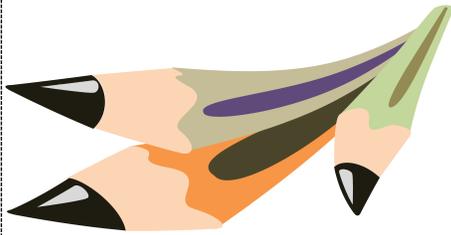


# SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER Oct 2017



## Principal's Message

MCAS scores from our spring testing were released last week. Parents of students in gr. 4-6 will soon be receiving a MCAS Parent Report that reports their child's progress towards meeting state standards. Every year we use these scores to see what areas we are teaching well and what areas we need to improve. Last year after analyzing testing data from previous years, we identified writing as a weakness in our English Language Arts program. We trained all K-6 teachers in Empowering Writers and we started teaching the program in September. Empowering Writers teaches the specific skills that good writers need and features a strong literature connection. Students are saying that writing is fun and teachers are sharing that they are already seeing improvements in writing. So we are off to a good start!

See the Empowering Writers website for more information.

Sincerely,  
Mary Turo

### CALENDAR

- 10/31 Literacy Lunch and Costumes, NMC 11:45
- 10/31 Spooky Walk, K-4, UME 1:40
- 11/1 Sister City Jazz Ambassadors Assembly, UME 9:30
- 11/7 County Wide Professional Day – No School
- 11/10 Veteran's Day – No School
- 11/13 Parent Conferences – Students dismissed at 11:40
- 11/22-11/24 Thanksgiving Break



NMC will hold their Annual Literacy Lunch & Costume Parade on 10/31 beginning at 11:45. Lunch & Reading Together 11:45am-12:45pm—Bring your picnic and a stack of stories to share with your child during the lunch/reading block. Parents will share a picnic lunch and read with their children. Parade 1 pm—Send your child's costume separately, parents will help their child change prior to the parade.

Costumes should be literature based. Costumes may not include weapons, blood or anything scary, please.

Please join us on October 31, 2017!!

**REMINDER:** NMC Picture Retake Day will be **Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

## **RECESS BUDDIES**

This year we have decided to take advantage of the fact that we always have older students and younger students outside at recess during the same periods. We have started a program called “Recess Buddies” where two older students, from either 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> grade, will go down to the younger playground and act as mentors to the younger students. Their role is to:

- Encourage cooperative, fair play that is inclusive
- To help students who are feeling left, find someone to play with or to help them join a group
- To help show that older students are kind and caring

All of the students who are participating from the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades are volunteers and will participate on a rotating schedule. The first week has gone very well with the younger students being very excited to have the older students as a resource.

## **SPOOKY WALK**

On Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m. the Fourth Graders at UME will be posing as statues in the wood trail by the softball field. Children in grades EK – 3 will have the opportunity to dress in costumes and participate in the walk. Parents and family are welcome to come and enjoy this yearly tradition at Undermountain Elementary. Festive artwork made by the students will decorate the walk and add to the excitement of the day. The Fourth Graders are looking forward to being the leaders and showing off their costumes!!!

On Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, the UME second graders had a great time cooking with seeds! They were invited by the Culinary Arts Program at Mt. Everett to create a healthy snack containing edible seeds. This is a culminating activity to their science unit about seeds and seed dispersal.

