



Helen A. Thompson School



School Telephone: 724-3930
School Fax Number: 724-3934
Transportation: 582-6663
District Web Page: msad11.org

School Hours:
 8:10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

As a matter of safety, please do not drop students off before 8:10. There is no supervision on the playground or in classrooms until that time.

Dates to Remember

November

22nd-24th: No school – Happy Thanksgiving!
 30th: PTA Meeting in cafeteria
 5:00 - Crafting for Holiday Fair
 6:00 - Monthly meeting

December

1st: End of first trimester
 6th: Band & Chorus to HS for rehearsal, AM
 6th: HTS Band & Chorus Concert, HS Little Theater, 6:30 pm
 12th: PTA set up for fair, after school
 13th: PTA Holiday Craft Fair (*snow date, 14th*)
 22nd: No school – start of Holiday Break!

January

3rd: Welcome back!
 12th: Early release, students dismissed at 12:30
 15th: No school - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February

16th: Early release
 19th-23rd: No school, Winter break



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 Helen Thompson Elementary School
 and Helen A. Thompson PTA**

Notes from the Principal

Dear Families,

With the first trimester quickly coming to a close on December 1st, teachers are beginning to prepare report cards. This is an exciting time to reflect upon the growth that we've seen in our learners since September! As always, if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, please give us a call here at school.

In addition to report card information, we are monitoring student attendance each month. If your child has missed a significant amount of school days, you can expect to receive notification from me expressing concern. At this point in the year, students who have been absent 5 or more days are chronically absent (absent 10% of school days). Studies show that absenteeism has a HUGE impact on student progress. It is important for all children to attend school every day unless they are sick. Thank you for supporting strong attendance habits!

On behalf of the staff members at Helen Thompson, thank you for your trust and partnership. It is a privilege to work with your children and to be a part of their educational journeys!

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving,
 Kady Gould

Welcome to Our New Staff!

Alana Rolfe - Ed Tech
 Tina Gibbs - Ed Tech



Pledge of Allegiance Hosts

Emilee B. & Anthony B. from Mr. Smith's class used the intercom to lead the school in the Pledge of Allegiance. Thank you, Emilee & Anthony!

The Golden Dustpan Award Lower Pod:

Mrs. Croteau & Mrs. Brann

Upper Pod:

Mr. Smith & Mrs. Marx



PTA Meeting

Thursday, November 30th in Cafeteria Crafting for Holiday Fair, 5:00 & Meeting, 6:00

Join us on November 30th at 5:00 pm in the cafeteria. We will be making crafts for the holiday fair, followed by our monthly meeting. We are in need of volunteers to help pull off the Holiday Fair this year! Additionally, we'll need someone to take over the coordination of the fair after this year. Lyn has graciously coordinated this incredible event for years...it's time for someone else to spread the holiday cheer! To volunteer or for more information, please contact Lyn Traver at 3turtlecove@gmail.com or Chris Leavitt at leavitt87@hotmail.com.



Throughout November, our PTA will receive \$1 for every Hannaford Helps Good Karma bag purchased at the Hannaford in Gardiner. For more details, please visit our Facebook page!

Guidance Notes

As we are completing our unit on empathy in many of the grade levels I want to review what we have covered. We have talked about many feelings and how to recognize others' feelings by "reading" their faces and body language. We have talked about how to respect others' feelings, even when they are different from our own. We have talked about how feelings change. We have talked about being a respectful listener and how talking to someone we trust can help us sort out our feelings. We have talked about being fair. We have talked about respecting the differences in others. We have talked about the importance of showing we care with our words and actions and apologizing and helping out as necessary. We have learned a lot to help us be better Bucket Fillers, friends, students, family members, and community members. We are working hard and having fun doing it! With Thanksgiving coming up and Veteran's Day behind us I'd like to share a phrase I read recently- "think to thank". Part of caring about and respecting others is to acknowledge the good they do for us. Please don't let an opportunity go by to thank someone, even a stranger, for the good they have done. Giving gratitude is part of empathy because we are taking the time to think of someone else's feelings and "filling their bucket". It is always helpful when parents reinforce what their children are learning and an easy way to do this is to model an "attitude of gratitude" and "think to thank" those in your life.

Joan Tourtelotte
"Miss T."
School Counselor

"Spotlight on Staff"

Interview with Mrs. Lucas
Grade 2 Teacher



Where did you go to school?

I went to school at Keene State College in NH and then University of New England.

What is your favorite book?

My favorite children's book is *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney. I love the message about making the world a more beautiful place.

What are your hobbies?

I love to do so many things like reading, quilting, painting, and so much more.

What is your favorite food?

I'm supposed to say something healthy like brussel sprouts but really it's potato chips.

What is your favorite thing about working at HT?

My favorite thing about HT is working with so many people who are kind and help each other.