



# JM Hill In The News!

**First Grade-** November was a terrific month for the first graders at J. M. Hill. We celebrated Veteran's Day with our classmates and met some veterans that are family members of our classmates. We all participated in a wonderful Veteran's Day assembly organized by our talented music teacher, Mrs. Tynemouth and computer coach, Mr. Wescott. We learned about the important symbols of America like our flag, the Statue of Liberty, and the Bald Eagle. We continued our study of citizenship by learning about the Pilgrims and the first Thanksgiving. We know the difference between our wants and needs.

First grade is enjoying the stories in our reading series. We read about sharing and helping. We discussed the different reasons authors write the stories we like to read. We are comparing real and make-believe stories. We are determined to learn our addition math facts to ten by the New Year!!!

**Second Grade-** Second Grade teachers want to thank parents for the super turnout for parent-teacher conferences. Together, we can help your child meet with success in school!

In the classroom, students are busy in math, mastering double-digit addition with regrouping, counting coins, and practicing math facts. Second graders have also begun science, exploring the characteristics of living and non-living things. In reading, students continue to expand their vocabulary, develop comprehension strategies, and work on fluency. What progress they are making!!

They should be continuing to read their selected poems from their Poetry Folders.

Finally, we extend our wishes for a joyous holiday season to all our families.

**Third Grade-**November flew by our 3rd Grade wing! We spent much of our time studying about the Pilgrims, the Mayflower, and the first Thanksgiving. One of the highlights for us was a virtual field trip to Plimoth Plantation. They were able to give us all "first hand" experience of what it was like to live in the 1620's! The children particularly enjoyed discovering what it was like to be a Pilgrim boy or girl.

We are also continuing to work on our basic math facts.

The children should now be well versed in addition and subtraction. Multiplication is our new challenge, and the children are working hard on mastering these as well!

Reading has us using our Seven Keys to Comprehension. So far, we have highlighted visualizing, schema (background knowledge), and questioning. The children, as well as the teachers, are enjoying connecting to the text and sharing



our experiences with each other. We have been focusing on nonfiction text and learning to look for all the facts and information!

**Fifth Grade-** In Math we are picking apart the Order of Operations in equations by learning to "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally". We are also tearing into algebraic equations, and strengthening our basic multiplication and division skills.

In Social Studies we watched a webcast dealing with the Early Pilgrims and their relations to their neighboring Native Americans. We also have been integrating technology by word processing and researching for our Pledge of Allegiance Essays. We also created Origami creations of Early Explorers for some added fun.

In reading we have read the Novels entitled "The Bridge to Terabithia" by Katherine Paterson, "Knots in my Yo-Yo String" by Jerry Spinelli, and "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry.

In writing we are reviewing some crucial ideas such as Sentence structure, effective sentence detailing, paragraph structure, and paragraph creation. We are also working on finding our own distinctive "Voice" when creating a piece of writing.

The District Spelling Bee starts after the holiday break. We have been studying difficult words and examining different spelling strategies.

In Science we have been continuing our Plant study by examining the inner workings of our little green friends.

**Ms. R. Miller-**Miss Miller's Class wrapped up the fall/Thanksgiving unit.

We made many fall and thanksgiving activities that incorporated reading sight words, writing our name, spelling our name, and learning about turkeys. Did you know a baby turkey is called a Poul? We also learned the parts of a Turkey. Did you know that turkeys have a Wobble, and they are red!

We also continue to learn new reading words, counting touch points, identifying coins, dialing our phone numbers, building our fine motor skills, practice writing our name, writing numbers, counting to 100, and singing some new alphabet songs on a daily basis. We also continue to practice sharing, playing nice with words, and using our words to express our wants and needs.

We use our Mimio (a computer projected program) every day, and we love it! We do lunch count on it every day and we do our calendar routine on Mimio. We even get to go up and press buttons too! How Cool!

Now that December has quickly swept in, we are beginning our Holiday Theme. We will continue to work on this theme until winter break.



**Art-** We started as usual with the Elements of Design. As you know, each year we add to our knowledge of these elements, as they create building blocks for our success in Art. The Elements follow in order of what we have covered so far and start at kindergarten and move to fifth grade by project.

Line-Seascape, Zebra, Hot air Balloons, Woven Paper Leaf, Spider Webs, Paper Mache Mask with Abstract Line design Shape-Basic Shape Creatures, Puzzle Trees, Collage Owls, Overlapping Basic Shapes, Velour Leaves Color-Color Names on large Crayons, Mixed colors on leaves, Complementary color Scarecrows, Warm and Cool Color Watercolors, Tints and shades of Color on a Pumpkin, Color Wheel combining Shapes and Colors We are presently working on Texture Lessons.

**Music-** Kindergarten students just finished their unit on steady beat. They will now begin to concentrate on melody where the focus will be on high and low sounds. First, Second, and Third grade students just finished working on reading, saying, identifying, and writing notes and patterns. Fourth and Fifth grade students just finished their unit on steady beat. All music classes will learn about different winter holidays and customs in the month of December.

Our song of the month for November was one of our wonderful old American Folk Songs called "I've Been Working on the Railroad". The children enjoyed learning this song and sang it with much enthusiasm!

On Thursday, November 11, 2011, we had our annual Veterans Day Program. We were honored to have eight veterans with us that day. We learned about the history of our flag and the whole school sang songs that had to do with our flag like "There are Many Flags in Many Lands" and "You're a Grand Old Flag". We also had four boy scouts who showed us how to properly fold the flag. Some of the veterans spoke to us about their time in the service and answered some questions that our students asked. To close our program, we watched a moving slide show that was a tribute to our veterans. It was a beautiful and moving program that we will always remember.

The Winter Chorus and Band Program is right around the corner. The students are getting excited to present their concert to their family and friends on Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at JTL. Besides getting ready for their concert, the chorus students also sang at the tree lighting ceremony at Pocono Medical Center on November 29, 2011. They sang "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" which is one of their favorite songs from their concert. After the tree lighting, the chorus students and their families were invited to a cookie and punch reception. They did a wonderful job representing J.M. Hill and had a little fun, too!

The K-Kids Club had a great time volunteering at the Kiwanis Pancake Day. We sold over 70 tickets and had over 20 students work at the Pancake Day filling



syrup, wiping tables, and clearing trays. We also had a table set up where people could help us make cards to send to military members who are serving overseas.

The club made over 400 cards with the help of our community. Way to go! Our next project will be a talent show for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students in January.

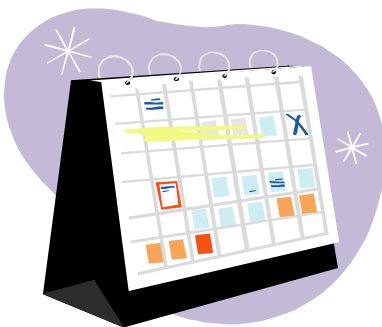
**P.E.** - The upper grades are working on Volleyball skills, including catching, setting and serving. The lower grades are working on jump rope skills. In Health, the upper grades are studying cells, tissues, organs and systems. The lower grades are learning ways to cooperate with friends and family.



A note from Mrs. Arnold...

Remember if you are driving your child to school, do not just let them out onto Broad Street; please use the drop off area for the safety of all!

On behalf of the faculty at JM Hill, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season!



Upcoming Events...

- 12/8/11-Winter concert @ JTL
- 12/13/11-One Stop Holiday Shop  
5:00-8:00
- 12/19/11-School Board meeting 7:00
- 12/22/11-Polar Express Day
- 12/23/11-1/2/12-Winter Recess
- 1/3/12-Classes resume