



# Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal  
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## **Overview of Activities for May, 2008**

Grade 3 and Grade 4 MCAS Mathematics testing took place in May. To help students prepare for the tests, Grades 3 and 4 students participated in two separate Math Days spearheaded by Mrs. Bazzett. She was assisted with other members of the grade level teams and paraprofessionals. Children received a “passport” and traveled from center to center completing the activities.

Career Day was celebrated with various activities including a visit from the Massachusetts State Police K-9 unit. Grade 1 and 2 students attended that informational assembly.

The Flying Squadron visited for our Memorial Day assemblies for students at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Music was sung under the direction of Mr. Nick LaPete and Ms. Carla Mason. In addition to singing by the audience, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus performed and students read patriotic poetry.

## **Subject/Course/Classroom Activities**

Grade 4 students were assessed in computer competency by Mrs. Jansson. Students were required to create a Power point presentation with five slides on rocks. This project included research and demonstrated student competency in using this software application.

The first annual Grade 4 Talent Show was held. Dress rehearsals were held during the day and attended by Grades 3 and 4 students. An evening performance was held for family and friends.

Another successful International Fair was held in May. This annual Grade 2 celebration of the many cultures in our world is a multi-disciplinary and multi-generational event. Students create country posters and reports at home. At school they work with the art teachers to create artwork, the PE teacher to learn native dances, and the music teacher to

perform multi-cultural songs. In addition, we partner with UHS teachers to bake cookies, and learn songs in French and Spanish.

Individual classes/grade levels took field trips. The third grade students took a walking tour of the town to observe local history. Grade 4 students took two field trips, one to Rhode Island College to see a performance on immigration and the other to Roger Williams Zoo.

### **Professional Development Activities**

May 2, 2008 – Marcie Chiuchiolo and Joan Dubeau attended National CEU's – Eliminating the Gap. The conference was held in Westborough, Massachusetts.

May 19, 2008 – Mary Ellen Jansson attended Bureau of Education & Research's The Best Instructional Web Sites for Grades K-6. The workshop was held in Dedham, Massachusetts.

### **PTO Reports and Information**

The May Newsletter is attached.

Upcoming Events:

PTO Spring Carnival May 31, 2008

Final PTO Meeting June 12, 2008 7:00

### **General School/Department Information**

Kindergarten children visited for an orientation session. They ate in the cafeteria, listened to a story in the library, took a tour of the building, and visited a first grade classroom. In addition, Mrs. Montesi and Ms. Fafard hosted an evening parent information night for incoming first graders.

Mrs. Donatelli conducted her yearly screening of students' vision and hearing.

We had an assembly organized by Mrs. O'Donnell and sponsored through an Uxbridge Education Foundation grant. The trio of musicians presented Caribbean music and dances in a program that embraced audience participation.

This month teachers worked on grouping of students for the 2008-09 school year.

Taft School Council is working on a parent survey to be distributed in early September and will be used to develop the 2008-2009 School Improvement Plan.

The Literacy TEAM, under the direction of Stephanie Lundberg and Dr. Boyaj chose Story town as our new reading program. Our thanks to the School Committee for their support as we seek to increase student achievement in ELA.

Mrs. Montesi hosted a Volunteer Breakfast with over 25 volunteers in attendance. This year we really stepped up the program with the assistance of Nancy Winters. Her year end summary reported that 59 volunteers participated on a regular basis, performing such duties as library assistants, literacy volunteers, walking club, home projects, and special projects like the International Faire. Together they volunteered over 1200 hours.

### **Upcoming Events**

June 2, 2008	Grade 4 Move Up Night Parents
June 3, 2008	Grade 4 Move Up Day Grade 3 Field Day 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. Grade 1 Field Day – 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
June 4, 2008	Grade 4 Talent Show 6 p.m. Rain date Field Day Grades 1 & 3
June 5, 2008	Grade 4 Field Day & Pizza Party 9:15 – 11:15 a.m. Grade 2 Field Day 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
June 6, 2008	Grade 4 Sundae Party Flops and Tops Spirit Day Rain Date Field Day for Grades 2 & 4 Marks Close
June 10, 2008	Grade 4 Chorus Concert 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Taft Cafe
June 12, 2008	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
June 13, 2008	Last Day of School – Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m. Report Cards Sent Home

Administrator,

Paula A. Montesi, Principal