

# Shapleigh Shark News

## Reading Buddies

Seventh grade students visited the 4th graders this week to buddy up and read multicultural picture books. This is just one of the many ways the seventh graders are hoping to give back to Shapleigh and the larger community this week. Groups of 7th graders have been creating thoughtful holiday cards for a local hospice house and also working with Team Trevor, a local cystic fibrosis non-profit organization, to make thank you cards for their donors.



## 8th Grade Museum



Students worked hard in Social Studies on interest-driven summative projects last week, first researching

and then writing about a topic of their choice from our *New Republic* Unit. *The New Republic* is a time period in The United States (1787-1860) characterized by rapid technological growth, physical expansion and social challenges and changes. The 8th graders chose focused topics to study from the larger headings of: Westward Expansion, The Industrial Revolution, The Transportation Revolution, Immigration, Native American Removal/Conflict, Women's Rights, Slavery, and The Abolitionist Movement. On Tuesday students created a museum of projects and welcomed visitors from the school to come learn and play with the interactive projects. Nine classrooms and many other teachers and staff were able to visit, creating an authentic learning experience for the 8th graders and their visitors!

## Civil Rights in Action

The 5th/6th Grade Civil Rights Team is committed to promoting education and understanding about the world's religions. The Civil Rights Team has been working on a bulletin board, school public announcements and Shark News broadcasts to highlight the major religious holidays and celebrations of multiple faiths, including Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, and Hindu. Last week the team acknowledged Eid al-Adha, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Diwali and also highlighted Hanukkah. This week the team is highlighting Christmas. Please contact a team member if you would like to include one of your faith-based holidays.

## Shapleigh Gives Back!

On Wednesday, December 20th, Shapleigh School hosted its first "Give Back Day". The day was filled with activities where students learned about various non-profits, and then participated in activities where they gave back to their community. Our day began with a Read-A-Thon where students earned pledges based on the number of pages they read. Students raised over \$600 which was then donated to various non-profits including The Center for Wildlife, Kittery



Land Trust, The Telling Room, Team Trevor, and Hospice! 4th graders enjoyed learning about the Center for Wildlife's *Reading with Raptors* program, and making

enrichment toys for the center's animal residents. 5th graders watched a documentary about student refugees called "The Whole World Waiting", and then read student writing and gave feedback. 6th graders learned about land conservation and made scavenger hunt items that can be spotted around the Kittery Land Trust this spring. 7th graders learned about Team Trevor and Cystic Fibrosis and made thank you cards for Team Trevor donors. 8th graders learned about hospice care and worked together to make several tied fleece blankets to keep local hospice residents cozy this winter. In addition to the wonderful activities happening at Shapleigh School, the Brass Ensemble and 6th Grade Chorus went to Durgin Pines to perform holiday carols for the residents and preschool students. The day ended with a culminating community event where the 6-8 Grade Chorus and Brass Ensemble gave the gift of music to students and staff through an all-school holiday performance followed by a festive school sing-a-long of winter carols! It truly was a wonderful day that left us feeling grateful for our students, teachers, and community! Be sure to check out our Facebook page for more photos and videos!



## Spreading Positivity

A small group of students, with the guidance of Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Foye and their outside helper, Tori Glidden of Rye, NH, are spreading positivity throughout Shapleigh School. Each student painted three rocks and typed out positive messages to include on the underside of the rock. One positive saying was "You are someone's reason to smile". Students had a great time designing and selling their rocks and learned some valuable life skills in the process! Because the Positivity Rocks were so successful, the group will continue their project after the holiday break!



### LOST & FOUND

Is your child missing a glove, lunchbox, jacket, hat, or perhaps one shoe? We may have it in our Lost & Found! Remind your child to come look through the Lost & Found which is located by the Gym entrance. Any items left after mid-January will be donated to Fair Tide.

### WINTER CLOTHES REMINDERS

All Shapleigh students go outside everyday for recess or walk. It is very important that students are dressed appropriately for the weather including jackets, hats, gloves, and boots/snow pants for 4th and 5th grade students. If you need assistance with winter gear please contact your child's school counselor.

## Creative Acts of Kindness

The Creative Acts of Kindness Art Club will start up in January! Students will work on collaborative art projects, big and small that spread positivity in our community. Our plan is to meet twice a month after school. Students interested in joining should check in with Mrs. Sutherland in the art room for a permission slip. After the holidays - Wait! Don't throw that out! The art room can reuse it! Please send in any gently used holiday greeting cards, small and medium sized gift bags, and tissue paper. We are also always looking for beads, wooden rolling pins and calendars. Please drop off any donations to Mrs. Sutherland in the art room.

## Seacoast Soul Models

Attention Girls in grades 6-8! Seacoast Soul Models will be running a 10-week after school program starting in January. The group will meet at Shapleigh from 2:30-4:30 on Thursdays starting January 18 and running until March 29. The group will mix in activities and guest facilitators that focus on strengthening girls confidence, self-image, and resiliency. Activities include yoga, meditation, song/lyric writing, art projects (like Zentangle), and a community outreach component. This 10 week program is \$100 per girl but scholarships are

available. If you are interested see School Counselor, Mrs. O'Neill, for a permission slip or for more information. Registration deadline is January 5th.



## OM Fundraiser

Is your family looking to make wonderful memories in the New Year? Odyssey of the Mind is once again offering the **Breathe New Hampshire Fun Pass** booklet. Good at more than 100 New England ski areas, zoos, museums and amusement parks, the

\$35.00 coupon book pays for itself with one visit to Story Land! Watch for information coming home after vacation or you can visit [breathenh.org/funpass](http://breathenh.org/funpass) to learn more.

## Music All Around

Music is everywhere at Shapleigh School this month! The Shapleigh Music Department put on a very successful concert featuring all three bands and choruses on Thursday, December 14. In addition, chorus and Brass Ensemble students have been out caroling for the School Committee and at Durgin Pines. The chorus and the Brass Ensemble also shared some joyful music with the entire school as part of Give Back Day on Wednesday, January 20th, and led the whole school in a winter sing-a-long! It has truly been a wonderful month of music making! If you missed the concert and would like to hear our amazing student musicians, check out the videos on our Facebook page. We look forward to more performances in the spring!



## PBL Shark Bite

Shapleigh School uses two different grading scales that aligns with the developmental ages of 4-5 grade students, and 6-8 grade students. Grades 4-5 uses a grading scale called "Progress Over Time". This means that students' grades communicate their progress over the course of the school year. It would be appropriate to see scores still in the 2.0 range at this point in the year, especially on a competency that students will continue to come back to and improve upon throughout the school year. Grades 6-8 uses a grading scale called "Point in Time". This means that students' grades communicate their level of proficiency at any given point in time. Students in grades 6-8 should be aiming for proficient grades (3.0 - 3.5) all year, knowing that the depth of knowledge will increase as the year progresses. For more information on the grading scales see page 4 of the Shapleigh School PBL Family Guide.

## School Messenger Updates

Currently, when school is delayed or cancelled due to weather or other circumstances, you receive two types of alerts through the School Messenger system; a call with a recording to your home phone and/or cell phone, and an email with an audio link of the message.

We are adding the option to receive a **text message** on your phone.

When we return from break, during the week of January 2nd, you will receive a text message offering you this option.

- To opt in, simply reply with **Yes**, or **Y**.
- Not responding is a **No**, and you can

opt back out at any time by replying with **Stop** to any message from the same 5 digit school short-code number. If you have any questions, please contact our Data Manager, Nancy Embry at [nembry@kitteryschools.com](mailto:nembry@kitteryschools.com).

## WINTER BREAK MEALS

GATHER (formerly Seacoast Family Food Pantry) will be set up outside of the Kittery Post Office on Thursday, December 21st from 3:00-4:00pm. Any students or families in need of food support can pick up a Winter Break Meals 4 Kids box which will include fresh ingredients for 5 lunches and 5 breakfasts! No RSVP required! For more information on the Meals 4 Kids program, or for food assistance please contact Gather at 603-436-0641 or visit [gathernh.org](http://gathernh.org).

## Important Dates

12/22-1/1: Winter Vacation  
 1/11: Geography Bee  
 1/11: Shapleigh PBL Parent Advisory  
 1/19: Grades 6-8 Dance  
 1/26: Trimester 2 Progress Reports



The Trusted Platform  
for School Community Engagement

### Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



Opt-In from  
your mobile  
phone now!



Just send  
"Y" or "Yes"  
to 67587

\* Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes

SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our verification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a text SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers. If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 48868, you have used short code texting.

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