



## Uxbridge Extended Day

Uxbridge Public Schools

Kindergarten Kid's Club, Taft Kid's Club and Whitin EXTRA

PO Box 307

North Uxbridge, MA 01538

Friday, October 03, 2008

508 278-8653

### LEADERSHIP/CULTURE:

Summer Fun was a huge success thanks to the cooperative spirit at the Taft School. Administrators and teachers have been wonderful about sharing leftover supplies and equipment as well as coming to see the kids and “making their day”. We would like to express our special thanks to Mrs. Dianne Henries who encouraged us to use the Taft art room this summer, which allowed the children to make some spectacular projects. Our middle school children benefited from the use of the music room which Ms. Gretchen D’Andrea graciously shared with us. (The children even got to use the piano!) Because of the cooperation of these outstanding teachers and so many others, our program was able to offer higher a quality summer program.

### CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESMENT

The start of the school year was very positive with all the staff excited about the “fish” philosophy. There certainly seems to be a team spirit in the staff this year and it has trickled down to the children in many positive ways. Our appreciation goes out to Lillian Hazard who yearly invites us to use her classroom for our “Homework Help” club. It is nice to have a quiet place to do our studies.

Our children in the Kindergarten/ Preschool program started the year learning about themselves and each other. They focused on friendship, fairness and being kind to one another. They were especially concerned about being careful not to hurt each others feelings. As the season starts to turn, they are focusing on autumn activities and taking regular nature walks to gather treasures and gifts of nature to study and embellish the classroom.

Our Taft Kid’s Club children are extending their learning by joining in “Homework Help” Club and by participating in our various clubs that promote project-based learning activities. Our most popular club is the Friday cooking club. The children have already made meat/bean chili, /Cinnamon scones/Cake from scratch and Macaroni and cheese (homemade). They are learning culinary arts, health and nutrition, science of weights and measures and having fun in the process.

Whitin School Whitin School is focusing on Nutritional Choices and experiments with weights and measures based on reading food labels. A special thank you to Ms. Doherty is who has been so generous in sharing her measuring equipment with us. There has also been a lot of action with sewing machines. Our students (both boys and girls) are getting creative with our four acquired sewing machines. They are making pencil bags, carry-alls, pillows and even aprons. Excellent work for these self starters!



## **BUDGET**

All the contracts have been dispensed and most of the September tuition is in (some of our parents pay weekly and bi-weekly, others pay monthly). Thus far, the tuition collected this fiscal year is \$ 86,873.32. We believe we are keeping up with our expenses as they are presented in the towns accounting system. We will update the school committee monthly on our progress in that area.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Our students at Taft have access to the computer lab on a regular rotating basis and it is one of the most popular activities. There are two computers in the Kindergarten Room and we have a number of recycled computers in the cafeteria for use at the end of the day. We recently donated a special touch screen monitor to the computer department and we are hoping to upgrade our EZ-care child care management program in the near future.

## **FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE**

All requests for facilities matters have been addressed by the head of maintenance. We anxiously await a resolution to our office heating problem before the winter weather sets in. There are some shared space concerns at Whitin, but we are confident that we can all work together to resolve any issues.

## **GENERAL OPERATIONS/SAFETY**

We have scheduled Janice Watt for our November staff meeting to do training for our staff. We prepare breakfast and snacks for our children and the staff felt the need to have an official training on food handling safety.

## **OTHER**

October 14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> is our "Lights on Afterschool" Week, a national celebration of the need for Quality Afterschool programming in this country. The Empire State building will be lit up in yellow to send the message that afterschool programming is key to children's success, and that we *must* keep the lights on and doors open after school. Our program is celebrating in a number of ways throughout the week. Everyday, special activities will be planned with our families and literature will go out to the community focusing on why children and youth need supervision after school. Our staff will culminate the week by attending the Network of Extended Day Directors (NEDDS) statewide training on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted by A. Baldanza