



Earl D. Taft Elementary School

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Paula A. Montesi, Principal
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Overview of Activities for February

Friendship Week was celebrated during the week of 2/9-13/09. On Friday, our culminating activity was Hands Across Taft School. We all joined hands together and once we were united Mrs. Montesi read a poem entitled, *Circle of Friends*.

Taft Phys Ed. classes geared up for Jump Rope for Heart during the week of February 2nd. Students collected close to \$9,000 for the American Heart Association. This is the 12th year that we have participated in this fundraiser, raising a total of over \$120,000 dollars. Mrs. Dimmick, coordinator for the past 12 years, will be receiving an award from the American Heart Association for her commitment to the cause. Thank you to both Mrs. Dimmick and Mrs. Seagrave!

An assembly was held to culminate Books and Beyond featuring a magician. We had excellent participation by our students. The total number of minutes read was tallied outside each classroom. Grade level totals were displayed in the cafeteria. This year's theme was Horton Hatches an Egg by Dr. Seuss. Thank you to the many parent volunteers who made this possible, including Beth Snider, Lisa Rooney, and Lisa Ackermann.

The two casts of 101 Dalmatians are rehearsing weekly to be ready for their performances on April 3rd and 4th. Can't wait until everyone sees it!

Subject/Course/Classroom Activities

The Music Dept. is focusing on African American Spirituals, as February is Black History Month.

All classes celebrated Friendship Week by creating cards for the Disabled Veterans at Brockton Hospital and/or our Community Helpers-UFD and the UPD. They used KidPix, Excel and Microsoft Word to create these friendly gifts of appreciation. The cards were delivered to the appropriate department.

The Art Department and Grade 2 teachers welcome Eric Bornstein and staff from Behind the Mask as artists in residence for the month of February. The children will create installation art and short plays. The theme of these plays and artwork is Folk Tales Around the World. Funding was made possible from a Massachusetts Cultural Arts Council Grant. We will be presenting the plays to parents on March 16. Join us!

Professional Development Activities

February and March- Further training opportunities for Grade 3 and 4 math teachers in First Steps Mathematics. 6th grade math teacher and Math C and I, Kara Ekstrom, is conducting the training.

February 2 & 3, 2009 – All second grade teachers took part in professional development. A visiting artist in residence has been working at the Taft School during the month of February in conjunction with the International Fair with all grade 2 classrooms, working through a grant – Behind the Mask.

February 24-27 – Janet Iannuccilli attended a conference in Boston for the National Association of School Psychologists.

PTO Reports and Information

The PTO held its 3rd annual Father/Daughter Dance on Friday, February 13th from 6:30-9:00 pm with over 60 people participating. Thank you, Cheryl Hamel.

The 3rd annual 50/50 Raffle Calendar Fundraiser was held throughout the month of February. New this year, the student who sold the winning tickets each Friday received a iPod Shuffle.

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Lisa Devane, PTO President whose family have moved to Holliston. Lisa worked tirelessly with the PTO and volunteered your time for the Taft Community. We will miss her smiling face daily here at Taft.

The Playground Committee is seeking to buy a new piece of equipment for the playground and are still fundraising like crazy. They are asking artists and community members to get out their paintbrushes and create an original art project on an old school desk and chair using items from the Taft attic. The artists picked up the desks the last week in February. Deadline for completion is May 20th and the desks auctioned off on June 6th. Thank you for your support of this project.

Upcoming Events

- February 27, 2009 Dr. Seuss Read Across America Night from 6:30-8:00 pm.
- March 6, 2009 Curriculum Day – dismissal at 11:45 a.m. Teachers will either be doing RTI training or at First Steps Mathematics training.
- March 10, 2009 District-wide Celebration of the Arts Whitin Middle School
Report Cards Issued
MEPA Tests Begin (ELL students only)
- March 12, 2009 PTO Meeting -Taft Cafeteria 7:00 p.m.
- March 20, 2009 Parent/Teacher Conferences Afternoon– Dismissal @ 11:45 a.m.
PTO Free Family Fun Night
- March 21, 2009 PTO Third Annual Wine Tasting & Basket Raffle
Community House, Uxbridge Common
- March 30, 2009 MCAS ELA and Reading for Grades 3 and 4 Begins

Administrator,



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