



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
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Overview of Activities for January

The Books and Beyond Reading Program began on January 15 and will culminate on February 13 with an all school assembly, Salute to Reading. The Books and Beyond Committee, spearheaded by PTO representatives and Mrs. O'Donnell, have been working since the fall to ensure the success of this program. Although most of the reading takes place at home, teachers count their read-aloud minutes and add them to student's reading times. The theme of this year's program is Horton Hatches an Egg by Dr. Seuss. The children will receive a free book through the RIF Program during this month-long reading program.

Each year since 1998, students in our school participate in Jump Rope for the Heart during their PS classes. Monies are raised for the American Heart Association through family pledges. In preparation for this event, the Miscoe Skippers from Mendon visited our school to demonstrate jump rope techniques.

General School/Department Information

Our leadership club is helping with bus dismissal by monitoring the students, alongside staff, in their bus lines. In addition, they are working with Mrs. Watt to survey the other students in regard to the school lunch program. She attended their meeting on January 29th.

Professional Development Activities

Several 3rd and 4th grade teachers are participating in First Steps Mathematics sponsored by the district and taught by Kara Ekstrom, 6th Grade Math teacher. While increasing pedagogical knowledge, this program helps teachers to plan appropriate intervention strategies for students who struggle in mathematics. They will attend four full day in-district sessions.

On January 16th, all teachers of reading participated in a workshop, sponsored by Harcourt Publishers, specifically addressing their online resources for teachers and parents, *Think Central*. Other staff participated in Case e training and other technology offerings at UHS.

On January 22, Marla Sirois, Sharon Manz, and I attended a WebCast on

January 5 & 16 & 20, 2009 – Rosemary Harcourt, Debra Auciello, Rosemary Campbell, Aimee Lamarre, Pam Yukna and Paula Hansel attended a workshop at Whitin School, First Steps in Mathematics.

January 20, 2009 - Gretchen D' Andrea and Rob Hammerton attended the 12 Step Music Literacy Program. This was the second part of a two-day workshop.

PTO Reports and Information

Thank you to the School Committee for their support with the Playground Committee's plan to change old desks into pieces of art to be auctioned off at a later day.

I would like to thank Lisa Devane for her many years on the Elementary PTO. Lisa and her family are moving away from Uxbridge. During those years she put in many volunteer hours chairing and assisting at the many events planned and implemented by the PTO. In addition, she volunteered during the school day as needed in assisting students and teachers. Lisa will be sorely missed, but we wish her much luck in Holliston.

Colleen Thayer, formerly vice president, will finish the rest of Lisa's term.

Next Meeting February 12, 2008 in Taft School Cafeteria

Upcoming Events

February 2-28	Artist in Residence: Erik Bornstein Involving Grade 2 (9 sessions)
February 2, 2009	Week 3 Books & Beyond
February 9, 2009	Week 4 Books & Beyond
February 12, 2009	PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.
February 13, 2009	Salute to Reading Books & Beyond Culminating Assembly PTO Grade 4 Father/Daughter Dance
February 16, 2009	President's Day - No School
February 17-20, 2009	School Vacation
February 27, 2009	Read Across America Night (Round robin Reading)
February 27, 2009	Marks Close

Administrator,



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