

Seven Hills Charter Public School

Save the Date:

- **Jan 15:** JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's at 3:30
- **Jan 16:** NO SCHOOL, JA Boys BB game at St. Mary's at 12:30
- **Jan 17:** SAC 5:30PM
- **Jan 23:** 8th grader fundraiser starts "Mixed Bags"
- **Jan 25:** NO NAME CALLING DAY, SHCPS McDonalds Night Fund-raiser, Lincoln Street
- **Jan 26:** DESE Site Visit
- **Jan 27:** DDD \$1.00,
- **Jan 30:** PA Model Citizens Celebrations
- **Feb 2:** JA Showcase at 3pm
- **Feb 3:** Ronald McDonald Mobile 8am-12noon



*Be kind.
Be safe.
Be responsible.*

Dear Families,

Happy 2012! Although some believe this is the year when the world may come to an end, at Seven Hills, it is only just beginning! We have seen many of you at our student work showcases this fall, there is much more to come! As part of the Understanding By Design model, students have been hard at work exploring, creating and debating in all of their classes. Ask them about it or come on in to take a look! Many classes have additional showcases scheduled this term so don't miss out! New years often brings about a rejuvenation and a desire to get or keep our lives moving in the right direction. Sometimes, it's the little things that can make a big difference. How about trying one of these simple, sustainable resolutions to ensure that your child gets the most out of their education:

-Every day, ask your child to share about one thing she / he learned that day. (Sharing something that you learned that day too shows kids that learning is a lifelong experience! It also shows that learning extends beyond the classroom!)

-Check your child's homework every day and ensure that she / he did careful, complete work.

-Log on to Powerschool at least once a week to check grades or do some Learning Zone, Brain Pop or Study Island with your child.

2012 is the year of great possibilities. Encourage your child to dream big and work hard! Let's show the kids all the world has to offer and then give them the tools and support they need to find their way. When students believe in themselves, everything else falls into place: motivation, aspiration (and yes, a little perspiration). Let's push our kids to do, give and be their best. Accepting anything less sends them the message that we don't believe that they are capable of more. Here's to a fabulous new year. Dream it. Believe it. Achieve it! Anything is possible!

Krista Piazza, Superintendent

From the Guidance Office: As a result of Governor Patrick's law passed in 2010, "An Act Relative to Bullying in Schools" All districts in the Commonwealth must submit a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Every Year Districts are required to update and revise their Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plans. Seven Hills has submitted their annual update to the DESE and posted the plan on the school's website <http://www.sevenhillscharter.org/guidance/> in English and Spanish. Please familiarize yourself and your children with the plan and feel free to call Ms. Dirsra with any questions.

"Seven Hills is committed to ensuring that all of our students come to school everyday ready to learn. We expect that all students treat each other with dignity and respect. Every person should be valued for their differences and has the right to come through these doors and feel safe and comfortable. We will not tolerate a violation of anyone's rights, bullying, harassment, or retaliation against anyone who reports any wrongdoing."

January 25, 2012, has been designated as "No Name Calling Day!" In order to gain public support for the Anti-Bullying movement, Governor Deval Patrick is asking that all students wear black on January 25th as sign of their commitment to "Black Out Bullying," and take a stand against bullying by signing a banner that reads "I pledge to take a stand against bullying and name calling." Let's all take part in this great show of solidarity!

Congratulations! The following students earned blue ribbons (i.e., demonstrated proficiency) in all of the topics that were assigned as part of the Study Island winter break challenge:

Grade 2: Joel Agyemang, Benjamin Koranteng, Florence Narh, Prem Parikh, Karisma Tolson, Grace Touglo, Gabriella Villegas and Natalie Windward

Grade 3: Marilyn Bowhile, Josephine Falode and Jayden Ibanez

Grade 4: Christopher Quijada, Andre Tran and Hannah Williams

Grade 6: Alesia Broka, Denzel Darteh, Caleb Koranteng, Chastity Montanez, Afia Somiah and Nathan Tran

Grade 7: George Lorin

Morning Drop Off Reminder! Please remember parent drop off is from 7:15-7:30AM, if you arrive after 7:30 please stay behind the large yellow sign and our school buses. It is for the safety of our students that this procedure is followed daily.

WANTED! We are currently hiring recess and lunch monitors, please come into our office to complete an application and a CORI form if you are interested. You may also contact Mr. Colorio at 508-799-7500 x2142 for more information.

Early Learning Academy-Ms. Cox: What a wonderful week back from vacation! Students are spending their time jumping right back into reading and writing. All of our students are now creating and collecting their writing into journals. From these journals, we will be able to see what incredible growth your child makes in reading and writing.

We'd like to welcome Ms. Jocelyn Greige and Ms. Patricia Sanchez to our Early Learning Academy Team! Ms. Greige will be providing extra support in first grade and Ms. Sanchez has come on board to support extra tutoring. Welcome to the team!

In recent news, Ms. Underwood is the proud mother of a new baby girl! Now that her maternity leave is drawing to a close, we have learned that she will not be returning for the remainder of the school year. We wish her all the best and hope that she enjoys the time with her two little ones at home.

As the Early Learning Academy Head of School, I am charged with the task of ensuring that your children receive the best possible education. I am pleased to report that our current teachers, Ms. Walsh and Ms. Sogn, will stay on board in room 304 to create meaningful and engaging learning experiences for your child. Ms. Walsh and Ms. Sogn have been in this classroom since Ms. Underwood took leave. They have worked as an amazing team to help your children succeed academically and socially. We wish Ms. Underwood the best of luck with her new family!

Here's to another great week of learning at Seven Hills!

Primary Academy-Ms. Ambrose: Happy New Year! This week, our third graders began a poetry work shop with our visiting poet. Also, our second graders participated in poetry workshops last month. Take a few minutes to discuss with your child what he/she learned during the poetry lesson.

Each month our Model Citizen Celebration recognizes student achievement. Please remember, students must complete homework, class work, and demonstrate the Core Values and Code of Conduct each day to earn a celebration invitation. Let's encourage students to be responsible and to become Model Citizens.

With our SBAs (February) and MCAS (March) fast approaching, it is important that your child review Test Talk strategies daily. These strategies help our students to better understand the structure of these tests and also remind them of important techniques that can help them to better understand what is being asked.



Test Taking Strategies-ELA

Use these strategies for each selection:

- **Active listening** (relisten)
- **Write your brain dump**
- **Activating Schema** (background knowledge: "Hey brain, what do I know about ___?")
- **Make a prediction** (what do you think the story will be about, what is the genre)
- **Identifying and Following Directions** (circle the directions and underline the verbs in the directions)
- **Read the questions & cover the choices**
- **Locating Author's Clues** (bold, italics, all capitals, sequence words, words in a box)
- **Reading Actively:** make a prediction, circle unfamiliar words, wonder, connect, notice, guess, picture, figure out, identify main idea and details, identify characters, setting, plot, summarize and take notes
- **Rereading** (didn't understand, distracted, context clues, confirm, clarify, make connections)
- **Eliminate answers that don't match** (best or stupid answers).
- **Understanding Test Genre** (Directions, italics, bold, all caps, questions, several stories, text in box, numbered paragraphs and lines, sessions)
- **Stamina** (take short breaks, stretch, Brain Gym exercises, drink water, calm breathing)

Test Taking Strategies-Math

Use these strategies for each question:

- **Active listening** (relisten)
- **Write your brain dump**
- **Identifying and Following Directions** (circle the directions and underline the verbs in the directions)
- **Read the questions & cover the choices**
- **Locating Author's Clues** (bold, italics, all capitals, sequence words, words in a box)
- **Rereading** (didn't understand, distracted, context clues, confirm, clarify, make connections)
- **Eliminate answers that don't match** (best or stupid answers)
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Primary Academy Weekly Question:

Answer the following question, cut it out, and return it to the envelope located outside of Ms. Ambrose's office. Students who correctly answer the weekly question will be entered into a weekly drawing!

Nora made the line plot below to show the ages, in years, of all her cousins.

Ages of Nora's cousins (in years)

Ages of Nora's Cousins (in years)

How old is Nora's **youngest** cousin?

- A. 5 years C. 7 years
B. 6 years D. 8 years

Elementary Academy-Mrs. Nelson: First, a very, very BIG thank you to all our families who braved the terrible weather in order to attend our Student Showcase! Grade 4 and 5 students have been working very hard in order to prepare for this event and having such a good turn-out made their efforts feel even more worthwhile! We'll be planning another event for spring when we can be a bit more certain of good weather!

Mr. Boyd and Ms. Kato routine talk with their students about the point of sticking with things; especially when things become difficult. It's important as a student, as a worker and sometimes, even as a citizen to learn how to persevere or stick with something. In Room 413, Mr. Boyd and Ms. Kato refer to this ability to hang in there when things become rough as 'having grit'. Here's a quote from what's posted in their room:

**GRIT: Grit is a word to describe part of your character.
You've got grit if...**

- *You always give it your best
- *You finish something you start
- *You are passionate about your work
- *You are dedicated to accomplishing your goals
- *You are driven to achieve greatness
- *You don't let yourself be defeated
- *Failure does not stop you
- *If an obstacle gets in your way, you don't give up, you figure out how to get past it
- *You don't give up if something is hard, you work harder

You can help your student learn to develop grit by encouraging homework and class work completion. As always, we appreciate your support and encourage you to communicate your concerns, questions or suggestions.

Junior Academy-Ms. Wright: As we enter the second half of the school year, and quickly approach the MCAS testing season, it is more important than ever that every student arrive to school on time and ready to learn. We have made huge strides in attaining our academic goals and we do not want to stray from the success we are achieving. We need to keep our focus and demonstrate our best each and every day, both academically and behaviorally.

Word of the Week: This week's word is histogram. Please research the definition and use this word in the most creative sentence possible, and place your responses in the envelope outside my office. Kennedy Godwin was the weekly winner for 7 weeks in a row before we left on winter break. He needs some competition. Time for all the JA students to step up and try to take his throne. I can't wait to read those sentences!

Remember to always be kind, safe and responsible and MAKE a great day!

