



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
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Overview of Activities for February

In February the staff continued to assess the various samples from publishers of reading books. On February 11, 2008, Pearson/Scott Foresman conducted a thorough presentation of their new program, Reading Street to all classroom teachers, reading specialists, and special education teachers. In the upcoming months we will attend presentations by three other publishing companies. Teachers will give feedback based on their examination of the materials to Dr. Boyaj.

During the week of February 11, the staff and students participated in Friendship Week activities. Each day was designated to a different theme. For example, one day was Do a Good Deed Day and another was Friendship Poem Day. Teachers in the individual classrooms planned friendship activities based on the Massachusetts Frameworks. To kick off the week, students attended an assembly called the NED Show. NED stands for Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do Your Best. This very lively and meaningful presentation helped us to reinforce those very character skills that we teach all year. The week culminated with a Hands Across Taft ceremony. The students exited their classrooms into the halls. They held hands and made a complete circle around Taft. A friendship poem was read over the intercom.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Mrs. Davis' and Mrs. Bandstra's classes visited the Uxbridge Senior Center to sing songs to the people assembled there. After their concert, under the direction of Ms. D'Andrea, the children stayed for lunch and mingled. This visit is always appreciated by Mrs. Petrillo and her staff. I consider it a win-win situation for all of us.

Grade 1 and 2 students participated in various numeracy activities based on the 100th day of school. On day 100, students counted and sorted 100 items, listed 100 things under a given subject, and took part in other activities to enhance their number sense.

The Leadership Club conducted a Bake Sale at lunch. They also performed a skit for Friendship Week that was shown on local cable access television.

Many other activities and student work are located in the Taft Times.

Professional Development Activities

February 4, 2008 – Lisa Hartman attended training in testing and assessment in Needham, Massachusetts.

February 12, 2008 – Kim Hill and Georgette Wagar attended an IPass emergency number information session, located in the High School Library.

February 14, 2008 – Lisa Hartman attended Open Circle Training in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

February 11 and 25, 2008- Mrs. Montesi was on two conference calls regarding administration of the MEPA and MCAS (ELA). The conference call is a new way of getting information out to principals about the MCAS tests so that they do not have to travel to remote sites to hear the presentation.

PTO Reports and Information

PTO Newsletter is attached. Next Meeting: March 13, 2008 in the Taft Cafe

General School/Department Information

School Council Meeting was held on February 12, 2008. Some of the topics for discussion were the Taft School Playground, a budget update, and the volunteer program.

Next Meeting March 11, 2008 in the Taft Library

Upcoming Events

March 7, 2008	Curriculum Day – Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.
March 13, 2008	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
March 14, 2008	Report Cards Sent Home
March 21, 2008	Good Friday, No School
March 25, 2008	Grade 4 – MCAS Long Composition Test
March 26-28, 2008	Grade 3 – MCAS Reading Comprehension
March 28, 2008	Principal’s Coffee Hour – 9:30 a.m.
	Grade 1 Field Trip - Stadium Theatre 9:00 – 12:00 a.m.
	PTO Family Fun Night

Administrator,
Paula A. Montesi, Principal