

A Message From the Principal, Stephen Bishop



The Mary Snow School, named after Maine's first female Superintendent, serves families of grade four and grade five students on the East Side of Bangor. Built in 1926, the building retains many of the original architectural features from the turn of the century.

Approximately 250 students are taught by a competent, caring staff committed to assessing each child's educational needs in order to provide a program specifically tailored to accelerate learning. Our teachers and our students form a learning environment that is challenging, dynamic, enriching and rewarding. We continually use achievement data to assess the effectiveness of our programs and to individualize learning through differentiation of instruction. The result is that all students are able to demonstrate mastery through controlled experimentation, analytical reasoning, authentic self-expression as well as on local, state and national assessments.

The philosophy of the Mary Snow School considers the intellectual, physical, social and emotional needs of the child. Our purpose is to educate the whole child through the application of proven methods, programs and materials that focus upon the unique development of the individual. The worth of the learner is respected and enhanced in a climate, which is positive, orderly, challenging and exciting.

The Mary Snow staff eagerly accepts the challenge and responsibility of guiding our students through these important, formative years in school. Our unwavering belief is that all children can and will learn at high levels. At the same time we realize the critical role parents play in their development. The statewide reputation the Mary Snow School has for educational excellence is due, in large part, to the high expectations parents and teachers have for our students. Together, we face no greater challenge than to provide the best education possible for our young people, so they may realize their greatest potential as lifelong learners



History Comes Alive During Colonial Day At Mary Snow!

By Jean Mullins

The refreshing scent from soap carving and the sound of scratching quill pens fills the air. If you close your eyes you can almost imagine that you are living in the colonial time period. Every year, fifth grade students at Mary Snow School study United States history from its European beginnings through the Civil War. The Colonial and Revolutionary period are always a favorite focus. As a culminating event of these studies many students participate in a Colonial Day celebration.

Our fifth graders learn many of the skills held as both commonplace and necessary for everyday living during the early period of our nation. The students

also have the opportunity to sample a few of the foods that would have been typical during this time, as well as dress in colonial style clothing.

Ask the students about Colonial Day and you may hear how they created their own tri-corn hats and mobcaps, silhouettes, cups and balls, hand-dipped candles and poppets. They may show you their own cross-stitch sampler or even describe to you how they created tea-aged paper on which to write with quill and ink just as our forefathers.

The students could explain that in colonial America mobcaps were popular



hats that were worn indoors by women. They would also inform you that poppets were handmade dolls for children's play and that women would even send to England for a poppet dressed in the latest clothing styles. After receiving the poppets they would then sew their own clothes like the doll's in order to be wearing the most current European styles and trends.

Colonial Day is one of many opportunities for students at Mary Snow

to experience history in an enjoyable and authentic manner. Concepts that have been taught in the classroom are reinforced for students through tactile, auditory and visual experiences. These activities allow students to create a link to our past. Joined with classroom studies and reading, Colonial Day allows our nation's history to become more real and meaningful.

Far Left: Mrs. Mullins class during Colonial Day.

Left: Melissa Joslyn and Kate Treadwell make their mob caps.

Below: Nick Mooney creates a hand-dipped candle.

Below Left: Laken Thomas and Jennifer Farrar with poppets under construction.

Louis Sachar's HOLES Studied

By: Julia Milliken

This year in the Bangor School System, all fifth graders read the book *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This book, which is destined to be a classic, was published in 1998. A common unit of study for *Holes* was developed by a group of fifth grade teachers a year ago.

Holes is the story of an adolescent boy from Texas who is wrongly convicted of stealing a valuable pair of sneakers. The boy, Stanley Yelnats, is sent to Camp Green Lake for punishment. While there, Stanley faces a number of emotional and physical challenges. As students read about Stanley and his difficulties, they also become intrigued by the story of his ancestors, which is told in flashbacks throughout the book.

At Mary Snow, all fifth grade students read and discussed *Holes* with their language arts teachers. At the end of the unit, boys and girls completed an assessment whereby they each created postcards to send to their teachers. Students were required to write about emotional and physical challenges faced by Stanley and themselves. On the front of the postcards, students drew and colored pictures to go with the written work.

It is apparent that Mary Snow fifth graders truly enjoyed the unit on *Holes*! In the future, other common units will be developed.



Grade five students in Mrs. Milliken's class reading *Holes*. Below students participate in a lively classroom discussion of the popular book.



Fond Memories and Sage Advice from Mary Snow Grade Five Exit Interviews

By Cynthia Brown

1. What will be one of your fondest memories of Mary Snow School after your departure?
2. What advice would you give new students next fall to help them be successful at Mary Snow School?



"My fondest memory will be the teachers. I may not have had all of the teachers, but my homeroom teacher and my math teacher were very good. They deserve a salute for helping us." "Some of the advice I would give to fourth graders is learn the names of all the teachers and the room numbers. This will help the students by making them feel at home and be eager to make the transition to Mary Snow." —Rami Blair



"Teachers will definitely be one of the fondest memories of Mary Snow School. Another one will be the new friends I met from other schools." "Keep track of your assignments in your agenda book. Take it home every night. By the end of the year it will be your best friend." —Miranda Monk



"My fondest memory will definitely be the teachers. They are so nice and helpful and obviously smart." "My advice to the students who will be coming to Mary Snow School is not to get in trouble. You should try your best to get good grades and lead a good life." —Colby Smith



"My fondest memory will be singing in the All City Chorus both years." "I would say that they should get on the good side of the teachers in the beginning of the year." —Kellen McDonnell



"One of my fondest memories will be meeting all of the teachers and playing navigators every day. I will also miss playing outside." "I would tell them to pay attention, do your best, and have fun." —Allie Rowe



"One of my fondest memories will be having a great time on Field Day with my classmates." "Always make goals and try to reach them." —Kevin Smith



"My fondest memory will be the kindness of the teachers. They are always willing to help." "I would say just focus, pay attention and get your work done on time and every teacher will respect you. So in other words stay on the teachers' good side, although most teachers don't have a bad side." —Katy Treadwell



"My fondest memory will be the teachers I had at Mary Snow School." "My advice would be: Do your homework, be good, listen to your teacher, and treat others the way you want to be treated." —Aaron Huntington



"The wonderful plays that we did. I'll never forget starring in the play, 'Kids for America.' It was so fun." "Just don't be worried, stick with it and go with the flow because lots of cool and unexpected things happen at Mary Snow School that you will love." —Cameron Grover



"My fondest memory will be the Field Day because we have fun the whole day." "Advice that I would give is don't leave your homework until the last minute" —Conner Griffin



"My fondest memory would be walking into my fourth grade classroom and seeing another one of my teacher's fun outfits or her cool jewelry." "Be ready for the homework and don't waste your time in class or at home." —Jennifer Farrar



"My fondest memory will be when I was in fourth grade, we had a reading incentive and if you made your goal, you got to have sub sandwiches outside and play beach ball. We just had a great time." "Do the homework, listen to your teacher, and you will do great." —Cassidy Thibodeau