



Taft Elementary School

Tiger Tales

Volume 2 Issue 2

October, 2007

A Letter From the Principal

Dear Parents:

We have completed our first month of school. In my conversations with parents at Open House or my principal's breakfast, in front of school, or at School Council. I am constantly reminded of their commitment to their children's education. That commitment is so important to their success at school. Research shows the importance of parental involvement. "Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters." (www.nea.org/parents)

Thank you for your continued interest in your child's education.

Mrs. Montesi

IMPORTANT DATES

- October 4, 2007 World Smile Day Bring in toothbrushes/toothpaste as a donation to the food pantry
- October 10, 2007 School Photos Grades 1 and 2
- October 11, 2007 School Photos Grades 3 and 4
Fire Safety Assemblies with UFD
- October 11, 2007 PTO Meeting 7:00 PM Taft Cafeteria
- October 16, 2007 Grade 3 Field Trip Boston Museum of Science
- October 20, 2007 ABC Fair 10:00-3:00

How Can I Help?

This question is often asked by parents who want their child to succeed in school. I would challenge parents to help by teaching their child to tell time and to count change. In third grade, your child will be learning to make change and find elapsed time. They will be at a distinct disadvantage in learning these two important skills if they can't count mixed coins or tell time. The following question was on the 2007 Third Grade MCAS.

A clock shows 5:50. The children are asked:

A. The cake needs to bake for 30 minutes. At what time will the cake be done?

B. Mr. Stone also wants to bake rolls. The rolls only need to bake 10 minutes. At what time should he put the rolls in the oven so that they will be done exactly the same time as the cake?

As you can see the question requires mastery of the concept. You can also see why we need your assistance. Thank you in advance for your help.

Bus Safety

Please go over bus safety rules with your child at home on a regular basis. Below is a list of rules that are in each bus and reinforced at Taft. Also, tune into your local CABLE TV channel for the bus assembly held on the first day of school sponsored by AAA.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Fafard,

Assistant Principal



1. Obey the Bus Driver at all times.
2. Keep your hands inside the bus and throw no objects out the windows.
3. Remain seated at all times while the bus is moving.
4. Wait for the driver to give you the signal if you must cross the street when getting on or off the bus.
5. Do not stand or play in the road at the bus stop.
6. Keep your hands, feet, and mouth to yourself.
7. Keep the aisles clear of all large objects.
8. Do not damage or dirty the bus.
9. Keep the bus clean always.

NO EATING OR DRINKING! TOYS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THE BUS.



High Five to Nancy Winters for organizing the parent volunteer program. To date parents are helping out in the library, at recess, and for a grade 2 project. We will continue to use this valuable program as the need arises.

Taft Elementary School

16 Granite Street
Uxbridge, MA 01569
508-278-8643
Fax 508-278-8646

Email:

pmontesi@uxbridge.k12.ma.us

We are now online.
Come visit at
www.uxbridgeschools.com



Computer Bytes

All of the students are eagerly awaiting the completion of the new Computer Lab in room 205! In the meantime, we are following a new curriculum in Instructional Technology. We have learned the parts of the computer and the rules in the Computer Lab. We have used KidPix and are now using Kidspiration.

Fourth graders are completing an assignment on My Neighborhood. They designed their neighborhood using symbols/clipart from the program. They then described their neighborhood in the writing section. Third graders are Exploring Their Senses and writing about how they would use their 5 senses at a location. The students are saving their writing to a floppy disk. The Instructional Technology standards the 3rd & 4th graders used include entering and editing information and using basic file menu commands. Second graders are working on Lend a Helping Hand. They will read the statement and sort symbols/clipart according to the theme in the sentence. First graders are going on Ducklings Journey. The students must drag symbols/clipart to help finish the ducklings journey, to and fro. The Instructional Technology standards the 2nd and 1st graders used include inserting graphics and sizing a graphic.

Library Cor-

This month in the library we are learning library manners, how to properly care for books, and beginning to explore the parts of a book. We are also discussing the difference between Fiction and Non-Fiction. Finally, each month we will be examining an author/illustrator - this month is Britain's **Lauren Child**, author and illustrator of the Charlie and Lola books, as well as many others.

Mrs. O'Donnell

Let's Get Physical

Physical Education classes have been enjoying the weather playing with the parachute outdoors. Grades 1&2 are working on motor skills, cooperative tag games and ball skills. Grades 3&4 are concentrating on fitness, playing Four-Square, and ball catching self-assessments. Coming up-Grade three will begin an introduction to speedball and fourth grade will begin lacrosse.

Tied sneakers and jackets for cooler weather are needed on your child's PE day.

Fourth graders are now taking an eight week Health program with Mrs. Seagrave.

It's Never Too Late to Learn Your A, B, C's....

A B Cs Of Student Success

G is for GRACE.

Grace means giving children what they need, not what they deserve. It means accepting kids as they are, and understanding their feelings and obstacles. It also means that we provide the unconditional support our children need to make positive changes. Grace, however, must be balanced with accountability or we risk enabling children to excuse unacceptable behavior or failure to achieve reasonable goals. If we balance grace with accountability, we let children know that we expect them to grow and learn.

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Next Month: H is for Homework

Grade 1 News

Several first grade classes took walking field trips to the library, Peaceful Pond, and De Luna. These field trips tie into science and social studies frameworks including rocks and minerals, community, and changing seasons. Research shows that learning is more meaningful when it takes place through real life experiences.

Meet the Faculty

The first person to be interviewed for the Taft Times newspaper was Mrs. Jansson. The thing she teaches at Taft School is computers. Apparently she has been teaching this topic for a whopping nine years. Apparently at a different school as this is her first year as a Taft faculty member. She says that she has also taught "gifted and talented students." She says that the reason she became a computer teacher is that she found that the more she used computers, the more she liked them. Her friend Dolly (who is also a computer teacher) inspired her to become one herself. She explained that her favorite part of being such a fabulous computer teacher, is watching kids learn while using the computer . . . thank you Mrs. Jansson.

Interview and paragraph by:

Hunter Walker and Jared Robert

Art "Effects"

Grades one, two and three we are celebrating the colorful fall season in the Art Room. Children will be drawing and painting fall subject matter such as leaves, pumpkins and fanciful creatures. We are developing students color sense and drawing skills as well as learning to use our "Artist's Eyes" to become more successful in our artists endeavors. Grade Four has begun their Dragon Unit. Their first project is a dragon drawing that emphasizes color and texture. The students are doing a wonderful job!

Musical Notes

September music in Ms D'Andrea's classes are singing, keeping the steady beat, exploring rhythm, moving to music of all genres and starting the basics of musical notation. Feeling comfortable with our singing is important this month as we are able to concentrate on the very first instrument: our singing voices!

Grade 3 Happenings

World Smile Day is October 5th - We are collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes to be donated to the Uxbridge First Food Pantry. Send in your donations before October 15 please.

During the course of the last school year, one of our courtyards was renovated under the direction of Mrs. Bazzett and Mrs. Pacheco. Continuing with their efforts, they would like to plant fall bulbs. Donations of bulbs (tulips, daffodils) to be planted in the courtyard by parents would be appreciated. Thank you.



8 + 5
7 2 3 x



**Math
@Home**

Pennies in the Pot

Start the game with 25 pennies. Each player takes a turn rolling a single die and picking up the number of pennies he or she rolls on the die. To pick up the last pennies, however, the number on the die must match *exactly* the number of pennies that remain. When there are no pennies left in the pot, the player with the most pennies is the winner.

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Field Trips

Grades 2 and 3 students will be going to the Boston Museum of Science this fall. The museum offers reduced rates during this time and we are taking advantage of it. Look for permission slips in the backpacks. If cost is an issue for your family, please let your child's teacher know. Remember that all chaperones need a CORI check. The process takes one to two weeks.

From the Nurse's

Welcome back! Hope you had a healthy and active summer.

Reminder to Grade 4 parents: All students in Grade 4 are required to have a physical examination done and a report submitted to the school nurse.

Free physicals can be scheduled at the WIC van which is at the Hannaford parking lot on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. Also area health professionals provide free health care at the Free Clinic at Northbridge High School on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month from 6-8 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Donatelli if you have need help securing health care.

SWISH Fluoride Mouthrinse Program: SWISH will begin at the beginning of October. F.Y.I.: At the beginning of the school year, parents note on the student info cards if they want their child to receive SWISH.

SWISH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: SWISH decreases cavities up to 40%. Please help distribute SWISH every Tuesday morning from 8 to 8:45 a.m. We need your help to continue this FREE program. Please call Mrs. Donatelli at 508-278-8647 or send a note to school. Thank you!

NO SWAP / NO SHARE: PEANUTS, NUTS, ROAST BEEF, WHEAT, MUSTARD, SHELLFISH, APPLES, PINEAPPLE, CHOCOLATE, PLUMS, SOY, CHICKEN, EGGS, DAIRY, PORK, RED DYE #4.....These are a **FEW** of the food allergies that we have at Taft. Please encourage your children **not to swap or share food** at lunch or snack. Life-threatening allergic reactions to foods and chemicals are on the rise. If your child has an allergic reaction it would be helpful if we could identify what your child ingested.

DISEASE OF THE MONTH: Lyme Disease

What: Lyme Disease is an infection transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected

deer tick. Peak activity months are May-June and October-November as long as the temperature is over 35 degrees.

Prevention: Wear light colored clothes so ticks are easier to see. Wear long pants tucked into socks. Avoid tall grasses and shrubby areas. Wear a tick repellent.

Lyme Disease Symptoms: One sign is a rash, which may appear 3 to 30 days after a tick bite. Typical symptoms include fever, chills, headache, stiff neck, fatigue, muscle aches, stiff joints and a characteristic bulls-eye rash. The rash may also be many red spots.

Where are ticks found: Deer ticks prefer to live in the woods with a dense, thick undergrowth and the edge of woods where woods meet lawns or fields. They also feed on wild and domestic animals. Mice in particular are known hosts.

Tick identification: Immature deer ticks (70% of cases) are the size of a poppy seed. After feeding, they are the size of a mustard seed. Adult ticks are the size of a sesame seed and swell to the size of gray sunflower seed after feeding

Transmission: Infected deer ticks must feed for at least 12 to 24 hours before they can begin to transmit the Lyme disease. Therefore you should remove the ticks as soon as possible. Look for ticks nightly, paying close attention to the armpits, the groin and neck.

Removing ticks: Remove ticks with tweezers only. Grasp the tick body as close to the skin as possible. Pull in a steady upward motion until the tick comes out. Wash the area with soap and water and apply an antiseptic to the bite area. Wash you hands. Do not use alcohol, nail polish, hot matches, petroleum jelly, or other methods to remove ticks. These methods may actually traumatize ticks causing them to inject the disease into the skin.

Medical treatment: Note on your calendar when the tick was removed and where the bite was located. Only people who get sick and/or get a rash after being bitten by a tick need antibiotics.

Next month: Preventing the spread of head lice, healthy snacks, and more!