



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
Lori J. Fafard, Assistant Principal

Overview of Activities for April, 2008

Earth Day activities..

- ✓ A forsythia bush was planted in the courtyard outside Room 224 to celebrate Earth Day.
- ✓ Mrs. Bazzett's class conducted a spring clean-up of the courtyard outside of their classroom. In addition they planted pansies. The class was taped on cable television.
- ✓ The students decorated grocery bags for Hannafords which were distributed on Earth Day to shoppers.

The Department of Pupil Personnel Services and the Special Education Parent Advisory Council hosted a conference on Saturday April 5th, 2008 at Taft Elementary School. The theme of this year's conference is "Live a Happy, Balanced Life"

Grade 4 ELA MCAS tests were administered on April 1 and 2.

Parent conferences held on the afternoon of April 11, 2008.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Mrs. Gallo's class visited Blackstone River to view the signs of spring.

Grade 2 students prepared and displayed dioramas depicting dinosaurs in their habitat.

Mrs. Harcourt's 4th grade class hatched chicken eggs in an incubator. The first chick (of 15) hatched on May 1st and was aptly named MCAS.

Professional Development Activities

April 8, 2008 – Rosemary Campbell, Deb Auciello, Annemarie Higgins attended an Open Circle Training workshop in Wellesley, MA.

April 10 & 11, 2008 – Kathy Hurst, Joan Barrell and Bonnie Berard attended the Massachusetts Reading Association 39th Annual Conference which was held in Sturbridge, MA.

April 11, 2008 – Carla Mason attended a workshop on Executive Dysfunction: The Disorganized, Defiant and Chaotic Child/Adolescent which was sponsored by PESI and held in Manchester, NH.

April 12, 2008 – Mrs. Montesi attended a workshop on promising practices in educating of gifted and talented children.

April 14, 15 & 30, 2008 – Bernadette Bazzett, Pattie Stankevitz, Susan Dubois, Sharon Bruneau, Lillian Hazard, Susan Allaire, Lisa Ferrelli, Linda Benoit and Christine Keown attended First Steps in Mathematics Components. This workshop is being held at the Whitin School.

April 15, 2008 – Bonnie Berard attended a MELA-O QMT Retraining workshop. This was held in Worcester, Ma.

April 16, 2008 – Michelle Kelly and Sharon Proulx-Bruneau attended the last in their series of Open Circle Workshops. The workshop was held in Wellesley, MA.

April 17, 2008 – Elaine Kaswandik attended Successful Strategies to Accelerate the Reading Achievement of Your Students with Learning Disabilities (Grades 1-6). This workshop was sponsored by Institute for Educational Development and held in Dedham, MA.

PTO Reports and Information

Fundraising Events:

- ✓ Annual Basket Raffle: Each classroom collects donations for a theme basket (chocolate, car care, scrapbooking etc.) Those items are assembled and parents buy tickets for a raffle. It is an annual fundraising event held in conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences. Another fundraiser held in April was a Beer and Wine Tasting Event at the Community House on the common.

News

- ✓ Mr. Stefanilo and Mr. Sawyer met with the PTO at their April 10th meeting to discuss the FY 09 budget.

- ✓ Family Fun Night: Bubble Man April 11, 2008
- ✓ PTO is looking for President, Vice President (or co-presidents), Secretary, Treasurer to fill the positions currently held by Lisa Devane, Tracy French, Kris Holt and Kim Demers. I want to thank them for all the good work they have done on behalf of the students at Taft.
- ✓ Autographed T Shirts ordered for interested Grade 4 students. Special events are planned for those students in early June.

Next Meeting: May 8, 2008 at 7:00

General School/Department Information

Mrs. Donatelli, our school nurse, conducted the annual vision and hearing screening tests for all Taft students.

Upcoming Events

May 1 & 2	Kindergarten Move Up Day
May 2	Curriculum Half Day
May 6	PTO sponsored Staff Appreciation Luncheon
May 8	Parent Meeting for Kindergarten 6:00 p.m. Taft Café PTO Meeting (Elections) 7:00 p.m.
May 9	Grade 3 Math Day
May 16	Grade 2 International Fair
May 19	Grade 4 Math Day Grade 1 Electricity Program PTO Spring Carnival Planning Meeting 7:00
May 20	Grade 3 Electricity Program
May 23	Flying Squadron Memorial Day Program Grade 4 Field Trip to Robert's Auditorium (AM only)
May 26	Memorial Day – No School
May 28	Caribbean for Kids Assemblies Sponsored by UEF Grant
May 29	Volunteer Breakfast 9:30 a.m.
May 30	Grade 4 Field Trip Roger William's Zoo Career Day
May 31	PTO Spring Carnival

Administrator,

Paula A. Montesi, Principal