

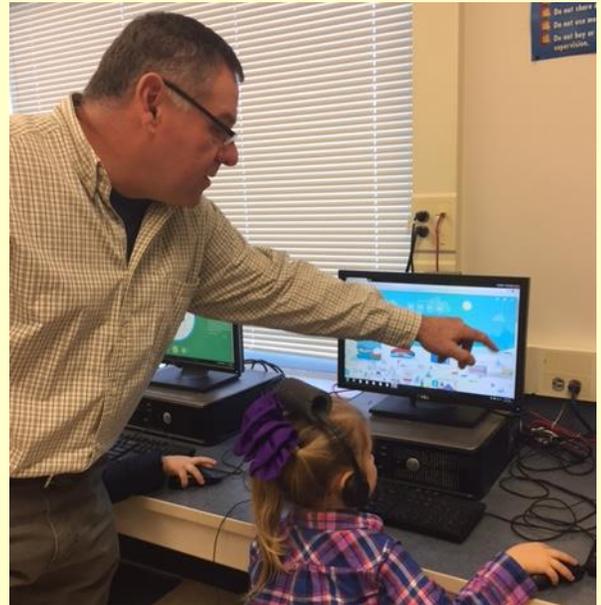
PANTHER PRESS

Parishville-Hopkinton
Central School

January 2017
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Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! 2017 is certain to be a great year for our students, as we have much to look forward to. In the coming months we will be rolling out one-to-one Chromebook devices at several grade levels. We are excited to have our students working with technology in new and innovative ways, and view this initiative as a method to supplement and support the active learning already taking place in our classrooms. Chromebooks are web-based laptops which will allow our teachers and students to access Google Apps for Education (GAFE) resources, as well as many other valuable learning tools.



Above, Mr. Lalonde points out how to use a tool on a Google site for a UPK student in the Elementary Computer Lab. We are proud of the skills our students gain while participating in Computer Lab activities! They are becoming good "Digital Citizens".



All UPK-6th grade students will continue to receive technology instruction with Mr. Lalonde in the Computer Lab; however, our goal is to eventually have one-to-one devices for all students in the building. Smart Bond Funds provided by the NYS, will be used to purchase these devices as part of a State-wide initiative to increase access to technology in schools.

We are very excited to have these Chromebooks available as our teachers have attended many training sessions on the instructional uses of such tools. Students are also very eager to get their hands on these devices! As a point of interest, our 3rd graders will be taking their New York State Exams on these Chromebooks in the spring months. In addition, other grade levels MAY be selected to complete Field Test on computers. Within the next few years all 3rd-8th grade exams will be administered on computers as part of a NYSED initiative. Our students will need to have basic competency with computers and word processing skills. We are excited about this change and hope that you will support your child in any way you can. A good first step would be to allow your child/children to access on-line keyboarding practice sites such as **typing.com**, **games.sense-lang.org**, or **freetypinggame.net**. Most on-line word-processing games are free and fun. Thank you in advance for your support as we move forward with technology integration within the Elementary at PHCS!

Sincerely,
Brooke Reid
Elementary Principal



*The Parishville-Hopkinton Central School
community strives to instill in all students the knowledge and skills necessary
to become caring, conscientious and creative citizens.*

Our December
Very Important Panthers



~ Respect ~

Rebekah Colbert, Bowyn Pease,
Sophia Sullivan, Luca Hotte, Wilton Eldridge,
Donielle Sochia, Autumn Brunet,
Lilianna Clark-Vallance, Ryan Griffith,
Kiersten Gardner and Gabby Parker

~ Self-Control ~

Cameron Scovil-Smith, Addisyn Krise,
Joey Guiney, Shawn Murray,
Alanna Monroe, Logan Charette,
Kamryn Palmer,
Noah Phippen, Sharon Colbert
and Nicholas Newton

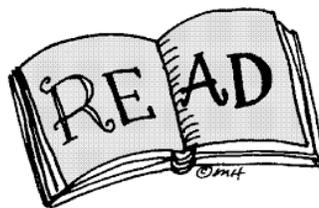


December Birthdays!

Jacob Martin
Ryan Griffith
Gabrielle Parker
Axton Klemko
Audrey Snell
Shawn Murray
Julia Ellison
Oliver White
Morgan Revord
Kaiden Bruce
Blake Caringi-DeShaw
Natalee DeShane
Autumn Brunet
Erik Severtson
Eliza Colbert
Aidin Sochia



Above 1st Graders Addisyn and Abigail Krise talk with Santa about their holiday plans.



STORY TIME FOR TOTS

In December **SANTA CLAUS** was our guest reader. He also took time to meet with each child to discuss Christmas wishes! It was a very special Story Time!

Please remember that Story Time for Tots is held in Mrs. Knowles' Room 103 on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The children enjoy wonderful stories, crafts, songs, games, and a snack. Children who attend will receive a free book each month provided by the Parishville-Hopkinton Parent Boosters.

Future Story Time Dates:

January 17th

February 14th

March 21st

Information on Chromebooks

From *iwiseconsulting.com*



There is absolutely no question that today's students need a strong foundation in the digital world. However, as any teacher or other education worker can attest, finding the right computers or devices for kids to learn is a challenge. The education environment poses a number of challenges to the IT procurer, some unique to the industry.

The primary concern, as ever, is budget. Many schools simply do not have the funds to purchase dozens or hundreds of expensive, high-end devices like iPads, and certainly do not have enough to update them regularly.

Devices need to come at a good price, and they need to last for years in an environment where they may pass through the hands of multiple students each day. The Google Chromebook is a perfect answer for each of these needs, and the education industry has noticed.

Benefits of Chromebooks for Education

So how is the Chromebook such a good fit for education?

Price: Chromebooks are inexpensive enough to purchase in bulk. An entire classroom can be outfitted with a Chromebook at every desk at a fraction of the cost of iPads or less-capable Android tablets. Chromebooks come with free access to [Google Apps](#), including the Office-like Docs and Sheets apps for word processing and spreadsheets, respectively. Google also offers paid subscriptions to [Google for Education](#), which includes a great deal of enhancements and features specific to the classroom.

User Access Independent of Device: Chromebooks are largely cloud-based, storing only a minimum of data on the device itself. ChromeOS and the Google for Education software suite allow for a personalized experience based on the user sign-in, no matter which specific Chromebook the user happens to have in front of them. In this way, devices can belong to desks in the classroom rather than being assigned to individual students, cutting down on the need to replace lost devices. When it is necessary to replace a device, the process is quick and easy since Chromebooks belonging to the organization are essentially interchangeable.

Central Management: Personnel responsible for management of the Chromebook network have a bevy of tools at their disposal to ensure a smooth and secure experience for both students and faculty. Google for Education includes the ability to create user groups with varying permissions and access to different apps and Internet locations. Devices belonging to specific classrooms, grade levels, or even individual students can be permitted or denied access to websites or apps.

Support: Finally, Chromebooks are supported directly by Google as well as by the vendor. Google offers 24/7 support by phone or email, as well as a very extensive knowledge base for self-help.

Although Chromebooks are a relatively new product, they have quickly established themselves as a solid and reliable choice. Their price point, simplicity, robust software capabilities, and centralized management position them as a way for schools to take advantage of a corporate-style IT infrastructure, without a corporate-sized IT staff and budget.

Pay for Student Meals Online

Parishville Hopkinton Central Schools Food Service is excited to offer MySchoolBucks®! This online payment service provides a quick and easy way to add money to your student's meal account using a credit/debit card. You can also view recent purchases, check balances, and set-up low balance alerts for FREE!

MySchoolBucks provides:

- Convenience - Available 24/7 on the web or with the Mobile App for your phone
- Efficiency - Make payments for all your students. No need to bring money to school!
- Control - Set low balance alerts, view account activity, recurring/automatic payments & more!
- Flexibility - Make payments using credit/debit cards and electronic checks.
- Security - MySchoolBucks adheres to the highest security standards & enrollment is easy!
 1. Go to www.MySchoolBucks.com and register for a free account.
 2. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to activate your account.
 3. Add your students using their school name and your child's local student ID number.
 4. Make a payment to your students' accounts with your credit/debit card.

Visit myschoolbucks.com

