



THE VOYAGER

NEW HOPE ELEMENTARY
 1900 NEW HOPE CHURCH ROAD,
 CHAPEL HILL NC 27514
 EDITOR: HEATHER RABALAIS

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MARCH 2011

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 25: End of 9 weeks grading period
- March 28 - April 1 - Spring Break
- April 4 - Snow make-up day
- April 13: Early Dismissal
- April 15: Spring Fling & General PTSA Mtg. 5:30-8:00 - Cafeteria/ Gym
- April 19, 5:30: Budget Presentation - Sup. Pat Rhodes
- April 22: Holiday No School
- May 2-6: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
- May 13: 5th Grade Student-Teacher Basketball Game
- May 16-20: EOGs
- May 24: PTSA Mtg - Library



Principal's Points



Dear New Hope Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness regarding one of the "hot topic" pieces of legislation (Senate Bill 8) that is currently being considered for approval in our state by forwarding you a news release sent out by the district's Public Information Officer. Please note that this information neither supports nor discourages the existence of charter schools, but rather raises the concern about how current proposed legislation could potentially impact all public schools in North Carolina.

The political wrangling in Raleigh over the state budget is in full swing. The governor's budget, released recently, includes a 4% cut to education in addition to the 4.75% annual reversion. However, the General Assembly has openly called for Governor Perdue to decrease her budget by an additional 1.3 billion dollars. Drafts of the General Assembly's budget are beginning to surface, but they are far too nebulous at this point to provide us with any details.

The more concerning issue remains Senate Bill 8. Commonly referred to as the "No Cap on Charter Schools" bill, it would allow for the unrestricted expansion of charter schools and greatly increase the amount and scope of funding that school districts would have to provide to them. At the district level, the issue is not with the number of new charter schools but the fact that charter schools would have access to any and all funds that are controlled by the district, with the exception of federal grants.

While we already provide charter schools with the local per pupil allocation (from the county commissioners), Fines and Forfeiture funding and Fair Funding monies based upon the number of students from the district attending the school, Senate Bill 8 will expand the scope of the funds that they can draw from including capital funds, lottery proceeds, interest, grants and district fund balance. Furthermore, the district would have to turn over funding from More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, the Head Start program and the school lunch program, even if the charter schools do not offer these programs.

The devastating impact of this is compounded by the fact that we have been building up the district's fund balance to mitigate the severity of the impending reductions from the state. Our initial calculations are showing that we would lose a minimum \$150,000 from fund balance alone. What is unknown at this time is the impact that Senate Bill 8 will have on school organizations such as booster clubs and parent-teacher associations.

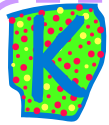
I have also embedded the link from the Charlotte Observer stating that North Carolina has fallen to 46th in the nation for school funding and 45th in the nation for teacher salaries. <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2011/03/10/2125791/nc-falls-to-46th-in-per-pupil.html> We have also added some new information to the district's budget website, including letter templates. Our best chance to repeal this legislation is through grassroots efforts. I would encourage each of you to contact the members of the General Assembly (a contact list is on the budget page) and express your concerns about the impact that this legislation and potential budget cuts will have on education in North Carolina.

Sincerely,
 Cathy Rumley, Principal
 (with special thanks to Michael Gilbert, OCS Public Information Officer)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Principal's Points	1
Grade Level News	2-3
Ms. Kelleher Student Council	4
Ways to help your school	5
Got Grit?	5
SIT Update	6
Catch the BUZZ!	6
FLAP Event	6
Terrific Kids	7
Art News	7
Spring Fling OCS Art Exhibit	8

Grade Level News



Kindergarten News

February was an exciting month in Kindergarten! We learned about Groundhog Day early in the month followed by the 100th Day of School and Valentine's Day. To celebrate the 100th day, we set up rotations through each kindergarten class. We made 100th day glasses, 100th day headbands, 100th day trail mix, and 100th day necklaces. Students had a wonderful time celebrating their accomplishments from the first 100 days of school! During the rest of the month, we focused our studies around Community Helpers. Kindergarteners learned about people who help in our community and various other jobs. We were fortunate to have many wonderful guest speakers to visit with us and talk to us about their jobs. The students enjoyed having the opportunity to speak with these visitors and discuss their jobs and how they help our community.

During March we will be learning all about Zoo Animals. Students will learn about how animals look, move and their habitats. We will also learn what a zoo is and what we can expect to see on our trip to the North Carolina Zoo in Asheboro. All of kindergarten will be going to the zoo on March 23rd. We are very excited about our big trip!



First Grade News



During the month of February 1st graders were hard at work in the NH Bear Bag Tag Factory. They learned about marketing, production and assembly, division of labor, quality control and sales. Students assembled the tags and added details to each bear before they were laminated. The factory workers examined each tag for quality assurance. Once tags were given the stamp of approval, they were laminated and ribbons were added. After about 3 weeks of production we were able to open the Bear Bag Tag Store. Students and adults came to purchase the tags for 25¢ each. 1st graders worked at the store collecting money, making change and giving out receipts. The tags were a huge success and we quickly sold out. Also, as part of this Social Studies Economics Unit we took a trip to Build-A-Bear Workshop where each child was able to make and keep their own bear. This month we are learning about rocks and soil. Students will participate in hands on activities as they rotate through all of the first grade classrooms. We look forward to building rock collections and playing in the dirt!



Second Grade News



We have been so busy and productive in the 2nd grade this quarter! Not only have we gone on another field trip, but we also gained a new team member!

We would like to welcome Ms. Robin Sheppard to our team as an Interventionist. Ms. Sheppard has not only been very important to our students but to the entire student body of New Hope as well. When she isn't teaching a guided reading group or differentiated math group for us she is working at Homework Haven, running multiplication practices for the Showdown, teaching 1st grade reading and writing groups, or working with the CLC. We're keeping her very busy and we're so glad she's here! Welcome Ms. Sheppard!



On February 11th the 2nd grade teachers and students ventured to Raleigh to the Museum of Natural Science. This field trip is always a great one. The hands on Animal Life Cycles classes are an instant hit with the kids. Where else do you get to touch a snake and a dove, watch a huge bullfrog splash around and aww at new baby mice?! When we weren't being taught about life cycles we explored the 4 floors of the museums. We saw it all, from hissing cockroaches to dinosaurs, pumas to sea horses. Needless to say the bus drive back to school was abuzz with excited chatter. Thanks to all of the parents who were brave chaperones on this fun and exhausting trip.

The 2nd grade students continue to improve every day. We're all excited to see the growth they're making in every subject. We have some real scientists, readers, writers, and mathematicians on our hands. Everyone is working hard and pushing on to day 180. It's been a great journey so far!



Grade Level News continued

Third Grade News

The third grade has been working on becoming analytical scientists and expressive poets. Isn't that a great combination! Mr. Swain reports that Swain's All-Stars have been testing a mystery soil to determine what is in the soil. They have also been writing cinquains, haikus, concrete poetry, and acrostic poems. Wirth's Stars have been rolling up their sleeves and digging in too! They have participated in lots of experiments to learn about different soil types and the properties of soil. They have also been reading and writing poetry this month and are about to begin a study of tall tales. Ms. Norris's Navigators and Ms. Dean's Explorers enjoyed their analysis of soil samples using magnifying glasses, test tubes and wet and dry samples. They also have read and written different types of poetry and are really excited about learning to use a Thesaurus to expand their speaking and writing vocabulary. Ms. Rettig's Rockstars created and have been taking care of, a healthy compost bin (in the classroom). Mr. Swain and Ms. Rettig's kids aerated all the NH garden boxes and Ms. Wieland and Ms. Rettig's kids did NH soil sample analysis on the trail. Ms. Wieland's Winners and Ms. Rettig's Rockstars each had a Poetry Café where students shared their poetry with parents, teachers and administrators and celebrated writing together. Ms. Rettig began a computer club for students who wished to stay after school on Fridays to work on approved web sites for exploration and practice.

Next up, our third grade will be learning about communities past and present and comparing the lives of families then and now. For our study, the third grade explores the settlement of the American west. We will learn how the early settlers decided to look for new land in the frontier and how that affected the Native American population. During this study, we will also read and write tall tales and create hall murals of our favorite characters (with assistance from wonderful Mrs. Jones!). Our field trip for this unit of study will be a visit to a real buffalo ranch right here in Hillsborough.

Fourth Grade News

The 4th graders have been very busy. They just finished up their Artist in Residency program with artist Virginia Queen. Mrs. Queen came into the classrooms and worked with the students on poetry, expression and movement. The students attended a poetry/storytelling program at the Carrboro ArtsCenter last Friday where they were able to listen to Glenis Redmond and Charlotte Blake Alston. It was a wonderful program and the students had a great time. The students are also busy learning about the Iditarod race in Alaska. They are each following a musher and learning all about the race. Stephanie Rogers came to the classes to share her experiences in Alaska with the race and she shared some great videos.

Fifth Grade News

2011 has proven to be a great year so far for our New Hope fifth graders! In February, students caught a glimpse of the future when they visited AL Stanback Middle for a tour of the school. They were very excited to see what wonderful things lie ahead for them! Students also made us so proud as they performed a song, "Des Colores", on their recorders at the NC Symphony! In class, the students enjoyed creating historical museums that other classes were able to visit. In addition, our students began working on a special service project called Project Linus at the end of February. Each class began making a fleece quilt to donate to the UNC Children's Hospital.

In March, the big moment finally arrived... our Washington DC field trip! Students had a fabulous time touring our nation's capital and spending quality time with their friends! Many special memories were created!

Keeping up with Ms. Kelleher

Counselors Spring Forward with Transitional Activities, Parent and Student Educational Programs as well as Character Development Throughout the Third Quarter

Written by Kim J. Kelleher, School Counselor



During the third quarter the counseling team has been very busy with a variety of activities and programs both in and out of school. Ms. Kelleher, School Counselor and Ms. Davis, Counselor Intern have been facilitating the **fifth grade transition to middle school**. They arranged a field trip for the fifth graders to attend a **tour of AL Stanback Middle School** on February 4th and will also host the ALS guidance counselors at New Hope

for an orientation program. The **Middle School Parent Program** was scheduled on February 15th. There parents attended a spaghetti supper and information sessions on the Middle School curriculum as well as EC, AIG, AVID and more. Ms. Kelleher has also been assisting with **Parenting Classes** that were taught at Cameron Park Elementary School for four Tuesday nights in February. There were fifty parents from all over Orange County in attendance each week!! The parenting classes reviewed various parenting styles, effective discipline strategies, homework challenges, chores and more. Ms. Lamason and Ms. Kelleher lead the **Student Council**, which is the fifth grade student leadership team. Student Council worked with Ms. Kelleher and Ms. Davis to **team-teach anti-bullying classes** in the 4th grade classrooms. During these lessons, students completed a bullying quiz, strengthened strategies to deal with bullies, watched video clips, participated in role-plays and discussed many ways to address positive social skills. Regarding Character Development, Ms. Williams, Ms. Davis and Ms. Kelleher work together to organize the **Terrific Kids** program each month. Ms. Kelleher focused on **Kindness and Caring**, **Teamwork** and **Good Judgment** during our January, February and March News Shows and guidance classes. Every month each staff member can nominate a student who demonstrates a selected character trait. Ms. Williams, Ms. Davis, Ms. Kelleher and representatives from the student council prepare the certificates and the recognition breakfast on the last Thursday of each month. In addition, Ms. Kelleher and Ms. Davis facilitated **Career Exploration Week** during the week of February 21st. Ms. Kelleher arranged several career presentations on the news, in various classrooms and in our Little Theater. The student council interviewed our career guests on the New Hope News Show. We even dressed up on Friday representing different careers. Everyone got involved and it was a fun experience for the whole school! The counseling team has worked hard to offer the best in educational programming for students, parents and staff throughout the third quarter!!



Student Council News

Written by: Jett Wittingham
Student Council Member

Student Council has been really busy during this quarter. We worked on the New Hope News Show during the entire Career Exploration Week. We interviewed Mr. Reale, Mr. Kelly, Dr. Kelsey, Ms. Altieri and Ms. Stauffer-Weller. We learned a lot about their professions along with the rest of the school. We even had a visit from the Duke Life Flight Helicopter right on our soccer field!!! We helped Ms. Kelleher teach anti-bullying classes in many of the classrooms and we set up the cafeteria and refreshments for the Terrific Kids Program.

That is really fun!!! Soon we will be helping with Dr. Seuss Day on March 25th. Overall Student Council members have worked really hard to make these programs great and we are having lots of fun doing it!!!!



WAYS TO HELP YOUR SCHOOL

We earn electronic box tops through <http://www.rewardyourschool.com> when you sign up and use your **Kroger shopper's card**. So we could earn double if you also clip those boxtops and send them in. Thanks again for collecting!!



Box Tops for Education: Avery, Juicy Juice, Green Giant Frozen vegetables and Progresso Soups are new participating products.

CONGRATULATIONS, NEW HOPE!! Our next check in April will be over \$1400. Mrs. Park's kindergarten class, Mrs. Pratt's first grade class, Ms. Rettig's third grade class, Mrs. Bruce and Mrs. Lovette's fourth graders and Mrs. Craig's fifth graders have all turned in over 1000 box tops so far this year!!! Posters have been put up around the school to help classes know how many more box tops they need to collect to get the "Special Reward" for their classroom. Please continue to collect and send in your box tops and let your teachers know if you need more collection sheets. *Make sure to include your child's name and their teacher's name on collection sheets so the class will get credit!!*



Campbell's Labels for Education

Thank you for continuing to send in UPC's!! We are still collecting **UPC barcodes** from Campbell's, Swanson, Pepperidge Farms and V8 products. Please make sure you save the **entire UPC barcode** and turn these in to your child's teacher or place in the mailbox in the school office. *These barcodes help us earn Art classroom supplies and P.E. Equipment for our school.* **Note for all V8® Beverages:** Please **SAVE THE CAPS** and entire UPC barcodes. Thanks!!!



NEW LAST YEAR!! Weaver Street Market's donation program for schools. If you would like to participate, please visit any Weaver Street Market and purchase a rechargeable School Scrip Card, also known as a Gift Card. When purchasing the card, **be sure to tell the cashier to use School Scrip Number 237 for New Hope Elementary School.** This will ensure that New Hope receives the 5% donation.



Tyson Project A+ Program: New Hope is continuing in the Project A+ program. Our school can use the money we earn for anything we need — field trips, computer equipment, sports gear, library books — anything! If you buy Tyson packages, **please send the entire bag label or box top** in to your child's teacher or place in the mailbox in the school office. We receive **24 cents** for each complete full label collected. We **do not** get credit for just the A+ symbol. To date we have received 65 labels. We need at least 100 in order to submit for a check. Thanks for your support!!



Please don't forget to re-link your **Harris Teeter VIC cards (#2633)** and your **Food Lion MVP Cards** so New Hope Elementary will continue to receive your support.



Got Grit?

The 4th Annual GRIT Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on March 3rd, 2011. Got GRIT is a program that was founded by Mr. Tom Carr, the guidance counselor, at Cameron Park Elementary. The goal of this program is to prove that kids should be judged on more than IQ, GPA and standardized tests scores. **GRIT** is an acronym that stands for **G** – Getting Along With Others, **R** – Responsibility, **I** – Integrity and **T** – Tenacity. I, along with three other kids from our school, Andrea Toledo, Adam White and Brooke McCaffrey were lucky enough to be inducted into the GRIT Hall of Fame this year. There were 37 students from across Orange County who also got inducted that evening. Each year, one fifth grader from every class is chosen to be the Got GRIT winner for that class. The teacher and students together select a classmate to represent them. Then each teacher must write an essay about that child to be sent to Mr. Carr. He then selects the county winners. I was also fortunate enough to be selected to win one of the three scholarship prizes in the amount of \$250.00. To all future fifth graders, this is an award that you should strive to get because it has been an amazing experience for me!



-Chase Kimball, Miss Honeycutt's Fifth Grade Class

SIT UPDATE by Donna Kimball, Communications Coordinator

The School Improvement Team is currently involved in our election process for next year's team members. Please make sure that you vote when the ballots come home! Your voice counts and is very much appreciated. I would like to thank the following SIT team members who have completed their terms:

- Stephanie Rogers, our chairman for the past three years
- Roger Green, who keeps us straight with our data analysis and our surveys
- Amy Cole, who is our very own New Hope gardener extraordinaire

They have all done an outstanding job and will be missed tremendously!! A big thanks goes to Amy Cole who has agreed to run for re-election this spring. Finally, thanks to **Mr. Paul Meggett** who will not only be leaving the School Improvement Team but also our community. He has accepted a position in the Charlotte area and will be moving there this summer. He has been instrumental in the development of our after-school Community Learning Center. Both he and his family will be greatly missed!

Our team meets in the media center on the second Tuesday of the month at 5:30. You are always welcome to join us!!

Catch the BUZZ! Submitted by Mrs. Euliss

In January, sixteen classroom spelling bee champs progressed to compete in the New Hope Spelling Bee. These fourth and fifth grade students were: Colin Boyette, Jon Carter, Ryan Dwyer, Christina Tilley, Roland Burnot, Nick Epstein, Micah Herbin, Angel Serna, Tyler Lee, Adam White, Chase Kimball, Ledyamond Singletary, Curtis Johnson, Bailey Pearson, Martin Meggett, and Sailor Ramos.

Fifth grader Sailor Ramos held onto his title of school champion and fourth grader Ryan Dwyer was our runner up. Sailor gave up his spot to represent New Hope in the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee, so Ryan competed on behalf of New Hope. The Regional Bee, sponsored by and hosted by Duke University, gave 57 fourth through eighth graders the opportunity to become the winner of Durham and Orange County Schools and go on to Washington DC for the National Bee. While Ryan was not one of the top competitors, he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, but was also happy that it was over so that he didn't have to keep studying each night!

Congratulations to all our spellers for their hard work and love of language! [And for you word buffs out there, the winning word in the Regional Bee was schottische (pronounced shot' ish), a round dance resembling the polka...who knew?]

The Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant presents... The 2011 Orange County Schools Cultural Explosion!

A.L. Stanback Middle on Thursday, April 21st from 6 to 8 pm.

Bring your family and friends and enjoy performances, booths, games, and food trucks from cultures from all over the world! There will also be a scavenger hunt, raffle and opportunities for middle and high school students to earn volunteer hours and extra credit from their foreign language and IB teachers starting at 4pm. (Also stay tuned after Spring Break for more specific details about opportunities to come for students to dress in cultural attire during that week.)

Best of all, the entire event is FREE! (Food will be available for purchase.)

If you'd like to volunteer, present or assist in a booth from a specific culture, or help out in any way, please contact **Señorita Erica Davis** (Spanish teacher at New Hope) at erica.davis@orange.k12.nc.us or **919.942.9696 ext. 44350** with any questions or ideas.

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TERRIFIC KIDS!

January = Kindness and Caring



Abisai Urvina
Alyssa Manoogian
Amanda Baez-Rivera
Brian Rosario
Briana Mendez-Vega
Brittney Villegas-Hermenegildo
Cameron Lanier
Carmen Johnson
Charlotte Underwood
Colby Kimball
Conner Reale
Curtis Johnson
Gustavo Caballero
Hannah Kankelfritz
John Blake Gonzalez-Vazquez
Jonathan Johnson
Joshua Greene
Juan Chavez

Karla Torres
Katey Shambley
Kayley Hester
Kelly Zelaya
Kennedy Kelsey
Kiya Herbin
Kobe Boyer
Ledyamond Singletary
Levi Draughton
Macy Henry
Milly Balderas
Oran Blankford
Rachel Ezell
Rachel Marro
Sarah Lowell
Scarlett Mejia-Santos
Zuling Quade

February = Team Work



Aidan Kearns
Aysia Hinton
Becca Hilliard
Chloe Johnson
Christa Logsdon
Cristian Balderas
Dayanara Mejia
Dean Allen
Diana Guevara
Evelyn Weaver
Giselle Solis
Grace Cawley
Hailie Greene
Jacob Miller
Jake Vosburg
James Writz
Jasiah Bird
Jasmine Gomez
Jazmin Martinez-Ramos

Jennifer Osorio-Lopez
Jessica Silva-Flores
Johannes Sanchez
Kaitlin Umstead
Kayla Reyes
Liam Wirth
Lizmaylin Dejesus Sanchez
Maddie Sorrell
Martin Meggett
Ninel Armendariz Mireles
Ryan Dwyer
Saige Grande
Sara White
Sarah Rabalais
ShiLi Quade
Taylor Barnes
Vivi Geron
Yusuani Benitez

Art News by Sarah Jones



New Hope had its' Fine Arts Fest on February 24th. Many families came to celebrate the arts with us! Students were able to make masks, jewelry, God's Eyes, rainsticks, and quilt squares. We also painted three large canvases together, and got to try playing a variety of musical instruments. One of our favorite activities was posing like Edvard Munch's painting, The Scream. We ended the evening with a family

music making event in the media center. Thanks you to our PTSA who helped us organize this fun evening!





~ Spring Fling ~ Friday, April 15th



- 5:30pm Food available in Cafeteria (4th Grade Fundraiser)
 6:00pm Title I Parent meeting in Cafeteria
 General PTSA meeting in Cafeteria
 *Vote on the adoption of Uniform Bylaws from NCPTA
 *Election of 20011/2012 PTSA Officers:
 Kristin Merrill - President Heather Rabalais - Vice President
 Mary Miller - Secretary Diane Rabalais - Treasurer
- 6:30pm SPRING FLING begins in Gym
 *DJ with dancing *Games
 *Jump rope *More FUN, FUN, FUN

**Admission Cost for Spring Fling:
 \$1.00 per person
 We'll see you there!!!**

Mark your calendars now for an event that you will not want to miss! Our annual Spring Fling will be held in the gym on Friday, April 15th from 6 - 8. The 4th grade parents will also be serving food in the cafeteria in order to raise money to help pay for the annual 5th Grade Washington, DC trip. There will also be a very SHORT PTSA meeting right before the dance. We will have a D.J., lots of dancing, jumping rope, playing limbo and many more fun activities. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to make this event even better, please feel free to e-mail me at donna.kimball@orange.k12.nc.us. Thanks in advance for your participation!

Donna Kimball - Coordinator

Orange County Schools Art Exhibit

April 9 - 23, 2011

Reception: April 9th: 2:00p - 4:00p

Visual Artwork from all Orange County Schools will be displayed at:

Orange County Public Library

137 West Margaret Lane, Hillsborough, NC

919-245-2525

www.co.orange.nc.us/library/

Monday - Thursday: 10a - 8p

Friday: 10a - 6p; Saturday: 9a - 5p; Sunday: 1p - 5p

1st, 2nd, & 3rd place ribbons will be awarded for each school.

Parking available in lot beside library or in parking deck.

Ground level spaces #40-80 are free. Other spaces are \$1/hour.

We're on the web
[http://
 www.orange.k12.nc.us/
 nh/default.htm](http://www.orange.k12.nc.us/nh/default.htm)