



Principally Speaking

OCTOBER 2015



I know this may come as a shock to you, but we are already into the seventh week of school and along come the fall extravaganzas at SMS and at home.

As you may realize, we have been in school for some twenty-eight days, and everyone has settled in to a daily routine.

Coming as well with this time each year, the administrative team is gathering information, data and research for the upcoming budget for 2016-2017.

Information has been shared with the staff in preparation for the process and all have contributed to the development of 'fiscal reasonability'.

Areas that we continue to discuss relative to the SMS budget include technology, safety/security, staffing and curriculum initiatives. Our first meeting involving the School Board and the town of Stratham's Financial Advisory Group is scheduled for late October.

I would remind all that our state assessment is now conducted during the spring, the NECAP Science just in our fourth grade, while the Smarter Balance

test is

administered during the late spring for students in third, fourth and fifth grades.

On another note, it's been from past experience that we find our lost and found beginning to grow during this time, too. The mornings are a little cooler, but by lunch it warms enough so that children take the sweater/sweatshirt off. As most young ones do, the clothing is left in multiple locations: lunchroom, playground, gym, recess or bus dismissal. Please place a name, initials or class so that the gear can be returned.

Finally, our after school enrichment program operates on a daily basis this month and into November. The info can be found on-line at our school web page. There are a number of opportunities for children to participate in something familiar or to try a new activity. If you need assistance in any way, please let me know!



HALLOWEEN HOWL

Our traditional Fall celebration with witches, ghouls and the likes will be held on Friday, October 23rd beginning at 6:30. Come and join the fun with some music, food and Halloween spirit. The evening begins with a pre-gala supper of pizza and subs at 6:00. This event is sponsored by the grade 5 class.



Our Parent Teacher Organization (P.T.O.) will meet on Mon., November 17th for their business meeting and follow-up conversation about school technology with our Tech Integrator Ellen Sargent and Steve Gagnon, our MakerSpace guru. The duo will share their expertise on programs, devices and safety with technology at school. The PTO meeting will be housed in the school library beginning at 7:00.



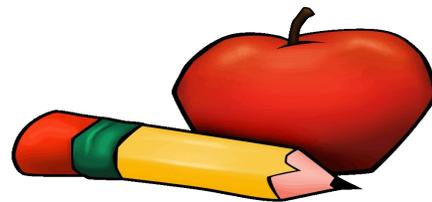
Retake Picture Day

We have set aside the date of Thursday, October 29th as retake Picture Day. It is also a day for those absent on the original date to have their photo taken as well. In addition, this is our typical picture for our 5th grade class and staff, too. Staff picture time is 8:00; grade 5 is 8:45 followed by those that need retakes at

9:00.



The New Hampshire Partners in Education (NHPIE) have awarded the Stratham Memorial School the 2014 Blue Ribbon Award for the 19th consecutive year! This uplifting acknowledgement recognizes all of the efforts of those within the Stratham community for their efforts with volunteering at SMS. Many thanks to all – moms, dads, grammies, grampas, friends, brothers, sisters, cousins, uncles, aunts, guardians, and former students for helping out!



SCHOOL BOARD

SMS SCHOOL BOARD will conduct their business meeting on **Wed., Oct. 14th @ 6:30 PM** in the school's library.



Thank you for your help at parent pick-up and at the morning drop off. Having you remain in your cars has been aided with the safety of our students and provided a more efficient process in arriving/leaving SMS.

Got a minute? Check out my blog:
[Stories from Stratham](#)

