

# Hope School



"Where Children Come First"  
January 2009 Family Newsletter

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Principal

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## Message from the Principal

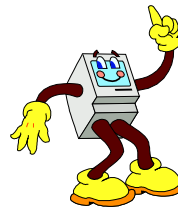
Happy New Year Everyone! It's that tricky time of year when we have to make a conscious effort to write the correct year on all our paperwork. Teachers and I will be very busy this month participating in professional development activities. Once again the trainers are here from the Teachers College in New York to assist teachers with the implementation of our Columbia Reading and Writing Project. We are also learning a new program called XConnects that will give teachers easy access to Mathematics Data. Results will be used to plan whole class as well as individual math instruction. Our professional development day to be held on Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> will focus on making connections between our mathematics curriculum materials (Investigations) and the State Grade Level Expectations (GLEs). The PTA is making plans for another round of enrichment activities to begin in early February. Keep your eyes peeled for further HEP information coming home later this month! Ms. Mowry



## Welcome back Mrs. Pontarelli!

We are pleased to once again have Mrs. Kristen Pontarelli on the teaching staff at Hope School. Mrs. Pontarelli has been teaching in Scituate for over five years. Two years ago she was here at Hope teaching third grade. She is excited to see many familiar faces in her new fifth grade position that was made possible by a retirement. Mrs. Pontarelli is looking forward to preparing her new fifth graders for the Middle School next fall.

## New Computer at Lunch Update



The computerized accounting system is running very smoothly during our lunch periods. To further improve our efficiency, students are being asked to memorize their 5 digit personal identification numbers. This will eliminate the need for teachers to pass out and collect name cards each day. Please encourage your child to memorize his or her number. Thank you.



Once again the Navy Band came to Hope School to present Holiday Music. There were smiles all around from the students, staff, teachers, and several parent visitors. We appreciate the efforts of Mrs. Wilson for making this visit possible.

## Learning Celebration



Our second Learning Celebration promises to be as exciting as the first! Families of our students are invited to join us at this special school assembly where students from all grade levels share their learning with the entire school community. Please join us on Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM.

## NAEP Testing

On February 11, 2009, fourth graders of Hope School will take part in the "National Assessment of Educational Progress" also known as "the Nation's Report Card." This assessment is a National assessment of what America's students know and can do in various subject areas. Each student will be tested in Mathematics or Reading. All students are encouraged to do their best so our Nation can do well. We would like our fourth graders come to school well rested with a good breakfast on this date. Any parent may exclude their child from this testing by written request. If you have any questions please call the school office or go to the website:

<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/about/#overview>

## Lost and Found

All clothing that has been accumulating in the Lost and Found since the start of the school year will be laid out on tables in the foyer until Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Please have your child retrieve anything that belongs to him or her ASAP. Any clothing remaining after that date will be donated to a local charity.



## Spelling Bees

This month, students in grades four and five will have the opportunity to participate in classroom, school, and district wide spelling bees. The winner of the district spelling bee will compete in the State competition representing Scituate Schools. Good luck to all our spellers!

## Important Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 6 - School Committee  
Tuesday, January 6 - Wednesday, January 7  
Teachers College Visit

Friday, January 9 - School Assemblies  
Mary Jane Begin, author/illustrator  
9:30-10:20 Gr. K-2  
10:40-11:30 Gr. 3-5  
School Cafeteria

Parents and PM Kindergarten students are welcome to attend

Tuesday, January 13 - School Improvement Team Meeting, 3:30 conference room

~ NO SCHOOL~

Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Teacher In-service

~ NO SCHOOL~

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>  
Martin Luther King Day



Thursday, January 22 - Learning Celebration  
10:00 AM Gym

Parents are invited to attend

Friday, January 23 - Hope School Spelling Bee  
Grades 4 & 5 - 1:30 Cafeteria

Friday, January 23 - Grades Close Second Quarter

Monday, February 2 - District Spelling Bee

High School Auditorium, 6:30

Monday, February 2 - PTA Meeting



Report Card Distribution is  
Tuesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>