

Hancock Elementary School

"Rooted in Community, Reaching for the Stars"

Happy Friday the 13th!

There is so much happy energy in the school. The children are excited for the talent show, holiday celebrations and vacation. Nonetheless, they are working hard in the classrooms.

With the big snow, we were able to get some use out of our school snow shoes. Mrs. Parker took the 3rd and 4th graders out to explore the field and play in the snow. Hard to believe that there was two feet of snow last week!!!



The PTO hosted a fun movie night last Friday. Children had the option of settling into the library for the movie or play in the multipurpose room. Staff, parents, and children all agreed that it was a fun night. Thank you Phil, Tom, Michele and Sarah for volunteering and making the evening a success.

The Leadership team, which includes HES staff and two parents, have been reviewing progress with our goals for 2019 - 2020. We have three goals this year. In reading and math, we are working to ensure that all students meet the growth target. Our third goal is focused on increasing our connection to the community. Our monthly volunteer communication has resulted in a significant increase in the number of parent and community volunteers in the school. Way to go! In addition to meeting regularly to monitor our goals, the teachers are implementing a new strategy for assessing student progress.



The teachers have been working together to understand and implement Learning Progressions in reading. In everyday language, learning progressions are the stages of thinking required as students develop in a particular discipline/subject. For example, as we look at the skill of retelling and summarizing a story, early on a child will simply tell an important event that occurred in a story. As a child develops, he/she will include the main character, plot, as well as important events. HES teachers are working together to identify each student's level on the progression and identify what should be taught to move to the next level. Once we are clear with our understanding of the reading progressions, we will work with the children to help them identify where they are on the progressions and set goals for their learning. We are excited by this work because it provides a more precise understanding of students' academic development than standardized tests.

We are looking forward to a busy week next week. Each class will integrate a range of activities that help students to learn but also take into account the excitement of the various upcoming celebrations. Friday we will have our HES craft day and Holiday Celebrations. Celebrations begin at 2:40. Feel free to join us!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Amy Janoch".

Amy Janoch, M.Ed.

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