast.net or Marie Hotham at hothamfam@charter.net or 527-7395.

THIS IS NOT A SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENT!



New Math Resource

Teachers of mathematics have a new resource for helping them meet the needs of the range of learners in their classrooms. *My Kids Can: Making Math Accessible to All Learners, K-5* is a collection of essays and videotaped episodes in which teachers share their insights and strategies for improving the learning of students who struggle with mathematics. Norris School teachers Mike Flynn and Anne Marie O'Reilly have contributed essays to the book. Mr. Flynn also contributed video episodes.

This new book, with an accompanying DVD, is the result of several years of work and collaboration between Judy Storeygard, a senior research associate at TERC, and elementary school teachers across the United States who share an interest in expanding and sharing their knowledge of the teaching and learning of mathematics. TERC is a not-for-profit education research and development organization dedicated to improving mathematics, science, and technology teaching and learning. This work, funded in part by the National Science Foundation and TERC, is published by Heinemann Publishing.

**WILLIAM E. NORRIS SCHOOL
SCHOOL YEAR 2009-2010**

SEPTEMBER '09				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
H	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

20 School Days
20 Days Total

- 1 Faculty/Staff Convocation
- 2 Students Return
- 7 Labor Day
- 15 Grade 6 Open House
- 16 K- 5 Open House

FEBRUARY '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
H	V	V	V	V
22	23	24	25	26

15 School Days
107 Days Total

- 15-19 February Recess
- 15 Presidents' Day

OCTOBER '09				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
H	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

21 School Days
41 Days Total

- 1 Norris Half-Day
- 1-28 MELO-O
- 9 Half-Day Prof. Dev - Norris
- 12 Columbus Day
- 21-23 Parent-Teacher Conf. 1/2 days

MARCH '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

23 School Days
130 Days Total

- 14 Set Clocks Ahead
- 17-19 Report Cards
- 17-19 Parent-Teacher Conf. 1/2 days
- 22-31 MCAS

NOVEMBER '09				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	H	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
P	P	V	H	V
30				

15 School Days
56 Days Total

- 1 Set clocks back
- 11 Veterans' Day no classes
- 23-24 Prof. Dev - district
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Recess
- 26 Thanksgiving

APRIL '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
H	V	V	V	V
26	27	28	29	30

17 School Days
147 Days Total

- 1-12 MCAS
- 2 Half-Day Prof. Dev - Norris
- 14 Half Day Norris Placement Day
- 19-23 April Recess
- 19 Patriots' Day

DECEMBER '09				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	V	H
V	V	V	V	

17 School Days
73 Days Total

- 11 Half-Day Prof. Dev
- 11 Report Cards
- 24-1 Winter Recess
- 25 Christmas

MAY '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
H				

20 School Days
167 Days Total

- 4 Half Day Norris Placement Day
- 11-27 MCAS
- 31 Memorial Day

JANUARY '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
				H
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
H	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

19 School Days
92 Days Total

- 1 New Year's Day
- 4 Classes Start
- 15 Half-Day Prof. Dev - Norris
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

JUNE '10				
M	Tu	W	Th	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

13 School Days
180 Days Total

- 17 Last Day of Classes
- 18-30 Make-up Days, if needed
Teacher Work Day after last
day for students

Report Cards issued on last day

Approved April 29, 2009

H

Holiday

P

Professional development - no school

V

School vacation

12

MCAS

1/2 Day

Set clocks