



# Hanover Herald

2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR, VOL. 3



## From the Principal's Desk...

# DECEMBER 2023

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It's hard to believe we are already in the month of December! If you recall, the theme for the month of November was Gratitude. Hopefully all of you were able to have a wonderful Thanksgiving and find time to relax and reflect on the things your family is grateful for.

The theme for the month of December is Empathy. Empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings. Students will learn what showing empathy means. You can also utilize the family resource on Empathy from our Purposeful People resource in this newsletter to have some discussions at home. Helping students to better understand other people's perspectives will not only help them find more success in school, but will better prepare them to be impactful and positive citizens in our world. Thanks for your support in these conversations and lessons.



Speaking of showing Gratitude and Empathy; our 3rd graders just helped to promote "The Giving Tree" at HES. "The Giving Tree" asked students and families to donate food, clothing, and toys to local families in need during the holiday season. Thank you to all of the families that helped make someone else's holiday season a bit more special.



I also want to recognize our 4th graders who performed their musical on November 16th for the entire school and then their families later that evening. It is always so much fun to watch our students showcase their talents!



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Hanover  
Elementary  
BHM SCHOOLS

A reminder that winter break is Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st. The weather will likely change fast, so be sure students come prepared with winter gear when the snow begins to fly as they will have recess as long as temperature and windchill stay above -5.



Thanks again for all your support and partnerships as it truly makes all the difference for our students!

~Brad Koltes, Principal~

Enjoy Winter Break!



# Fitness Focus

This November in grades K-5 we focused on striking skills, had the bounce house celebration, and did some cup stacking! We also did some chasing, fleeing, and dodging in grades K-2. We focused on the importance of gratitude and talked about things we were grateful for in Gratitude Tag.

The Timberwolves GET FIT Sheets have been sent home. This is a program through the MN Timberwolves that promotes physical activity. For every 15 minutes of activity time students earn 1 point. When they have earned 25 points, the program is completed. The program started on November 27th and will go until January 5th. Please return the sheet to PE and I will record that your child has completed the program. When the students complete the program, they will earn a BOGO Timberwolves ticket to an upcoming game. In the past this promo code for tickets came a couple of weeks after the program was completed and there were usually 6-8 different games to choose from. I am not sure if that will be the case this year as the Timberwolves are a very good team and tickets may be harder to come by. I hope your child will participate in this program!



Looking forward to December, we are going to start fitness testing in 5th grade. In grades 3-5 we will be focusing on striking while playing volleyball. In volleyball we will be spending time on learning and improving the forearm pass, the set, the underhand and overhand serve. We will have the opportunity to experience a volleyball game in class. In grades K-2 we will also focus on striking skills through station work. Also towards the end of the month there will be a couple of days of holiday game play. As always we are working towards treating one another with respect and practicing our good sportsmanship skills.

This month's focus at HES is *Empathy* and we will talk about how we can use empathy in PE and in life. Thank you to all as we look forward to having a great December in HES PE. Please help your child remember their gym shoes for PE class. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Mr. Turner*  
*Physical Education Specialist*



## Kitchen Korner

December is typically a quiet month in the kitchen. Please check the school website for our monthly menu. It contains not only what is being served that day, but also nutritional information on each item.



Please note that when there is a Snow Emergency and school is CANCELED, the menu will continue as printed.

The Nutrition Services department is looking for folks to sub in our kitchens. Our subs can pick which schools to work at and always have the option of turning down requests. Please consider being a part of our team!!



From all of us in the kitchen, Happy Holidays!!

# Musical Notes

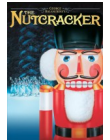
Happy December greetings to all!

Our fourth graders performed their musical, "The Great Big Holiday Bake-Off"



on November 16th. Their shows took place during the day and in the evening in the Hanover lunchroom gymnasium. Students did an awesome job! MANY THANKS to our fourth grade teachers, Mrs. Boldt, Mrs. Schaaf and Mrs. Turner for their extra work with students. Also, thank you to the PTO for donating costumes and set props.

During the month of December, all students will be singing holiday songs from around the world. In addition, all grades will study the Nutcracker Ballet story and listen to the music. Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade curriculum in December will focus around the Nutcracker, holiday songs and games. Students K-5 will also start our handbell unit with some composing.



We will be starting piano keyboard for K-5th graders starting mid-January.



Happy Holidays to Everyone!

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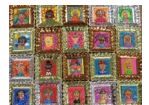
## Artistic Expressions

Hi Hanover families! This time of year, as life seems to get even busier, it's been the same in the art room. We are juggling projects and starting some new fun things for the winter season.

5th grade: Collage! 5th graders picked a theme for their collage and are busily cutting and pasting. We will start a winter landscape project this month that is always a favorite.



4th grade: The Gallery of Gratitude has been on display for the month of November to help reinforce this past month's word : gratitude. 4th graders worked very hard drawing portraits of various staff members at HES. We are moving on to learning about the craft of paper bead making. Maybe your 4th grader can even show you how to make one at home!



2nd grade: HES 2nd grade students have just finished their big unit on collage. Mrs. Anderson's class has theirs on display in the hallways. We are now going to be working on a project all about drawing; students get to design their own robot!



1st grade: We really dove into the curriculum from the MIA Art Adventures with first grade this past November. The painting we were most inspired by was "The Wash" by Clementine Hunter. 1st graders created their own "mini masterpiece" inspired by her art. We will be starting our unit on texture this month, featuring a project made out of air dry clay.



Kindergarten: During the month of December, kindergarten students are really going to have their colors memorized! We are doing a lot of projects focusing on knowing the colors of the rainbow and the color wheel.



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# Health Headlines

Greetings from the health office!

Save the Date: *Give Kids a Smile* February 2nd and 3rd.



Each year, dental professionals from across the state participate in Give Kids a Smile, providing free dental care to low-income children in need. The event takes place on the first Friday and Saturday of February and is made possible by the collaborative effort of the Minnesota Dental Association, volunteer dentists, and other generous sponsors. Registration begins January 1, 2024. Parents can find local participating clinics by visiting [mndental.org](http://mndental.org) or by calling United Way 2-1-1 or 1-800-543-7709. Please note: Every child must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian and must have an appointment in advance. Walk-in care is not available.

Heidi Gallart/Licensed School Nurse - Elementary/763-682-8514



*Thank you* to all the families that brought in donations for  
***The Giving Tree!***

You donated 271 toys, 258 food items, 250 clothing articles and 20 other items (like books, blankets, electronics). There was also \$110 donated to the Hanover Area Food Shelf. You helped many families have a wonderful holiday season!



## HES PTO Valentine BINGO!

Friday, February 9th  
Watch for more info to come

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

If you use Amazon to shop for the holiday season or for every day, use this link: [smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1355288](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-1355288) and Amazon will support our school with every dollar you spend!





## DONATIONS

• Allina Dollars for Doers	\$100.00
• Hanover Athletic Association	\$3797.90
• PTO: 4th grade musical	\$818.50
• PTO: Kindie role-play items	\$449.94



### Upcoming Events

December 4-8	Scholastic Book Fair
December 21	Dress Up Day-Red & Green
December 22-January 1:	No school, Winter Break
January 2	School Resumes
January 5	Dress Up Day-College & Career
January 5	Early Release, 12:25 pm

### Talk to your child about showing respect for teachers, classmates

Respectful behavior is vital for education. When students show respect for teachers and classmates, they help create the positive academic environment all children need to be successful learners.

Encourage your child to:

- Address the teacher by name. Simply saying "Good morning, Mrs. Jones" is an easy way to show respect.
- Be courteous. Your child should say please and thank you to the teacher and classmates.
- Raise a hand. When students avoid interrupting and wait to be called on, they demonstrate respect for others.
- Do what's expected. Everyone in the class has a job to do. If the teacher doesn't plan any lessons, no one can learn anything. If students don't do their jobs—completing assignments, listening to others—it makes it more difficult to learn.
- Listen to the teacher's comments. Teachers want students to learn and improve. That means they have to point out mistakes. Students do much better in school when they can recognize and accept constructive feedback.

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## Plan fun activities to keep your child learning over winter break

Your child looks at the calendar and imagines the joy of having free time for the entire winter school break. You look at the same blank squares on the calendar and have a mild moment of panic.

To keep from hearing "I'm bored" during your child's time off from school, make time for some of these fun activities that promote learning:

- Help your child focus on others. This is the season for the "I wants." Insist that your family take part in an activity that will help those less fortunate.
- Prepare food together. Nearly every culture has some special foods associated with the holiday season. With your child, prepare foods you remember from your childhood. Share your memories. Or do some research and cook a dish you've never tried.
- Select a movie that is based on a book. After you and your child finish reading the book, watch the movie together. Discuss how the two are alike and how they are different.
- Encourage your child to learn more about the past and family history by talking with aunts, uncles, grandparents—even you. Together, brainstorm a list of questions to ask, such as, "What was school like for you when you were my age?" and "What trends were popular?" Your child can record the conversations, write them down, or just listen.

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## Promote independence with a checklist of responsibilities

Whether it's keeping track of assignments or taking care of school property, responsible behavior is a must for school success. And the best way to teach your child responsibility is to give your child responsibilities.

Sit down together and make a list of tasks your child is ready to handle independently. Then make a checklist of everything you expect your child to do. Agree on small rewards for a job well done, and consequences for times your child shirks responsibility.

Here is a starter checklist of responsibilities you can adapt:

- Going to bed on time.
- Getting up on time.
- Fixing breakfast.
- Completing schoolwork.
- Maintaining grades.
- Getting along with siblings.
- Keeping room clean.
- Reading at least 15 minutes a day.
- Taking care of personal hygiene.
- Putting dirty clothes in a hamper.



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# EMPATHY

## Family Newsletter

PurposeFULL  
People

### Empathy Overview

This month's focus is Empathy. One way to think about Empathy is "understanding and connecting with other people's feelings." Empathy is a practice that can help us grow strong relationships.

Empathy is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students **Be Kind**. Across grade levels, students will be developing skills like perspective-taking, conflict resolution, and leadership.

### Conversation Starters



- What does Empathy look like to you?
- Is it hard for you to share how you feel with others? Why or why not?

### PurposeFull Pursuits

*Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Empathy. Here are 2 "PurposeFull Pursuits" you can complete together!*

#1

Empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings. Schedule a family movie night so that you can specifically watch for feelings and emotions. Let everyone know that you'd like them to point out how the characters in the show are feeling and that you will pause periodically to discuss Empathy. As emotions are identified, invite one another to Empathize by sharing about a time they felt that way or imagining how they might be feeling in that moment.



#2

*Review the definition of Empathy as a family! Remember that Empathy is understanding and connecting with other people's feelings.*

Find a time to sit in a circle together and celebrate all the ways you have seen each other practice Empathy. Take turns sharing responses to the following prompts or make up your own! Remember to practice Empathy as you listen to each other.

- What is 1 way a family member has shown you Empathy lately?
- Share about a time when you felt like someone really listened to you.



# The Great Big Holiday Bake-Off!





GRATITUDE was the word of the month for November. Each student got a chance to write what they were thankful for and put it on the "Wall of Gratitude." It was fun to see all the things our students wrote!





## Third Grade Community Service: The Giving Tree!





# Hanover School Forest

