



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

16 Granite Street
Telephone: (508) 278-8643

Uxbridge, Massachusetts 01569
FAX: (508) 278-8646

Paula A. Montesi, Principal
Lori J. Fafard, Assistant Principal

Overview of Activities for November

An Internet Safety Night was held on November 20, 2008 featuring Julie Lesure from D.A. Early's office. It was a very informative presentation. Mrs. Jansson, Taft Computer teacher, will set up a table of related information at the upcoming Parent-Teacher conferences.

The Honey Farms Convenience Store in Uxbridge recently awarded Taft School \$500.00 in grant money to be spent on Science/Math programs for this school year.

On Saturday, November 22, 2008, Ms. Fafard attended the Metacomet Land Trust's 20th Anniversary Celebration. Our efforts to educate adults as well as students by planting trees and decorating shopping bags with Earth Day messages for Hannaford Supermarket has demonstrated our commitment to bettering the environment and working in partnership with others.

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

Taft School was featured in the Blackstone Valley News Tribune for the Veterans' Day project. Fourth Grade Students raised a sum of \$2,150.75 for the Uxbridge VFW Post 1385 and the Disabled American Veterans by spelling patriotic words and getting sponsors for the test. The winning class who raised the most monies won a trip to the Brockton VA Hospital in Brockton, MA. Mrs. Schotanus's class raised \$618.00. They will be going on this winning field trip, December 4, 2008. Patriotic songs will be sung under the direction of Mrs. D'Andrea at the hospital, eat a box lunch, and socialize with the disabled veterans. Mr. Ernie Esposito, Korean War Marine Veteran/Chairman of the Uxbridge School Committee will come with us, too. Huge thanks go out to Vendetti Bus Company for donating the transportation for this trip.

General School/Department Information

The principal is working with Karin Knapik, Diane Henries, and the Grade 2 Team to get an artist in residence. The monies to fund this project come from a grant secured by Ms. Knapik. We have selected an artist from Boston, Eric Bornstein, who specializes in

masks. He will present a performance, Cat Mountain, to the entire school. Although still at the planning stages, the artist will visit the school on 8 different occasions to work with Grade 2 teachers and students. Each class will create a mural with him which will be used as a backdrop for a folktale performed by the class. In the end we will have eight panels created to remain permanently in the school. This project, tentatively scheduled to begin in early February, will add another dimension to the annual International Fair. Not only does Eric bring another perspective into our school, but his program stimulates creativity, problem-solving, and working cooperatively to create a final product-their class play and class mural.

The playground remains closed due to the vandalism earlier in the school year. We are awaiting the necessary replacement parts for the repair. The police department has assured us that they will continue to give our playground more attention on their rounds.

The principal received word that six more classrooms were slated for upgrades. Over Christmas vacation, six rugs in the 1952 wing closest to the parking lot will be replaced with tile floors, adding to the six floors done over the summer. (Total: 12 rooms)

Our volunteers were very busy supporting the mock presidential elections held at Taft School on October 31st and November 3rd. Volunteers worked with teachers to complete the preparations in the weeks leading up to the elections. These events were made possible by a grant from the Uxbridge Education Foundation, funding from the Taft Elementary PTO and the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

We also kicked off the Literacy Volunteer and Swish Volunteer programs. The Literacy Volunteers are a trained resource available to our teachers to assist them with individual and small group reading support. Currently we have 9 volunteers supporting 7 classrooms. A training DVD was created to instruct parents how to work with small groups of children modeling the guided reading process. The Swish Volunteers deliver fluoride rinse to the classrooms on Tuesday mornings.

Twenty-six additional books were added to the Taft School Library through the Donate-a-Book Program. The Donate-a-Book program allows parents, grandparents and other friends of Taft Elementary an opportunity to celebrate the special students, family members and friends in your life, while making a lasting contribution that enriches the experience of all our students by donating a book to our library. Over 300 books have been donated in this way over the past 3 1/2 years. This program is under the direction of Mrs. Nancy Winters, parent volunteer, and Margy O'Donnell, our Library Media Specialist.

More news from Taft is available on the Taft School website in our December newsletter, Tiger Tales as well as the UPS Community Newsletter.

Professional Development Activities

November 3, 2008 – Margy O’Donnell attended the MSLA Conference (New England Library Association) the conference was held in Lunenburg.

November 3, 2008 – Lynne Patton attended a Management Skills seminar for Secretaries, Administrative Assistants, and Support Staff. The workshop was held in Natick, Massachusetts.

November 13, 2008 – Pam Silbor, Melissa McCall, Charissa DiGregorio and Diane Brophy attended an Empowering Writers workshop. The workshop was held in Providence, Rhode Island.

November 17 & 18, 2008 – Pam Seagrave and Bonnie Dimmick attended the annual MAHPERD Convention in Attleboro, Massachusetts.

November 18, 2008 – Kathleen Fletcher attended a math Centers and Small Group Instruction – Differentiate and Improve Math Skills Grades Pre-K to 3. The workshop was sponsored by Educators Training Network and held in Marlboro, Massachusetts.

November 17 & 18, 2008 – Lisa Hartman attended the Literacy for All conference, the workshop was held in Providence, Rhode Island.

November 19, 2008 – Nancy Bowditch, Melanie Ethier, Marla Sirois, Linda Benoit, Christine Gallo attended the RTI Theory to Practice: Implementing Research Based K-5 Reading strategies, sponsored by ACCEPT Education Collaborative. The workshop is part one of a two-part series and was held in Natick, Massachusetts.

November 19, 2008 – Mary Ellen Jansson attended the Masscue Massachusetts Conference. The workshop was held in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

PTO Reports and Information

The principal attended a PTO meeting on November 13, 2008. Teachers were sent a letter from the executive board regarding their enrichment budget for the 2008-09 school year. Each grade level has \$1500.00 to be used for field trips or other opportunities that benefit the entire grade level. Normally the money is used to pay the costs of the buses, but occasionally the grade level teams decide to bring the “field trip” into the school.

The PTO is working on the Books and Beyond Reading Program. This program runs for 4 weeks starting in mid-January and going through mid-February. This year, it culminates with a whole school assembly to celebrate reading.

Next Meeting December 11, 2008 in Taft School Cafeteria

Upcoming Events

December 1 – 5	Scholastic PTO Book Fair
December 4	Mrs. Schotanus-Field Trip-Brockton VA Hospital
December 4	Evening Conferences – Full day of school
December 5	Afternoon Conferences – 11:45 a.m. Dismissal
December 6	ELC Storytime and Book Fair Taft Café 8:30-11:30
December 11	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. Taft Cafeteria
December 22	Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Bandstra’s class– Senior Center Sing-a-long
December 24	Winter Vacation Begins

Administrator,



Paula A. Montesi, Principal