

LAS Unified Arts News Letter

November 2009

MUSIC

Sue Long

LAS CONCERT DATES

DECEMBER

Thursday 12/10

Winter Concert

7:00pm

(All K-4 students,
Elem. and Middle School Choirs,
Second Year Instrumentalists,
& the LAS Band)

Tuesday 12/15

Snow Date: Winter Concert 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY

Tuesday 2/16

TBA

Winnacunnet HS Jazz Band &
Chamber Singers perform during
the school day at LAS

Thursday 2/18

TBA

Snow Date: Winnacunnet at LAS

MARCH

Tuesday 3/23

SAU 21 Choruses and Bands Festival

(All events to be held in the auditorium at
Winnacunnet High School)

Middle School Choir rehearsal 12:00
pm

8th Grade Band Members rehearsal 3:00
pm

Bands Concert 6:00 pm

Choruses Concert 7:15 pm

Noticias Españolas

Cathy Jeffrey

In Grade 4, we have concentrated on activities to practice learning the numbers, colors, clothing, and parts of the face. In Grade 5, our activities have centered on learning numbers, animals and plants found in nature, and verbs connected with nature.

We began the year in Grade 6 learning about the origins and history of language, and the development of written language. Using a variety of activities, the students have practiced numbers, days of the week, and months. They completed their Mexican Tin Art Project with the help of Mrs. Bellen.

The Grade 7 students are able to have short conversations that include saying hello, introducing themselves, asking how someone is, and excusing themselves to leave. They are learning larger numbers, and are reviewing the days and seasons. We are concentrating on the geography and culture of Spain this year. They are presently learning about Moorish architecture.

The Grade 8 students did oral presentations, talking about activities they do in their free time. Through a variety of activities, they are practicing telling where people and things are, what places are in a town, giving directions to get to those places on a map, and using time expressions.



Library

Amy Roy

Checkout Information

To assist parents in keeping tabs on their child's library books, I have listed below the library loan periods and the number of books students are allowed to check out at one time.

<u>Grade</u>	<u># of Books</u>	<u>Loan Period</u>
K	1	1 week
1	2	2 weeks
2	2	2 weeks
3/4	3	2 weeks
Middle School	3*	2 weeks

*up to 5 during research projects

Students may renew their books if they need more time with them. They do not need to bring their books to the library to renew them.

This year, overdue notices will be given out every few months rather than every two weeks. These slips remind students that their books are past due and, more importantly, ensure that newer, higher circulating books get to those who have requested them. If you or your child has a question about the status of a book he/she has checked out, please feel free to stop by the library or email Mrs. Roy at aroy@sau21.org.

What's Been Happening

Students in grades K-3 have just finished reading the 2009 Ladybug Book nominees during their weekly library visits. The Ladybug Book Award is designed to promote early literacy and an appreciation of children's literature in young children. Each year New Hampshire public and school librarians collaborate to generate a list of ten picture books they feel have strong child appeal and literary merit. Librarians then promote the nominees at their library.

At LAS we read a few books each week during library. After each book students shared their opinion of the book by doing a coloring activity. The activity is a visual representation of the books they read and will be coming home with your child if it has not already. In addition, each child voted on

his/her favorite Ladybug Book. I will tally students' votes and send them away to be added to a state tally, where a winner will be declared for New Hampshire. Ask your child about our Ladybug unit. As you know, they're always excited to share what they're reading!

What's Happening

In preparation for author, illustrator, and LAS graduate True Kelley's visit to LAS on November 23rd, K-3 students read a selection of books by Ms. Kelley. We started off by reading *School Lunch* and *The Mystery of the Stranger in the Barn* because each has a Hampton Falls connection. In addition, we briefly touched upon the writing and illustrating processes involved in the creation of children's books as a preview to what Ms. Kelley discussed during her presentations.

After the holidays we will be doing author studies in grades K-2. These units will involve learning about the life of a particular author, reading various books written or illustrated by that person, discussing recurring themes and/or characters in the stories, and doing activities related to our reading.

In third grade we will continue learning how to locate books in the library independently. In addition, we will be reading a "chapter book." Because we meet once a week, students will be engaging in various activities as we read to help them remember the story.

Theater News

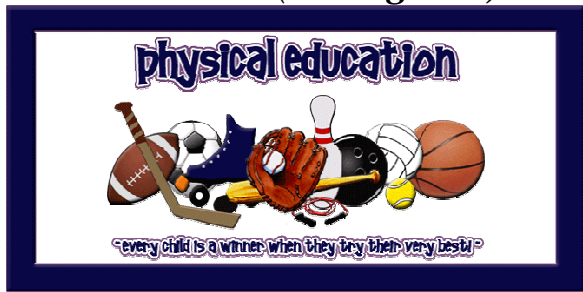
Stacey Bellen

The **Third and Fourth Grade** play this year is *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* adapted by Kathryn Schultz Miller. The performance will be Friday, December 4th at 7pm at WHS community auditorium.

We are very excited to have 45 students participating with the play. These are not your Disney Dwarfs. Please come for a night of fun and laughs with Giggle-Toes, Ah-Choo, Ding-Dong, Sour-Puss, Snores-A-Lot, Wall-Flower and Captain.

PE NEWSFLASH

Mrs. Welch (K-4th grade)



We are off and running in Physical Education class. It is hard to believe the winter months are soon approaching us. We are taking advantage of being outside as much as possible. It is refreshing to feel the cool air while we practice skills and play games. Students have been learning the rules and expectations of Physical Education class and being in the gymnasium. Safety is our number one rule. We have been working on moving safely while participating in games and activities. Here are the other rules that we have in the gym.

- Respect – the equipment, teacher and each other
- Wear your sneakers
- Be a good sport
- Move in control
- Do your personal best
- Have **FUN!**

Along with the rules and expectations that we have been learning, all grades have participated in cooperative games. Learning to work together to achieve goals is very rewarding no matter what your age is. Grades three and four have also worked on soccer and football skills. Grades K, one and two have worked on throwing and catching skills, space awareness and loco-motor skills.

Students in grades three and four are taking on the PE Central Challenge. The PE Central Challenge is a program designed to encourage students to practice and improve motor skills. Fourth graders are very familiar with the challenges and are already cruising along in the hopes of completing them. The third graders are being introduced to the skills and eager to practice and improve. The PE Central Challenge not only allows students to

practice skills over time, but also works on cooperation. This challenge is not a one time test but an opportunity to improve on six tasks in the course of the school year. Students are encouraged to take as many chances as it takes to complete each of the challenges. Those six challenges are:

- **Jump That Rope** - Jump a rope continuously for a minute and a half
- **Throw and Catch** - Throw and catch with a partner making thirty catches between them without a drop.
- **Volley Up** -Volley a ball for ten times in a row without a miss. This challenge is performed with three students.
- **Balance Shuffle** – Two students cooperatively walk a balance beam. They must cross each other to the end and return back to their starting position.
- **Paddle Strike** – Strike a ball with a paddle for one minute continuously while standing inside of a hula hoop.
- **Hula Hoop** – Hula hoop for twenty seconds continuously without a drop.

Students are provided with time during PE class to practice. Students may also utilize equipment during recess time to practice. I encourage all my students to practice these skills at home with family and friends.

Why PE? Physical Education helps to benefit students in the following ways:

- Increase fitness levels
- Develop and encourage creativity
- Develop positive self-esteem
- Improve motor, social and emotional skills
- Increase muscular strength, endurance and flexibility
- Physically fit kids perform better academically (CDE 2002 Fitness and Academic Performance study)
- Most importantly, it's fun!

GUIDANCE NEWS

Molly Wynne

THE STARFISH POEM

Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean. As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The young man paused looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean." "I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?" "The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die." "But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!" The young man listened politely then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said-"It made a difference for that one."

Author Unknown

We are off to a great start in Guidance, Grades 1-8. Grades 1 & 2 have been working with the adventure based self-esteem curriculum, "Free The Horses". Students are enjoying learning about such things as courage, responsibility, cooperation and friendship through the use of video and puppet presentations as well as whole class discussions and hands on activities.

Grade 3 has been focusing on knowledge of self, understanding differences and friendship. Students created a "picture of self", using symbols and words to describe who they are and what is important to them. We also read the book, Mountains To Climb by Richard Wainwright, a story about a South American boy who teaches by example, the importance of respecting people's differences and the value of friendships.

Grade 5 has learned about self-esteem and taking pride in what one can do and achieve. Each person in class completed their own Coat

of Arms and shared it with class. Students have also learned about bullying by completing worksheets and exercises taken from, The Bully Free Classroom, identifying strategies for dealing with bullying, watching a video about bullying and are currently creating their own brochures about bullying. Grade 6 has been working on activities related to problem solving, group dynamics and group communication. Students have worked hard to identify and develop successful strategies and approaches to use when working on challenges, both as small groups and whole classroom. Students have participated in cooperative games and have completed group problem solving worksheets.

Grade 7 has completed a unit about values and differences, and is currently working on a unit about respect. Students participated in a values auction during class and completed written responses related to that auction. Students also watched a video and participated in class discussions about respect and are currently researching a person they respect and writing a paper about that person.

Grade 8 has participated in numerous activities related to a unit about Careers. Students learned about many careers and the impact of personality on career choice. They completed the CDM (Career Decision-Making System) self inventory to identify their interests and abilities as they relate to potential careers and jobs. Students also completed a plan for high school, based on the information from the various career activities/assignments as well as learning how to write a basic resume.

All Guidance classes will continue until mid-January, at which time they will switch to Health and the current Health classes will switch over to Guidance. Grade 3 will also switch to Health and Grade 4 will begin Guidance.



Art

Stacey Bellen

Kindergarten

Kindergarten began the year talking about shapes and where we find them in our world. (Example: circle; wheel, sun, clock) Using shapes they created pictures by tracing and drawing different objects. Next they made butterflies using shape, making sure that they were symmetrical. In the next project we looked at “hot” colors; red, orange, and yellow. Using these colors the students traced a sun, created the rays by cutting the paper and filled in the sun by ripping the paper into small pieces and gluing them onto the sun base. Fall trees were the last project for the quarter. The background and foreground were made by ripping green paper. We talked about the shape of a tree trunk, traced our hand and arm to make the base and colored it in brown. We painted with sponges using our “hot” colors to make fall leaves.

First and Second Grade

Students began the school year by making fall landscapes. By creating a foreground, middle ground and background students begin to understand the concepts of perspective. Students ripped different colored green paper to create the illusion of depth, and then they drew tree trunks and finished by painting the leaves with sponges. For the next project the students worked with textures to create a spacecape. Using two texture plates and two different colors for each object the students’ added interest and depth in their pictures. Next the first grade classes created pinch pots with a twist. After making the pinch pot the students were challenged to make their pot into an animal by carving faces and pinching out ears or there animal features. We reviewed the primary colors and the students demonstrated how to mix the colors in order to make the secondary colors. Each student used red, blue and yellow crayons to make a landscape showing all six major colors.

Third Grade

The third grade students started the year by creating three-dimensional butterflies. Using

oak tag the students cut, folded and glued the flat shapes into 3-D butterflies. The students then used thinned glue and tissue paper to give their butterflies color. Students learned the importance of good craftsmanship, by asking each other their opinions of their work and what else needs to be completed on the butterfly. Next the students worked on three-dimensional landscapes made with construction paper. Students had to figure out how to make their objects “pop” off the paper. By manipulating the materials students created textures on their objects and complex art pieces that showed shadows and highlights.

Fourth Grade

Students learned about the impressionist artist George Seurat and his style of painting referred to as pointillism. Instead of creating colors by mixing them on the palette, Seurat painted the “dots” with pure bright colors directly on the canvas. When you step back from the artwork the “dots” blend in your eye creating new colors. Students created a landscape of their choice by “dotting” their picture with markers. This takes patience and time. By using different colors students created the illusion of highlight and shadow. Next the fourth grade students created three-dimensional butterflies. Using oak tag the students cut, folded and glued the flat shapes into 3-D butterflies. The students then used thinned glue and tissue paper to give their butterflies color. Students learned the importance of good craftsmanship, by asking each other their opinions of their work and what else needs to be completed on the butterfly.

Fifth Grade

The focus for this quarter is drawing. Students began by learning about contour drawing and then moved on to shading. Using their shoes as the subject the students observed the lines, contours and shadows of the object. Next they began with a small study of a still life and experimented with oil pastels to create highlights and shadows. Once they learned some of the basic techniques they moved on to the large still life, which they will be finishing during the second quarter. Students needed to

look at composition, the shapes of the objects and their relationship to the objects around them.

Sixth Grade

This quarter the sixth grade students worked on a color and design project. Students picked three colors of construction paper that they felt would not necessarily go well together visually. Once the colors were selected students cut the papers in half to create the background. With the remaining half sheets the students began the designing. By looking at the different elements of shape, organic shape vs. geometric shape and large shape vs. small shape, students began to compose their picture. Students needed to keep in mind the overall balance of the picture by overlapping shapes, repeating designs, and using the negative space. Currently the students are working on creating their names with animals. Each letter of their name needs to be a different animal. This takes imagination and creativity. Once the students have their animals drawn out they will color the picture in.

Seventh Grade

To begin the year the seventh grade started a project focused on their personalities and the different interests they have. Each student created their initials using a style that expressed them self. Next they needed to think about different things they were interested in, from sports to academics, music groups and material items. This project gets them invested in their drawing skills and how they colored the picture to highlight different aspects of their personalities and interests. The next project tapped into their imagination. We looked at the artwork of Charles Lynn Bragg, specifically a piece called "The Skins Game". In this picture it shows different animals playing golf together. For this project students created pictures where animals were playing sports. This project challenges students to look at the anatomy of different animals and how to draw them, as well as think about the different activities and how to portray them in their picture.

Eighth Grade

The first project students worked individually or in small groups to design the yearbook cover. We talked about the different elements they could add as well as the items they needed to have on the cover. The covers were well thought out and showed the many different personalities of our students. Next the eighth graders created their name as a continuous line. Students then transferred their name many times creating an overlapping effect. Once finished transferring their names, the students were left with an abstraction of the space. Using color families (ex. green, yellow-green, yellow) the students colored the shapes by blending the chosen colors. By coloring in the different shapes their name becomes camouflaged in the designs created by the colors. The final part of the project will be to take the first transferred name and create a shadow. This will allow the viewers to see the name as well as the designs created by the shapes and color. This project will be finished during the course of the year, as it is very time consuming. The students understand how to abstract the main object and how to blend the colors properly.

Physical Education/Athletics

Chris Lemerise

Middle school students participated in many outdoor activities this past quarter, from Capture games to Speedminton. Speedminton is a new outdoor game that is very similar to the games of badminton and racket ball. Units on Basketball and Team Handball will be the next focus; THB is an Olympic sport which is played on a basketball court where each team tries to score by throwing the ball into the net.

Attendance is very important and all students must have a complete change of clothes. Your help is always helpful!!

The current athletic season @ LAS is **Tiger Basketball**. Please check the LAS website/coach for details. Come support the teams!! Floor Hockey (late winter) and Softball and baseball (spring) are to follow.

Computer Education

Donald Wilder

Kindergarten: During Term 1 Kindergarten children learned to use a mouse, a keyboard, program menus, graphic drawing and painting tools (pencil, line, shapes, color palette, eraser, letters) using the program Kid Pix Studio Deluxe, and an online reading instruction program for letter recognition. The web-based early reading program is www.starfall.com. There is a link to Starfall on the LAS web page, www.sau21.org/las, under Student and Parent Resources.

Grade 1 / 2: The children in grades one and two reviewed the early reading phonics programs Reader Rabbit and www.starfall.com. They were also introduced to online math strategy programs using www.coolmathforkids.com. Finally they used Kid Pix to add new pictures to their saved collections. During Term 2 they will begin using the online program Kerpoof to create stories and greeting cards.

Grade 3: Children in Grade 3 were introduced to touch type. They began by learning the home row position of fingers and practiced with the online programs Dance Mat Typing, www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing and Free Typing Game, www.freetypinggame.net. It is important for these students to practice their home row typing frequently. Five minutes a day will solidify the keys they learn and strengthen fingers for steady progress

week to week. Even without a computer screen practicing with a keyboard will help in the same way. If your child needs a keyboard for practice at home let Mr. Wilder know.

For practicing math facts Mr. Cutting found a website called Arcademic Skill Builders, www.arcademicskillbuilders.com which allows children to practice by themselves and compete against others.

Grade 4: Students continued typing practice using the online programs mentioned above. Daily short practice at home will strengthen fingers solidify memory of key positions enabling steady progress from week to week. For classroom assignments students also did research on the internet and writing with a word processor.

Grade 5: Students reviewed typing with all keys with Tux Typing (free program download from Tux4Kids), Dance Mat Typing and Free Typing Games (internet). Links to these programs are listed on the LAS web page in the Student and Parent Resources section, and above under Grade 3.

Grades 6-8: Classes came to the Computer Lab work on classroom assignments including research, writing, publishing and multimedia Power Point presentations.

Please visit the LAS website for parent and student resources. www.sau21.org/las or www.sau21.k12.nh.us/las/

