



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
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Earl D. Taft Elementary School October 2008 Report

Paula A. Montesi

Team/Administration

The current enrollment at the Taft Elementary School is at 634. We have enrolled 33 new students and 20 students have transferred from Taft. We currently have 22 School Choice students.

On Wednesday, October 22, we held a Think Pink Day to enhance breast cancer awareness. Donations were made to the Susan G. Koman Fund.

Several faculty members used the Yellow Book and visited classrooms to observe their colleagues in action. We received positive feedback from both the visitors and the hosts and are hoping to offer this opportunity throughout the school year.

Students participated in several activities around the National Election. We kicked off the week with a school-wide assembly where students sang patriotic songs under the direction of Gretchen D'Andrea and Rob Hammerton, our Music teachers. Besides the district sponsored essay contest, the children also registered and voted in a mock election. This program was coordinated under the direction of Judi Lanoue and Stephanie Davis. Grade 4 students created the Hall of Presidents and candidate portraits during their art classes. This program was funded in part by the UEF.

The School Council has developed a survey that will give us important feedback that will be used to develop our school improvement plan. We will be collecting those surveys between October 27 and November 7. We will be compiling data during our next School Council meeting on November 19. (see attached sample)

Taft School hosted a Community Reader Day on Wednesday, October 22, 2008. Many community members were involved including local businessmen, school committee members, and administrators. The children always enjoy this time where they meet people from the community.

Technology

During the October Professional Development Day, teachers of reading were trained to use Think Central, the online component of Story Town. This program allows teachers the option to test their students on line and generate reports to aid in grouping students based on need. They also can access all their manuals and teaching tools on line. In addition, students are given access to their reading anthology and leveled readers (on their reading level) at home. We barely scratched the surface as far as the potential capability of this program and are looking for more training on the January PD Day.

Facilities/Maintenance

The Taft School Playground remains closed due to the vandalism in September. I received information from Mike Legendre that parts are on order. When received, we will make the necessary repairs to reopen as soon as possible.

General Operations/Safety

The Uxbridge Fire Department came in October and met with all the students. In this annual visit students learn about fire safety. They also supply students with more materials in the form of Fire Safety booklets and pencils.

The Crisis Team had their monthly meeting and discussed the new district-wide lockdown procedures. The procedures

Miss Fafard attended a conference [The Rights of School and Police Personnel: Managing Your School Environment](#) with three other members of the district Crisis Team.

Professional Development

October 8, 2008 – Lisa Ferrelli and Diane Brophy attended an MCAS Alternate Assessment Training Workshop.

October 17, 2008 – Janet Iannuccilli attended a workshop – Interventions School & Home for Children & Adolescents with Nonverbal Learning Disabilities and Autism Spectrum Disorders. The workshop was held in Westborough, MA.

October 29, 2008 – Joan Dubeau and Marcie Chiuchiolo attended a workshop sponsored by Sensory Resources and was held in Boston.

October 20-22, 2008 – Lisa Hartman and Kathy Hurst attended the 32nd Annual Massachusetts Title I Conference – entitled “Title I: A Recipe For Success”.

October 20, 2008 – Linda Benoit attended a workshop on MCAS Alternative Assessment which was held at the DCU Center in Worcester.

Upcoming Events

October 27 Election Week Kick-off Assemblies
October 28 Grade 2 Voter Registration
October 31 Voting Day 1
October 31 Kooky Color Day
October 31 Spell-a-thon Monies Due
November 3 Voting Day 2
November 4 Professional Development Day – No School
November 7 Veterans Day Assembly—Grade 4 students
November 7 Field Trip DeLuna- Mrs. Hazard Grade 1
November 11 Veterans Day – No School
November 13 PTO Meeting 7 p.m. Taft Cafe
November 14 PTO Free Family Fun Night/ Marks Close Term 1
November 20 Parent Internet Safety Night 6:30 Taft Cafe
November 21 Report Cards Issued
November 25 PTO Assembly of the Giving Trees 6:30 PM
November 26 Thanksgiving Recess Dismissal at 11:45 AM
December 4 and 5 Parent Conferences

Submitted by,



Paula Montesi
Taft School Principal

Taft Elementary School
Parent Survey

October 27, 2008

Dear Parents of Taft Students,

Taft School Council will be developing its School Improvement Plan. As part of the planning process, it is essential to seek input from all areas of our school community. As parents, your opinion is a valued part of this process.

We ask that you complete this survey by selecting the response that most accurately represents your feelings and/or experiences based on your view on past performance of the school.

We ask that you return this survey to school by November 7, 2008.

Thank you for your help.

Mrs. Montesi

1. Based on your previous experience, the quality of education my child receives at Taft School is:

Excellent Good Fair Poor

COMMENT: _____

2. Specifically to what degree is our school successful in teaching:

Reading:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Math:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Science:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Social Studies:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Writing:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Health:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Art:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
PE:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Music:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Computer Skills:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Library Skills:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor

COMMENT: (All comments are welcomed but especially if fair or poor.)

3. The current homework policy for Taft School students is:

Kindergarten	minimum of 15-20 minutes	4 times a week
Grades 1&2	minimum of 15-20 minutes	4 times a week
Grade 3	minimum of 25-30 minutes	4 times a week
Grade 4	minimum of 35-40 minutes	4 times a week

Based on this policy, what is your opinion of the amount of homework assigned on a weekly/nightly basis?

Too Much Not Enough Just Right

In general, what is homework like for your child? (Answer 1-10. 10 being very frustrating, 1 being very easy) _____

Overall my child (check one)

- Completes his/her assignments and needs little/no assistance
- Completes his/her assignments and needs some assistance
- Completes his/her assignments and needs frequent assistance
(Parent needs to be nearby)
- Completes his/her assignment and always needs help
(Parent needs to sit with him/her)

4. I feel competent when helping my child in: (check all that apply)
- Reading Social Studies
 Math Phonics
 Science Writing
5. The level of communication regarding my child's educational progress is:
- Excellent Good Fair Poor
6. Lessons are modified to address my child's individual needs:
- Yes No Don't Know
7. Has your child experienced repeated (more than 2) bullying at school:
(Check all that apply)
- Bus Playground
 Cafeteria Classroom
 Hallways
8. The overall environment at Taft is safe for my child:
- Yes No
9. My child's attitude toward his/her education at Taft is:
- Excellent Good Fair Poor
10. On average, how often does your child purchase school meals per week:
- Never 1-2 days 2-3 days 3-4 days every day
11. Which BEST describes why your child doesn't buy school meals:
- Too costly
 I don't approve of what's offered
 My child won't eat what's offered
 Lunch lines too long/not enough time to eat
 Other

12. How would you prefer to receive the monthly lunch menu:

- Hard copy from school
- Online from website
- Emailed to me
- I don't look at the menu

13. The level of communication between home and school regarding school and classroom news is:

- Excellent Good Fair Poor

14. The care and upkeep of the grounds is:

- Excellent Good Fair Poor

15. The level of care and upkeep of the building is:

- Excellent Good Fair Poor

16. What types of programming would you like to add at Taft School?
(Check as many as apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment Programs
for Gifted/Advanced Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Performance/Plays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Languages | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fairs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robotics | <input type="checkbox"/> Creative Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Student Newspaper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Clubs (Specific) _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Others _____ |

17. Any additional comments? _____

18. My child(ren) are in Grade(s): (check all that apply)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Grade 4 |

Name (optional) _____

Parent Internet Safety Night



Speaker: Julie Lesure from District
Attorney Joseph D. Early's Office

**Thursday November 20, 2008
6:30 pm at Taft Elementary School
Childcare provided!**

- ✓ **The Internet is a useful learning tool**
- ✓ **Alerts to potential dangers/risks**
- ✓ **Discuss real life danger examples
and closed cases in Worcester
County**
- ✓ **Cyberbullying**
- ✓ **How to keep YOUR children safe
while using the Internet**