



# Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal  
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## Overview of Activities for September

We welcomed 633 students to our school on the first day. On August 28, Mr. Catalano assisted the staff in conducting grade level assemblies on the field to begin to build community within the classrooms. Children worked cooperatively to accomplish the tasks.

September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 was Open House at Taft for parents to come in meet the teacher and review the curriculum for the upcoming year. Parents were welcomed in the cafeteria hosted by the principal and her staff. After introductions and a brief overview of Taft School, parents adjoined to their individual classrooms to meet with their child's teacher. This year, the Taft PTO and UPS Special Education PAC set up tables in the cafeteria to explain their organizations to the parents assembled there. Mrs. Watt and a representative from Preferred Meals had samples of food available for parents.

All students took part in a special assembly on bullying entitled, "A Friendship Adventure with Ronald McDonald." The students and staff have made cards and letters to Mr. Spadea, the owner of Uxbridge McDonalds and sponsor, thanking him for a great assembly.

Once again the students will be conducting a food and goods drive to supply the People First Food Pantry of Uxbridge. The drive runs from September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 10<sup>th</sup>.

On September 26<sup>th</sup>, the first Spirit Day at Taft took place- "Something Fishy is Up at Taft School" Day. Students and staff will take part in celebrating and carrying out the Fish Philosophy- Choose Your Attitude, Play, Make Their Day, Be Present.

School Council Elections were held with Mike Catalano winning the open teacher slot. The PTO will hold elections for 2 vacancies at their next meeting on October 9th. The first School Council meeting will be held in the Taft School Conference Room on October 15, 2008 at 3:45.

## Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Many of our classes participated in walking field trips, establishing a link between school and the community, while connecting to content frameworks. Two classes of Grade 2 students and Mrs. Hazard's first grade class walked to the library to register for a library card and check out books. This practice stresses the value of reading. Another class visited Peaceful Pond, near Crown and Eagle, to observe the changing seasons. This trip will be repeated each season, as students observe trees, leaves, grass, and the pond. Follow-up activities are planned for their return.

All third grade students are taking a walking field trip along Blackstone Valley Canal guided by a Park Ranger. The students are learning about the history of the canal during the Industrial Revolution. We are also taking the opportunity to observe and appreciate plant and animal life!

Leadership Club Under the direction of Mr. Catalano, 33 fourth grade students have signed up to be in this club. They meet once a week during recess and are in the planning stages of activities for the new school year.

### **Professional Development Activities**

All teachers were trained by Harcourt Publishing regarding the new Story Town reading series. Further training sessions are scheduled for October 10, 2008.

Paula Montesi attended a Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education workshop in Marlborough regarding Adequate Yearly Progress.

### **PTO Reports and Information**

The Taft PTO is up and running. The PTO held a back to school ice cream social in the Taft Cafeteria. Box Tops for Education, Tyson Project A+, Sox Tops for Education and the Fall Fundraiser are all in the works for the new school year. In October, Spirit Wear will be sold. The PTO Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. The Officers for this year are: Lisa Devane, President-Coleen Thayer, Vice-President – Lisa Ahern, Recording Secretary and Kallie Spaulding, Treasurer. The next scheduled meeting is on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Taft Cafeteria.

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

Volunteer Program: We now have over 100 people who have offered to give some of their time to support our teachers, students and programs. A number of volunteer programs are all ready up and running, including supply corner, literacy corner, library assistants, special projects, and home projects.

The Uxbridge Fire Department conducted its annual drill the first week of school. They will be returning periodically throughout the year, beginning on October 9 for school-wide Fire Safety assemblies.

The Taft School Crisis Team met during September to discuss the drill and suggestions made by the Fire Department during their annual walkthrough. The principal addressed their concerns with the staff. Sergeant Emerick attended a faculty meeting to discuss his work with the district wide crisis team. Ms. Fafard represents Taft School on that team.

### **Upcoming Events**

October 1, 2008 – Title I Open House - 7:00 p.m.  
October 9, 2009 – Fire Safety Assemblies 9:00, 9:45, 1:15, 2:00  
October 9, 2008 – PTO Meeting, Taft Cafeteria – 7:00 p.m.  
October 10, 2008 – Dismissal 11:45 a.m.  
October 13, 2008 – Columbus Day, No School  
October 15, 2008 – School Pictures Grades 1 and 2  
October 15, 2008 – School Council 3:45 Principal's Conference Room  
October 16, 2008 – School Pictures Grades 3 and 4

October 18, 2008 – ABC Fair 10:00 – 3:00  
October 22, 2008 – Community Reader Day  
October 22, 2008 – PTO Fall Fundraiser Pick Up  
October 31, 2008 – Kooky Color Day

Administrator,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula A. Montesi".

Paula A. Montesi, Principal