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PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING....

With Mrs. Ralph, Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! We were very happy to welcome everyone back from summer vacation. We had a wonderful opening of school. The teachers worked during the summer to prepare their classes and plan lessons for the beginning of the school year. Our custodial staff did an outstanding job of getting the school ready for a new year. The children appear to be ready to start their new classes and work with new classmates and new teachers. We have many changes scheduled for this year. Our new math program is EveryDay Math and the children and staff are very excited about this. We will be having parent nights to acquaint all parents with this new resource. A new report card will also be used this year. A district committee has worked for several years to design this tool and to make sure that it accurately reflects our curriculum. Many parent workshops will be held within the district to inform parents about this new format for reporting student progress.

Our PTA continues to work to provide activities and opportunities for the children of Danville. Their fund raising efforts are going to be directed towards improving our playground. I would urge parents to become involved with PTA activities. They are a wonderful group who work collaboratively and really have a lot of fun.

The school is planning a fundraiser at the end of September that will benefit our enrichment program. The monies raised will go towards activities that directly impact students. You will be receiving information about this fundraiser (delicious coffee cakes) and the end date for this fundraiser is October 3, 2005.

Thank you for all you do for your school.

NUTS & BOLTS

Nancy Hart, Asst. Principal &
Curriculum Coordinator

I want to welcome all our returning and new Danville students and their families. It is so nice to have our shiny building filled with our students, teachers, staff and parents! We have had a wonderful beginning to an exciting year.

NECAP- Students from NH, VT and RI will be participating in the New England Common Assessment Program. We piloted sections of the test last year. This test will replace the spring NHEIAP test. At Danville we will be assessing all students in grades 3, 4, and 5 in reading and mathematics. Grade 5 will have 2 additional sessions in writing. October 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 14 will be testing days for grades 3, 4, and 5. Grade 5 will be doing writing sessions on the 17th and 18th. The testing time will be from 9 to 10:30. The tests are designed to measure your child's progress in relationship to the NH Grade Level Expectations. The students will work with a variety of problems-multiple choice, short answer and constructed response. A constructed response requires students to explain their thinking and show their work. The writing will also include an extended writing prompt.

Parents often ask how they can support their child to do the best on the test. Most importantly, let your child know that you believe in their ability to give their best effort on the test and acknowledge that this is serious and challenging work! Make sure your child is well rested and has a good breakfast. Your child will be better prepared if he is at school on time and has a positive attitude. Please avoid any unavoidable absences. Your child will need to make up any missed components of the test. Testing results are expected to be released in February. You can view sample questions, review the grade level expectations and

get further information from:

<http://www.ed.state.nh.us/education/doe/organization/curriculum/NECAP/NECAP.htm>. This is the NH Department of Education website for NECAP. If you have any questions feel free to call me at school.

EDM-We are 'abuzz' with EveryDay Mathematics. We are in our first year of full implementation of the new program. There is a wonderful excitement among our students and teachers. Math is cool, fun, challenging, and a favorite time of day. Your child spends a minimum of one hour each day on math. The home component is very important. You will receive Family Letters at the beginning of each new unit to give you an overview of what your child will be learning. Please post those Homelinks (grades 1-3) and Studylinks (grades 4,5) where they can be a resource for both you and your student. Please plan on joining us on October 26 for an evening presentation to inform parents about this new program.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

With Louise Janelle

Communicating with Your Child

Finding out about your child's day at school and sometimes getting more than a one-word answer about your child's school day can be frustrating. Remember that asking questions that only require one-word answers will produce just that. In order to encourage your child to give you more information, ask more situation-specific questions. Here are some conversation starters which might help:

"Hi, it's good to see you!"

"What did you do on the playground today? Who did you play with?"

"Tell me the best part of the story your teacher read today?"

"What was interesting about show and tell today?"

Other good words to use could be: *"Is this a good time to talk about school?"*

The reason is wind down time. Your child has been hard at work all day at school and may need time to unwind before entering into a conversation about school. Family dinnertime may be a good period for transition.

Conversation is a skill. Teachers and school counselors teach this skill within the school setting. Learning to begin with a greeting, ask questions, make eye contact, use appropriate body language and close with an ending are components of good

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conversation which can be effectively modeled by parents.

"Let's play a game?" – Start a story about school and let them fill in the blanks. Perhaps you can begin with; "Today I went to school and sat

next to _____." "Then we opened our backpacks and _____." Continue until you are satisfied that you heard more than your child would normally volunteer.

Remember that from time to time you will hear information that may concern you. It is then you might want to ask, *"Are you sure?"* Check out information with the teacher rather than wondering if it is accurate, or if it happened as described. If you continue to hear your child express worries or fears, you may want to call the school counselor. Additionally, you may want to familiarize yourself with current school terminology. Your child may not be using terms that you remember. For example, the word "arithmetic" is no longer used in schools. The "math" may indeed be "new" to some of you.

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Lucy Landry & Cathy Keehan

Thank you for your prompt response in returning all the forms we sent home with your children. We know it felt endless!

Please remember a few important things to help us serve your children's needs effectively and keep them safe.

- **Always** update phone numbers and emergency contacts promptly
- **Always** send a note for transportation changes (forms in office and hallway)
- **Always** call the attendance line if your child will be absent or arriving after 9:00 A.M.
- **Always** drop items off at the office and we will get them to your child. Please do not go to the classroom directly as this is disruptive.
- **Always** sign in and wear a visitor pass if you are going beyond the office.

PARENTS & READING

From Claire Manes,
Reading Specialist

Primary Parents' Reading Meeting

October 11, 2005 (Tues.)

7-8:30 PM

September 28, 2005

"Parents play roles of inestimable importance in laying the foundations for learning to read. A parent is a child's first tutor in unraveling the fascinating puzzle of written language. A parent is a child's one enduring source of faith that somehow sooner or later, he or she will become a good reader." (excerpt from Readers, Writers and Parents Learning Together by Dundas & Strong). At this meeting, I will not only explain how literacy development occurs within your child, but also describe what your child's teacher is doing in the classroom. You will be able to use these very same strategies at home, which will make it much easier for your child (and you!) Parents' good intentions for their children are not enough. Parents must put their intentions into practice if their children are to have the foundation required for success in reading.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Mrs. Thorne

Just a few reminders as we begin our new school year:

- ✓ Danville School is continuing Healthy Snacks for our snack time. Saltine crackers are provided by the nurse if a student forgets, and the snack in question can be eaten at lunch. Your cooperation is appreciated as we try to give good eating examples to all of our students.
- ✓ Birthday party foods should be reviewed through individual teachers and celebrations will be held in the afternoon.
- ✓ In view of recent cases of EEE in nearby towns, I would like to encourage everyone to use insect spray on your children and yourselves at any time you are outdoors until we have a frost.
- ✓ Lastly, please remember to provide water bottles for your children at school and remember that sneakers or full shoes are the preferred footwear for recess.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Barbara Sargent, Food Service Manager

Welcome back! Lunch money is still due on Monday for the week. Our computer program uses Lunch ID Cards that work the same as a debit card. Each child has been issued a lunch card with a bar code on it. When your child comes through the lunch or milk line the card will be scanned and

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money will be deducted from the amount you have deposited on Monday. This will allow you to send in the money for not just a week but for any length of time you wish. The system will make bookkeeping a much easier project for me. If a child owes more than one week you will have to send a cold lunch until the balance has been paid. We can no longer carry a balance owed for more than that. I will be sending home notes each week in the Danville Delivery to let you know of any unpaid balances. If you are having a difficult time, there are forms to apply for free or reduced pricing from the nurse, Mrs. Thorne.

You can include any money you want for breakfast along with your child's lunch money. When your child comes through the breakfast line on any given day the card will be scanned and the money is deducted from their account. If your child is absent or changes his mind and does not take the lunch, milk or breakfast the money stays in his account to be used another day.

Breakfast is still being served starting at 8:20 am. We have a choice of cereal everyday along with toast, juice and milk. The specials that we offer are: Tuesday - Funnel cake, Wed.- Egg & Cheese on an English Muffin, Thursday - French Toast Sticks, Friday, Bagels w/Cream Cheese. The price for breakfast is \$.40 (\$.30 for reduced). The children are to get a complete breakfast when they come, not just stop by to visit and have a drink.

The lunch prices (which includes milk) is \$1.40, reduced is \$.40. Milk alone for cold lunch is \$.40.

If you would like to come in for lunch with your child please call to order a lunch. The price for an adult is \$2.00 each. If you have any questions please call or stop by. I am here between 6am and 1:30 pm at 382-4522 x309.

MUSIC NOTES

From Ms. Soha

Save this date! Band students will have their first concert on Wednesday December 7, 2005 at 7pm at the Timberlane Performing Arts Center. More info to follow.

We are off to a great start this year. It is obvious that many band students are putting in great practice time at home. They sound fantastic! Keep it up! ☐

September 28, 2005

Congratulations band members!!

Scott Beucler earned his X, 1st C, and 2nd E

Danielle Gajewski earned her 1st E

Chase Labbe earned his 1st E and X

Masha Lange earned her 1st E

Eliza Sanchez earned her 1st E

LIBRARY NEWS

Nancy Green - Media Generalist

It has been an exciting start to the school year! The Library has been up and running since the first day of school. All Classes have been given an orientation to the library and are checking out books "BY THE TRUCKLOAD!" we are averaging 100 checkouts a day. On September 16 our first and second grade students listened to the new Laura Numeroff book "If You Give a Pig a Party" and had a "party" in the library. "Miss Pig" joined us! The week of September 19 was spent learning about the United States Constitution, all classes were given information about when and how our Constitution was written.

The first grade students have been issued a library card and plastic book-bag. Please encourage them to use their book-bag and keep their books in a safe place. The fourth and fifth grades have started their explorations into different genre. Each week we will be focusing on a new genre. Our third graders have graced the library walls with their WONDERFUL artwork. Please stop in and take a look. Mrs. Murphy and I are looking forward to a very busy, event filled school year!

TITLE I

The federal No Child Left Behind legislation requires that all parents in any school receiving Title I funds be notified that they may request information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. Our school does receive Title I funds and so we would be happy to give you this information if you request in writing, or talk with the school principal. All of our classroom teachers meet the federal and state requirements for being certified and are highly qualified teachers.

SEPTEMBER IS BACKPACK AWARENESS MONTH....

Did you know that a heavy backpack could have a lasting physical effect on a developing child's skeletal system and posture?? It can also cause unnecessary aches and pains in your child's neck and back. Here is a list of guidelines to follow to insure that your child is carrying a properly fitted backpack.

- Backpacks should end **above** the waist
- Backpacks should be worn on **both** shoulders
- The shoulder straps should be snug
- Heaviest books should be placed closest to the child's back
- **Never** exceed 15% of the child's body weight
- Schedule periodic cleanings to get rid of unnecessary papers, trash in your child's backpack
- Bend at the knees (not the hips) when picking up a back pack

Sample weight chart

Years	Avg. #lbs (of child)	Max. Backpack lbs.
5	43	6.6
6	48	7.2
7	54	8.1
8	61	9.1
9	69	10.3
10	76	11.5
11	86	13.1

Any questions/concerns, please contact

Janice Knuuttunen, PT x304

Pat Ostrouch, COTA x312

Stacey Auger, OTR/L x 312

USEFUL TIPS

Classroom extensions are on the map in your student/parent handbook. You can dial them directly to leave a voicemail message.

Chaperone parking is available on the left side of the building closest to the playground and flagpole.

Staff e-mail addresses are their first initial, last name @danvilleschool.com example: llandry@danvilleschool.com

