



Taft Elementary School

Tiger Tales

Volume 2 | Issue 8

April, 2008

A Letter From the Principal

Principal's Message

Dear Parents:

Over the past two weeks, I have had several conversations with parents regarding the playground. Most parents are supportive as they understand the reason for the decision made by Superintendent Stefanilo and me. We all agree that it is inconvenient, but we will use the field, mulch areas adjacent to the building, and the basketball court. We continue to look for private funding sources to fund the project to supplement the generosity of the PTO.

Thank you again for your support.

PTO NEWS

Thank you for your generous donations to our annual basket raffle. They are awesome as usual. The baskets will be on display at the Parent Teacher Conferences, Bubbleman, and at the Wine Tasting. You should have received the raffle tickets via backpack. If you misplaced yours or need more, please contact Roann Karns at roannkarns@yahoo.com

HELP!!

At the end of this school year, Co-Presidents, Recording Secretary and one Co-Treasurer position will be vacant on the PTO Executive Board. In order to keep this very active PTO running without interruption next school year, we need volunteers willing to take on these jobs for 2008-2009. Everything you need to know is well-organized in notebooks and the chairperson positions as well as events for next year are in place. Also those currently in these positions will be available for questions and guidance as you learn the ropes. Please consider volunteering on the Executive Board for a year. Call Lisa Devane or Kim DeMers with any questions.

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL/MAY

April 21-25	April Vacation
May 1 and 2	Kindergarten Move-up Days
May 2	Curriculum Half Day 11:45 Dismissal
MCAS DATES	Grade 3 Math May 13-14
	Grade 4 Math May 20-21
May 8, 2008	Kindergarten Parent Night 6:30 Taft Café
May 9, 2008	Grade 3 Math Day
May 16, 2008	Grade 2 International Fair
May 19, 2008	Grade 4 Math Day
May 23, 2008	Grade 4 Field Trip Immigration Show
May 23, 2008	Memorial Day Assembly
May 28, 2008	All School Assemblies: Caribbean for Kids
May 30, 2008	Grade 4 Field Trip Roger Williams Zoo
May 31, 2008	Spring Carnival 9:00-2:45

Notes from the Office

Students are arriving before the start of the school day. The official start of the school day is 8:35. Parents are dropping their children off as early as 8:00. Please be advised that your child will not be supervised before 8:35 and that you should make arrangements for before school care.

On the flip side, some children are arriving after 8:45 and are tardy. Parents should accompany their child into the school for a late slip. Please be advised of school policy, that states if a student is tardy more than 3 times in a term, a letter will be sent home and a mandatory meeting will be arranged with the principal. The principal can assign additional consequences as she sees fit.

Taft Elementary School

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Computer Bytes

The students are enjoying the new computer lab immensely! The 1st graders are navigating to the icon for My First Amazing World Explorer software and learning about plants, animals, and using a rose compass to move on a map. The 2nd graders are collecting data and recording data using Math Concepts: Data Management. The 3rd graders are reading about the rainforest on the computer using our guided reading software. The 2nd -4th graders are working on Type to Learn 3. Scores are being printed and recorded for the 4th graders. The 4th graders just finished using Microsoft Excel to make spreadsheets. It has been a very busy spring, so far!

A special thank you to all the parents that donated mousepads and disinfecting wipes! I am still cleaning the computers each night, to stem the spread of germs! Thank you for your generous donations and support!

Mary Ellen Jansson Computer Teacher

LIBRARY CORNER

Hello from the Library! In the month of March, we began to look at various reference sources in the library; we have looked at dictionaries, and will soon be checking out thesauruses, atlases, encyclopedias, and, yes, even the card catalog! We enjoyed books by Cynthia Rylant (author of the Henry and Mudge books, among others), and checked out different versions of the Aesop fable "The boy who cried wolf" including *The wolf who cried boy*, and a rap version *Yo, hungry wolf!* We looked at books about writing letters and in the form of letters, and learned some fascinating facts about birds. (Did you know there are over 9000 species of birds?) Thank you to all for your support of reading!

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

First Grade Health begins on April 14. Field Day is just around the corner. Volunteers are needed to help with the program. Grade 3 and 4 Physical Education classes are finishing a Volleyball Unit. Grade 2 has begun dances for the International Fair which is May 16. Grade 1 is working on movement skills and dance. The weather is getting warmer, please have students dressed appropriately in layers for outdoor Physical Education classes. Sneakers with an open back for class are not appropriate.

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