



# Taft Elementary School

## Tiger Tales

Volume 2 | Issue 6

February, 2008

### A Letter From the Principal

#### Principal's Message

Dear Parents:

As we move into the second half of the school year, MCAS tests are looming ahead for Grades 3 and 4 students. Here is the schedule of tests:

Grades 3 and 4 MEPA (for English Language Learners)  
March 10-13, 2008

Grade 3 MCAS Reading Tests March 26, March 27, March 28

Grade 4 Long Composition March 25 (Make-up April 2)

Grade 4 English Language Arts April 1, April 3, April 4

Grade 3 Mathematics May 13, May 14

Grade 4 Mathematics May 20, May 21

You can help your child be successful by helping them to get a good night's sleep, eating properly, and going into the testing situation with a positive attitude.

Thank you.

Mrs. Montesi

#### IMPORTANT DATES

February 8, 2008	Father Daughter Dance 6:30
Week of February 11, 2008	Friendship Week
February 11, 2008	All About Kids Assembly
February 14, 2008	PTO Meeting 7:00
February 15, 2008	Leadership Club Bake Sale GRADE 4 Lunch
February 18-22	Vacation
February 29, 2008	Assembly Books and Beyond
February 29, 2008	Dr. Seuss Night 6:30-8:00

#### Support Uxbridge Education Foundation

The Uxbridge Education Foundation is raffling off a pair of tickets for the June 29th NASCAR race at the New Hampshire International Speedway in Loudon, NH. UEF is asking for a \$10.00 donation for each raffle ticket. The winner will be drawn March 29th at the Spring Superintendent Gala; you don't need to be present to win.

#### From the Desk of Miss Fafard

#### Friendship Week Assembly

This year, we have a special assembly to kick off Friendship Week which will take place on Monday morning, 2/11/08. It is called All For Kids-NED Show. NED stands for Never Give Up, Encourage Others, Do Your Best! It is a character education show. The program will also incorporate our theme of friendship for the week. Grades 1 and 2 will see the show from 9:00-9:45 am and Grades 3 and 4 will see the show from 10:00-10:45 am in the cafeteria.

In order for us to get this show to come to us free, we must sell yoyos. Students will be bringing home information about the show and order forms to purchase a yoyo during their lunch period. We have parent volunteers who are assisting us in this task.

BUS SAFETY REMINDERS: ALL STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THEIR WEBKINS OR TOYS IN THEIR BACKPACKS AT ALL TIMES AND NOT OUT ON THE BUS. THE BEST PLACE TO KEEP THEM WOULD BE AT HOME. THANK YOU FOR HELPING OUT WITH THIS.

#### Friendship Week Activities

- Monday....Give a Compliment Day
- Tuesday...Do a Good Deed Day
- Wednesday .....Friendship Poetry Day
- Thursday....Do Something Positive for a Secret Pal Day
- Friday.... Do Something Nice for Parents Day

## Taft Elementary School

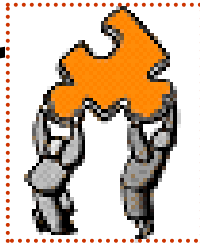
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**We are now online.  
Come visit at**

[www.uxbridgeschools.com](http://www.uxbridgeschools.com)



## Computer Bytes

This month in computer class we are celebrating Friendship Week with the rest of the school. Each grade will be completing a different activity during the designated week. Grade one will be using KidPix stamps to make a picture about friendship. Grade two will also use KidPix to tell us "what friendship is to me". The third grade will use Microsoft Word to make an acrostic poem on Friends. Grade four students will make a word search using words that describe friendship.

In addition to friendship week activities, the third and fourth graders will continue using Type to Learn 3. Third graders are also finishing up their work on calendars using our Clock Faces software. Fourth graders are working hard on JumpStart 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, searching the mines for gems while solving math and social studies problems. Second graders will be using Math Concepts: Geometry K-3; working on 2D figures and line of symmetry. First graders will be using KidPix to make pictures of fractions.

### Library Corner

Hello from the Library! This past month we have been sharing books about art and owls. (Ask your child what the Barred Owl says!) We also looked at many different versions of the German fairy tale *Rapunzel*. And the *Books and Beyond* program is in full swing now, and we have all been keeping track when we read and/or are read to by others. I, too, have been turning in my reading calendar each Friday. I also have been placing one animal cracker in a jar in the Library for every 10 minutes I read. At their library time during the week before vacation, all students will be able to guess how many animal crackers fill my jar. Winners from each grade level will be announced at the Books and Beyond celebration on February 29<sup>th</sup>. KEEP READING!

### Let's Get Physical

School Walk for Diabetes/Jump Rope for Heart took place last week. All collection envelopes are to be returned to Mrs. Dimmick or Mrs. Seagrave before or on February 14. Make checks out to either American Diabetes Association or American Heart Association. School Walk For Diabetes \$482.00

Jump Rope for the Heart \$420.00

**Health classes for Grade 2 begin February 11.**

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

**A B C**s Of Student Success

**K** is for KITCHEN.

Cooking with kids is a great way to spend quality time and teach lifelong skills.

- Toddlers make simple recipes as they count items and follow a sequence of steps.
- Young kids read recipes, follow directions, measure ingredients, and practice safety.
- Older children double or divide recipes and help plan for a party.

Cooking enables parents and children to work cooperatively and share accomplishments. For kid-friendly recipes, see <http://kid.allrecipes.com>.

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**Next Month: L is for Listening**

## From Mrs. Jansson Computer

*\*\*\*Thank you to all the parents who donated Clorox wipes, cleaning wipes, and mouse pads. I still need some Clorox wipes. If you would like to donate them to the computer lab, I would appreciate it! I wipe down each of the computers at the end of the day and have used up almost all the wipes I had! I am trying to stem the spread of colds and flu!*

## Musical Notes

February music classes have been filled with learning fun as we sing new songs and tackle new musical challenges in each grade level.

Fourth graders have received their recorders and will begin class lessons on the instrument. Coordinating fingerings with written notation while tapping the beat takes time and effort, but it's worth it! *Fourth grade parents, please help your child remember to bring his or her recorder and book to school on music days.* We will be playing recorders for most of our music class time until the end of May.

Third graders are learning about syncopation as we explore the concept of accent on the weak beat in a song. All classes are preparing an exciting mix of interesting songs including a Slovakian lullaby and a partner song. *On March 11th, third graders will be performing this program at Whitin School during the day at a performing and visual arts display.* We will be sharing more information with you as the event takes shape. *Third grade parents, stay tuned!*

Second graders are working on rhythmic solfege and folk songs from America and other countries. We have begun with *Un pajarito*, A Little Bird, a traditional folk song sung in Spanish. The children sound great! You may recognize songs from America's past; *Oh! Susanna*, by Stephen Foster and *Clementine*, to name a few.

First grade classes are learning circle songs and will begin Conversational Solfege, to explore music notation. All classes have discussed and played beanbag games on our Footnotes music staff carpet!

Mr. Nick LaPete, our new part time music educator will be starting a fourth grade chorus after February break. Stay tuned for further musical adventures!

Ms. Gretchen D'Andrea, Taft School Music grades 1-4

## Art "Effects"

The Art Department is gearing up for the first (and hopefully annual) district wide art exhibit on March 11 at the Whitin School. A limited number of art pieces by students will represent each grade level. The Music Department will also be involved in this celebration making a wonderful experience. The second graders are going to begin to travel the continents of the world in preparation for the International Fair. Students will experience the folk arts of many cultures.

**FYI: International Fair Date has been set for May 16.**

If you are in the building check out the wonderful and very creative exhibit of "Very special Shoes created by Grade Four."

I am looking for Pringles cans for an art project. If you have any, you can send them in with your child.

Thanks for your very talented children!

Diane Henries and Henry Skillern

**Please return your emergency contact forms (sent out on Feb. 6) as soon as possible. These forms were sent out to get your preferences of phone numbers to call in case of emergency or when we cancel school during the day. We will be updating the numbers on Connect ED, the automated service we use to inform parents.**

HEART SCREEN AMERICA

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008 12:00-5:00

TAFT SCHOOL

**SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE PRE-REGISTER BY MARCH 4, 2008.**

**WALK-INS NOT ACCEPTED.**

The program consists of an electro-cardiogram, a blood pressure reading, BMI, and a family heart health questionnaire. These screenings are voluntary.

Cost \$49 for children and \$69 for adults.

Go to [www.HeartScreenAmerica.com](http://www.HeartScreenAmerica.com) for complete details.

# Classroom Happenings

## Presidential Primary

Over the past few weeks Mrs. Auciello has been working with us on graphing in math. We had fun working on bar graphs, pictographs, line graphs and line plots.

We broke into small groups within the class and polled our friends to discover what were their favorite websites, reptiles, books, cafeteria foods, sports, video games, movies, restaurants, and animals. We also polled our least favorite cafeteria food. We found one topic, the Presidential Primary, very interesting and decided that we wanted to sample a larger group to compare the results with our class. With help from Mrs. Auciello and Mrs. Vogel who supervised data collection during lunch, we polled the entire fourth grade class.

Our graph was completed on Super Tuesday and we found out who the fourth graders thought would be our next President. We started by having 8 friends go around the café and survey each class. Then we checked the tallies of the 157 voters and made a huge bar graph to show our results. If you are in the building you can find our chart outside our classroom, #198. We hope you check it out. Here are our results:

Hillary Clinton	86 votes	54.7%
Barrack Obama	35 votes	22.2%
Rudy Guiliani	1 vote	0.06%
Mike Huckabee	2 votes	1.2%
John McCain	14 votes	8.9 %
Mitt Romney	8 votes	5.0%
John Edwards	3 votes	1.9%
None of the Above	8 votes	5.0%

Submitted by the research team: Katie Salzberg, Beau Nestor. Austin Gonya, Patrick Kloss, Robert Wondolowski. Antaya Bathgate, and Brooklyn Anderson.

Mrs. Ethier's and Mrs. Gallo's class just finished their Diorama projects. The students made a diorama of a habitat of their choice. They presented their projects to the class. They then picked one animal from their habitat and wrote a paragraph about it. They typed their paragraph. Mrs. Gallo and I made a power point presentation with a picture of each student holding their habitat, a picture of their animal and a recording of the student reading their paragraph. Friday, February 15, do something nice for parents day, parents of students in those classes are invited in for coffee and donuts and to view the power point presentation.

### **Mrs. DuBois' and Mrs. Manz' Second Grade Class Is a Great TEAM**

The class listened to the book *Teammates* by Peter Golenbock. It is a story about the Brooklyn Dodgers Baseball team in the 1940s. It told of how an African American named Jackie Robinson joined the Dodgers at a time when only white players were allowed in the major leagues. Some of the players on the team wanted Jackie Robinson off the team but Pee Wee Reese, the Dodger shortstop, felt that as long as Jackie could play, he should be on the team. Pee Wee stood by him when fans said mean things and called Jackie his teammate.

After reading the story, the class discussed what it means to be on a team. They talked about working together to get along and how teams stick up for each other. They decided to give their class a team name and after a vote the name T.F. Teammates was chosen. The initials T.F. stand for Taft Friends. They decorated white hats with fabric paints and autographed their teammates' hats. They will be wearing their hats on special occasions to remind each other they are part of a team!

## Volunteer Program

We are beginning to kick-off the Literacy Volunteer program. As a quick reminder, the Literacy Volunteers are a trained resource available to our teachers to assist them with individual and small group reading support for their classroom.

We are in the process of building a schedule that matches the volunteers' availability with the teachers requested times. If you have interest in the Literacy Volunteer program but missed out on our initial sign-up, there are still time slots available and training materials can be provided. Please contact Nancy Winters at [ngwinters@aol.com](mailto:ngwinters@aol.com) for details.

I'd also like to recognize Lisa Wiesma and Jen LaBonte for filling in on short notice when one of our volunteers was rendered out of commission from a broken leg. Their willingness to jump in allowed us to continue our level of support for both the recess and library efforts. Thank you!

## Uxbridge Education Foundation

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For raffle tickets please contact Nancy Winters at [ngwinters@aol.com](mailto:ngwinters@aol.com) or (508) 278-0669.

## Geography Link

This is a great website where children can learn about US geography. It is especially useful for fourth graders who study this area or for a third grader wanting a jump start.

[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web\\_games.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/web_games.htm)

One day I went for a walk in the forest. I made very dark footprints in the snow. It was so cold I had to put two layers of clothes on. The sky was so blue it looked like the sea. When I looked up, flurries of snow came down. I tried catching the snow on my tongue, but I didn't get any. The trees were high like they're giants. A bucket was getting some sap from the tree. Oh so pretty the snowy scene was. I wished I was a bird in a sparkling tree. The scene was breathtaking to me.

Jack Schreiber

One winter day as I stepped out of my warm, cozy log cabin I felt icy cold. Out in the snow I noticed a small child building an odd shaped snowman. The wind shivered from tree to tree. Every so often, I glimpsed at each six sided snowflake. As I took a step the snow felt as if it was slush. The sky was sapphire blue. The slushy snow was eggshell white. My cheeks were ruby red. I shivered and I took each slushy step back home. Then I sipped some hot cocoa.

Cassie Snay

Snow falling from the sky

Now we build a snowman

Oh! The snowman falls

We dress up the snowman

Mom and dad come out to see it

A dog comes and wrecks it

Now we build another snowman

January Acrostic By Zack DaSilva

**J**umping snowflakes falling from the sky

**A** cres of snow

**N**ew Year

**U**nder the snow, creatures hibernate

**A**valanche of snow tumbling

**R**aining snowflakes

**Y**ummy marshmallows toasted in the fire

# STUDENT WRITING

Standing in a pile of snow, I saw a snowman

No one had a snowman like mine

Oh, my snowman is so pretty, it has a suit

Wind blows my snowman, it fell down

My snowman is melting

As my snowman sits in the sun

No! My snowman is melting

Branden Trahan

Wind that howls in the snow

Ice falling from the roof top

Nice warm cocoa

Tip toe, my feet are cold

Evergreens

Racing on snowboards

Ashlee Morin

I made the most delicious desert. Mountains of hot fudge and swirls of whip cream and one fresh cherry, and the ice cream looked so good and so mouth watering.

I took a spoon and put in the bowl. I took a scoop of ice cream and put it in my mouth and mmm! it tastes great. I grabbed the spoon and stirred it in my mouth until it was gone. Mmm!, so good.

By Vito Caccavelli

Is a circle a polygon? Why or why not? What kind of special triangle can you make from a circle? Do you know that in Massachusetts, third grade students are introduced to these concepts along with more than 40 other geometric terms?

The students in Mrs. Quintiliani's third grade class explored these questions and more, while they traced, cut, bent and glued circles and triangles into geodesic solids. Mrs. Pamela Murphy, a local visiting artist chose the project to give students an opportunity to be creative while learning to interlock flat paper circles and triangles into three dimensional sculptures. Children were encouraged to experiment with other ways to connect the forms as they discussed the advantages of building structures with R. Buckminster Fuller's patented geodesic design. Mrs. Quintiliani said she appreciates the way an artist can help students use models to understand the principles of geometry.

Answers: A circle is not a polygon because a polygon is a closed figure made up of straight line segments. An equilateral triangle fits neatly inside a circle because its sides are all the same length.

## A Scary Moment

By Michael Lyons

"Eeek" yelled an eagle as I started into the beautiful forest in Monroe, New Hampshire. "I wonder what I will see on my journey?" I said to myself.

There was nothing but forest as far as the eye could see. It was splashed with fir trees, oak trees, maple trees, birch trees, cedar trees, and berry bushes. It has a steady river that runs through it. On that day it was blanketed with gray, misty fog. It is so amazing I thought to myself.

Just then, I heard something walking in the distance. I didn't see anything, so I kept on walking. Then I heard a deep moaning sound. I didn't see anything but I was getting nervous. All of a sudden a big furry creature appeared from the bushes. I looked closely and saw a huge grizzly bear! It was huge, fat, and it smelt of fish and it had a big thick fur coat.

Then the bear made a low growling sound. Then out of the bushes came two little bear cubs! My human scent was smelt by the mother bear so she sent her cubs up a tree, got up on her hind legs and started sniffing around. I tiptoed slowly away from the mother bear but then she started closer towards me! "I hope she doesn't see me." I whispered to myself. I wonder if she thinks I'm a hunter and is trying to protect her cubs, I thought to myself. Then she tore through the bush and looked right at me! Then in the blink of an eye, I dashed towards the exit of the forest as quickly as I could but the bear was too fast! My only choice was to climb up a tree. I dashed up the nearest tree. The mother bear tried to climb up after me but she was too big and heavy. After she gave up and was far beyond as far as the eye can see. With a happy sign of relief I climbed down the tree and dashed out of the forest.

## Notes from the Nurse

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Cold and flu result in more absences in school age children than almost any other illness. Most colds and flu are caused by viruses. Viral infections cannot be helped by penicillin or other antibiotics. If the child has a fever or cannot do their class work they should not be in school. Our school policy is that students may return to school after being fever-free for 24 hours without the need for Tylenol or Motrin. See your health care provider if the cold is accompanied by the signs of a bacterial infection, such as persistent cough or a cough that produces yellow or green phlegm, stiff neck, high fever (102 degrees or above), pain in the ears, sinus or chest, or severe sore throat. Bacterial infections can be treated with antibiotics.

Please notify the school at 508-278-8643 if your child will be absent. When your child does return to school, please provide them with "comfort supplies" that will make them feel better during the school day. Items may include tissues with lotion, water bottles, chapstick and especially cough drops if needed. The school supply is very low with 650 students hacking away!

This is a list of suggestions that may be helpful for you to help prevent illness and if your child is suffering from cold or flu.

Frequent hand washing to prevent the spread of germs. Dispose of tissues carefully.

Avoid sharing eating or drinking utensils.

Clean contaminated household objects (i.e. phones and toys) frequently. Wash dishes in hot soapy water.

Try to have your child keep his/her hands away from his/her face.

Get plenty of rest. If he/she is having difficulty breathing because of congestion, you can try having them sleep propped up with pillows.

Drink plenty of fluids (hot or cold)

Using a vaporizer or humidifier may help with congestion.

Eat when hungry.

Parents can consider using a decongestant, pain relievers or Vitamin C supplements to relieve the symptoms of colds and flu as directed by your health care provider or pharmacist.

Thank you,

Susan E. Donatelli, R.N.

### **February is National Dental Month**

#### **Breakfast and Cavities.....**

Did you know that children who do not eat breakfast are more likely to develop cavities than those who do? Also, children who do not eat five serving of fruit or vegetables a day are also at higher risk according to The Journal of the American Dental Association.