



Taft Elementary School

Tiger Tales

Volume 2 | Issue 9

May 2008

A Letter From the Principal

Principal's Message

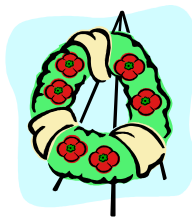
Dear Parents!

I am a sucker for a patriotic song. I can't get through a Memorial Day program without tears flooding my eyes. I get sentimental watching parades go by, soldiers, children, and citizens proudly following the flag. Each year, my family (aunts, uncles, cousins, parents) gather at St. Mary's Cemetery to watch the parade and to pay our respects to our departed family members.

In a similar vein, I choose to get involved in attending my annual town meeting each year. Why? Because I can, that is my right as an American to choose how to spend my money. I would like to remind all of you about the Annual Town Meeting that will be taking place on Tuesday May 13, 2008. I urge you to get involved in your town by listening to the issues with an open mind and voting according to what makes sense to you.

My grandfather escaped war torn Italy with a goal in mind, to live in a better place. I am living his dream. Happy Memorial Day!!

Mrs. Montesi



HELP!!

Field days are just around the corner. Parent volunteers are needed; June 3 9:00-11:00 is Grade 3 and 12:30- 2:30 is Grade 1 (rain date- June 4) June 5 9:00-11:00 is Grade 4 and 12:30- 2:30 is Grade 2. Please contact Mrs. Dimmick.

IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL/MAY

MCAS DATES

May 8, 2008

May 9, 2008

May 16, 2008

May 19, 2008

May 23, 2008

May 23, 2008

May 28, 2008

May 30, 2008

May 30, 2008

May 31, 2008

Grade 3 Math May 13-14

Grade 4 Math May 20-21

Kindergarten Parent Night 6:00 Taft Café

Grade 3 Math Day

Grade 2 International Fair

Grade 4 Math Day

Grade 4 Field Trip Immigration Show

Memorial Day Assembly

All School Assemblies: Caribbean for Kids

Spirit Day Career Day

Grade 4 Field Trip Roger Williams Zoo

PTO Spring Carnival 9:00-2:45

Notes from the Assistant Principal

Last Two Spirit Days at Taft

The last two Spirit Days at Taft Elementary School will be on Friday, May 30, 2008-**Career Day** If there are any parents who would like to be guest speakers to talk to students about their career on that day, then please contact Miss Fafard, Assistant Principal at 508-278-8643, ext 211.

The last day of school, Friday, June 13, 2008 is **Taft Pride Day**. The students are encouraged to wear our school colors and/or Taft Tiger logo gear.

Volunteer Breakfast

Mark your calendars! Mrs. Montesi will host a breakfast in honor of all the people that volunteered at Taft School this year. The breakfast will be held on May 29th at 9:30 a.m. Look for an invitation to arrive in your child's backpack soon.

Taft Elementary School

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Email:

pmontesi@uxbridge.k12.ma.us



Grades 2-4 have access to Study Island at

www.studyisland.com

Children should use their school user name which is usually first initial last name@taft (sjones@taft)

Earth Day Activities

A forsythia bush was planted in the courtyard by Mrs. Silbor's class 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 and the video is now showing on cable television.

Our students decorated grocery bags for Hannafords which were distributed on Earth Day to shoppers.

Computer Bytes

This month in computers, the 3rd and 4th graders will be practicing their math skills on two websites. The 4th graders will use an online database of MCAS math questions at:

<http://bpl.org/teens/mcas/>. This is a great website to use if you have older children taking the MCAS test too!

Our 3rd graders will go on Mr. Myer's website and practice their math at: http://www.mrmyers.org/Math_Mania/math.html In addition to the math practice, students will also continue using Type to Learn and they will also be learning Internet Terms.

Our 2nd graders will continue practicing on Type to Learn and will locate information about life cycles and animals on World Explorer and JumpStart.

Our 1st graders will be using Microsoft Word to type an acrostic poem and insert a picture.

LIBRARY CORNER

Hello from the Library! In the month of April we began looking at reference sources in the library - thesauruses, atlases, encyclopedias, and the card catalog. We enjoyed many different versions of the fairy tale "The twelve dancing princesses" including **Debbie Allen's *Brothers of the Knight***, in which the princesses are actually 12 hightop-wearing brothers from Harlem! We looked at books about dragons and by the great children's book author Margie Palatini. I hope that your April vacation was filled, as mine was, with reading...outdoors in that fabulous weather!

Let's Get Physical

Fourth graders are measuring and recording how many steps they take in various activities using pedometers. Third graders are practicing kicking skills for a kickball game. Second graders are working on their dances for the International Fair and playing tag. First graders are learning to play 4 square, play tag games, and they also began Health class with Mrs. Seagrave.



NOTES FROM TAFT SCHOOL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The merry month of May brings our **Second Grade International Fair**. This exciting program will be held on Friday, May 16th. Classroom projects, art, music and dance of many cultures is celebrated in a festive setting in our Taft School gymnasium. The music portion includes songs from international repertoire that is authentic and age appropriate. Our songs are taken directly from the second grade textbook and some are even in the native language! The children have done good work learning the material and I am so proud of them. I know you will be too. Further information regarding the event will be shared with you soon by your child's classroom teacher.

On Friday, May 23rd, all grades, 1-4 will be observing Memorial Day with our annual visit from the flying squadron. Speeches from the honored guests will be interspersed with songs and a poem written during WWI entitled *In Flanders Fields*, by Lt. John McCrae. A song list will be sent home soon for practice, but we also are reviewing the material in music class. Traditional music sung at the concert may include *America, Star Spangled Banner, Sing, America, Sing! This Land is Your Land, I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy, Yankee Doodle* (Our first unofficial anthem of the Continental Army, led by George Washington in the Revolutionary War), and *You're a Grand Old Flag*.

As we prepare to move up the ranks to the next grade, music classes will be reviewing rhythm reading and, in fourth grade, recorder basics. Instrument families will be discussed further and the topic of opera will be explored in all classes and the classical composers Vivaldi (grades 1- 2) and Rossini (grade 3-4). Have a great month as we move into May! Musically yours,
Gretchen C. D'Andrea, music teacher, grade 1-4

Mr. LaPete's classes will be having enjoying lots of new musical activities! The 3rd grade will be working on some drum circle activities, and the 1st grade will be continuing to work on American Folk songs and play parties! The classes have been working hard to earn their "Music Bucks", and hopefully everyone will earn their Music Party by the end of the month!

And Mr. LaPete has BIG news:

SAVE THE DATE--JUNE 10th at 6:30 p.m.!
June 10th will be the Taft 4th Grade Chorus's Spring Concert! It will be held in the Taft Cafeteria, starting at 6:30 with a Light Refreshment Reception following the concert. The concert will feature patriotic songs, Broadway-style songs, silly songs and so much more!

The Art Department welcomes May with excitement. Our first graders will be making fresh and colorful creations to welcome the month of May. If the sun isn't shining outside, certainly their work will make anyone feel great!

Grade 2 students are working hard to complete their projects for the International Fair taking place on May 16th. Each class is creating art from the different continents/countries.

Grades 3 and 4 students will be making mythical beasts and learning about their cultural significance.



Once again, we thank you for your talented children. Mrs. Henries and Mr. Skillern

Earth Day Poems

From Miss Lamarre's class

Earth

By Samantha

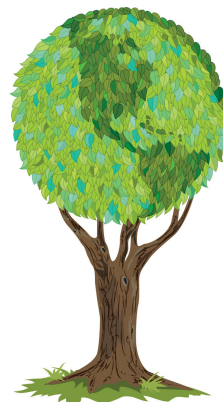
Keep Earth Beautiful
Take Care of the World
Please Don't Litter

These poems are examples of Lune poems. Lune poems follow a simple pattern (3 words for the first line, 5 words on the second line,

Earth

By Cody

The Earth's Nice
Help It Stay That Way
By Not Littering



Earth Day

By Nathan

Keep Earth Beautiful
Help Clean Up the Planet
Please Don't Litter

Donate a Book Program

Our parents, teachers and friends have generously donated over 90 books so far this year. Thank you to everyone who has made a donation. For those of you who want to make a donation but have not yet done so, now is your chance. The end of the school year is in sight. Why not donate a book to recognize a teacher for all the great work they do or to commemorate 4th grade move up or to celebrate any other special person or occasion you hold dear. With each donation, your child gets their picture posted on our bulletin board, a pencil and personalized button. We place details about the donation and your special message on a book plate in the front of the book. Your child can be the first person to check the book out of the library and the donation is mentioned in the morning announcements as well as Tiger Taft Tales. Donate a book order forms are available at the Taft office and library. We are asking that all donation forms be returned by Friday, May 16. If you have any questions please contact Nancy Winters at (508) 278-0669 or email at ngwinters@aol.com.

Donated By

Donate-a-Book Titles

| | |
|---|---|
| Helena Arnold | Boo's dinosaurs |
| Mrs. Bandstra's 2007-2008 2 nd grade class | Handsprings |
| Joshua Bell | Tyrannosaurus Rex |
| Nancy Bowditch | Clarice Bean spells trouble |
| Jack and Alese Cone | Junie B, First Grader Cheater Pants |
| Mrs. Dinoi | Across the alley (prejudice) |
| Ashley Ferrick | Beauty and the beast |
| Mrs. Gallo's 2007-2008 1st grade class | My dadima wears a sari |
| Patrick Klos | Pterosaurs |
| Tanner Landini | Skiing in action |
| Benjamin Landry | I want to be a doctor |
| Jacob Landry | Author day for Room 3T |
| Rebecca Lauze | Winnie at her best |
| Jessica Lee | A pet's life: cats |
| Allyson Parabolicoli | Sally Jean, the bicycle queen |
| Julia Parabolicoli | Let it shine |
| Ryan Paul | The big book of horror: 21 tales |
| Jacob Rancourt | Rex |
| Keely Rancourt | Clarice Bean, guess who's babysitting |
| Michaela Randall | What planet are you from, Clarice Bean? |

Continued on the next page

Donate a Book (continued)

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Jessica Rice | Robert and the practical jokes |
| Jake Usenia | Hurry! Hurry! |
| Kalin Wilson | Dear Mr. Rosenwald |
| Brendon Winters | Akira to Zoltan: 26 men who changed the world |
| Brendon Winters | Wolf! Wolf! |
| Nicole Winters | The adventures of the dish and the spoon |
| Nicole Winters | Today at the Bluebird Café |
| Jackson Wright | Little Sap & Monsieur Rodin |
| Jackson Wright | Stompin' at the Savoy |

Taft Volunteers Support our School

During March and April, we expanded our Literacy Volunteer program to include 2 additional classrooms, the supply volunteers organized and inventoried the second supply closet and volunteers started work on the International Fair. We also began to organize the Walker's Club for this year. Volunteers supported all these new activities while continuing support for all previously established programs.

Please join us in recognizing the volunteers supporting these new initiatives.

Literacy Volunteers are now providing reading support for 7 classrooms. Thank you to our newest volunteers:

Lisa Anderson, Kathy Christian, Tricia Redgate, Wendy Washington

Supply Volunteers organized and inventoried the supply room. Thank you to:

Lisa Devane, Nancy Winters, and Kim Rexford

International Fair Volunteers worked with Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Henries and the 2nd grade team preparing for the International Fair. Thank you to:

Kathy Christian, Elizabeth Frick, Sue Hurtle, Beth Rancourt and Kallie Spaulding

Walker's Club Laura Neal has volunteered to coordinate the Walker's Club. If anyone is interested please contact Laura Neill at lneill72@msn.com or (508) 278-3557.

A big THANK YOU to all of the TAFT SCHOOL volunteers.