

# Holland Hill Update

Molly Farrell, Principal

3/12/2018

Edition 1, Volume 7

## In Like a Lion....

Dear Holland Hill Families,

Well this has certainly been an interesting early March! I hope that our weather will settle down soon, so we can ease into Spring!

Mrs. Olson and her 5<sup>th</sup> grade Kindness Squad have been so busy leading our kindness efforts this month. We have loved our Therapy Dogs, and they have brought many smiles to our older students! We are also so excited to report that HH students and staff have more than met the goal of 500 **Random Acts of Kindness!** Extra recess was earned by the whole school!

We will wrap up our Kindness efforts by celebrating our success at our **Town Meeting on Thursday 3/15**. We also have a BIG SURPRISE for students and staff at this meeting. Stay tuned!

This month we have the **Read-a-Thon** and the **Book Fair**, with **Reading Night on Tuesday 3/27!** Please

support your child's participation in any way you can.

You will also be joining your child's teacher for a **Parent-Teacher Conference** later this month. This conference is timed to coincide with the second **Progress Report** so that you can get a full picture of your child's progress so far this year.

Finally, please remember that our grading system does NOT correlate to traditional grading that most of us are used to. One of the biggest sticking points is the grade of P. A grade of P (*progressing*) indicates that your child is moving towards the grade level standard and is meant to convey growth is happening! I hope that clarifies some things.

Warmly,

Molly Farrell

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday 3/13	Early Dismissal 12:55~ Professional Development
Thursday 3/15	Town Meeting & School Spirit Day
Tuesday 3/20	FAY Assembly 9am
Thurs. 3/22- Wed. 3/28	Read-a-thon
Friday 3/23	Dress as your favorite book character!
Week of 3/26	Book Fair in LLC
Tuesday 3/27	Progress Reports Issued
Tuesday 3/27	Reading Night
Wednesday 3/28	Early Dismissal 12:55~ Conferences (Evening)
Thursday 3/29	Early Dismissal 12:55~ Conferences (Afternoon)
Thursday 3/29	School Store
Friday 3/30	No School~ Good Friday
Wednesday 4/4	Early Dismissal 12:55~ Conferences (Afternoon)
April 8-13	SPRING BREAK



## Smarter Balanced Testing

Smarter Balanced testing (SBA) is coming! The most healthy approach to standardized testing is to see it as an opportunity to “show what you know,” rather than thinking of it as a high pressure situation! We want students to be proud of their hard work and growth more than anything else. Please be cognizant of testing dates for your child when scheduling doctors’ appointments or even days out of school. We will get a more detailed schedule (including testing times) to you soon.

Also, there is a wealth of information available to parents at the **Smarter Balanced Website**: <https://ct.portal.airast.org> Once there, click on Students and Families!

### Test Dates~

#### Grade 5

April 2–April 6 (ELA); May 14–May 18 (Math)

#### Grade 4

April 16–April 20 (ELA); May 7– May 11 (Math)

#### Grade 3

April 23–April 27 (ELA); April 30–May 4 (Math)

## SBA Math Word of the Day!

To help boost our students’ understanding of math vocabulary, we will be announcing a *Math Word of the Day* each morning on the Holland Hill morning announcements. Classroom teachers will post the word and the definition and will have a quick discussion about the word. Some of the words will be a first exposure for our younger students, but it’s never too early to

introduce our students to math vocabulary they will encounter in the future.

Below are the words in the order they will be announced. This would be a great opportunity for you, as a parent, to have a conversation with your child about math. Ask your child if they know what the word means and what they can tell you about the word. Some words may be more challenging than others, depending on the age of your child, so use your judgement as to which words you would like to discuss!

**Week 1:** array, polygon, meter, multiple, addend

**Week 2:** sum, difference, quadrilateral, factor, expression

**Week 3:** fraction, denominator, numerator, parallelogram

**Week 4:** equivalent, true, equation, product, line segment

**Week 5:** angle, parallel lines, quotient, area, perimeter

**Week 6:** right angle, acute angle, obtuse angle, liter, line of symmetry

**Week 7:** decimal, mixed number, minute, hour, centimeter

**Week 8:** octagon, gram, kilogram improper fraction, ordered pairs

Lynne Fuchs, *Math Science Teacher*





## Holland Hill Construction...next steps!

We are getting ready to move Mr. Noyes to one side of the portable that was moved over the holidays. His current portable is set to be removed over the long Easter weekend, so music class will take place in the new space beginning Monday, April 2.

Soon, you will see equipment and fencing in the back of the school as the whole process towards building the addition begins! Once it gets closer and I have more information about how that affects all of us, I will share it.

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to all the families who sent in donations for some new playground equipment. Miss K was able to purchase many new balls, hula hoops and jump ropes to be used at recess and keep our students happy and active! Thank you ALL!



## SRBI~A Continuing Process

You may remember a lot of information coming home in the beginning of the year about the revamped **SRBI** (*Scientifically Research Based Intervention*) process that is in place throughout schools in Fairfield. Simply put, this is the way schools analyze student growth, and then plan instruction which is targeted to each student's needs.

This is the time of the school year in which parents begin to think about next year, and sometimes anxiety about that transition might make you worry about your child's progress. Please know that we are continually reviewing the progress of ALL students in regularly scheduled meetings involving teachers, administrators and curriculum specialists. The many assessments your children participates in are reviewed and analyzed as part of that process. If you have questions about your child's progress, please do not hesitate to ask his or her teacher at your upcoming conference.



Don't forget to follow me on Twitter for lots of school photos, videos and updates!  
**Mrs. Farrell @HollandHillelem**