



# HERONFIELD ACADEMY

February 9, 2021

Dear Heronfield Families,

“You can observe a lot by just watching,” baseball great Yogi Berra once said, and his wisdom was evident yesterday afternoon as I took some time to walk around our campus and see all of our six classes at work. As often as I’m able, I really enjoy being among the students, taking what I’ve come to call a ‘learning walk’ and seeing the wonder of our school in action.

Eighth graders were in PE class with Mr. Jordan, getting set for a double-elimination pingpong tournament. It was so interesting to see that Mr. Jordan uses an online program to set up and track the playing brackets, complete with qualifying round and championship finals.

On the other side of the Field House, a sixth grade Spanish class was arranged in a wide circle as they worked through their Unit 1 assessment. Sra. Johnson circulated to offer guidance, but the students were industrious as they used vocabulary about family relationships, completed sentences using a range of adjectives, and paid attention to subject-verb agreement.

Ms. Clark’s science class was also circled up as seventh graders shared articles on current events in science. Did you know that researchers have identified a protein imbalance that might contribute to depression? Or that scientists have recently discovered a new species of whales after all of these years? Or that there are unexplained markings on the ocean floor that might have been caused by humans?

In sixth grade math, I learned – along with the students – how to properly add two values when working with two types of units, such as pounds and ounces, or feet and inches. Resist the urge to first reduce them into one unit, Ms. Hobbs says!

The other seventh grade class was reviewing for an upcoming assessment under Don Clark. Amazing to hear kids talking about the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, English physician and writer John Locke, and Sir Francis Bacon, who developed the scientific method.

And finally, a visit to Ron King’s English class, where he and the eighth graders were highly engaged in their reading of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*, parsing the meaning of individual words that reveal the growing angst and the singular focus of Victor Frankenstein himself.

There’s certainly a lot to see, a lot to observe by just watching here at our mighty school. Thanks for joining me on this ‘learning walk’ – even if just through these words. We’ll have to do it again sometime!

Warmly, John

## All-School Skate!

Please join us for an all school skating party at Puddle Dock Pond in Portsmouth! Our skate will be on Monday, February 22, from 7-9pm. Due to limited capacity at the rink, parents will not be able to stay to observe or socialize. Please plan on a speedy drop off and pick up.

- Bring \$3 to rent skates if you need them.
- Masks and social distancing will be required on and off the ice.

RSVP that your child **WILL** attend here: [All School Skate - RSVP](#)

## LAST WEEK'S STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

Late Thursday, Head of School John Turner spoke to the school community in an online webinar, sharing thoughts on both this school year and the year ahead, and also answering several questions. Click this [link](#) to view a recording of the event.

## ENROLLMENT

Reminder that all returning students need to submit their signed enrollment contracts and deposits by **February 19** to secure a spot for the school year 2021-2022.

## SPRING BREAK AND THE WEEK OF MARCH 22

Heronfield will be on Spring Break for the weeks of March 8 and March 15, and school will resume on March 22 with on-campus learning. Families who choose to travel outside of New England during break should make plans to do so during the week of March 8 and must follow New Hampshire guidelines regarding quarantine and testing so that their children will be ready to be on campus when school resumes.

## MUSIC

There will be NO Music Production class or private lessons this Friday, Feb. 12.

## TEA

6th graders will be starting their knitting unit in TEA and we ask our older students to look for any looms and hooks they may have borrowed from Ms. Slavitz and return them to school.

## Important Dates:

Mon, Feb. 15: **NO SCHOOL**-President's Day

Mon, Feb. 22: Skating Party 7-9:00 pm