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Timberlane Regional School District
Danville Elementary School
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Nancy Hart
Asst. Principal
Curriculum Coordinator

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING....

With Mrs. Ralph, Principal

The district is going to pursue an aggressive energy conservation plan. We are expecting a large increase in energy costs and this is going to bring about some changes in how we use energy here at school. We will be shutting down lights when we are not using the classrooms and will be looking at shutting down all electrical appliances that are not needed at the time. Energy saving monitors will be used wherever possible. As the weather gets colder and colder, please make sure that your child dresses in layers. As always, we will attempt to maintain a comfortable temperature in every classroom but the temperature does fluctuate from room to room.

I would like to thank the PTA and JoAnne Boucher, in particular, for a very successful Haunted Walk. This is a tradition at Danville School and we were very fortunate to have so many Danville families visit with us on Friday evening. Once again we received the Blue Ribbon Award for outstanding volunteer participation. Thank you to every one of our volunteers for their dedication to the school. This award is given in recognition of all the hours that our volunteers give to make this a better school for our children.

As you are aware, we have several new initiatives here this year. Everyday Math is our new math resource that is supporting the math curriculum. This is a different approach from prior years and can be confusing. This evening we would like to welcome parents to visit us here at school to learn more about the program. This session will start at 7PM in the library. We also will have a new report card. Five different parent sessions were held throughout the district during the past two weeks to give parents an opportunity to see what the changes would be. We will continue to ask parents for feedback about this new format.

NUTS & BOLTS

Nancy Hart, Asst. Principal &
Curriculum Coordinator

We are very lucky to have such wonderful students at Danville Elementary School. But even the best students make a poor choice occasionally. That is part of growing up and learning from our mistakes. It is our expectation that most minor problems will be handled within the classroom or on the playground with some "corrective coaching". If a student has had repeated warnings concerning inappropriate behavior or has a major incident they are sent to the office. It is my job to handle these disciplinary infractions. I feel it is vital to maintain a respectful attitude with everyone and have a calm discussion about 'cause and effect' or 'actions that result in reactions'. I remind students that they are responsible for the choices that they make. Most concerns are usually handled by a discussion and perhaps a loss of recess. Parents are notified if it is a repeated concern or if it is a major infraction. It is my goal to help children learn from their mistakes and realize that they may have made a poor choice but they are good people! We appreciate your support.

CURRICULUM CORNER

A reminder that Jeannene Mason, an Everyday Mathematics consultant, will be offering a parent evening on Wednesday, October 26, at Danville Elementary at 7 pm. This informative and interactive parent session will take place in the gym. We hope you can join us to learn more about our new mathematics program.

Our students are very involved with our new mathematics program. The EDM program is based on "spiral learning". For example, a new math concept is introduced to the students. Later the topic is revisited again and practiced. Mastery is not

expected until the topic or concept has been developed over an extended period of time. This spiral is referred to as beginning, developing, and secure skills. This method of learning has been proven to result in a higher level of mathematical understanding. You can support your child by confirming that they are learning many new math skills and they will become more experienced and confident as they practice these skills over time. We do not expect students to be 'secure' in topics until they have had many opportunities for learning and practice.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

With Louise Janelle

Halloween Safety Tips for Danville Parents and Students

For Parents:

- * Make sure your child eats dinner before setting out.
- * Ideally, an adult should accompany young children of any age.
- * If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
- * If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- * Children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
- * You should know where they're going.
- * Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything. Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.

For Trick-or-Treaters:

- * **Carry a flashlight**
- * Walk, don't run.
- * Stay in familiar neighborhoods
- * Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- * Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- * Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground and that shoes fit (even if they don't go with your costume)
- * Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- * Carry only flexible and safe props.
- * If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic
- * Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- * Approach only houses that are lit.

FROM THE FRONT LINE

Lucy Landry & Cathy Keehan

Please remember to only call the attendance line for absences and late arrivals. We do not check the voicemail on this line once all students have been accounted for. For early dismissals, changes to transportation home, etc. please dial "0" to get the office.

Please state the reason for your child's absence when you call. This information can help us to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Please respect our staff and students and NEVER go directly to a classroom unless you are scheduled on a regular basis to help in that room. If you have something to drop off whether it is for your child, a teacher, or the PTA, please leave it with either secretary and we will deliver it at an appropriate time.

PARENTS & READING

From Claire Manes,
Reading Specialist

Reading Tips:

(excerpt from "Reading Today" Oct. 2005)

Each year, the International Reading Association/Children's Book Council Liaison Committee issues tips for parents, primary caregivers, and educators on using literature with children at different reading levels.

Here are some specific tips for helping beginning readers:

- ❖ Read the story as the child points to the pictures on each page.
- ❖ Let the child pretend to read the story as the adult points to the pictures
- ❖ *Read alternate pages, ask each other questions, and discuss the story. The adult models what he or she thinks of when reading the page so the child gets a variety of perspectives on the ways words have different meanings.
- ❖ Use a computer program to expand a child's interest in specific topics and to provide valuable information for later curriculum study.
- ❖ Compare and contrast video adaptations of children's books for this and more advanced literacy levels.

NOTES FROM THE NURSE

Rosemary Thorne, RN

Just a little suggestion as cough, cold and flu season approaches and we all need to think about washing our hands more. In the past, some parents have found it helpful to include a small container of hand sanitizer in their child's lunch box to enable the child to wash his/her hands quickly before lunch. This might prove very beneficial in helping to keep everyone healthy during this school year. Also, remember that the children will have outside recess every day that it is not raining, so jackets and hats and mittens will be in order soon., AND don't forget those water bottles. ☺

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kathy Dresser

Along with soccer and football and a variety of movement skill activities, all students have been working on aspects of fitness. Our fitness focus is around the Physical Best Testing again this year. Last year I started to use the Physical Best Test to measure our student's fitness. We are participating in a nationwide fitness study on school age children. The children have responded well to the challenge of improving their level of fitness. Are your children doing exercises at home? One of the things I try to stress is that their fitness efforts should be on an everyday basis not only once a week in Physical Education class.

Mileage Club if off and running, most students have logged some laps toward completing their first 5 mile card of the year. Mileage Club is a recess activity where the children complete quarter mile laps for fun and cardio fitness. At the 5 mile mark they receive a little plastic toe token that is usually laced into their sneaker to mark their success.

Parents are welcome to come and help with mileage club or fitness testing. Contact me if you are interested in either of these activities, 382-5554 ex. 338 or kdresser@danvilleschool.com

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Barbara Sargent, Food Service Manager

I am glad to see so many parents coming to have lunch with their children. It really helps to have a call letting us know that you are planning to come and get a lunch for you or a sibling. We need to know how many people to fix lunches for.

I just want to thank all of you that are taking

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advantage of our debit system. This system makes it easier on all of us. When you send in your lunch money it stays in your children's accounts until they come through the breakfast, lunch or milk line. If they are absent or change their mind and bring a cold lunch no money comes out of their account. I send letters home to those that owe money in the Danville Delivery every week. If you would like a print out just call and I will send it to you. The print out will tell you what day I received your lunch money and what days your child got a breakfast, lunch or milk. All money is recorded on the day it is received.

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.

Congratulations band members!!

Gage Gallant earned his 2nd E
Nicholas MacRae earned his 1st E
Caitlyn Trout earned her 1st E
Ben Chretien earned his 1st E
Matthew German earned his 1st E
Jacqueline Fichera earned her 1st E
Katherine Psarris earned her X
Zachary Bacon earned his 1st E
Kelly Crotts earned her 1st E
Sophia Rendo earned her 1st E
Jonathan Savina earned his 1st E
Matthew Walsh earned his 1st E
Chase Labbe earned his 1st C
Laurie Reynolds earned her 2nd L
Eliza Sanchez earned her X

FROM THE ART STUDIO

Mrs. Squires

Hello to all parents!

It is great to be back at Danville. I want to say thank you to Karen McNulty who filled in for me during these first 2 months while I was out on maternity leave.

We are going to begin this new trimester with some open studio time in the art room in which the children will be working with a variety of materials on an "Autumn" theme. You can expect some artwork to come home that has been created with pastels, paint, printing, collage, etc.!

If you have signed up to be a volunteer in the art room, thank you! I will be making calls during the

first half of November to all of you so that we can arrange times when you can come in. Please continue to bring in all kinds of materials that can be used in construction, collage, and other projects. I really appreciate all of the donations that have been made while I have been out. Lastly, please create a "portfolio" at home to keep your child's artwork in. I do keep some of it here, but the children always love to bring their best work home to share with you. As always, thanks for the opportunity to work with your creative kids!



We have a new Student Council for the 2005-2006 School year! The following students have been elected by their classmates and teachers to serve the school: Corey O'Malley, Laurie Reynolds, Ray Belanger, Ryan Tingley, Jordan Lawrence, Adam Corey, Scott Short, Jonathan Savina, Autumn Fournier, Marc Steele, Ben Chretien, Danielle Gajewski, and Andrew Fearon. The following students were elected last year and have chosen to continue serving their school: Steffan Brown,

Gabrielle Perreault, Joshua Burnham, Chase Labbe, Masha Lange, Kaylyn Ryan, Jessica Markarian, and Shaun Berthel.

The Danville Student Council meets every third Tuesday to discuss ways to make Danville Elementary School a happy and comfortable place for learning. If you have any suggestions for Student Council, please see one of the people listed above, or drop a note in Ms. DeCost's mailbox. Our next two meetings will be October 25th and November 15th.

IMPORTANT NOVEMBER DATES

1st **Early Release** 1:00 PM
8th Gr. 4 Field trip to Strawberry Banke
9th Gr. 3 Field trip to Leddy Center
10th **NO SCHOOL** – Professional Development
11th – **NO SCHOOL** – Veterans' Day
15th Gr. 4 Field trip to State House
16th Gr. 5 Field trip to Leddy Center
21st Picture Make-Up Day
23rd, 24th, 25th – **NO SCHOOL** -Thanksgiving

