

Pierce School News

Kathie Morrocco, Principal



November 2019

Many Thanks to a Wonderful Community!

We have much to be thankful for this season, and following are only a few of the events Pierce School is involved with to bring our students, staff and communities together. We appreciate your time and effort to encourage and support all our students and build a caring community that can learn together.

On Thursday, November 21, 2019 we hosted our Pierce School Harvest Feast! It was a very successful event with approximately 38 family and community members attending! Everyone seemed happy and content after a meal of turkey, gravy, stuffing and cranberry sauce, all sharing time together as a school community in celebration of the upcoming holiday.

This past Friday, November 22 was our All School Assembly with a focus on kindness and school unity. Second Grade and Kindergarten modeled how we can write letters to Bennington Bear and shared how acts of kindness make a difference to everyone! Student Leadership presented their next mission for a food drive that will run through the last week in December. Any non-perishable food donations collected will go to local food pantries.

To highlight the month, the Pierce Student Leadership is challenging us with a focus on giving. They have added a "Giving" core value to the Pierce Bear Paws earned this month! We hope students will earn these easily by giving back to one another—giving a smile, giving some time to help someone, giving extra patience or even giving up a seat at lunch to a friend! Student Leadership wants us to remember this makes a difference. Please look for our Black Bear Paw in the lobby soon to see how we are doing!

Upcoming Events:

- 11/24 - Special of the Week: -Art (Community Project)
- 11/27 - 11/29 - (**No School**) Thanksgiving Break
- 12/1 - 2nd Grade Walking to Library
- 12/2 - 12/6 - NH Healthy Teeth Screenings for students
- 12/2 - PTO Meeting – 6:00p.m. in our Library: Please join us!

Social-Emotional Curriculum Information:

Recent Classroom Counseling Lessons by *Robin Gregg, School Counselor*

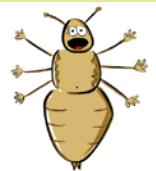
In **Kindergarten** and **First Grade**, students have learned about and practiced active listening, also known as whole body listening: Eyes Looking, Ears Listening, Voice Off, Body in Control, Brain On, Heart Open. We "warmed up" our eyes by placing our warm hands onto our ears and by listening carefully to the lingering sound of a chime. Partners took turns speaking and listening and telling the speaker what they heard the speaker say. We talked about how it feels when someone truly listens to us, and discussed the importance of active listening for learning and also for developing friendships.

Third Grade students are beginning to learn about the brain and the way that three parts of the brain: the prefrontal cortex (the thinking/analyzing/problem solving part of the brain, also known as the "upstairs" brain or the "wizard" brain); the amygdala (the early warning part of the brain, also known as the "downstairs" or "lizard" part of the brain, the reacting part of the brain) and the hippocampus (the memory center of the brain) play a role in strong feelings, emotional self-regulation, and learning.

Fourth Grade students are continuing to learn about effective problem-solving. They are reviewing what they have learned about brain structures and the way the brain responds to strong feelings and how it responds to self-regulation strategies such as deep breathing/balloon breathing, slow counting, and positive self-talk.

Here to Bug You...

Did you know...



Studies demonstrate that screening for head lice in schools does not decrease the incidence of head lice. Results of studies suggest that education of families in identifying and managing head lice is more effective and that class wide or school wide screening should be discouraged (Please reference the ConVal Lice brochure in our student handbook and on the ConVal Website).

What kind of bug is that?

This is an informative link to help identify various different kinds of pesky bugs with lots of information. Dr. Pollack is a well-respected entomologist and has served as a public health entomologist at the Harvard School of Public Health since 1988 as well as held academic appointments at Boston University, Tufts University and MIT.

<https://identify.us.com>

Do you need help figuring out if your child has lice? I am always available to check your individual children.

Nurse Mellon

Meet Mitzi Turgeon – School Nurse



We welcome Mitzi Turgeon, RN a new face of Pierce School! She and Mrs. Mellon will be working together as part of our school nursing team at Pierce ☺

Mitzi has been a registered nurse in the ConVal District since 2014 and also works out of the

Hancock and Temple Elementary Schools. We're glad you're here Mitzi!

Pierce School Mission Statement:

"The mission of Pierce School is to provide a personalized education, cultivate independent thinking, promote building of character, and foster the desire to learn."

Visit us on the web at: bes.conval.net

Staying connected... with our ConVal School Board

Pierce School is working hard to stay connected with our families, community and stakeholders through our Black Bear Bulletin, Principal Newsletters, classroom webpages, and more! Another way to stay informed is to attend a ConVal School Board meeting. This helps you know what is happening throughout the district and how you can support the students and schools in our partnership together.

ConVal School Board meetings are open to the public. All agendas are posted and meeting minutes are also available. Following is the link that will take you to the ConVal School Board webpage. We hope you become familiar with it and come attend a meeting. As always, we appreciate your support!

<https://schoolboard.convalsd.net/>

PIERCE SCHOOL PTO

The Pierce School PTO hosted the Annual Craft Fair on November 9th with funds raised going toward student activities such as Winter Wonderland at the Barbara C. Harris Center, Ski Scholarships with Crotched Mountain and other activities that support our students. We need you! Please join us the first Monday of the month at 6:00pm!

***Please remember to have your child bring boots, warm coats, mittens/gloves and snow pants to school for the weather – thank you!*

