

Happy Holidays North Hampton families and friends,

I am excited about the Holiday band concerts coming up; 5th and 6th grades tonight, 12/14, and 7/8th grades next Tuesday, 12/19.

As a reminder, although the calendar says it's still autumn, it's winter outside! I've enjoyed seeing our students dressed in their winter gear, enjoying the snow. If you haven't already, please ensure that your children are appropriately equipped (boots, jacket, gloves, hat, snowpants...) so they may get the most out of recess and their time outside while at school. We won't go outside when it's below 10 degrees, or when the wind chill makes it feel even colder, but otherwise we'll have the kids outside as often as possible. Also, being a parent of two middle-schoolers myself, if you have a middle school student please reiterate the importance of dressing appropriately for the winter weather. I know they don't want to, but they need to.

Spotlight on Learning- CoderZ- Sixteen schools have made the finals of the state's first virtual coding competition. The schools will face off at Pinkerton Academy on December 19th in an exciting online coding competition using a cloud-based simulation platform featuring a virtual, 3D-animated robot. The sixteen schools will each send two teams to the live final where they will program virtual robots in the CoderZ platform to perform tasks and win points by completing challenges and producing quality code. Those schools are:

Academy for Science and Design
Chester Academy
Crescent Lake School
David R. Cawley Middle School
Errol Consolidated School
Farmington High School
Keene Middle School
Londonderry High School
Lyme School
North Hampton School
Pine Tree School
Pinkerton Academy
St. Thomas Aquinas School, Derry
Tuftonboro Central School
Waterville Elementary School
Weare Middle School

Promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is an important priority for North Hampton School and we had a tremendous effort by our middle schoolers and their teachers to make qualifying for this event possible. I am very proud of all of our NHS coders and want to wish the best of luck to 8th graders Calvin Duffy, Sam Robie, Isabelle Sununu and Hannah Turkel, along with their "coach", teacher Brenda Tharp, at the finals at Pinkerton Academy next Tuesday.

The finals at Pinkerton Academy will be open to guests and spectators from 4:00pm in the Academy Building Auditorium (5 Pinkerton Street in Derry). This last half hour of coding will be the highpoint of the competition. At 5:00pm after the judges complete their work, the Awards Ceremony, hosted by Commissioner of Education Frank Edelblut will present prizes for participation, diversity, teacher involvement, and of course, Coding Skills. The Governor's Award will be presented to the school with the best overall performance since the beginning of the competition.

Lastly, parent conferences are ongoing. I hope that you were able to, or will soon, engage in a conference with your son's or daughter's teacher(s), as the time spent is invaluable in strengthening the teacher/parent partnership to maximize learning and growth.

Upcoming events and important dates:

Thursday, December 14th- Grades 5 and 6 Holiday Band Concert- 6pm

Tuesday, December 19th- Video Production Club- meets at 3pm

Tuesday, December 19th- Grades 7 and 8 Holiday Band Concert- 6pm

Thursday, December 21st- PAL meeting- 6pm- NHS library

Thursday, December 21st- North Hampton School Board meeting- 7pm- NHS Chorus room

EARLY RELEASE- Friday, 12/22 at 12:15 for the Holiday Vacation

School Reconvenes on Tuesday January 2nd, 2018!

Please remember to check out the NHS Twitter feed @nhamptonschool on occasion for "tweets" from around the school.

Have a lovely evening and upcoming weekend!

Erik M. Anderson

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Click on the link below to see any school/community information that may pertain to you.

<http://northhamptonschool.nh.nhs.schoolinsites.com/?PageName=bc&n=226190>