

The Mini Mule Magazine

Issue No. 5/January 2024



The Admin Corner

We hope you have all had a great start to 2024! Students have all been working very hard on their mid year Reading and Math benchmarking assessments this month.

As we start a new year, we'd like to share some information on screen time & social media. Attached, is a really informative article on the link between screen time & reading comprehension. We work hard here at school to limit the amount of time students are on computers and instead have them diving into reading great books and working with hands on manipulatives. [READING & SCREEN TIME ARTICLE](#)



We know that social media is one of the greatest challenges that we all face as parents. Below is some information about the effect that the exposure to social media can have on elementary school students. [Social Media & Kids](#)

Always feel free to reach out to us or our counseling department if you ever have questions or need resources on limiting screen time.

Please check out the important dates below as there are many exciting events coming up in February.
-The NES Admin Team

Important Dates:



NES Band & Chorus

Concert-**January 31st 6:00-6:30 JSHS**

 **NES HOT SHOT BIG SHOW - Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024 at 2 PM** in the Newmarket Jr/Sr High gym.

- (Snow date: Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024 at 2 PM)

Multicultural Potluck! Feb. 21st 5-6:30 (See Flyer Below!)



The WIDA ACCESS test will start on February 1st for all English Language Learners

Did you know NES has a Little Free Library?

Last spring the Garden Club kids painted and stocked a Little Free Library for our community. Please stop by our school garden and pick a book for your family. The garden club students will be keeping the library stocked with fun books to read. Feel free to read your new book in our school garden while the weather is nice this fall.



Did you know NES has a 2nd Little Free Library?

While the Little Free Library in the school garden may be snowed in soon, you can always browse indoors. Find this white and blue library beside the cafeteria doors. Thank you to Newmarket Junior High School student, Lillian Thompson, for choosing NES for her passion and for creating this library. Happy reading!

Your Counseling Connection

Hello NES Families,



We hope everyone had a great January and have set some goals for the year ahead. We have been working hard at perseverance and are ready for next month's theme, which is HONESTY!

Honesty is 1 of 3 traits we will focus on throughout the year that helps students Be Well. Throughout the school, students will be developing skills like emotion regulation, positive self-talk, and stress-management. One way to think about Honesty is "being

truthful in what you say and do." Practicing Honesty helps strengthen our relationships and reduce stress.

Have some fun connecting as a family this month while practicing Honesty.

-Review Honesty as a family. Honesty is being truthful in what you say and do. Discuss the importance of being Honest and work together to create a family Honesty pledge. Create and decorate a sign together that explains what Honesty means in your family. Have each family member sign the pledge and choose a spot to display it. Refer back to the pledge as a reminder to be Honest and to celebrate when Honesty is practiced!

-Set aside some time to gather as a family and check in with each other. Ask each family member, "How are you feeling today?" Practice Honesty when responding and listen carefully as each family member shares. Use the emotion check-in questions to learn more. Challenge yourselves to check in with each other on a regular basis!

Emotion Check-In Questions:

- Tell me more about that feeling.
- Why do you think you are feeling that emotion?
- What do you need right now?

NES Reading Corner



Happy winter! Happy Reading! As the snow falls, we are hunkering in and working hard at our reading here at NES. We have made some changes in intervention groups as students are learning and growing at different rates. We always want to best meet the needs of all our students! We are so proud of how the children are working hard and dedicating themselves to learning each day. As always, If you have any questions about literacy or intervention with your child, don't hesitate to reach out to your child's

Reading Team Interventionist or Jackie Hansen, *NES Literacy Coach*, hansenj@newmarket.k12.nh.us.

Throughout the year, we are shining a spotlight on an aspect of literacy to share with you. This month we're showcasing Reading Aloud to Children.



"Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."

Emilie Buchwald, award-winning children's author

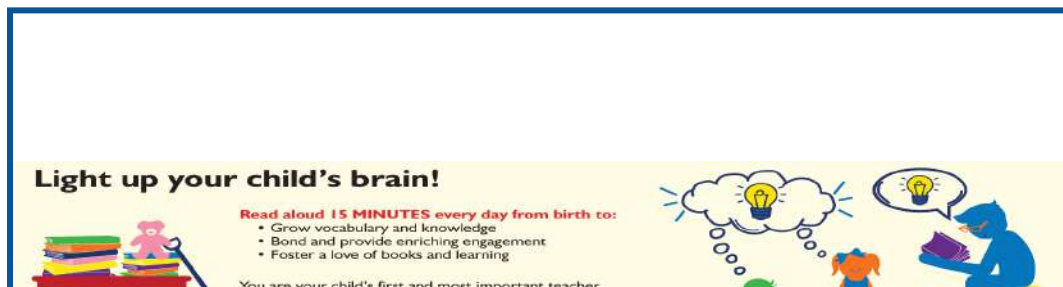
Reading Aloud

Reading aloud is one of the most important things parents and teachers can do with children. Reading aloud builds many important foundational skills, introduces vocabulary, provides a model of fluent, expressive reading, and helps children recognize what reading for pleasure is all about.

The good news for families is that this sage piece of parenting wisdom is easy to follow. Reading aloud to your child requires only a book - free, with a library card - and your commitment to spend a little quality time with your child. And while the sacrifices to read aloud are few, the benefits are many: Your child may learn to read better, think better, imagine more richly, and become a passionate and lifelong reader. More than these long-term benefits, however, are some more immediate: The pleasures of spending time with your child and sharing the enjoyment of a good book.

Read Aloud Strategies

- Encourage the child to get involved in the story by describing pictures and making predictions.
- Ask questions that require more of a response than yes or no or nodding. ("What do you predict will happen next?")
- Children may be unsure of how to answer an open-ended question. Model the strategies above by making your own predictions and descriptions of the pictures.
- Ask "what" questions. ("What's this?" and point to a picture.)
- Follow the child's answer with another question. ("What is the dog doing?")
- Repeat what the child says and expand on it. ("I think you're right. The dog is digging under the fence to find his friend.")
- Young children enjoy read-aloud stories that have repeated phrases, familiar songs and patterns. Hearing and reciting the rhyme, repetition, and rhythm of words allows them to begin to remember the words. This is a building block in the complicated process of beginning to read.
- If the book is too frustrating, offer to take turns reading or echo read (you read a phrase, then the child tries it).
- Be patient and encouraging.
- Praise often!



Check out these resources for more information:

- Video: [The ABCs of Active Reading](#)
- [READ TOGETHER: Developing Reading Skills, Kindergarten to Third Grade](#)
- [Home Reading Helper: PreK - Third Grade](#)
- [Brightly: The Importance of Reading Aloud to Big Kids](#)
- [Reading With Your Child: Reading Rockets](#)

Happy Reading,
The NES Reading Team

NES Math Team

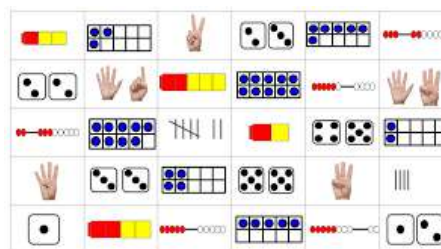
What is Number Sense?

Number sense is a person's ability to understand, relate, and connect numbers. They learn to think flexibly, fluently talk about, and visualize numbers.



Educators have found that students who have struggled in math in their upper grade levels, were the same students that lacked number sense in their earlier grade levels. It is important to strengthen the student's number sense during their early years as in Kindergarten and 1st grade. Having good number sense, allows a student to apply strategies for problem solving, make thoughtful estimates, develop mental math solving strategies, which all makes for a flexible thinker. To set students up for future math success by helping to develop their number sense, there are different strategies to focus on but one of the earliest skills to focus on is Subitizing.

Subitizing allows students to have the ability to recognize the number of objects (quantity) without counting them. Some tools to use for subitizing are the use of prearranged dot cards, dice, dominoes, ten frames, etc. These manipulatives do not include numbers, as the purpose is for the students to simply recall the quantity by recognizing visual patterns. You'll be surprised, with practice, how quickly students can come up with the answers! Using this as a foundation, students will learn to eventually count, compose and decompose numbers.



Subitizing Card products:

<https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/719od3yoHeL.AC.SX679.jpg>

<https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/61lhG7Ko9ZL.SX466.jpg>

<https://m.media-amazon.com/images/I/61vyoMlxBDL.SX522.jpg>

Best Wishes,
Mrs. Smart, Mrs. Grass, Ms. Harvey
The Math Team



News from the Mini "Mules"



January in Preschool:

Preschool has had so much fun this month! Miss Anne's class has been busy learning about bears and have been acting out the story of *Goldilocks and the 3 Bears*. Miss Meg's class has been learning about Arctic Animals and the environment they live in. Both classes have also had a blast exploring a variety of fun winter activities!

Kindergarten Happenings!

We hope everyone had a wonderful break! We are off to a great start in the new year! We now have met all the Super Kids in our reading program and the students are excited to begin the next journey in the Super Kids Club! We are hard at work using our Super reading powers to read just-right books!



We have been learning about winter and some of the exciting events that go along with the season. We have read many books about winter and have enjoyed all the SNOW on the playground.

In math we are continuing to identify, compare, compose, and decompose numbers. We are reviewing 2D and 3D shapes and mastering ways to make 5!



First Grade!

First graders have been busy learning to read and spell words with long vowel sounds such as cake, rope, and shine. We are using one or two fingers to help us to identify if a word has one vowel (short/in-disguise sound) or two vowels (long/superhero sound) so we can read it correctly. We are also learning all about the author Jan Brett by reading many of her books in preparation for our class plays next month. In math we have been using a life sized number line to add and subtract numbers through 100! In science we have been studying light, sound, and heat through reading, watching videos, and participating in hands-on experiments.



News from Gr. 1-2!

The 1-2 Multi Age classes have had a busy January. We went on a field trip to Snapology in Dover. The students had a chance to build a robotic frog and then program it to move around. They worked in teams of two and all the teams were successful in their build. Then we had an hour to explore the maker space. The best part for the teachers was the compliments we got from the staff. They said our students were the best behaved group they had ever had!

The second graders have been learning about habitats in reading this month and we concluded our exploration with a rainforest project. The students worked in groups to explain the layers of the rainforest and then each student got to make an animal to add to our hallway display. They were able to use academic words (caption, heading, title and subheading) to describe our display.

First graders learned about the ocean habitat in reading this month. We read lots of fiction and nonfiction stories about sea creatures and wrote about them. We got to pick our favorite ocean animal and make one for our hallway display.



Grade 2 News!

This month Second grade had their first field trip to Snapology in Dover! The kids had a blast working together as teams to assemble working Lego robots! The staff at Snapology was very impressed with how well behaved the Newmarket second graders were. They were also impressed with how they all persevered to finish the project and no one gave up. We're excited to begin the pilot of the second reading program called My View. Second graders are also working hard on writing Narrative stories.



3rd Grade News!

3rd grade had a great start to 2024! We've immersed ourselves into the history of immigration through Ellis Island during the early 19th century. The students have enjoyed researching family history, applying for and making passports, and earning play money to purchase a boat ticket to America! This adventure will culminate during our "immigration simulation" through Ellis Island on February 7th! Additionally, we started new reading groups and new books. It's really great to get the chance to work with so many 3rd graders from different classrooms. And along with that, we completed the mid year i-Ready reading assessment, and we're

working on telling time and learning about elapsed time. We hope everyone is having a wonderful start to the year!

What's New in 4th Grade

Grade 4

In 4th grade, we are excited to begin our new pilot program, MyView Literacy! Our learning goals for this unit will be to learn about narrative nonfiction, analyze the author's purpose, and use what we have learned to write a personal narrative. In math we will continue to learn about different types of addition and subtraction strategies, including the standard algorithm. Geometry will be our next focus and we will learn about measuring angles, polygons, symmetry, area, and perimeter. In social studies, we are wrapping up our regional studies and will transition into our current and static electricity science unit.

Dear Fifth-Grade Families,

5th Grade

January has whizzed on by in fifth grade! The month was spent tackling many different content areas. Students completed their winter iReady and NWEA testing, were immersed in decimal place value and solving calculation problems involving decimals, have been learning about Earth's systems, and have been working on expanding their thoughts in writing. Toward the end of the month, the students began their next pilot in ELA using the My View program. The month of January was met with goals and hopes, and students have been implementing perseverance to achieve their goals. In addition to all this academic work, the fifth graders started their LEAD lessons with Officer Gott. As always, we look forward to watching our students continue growing as individuals, community members, and learners in the month ahead.



- **In Library**, let's start with a STEAM highlight for grades K-2! Students were guided in connecting our read aloud of "The Most Magnificent Thing" by Ashley Spires to the ideas of making, building, and engineering. They explore materials (sensory bins filled with rice, sand, pom-poms, etc.) and use language to describe observable properties. Overall, students continued to connect shared readings to their own experience. They deepened their knowledge of library navigation. Third, 4th, and 5th grades have been expanding, reviewing, and negotiating their knowledge of genres and formats. We engaged in a hands-on

approach with physical books. Students worked in teams to evaluate and curate titles. The finale? A Roblox-inspired yet analogue game board. As a side note, 3rd Grade practiced identifying and using nonfiction text features of a food atlas; this work contributed to a joint research project between Technology and their grade level teachers around the Immigration Unit.

- ***In Art***, we have been exploring with paint and color theory! The younger artists have been exploring with primary and secondary colors, acrylic paint mixing, and tints and shades. The upper grades have been experimenting with acrylic paint and the color schemes: analogous and monochromatic, and tints, shades, and tones. Keep your eye out for Art Club forms coming soon to your email! Art club should be starting up in February after the big jump rope show - more info to come!
- ***In Physical Education***, we have been working on movement gymnastics skills of rolls, balances, jumps, and more. While working on upper body strength and endurance we incorporated our climbing wall, cargo net, and rope swing. We also engaged in throwing and catching activities and fun invasion games.
- ***In Music*** this month, we have been doing a lot of playing instruments, moving, and singing! Our fifth graders are playing xylophones and have learned about a special scale; the pentatonic scale, while our fourth graders have received their recorders and are learning to make a nice sound by using warm air. 3rd graders have been having fun learning about Dolly Parton. Our kindergarten and 1st graders have been practicing folk dances, and our second graders have been practicing singing, signing (hand signs), and playing So Mi Do.
- ***In Technology*** this month, we've begun to really dig into a mix of different tech activities! Grades K-2 practiced typing, reviewed manipulating images and entering text in slideshows, and continued coding with the mice robots as well as on the computer. 3rd grade has been using a variety of apps, such as Google Translate and Maps, to learn more about the countries they are immigrating from for their Immigration Simulation. 4th grade started using the LEGO robots to explore engineering and coding and 5th grade has begun using our Maker's Empire app to explore 3D design!

Things to look forward to in February!



Join us for our Multicultural Potluck

DATE: February 21st

LOCATION: NES Cafeteria

TIME: 5-6:30

**Bring a dish to share [Multicultural
Potluck Google Forms Link](#)**

goolkasianj@newmarket.k12.nh.us

