

It was a great week at the IES this past week with lots of special events! The "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" interdisciplinary unit for grades 6-8 left us with so many memorable moments! **Check out the great article about "Space Week" on the front page of the "Local" section in the Sunday Worcester Telegram (5/27/12)!** The three Douglas teachers who created "Space Week" were honored for this exemplary unit at the Promising Practices: Exemplars in Curriculum Breakfast at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury last Friday! Two of our 7th graders were honored as NELMS Scholar/Leaders at a special banquet in Marlboro; we enjoyed a wonderful "Special Olympics"; and our Third Grade students had fun on their trip to the fire station, followed later in the week by a fantastic "Noon at the Museum" event!

Wow, what a terrific week! ☺



Tolerance
Investment
Growth
Effort
Respect
Safety



Douglas Intermediate Elementary School

"Where decisions are made in the best interest of our students."

To: Team IES

From: B. Bachelder and R. Godbout

Date: May 28, 2012

(Week of May 29-June 1, 2012)



Where We've Been...Where We're Going

Pictures by E. Sousa, R. Usher, K. Cristian, P. Smith, K. Gauthier, A. Baldyga, and B. Bachelder

Happy Memorial Day, and "Thank You" to our Veterans!



From "For the Fallen" – by L. Binyon

*They shall grow not old,
As we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
Nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning,
We will remember them.*



Gr. 6-8 "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" – A Memorable Success!

This past week has been an unforgettable week as the interdisciplinary unit for gr. 6-8, called "Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space" has been underway! Students in all three grade levels have been studying space and doing space-related instructional activities in all subject areas during this past week! Last Thursday morning, under a bright blue sky, our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders cheered excitedly as a small group of sixth graders – dressed in **Raytheon** red and white T-shirts – launched

their Estes black powder rockets in the skateboard park directly across the street from Douglas Intermediate School. This group of students had stayed after school for the past few weeks to build the rockets, with the assistance of **Mrs. Karen Cristian, Gr. 6 Science teacher**, and **Raytheon Senior Engineer MacDonald Andrews**, who also conducted a lesson on “Satellite Communications” for the Gr. 7 Science classes. The rocket launching was just one of many memorable events made possible by the inspiring, creative, and resourceful team of teachers – **Mrs. Karen Cristian, Mrs. Rachel Usher (Gr. 7 Science teacher), and Mrs. Kelly Graveson (Gr. 8 Science teacher and Science Vertical Curriculum Team Chair)**, assisted by the teaching teams in grades 6, 7, and 8. Here at the IES, in addition to the Science teachers listed above, the Sixth Grade Team of teachers and paraprofessionals participating in the unit included **Mrs. Kathleen Hayes, Ms. Megan Towle, Mrs. Tracey Zuliani, Mrs. Heather Simmons, Mrs. Jaye Menchin, and Mrs. Susan Chupka**; and the Seventh Grade Team of teachers and paraprofessionals, including **Ms. Sharon Fogarty, Mrs. Ellen Reber, Mrs. Debbie Simonelli, Mrs. Judy Deary, Mr. Paul Bolio, Ms. Maria Creedon, Mrs. Darlene Crowley, and Mrs. Karen Bedlion**. Our Related Arts specialists – **Ms. Kristen Sacco, Mrs. Elaine Loehmann, Mrs. Susan Nichols, Mr. John Rheame, and Mr. Larry Pierce** – also conducted special activities that aligned with the unit in their classes, thus making the unit fully interdisciplinary, while also integrating the arts into a Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) unit!

“Space Week” was created to increase student knowledge about the critical importance of space and satellite-based technology, space exploration, and space careers. It’s certainly timely, following last fall’s report from the National Academy of Sciences that we have lost control of the space environment and thus need to develop new technologies for debris removal before space becomes inaccessible for human purposes. As part of the Space Week curriculum, our teachers are working with students to compose letters to **Senator Richard T. Moore, Senator John Kerry, Senator Scott Brown, and Dr. John P. Holdren, the White House Science and Technology Advisor**, urging U.S. officials to take strong action to preserve the space environment. They have also been engrossed in a myriad range of challenging activities, such as Skyping with NASA experts; designing habitats for use on the International Space Station; examining lunar rocks; writing space stories and poems to share with kindergarten students; writing lunar myths and building/launching straw rockets, to share with first graders; and preparing for a unique creative writing activity to do with our second graders! Some of these space-related experiences will continue into this coming week, and field trips (Gr. 8 – Boston Museum of Science; Gr. 7 – Christa McAuliffe Center; and Gr. 6 – EcoTarium) have also taken place, or will happen shortly, that align with the unit.

We say a big “Thank You” to our diverse group of supporters and partners that have made “Space Week” possible, including the **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation, NASA, the Union of Concerned Scientists, WPI, Raytheon, the Gelfand Endeavor in Massachusetts Schools (GEMS), and the Regional Science Resource Center of UMass Medical School**. Guest speakers this week have included **Dr. David Wright**, a physicist with the Union of Concerned Scientists and a leading authority on the problem of space debris; **Mrs. Donna Taylor**, a national-board certified teacher, Douglas resident, and NASA NEAT (Network of Educator Astronaut Teacher) Teacher; and **Mr. Sam Ortega**, who is NASA’s Centennial Challenge Program Manager. **Mr. MacDonald Andrews**, Senior Raytheon Engineer, conducted presentations in our classrooms on STEM-related subjects, such as “Satellite Communications” in grade 7, and was a wonderful help with building and launching our rockets!

One key element of Space Week is the emphasis on space-related careers. It seems fitting for the region that spawned the Industrial Revolution to produce future scientists and engineers who will help to solve the debris problem and ensure that humanity enjoys a future in space. Blackstone Valley students are continuing the tradition of technological creativity and innovation that is their heritage! They are thus fulfilling the vision of **Dr. Robert Goddard**, the father of modern rocketry, who launched the first liquid-fueled rocket from Pakachoag Hill in Auburn, back in 1926. We think he would be proud to see the current generation carrying out his vision to explore the wonders of outer space, and to protect it for future generations to come!



Our three teachers who created the “Space Week” curriculum and brought it from a dream to a reality will be conducting a workshop for other Blackstone Valley teachers this coming Wednesday, May 30th at 4:30 p.m., at the Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center in Northbridge, just prior to the Blackstone Valley Education Foundation reception for this year’s grant recipients. They look forward to sharing this unique, first-in-the-nation curriculum with other school districts!

(Above, L to R): **Mrs. Rachel Usher, Mrs. Karen Cristian, and Mrs. Kelly Graveson**, at the Asa Waters Mansion in Millbury, where they were honored on May 25th for their exemplary “Space Week” curriculum - along with other outstanding Blackstone Valley teachers - at a ceremony called “Promising Practices: Exemplars in Curriculum,” sponsored by the Blackstone Valley Superintendents’ Collaborative. **(Right):** Our honorees pictured with Superintendent Nancy Lane.



The interdisciplinary unit entitled “Space Week: Protecting Our Place in Space,” was made possible by a grant from the **Blackstone Valley Education Foundation!** We truly appreciate the Foundation’s support!

Mr. MacDonald Andrews, Senior Raytheon Engineer, and Mrs. Karen Cristian Prepare 6th Grade Rocket Builders for the Launch on May 24th!

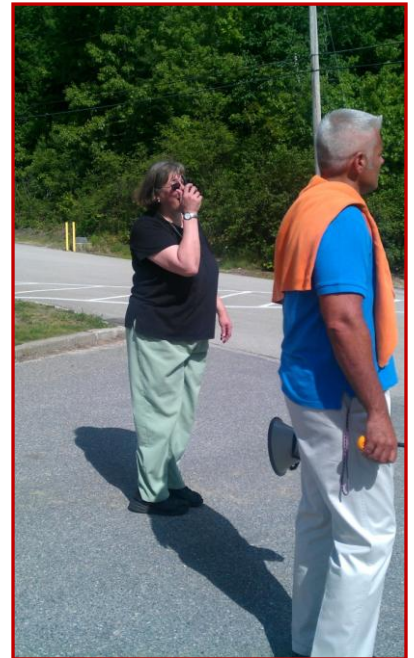


Scenes from the Rocket Launch for Grades 6, 7, and 8 on May 24th!



Left: Sixth and Seventh graders watch the black powder rocket launch.

Below: Mrs. Cristian communicates with Mr. Andrews at the launch site via two-way radio.



Below: Dean of Students Mr. Robert Godbout leads the spectators (seated on the grass across the street) in a round of applause for the Sixth Grade Rocket Builders!



Raytheon



Above: The rocket builders in their matching T-shirts donated by Raytheon!

Above: (L to R) Dr. David Wright, Senior Scientist and Co-Director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists; Raytheon Senior Engineer MacDonald Andrews; and WPI Student Haley Andrews, following the highly successful launch!

Scenes from the Rocket Launch for Grades 6, 7, and 8 on May 24th!



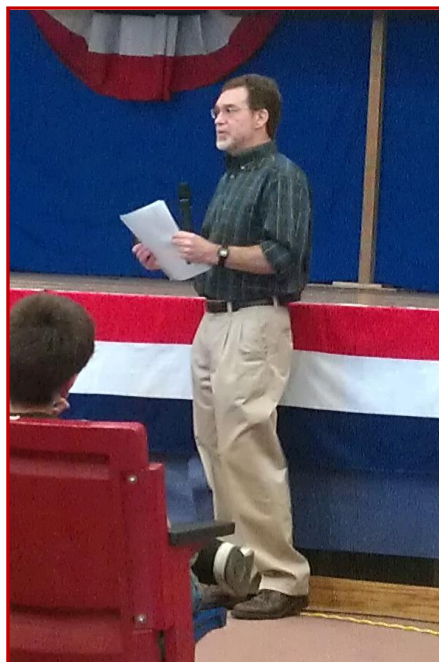
**Sixth Grade
Rocket Builders**
James Peck
Carmelo Lugo
Damian Dereszkievicz
Ethan Guertin
Luke Pilkington
Maxwell Postma
Brandon Daubney
Joseph Delorme
Henry Torpey
Thomas D'Amico

Left: Mrs. Bachelder, Ms. Haley Andrews, Dr. David Wright, Mr. MacDonald Andrews, and Mrs. Karen Cristian with the Sixth Grade Rocket Builders

Space Week Guest Speakers



Left: Mrs. Donna Taylor and Mrs. Rachel Usher. Mrs. Taylor, a NASA Educator Astronaut Teacher, kicked off Space Week with a special presentation entitled, "When Dreams Become a Reality"!



Center: Dr. David Wright, Senior Scientist and Co-Director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, speaks about Space Debris on Thursday, May 24th.

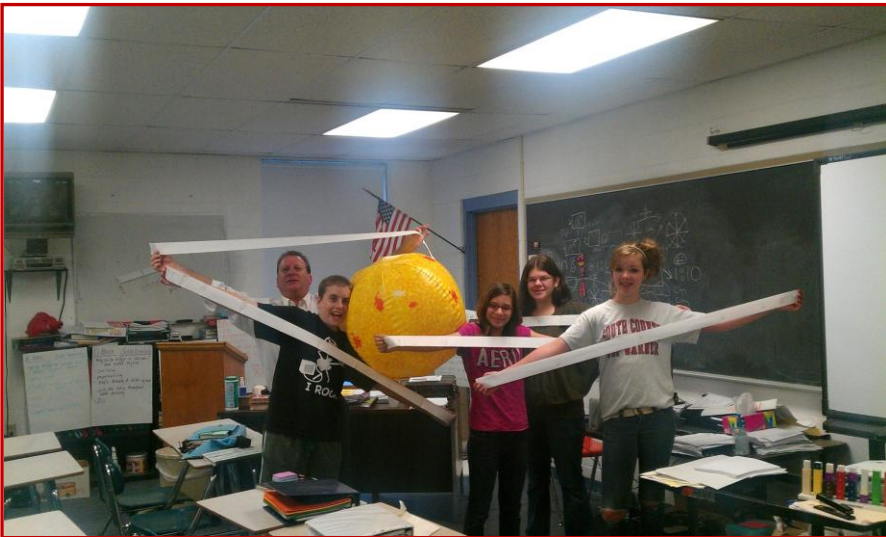
Space Week Guest Speakers



Left: Mr. Sam Ortega, NASA's Centennial Challenge Program Manager, speaks with students about living in space on Friday, May 25th.



More Scenes from Space Week



Left: Students create scale models of the planets in our solar system in Math. (L to R) Mr. Paul Bolio, Zachary Beane, Ebhann Brown, Olivia Brunetti, and Megan Carroll.

Below: Connor Grady and Sarah Grenier observe NASA meteorite samples.



Left: Rebecca Rokne and Morgan Mooney observe NASA meteorite samples.



More Scenes from Space Week!



Left: Dominic DeSimone and Danny Hayes work on a History WebQuest in Mrs. Debbie Simonelli's History classroom.



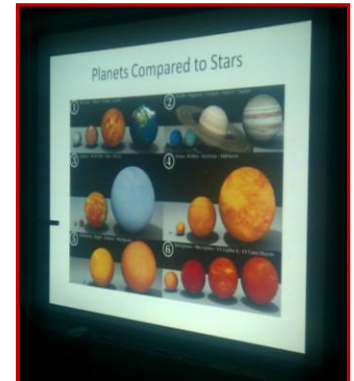
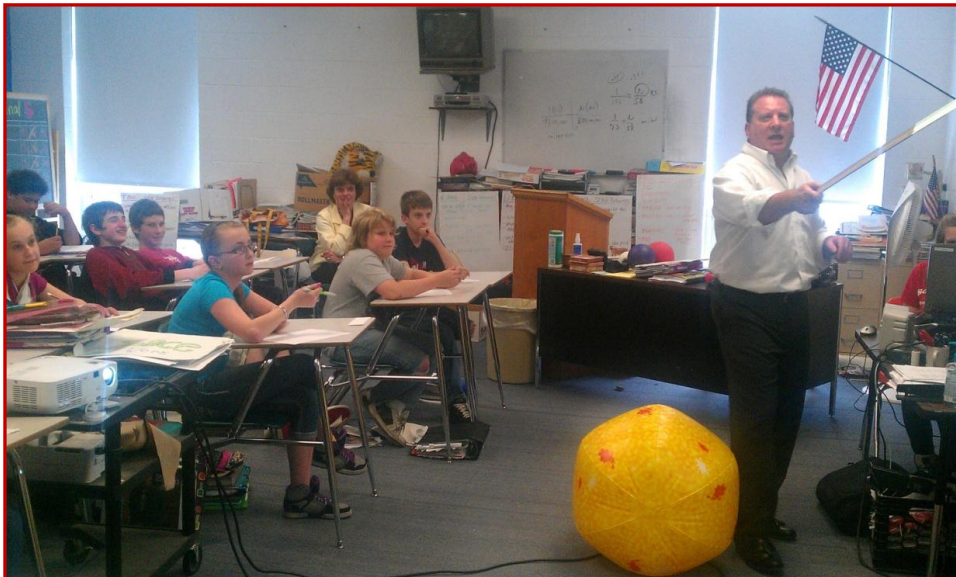
Above: Grace Brownell creates a Spanish dictionary of astronomy terms in Mrs. Ellen Reber's Spanish class.

Left: Students create their own lunar myths in Ms. Sharon Fogarty's Composition class.



Right: Alyssa Bourque examines lunar rocks from the Apollo missions.

www.nasa.gov



Left: Students create scale models of the solar system in Mr. Bolio's Math class.

Congratulations to Our 2012 NELMS Scholar-Leaders!



Congratulations to seventh graders **Rachel Dixon** and **Taylor Lyford**, who were named the Douglas IES 2012 NELMS Scholar-Leaders! Rachel and Taylor, who were selected by the Seventh Grade Team of teachers, were honored at the Thirteenth Annual Middle Level Scholar Leader Awards Banquet, held at the Best Western Royal Plaza in Marlborough, MA, on May 23, 2012. The Middle Level Scholar Leaders Award is organized annually by the Commonwealth of MA Middle Level Educators (COMMLE) and the New England league of Middle Schools (NELMS), with supporting sponsorship from Lifetouch national School Studios.

Guests at the banquet included 90 students from 45 schools, from all over the state. Each student was presented with an award recognizing his or her achievements. The criteria for being chosen to receive the Middle Level Scholar Leader Award include

demonstrating academic initiative and scholarship, providing service to classmates and school, exemplifying positive attitudes, and demonstrating leadership in the classroom and school activities.

Over 450 guests, including students, educators, and parents, attended this year's banquet, which celebrated the achievements of middle level students who are representative of the many outstanding young adolescents in middle level schools in Massachusetts.



(Left - L to R): Mr. Robert Godbout, Ms. Sharon Fogarty, Mrs. Beverly Bachelder, Rachel Dixon, Mrs. Ellen Reber, and Taylor Lyford following the ceremony.



www.nelms.org



(Right - L to R): Mrs. Susan Lyford, Taylor Lyford, Mr. Donald Lyford, Mr. Stephen Dixon, Rachel Dixon, and Mrs. Gigi Dixon



More IES News and Happenings!



*Correction: The student in the picture at the left was incorrectly identified in last week's memo. This is **Ethan Whitney**, investigating angular momentum characteristics of a gyroscope, used to stabilize satellites, assisted by **Mr. MacDonald Andrews**, Raytheon Senior Engineer. We regret the error!*

Scenes from the Battleship Cove Chess Tournament Last Weekend

The IES Chess Club students enjoyed competing at the Chess Tournament held yesterday, May 19th, at Battleship Cove, according to **Chess Club Advisor, Mrs. Tracey Zuliani**! **Liam Kelley** came in third in his age range, and **Zachary Ernst** came in fifth. **Ryan Smith** played to a stalemate in his 1st game, won his 2nd & 3rd games, and lost his 4th game – earning a total of 2.5 points to medal! Our students not only enjoyed playing chess, but also exploring the ship and speaking with the many veterans on hand, mainly from the Korean War era. A “Meet the Veterans” event was appreciated by the students and their parents in attendance!



Top Left: Ryan Smith and Zachary Ernst

Top Right: Ryan Smith with his medal on the deck of the ship

Left: Liam Kelley



Grade 3 Students Visit the Douglas Fire Station



Grade 3 students enjoyed a memorable trip to the Douglas Fire Station last Monday, May 21st. They had a wonderful time, rotating through various centers with the firefighters! The students “put out” a fake fire with the hose, learned about the various components on the fire truck and ambulance, and went into the “smoke house” to learn how to get out to a meeting place safely. We appreciate the Douglas Fire Department hosting the students! We also thank the **Third Grade Team** of Mrs. Kathy Gauthier, Mrs. Danielle Hippert, Mrs. Kathy Jost, Ms. Amy Baldyga, Mrs. Eleanor Auger, Ms. Michelle Babigian, and Ms. Melissa Molvar – and Paraprofessionals Ms. Jessica Jane, Mrs. Leslie Jeznack, and Ms. Marina Loshusan, for accompanying the students on the trip and collaborating with the Fire Department in planning it!

Above: Third grader Nola Ferreira holds the fire hose, assisted by Ms. Marina Loshusan.

Right: Students pose for a group picture at the Fire Station (pictures from Mrs. Kathy Gauthier and Ms. Amy Baldyga).

Below Left and Right: Students learn about the emergency vehicles and experience the smoke house.



Grade 3 "Noon at the Museum" Held on Friday, May 25th

On this special day, all six classes of our third graders made history come alive! Led by their teachers—**Mrs. Eleanor Auger, Mrs. Amy Baldyga, Ms. Michelle Babigian, Mrs. Kathy Gauthier, Mrs. Danielle Hippert, Mrs. Kathy Jost, and Ms. Melissa Molvar** - the students conducted biographical research on famous historical figures—both past and present—who were born in Massachusetts. The project culminated in the creation of this special exhibit, in which students created tri-folds about their selected personage, and dressed in costume to make their selected personage come to life! As they impersonated their biographical person, they answered questions about his/her life and career that were posed to them by their parents, friends, and teachers who visited the museum exhibit! This project aligned with the MA Curriculum Frameworks for Grade 3 History/Social Science that focuses on Massachusetts. We thank the **Third Grade Team** for providing this fun and motivational culminating event for students that truly helps them master Massachusetts history! (Pictures of "Noon at the Museum" will be included in next week's memo.)

More Pictures from National MPS Awareness Day



On Tuesday, May 15th, we observed National MPS Awareness Day at the IES! One of our fourth grade students, **Brandon Ballou**, was born with a rare genetic disorder called Sanfilippo Syndrome, a MucoPolySaccharide disease. Everyone was invited to wear purple in order to raise awareness of this disorder. **Mrs. Stephanie Dagenais'** students worked with students in the Intensive Learning Center to make purple tie-dye T-shirts to wear on May 15th! (Brandon is a student in Mrs. Dagenais' homeroom.) This was an amazing collaboration! The students were respectful, caring, and helpful throughout the activity.

The activity began with a YouTube presentation by **Ms. Meggie Morel** on how to tie dye, followed with some history of when tie dying began. **Mrs. Rachel McCrohon** and **Mrs. Fran Dorr** then demonstrated various ways to create the shirts. On the following Monday, **Ms. Morel** and **Ms. Dorr** played a fun game with the students to see if they could figure out which T-shirt was theirs. It was great to see all of the support and participation with so many wearing purple! A special "Thank You" to the faculty and staff who oversaw and assisted with this project – **Mrs. Errion McGrath, Ms. Marina Loshusan, Ms. Fran Dorr, Ms. Rachel McCrohon, Ms. Meggie Morel, Mrs. Deana LaPolt, Mrs. Stephanie Dagenais, and Mr. Steve Picotte.**





Daily Calendar of Events (May 29 – June 1)

This week is Spirit Week!

Tuesday-Crazy Hat Day; Wednesday-Sports Day; Thursday-Mismatch Day; and Friday-School Colors Day



Tues., May 29 – (Day 1) – Crazy Hat Day

- Grade 5 Field Trip – Audobon Society – Worcester, MA
- Grade 3 S.A.F.E Graduation – IES Auditorium – 1 p.m. Parents are invited. **Reminder: Students are reminded to please wear their S.A.F.E. T-Shirts!**
- Gr. 3-5 Lip Sync Tryouts – 2:45-4:00 – **Reminder: Students are asked to please bring their music with the song lyrics printed out, and costumes if possible. The dress rehearsal will be held on June 5, from 2:45-4:00, with the Lip Sync taking place on the morning of June 8th. The theme this year is “Through the Decades,” so students are asked to choose one of the most popular songs from the ‘60’s, ‘70’s, 80’s, 90’s, and today!**



Wed., May 30 – (Day 2) – Sports Day

- IES Spring Art Show – 6-8 p.m.
- “Space Week” Workshop for Blackstone Valley Teachers – Beaumont Rehabilitation and Skilled Nursing Center – Northbridge, MA – 4:30 p.m., followed by Blackstone Valley Education Foundation reception for this year’s grant recipients



Thurs., May 31 – (Day 3) – Mismatch Day

- PTO Recess Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser



Fri., June 1 – (Day 4) – School Colors Day

Graduation Day for DHS Seniors!

- IES Student-Faculty Basketball Game

The Massachusetts State Middle School Science and Engineering Fair will take place on Saturday, June 2, 2012 from 8:30 am to noon at Worcester Technical High School.

Band Lesson Schedule for this week:

Tuesday (Day 1)

Group B - 9:45; Group C - 10:15; Group D - 10:45; and Group A – 11:15

Wednesday (Day 2)

Grade 4 & 5 Band – 8:30-9:30 (Full band rehearsal will be held in place of small group lessons.)

Thursday (Day 3)

Group A – 9:00; Group B – 9:30; Group C – 10:00; and Group D – 10:30

Friday (Day 4)

Group A - 9:00; Group B – 9:30; Group C – 10:00

